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Be inspired....

You cannot shake hands with a clenched fist.
- INDIRA GANDHI

WORD ON THE STREET......

ZENITH - (1) The point of the celestial sphere vertically above a given position or observer.
(2) A highest point or state; culmination

Sentence
Protests about the style of the new President reached their zenith early in his tenure.

Source: Dictionary App

TUTORING

Math:
Monday 3.00pm- all year levels- Room D12

Science:
Tuesday 3:00 – 4.00pm- all Year levels- Room S02

EBW – (English Brain Works):
Wednesday 3.15pm – 4.00pm Room D02

Front Cover:
First day of High School for Year 7 Students

Date Reminders

February
Wed 8 February ......................... School Photo Catch-up
........................................................................ 6pm P&F and Board Meeting
Fri 10 February............................... Pupil Free Day
Tue 14 February.............................. Opening Mass
Tue 21 February ......................... Inter-House Swimming Carnival
Wed 22 February ......................... Pupil Free Day

March
Thurs 1 March............................ Ash Wednesday
Mon 6 – Friday 10 March.............. Yr10 Work Experience
Wed 8 March ......................... 6pm P&F and Board Meeting
"If everything is important then nothing is"

Welcome to 2017. Thank you for entrusting the education of your children to the hard-working, committed staff at Mercy.

So what is important and what are we specifically striving to improve for our students this year?

Our thematic (overarching) goal is simply put as “A common language of Learning”. What does this mean without going into several pages of detail? Bringing our academic and pastoral programs together with a consistent language that makes sense to kids and encourages them to achieve in all areas of their life.

Our core programs that will develop this common language are; Explicit Instruction pedagogy, 7 Habits leadership program and the Responsible Thinking process.

Essentially a common language emerges from alignment of school programs. The students will benefit and go far from strength to strength.

We look forward to an exciting and rewarding year ahead.

Don’t settle for second

Here’s an interesting fact; the only female scientist living or dead that most people can name is Marie Curie (twice Nobel Prize winner). Up to relatively recent times of course, females simply couldn’t reliably access the educational opportunities to advance in the area of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). If you care to dig into the literature, however, there are many examples of highly capable women working in a support capacity for male researchers of public renown.

A recent article published in our National Newspaper at the start of the academic year draws attention to the difficulties that still exist in equality of opportunity for females to make a contribution in the broad area of STEM. The authors of the article are Professor Alan Finkel (Australia’s Chief Scientist) and Ann Sherry (Executive Chairman of Carnival Australia). Both are members of an organisation called ‘Male Champions of Change in STEM’. Their point is well made in that considerable barriers still exist and senior leaders need to have the insight and commitment to ensure equality of opportunity. Source: Page 1 of The Australian ‘Feminised Physics’ 25/1/17.

School based education has seen remarkable improvements for girls over the last several decades. In fact, it is the education of male students who struggle to engage in schooling that needs considerable attention. It is in the financially lucrative and professionally challenging area of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths that a broad divide appears to still open up as girls and boys make their way into upper secondary and early tertiary. “By Year 12 there are two boys for every girl in advanced maths and three boys for every girl in Physics. At degree graduation seven out of eight IT graduates are male, four in five physics and two out of three Maths.” In the process of moving through school, student predispositions are influenced by many factors but in comparison to other countries like Singapore we are seeing insufficient girls in STEM subjects.
A similar but reversed situation is apparent for males in the Humanities and Arts. Many creative and culturally capable males are missing out on a foundation that could be the basis of life and career satisfaction. Once again many males battle stereotypes, standard expectations and lack of appreciation of the need for males to have a broad educational experience.

Lowering standards and expectations of subjects that require rigour and depth is not in the interests of either gender. Professor Michelle Simmons from the University of NSW, just this week was highly critical of the ‘feminising’ of the Physics curriculum. A reduction of Maths content and more sociology was intended to make the subject more accessible, particularly to girls. This patronising attitude was not in the interest of girls who, just like boys, can excel in Maths applications when challenged. Poorly thought out modifications to subjects at the end of secondary education is not the solution. Greater involvement of girls in senior STEM has much to do with experiences in early childhood and primary school. Mums and dads can do much to encourage inquiry, curiosity and fascination in the physical world.

Alan Finkel and Ann Sherry are right. Schools need to push and have the same expectations of boys and girls when it comes to involvement and achievement in STEM subjects. All male (or almost) environments need to adjust to encourage the presence of capable women and will thrive as a result. All female environments (or almost) similarly need to appreciate the contribution of males particularly in areas such as health and education. Co-educational facilities such as Mercy do a good job in encouraging attitudes for the synergy of the modern workforce. Men and women working together in creating the future requires the elimination of structural and attitudinal barriers, particularly for young women with the multiple challenges they face in sustaining a career contribution.

Catholic Education at Mercy

Mercy College 2017 College Captains:


Young women and men working together and enjoying each other’s company while achieving good things for their fellow students. It is indeed a privilege to be a leader at the College, but the energy and enthusiasm to make a difference is tangible. A year of service with a lot of fun along the way.

Mr Jim Ford, Principal
In every workplace the problem is the same; how to cope with the volume of emails and actually get the job done.

Teaching staff spend almost their entire day teaching. This involves morning meetings (before school), preparation of resources and lesson planning, delivery of lessons and working with classes, review and evaluation, marking and more meetings.

In the hours between 8.00am – 4.00pm they may get no time at all to check email.

If, probably like yourself, a person is receiving in excess of 50 emails a day, then clearing them in a timely fashion becomes an impossible task.

In response to this, please be advised that if you email a teacher at the school it may take up to 48 hours before a reply is received. If it’s an urgent matter, please phone the office.

Lastly, please remember all the opportunities available for parents to get information from the school i.e. via website, School Stream app and newsletter.

Mr Jim Ford, Principal
01 February 2017

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I write to you as the final hearing involving the Catholic Church at the Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse commences on February 6, 2017.

For the victims and survivors, for the Catholic community and for many in the wider Australian community, this hearing may be a difficult and even distressing time, as the Royal Commission reviews the evidence it has already received and seeks to understand why and how this tragedy has occurred.

Deeply mindful of the hurt and pain caused by abuse, I once again offer my apology on behalf of the Catholic Church. I am sorry for the damage that has been done to the lives of victims of sexual abuse. As Pope Francis said recently, ‘it is a sin that shame us’.

Over the next three weeks, evidence presented during the Royal Commission hearings will be analysed, statistics about the extent of abuse will be made public, and the way forward will be explored. Many of our bishops and other Catholic leaders will appear before the Royal Commission. They will explain what the Church has been doing to change the old culture that allowed abuse to continue and to put in place new policies, structures and protections to safeguard children.

Pope Francis has urged the whole Church to, ‘find the courage needed to take all necessary measures and to protect in every way the lives of our children, so that such crimes may never be repeated’.

Throughout the coming weeks, I want to assure you of my thoughts and prayers. I encourage you to turn in prayer to the one who is always ready to listen: Jesus Christ, who brings healing and hope.

Yours in Christ,

+ Michael McCarthy

Bishop Michael McCarthy

170 William Street, PO Box 611, Rockhampton Qld 4700, Australia
Phone: +61 7 4931 3620 | Fax: +61 7 4931 3729 | Email: bishop@rok.catholic.net.au
Web: www.rok.catholic.net.au
Our Parents and Friends (P&F) meet for the first time this year on Wednesday 8 February in the main Administration Building via Penn Street. It’s great to have everyone back and working to support our students at Mercy.

**Would you like to help** by nominating for one of the organising positions on the P&F? If so don’t hesitate to email your expression of interest to the Principal’s Secretary rachel.coppin@mercymackay.qld.edu.au so that we know in advance of the meeting and have willing persons to take on responsible roles.

**What’s on offer?** President (set the agenda & run the meetings); Secretary (take & distribute minutes); Correspondence Secretary (collect and prepare P&F mail and associated documents from the College prior to the next meeting); Treasurer (P&F monies); Vice-President (stand-in for President if absent); P&F Bikeathon Sub-Committee Chair and 4 assistants.

We meet once a month (2nd Wednesday) at 6.00pm and conclude at 7.30pm. We receive lots of support from the school and we have a lot of fun!

**Want more info?** Mr Rob Rasmussen, 2016 President is more than happy to chat with you. Phone 4951 4233.

Don’t forget to email us in advance if possible.

All welcome! See you at the first meeting on Wednesday night (snacks provided).

Mr Jim Ford, Principal

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**Welcome Fr Don White**

We welcome Fr Don White back to Mackay as Parish Priest of the Catholic Parishes of the Mackay Southern Cluster. We assure him of our prayers and support as he begins his ministry with us. Also, we welcome Fr Sathish Peddakotla HGN, Associate Pastor to our parishes.

We are very much looking forward to working with Fr White and Fr Peddakotla in both the parish and school settings and hope they are regular visitors to our College despite their very demanding schedules.

Mr Jim Ford, Principal

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**New Leadership Responsibilities**

**Mr Scott McSherry - Assistant Principal Curriculum**

*“The most beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you” – BB King*

As the newest member of our College Leadership Team, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and the service I will be providing to our College community this year. My name is Scott McSherry, and I have been a member of the Mercy staff since 2008, primarily in the role of Head of Inclusive Curriculum. I have been fortunate enough to take on the role of Assistant to the Principal – Curriculum for 2017.

A little bit about me – I began my teaching career a bit later in life after a career in the finance industry (I’m sure some people love this work, but it wasn’t for me!). After completing my studies, I took on my first teaching role at Mackay District Special School, working with children with complex and challenging disabilities. It was in this role that I developed a passion for helping children who face challenges in life and in spite of the extreme difficulties faced to perform the most basic of tasks, I was truly inspired by these children and their families and became much more appreciative of the things we take very much for granted.
In 2008 I began working at Mercy College, again in the area of learning support and special needs and I have not had one day that I have not looked forward to coming to school to support these children and work with a most fabulous Inclusive Curriculum team. I have a passion for seeing all students achieve both in and out of the classroom and this current opportunity allows me to influence the learning journey of all Mercy students and it is one that I have been very much looking forward to.

My wife Selena and I have two children (who are growing up a little too fast for my liking) at St Mary’s. We are both born and bred Mackay-ites and love the town and all it has to offer. My other passion (besides family and my work) is coaching Rugby League and I use this as a medium to make connections with young men and help them to achieve in life. I am a little bit competitive as well and nothing makes me happier than to get a win against our mates at the high school down the road!

My role this year is to lead the Heads of Department in providing a curriculum that is challenging and engaging, offers a wide range of choice, caters for diversity in learning ability and cultural background, and is firmly grounded by our Mercy values. I look forward to meeting our new parents at our Year 7 Information Evening in a few weeks and I am always available if any parent would like to discuss curriculum and learning related issues at any time. I wish all of our students the very best for a successful 2017.

Ms Danika Hurley – HOD Inclusive Curriculum
I am Head of Inclusive Curriculum for 2017. My role is to support students in achieving their full potential academically, despite any learning challenges. I also aim to ensure that students’ social/emotional welfare and physical well-being is monitored, to allow them to fully access the curriculum at their individual level. This is done with the help of a wonderful team of twelve Teacher Assistants who are passionate about assisting all students at Mercy College to be the best they can be.

Ms Angela Petrow – HOD Science
I am Head of Department, Science and this is my 6th year at Mercy College. I have a background in Environmental Science and Environmental Education – Bachelor of Environmental Science (Honours) and Graduate Diploma Education (Secondary) from Curtin University, Perth. I oversee the Science Department staff and the science curriculum to ensure we have state-of-the-art science laboratories and equipment for students to utilise. I will be working closely with St Patrick’s College to make sure our students are adequately prepared for senior studies in science.

Mrs Chana Sticklan – ARGOS House Coordinator
I am very excited about the year ahead as I step into the Argos House Coordinator role. Ensuring each and every Argos member (or ‘Sharkie’ as we are known) is valued, confident and striving to build their leader within. The Argos Student Captains of 2017 are just brilliant. We are working to build on the Argos House values of unity, pride and participation and the ideas from the student leaders on how to do this are shaping up to be nothing short of exceptional.

Mrs Sandra Gracie – HOD Careers & VET
As the newly appointed Head of Careers & VET my role will encompass the facilitation of many exciting programs aimed to develop and extend students’ skills. The Careers programs at the College include learning that focuses on the following:

- Study Skills
- The 7 Habits
- Career and personal development
- Preparation for Work Experience
- Workplace Health and Safety
- Employability Skills
- Entrepreneurial Skills
- Planning for the Senior Phase of Learning including subject selection

The acquisition of foundational skills and leadership enables students to become active and engaged in their learning and future pathways. I also encourage and welcome parents to become actively involved in their child’s learning during this important phase of schooling. Looking forward to working with you all to achieve many positive outcomes!
New Beginnings

In the recent Sunday Gospel, we hear Jesus beginning to teach his disciples, commencing with The Beatitudes. In the Beatitudes or Blessings (Matthew 5:1-12) Jesus, in essence, teaches us how to look at reality from God’s point of view, one of mercy. While we retain our desire for power and possessions, we close ourselves off and become incapable of understanding our dependence on God. longing for justice, peace and mercy. When we come clean and acknowledge our failings we are open to receive that greatest richness of all: God.

As we commence our school year we ought to evaluate the proper attitudes we all require in order to be true disciples of Jesus. The Beatitudes focus on our relationship with God and to our relationship with our fellow human beings. They provide a portrait of the kind of person a follower of Jesus is called to be and act. The cries of children deprived of their childhood by oppressive child labour, deprived of an education, women subject to violence and the rights of displaced people. Those of us who hear the teaching of the Beatitudes, are called to act for justice. As a Catholic community and in the Mercy tradition we are called to be of service to others and in particular to embody our core values of Compassion, Hope and Justice. This Justice @ Mercy (information following) initiative aims to build awareness of our fellow human beings and provide a platform for students and staff to action our faith.

God of new beginnings, may I strive to listen to what You are saying in the things that happen in my daily life. Let me come to You with an emptiness that allows You to fill my life. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

Year 7 Welcome and Candle Ceremony

On their first day of school our new Year 7 students were officially welcomed into the Mercy community, at our Welcome and Candle ceremony, held St Mary’s church. During the ceremony they were welcomed as the Seniors of 2020 and they have joined us on a journey - a journey which will be as exciting, rewarding and adventurous as they make it.

For some, this is their first experience being part of a Catholic school community; whereas others have spent their entire schooling life as a student of Catholic schools. It was expressed to them that they are not alone; there are many who are journeying with them, as we all strive to follow the Mercy College vision ‘To Serve Christ’.

Mrs Jeanette Refalo, Assistant Principal Mission
Justice @ Mercy

**Assist a Student**

Mercy students are invited to support the St Vincent de Paul Society’s Assist a Student program by contributing monetary donations in Homeroom during Weeks 3 and 4.

The St Vincent de Paul Society directs 100% of all donations collected to the education of overseas students for one year. Education improves a young person’s opportunity of gaining useful employment, thereby increasing their ability to support themselves and their families in the future. It is a means of empowering an individual to break the cycle of poverty.

More about the Assist-a-student Program....

**What is Assist-a-Student?**

The Assist-a-student Program provides the opportunity to contribute to funding an Educational Scholarship to train and educate a student, in one of our partner countries, for one year. A donation of $70 will be matched with a student from one of our partner countries. The donator will be informed of the student’s name, country and course of study.

The program includes students at all levels – from primary, secondary and post-secondary. Scholarships are allocated across the countries to ensure fair distribution.

One of the program’s strongest and most attractive features is that administration costs, funded by the Society, are kept at an absolute minimum, so nothing is deducted from the $70 for such costs. One hundred per cent goes towards the student’s educational needs (including course fees, uniforms, books etc) for one year.

**Who benefits from Assist-a-Student?**

Throughout our partner countries, local St Vincent de Paul Society members select students from families in need to be supported by the program. They receive a scholarship for one year and the money donated contributes to their educational needs. Poverty is a vicious cycle. In many Asian Pacific countries, poverty means talented individuals lack opportunities. The education of a person develops self-esteem and skills and in turn, has a positive effect on the whole community. Education is the key to enabling an individual to support themselves, their families and their communities independently in the future.

To find out more, please read the brochure on the next page or visit [www.vinnies.org.au](http://www.vinnies.org.au)

**Valentine’s Day**

Valentine’s Day launches the student Vinnie’s Committee fundraising to support various social justice projects throughout the year.

Valentine’s gifts will be on sale Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of Week 3 and will be delivered to Homerooms on Valentine’s Day.

Individually wrapped roses are $6.00, individual heart chocolates and lollipops are $1.00 each. All gifts are accompanied by a small gift card.

The Vinnie’s Committee thanks students for their support of these initiatives.

Ms Angela Petrow, Justice Coordinator
Assist a Student

Yes, I want to Assist a Student today.

The Assist a Student program reflects the Mission Statement of the St Vincent de Paul Society—serve the poor with love, respect, justice, hope and joy.

We do this by sharing some of our resources—what we have—with those in need in our neighbouring countries.

The Assist a Student program gives you the opportunity to provide funding to educate an overseas student for one year. Your donation of only $75 will be matched with a student from one of our partner countries.

Thank you for supporting Assist a Student.

St Vincent de Paul Society

Where we assist...

Assist a Student is a program of the St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia.

Donations from Australians are used to provide education funds for students across partner countries in Asia and the Pacific.

Throughout partner countries, local St Vincent de Paul Society members select students from families in need to be supported by the program. They receive education funds for one year and the family donates support to their education needs.

The program includes students at all levels—from primary, secondary and post-secondary. Education funds are allocated across the countries to ensure an acceptable distribution. One of the program's strengths is its administration costs, funded by the Society, are kept as minimal as possible.

No administration cost is deducted from your donation. 100% goes towards the students' education needs (including course fees, uniforms, books etc) for one year.

It is a common belief that education improves a young person's opportunity of gaining useful employment, thereby increasing their ability for self-support and their families in the future. It is a basic requirement for an individual to break out of the cycle of poverty.

100% of your donation goes to the students' education needs for one year.

In choosing to donate money to the Assist a Student program, you are taking the opportunity to provide education funds to overseas students in need of support throughout their education.

As well as this you will receive:

- A supporter certificate with the student name, country and course of study for each $75 donation.
- A complimentary copy of the Record with an Assist a Student insert will be sent annually.

Note: To protect the privacy and dignity of the student, and in accordance with The Rule of the St Vincent de Paul Society, photographs and information of the students are not provided.
The Principal, Staff and Students

cordially invite

Parents and Guardians

to celebrate with
the Mercy College Mackay Community

our
2017 Opening Mass

Tuesday 14 February
Mercy College Pavilion

Commencing at 9.15am

RSVP: For seating plans, please contact the College Office
Phone 4969 4199
By 10/2/17
If you will be joining us.
New Staff Profile

Justine Connor:
Justine joins us from St Francis Xavier Primary School, Mackay and will be teaching Year 7 HPE and Year 7, 8 & 9 Science.
Justine enjoys camping, surf lifesaving and spending time with her family.

Anne Fehlhaber:
Anne joins us from Mackay Northern Beaches State High School and will be teaching all Year levels in English.
Anne enjoys cooking, playing/listening to music & all sports.

Mercy College welcomes you

Check out next fortnight’s newsletter for more new staff profiles.

PINDAR news

Introducing…. “Nice to Meet you Mondays”

Pindar 2 is trying some new activities in the Homeroom this year. On Monday we started with “Nice to Meet you Mondays”. The goal of “Nice to meet you Mondays” is for every student in the Homeroom to get to know a little bit more about the people they spend their mornings with. Each Monday, we will be assigned to sit next to someone new and ask questions to find out about each other. The questions can be as simple as “What did you eat for breakfast on Saturday?” to the slightly more off-centre, such as “If your life was made into a movie, what would the title be?”

We look forward to getting to know our fellow Pindarians over the next semester.

Imogen Anderson, PIN-2 - Homeroom Captain
Pope Francis’ Letter to Young People

My Dear Young People,

I am pleased to announce that in October 2018 a Synod of Bishops will take place to treat the topic: “Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment.” I wanted you to be the centre of attention, because you are in my heart. Today, the Preparatory Document is being presented, a document which I am also entrusting to you as your “compass” on this synodal journey.

I am reminded of the words which God spoke to Abraham: “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you.” (Gen 12.1). These words are now also addressed to you. They are words of a Father who invites you to "go", to set out towards a future which is unknown but one which will surely lead to fulfilment, a future towards which He Himself accompanies you. I invite you to hear God's voice resounding in your heart through the breath of the Holy Spirit.

When God said to Abram, "Go!", what did he want to say? He certainly did not say to distance himself from his family or withdraw from the world. Abram received a compelling invitation, a challenge, to leave everything and go to a new land.

What is this "new land" for us today, if not a more just and friendly society which you, young people, deeply desire and wish to build to the very ends of the earth?

But unfortunately, today, "Go!" also has a different meaning, namely, that of a abuse of power, injustice and war. Many among you are subjected to the real threat of violence and forced to flee their native land. Their cry goes up to God, like that of Israel, when the people were enslaved and oppressed by Pharaoh (cf. Ex 2:23).

I would also remind you of the words that Jesus once said to the disciples who asked him: "Teacher [...] where are you staying?" He replied, "Come and see" (Jn 1:38). Jesus looks at you and invites you to go with him. Dear young people, have you noticed this look towards you? Have you heard this voice? Have you felt this urge to undertake this journey? I am sure that, despite the noise and confusion seemingly prevalent in the world, this call continues to resonate in the depths of your heart so as to open it to joy in its fullness. This will be possible to the extent that, even with professional guides, you will learn how to undertake a journey of discernment to discover God's plan in your life. Even when the journey is uncertain and you fall, God, rich in mercy, will extend his hand to pick you up.

In Krakow, at the opening of the last World Youth Day, I asked you several times: "Can we change things?" And you shouted: "yes!". That shout came from your young and youthful hearts, which do not tolerate injustice and cannot bow to a "throw-away culture" nor give in to the globalization of indifference. Listen to the cry arising from your inner selves! Even when you feel, like the prophet Jeremiah, the inexperience of youth, God encourages you to go where He sends you: "Do not be afraid, [...] because I am with you to deliver you" (Jer 1:8).

A better world can be built also as a result of your efforts, your desire to change and your generosity. Do not be afraid to listen to the Spirit who proposes bold choices; do not delay when your conscience asks you to take risks in following the Master. The Church also wishes to listen to your voice, your sensitivities and your faith; even your doubts and your criticism. Make your voice heard, let it resonate in communities and let it be heard by your shepherds of souls. St. Benedict urged the abbots to consult, even the young, before any important decision, because "the Lord often reveals to the younger what is best." (Rule of St. Benedict, III, 3).

Such is the case, even in the journey of this Synod. My brother bishops and I want even more to "work with you for your joy" (2 Cor 1:24). I entrust you to Mary of Nazareth, a young person like yourselves, whom God beheld lovingly, so she might take your hand and guide you to the joy of fully and generously responding to God’s call with the words: "Here I am" (cf. Lk 1:38).

With paternal affection,
FRANCIS

Given at the Vatican,
13 January 2017
After School Tutoring

**Maths tutoring** is held in room D12 on Monday from 3.00 to 4pm – all Year levels.

Students are to BRING WORK with them. They can work on class work, Maths Online, Hotmaths, homework or Tasks. New work or work missed due to an absence or otherwise, needs to be addressed with the student’s class teacher, not in tutoring.

**Science tutoring** is held in room S02 on Tuesday from 3.00 to 4pm – all Year levels.

**English tutoring** EBW (English Brain Works) is held in room D02 on Wednesday from 3.00 to 4.00pm – all Year levels.

Students are free to leave when they have finished their work or had their questions answered. Their diary can be stamped as they leave to show they were at tutoring and the time noted if they leave before 4.00pm, if requested.

All are welcome!

Mrs Kerry Esmond, HOD Math
Mrs Anne-Maree Russell-Pace, HOD English
Ms Angela Petrow, HOD Science

Languages Department

This year brings some exciting developments for the Languages Department. We have lots of events and activities planned to promote the department this year. We welcome back Ms Mitchell (Japanese) who has returned to Mackay after working at the Japanese Consulate in Brisbane for 18 months.

The Year 8’s are continuing with their compulsory 12 months of French or Japanese study and the Year 7’s will commence their Languages study in Semester 2. This year will see the biannual Japanese Study Tour depart in September.

Learning a language is so important for the development of numerous skills such as problem solving and critical thinking skills.
Reading and the Mercy Library?
The measure of a good book is one where you are the better for having read it! Our great Australian (and prolific) author, Jackie French even says, “Every book a child reads creates new neurons in their brain. Empathy is learned and each book teaches them to understand others – and themselves. If we want our children to understand machines to mine asteroids or design ways to cure our wobbly knees, we give them books.” (Connections, Issue No.97, pp 1-2, www.curriculum.edu.au/scis/connections)

I’m sure that I am ‘preaching to the converted’ to most in the Mercy community when I talk of the myriad of benefits reading has for people; it literally can change lives! Reading gives people access to information and knowledge, generates an expanded vocabulary, develops one’s writing that has expression and fluidity and offers so many more opportunities in life, simply because we are literate.

Here at the College we also encourage the joy of reading; reading for no other reason than to simply read for the pleasure of reading. To immerse yourself in a character and their thoughts, feelings and experiences. To take you to new places without having to leave your chair! I explained to the students on Assembly last week how, to achieve this, Mercy participates in an innovative program called USSR (Uninterrupted Silent Sustained Reading) where the entire school stops for 15 minutes on a Tuesday morning and devotes that time to silent reading. In today’s fast-paced world I believe that, that silence is truly a gift. I realise your child has an iPad and we teach, learn and play with technology every day but we do need to strike a balance in education between the new and the old and because of that, to get the most benefit out of USSR every Tuesday, we ask the students to read only physical books. Tree books not e-books!

On another note ...
Parents may or may not be aware that the Mercy Library is undergoing a rebuild! As a result, our temporary Library spaces are on two sites until completion. Site 1 are rooms CO3 and CO4 within the school grounds where students are welcome at each of the lunch breaks and before and after school, to partake in reading, homework and assignment work, board games, card games or chess. This also provides the opportunity for students to print/photocopy. Book returns will also take place in this room, which is particularly important at the end of the Semester, especially for English classes, when novel studies are completed.

Site 2 is at St Mary’s Catholic Primary School (next door to the College). This is where the Library staff are situated and where class sets of resources (i.e. ‘the baskets’) are kept. As many class sets as possible have been housed around the school to minimise class disruption. If a resource is at St Mary’s then the procedure is, that the classroom teacher will ring the Library staff at St Mary’s at the beginning of the lesson with their request. We will then collect the baskets and take them through the locked gate at St Mary’s and meet 2 students from that class on the Mercy side of the gate. 5 minutes before the end of the lesson, the process is reversed and the Library staff will meet the students at the gate for the handover. This process will occur for the duration of the build and therefore, no students need to be on the St Mary’s site during school hours.

If your student usually attends the Library in the afternoons after school, the temporary site of rooms CO3 and CO4 will still operate after school until 4.00pm as per usual.

Mr Stephen Crocker, Librarian
Mathematics Department

Welcome back for another year of Mathematics at Mercy.

Mathematics Staff for Semester 1
Mrs Lisa Bottcher, Miss Laura Burns, Miss Hayley Esmond, Miss Cassie Gillespie, Mr Brendan Gunning, Miss Nicole Martin, Mr Steven Mattsson, Mrs Adrianne Mifsud, Mr Adam Skoczylas and Mrs Kerry Esmond (HOD).

Unit Outlines and Textbooks
Copies of the unit outlines for all Year levels should be in the front of the student’s maths exercise book, but if they have misplaced it, a new copy can be found in their google classroom. All classes should have downloaded the chapter they are using and loaded it into either iBooks or Adobe on their iPad. Again if your child is having difficulty doing this they should talk to their teacher, or the digital textbook for all Year levels can be download onto a student device from digital resources via the intranet at school.

Maths Tutoring
Tutoring started this week. Mathematics Tutoring for all Year levels is Monday from 3.00 – 4.00 pm in room D12. Students need to bring their work with them from their Maths class. This could be finishing classwork or homework set by their teacher. If they have nothing from class they can then work on Mathsonline to practice the skills they have been learning in class.

Maths Enrichment
This year we will be running the Enrichment Program again in all Year levels. The students will participate in the Australian Mathematics Trust Challenge Stage Competition, the Computational and Algorithmic Thinking Competition, the Australian Mathematics Competition and be involved in the ASX Stock Market game. So if your student is interested in joining the program they can pick up a letter/form from Student Reception and return it by Friday 10 February 2016. Students will work on the online program in their study class and/or at Maths tutoring on Monday afternoons or in their own time.

Mathsonline
All students in Years 7 – 10 should have received their Mathsonline login. These resources can be used for practice of new skills, revision of past years’ maths that a student may not be confident with and also, for revision for exams. Teachers can set work/homework to be done on Mathsonline which is then used as part of their formative assessment. Parents can also use Mathsonline to help their child with their homework, as the site has an explanation of what they are learning, which can often help if you haven’t done school Maths for many years.

Assessment
Year 7 Maths units this term will have the following assessment:
- Chapter Tests Week 3, 6, 9 in their maths class. These are short tests and an introduction to High School assessment. During Semester 2 they will be introduced Assignment Style assessment and test after more than one topic in preparation for Year 8.

In Years 8 and 9 Mathematics Semester 1 Units have the following assessment:
- a one period exam between Week 6 and 9
- an in-class assignment style task that the students work on mainly in class from about Weeks 7 - 13
- final exam about Week 18.

In Year 10:
Mathematics Methods will have the following assessment:
- an in-class assignment style task that the students work on mainly in class from Weeks 2 - 7
- a two period exam in Week 18
- Mathsonline Sheets Weeks 19 - 20
Mathematics General will have the following assessment:
- an in-class assignment style task that the students work on mainly in class from Weeks 3 - 8
- a two period exam in Week 18
- Mathsonline sheets Weeks 19 - 20
Mathematics Essentials will have the following assessment:
- a two period exam in Week 10
- an in-class assignment style task that the students work on mainly in class from Weeks 11 - 16
- Mathsonline sheets Weeks 17 - 20

Further details of all assessments, including exact dates, will be in the assessment calendar and on your child’s Google Classroom.

If there are any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher in the first instance by either email or phone and if the issue is not resolved, then the HOD Mathematics.

Mrs Kerry Esmond, HOD Mathematics

Mackay Rowing Club
During lunch next Monday 6 February the Rowing Club will be running a rowing machine competition. Students will be shown the basic technique for using the machine and then they will be given the opportunity to see how far they can row in one minute. The club will also give out information on this year’s rowing season for anyone who is interested. There is a new format for this year to accommodate students playing other sports. Rowing is a good activity to improve balance, coordination and total fitness.

Mr Michael Denman, Rowing Coordinator

Finance Department
Term 1 school fees will be issued Week 4. Parents please remember when paying fees via internet to include your Account Code ie “ABCD001” as your reference to ensure payment is made against your account.

Please contact our office to discuss the following:
- set up a Direct Debit or Credit Card payment plan
- if you are having financial difficulties

If you have not already done so, please forward your Account & Discount Information form to the Finance Office to allow us to calculate any family discounts due. This form is a yearly requirement for audit purposes.

Students have been issued with a Photo ID Card which can be used as a debit card for Tuckshop purposes. Students can place money on the card at the Finance Office and / or parents can pay over the phone. We can also provide the card balance. The card may also be used when borrowing books and printing at the Library.

Mr David McKie, Finance Manager
URGENT NOTICE

Parking in and around Mercy College Mackay

Legitimate concern by local residents

Please be respectful of our residents in Pirie and Penn Streets by allowing them driveway access to their properties during drop-off and pick-up times.

2 min Drop & Go Parking

Please note: the parking bays in Penn Street, at the front of the College, are 2 minutes parking only from 8.00 – 9.00am and 2.30 – 3.30pm as this is a drop-off and pick-up zone only; and 1 hour parking between 9.00am – 2.30pm (as indicated on Council parking signs)
Places are being finalised for this exciting tour to America. Students will travel in late December and will be in America for three weeks, part of which they will be hosted with an American family. If you would like more information regarding this tour, please contact Susan McKay Ph: 4969 4199 or email susan_mckay@mercymackay.qld.edu.au

G’DAY USA JANUARY 2018
LAST CHANCE TO JOIN!!

Tour Highlights Include:
- Disneyland
- Universal Studios
- Knott’s Berry Farm
- San Diego
- San Francisco
- Stay with a host sister or brother
- Visit an American High School

“I wish all kids could have the amazing experiences EWT provides. Travel truly is the best gift we can give our kids!”

To find out more information contact:
Ms McKay @ Mercy College
Visit: www.ewt.com.au
Email: info@ewt.com.au

Lic No: 31646 Lic No: 2TA 003733-NSW

Ms Susan McKay, Tour Coordinator
Safer Internet Day 2017

Office of the Children’s eSafety Commissioner

Tuesday 7 February 2017

Safer Internet Day 2017 (#SID2017) is a global celebration for a better internet. This year’s theme is ‘Be the change: Unite for a better internet’. Safer Internet Day aims to raise awareness of emerging online issues, and promote safer and more responsible use of technology and mobile devices, especially amongst children and young people.

Key Messages

- SID2017 takes place on 7 February, with the theme ‘Be the change: Unite for a better internet’.
- SID helps to promote safer and more responsible use of online technology and mobile devices.
- Through SID, we aim to raise awareness of online issues affecting young people, including cyberbullying, unwanted contact and sharing too much information.
- The Office of the Children’s eSafety Commissioner supports SID on a national scale, providing activities and resources for schools and the community to participate in.

Spread the word through your networks and connections to help draw attention to Safe Internet Day 2017 - #SID2017.


#SID2017

What is the Office of the Children’s eSafety Commissioner?

The Office is committed to helping young people have safe, positive experiences online and encouraging behavioural change, where a generation of Australian children act responsibly online—just as they would offline. They provide online safety education for Australian children and young people, a complaints service for young Australians who experience serious cyberbullying, and address illegal online content through the Online Content Scheme.

The goal is to empower all Australians to explore the online world—safely

To find out more visit their WEBSITE.
From the Home Economics Department

**Week 2's recipes**

**Year 7's**

**Pikelets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredient</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 cup flour SR flour</td>
<td>Pinch of salt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 tbsps sugar</td>
<td>¾ cup milk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 egg</td>
<td>Canola Spray</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Sift flour and salt in a medium bowl. Stir in the sugar.
- Whisk milk and egg together, then add to dry ingredients, whisking until smooth.
- Heat a non-stick frypan over medium heat and brush with a little melted butter. Drop level tablespoonsful of the mixture into the pan and cook for half a minute or until bubbles appear on the surface.
- Turnover and cook other side for 1 minute until golden.
- Allow to cool and serve with butter.

**Year 9's**

**Savoury Mince Pies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredient</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>160g mince</td>
<td>2 tbsps pizza sauce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 tbsps grated cheese</td>
<td>1 puff pastry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 shortcrust pastry sheet</td>
<td>½ onion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt and Pepper</td>
<td>1 teaspoon of oil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Preheat the pie maker.
- Finely dice onions and fry onions in a frypan, until golden brown.
- Stir in the mince and fry till brown then add the pizza sauce.
- Season as desired then set aside to cool.
- Line pie maker with pastry.
- Pour in the savoury mince into shell.
- Sprinkle with cheese.
- Cover pie with pastry.
- Cook for 3-5mins then remove from pie maker.

**Year 10's**

**Mini Pavlovas**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredient</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 egg whites</td>
<td>1 cup caster sugar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 tbsp cornflour</td>
<td>2 tsp white vinegar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 ½ cups double cream</td>
<td>125g strawberries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¼ cup passion fruit</td>
<td>Icing sugar, for dusting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Preheat oven to 150C. Place the egg whites in the bowl of an electric mixer and whisk until stiff peaks form.
- Gradually add the sugar, whisking well until stiff and glossy.
- Add the cornflour and vinegar and whisk to combine.
- Spoon ½ cup of the mixture at a time onto baking trays lined with non-stick baking paper OR pipe into even sized mounds onto baking tray.
- Reduce oven to 120C, place the trays in the oven and bake for 20-30mins.
- Turn the oven off and allow the Pavlovas to cool completely in the oven.
- Spoon cream over the Pavlovas, top with strawberries, passion fruit and dust with icing sugar to serve.
Tuckshop

The tuckshop is open and running well, with new students handling the procedures for purchases.

Thank you to all the parents who have volunteered to work in the Tuckshop. There is still a couple of days where I am short of helpers. If you are able to assist it would be greatly appreciated, or you have put your name down and haven't received an email, please give me a call on 4969 4155.

There are a number of items of food available that are gluten free, including spaghetti bolognaise, fried rice, chicken nuggets, pies, sausage rolls and bread rolls and bread which can be made into ham and salad or chicken and salad sandwiches. The only thing I ask, is for the student to tell us at breakfast in the morning so we can prepare them first and put them aside.

The revised Tuckshop menu was emailed to all parents this week, or you can view it through the Mercy College Website.

Please come along and help out in the Tuckshop. All recipients will receive a $25 exemption from the P&F levy for this term.

Fortnightly volunteer roster:

Monday 6 February
Kiraty Hoani, Annette Brodel, Helen Symons, Kim Coombs

Tuesday 7 February
Julie Head, Joy de Froberville, Kellie Jones

Wednesday 8 February
Deirdre Comerford, Rob Ely, Judy Orr

Thursday 9 February
Kerry Gallaway, Clair Worth, Amanda Tomerini, Hini Kaugh

Friday 10 February
Pupil Free Day

Monday 13 February
Kirsty Freeman, Michelle Goodman, Deb Dennis, Nikita Kinnane

Tuesday 14 February
Paula Bell, Annamaria Cappello, Patricia Anderson, Belinda Johnson

Wednesday 15 February
Mickaila Dobbie, Megan Clifford, Alison Lawton, Sharon Simpson

Thursday 16 February
Lyndall Doolan, Jenny Crawley, Samantha Vella, Hini Kaugh

Friday 17 February
Cathy Galea, Lisa Hackney, Belinda Downes

Mrs Margaret Floyd, Tuckshop Convenor

HELPFUL HINTS CORNER

Did you know?

To clear blocked drains, pour a handful of washing soda and half cup of vinegar down the drain. Let it sit for half an hour with the plug in place. Finally, pour a handful of salt down the drain followed by a jug of boiling water.

To suck up hard-to-reach gunk under your fridge, or behind a bookshelf, insert an empty paper towel roll into the end of your vacuum cleaner and bend, or flatten it, to squeeze into these difficult spots.

Put a bathmat or doormat in front of your front-end loaded washer and dryer, so wet clothes won't go 'sploot' on the floor and pick up dirt.
Rostrum Voice of Youth – Public Speaking
The 43rd Rostrum Voice of Youth – Australia’s premier speaking competition for high school students.
Dates for 2017 are:
Entries open 30/01/2017
Entries close 27/03/2017
Heats April & May 2017
Regional Finals 27/05/2017
South Queensland Final 27/05/2017
State Final 1/07/2017
National Final 29/07/2017
The topics for 2017 are:
Junior
A blank canvas
An unlikely hero
Where to from here?
Against the odds
People matter
Senior
Hidden agenda
The lottery of life
Creating history
Trusting our instincts
Life without limits
For more information visit: http://voy.rostrum.com.au/

Foster Carer, could you be one?
Churches of Christ Care provide a vital safety net to more than 2,800 children across the state who often come from backgrounds of abuse or neglect, but we need your help.
If you have:
• a heart for children in need
• a desire to transform young lives
• a willingness to open up your home
We’d love to hear from you. For more information, phone 4953 5097.

Sonya Brazil Memorial
Women’s Only Triathlon
Sunday 19 February at Mirani Pool. Registration 6.15am, Race briefing 7.15am, Race start 7.45am. Distance 200m swim, 8km ride, 2km run.
Registration online at www.mackaytriclub.org or on the day. Contact Judi 0422442756 (business hours) or email mackaytri@gmail.com

City Brothers Football Club
Register now U5 to Seniors, www.myfootballclub.com.au
Or sign on, 5 February 2017, Nita Flemming Fields Juliet Street, Mackay. Contact - Craig, 0418308362 or email watty2910@outlook.com

Eastern Swans AFL Mackay
Sign-On Day & Sausage Sizzle, Sunday, 19 February, 2017, 10:30am – 2:30pm, Rogers Oval, Petrie St, South Mackay. New players please bring a copy of your birth certificate as proof of age. If you have any queries, please contact: Stephen Quarrell on 0407 325 007
Andrew Vincent on 0448 152 658
Kylie Gupwell on 0431 609 924

Souths United Hockey Club
If you are between the ages of 13-99 (Male or Female) We would like to invite you to our Hockey SIGN ON DAY: Saturday 11 February 2017, 5pm -6pm At The Hockey Club House, Harney St. Or Find us at the Mecc Sports Expo Day (Sunday 12 February 2017).
If you have any questions please contact Kellie Wilson 0429 429 063, or email secretary@southshockeymackay.com

Walkerston Wanderers Junior Rugby League Club
Come and Play Rugby League in 2017. Walkerston Wanderers Junior Rugby League Club will be holding a sign on for boy and girl players from U6 to U17 age groups at McLennan Park Walkerston from 9am to 11am on Saturday 4 February 2017. Returning Players should sign on via the club website and new players please bring a copy of your birth certificate. Any questions please give club registrar Roberta Morris call on 0408 752 078

Souths Junior Rugby League
Feel like a game of footy? U6 to U17 - come and play with us – we’d love to have you on our team. We’ve been playing junior rugby league in Mackay for 50 years. Haven’t played before? That doesn’t matter – we’ll show you how.
Come along to our sign on day, Sunday 5 February 2017 at Souths Leagues Club on Milton Street from 10am – 12 noon. If you can’t make it, come along to the MECC on 12 February or give Kellie a call on 0427526301 for more information.

NRL
Come & Try on 9 February at BB Print Stadium from 5.00pm - 6.00pm. Coached by NRL Staff and guest coach Matty Bowen and Mackay Cutters Players. Bring hat, sunscreen, water bottle & smile. More information contact Jim Lappin jlappin@nrl.com.au

Bring French Culture to Life!
Why not volunteer to host an international student from France mid-year? We have a small group of delightful French students coming to Australia for 10 weeks to immerse in local culture, experience our schools, sports, environment and lifestyle. Arriving in June, all students speak excellent English, have their own spending money, cover all school expenses, and we arrange all aspects of their program. It’s fun and interesting to help these young people achieve their Australian dream. If you’d like to know more, please email your interest to rob.lindsay@icm-education.com.au or call 0438 689828
What will your 2017 memories be? With a WEP student exchange they could include visiting NYC, Paris or Rome! Imagine!

WANT TO FIND OUT MORE? REQUEST A FREE STUDENT EXCHANGE INFORMATION PACK IN THE POST!
WEP.ORG.AU
SMS ‘EXCHANGE’ TO 0428 246 633

DID YOU KNOW WEP IS OFFERING SCHOLARSHIPS? FIND OUT MORE AT WEP.ORG.AU AND APPLY NOW!

Recruiting for 2017
AUSTRALIAN NAVY CADETS
Training Ship Pioneer

Are you between the age of 12½ and 19, interested in having a go at a few new challenges, like the water, like adventure, working together in a group? Then come along and let the Navy Cadets of Training Ship Pioneer show YOU what YOU can get involved in. YOU will get to learn how to sail, navigate and gain skills in everything from information technology, communications, cooking, First Aid to drill, seamanship and many more exciting activities.

If you think this is for you please come along on and see us at the “Sports Expo” - Mackay Convention Centre
Sunday 12 February (9am – 1pm)

If you would like further information please contact us by email: Rebecca.scott11@navycadets.gov.au or the mobile phone number below.

For more information, Phone: 0475 596302
JUST ADD WATER!

MACKAY ARMY CADETS

Vacancies for New Members
The sessions are to be held at the Army Cadet Barracks, 400 Shakespeare Street, West Mackay, commencing at 6pm.
(You or someone with you will need photo ID)
Persons wishing to join must attend one of the sessions, which are designed to give an overview of what Army Cadets is all about.
Minimum Age: must turn 13 in the year of joining.
Maximum Age: must not yet be 17 years of age.
ENQUIRIES WELCOME - PHONE 040 767 9432
(After 5pm daily or anytime on weekends)

Enrolments for 2017 close on Tuesday 14 February.