21 January 2015

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the 2015 Academic Year and a special welcome to all our new families joining the College community. I hope everyone has had an enjoyable break spending time with family and friends. It is a time of renewal and I believe all students will return to the College refreshed and ready to aim for personal excellence so that they can achieve their full potential. Home and school will work together to support students to achieve their goals. As well as aiming for personal excellence students should also consider how they can help others throughout the year. Making a positive difference to the lives of others is an important feature of Mercedes College’s ethos.

I acknowledge the achievements of the Class of 2014. These students worked conscientiously to achieve their results giving up many leisure activities to pursue their studies. They were supported by Mercedes staff members who work tirelessly to assist students to achieve success. Parents are also key supporters of their children and deserve praise for their encouragement of their daughters and the many times they have changed family routines to assist with study programs. Students’ achievements will be recognised at the Excellence Assembly on 2 February.

Mercedes offers so many exciting opportunities and I encourage daughters and parents to attend relevant events and to be as involved as possible.

**Family Mass – Thursday 5 March, 6.00pm**
To begin the 2015 academic year as a faith community, we will be celebrating a Family Mass and new Principal Commissioning at St Mary’s Cathedral. This will be followed by a sausage sizzle in Catherine’s Garden providing a wonderful opportunity for families to be welcomed and get to know each other. Please note all students must be in summer uniform, including hat. For seating in the Cathedral, and catering purposes, it would be appreciated if you can RSVP by Friday 13 February, confirming the number of family members attending the mass and the sausage sizzle by emailing jstacey@mercedes.wa.edu.au. It is important to note this event replaces all other planned year group masses on the College Calendar.

**Parent Information Nights**
Parent nights are also a feature early in Term 1 and I strongly encourage attendance at these sessions. The Year 7 Parent Sundowner on 6 February is also a wonderful event where parents will make connections with other parents in that year group.
Parent IT Information Night – Wednesday 4 February, 6.30-7.30pm
This is open to all parents/guardians and particularly important for Year 7 parents. Paul Reid, Director of Learning Technology, will provide parents with a greater insight into how technology will be used to support your daughter’s learning in 2015. Find out why we as a College used the iPads in learning last year, and how we can and will offer support to families involved in this technology integration model.
Areas covered will include:
· how the technology is used to assist learning
· cyber safety
· digital citizenship
· how teachers are being supported
· parenting strategies around the use of iPads
For bookings please go to Trybooking.

SEQTA
The College continues its focus on SEQTA, the platform that will assist with home/school communication and the ability of students and parents to monitor academic progress. More information will be provided later this term. A Positive Education Programme is being introduced to staff and this will further support all members of the College community to develop resilience and look at life through a positive lens. Holiday work has occurred on the Wellness Centre continuing our commitment to providing a nurturing and supportive environment for all at the College.

I am looking forward to meeting daughters and parents at our many events and feel honoured to take on the role of Principal of the College. All staff members are committed to providing an environment that will bring out the best in each student so that they achieve their potential.

Best wishes for the year ahead.

Kind regards

Mrs Kerrie Fraser
Principal