Key Dates

Sunday 31 July
Production Dress Rehearsal 9.30am - 5pm

Monday 1 August
Year 11 Reflection Day

Wednesday 3 August
Hairspray - School Production 7pm

Thursday 4 August
Hairspray - School Production 7pm

Friday 5 August
Hairspray - School Production 7pm

Saturday 6 August
Hairspray - School Production 1.30 and 7pm

Wednesday 10 August
College Group Photos

Principal’s Report

Dear Parents

At Mass last Sunday the homily had a focus on prayer and the importance of being open to the presence of God. Being grateful for what we have been given and not always praying to make a request of God were spoken about. It was also said that if we are too busy to pray then we are busier than God wants us to be!

This comment about being busier than God wants us to be made me reflect on the world we live in and how often people struggle to make time for what really counts in life. Making time to connect with family and friends, reflecting on the day that has been and nurturing your prayer life make our lives much happier. I hope the recent school holiday was a time where you had an opportunity as a family to spend time together.

Many young people have a busy schedule outside of school with sport, hobbies and casual work. It is important as a family to review these commitments and ensure that activities are prioritised so that the schedule does not become overwhelming. Resilience can be eroded if too many activities are happening. It is important that students enjoy their education at Mercedes and this won’t be the case if they feel rushed to do too many things at the same time.

Thank you to all those parents of Year 10 students who attended the Course Counselling session at the start of term. It provided each family with the time and expertise to map the pathway for 2017 courses for their daughters.

Triangular Meetings were also successful. It is pleasing to note how valuable students and parents are finding information located on SEQTA. It enables these meetings to be more efficient as parents already have a lot of information about their daughters’ progress.

The Arts area is very productive at the moment. The Music Tour went extremely well with performances throughout England and Ireland. Performances also took place at Mercedes and Trinity before the tour departed. We are close to the start of the school production with final rehearsals occurring leading to opening night in Week 3. Many students are

Insight from Catherine McAuley:

If we love God, we will undoubtedly love our neighbour also; they are as cause and effect.

Mercedes College Select Choir on tour through England and Ireland
also involved in the Catholic Performing Arts Festival occurring over the next month.

Finally, I would like to share with you the Social Justice Statement 2016 –2017 from the Australian Bishops Conference.

I wish all students a fulfilling Term 3 and I look forward to seeing parents at our many College events throughout the term.

Mrs Kerrie Fraser, Principal

Important: Pick-Up/Drop-Off

Parents are asked not to drive onto the premises to drop off students before and after school. Please do not block entrances to the campus or drive onto the driveway to drop off your daughter.

Reversing out of the driveway is extremely dangerous. We have experienced a couple of near misses of casualties, it is dangerous for students as well as for staff.

Perth City Council will be patrolling the area to ensure the safety of our students and staff.

P&F Family Fun Bollywood Night

Saturday 20 August / 7pm / College Hall

Make up a table with friends and join us for a fun filled night of 80’s music performed by a live band, the Ramjets!

To book, please click HERE.
Pastoral Care News

Year 7/8 Community
Year 7 - Mrs Melissa Trolio
It gives me great pleasure to announce the 12 students who have been selected to represent the Year 7 community as Student Representative Council members for 2016. Students were commissioned and blessed on Wednesday morning during our eucharistic celebration. I wish them every success and encourage them to continue pursuing these kinds of leadership opportunities. I would also like to congratulate all other Year 7 students who nominated. There is some fantastic leadership potential in Year 7.

Bella Bruining, Lily Boisvert (7.1), Millie Higgins, Sofia Ward (7.2), Kate Armstrong, Sophie Smythe (7.3), Bianca Metcalf, Grace Wojtowicz (7.4), Ashlyn Flendt, Shana Naushad (7.5) Keely Maher, Cosette Pachioli (7.6)

Year 9/10 Community
Year 9 - Mrs Bernadette Dell
Term 3 has started well for most of the girls, many of whom are showing signs of maturing into responsible young women. We had a number of girls return from exciting events such as the choir tour or participating in national sporting or cultural events such as soccer trials and gymnastics. All of these achievements have been celebrated by the girls’ peers and we are proud of their efforts.

The holidays have been a busy time for many of the girls with sporting training, production rehearsals and service activities. It is heartening to see how many of the girls seek opportunities to develop their talents. Hopefully they still had the chance to rest up and prepare themselves for the demands of a very busy term.

The response to requests for support of the College fundraising for the victims of human trafficking has not been as strong as I would like to see in a community like ours. Developing a caring and generous nature does not only benefit those we assist but all the medical and psychological evidence shows that this is a way to improve our own health and happiness. Being a member of the Mercedes community will give your daughter many chances to assist others through donations and personal effort and the rewards of being involved are manifold. Please encourage your daughter to develop her willingness to assist others and grow as an individual.

Year 10 - Mrs Sherrin Adams
It has been lovely to return to see Year 10’s who have definitely matured in the 14 weeks since I went on leave. I thank Ms Nilar Nyunt for the great work she did during my absence.

With Course Counselling almost completed the focus for the term is now on academic matters – as some of the girls need to gain grades necessary for acceptance into courses they would like to study. It is important however that all girls and parents/guardians are realistic as some subjects simply don’t suit some students. The girls are very fortunate that there are many Certificate/ General and ATAR courses offered to them.

Year 11/12 Community
Year 11 - Mr Liam Smith
As we commence Semester Two we have been greeted by some refreshingly cool weather, which I am sure makes it even more difficult for the girls to pull together the motivation to jump out of bed and prepare for the day. It is important that the girls are fuelling themselves with a nutritious breakfast and arriving at school in time for the start homeroom at 8:20am. Girls often say that following graduation, when it comes time to leave the protective compounds of Mercedes they are overwhelmed by the additional pressures and expectations placed upon them. This term the Year 11 homeroom teachers will be extra vigilant in their monitoring of the girls’ punctuality and arrival times to school in the morning. Just like the requests placed upon them in the work force, lifelong skills of punctuality and adherence to start times are important requirements to adhere to and hence will be a focus during this term.

I am sure by now your daughters have been beginning to talk about the Ball and getting excited about the prospects of going looking for the perfect dress or even booking the ever important limousine. The cohort will be completing a survey later this week to create a ‘wish list’ for the evening, following which an information letter will be sent to all families with the initial information regarding the event. I look forward to working closely with the Ball Committee and also with any parents who believe they have something to offer in terms of assistance as we build towards the 2017 Year 12 Ball.

Finally, I would like to wish our four representatives: Madeleine Grech, Olivia Jansen, Lily MacMillan and Isabella Marchetti all the very best as they travel to the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) to attend the LEAP leadership program. We look forward to hearing all the amazing information you have to share with us upon your return.

Curriculum News

Academic News - Mrs Liana Strutt, Deputy Principal - Academic Services

OLNA Testing – Round Two
For students required to sit the second round of OLNA testing this year, please note the following dates:
Monday 29 August – Writing
Tuesday 30 August – Reading
Wednesday 31 August – Numeracy

Letters with details of test times will be sent home from Monday 1 August. If you have any queries, please direct them to Mrs Liana Strutt, Deputy Principal – Academic Services at lstrutt@mercedes.wa.edu.au or phone 9323 1379.
Year 12 Semester Two (Trial WACE) Exam Schedule
Exams are held from Wednesday 28 September until Friday 7 October. Students scheduled to complete practical exams in this time are asked to see Mrs Strutt about having the school exam rescheduled (the WACE exam CANNOT be rescheduled.) To view the exam schedule please click here.

Maths – Mr Peter Mee, HOLA

UNSW Mathematics Competition (Tuesday 16 August)

Virtually all students in Years 7 & 8 plus the Year 7 to 9 ALP students will be participating in this competition during week 5 of this term. Practice papers will be made available to the students in the weeks leading up to the competition via their course SEQTA cover page. Students will need to bring a 2B pencil and an eraser (students sitting the Year 8 and 9 paper also require a calculator). We wish them success in this competition.

Year 11 and 12 Mathematics Parents

Dr Greg Hine (Notre Dame University) is conducting research investigating why the number of students selecting mathematics at the higher levels is in decline. Students in Year 11 and 12 Mathematics Applications, Methods and Specialist classes will be asked to complete a short online anonymous survey (this will occur during class time early in Term 3). Details of the research have been sent out to all parents and students in these classes via a SEQTA direct message (these details are also available on the SEQTA Maths Portal page). There is also an “opt-out” form on the Maths Portal page if parents do not want their daughter to participate. If parents are comfortable with the survey, they do not need to take any action.

Social Sciences - Mr Tim Poga, HOLA

Year 8 Shark Tank Awards

At the end of last term students in Year 8 Social Sciences classes completed an assignment which saw them apply their understandings to a fictitious business idea. The top students from each class have been given the chance to show off the digital presentations they created in this assignment at the first ever Shark Tank Awards to be held at lunchtime next Monday.

Moot Courts and Mock Courts

At the end of last term the two Mercedes Mock Law trial teams found themselves defending a fictitious legal action where it was alleged that they burnt down a fast food restaurant after protesting outside of it. Unfortunately both teams were hit by last minute illnesses to major participants and lost their trials. Whilst reserves were able to step in, at such late notice this was not easy. Alexandra Collins (Yr 11) and Teehani Ralph (Yr 10) were commended for their performance as Barrister 1 at their respective trials. Special commendation goes to Eliza Toohey (Year 10) who took on the almost impossible role of learning a Round 3 witness statement in an hour. She did enough in that time to ensure that the team was competitive and her efforts were amazing. Both teams missed out on a place in the finals.

Students in Years 9 to 12 have now been given the opportunity to participate in a moot court competition within Mercedes. Working in pairs students will have the task of defending a case involving alleged false imprisonment at a school called “Star Wars College”. This competition will see students prepare a legal argument based on a set of facts and numerous legal precedents.

English - Mrs Catherine O’Toole, HOLA

English and Literature ATAR students had a very rewarding day at the Curtin Conference on June 30. The girls gained lots of valuable insights and examination tips from a number of the presenters, many of whom are experienced WACE examiners. This was also a great introduction to university life and a taste of the variety of teaching and presentation styles they may be faced with next year. In addition, it was an entertaining test of orienteering skills for those who struggled to find their way around the large campus. Overall, it was a very successful day and all students are to be commended on their conduct and punctuality. We look forward to seeing the fruits of the day in the upcoming exams at the end of term.

Third term has started off particularly well for our young writers with two students winning prestigious writing competitions. Congratulations to Year 7 ALP student Jessica Pendal and Year 8 ALP student Lily Graves. Jessica won first place in the Intermediate Section of the Australian Catholics Young Journalist Award and Lily won first place in the Junior Secondary category of the South Perth Young Writers’ competition. The focus of the Young Journalist competition was on this Year of Mercy and entrants were asked to write a story about someone inspiring in their community. Jessica wrote on her neighbour Joy, a woman who inspires through all that she gives and does for others. Jessica’s winning entry ‘Joy by Name and Joy by Nature’ may be read in the Spring issue of Australian Catholics, due to be released in August.

Lily wrote a short story for her winning entry and “Sooner or Later” may be read in the anthology of winning entries that is on display in the College library. Lily also won the prestigious Christobel Mattingley Bronze Medallion for the most outstanding entry in the competition, a truly commendable feat. This prize has only been awarded twenty times in the thirty year history of the writers’ awards. In addition to this great news, I also recently received a letter from the Fremantle Literature Centre commending our girls in the Talented Young Writers’ programme for their participation in a special WA Day writing activity. The visiting authors, Phillip Gwynne and Archie Fusillo, and all of the team at the Centre expressed their delight with the work that the students produced in such a short time frame.

We look forward to further success as our girls become more engaged with the creative process as the year progresses.

General News

Important - Mercedes School Special Bus Services Changes

The School Special 789 is now departing from the new Perth Busport. Passengers will no longer be able to board the service at stop 12902; Wellington Street after William Street. Passengers will now need to board at the new Perth Busport (stands 13-16) or at stop 26788; Wellington Street before Barrack Street (East of the Yellow and Red CAT bus stop)

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We look forward to further success as our girls become more engaged with the creative process as the year progresses.
The service will depart the new Perth Busport at 8:05am. Afternoon School Special 789 will depart the school as normal and travel normal route along Wellington Street, but will now terminate in the new Perth Busport.

**Mercy Service Learning – Mrs Christine Aldous**

**DFES Museum Partnership**
Mercedes College recently formed a service-learning partnership with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services Museum in Murray Street, Perth. A group of 30 Year 10 students undertook training last term and during the July school holiday put their skills into action supporting the hundreds of daily visitors to the museum. The new service opportunity has received an enthusiastic response from the girls. Here is an excerpt from Maddie O’Brien.

> “The museum had such a positive and happy atmosphere and taught children how to deal with different dangers around the home in a simple, but effective way. Each time I entered the museum I was always excited to get started as I would not only learn something new about the museum, but also myself. The highlight for me was when you would help children dress up as a firefighter then get them into a real truck.”

**Year 9 Mercy Service**
The Year 9 Mercy Service journals and reports were returned to students this week. The program was based on our responsibility to be stewards of God’s creation. The girls chose 10 small activities, reflecting the words of Catherine McAuley to **take short, careful steps, not great strides** to make change in their life that would help sustain the environment. Sophia Lamers demonstrated recycling by creating a container for her pens, Tahlia Hands recognised the importance of saving water by being attentive to turning off the tap while brushing her teeth and Olivia Wake cared for creation by attending to the welfare of her dog, Penang.

The students were asked to reflect on the activity, the significance of the activity in sustaining the environment and how harmony with creation is a reflection of our actions. It was lovely to see how many girls expressed appreciation of spending time with parents and grandparents in shared activities. Congratulations to the girls on their dedication to their chosen tasks and a special congratulations to Elizabeth Moschilla, Madigan Gordon, Nicola Pike and Olivia Smythe on an their exceptional effort in their reflections.

**Languages - Madame Marie-Noëlle Vieira**
Mercedes College had the pleasure of hosting a French Exchange student, Jade Fackeure who spent one week at the College in Term 3. During Jade’s stay in Perth, she was kindly hosted by the MacMillan family. Jade’s Host Sister Lily MacMillan (Year 11) was recently hosted by the Fackeure family in France whilst on exchange last year. It was lovely to have Jade attend many classes and to have her participate in the Year 11 French classes as the girls really enjoyed speaking French with her. **Au revoir, Jade**

**Music - Ms Claire Glendinning, Director of Music**

**Catholic Performing Arts**
The Catholic Performing Arts Festival has started this week and we look forward to a very busy month of performances. All girls involved have received a detailed calendar, so please keep your eye on what is coming up. **Soloists – please make sure you have advised the College of your absence for your performance day.**

**Diary Dates – evening performances only for CPA listed here**
- **Monday 1 August** – Liturgical Choral, Select Choir
- **Tuesday 2 August** – Rock Bands (Salimi duo)
- **Sunday 7 August** – ABODA – String Orchestra and String Ensemble
- **Saturday 13 August** – ABODA – Wind Band, Wind Ensemble
- **Sunday 14 August** – ABODA – Wind Orchestra
- **Monday 15 August** – Wind Band
- **Friday 19 August** – Wind Ensemble, Wind Orchestra
- **Monday 22 August** – Year 11 & 12 Recital Night
- **Thursday 1 September** – Choir, Vocal Ensemble, Select Choir
- **Saturday 10 September** – Music
Music Tour
74 students, 25 songs, 15 concerts, 6 cities, 5 flights, 4 music workshops and an unforgettable experience at Matilda; this was all part of the two-week Music tour.

The Select Choir and the Trinity Chorale started preparing music for this tour in December 2015, and the students and staff have dedicated many hours to ensuring our performances were of the highest quality.

After an initial hiccup with a flight delay we spent the 14 days travelling around Ireland and the UK seeing sights and sharing experiences we will never forget.

The main aim of the tour was to grow as musicians. We participated in a festival, led by Dr Janet Galvan, with two other choirs from the USA. We came together over 4 days to rehearse and workshop our prepared repertoire, culminating in performances in beautiful Cathedrals in Belfast and Dublin. All members of the choir learnt a lot from this experience, as well as making new friends through music.

We drove from Dublin to Waterford, Cobh, Cork, Kilkenny and Belfast, learning about the history of Ireland and Northern Ireland with many singalongs on the bus trips. We saw sights such as the Belfast Peace wall, Big Ben and Westminster Abbey. We visited Malahide Castle, the Titanic Experience, the Waterford Crystal Factory and Buckingham Palace, rounding out our musical experiences with plenty of culture.

Some of our most memorable performing experiences were the smaller, informal events. In particular the welcome and hospitality we received at the Mercy International Centre at Baggot St in Dublin. The girls learnt about Catherine McAuley and gained a real insight into her work, and how that led to the foundation of Mercedes College. The Sisters were so welcoming and it was wonderful to celebrate with them, sharing our music together (and of course, a comfortable cup of tea!)

When touring City Hall in Belfast, we met their Lord Mayor who invited us to sing in the foyer, under the raised dome. It was one of the most exquisite acoustics and one of the most moving performances we experienced on the tour. Of course there was time to shop and relax, and we explored the streets of Belfast and London.

A huge thank you to the parents and families for supporting the girls on this amazing trip of a lifetime, especially Mrs Jackie Stacey and all of the parents who devoted so much time to fundraising. And of course I will never be able to give enough thanks to the staff who accompanied the tour. Ms Jan Lawson, Mr Greg Shine and Mr Paul Waterhouse, it would not have been possible without your care and support!
Mercedes College Newsletter
Vol. 43 Number 11/ Week 2 Term Three / 28 July 2016

Wellbeing

Tips for supporting your Teen
We know that having resilience, which is the ability to recover from setbacks, is important; but it does not always come naturally. The good news is that everyone can be taught resilience skills to improve their resilience, and the home is a great place to start. Check out this webpage from Reachout to discover some useful ideas.


Smiling Mind in Pastoral Care
You may have noticed in the Wellbeing section of Sorelle this year, links to Smiling Mind meditation program and we are excited to inform you that we will be implementing the Smiling Mind Education Program into our Pastoral Care Program.

Smiling Mind is modern meditation for young people. It is a unique, Australian web and App-based program, designed by psychologists to help bring balance to young lives. This not-for-profit initiative provides a sense of calm, clarity and contentment for our students, which aims to enhance students’ wellbeing, improve their focus and increase learning. Students will also be armed with skills to better manage stress and improve resilience.

For more information on Smiling Mind go to www.smilingmind.com.au

We strongly recommend downloading the FREE App (currently only available on iOS) or creating your own account via the website to support your daughter’s mindfulness practice at home. Smiling Mind can be used to increase focus and attention before study, to calm the mind before bed, or any time in-between!

Parent & Friends’ Association

2016/2017 Entertainment Book/Digital Membership
For those thinking of ordering the new Entertainment Book, you still have time. Take a virtual tour of the new book, which includes places in Bali! To order your book or digital membership please click here.

Noticeboard

Pregnancy Assistance Donations/Sponsorship - As part of the Mercedes College Staff Service Day on Friday August 12, a small group is assisting Pregnancy Assistance with their Gala Dinner and Silent Auction on Saturday September 17. Pregnancy Assistance provides compassionate care and emotional, practical and informative support to women and couples in need throughout their pregnancy and post-birth. We are hoping to source silent auction prizes and promote ticket sales for the event. If you are in a position to sponsor a table, attend the dinner or donate a prize for the silent auction we would love to hear from you. Please email ldavis@mercedes.wa.edu.au, pfoley@mercedes.wa.edu.au or jkagi@mercedes.wa.edu.au. For more information info@pregnancyassistance.org.au or http://pregnancyassistance.eventbrite.com.au.

Retrospective Exhibition by Noongar artist Bella Kelly - Monday 20 June - 21 August / 11 - 5pm Monday to Friday and 1 – 5pm on Sunday/ John Curtin Gallery, Bentley. For more information visit http://www.bellakelly.com.au/

Abilities Expo - Thursday 8 September / 9.15am– 1.30pm & 4.30pm - 7.30pm / Crown Perth - Grand Ballroom. The Abilities Expo is for people with disability, their families and carers who want to know more about the services they can access.

Group Fitness Training - Led by experienced instructors Circuit Training incorporates varied functional movements and exercises to build muscle tone and increase cardiovascular fitness. Sessions are run for children aged 10 - 18 years. Tuesday and Thursdays 4:00 - 4:45pm at the Coady Sports Centre. To enrol contact Courtney on 0403 953 317 or email courtney_spanbroek@hotmail.com.

Essay Writing for Teachers & Parents of Struggling Middle School Students - Monday 1 August / 5.30-8.30pm / 10 Broome St South Perth. For more information, visit https://dsf.net.au/Professional-Learning/essay-writing-for-teachers-parents-of-struggling-middle-school-students/

Essay Writing for Students in Years 10, 11 & 12 - Monday 8 August / 5.30-8.30pm / 10 Broome St South Perth. For more information, visit https://dsf.net.au/Professional-Learning/essay-writing-for-students-in-year-10-11-12-216f/

Essay Writing for Students in Years 7, 8 & 9 - Monday 15 August / 5.30-8.30pm / 10 Broome St South Perth. For more information, visit https://dsf.net.au/Professional-Learning/essay-writing-for-students-in-years-7-8-9-216f/

St Mary’s Church Guildford Anniversary and School Reunion – Sunday 14 August, 9.30am at St Mary’s Church, 21 James Street Guildford. Former students and past and present parishioners are invited to the School Reunion and 80th Anniversary celebration. Please RSVP to Cheryl Harris (nee Morley) on 93781909 or 0417923417, Jim McCarthy on 92744498 or 0400151076 or Emmanuel Calleja on 93792012 or 0409574432.

Under 15’s UWA Softball and Baseball Club - Well organised, fun environment and absolutely no experience needed. The UWA Softball and Baseball Club is looking to expand their junior base and welcome new players 15 years and under. Training is once a week and games are usually on Saturday mornings (October to March). Please call Angelica on 0439 905 946.

Year 11 & 12 ATAR Master Classes - Academic Task Force’s Master Classes offers specialised teaching in Year 11 & 12
ATAR subjects. Reach your full potential and maximise your school and exam marks. Enrol online today at www.academictaskforce.com.au or call 9314 9500 or email learn@academictaskforce.com.au

Year 11 & 12 ATAR Weekend Tuition Help Classes - Let our experienced, subject specialist teachers help you boost your ATAR score and achieve success at school. Enrol online today at www.academictaskforce.com.au or call 9314 9500 or email learn@academictaskforce.com.au

Years 7 – 10 Weekend Tuition Help Classes - Receive weekly help in English, Science and Maths with our qualified school teachers. For more information or to Enrol now online visit www.academictaskforce.com.au or call 9314 9500 or email learn@academictaskforce.com.au.

Pilates for the Soul - If your soul could do with a bit of stretching, the Centre for Faith Enrichment is for you! Check out the wide range of online and face-to-face courses and events on offer by visiting www.cfe.org.au.

World Youth Day 2016 Perth Festival - Join friends and family at Northbridge Piazza (Cnr Lake St & James Street) for a special screening of World Youth Day on Sunday 31 July, with Pope Francis and entertainment from Ignite Live Band and Kukucierzka Polish dance group. Come down from 1pm-3pm for an afternoon of festivities followed by mass at 5-6pm at St Mary’s Cathedral. For further information contact Catholic Youth Ministry – admin@cym.com.au or 9422 7912

Annual WAAPA Concert - The Annual WAAPA Concert will be held at St Mary’s Cathedral Thursday, 4 August, 7.30-9.30pm. For tickets please call 08 9370 6636.

Celebrating 150 Years, Sisters St Joseph of the Sacred Heart - All relatives, associates, friends and past pupils are invited to celebrate 150 years of their Foundation. Dr Michele Connolly RSJ from the Catholic Institute of Sydney will lecture on The Mission of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark: Invitation into my mission as a disciple of Jesus. La Salle College, 5 La Salle Ave, Middle Swan, Saturday, 13 August, 9am cuppa for 10.15am-3pm. Refreshments and lunch provided. RSVP essential, Laura 08 9334 0999 or laura.mccarthy@sosj.org.au.

2016 Cathedral Concert Series - Sing the Classics! Sunday, 14 August, St Mary’s Cathedral, Perth 2-4pm. The second of our 2016 Concert Series with the Cathedral Choir, organ and small string ensemble. For tickets visit www.ticketswa.com or call 08 6488 2440.