Mercedes College Newsletter
Vol. 44 Number 1/ Week 2 Term One / 9 February 2017

Key Dates
Friday 10 February
Music Instrumental Camp
Saturday 11 February
MCA All Year’s Reunion 2pm-5pm
Mercedes Netball Club Grading
Music Instrumental Camp
Monday 13 February
Homeroom and Individual College Photos
Year 8 Parent Information 6pm
Year 9 Parent Information 7.30pm
Wednesday 15 February
Year 8 HPV dose 1 + chickenpox
Friday 17 February
Year 11 River Cruise
Saturday 18 February
P&F Mums Only Breakfast
Mercedes Netball Club Grading
Sunday 19 February
Dads Only Sundowner 3-5pm
Mercedes Netball Club Grading
Monday 20 February
Year 7 Parent Information Evening 6.30pm
Tuesday 21 February
Inter-House Swimming Carnival
Wednesday 22 February
MCA AGM
Thursday 23 February
Family Mass Years 10/11/12 6pm

Principal’s Report

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2017. It has been wonderful to see our students return to the College having enjoyed the summer break. As usual the first two weeks have been filled with many key events to assist students to settle and begin the new academic year.

The Welcome Days for Year 7, inducting them into the life of the College, were very effective and peer mentors were of great assistance in the process. Year 7 and 8 students have also enjoyed a Team Building Day. I recently heard a homily given by Archbishop Costeloe where he spoke about the importance of caring for students and making them feel loved. I hope that the Opening Mass, Welcome Days and team building activities have helped students feel that they are part of a caring community at Mercedes College.

Before school started, on 27 January, our Year 12 students enjoyed their ball held at the Hyatt. Our students looked beautiful and their behaviour was exemplary. They had a fun-filled evening and I was surprised at how many songs from the 80s were requested. Their partners were also well-presented and courteous. The students have said it was a memorable evening.

A highlight of the first week was the Excellence Assembly where we acknowledged and celebrated the achievements of the 2016 Year 12 cohort. Our results were very impressive. One student achieved a Subject Exhibition and three students achieved Certificates of Excellence. Twenty-seven Certificates of Distinction and twenty-eight Certificates of Merit were acknowledged. We were fortunate to have the Right Honourable, the Lord Mayor Lisa Scaffidi attend the assembly. She spoke to all assembled, giving her thoughts on excellence and presented certificates to the students being recognised for their achievements. After the assembly a light luncheon was provided for 2016 Year 12 students and their parents.

In the first week our 2017 Year 12 students were commissioned and charged with the responsibility of being leaders and exemplary role models to all students at the College. They follow in the footsteps of all Mercy students who.

Insight from Catherine McAuley:
“If we love God, we will undoubtedly love our neighbour also; they are as cause and effect.”

Some of the Year 12 2016 Students who received Certificates at the Excellence Assembly
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Ends and Ongoing
The great door in Rome will be sealed, jubilee revert to ordinary, and the surge of Mercy words subside to calmer waters.
But we, who are claimed by the word and carry it as name, we will stir the waters and make yet the ordinary jubilant, since every year is of God's favour, every day waits for mercy.
We will not close the Door of Mercy. We will stand as keepers, attuned, disposed.
We will hold the door ajar for the desperate and the disruptive, the stray, the strange, the wounded wise and the child too soon old.
They are looking for the door, waiting by the door, hoping for the door, and we must, with them, and for them, keep faith.
We will not close the Door of Mercy. There will be room at our inn, we will make space at the table, the cooking pot holds ample.
Through the door is feast and safety, hope and shelter.
My friend, one of the wounded wise, says:
You only have to knock once and you only have to knock lightly. The God of mercy, whose door it is, is always home.
Prayer by Mary Wickham rsm
Mrs Susan MacDonald
Deputy Principal - Faith & Mission

have gone before them and are responsible for the legacy of Catherine McAuley. SRC students were commissioned in the second week and also take on leadership responsibilities.

The first week of term finished with a Year 7 Family Sundowner. It was an opportunity to celebrate a successful first week for the new students and gave their parents the opportunity to meet staff members and other parents from the same year group.

Week 2 gave parents with daughters in Years 11 and 12 the opportunity to attend Information Evenings and a Career Information Session. These sessions assisted parents to understand the final two years of secondary schooling and gave them information to support their daughters with career choices for the future.

Parent involvement is strongly encouraged at Mercedes and the MOMs and DOMS groups both met in the second week. All mums and dads are welcome to participate if they can. These groups along with the P & F are an opportunity for parents to be a part of the life of the College.

Finally, I would like to share with you a letter from Dr Tim McDonald, Executive Director of Catholic Education.

It has been a very vibrant and positive start to the academic year and I hope your daughters are happy and settled at the end of Week 2.

Mrs Kerrie Fraser, Principal

Years 10/11/12 Family Mass
Thursday 23 February / 6pm / St Mary’s Cathedral

Years 7/8/9 Family Mass
Tuesday 28 February / 6pm / St Mary’s Cathedral

International Women's Day Breakfast
Wednesday 15 March / 7am / College Hall
Join International Guest Speaker Rabia Siddique.
Click HERE to make a booking.

Fr Brennan celebrating the 2017 Welcome Mass
Year 7/8 Community
Year 7 - Mrs Sarika Ottenhof
On Thursday February 2, the Year 7s headed to Burswood park to take part in a range of “Survivor” style team building activities. The aim was to get to know our fellow House-mates and the Year 7 Pastoral Care staff, assisted by the Adventure Works team.

The day consisted of a range of physical, problem-solving activities which required participants to work as a team and utilise everyone’s unique strengths. Communication skills, compromise and negotiation were all pivotal in completing challenges such as the “Speed Box”, “Swamp Thing” and “Caterpillar Feet”. Each challenge successfully completed resulted in the receiving of a key which had the potential to unlock a mystery prize box. Many keys were awarded throughout the day however, it was a key belonging to Frayne House that was successful in opening the box, which lead to them to claiming the delicious prize.

After a challenging but fun day, personalities came to life, friendships were forged, and long-lasting memories were created. This wonderful experience has set the Year 7s up nicely for a successful and enjoyable first year at Mercedes College.

Year 8 - Ms Lara Fresson
I would like to extend a warm welcome to the Year 8 students and their parents. There was a lot of excitement and anticipation in the air last week as the students settled into their first few days at school.

Last Friday the students took part in their Year 8 Team Building day, facilitated by Adventure Works at the Riverside Gardens in Bayswater. The day enabled the students to nurture their self-esteem and confidence, develop problem solving and decision making skills, and overall to work together in a supportive and respectful manner. I congratulate the girls on their excellent behaviour and cooperation throughout the day. A big thank you must also go to the Year 8 Pastoral Care Team along with Greg Smith, Jo Lauriston, Jess Donovan and Colin Balshaw for their help and encouragement of the Year 8s.

I wish to remind parents that the Year 8 Parent Information evening is being held on Monday 13 February at 5.45pm in the Coady Sports Centre. It is important that all families are represented to receive information which we hope will help you to support your daughter as she enters her second year of high school education.

If you have any questions or concerns throughout the year, please make sure you contact myself at lfresson@mercedes.wa.edu.au or your daughter’s homeroom teacher. I look forward to a wonderful year with your daughters.
Year 9/10 Community
Year 9 - Mrs Alicia Sharpe
I would like to extend a warm welcome back to all the Year 9 students and their parents, as well as welcome the new families who have joined us this year. The students have settled in extremely well to their classes and I am sure they are loving having their own space in the Mercedes Village.

On Wednesday 8 February the members of the Student Representative Council were commissioned at a beautiful morning mass in the Mercedes College Chapel. It was so lovely to see so many parents there celebrating their daughter’s appointment. Congratulations goes to the following SRC students for Year 9, 2017 – Hannah Nguyen, MacKenzie Rogers, Nadia Pisano, Teegan Watson, Mikaela Zuiderduyn, Elizabeth Kelleher, Indira Streckfuss, Emily Davidson, Madeline Roberts, Adisyn Savy, Marisa Rocca and Monique Comiskey.

A reminder that Monday, 13 February is the Year 9 Parent Information Evening at 7.30pm. It will give you an opportunity to meet your daughter’s homeroom teacher, as well as receive any relevant information pertaining to the year ahead. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

If you have any concerns or questions throughout the year, please make sure you contact your daughter’s homeroom teacher as the first point of call or myself. I know that 2017 will be a year of immense growth for the girls and I look forward to continuing their high school journey with them.

Year 10 - Mrs Bernadette Dell
We have had a busy start to the year but the air of enthusiasm and confidence is palpable. As one student informed me on the first day back, “I have a good feeling about Year 10!” This is an important year, as Mrs Strutt emphasised when she spoke to the Year 10 group on Thursday morning. The College has arranged for the girls to participate in a study skills course to help them hone their revision and study techniques as they move into this demanding stage of schooling. It is important that girls practice the skills that they have learnt so that the techniques are consolidated by the start of next year. The program also offers access to a website with updated tips as well as the chance to check information.

We do not have an Information Night at the beginning of the year as our meeting is held later in order to discuss pathways and upper school subject selection for upper school. Our Course Information Evening will be held on May 25.

Year 10 homerooms are located in the newest building on campus and our students are appreciating the spacious and comfortable setting. Students have large lockers and should be able to ensure the safety of all their belongings. If your daughter has not found her lock from last year, she needs to purchase a new one so that her locker is secure.

Year 11/12 Community
Year 11 - Mrs Sherrin Adams
Thank you to the many parents who attended our Information Night earlier in the week. I hope that you received material to enable you to assist your daughter in her Upper School studies. I thank Mrs Fraser and Mrs Strutt for their presentations and Mrs Alach for organising the Tertiary Institution representatives to be available to chat with parents.

The girls have quickly adapted to their new timetables and increased independence with their studies. It is essential that they keep up with their studies and achieve a balance with this and other commitments. If they are having any difficulties help is readily available. It is important that they are in courses that suit both their abilities and interests. This week in Pastor Care we are looking at goal setting and next week there is a presentation from Elevate Education, giving valuable advice on study skills.

The River Cruise on 17 February; require all permission slips to be sent in no later than Monday 13 February. Please ensure the booking’s are completed as per instructions on the letter. It is essential that the girls have safe transport to and from the event. I am asking for parental co-operation in this matter.

Year 12 - Mr Liam Smith
As we commence the final year of academic study for this cohort at Mercedes College, I welcome all students and their families for 2017. It was so nice seeing so many familiar faces on Monday evening for the Parent Information and Careers Night. I feel the girls have made an exceptional start to the year, kicked off by the exemplary behaviour at the College Ball and continue thus far into the beginning of the term. As we settle into the day-to-day life of a Year 12 student, it is important that we continue to work collaboratively as parents and teachers to ensure we are providing the best support and most caring environment to aid in the continued growth and development of our girls.

I look forward to the year ahead as we work towards the elusive Year 12 Graduation. It goes without saying that time away from the College and out of the classroom needs to be kept at an absolute minimum during this short and intense year. Please communicate any planned absences early to minimise potential disruptions and I encourage all families to carefully read the Assessment Policy. With the final date of formal education fast approaching, September 21 will be here before we know it. Girls make sure you stay on top of those assignments and get onto those revision and study techniques early. The year is going to be full of stresses and often feel overwhelming with demands, it is important to keep communications with friends, family and staff open. Remember we all have a support network around us, often the hardest thing to do is ask for help. Look out for each other and together we will do it.

Curriculum News

Mrs Liana Strutt - Deputy Principal, Academic Services
Academic Excellence Graduating Class 2016
At the beginning of the school year, the Mercedes College community takes the opportunity to acknowledge the exemplary achievements of our graduating students of 2016. Our Excellence Assembly, held on Wednesday 1 February, had as its special guest Lord Mayor Lisa Scaffidi, who spoke to the students about pursuing excellence and acknowledging the pursuit of a ‘personal best’. This assembly had guests of 40 students from the graduating class of 2016 students who had been awarded certificates from the School Curriculum and Standards Authority and who had achieved high ATAR scores.
Of particular note was the achievement of Grace Hughes, who achieved the highest ATAR from the external examinations held in November last year. Her ATAR was 99.25. She has been offered an Assured Pathway to Dentistry at UWA. Other students to achieve an ATAR above 95 are Isabella Biundo (98.5), Jaia Bourgeois Brookes, Rachel Crock (95.85), Kathlyn Del Rosario (98.75), Sinead Duffin (95.2), Gillian Hackwill (98.3), Annabel Haizer (98.5), Kate Hewitson (98.65), Tenille Lazenby (98.85), Eva Mallet (97.25), Tess Metcalf (96.4), Alana Middleton (96), Georgia Mola (95.2), Eloise Munro (98.65), Natasha Murphy (96.15), Roisin Nash (96.95), Catherine O’Donohue (95.3), Isabella Rossaro (96.05), Olivia Rowland (95.15), Carissa Soares (97.15) and Hannah Tucker (96.5).

2016 was the first year of the new awards scheme set by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority. As a result, Mercedes College was awarded at total of 56 awards.

Isabella Rossaro was awarded the Subject Exhibition for Design, demonstrating she achieved the highest exam result of all students in the state for that course.

Certificates of Excellence were awarded to Josephine Volk (English) and Kate Hewitson (Mathematics Applied) signifying they were placed in the top 0.5% of the State.

A Certificate of Merit or Certificate of Distinction is awarded to each eligible student who, in their last three consecutive years of senior secondary WACE enrolment, achieves:

- Certificate of Merit - 150–189 points and;
- Certificate of Distinction - 190–200 points.

The following students were issued with Certificates of Merit:
Paige Anderson, Denica Beale, Monica Buckley, Kimberley Bui, Paige Costello, Catherine Eaton, Kate Ellery, Claire Fernandez, Eloise Haselhurst, Ruby Higgins, Nikki Humphreys, Rachel Lamb, Kate Martin, Alana Middleton, Hannah Myers, Grace Naser-Ewing, Georgia Mola, Gemma Mullholland, Aloyse Murray, Catherine O’Donohue, Iesha Palelei, Jacinta Pizatta, Bonnie May Paris, Tess Raven, Isabella Rossaro, Olivia Rowland, Elizabeth Tuohy, Josephine Volk

The following students were issued with Certificates of Distinction:
Isabella Biundo, Jaia Bourgeois-Brookes, Stefanie Boyle, Olivia Bozich, Nina Campagna, Rachel Crock, Kathlyn Del Rosario, Sinead Duffin, Gillian Hackwill, Annabel Haizer, Kate Hewitson, Grace Hughes, Tenille Lazenby, Eva Mallet, Tess Metcalf, Anna Mincham, Melanie Moroney, Eloise Munro, Natasha Murphy, Roisin Nash, Madison Rogers, Caitlin Rumac, Nadia Sabatino, Carissa Soares, Taylah Spano, Hannah Tucker, Chloe Wilcox

Principal Mrs Kerrie Fraser spoke about the solid application of study undertaken by the students, all of whom followed their goals to ensure they were offered places at their universities of choice. These students also demonstrated a willingness to participate in the diverse co-curricular programs. Mrs Fraser asked current students to take guidance from these graduating students as a way to ensure their own success.

2016 Dux Jaia Bourgeois Brookes spoke on behalf of the graduating group who encouraged the girls to look to themselves for their strength, be true to the values they placed in education and strive for their own goals which need to be set early in the year.

Key statistics show Mercedes College as a school of continuing work towards excellence: 96.6% of the 149 students who applied for WACE graduation fulfilled all requirements. 129 students sat at least 4 ATAR scoring subjects and 126 students have been offered positions at ECU, Murdoch, UWA, Curtin, Notre Dame University and Bond University (QLD). It is these figures that are a testament to the hard work of all our students and the work also of our teaching and teacher assistant staff who ensure that the learning journey is fulfilling and complete.

Also acknowledged were Year 12 students who received Academic Honours for a Certificate of Excellence. Students who achieved over 10 ‘A’ grades in the Courses of Study so far are:
Ivy Bui, Sascha Coates, Shaniee Lee, Bridget Murphy, Emily Roberts, Georgina Versteeg, Georgia Barton, Brianna Lim, Lily McMillan, Ella Parker, Caitlin Symons, Vanessa Tenaglia, Emily Zimmerman

Every student experiences learning in different ways. At Mercedes College, so many opportunities are offered to ensure each person is able to achieve excellence in their own way. There exists the enduring value that one must continue to follow the best path with good guidance, and continue through to the end. Maintaining conversations and listening to advice is key for every student. We reiterate the philosophy of reflecting, evaluating, setting goals. It is honest dedication that leads to success and excellence.
OLNA Testing Round 1 – 8 – 10 March, 2017
The first round of OLNA testing will occur on Wednesday 8, Thursday 9 and Friday 10 March. Letters have been sent home to parents of students in Year 10 – 12 who are required to sit the OLNA. More details will be provided in Homeroom.

Last Dates for Course Changes:
If your daughter is considering a course change, an appointment must be made with Mrs Strutt in Academic Services to assess if the change is possible. It is preferred the changes are done within the first three weeks of school. Please note the following dates apply:
Year 8 – 10 Elective Courses: Friday 17 February.
Year 11 ATAR, General and Certificate Courses: Friday 5 May (SCSA regulation)
Year 12 ATAR, General courses: Wednesday 5 April (SCSA regulation)

Please note, changes cannot be made after these dates.

Study Club Year 12
In response to Year 12 survey information from 2016, a Study Club for Year 12 ATAR students will commence on Thursday 16 February from 3.30pm to 4.30pm in St Joseph’s. The club will provide an opportunity for students to meet and share study and revision techniques, and to be advised by select staff overseen by Mrs Strutt on how to best prepare for tasks, tests and exams. This will be a weekly meeting; however, there is no requirement to attend all sessions. It is a place where students can come and take some time to work through course revision in a shared environment, or they can use the time to complete work. Your daughters have been sent a survey to fill in points of interest so we can target those areas of greatest need within the group. This will continue until the end of Term 3. We look forward to seeing your daughters there.

English – Mrs Kathleen O’Toole, HoLA
We welcome all students back to another interesting and engaging year of English studies and look forward to meeting all parents later in the year at our triangular meetings. We are also seeking parental support in ensuring students have read their English novels or autobiographies prior to their study in class. Past experience indicates the value of prior reading of texts and also the benefit of wider reading throughout the year. Students in Years 7 to 10 will regularly visit the Library as part of their English studies this year and thus will have ready access to good literature.

Some parents have expressed a desire to more ably assist their daughters with essay writing and so might like to consider the essay writing course run by the Dyslexia/Speld Association: Essay Writing for Teachers & Parents of Struggling Middle School Students Monday 27th February 5.30 – 8.30pm https://dsf.net.au/Professional-Learning/essay-writing-for-teachers-and-parents-of-struggling-middle-school-students-117227

A number of students have indicated difficulty in obtaining the texts on their booklist. We have contacted the supplier and every effort is being made to speed up delivery of those texts already ordered.

On a very positive note, the English Department would like to extend its congratulations to Josephine Volk (Class of 2016) who obtained a Certificate of Excellence for her achievement of an examination mark in the top 0.5% in the English WACE exam.

Maths – Mr Peter Mee, HoLA
Scientific calculators
All students studying mathematics will have a scientific calculator (some will also have a CAS calculator). Students should be bringing their calculator(s) to class every lesson. Some students have taken to using one of the multitude of iPad calculator apps which are freely available. Given that iPad’s cannot be used during formal pen and paper assessments, students should be practicing their mathematics with the calculator(s) that they are permitted to use (ie their scientific and their CAS calculator).

Have Sum Fun competitions
Have Sum Fun is a mathematical problem solving quiz-nite, where schools compete against one another in an intellectual show-down … supplemented with lots of chips and lollies … and their trusty calculator. There are three divisions of “Have Sum Fun” competitions; Year 7 & 8, Year 9 & 10, Year 11 & 12. The College is applying for two teams in each division. The 7/8 and the 9/10 teams will be competing on Friday 17 March (venue TBA). The 11/12 teams will be competing on Friday 10 March (venue TBA). Students interested in competing should inform their mathematics teacher. All competitions go from approximately 7pm till 10pm. We wish all competitors the very best.

For more important OLNA, NAPLAN and Maths news, please click here.

Physical Education - Mr Greg Smith Smith, HoLA
The Inter-House Swimming Carnival will be conducted on Tuesday 21 February at HBF Stadium Stephenson Avenue, Mt Claremont. The first event is scheduled to start at 9.45am and will conclude at 2.30pm. Students are to wear their House shirt, as part of their sports uniform, to school and to bring their sports bag, as space is limited at the Stadium and on the buses. Please ensure that all items are clearly labelled. Students will be transported to and from HBF Stadium on hired buses in their respective House groups.

As there will be no canteen facilities on the day at Mercedes College and there is no access to the Stadium cafeteria, students will need to bring their own lunch, some snack food and drink bottle.

Parents are welcome to attend and support on the day. If parents intend on taking their daughter home from the Stadium they will need to provide a note addressed to their daughter’s homeroom teacher by Friday 17 February. Students who are being picked up from the Stadium must be collected from their House area, in the Aquatic Centre.

Due to time constraints, the 100m freestyle events will be conducted prior to the Carnival. These events will be conducted at the College, at lunchtimes, in Week 3.

The schedule for the pre-carnival events are as follows:
Wednesday 15 February: Year 10, 11 and 12
Thursday 16 February: Year 7, 8 and 9

The programme for the day can be viewed here.
General News

Enrolment Interviews for Year 7 2019
2019 Interviews for are being conducted this term for sisters of current and past Mercedes students. If you have forgotten to enrol your younger daughter, please contact Mrs Julie Lamb on 9323 1340. An application form can be downloaded from the College Website.

Secondary Assistance Scheme
The Western Australian Department of Education provides an allowance to assist families with secondary schooling costs. To be eligible for the allowance the parent/guardian must hold a Department of Human Services (Centerlink) or Veterans’ Affairs card that is valid some time during the first term. The application closing date for 2017 is Friday 7 April and must be completed at the College (Accounts Department).

Student Absences
If a student is to be absent from school, parents must inform the College as early as possible on the day by telephone on 9323 1387 or by email on studentservices@mercedes.wa.edu.au. Voicemail is available from 7.30am. If a student is to be absent the following day, parents are required to inform the College on each consecutive morning. All absences must be followed up on the student’s return to school with a note or email from parents/guardians explaining the absence. For convenience, these are available at the back of the student diary.

Hockey – Ms Lorraine Brown
At last, You can stop stressing! The hockey season is finally here! Mercedes fields teams in the Hockey WA junior competition held each weekend from the last days of April until finals in September. Teams are entered in age group and skill group level. No previous experience with the game is necessary and this is a great time to come along and learn a new team sport. Fees are kept at a minimum (approx. $40-$60 per year depending on age group) and we play in the standard Mercedes sports uniform. Mercedes is affiliated with Curtin University Hockey Club so that gives us the opportunity to utilize expertise at the highest level. For more information, please see the carousel outside the PE office or contact me directly on lbrown@mercedes.wa.edu.au.

Students with Special Needs – Ms Rebecca Lumsden, HoLA
Special examination arrangements exist for students who have temporary or permanent disabilities, medical issues, and/or specific learning disabilities that could disadvantage them in timed assessments. The College undertakes to ensure that these students are catered for in an appropriate way and in accordance with the School Curriculum and Standards Authority guidelines. Special examination arrangements may include (but are not limited to) any of the following:

- Extra time to work
- Extra time to rest
- Use of Laptops or PC
- Use of a scribe
- Special supervision

Mrs Liana Strutt, Deputy Principal (Academic Services), must approve any special examination arrangements prior to their implementation. Any student who may have special needs, who is not presently approved for any special examination arrangements, should discuss their needs with either Mrs Liana Strutt or Ms Rebecca Lumsden (Head of Inclusive Education).

Year 12 students are advised that the closing date for applications for the use of Special Examination Arrangements in the 2017 Tertiary Entrance Examinations is 16 May. Please see Mrs Liana Strutt regarding this.

The Arts – Mrs Kathleen Cocks, HoLA

Coming Soon…

Production Auditions
Auditions began this week and a HUGE number of girls attended. Congratulations to everyone who auditioned. You have all earned House points. A list of girls who will receive a singing callback is on the PAC noticeboard. These auditions are on Wednesday 15 Feb 3-6pm in the PAC. Music is available to be downloaded from Dropbox. The link is on SEQTA and girls can print sheet music and practice with the backing track supplied.

If girls do not get a callback for Production we encourage them to try again next year and to think about joining House Choir. This is a really fun cocurricular activity and girls will make a lot of friends across all year groups. House Choir will perform with House DramaDance at the House Performing Arts Festival on Monday 3 April, 6pm, at Perth Concert Hall.

DramaDance
Special thanks and congratulations to all the year 7 girls who auditioned on their very first day of school last week. The year 12 leaders were very impressed with you all and were sad they could only cast a few of you. Everyone who auditioned has earned house points, so well done!
Rehearsals began last week and the Year 12 leaders have been very busy in the school holidays completing scripts and choreography. Many thanks to these dedicated leaders:

McDonald/Wright: Director Bridget Murphy, Choreographer Georgia Barton, Production Managers Marcella Musuruca and Aimee Vivante. Performing Coraline
Frayne/Serisier: Director Alice Dixon, Choreographer Sienna Broun, Production Managers Christina Then and Francesca De Nuccio. Performing The Witches
McAuley/Cooper: Director Isabella Marchetti, Choreographer Sophia Carbone, Production Managers Antonina Greenshields and Stefani Little. Performing Bridge to Terribithia

Cultural DeCoding – Ms Callie Steven
In the holidays the University of Notre Dame Australia hosted the exciting Cultural DeCoding programme for year 11 and 12 students. This three-day experience focused on the ideas that define who we are. With a mixture of art, archaeology, history, philosophy, theology, this experience challenged students and enriched their minds in preparation for further study and life in general.

Culture in the City
Mrs Hannah Lalor
Positive Education is the practical application of the principles of Positive Psychology, which focus on building a person’s wellbeing to enable them to flourish in life. Flourishing refers to living within an optimal range of human functioning, one that represents goodness, growth, and resilience.

In 2015 all staff were trained in Positive Education and were involved in practical activities connected to the Positive Education PERMAH model. This model is strengths based and the six domains of the model are outlined in the diagram.
Positive Education principles are the focus of our pastoral care program in Year 7 – 12, with specific guest speakers and wellbeing lessons having an experiential focus to teach and demonstrate ways to improve students overall wellbeing.

Our 2016 focus is to embed Positive Education principles into classrooms across all learning areas. We believe that developing these skills of resilience and optimism will allow students to successfully navigate life and enhance their engagement with learning.

AWE Assessment - Tanya Kadak, College Psychologist / AWE Administrator

Dear Parents…. How’s your wellbeing?

Most people do not take the time to fully consider their wellbeing and what drives their happiness. Most people may have a rough idea of how life is going, but more often than not, they don’t have a thorough understanding, or really know what impacts their wellbeing, or which aspects they can actually improve. The first step is to obtain more accurate, reliable and relevant data - via a wellbeing assessment. *Adapted from https://www.awesomeschools.com

As part of our ongoing Positive Education commitment at the College, last year we used a comprehensive online wellbeing assessment survey, the AWE survey, to assess the wellbeing of our students and staff. We used this information to assist with targeting areas of need within our school community.

This year we are excited to be able to extend the invitation for assessment with the AWE to our parent community. The AWE takes only 10 minutes to complete online and you are immediately provided with your free personalised wellbeing report that is confidential to you. Only anonymous group data is received by the College.

Most of us can benefit from a wellbeing assessment. Once people examine the different aspects of their wellbeing, they can see where they can make positive changes. Moreover, because AWE assesses both what is going well and what’s not, you can build on what’s going right as well as changing what’s not.

The AWE assessment can be completed online during Week 5 of Term 1. You will simply need to go online, register by choosing Mercedes College on the website and use an email address to get started. More details will be available in Sorelle in Week 4. Please visit www.awesomeschools.com if you would like more information about the AWE Survey.

Mother & Daughter Camp, Margaret River, 4pm Friday 24 - Sunday 26 March.

Bookings still available for Mums & Daughters from any year group to join other mums and daughters on this year’s camp in Margaret River. For more information and a booking form please email jstacey@mercedes.wa.edu.au. Booking forms also available from Student Services.

Year 7 Parent Morning Tea

Thank you to the P & F and Nicole O’Rourke, Kathryn Godwin, Lucille Ridley & Hilda Dooley for helping and hosting this event and making new parents feel welcome.

Year 7 Student Welcome Day

The Year 7 students and staff were treated to a special Hamburger lunch on Monday 30 January. Thanks to the wonderful Year 7 parents who gave up their time to prepare over 200 burgers. Thank you to Sandra Cronyn, Marion Kelly, Natasha Watts, Michelle Lopez, Grace Marchesi, David Rooney, Grace & Glen Francis. Could not have done it without you!

Year 7 Family Sundowner

An event like this would not take place without the help and support from the P & F and other parents. Big thank you to Ann Fraser, Rani Aria Retnam, Rita Rocca, Suzanne Biundo, Kim & Tracey Harris & daughter Katelyn Harris, Jo Bush, Steve Milford, Melanie Warren, Susy Tan & Laura Galloway.

SRC Morning Tea

The SRC Morning Tea was on Wednesday 8 February after the SRC Commissioning Mass. Thank you to Hilda Dooley & Christina Bormolini for their help with hosting this event.

Mercedes Netball Club

Registrations for 2017 Netball season is still open. If you are new to the club search: mynetball-find a club-Mercedes Netball Club and complete registration and make payment. You WILL need to register before the grading.

Grading Dates and Times

Saturday 11 Feb 2017: Year 7 8.00 – 12.30pm, Year 9 1.30 – 4.30pm
Sunday 12 Feb 2017: Year 8 8.30 – 12.30 pm, Year 10 1.30 – 4.30 pm
Saturday 18 Feb 2017: Year 7 9.00 – 12.30, Year 9 1.30 – 4.30pm
Sunday 19 Feb 2017: Year 8 9.00 – 12.30, Year 11/12 1.30pm – 2.30pm, Year 10 2.30 – 4.30 pm

Slalom Kayaking Intro Weekend Course - Learn basic paddling skills and most importantly have a heap of fun on the river! Ascot Kayak Club - Fauntleroy Ave, Garvey Park. Sat 11 February 9.30-12.00 and Sunday 12 February 9.30-12.00 Enquiries
to Jenny Vogel 0427 449 824. Register at ascot.canoe.org.au/club-activities

**Soccer with Inglewood United** - Aspiring young soccer players are invited to join the 2017 season. For information on our upcoming Junior Registration Day on Sunday 12 February (9am-12pm) visit [http://inglewoodunitedfc.com.au/registration-day-2017-2](http://inglewoodunitedfc.com.au/registration-day-2017-2)

**Keep fit and active this summer** - Circuit training incorporates varied functional movements and exercises to build muscle tone and increase cardiovascular fitness. Sessions are led by experienced instructors. Maximise your workouts and try new exercise routines! Sessions are run for kids aged 10 - 18 years. Tuesday and Thursdays 4:00-4:45pm at the Coady Sports Centre. To enrol in Term 1 classes contact Courtney on 0403 953 317 or email courtney.spanbroek@hotmail.com

**Tutoring** - Years 7-12 English, Literature, Geography, History, Years 11 and 12 Religion. Contact Giorgia Fraser (Class of 2012) Bachelor of Arts: History and Human Geography UWA, second year Juris Doctor UWA - 0488442794/ giorgiaf@westnet.com.au Four years experience, CV available upon request.

**ALBS Life Coaching and Resume Writing** - Life coaching is for those students who just don’t know which way is up before leaving school. We also provide Resume, Cover letter and portfolio writing for those who need a fresh look before hitting the pavement. [www.facebook.com/ALBSlifecoachingresumebuilding](http://www.facebook.com/ALBSlifecoachingresumebuilding) or albslifecoachingandresumewriting@gmail.com