

# NEWSLETTER

20 September 2019

## From the Principal



### Lila McInerney

Principal

M.Ed Lead, B. Theol, Grad  
Dip. Stud. Guid & Welfare,  
Grad Dip. RE, Grad. Cert.  
Curr. Lead, Dip. Teach



### MERCY COLLEGE

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### MERCY DAY

Today, as a college, we celebrate Mercy Day. It is a special day for our school community where we are able to join together and celebrate how lucky we all are to be able to say with pride 'I am Mercy'.

Students gathered as a year level this morning to explore this year's theme Find your way with Mercy". Participating in two activities to understand Mercy at a deeper level. This included former Mercy College students, Ruth Yousif, Sabrina Martins, Lida Hanna and Fiona Lorenti speaking to levels of students, about the lessons and values they have taken with them into adulthood so they could find their way with mercy in life beyond school. Students also participated in a scavenger hunt to find answers to questions related to the history of Mercy College and the life of Catherine McAuley and the Mercy Sisters in Australia.

We were fortunate to gather for Eucharist and are grateful to Fr Anthony Girolami who was our celebrant. At the conclusion of Eucharist, we presented the 2019 Spirit of Mercy Award. In the spirit of Catherine McAuley, founder of the Sisters of Mercy, this student is a model of Christian values in her relationships with students, staff and the community. She makes a positive contribution to the life of the College, inside and outside the classroom. She always give of her best, beyond that which is required. She works to develop an awareness of social justice issues within the community. Her behaviours embody the very values, which our learning community lives by. Her learning is modelled on our Mercy learner dispositions: be courageous, be inquisitive and be persistent.

In the afternoon homerooms hosted the Mercy Day Carnival where one of the highlights was the teacher/ student lip sync battle. The term 3 Learning showcase was a fantastic way to conclude the day and review a busy but positive term for all. We also made the exciting announcements of Student of the Term and the 2020 Student Executive team.

### MERCY DAY PRAYER

*God, we are part of a long tradition of Mercy,  
which has its roots in the heart of the Trinity and  
has found many and varied expressions in human  
history.*

*Bless us as we seek ways to be faithful to that tradition  
in the times and places where we find ourselves.  
Continue to plant our seeds of Mercy in our lives and  
world,  
water them with the rain of compassion  
so that we might enjoy a harvest of justice and peace.*





# From the Principal

## Lila McInerney



## UPCOMING DATES

**Friday 20 September**  
*Mercy Day*

**Final Day Term 3**

**Saturday 21 September**  
*Feast of St Matthew*

**International Day of Peace**

**Tuesday 24 September**  
*Feast of Our Lady of Mercy*

**Friday 27 September**  
*AFL Grand Final Holiday*

**Sunday 29 September**  
*Feast of St Gabriel*

**Catherine McAuley's Birthday**

**Monday 30 September**  
*College Information Centre Open  
8:15am - 4:15pm*

**Units 3 and 4 Trial Exams**

**Monday 7 October**  
*Term 4 Commences*

**Wednesday 9 October**  
*Year 7 Immunisations*

**Thursday 10 October**  
*World Mental Health Day*

**Friday 11 October**  
*International Day of the Girl*

**Student Executive Dinner**  
*7:00pm Start*

The Student of the Term Award is a recognition of individual students who actively seek to achieve excellence in their contribution to Mercy College school life. The principal awards it to one student from each year level each term.

Student Leadership is highly valued at Mercy and is both an opportunity and a responsibility for all students from Year 7 onwards. Over the previous few weeks, it has been my absolute pleasure to be a part of the process of selecting our 2020 Student Executive. I thank and congratulate all those who applied for the positions for your enthusiasm and commitment to your school community. Next term we will formally acknowledge the Student Executive of 2019 and hold a formal induction of our 2020 team.

As term 3 comes to a close, we reflect on the term that has passed and look forward to the new opportunities and challenges term 4 will bring. We wish all in the Mercy community who are fortunate to be able to take a break in this holiday period, a restful and rejuvenating time.

For our students studying Units 3 and 4, exams are not too far away and the time away from formal classes will consist of study and trial exams. Know that you have our support as you enter this busy and important time in your senior studies. Thank you to everyone for your contribution to Mercy College this term. I very much look forward to seeing you in term 4 for our final term of the year.

*Let us never lose trust in the patience and mercy of God.*

**Lila McInerney**  
College Principal



# 2020 Student Executive Team



*College Co-Captain  
Miriam Edmonds*



*College Co-Captain  
Tara Hanna*



*Mission  
Lillianne Abi-Haila*



*Music  
Isabella Hauszler*



*Performing Arts  
Laura De Filippis*



*Social Justice  
Mina Kiryo*



*Sport  
Alyssa Pizzi*



*Student Voice  
Nirgun Kaur*



*Frayne  
Claudia  
Dell'Universita*



*Kane  
Evonia Da'Luz*



*Marian  
Juanita Mususu*



*O'Hea  
Carissa Maculan*



*Thecla  
Carla Martins*



# Term 3 Student of the Term Award

## Year 7

This student is a bubbly, inclusive and friendly member of her Homeroom. She often rallies her peers to deliver a greeting to her Homeroom teacher in the mornings that involves singing and dancing. She is helpful by volunteering to read the notices and prayer if the person rostered on to do so is away but she also loves praying special intentions in the morning such as "I hope everyone has a nice day". She can also be relied upon to contribute thoughtfully and insightfully to class discussion and questioning, and she always applies herself 100% to all tasks. She shows initiative by communicating with her teachers if she is absent so that she does not fall behind with her work. This student has been involved in College life as a cast member of the Mercy and Parade play and musical, has performed in the Mercy Day Mass Choir today, recently played in the Junior A netball team, and was also very reliable in putting the flags up and taking them down for a period of time this term. This year 7 radiates positivity and is a genuinely kind and hardworking student who has made a valuable contribution to our College in the three terms that she has been with us here at Mercy.



*The Year 7 Student of the Term,  
is Ruby Chahoud from 7C*

## Year 8

This student simply brims with optimism, always wishing her teachers and peers a great day. She is an exuberant individual in her Homeroom group, with a smile for absolutely everyone. She actively challenges herself everyday, courageously looking for, and taking on the new and unfamiliar, even if she may fail the first time.

This student demonstrates excellence in multiple facets of our school life, including her academic learning, sport and music. While already being involved in many music opportunities, she impressively rose to the challenge of learning a new instrument this year, practicing persistently, determined to do her best. Her involvement in Chess Club, and multiple sporting teams highlights her capacity to see the benefits in opportunities presented by the co-curricular program.

She demonstrates inquisitiveness when she reflects meaningfully on her learning. If something she has learnt interests her, she goes out of her way to find out more about it. She demonstrates an exemplary work ethic, and often completes and submits extra work in order to challenge herself. She is always willing to lend a helping hand to teachers and students alike, and she is a great role model for her peers.

This student actively volunteers and participates in pastoral and community activities such as being a host to one of the Indonesian students in the SMP Progresif Bumi Shalawat partnership visit program, and Mercy Day raffle ticket selling. For R U OK Day events, she showed impressive skills in working and communicating with her friend respectfully and attentively, baking some yummy cookies for the Hope Café, with one of their hands tied together!



*The Year 8 Student of the Term,  
is Melissa Perera from 8B*



# Term 3 Student of the Term Award

## Year 9

This student is a conscientious learner who maintains a consistent work ethic and never lets difficult topics get the better of her. She is often striving to find out the deeper meanings in questions and topics. She is also helpful to her classmates, contributing in group discussions and willing to help her classmates.

This student is not afraid to make mistakes in order to achieve her learning goals and go above and beyond the norm to achieve her goals. This student demonstrates a strong inquisitive mind by always asking for clarification or extention. Recently when faced with an inquiry task on a significant member of the Catholic Church, she and a small group of students used initiative to call a Melbourne museum to help them discover more information about their person.

This student has been a dominant and positive force in the Year 9 cohort for her entire Mercy life. She never complains about not regularly receiving accolades, even though she is very deserving. For almost three years she has continued to demonstrate excellence, hospitality, justice, and compassion without a certificate in her hand or a badge on her chest. Today, it is her turn.



*The Year 9 Student of the Term,  
is Claudia de Rosayro from 9B.*

## Year 10

This student is described by her teachers as a person who is always committed to every assigned task, whether it be group work, class discussion or an assessment in every subject. She sets an example for her peers through her ability to learn independently and is persistent and determined in her pursuit of academic excellence.

Over the past three terms this student has become more courageous in her learning by overcoming shyness to seek verbal feedback from her teachers as she asks questions to check her level of understanding.

Teachers cannot fault this student's dedication and effort, both on the sporting field and in the classroom. No matter what the subject, this student tackles all tasks with self-confidence and puts in the hard work required to achieve her personal best.

She interacts with everyone respectfully both in and outside of the classroom. A simple smile from this student to all whom pass her in the corridor or school yard, demonstrates her utmost and equal respect for all members of our Mercy Community.



*The Year 10 Student of the Term,  
is Maya Hattarki from 10A*



# Term 3 Student of the Term Award

## Year 11

This student actively seeks feedback on her learning and shows she is thinking about the content being taught by asking well thought out questions. These questions reflect her level of engagement with learning and an awareness that success is achieved through understanding rather than memorising. When she receives feedback on her work she carefully considers ways she can use that feedback to improve her understanding. Close enough is never good enough for this student and she strives for excellence not only for herself, but for those around her too by encouraging them to also persevere with their learning. She is not afraid to take risks with her learning. She is aware that it may take several goes at something to master a skill and diligently works to utilise every opportunity to do this. This student has extensive knowledge of current affairs and global events and regularly seeks to engage in discussions about these. She strives to develop an understanding of the world that extends beyond the classroom and has a strong sense of what is fair and just. She values her education and this is evident in her ability to apply what she learns to the world around her.



*The Year 11 student of the term,  
is Katina Nedelkos from SH5*

## Year 12

This student is a quiet achiever and consistently maintains a poised and thoughtful manner. She is always attentive to advice and instruction. She completes each and every task to the best of her considerable ability. If she has a setback, she considers the feedback carefully, so that she can do better the next time she completes a similar task. This student sets herself very high academic goals and she strives to achieve them. She pushes herself to master new skills, so that she can do her best at all times. She makes inquiries and conducts her own research, in order to make sense of new ideas and information. She consistently adopts a questioning approach to her studies and the world around her.



*The Year 12 student of the term,  
is Kayla Punaro from SH1*



# 2019 Spirit Of Mercy Award

Catherine McAuley- foundress of the order of the Sisters of Mercy, is noted as saying- "How quietly the great God does all His mighty works!" Here, Catherine, is describing the unassuming and humble ways of this Yr 10 student. Never seeking recognition, this young woman is a mighty volunteer and contributor to our College, living her school life as a true witness to our Mercy values.

The long list detailing her contributions to Mercy College reveals much about her generous and compassionate spirit.

A regular volunteer on all of our Mercy Discovery Days, she displays a pride in and a love of her school.

This young woman has a generosity of spirit and a gentleness of nature that endears people to her. She has been a model of compassion and hospitality, ensuring that there is a spirit of welcome and acceptance not only in her class but in her year level.

What distinguishes this student is her ability to do ordinary things in extraordinary ways; this is because she knows that service of others is best carried out through kindness. She always puts the needs of over students above her own, even during time of grief she was able to still support a classmate in need.

This student strives to be and to do her best and this inspires others to follow her lead. Whether pursuing personal goals or helping others, this young woman shines a light that is empowering.

She is persistent, courageous and inquisitive in all aspects of her learning. She always strives for excellence and makes use of all resources, such as emailing teachers and meeting with them outside of the classroom to clarify understanding and for additional support.

Her hospitality is evident through the compassion she shows her fellow Mercy students through encouragement and support within the learning environment and outside.

She is a committed member of the Concert Band, where she plays both piano and also percussion - a new challenge she has embraced. This student has shown great leadership aptitude by being an active contributor to our school community.

This Mercy student appreciates that leadership through service sometimes requires courage and this does not deter her. In her own quiet ways, her successes have been many and varied and of these, one of the greatest has been the genuine respect she has won from all who know her well, and all who only know of her.

Congratulations to Olivia Rizza, recipient of the Spirit of Mercy Award for 2019





DISCOVER MERCY

# OPEN DAY

Meet our Principal, explore the facilities and chat with our students and staff

Monday 21 October - 9:30am or 6:00pm

Presentation and tour will take approximately 90 minutes

Book your sessions online or call 9319 9299

[mercycoburg.catholic.edu.au](http://mercycoburg.catholic.edu.au)

# Director of Curriculum and Pedagogy

## Vanessa Folino



### NAPLAN

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) for Year 7 and 9 students was held in May this year. This was the first time the students at Mercy College completed NAPLAN online. NAPLAN assesses students knowledge and skills in Writing, Reading, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy.

The results of the tests provide information for students, parents/guardians, teachers and principals and can be used to improve student achievement.

The following presents the growth of Mercy College as compared to the 2018 data.

	Year 7	Year 9
Reading	+9	+19
Writing	+12	+15
Spelling	+9	-3
Grammar and Punctuation	+14	+9
Numeracy	+17	+13



The College has mailed the NAPLAN reports to families. The report describes your daughter's particular skills in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy. The report also shows how your daughter performed in relation to national minimum standards. These describe the minimum acceptable standards for students across Australia.

These results are another form of feedback that will help to assess progress in literacy and numeracy. For more information about the tests, please visit the VCAA website on the following link: [CLICK HERE](#) or the NAP website found on following link: [CLICK HERE](#)

### National Assessment Program–Civics and Citizenship

Mercy College has been selected as a participating school in the NAP-Civics and Citizenship (NAP-CC) Main Study assessment, which will take place in October of this year. The National Assessment Program – Civics and Citizenship is part of a national strategy to monitor and report on Year 6 and Year 10 student progress towards the achievement of the objectives outlined in the Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians 2008 endorsed by the Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA). NAP-CC measures not only students' skills, knowledge and understanding of Australia's system of government and civic life but also student attitudes, values and participation in civic-related activities at school and in the community.

The NAP-CC Main Study assessment is a computer-based test which will be delivered using the same online national assessment platform that is used to deliver the online NAPLAN tests. Students will therefore undertake the test using school computers which are connected to the internet. A sample students from Year 10 will be selected by ACER to undertake the assessment. These students will participate in an assessment session that will take approximately two hours.

*“Strive for progress, not perfection” - Anonymous*

# Director of Student Engagement and Wellbeing

## Maureen Fogarty



In facilitating and supporting the growth of our students, it has been a pleasure to watch your daughter continue to flourish this term. At the recent Parent/Guardian/Student/Teacher conferences, your daughter's learning was discussed and we want such conversations to be ongoing. We work in partnership with you and so please contact teachers via phone or email if you would like to have a discussion. You are always welcome to visit the College to have such discussions.

It has been great to see so many girls representing their College and their House in a variety of ways recently. Whether it has been at our Performing Arts Concert, in our performance with Parade College of A Mid-Summer Night's Dream, Debating and Public Speaking at The Frayne Festival, College and Inter-House Sport or involvement in Wellbeing activities such as R U OK Day - the participation rate has been impressive. Your daughter couldn't do any of these things without your support and encouragement, so thank you. It is widely accepted that engagement in activities at school promotes connectedness and supports general development and growth.

### R U OK Day

On September 12, we marked R U OK day with activities in Wellbeing time and on the day itself with a celebratory sausage sizzle and cake for all! This day is a reminder of how we should be every day of our lives, that is, looking after ourselves and looking out for others. The slogan for the day is that a conversation can change and even save a life. All of us know that people don't necessarily remember other people for what they say or even for what they do, but for how they make them feel. Conversations, short or long, smiles and a "hello" have the power to make another person feel connected if they feel alone, happier if they feel down and visible if they feel invisible.



### Term 4 Dress Code Requirements

A school is distinguished within the community by its students and their uniform. Mercy College expects all students to wear their correct uniform at all times.

Uniform is important for a number of reasons:

- it is a symbol of the College and a public declaration of its values, standards, expectations and beliefs
- it creates a sense of collective and individual pride in students and their identification with the school
- it is a symbol of equality among students
- it demonstrates mutual respect

# Director of Student Engagement and Wellbeing

## Maureen Fogarty



### Uniform Changeover Period

In Term Four students can wear either the Winter or Summer uniform until Monday October 21. If girls choose to wear the Summer uniform, scarves are not permitted.

**Full summer uniform is to be worn from Monday October 21.** As many students will have grown over the last six months please check the length of the summer dress – it should be knee length. If need be, a new dress can be purchased in the first two weeks of Term Four. All students are required to wear white crew socks with their summer uniform and white sport socks with their sport uniform. Students are reminded that the blazer is required to be worn to and from school every day and at official College events.

Students are reminded that they should not get additional piercings during the holidays as they will be required to be removed on return to school. We ask for parents'/ guardians support to ensure their daughters adhere to the Mercy College Dress Code and wear their uniform respectfully, responsibly and safely.

### Being SunSmart at school

The school setting plays an integral role in educating students about the dangers of unprotected sun exposure and the behaviours that aim to reduce future skin cancer rates. Adolescence is a critical period during which exposure to UV radiation is more likely to contribute to skin cancer later in life. This means that the more UV exposure you get while growing up, the greater your risk of skin cancer. By developing healthy sun protection practices at a young age, students are more likely to carry these habits into adulthood.

The Mercy College Sun Smart and UV Protocol and Procedure can be viewed on the College website and intranet. It encourages the minimisation of exposure to the danger of excessive UV radiation for both staff and students to ensure a healthier environment with long term benefits.

- In Term 1 and Term 4:
  - Students must wear a hat while participating in outdoor class activities (Physical Education, Outdoor Education)
  - Students are encouraged to seek shelter from the sun and to apply SPF30+ sunscreen at recess and lunchtime.
  - Students are encouraged to wear the College hat to and from school.

As school hours fall during times of peak UV radiation, it is critical that students are protecting their skin. Please note that sun screen is available for your daughter in the office of her Learning and Wellbeing Level Leader and at the Main Office.

Thank you for your partnership with the College staff this term in our important shared responsibility of the education of your daughter.



# Year 9 Learning and Wellbeing Level Leader

## Caitlin Lamont



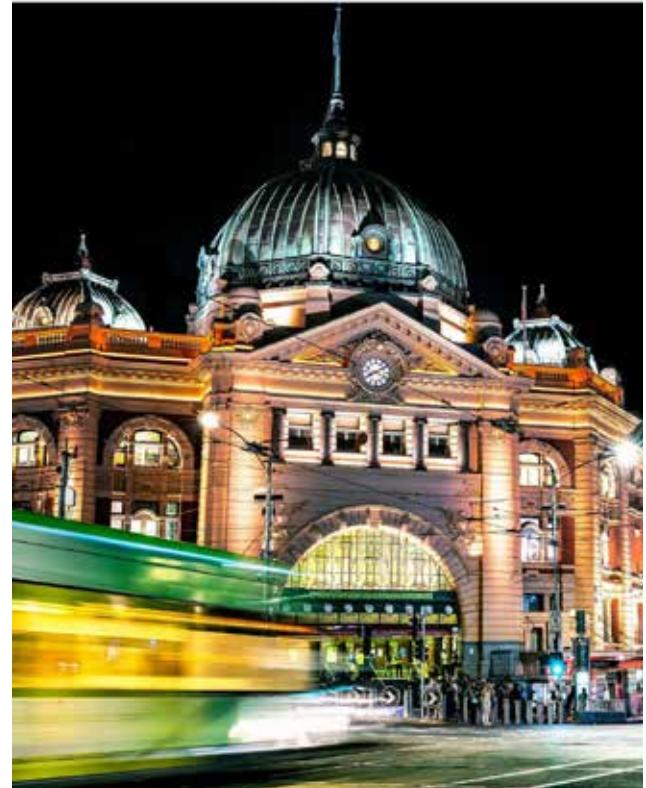
### 'MELBOURNE AS A CLASSROOM: COMPASS' Four Weeks To Go!

Preparations are well on the way for the Year 9 'Melbourne As A Classroom: COMPASS' program which will be held in Term Four Week Three, Monday 21st until Friday 25th October.

Due to some scheduling delays for the program, parents and guardians will receive their information letter and student permission forms at the beginning of next term.

The holidays are an excellent opportunity to prepare for this exciting and engaging program. Some things that you can do are;

- Have a practice run catching public transport from home into the city. On day one, students will be heading to Australian Catholic University and on days two to five they will be based at St Francis Church, Lonsdale Street.
- Consider if you would like to have additional data on your daughter's phone for that week so that she can use it as a resource. Apps like Maps, PTV, and TramTracker will be recommended.
- Some families may choose to use Apps such as Life360



If any family has any questions about this program or their daughter traveling into the city, please do not hesitate to contact me via [clamont@mercycoburg.catholic.edu.au](mailto:clamont@mercycoburg.catholic.edu.au).

# Senior Learning and Wellbeing Level Leader

## Jane Stiles



### Exam Preparation

For the vast majority of our senior students the Term Three Break should have a significant focus on exam preparation. There are a number of strategies that can be employed at this time in order to maximise your results:

- Start with the feedback from your SACs throughout the year. Use the feedback to identify your deficits, and then work hard on improving in these areas.
- Complete practice questions and practice exams. Correct your work and then have another go at the answers you got wrong. You can access past exams on the VCAA website. You should also start writing some of these pieces to time.
- Start to organise yourself for the exams. Look at the exam timetable and strategically organise your study around this. For example, if you have an exam at 3.00pm in the afternoon, then practise writing responses for that subject around this time.
- If you are particularly anxious or stressed, build in some mindfulness or relaxation strategies each day. You should also start to use positive self-talk to build your confidence.



The following APPS are designed to help you manage stress and mood, as well as help bring back the balance in your life. And they are all free, so you've got absolutely nothing to lose by giving one or more a go:

- ***My Calm Beat:*** 6 breaths per minute for a calming difference.
- ***In Hand:*** a tool to focus and bring back the balance.
- ***Recharge:*** move well, sleep well, be well.
- ***Music eScape:*** uses music to help take charge of your mood.
- ***Happify:*** activities and games for stress and anxiety.
- ***Breathe2relax:*** stress management tool.

### Yr 12 School Leaver Celebrations

For students who are planning to attend 'Schoolies' after the exam period, the advice is to register your plans with the following organisations:

- ***Good Times, Great Breaks*** is a coordinated, community response that provides information and on-the-ground support for young people celebrating the end of school in Victoria's coastal regions. Young people planning to celebrate in Victorian coastal regions are encouraged to visit the Good Times, Great Breaks website for registration, information and safety tips found on the following link: [CLICK HERE](#)
- Those planning to celebrate or volunteer overseas are encouraged to visit the Australian Government website Smart Traveller for registrations, safety tips and security, local laws and customs.





# Sport @ Mercy

## Australian Olympic Changemaker Forum

Katia Taranto and myself (Aristea Vorenas) were nominated for the Australian Olympic Changemaker award which has evolved from the Pierre de Coubertin award. As part of our nomination we had to make a short 1 minute video of how we display leadership through sport in our school and community and how we use sport to improve health and wellbeing. Last Wednesday Katia and myself got the privilege of attending the first Australian Olympic Changemaker forum at Victoria University, alongside 138 other students from across the state. Once we arrived we had the opportunity to take photos in the photo booth, get autographs and pictures with the Olympians, shoot some hoops and play tennis with giant tennis racquets. We started off the day with a game of sporting bingo where we had to go around and find different people who matched the criteria of our bingo card, for example we had to find someone who had never broken a bone before and someone who trains more than 4 days per week. After the fun and games we moved into the auditorium for a Q&A with the Olympians. Jennifer Screen Olympic basketball silver and bronze medalist was running the day so she was interviewing Sean Wroe 400 m and 4x400m runner, Kotuku Ngawati 200 m swimmer, Anabelle Smith 3 m synchronised diving Olympic bronze medalist and Greta Small alpine skier. The athletes gave us a look into what their Olympic journey was like and how they got to where they are today. We were then spoken to by Sabrin Nyawela who is the participation officer at Golf Australia and a coach in the AFL Victoria's all nationals program. Sabrin's main message to us was to be open to and willing to try new things even if they're completely foreign to you as it can have the potential to turn your life around for the better. After lunch we made our way back into the auditorium where three girls from Karate Victoria gave us a demonstration of the routines and patterns they do at competitions. It was then time for our keynote speaker Olympic pole vault gold medalist Steve Hooker to speak to us. Steve gave us an insight into how his career started, major setbacks he was faced with and what was going through his head on the day of his Olympic pole vault final and the moment he realised he could win and did win an Olympic gold medal. Steve's talk was very inspiring and as he was sharing his story with us and answering our questions we got to hold his Olympic gold medal from the 2008 Beijing games which was amazing! To finish off the day we watched a 3 minute compilation of some of the video's that were submitted from across the country by nominees and Katia and myself were fortunate enough to be included in it. Overall the day was absolutely insane and very inspiring and I think everyone learnt something valuable and has something to take away from the day that will last them a lifetime.

Aristea Vorenas 10D





# Seeds of Justice @ Mercy

On Wednesday the 4th of September the Social Justice Captain for Mercy College, Marina Labib, and three Social Justice Leaders - Rhea Soans Year 9, Margaret Susau Year 10 and Mina Kiryo Year 11, gave a talk to Year 5 and 6 students in St. Oliver Plunkett's Primary School, Pascoe Vale about Social Justice. Here is what they had to say about the experience:

*On the 4th of September, I was given the amazing opportunity to accompany Margaret, Mina and Marina to Saint Oliver's Primary School to present our version of Social Justice. The cohort of astute and enthusiastic students from Grades 5 and 6 participated with great insight, discussing their idea of social justice and the project they were undertaking. Questions regarding our presentation were asked and discussed and I was in awe and amazement at the knowledge and passion expressed in such young minds. We also discussed all the social justice endeavours celebrated at Mercy College. This experience has given me an opportunity to not only self reflect on the meaning of social justice and its ensuing advocacy, but also the chance to understand that there were like minded people around who shared my passion - if the seeds of social justice were planted in the minds of children then we can still make the world a better place for all both now and into the future.*

Rhea Soans - Year 9

*I had a very positive experience attending Saint Oliver's primary school was telling Grade 5 and 6 students about how Mercy College presents social issues in activities for the whole school to enjoy. The students from Saint Oliver's were preparing projects on social justice issues about bullying, environmental issues and many more. They ask us many questions which we tried our very best to answer. The students were lovely and very smart when asking questions. When I spoke to them about Mercy Day they were very engaged. I told them about the fact that I was the first and the youngest student in Mercy College to ever to receive the Spirit of Award Mercy in Year 8 and they were very impressed. I would make a presentation like this again because I really enjoyed being a representative for Mercy College to tell students what Mercy has to offer. It was a great experience and also a very good opportunity to be part of as Seeds of Justice Leader for my year level.*

Margaret Susau - Year 10

*"What do you think is the most important social justice issue?" This was amongst one of many questions that were raised by the bright students at St. Oliver Plunkett's Primary School. I had the privilege of accompanying Rhea, Margaret and Marina to speak about Seeds of Justice to the students at St. Oliver Plunkett's Primary School. I was quite excited to go as the team had been organising and planning what we were going to say over the past couple of Seeds meetings and I was eager to share what we had come up with. Upon arrival, we were warmly greeted by the school's staff and the enthusiasm of the Year 5 and 6 students. It was a pleasure to speak in front of the students as they were very well-mannered, attentive and raised sophisticated and thought-provoking questions. They were working on a project relating to a social justice issue of their choice so our presentation came at a great time as we were able to introduce them to events like National Reconciliation Week and National Tree Day and described how Mercy College celebrates such occasions. The experience was very unique and rewarding for me as it was my first time presenting to primary school children and I was amazed to see the students' high level of maturity and driven attitude. I would love to partake in such an activity again in the future because it allowed me to share my passion for social justice in a very active way whilst also cultivating my public speaking skills. The experience also propelled me to reflect upon what issues I am particularly passionate about and reminded me what I can do to advocate for social justice. Raising awareness about prominent matters in our society like we did with these students was a great start.*

Mina Kiryo - Year 11



## Seeds of Justice @ Mercy

At St. Oliver Plunkett Primary School, there were many brilliant and inquisitive students asking the important questions. It was a privilege to be able to present with Mina, Margaret and Rhea as part of the Seeds of Justice group, talking to students and answering some of their questions about social justice; what it is and what it incorporates. We made a presentation about what social justice is and some of the things that Mercy College does relating to social justice events such as Close the Gap Day, National Reconciliation Week and National Tree Day. Not only were the students lovely and polite while we presented, they were also curious and listened attentively while we spoke to them. They asked which issue we were the most passionate about, and what we would like to do in the future to help solve the issues at hand. Their enthusiasm about learning about social justice and consolidating what they had learnt in class over the past few weeks caught us off guard - we were so impressed! This outing reminded me how focused the youth of today are on generating change in society and speaking up for others who may not have a voice. Seeing their energy and insight at such a young age brought warmth and happiness to my heart.

Marina Labib, Social Justice Captain - Year 12



Once Upon  
a Time at Mercy ...



If you love to read, write and perform, come along to our *Creativity Workshop* on Monday 23 September and ignite your creative side and passion for literacy and The Arts!

- WHO:** Years 4 to 6 Girls
- WHEN:** 10.00am - 2.30pm  
Monday 23 September 2019  
*First Monday of Term 3 Holidays*
- WHERE:** Mercy College  
760 Sydney Road, COBURG NORTH 3058
- RSVP:** Register at <https://www.trybooking.com/BELAQ> Cost \$20  
Morning tea and lunch will be provided

If you require any further information please contact the College on 03 9319 9299

Cricos 02227J



# Reading Challenge @ Mercy

## Year 7 'seven million words reading quest'

On Friday 6 September there was a flurry of activity when several Year 7 students lodged their Record Cards by 4.00pm to the Library to ensure that they made the deadline for Year 7 'seven million words reading quest'.

But were these last-minute additions enough? Were the Year 7 students of 2019 able to achieve their goal of seven million words? Yes! The students read over eleven million words (11,102,569 words to be exact)! While slightly less than last year, this is an amazing achievement.

Which class read the most? All classes were encouraged by their English teachers, teacher librarians, and library staff. All classes read many words. However, the winners were 7B who contributed over four million words!



1st place - 7B: 4,870,327 words  
2nd place - 7C: 2,612,365 words  
3rd place - 7D: 2,461,053 words  
4th place - 7A: 1,158,824 words

A special mention should also be made to the students of each class who contributed the most number of words to the word count for their class. These students were:

7A – Bianca Goldwyn  
7B – Ranya Sirisena  
7C – Ella O'Neill  
7D – Kayla Jordan



This year, we also had one student who read the all-time most number of words - Omindi Madduma Gamage of 7B. Omindi read 1,369,569 words. An incredible individual achievement demonstrating commitment and reading stamina.

The students who read the most number of books were awarded with a prize and the winning class, 7B, received a celebratory class party lunch.



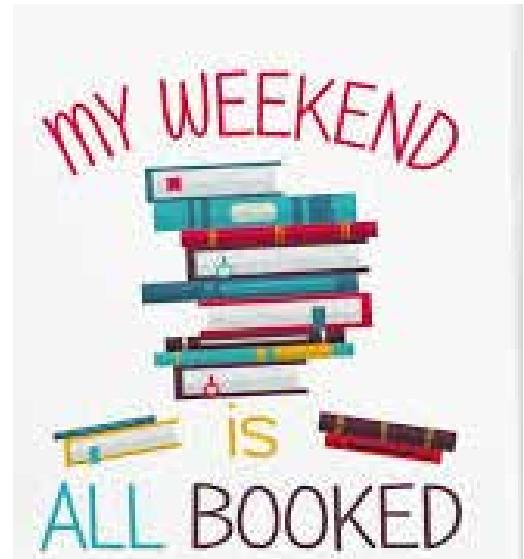
## Reading Challenge @ Mercy

All students who read at least three books were awarded a certificate. Every student in Year 7 has been given a badge to wear on their blazer to recognise their participation in the quest.

A reminder that while the quest has concluded, reading should not stop! Research has proven that wide reading has a positive impact on students' educational outcomes. Please encourage your child to continue to read as frequently as possible.

Stay tuned for the first newsletter of Term 4, when the results from the Year 8 Genre Reading Challenge and the Year 9-12+Staff Reading Competition will be discussed.

Enjoy the holidays with a good book!



**The Mercy College Library will be open for all students throughout the second week of school holidays  
8:15 - 4:15pm.**



## Mercy in Action - Cambodia 2019 immersion

From the 2nd of December until the 12th of December, 9 students from year 9 to 11, along with Ms Lamont and Mrs McNamara, are taking part in the Mercy in Action immersion to Cambodia. We will be given the once in a lifetime opportunity to give back to the people of Cambodia.

As part of the preparation for the trip, we have been gathering donations, clothes, stationary, and toiletries through fundraising activities that have been organised throughout the year.

We are now seeking your support as a member of the Mercy community to help make a contribution to this cause and play your part in giving back to the global community. A majority of the children in Cambodia live in unfortunate conditions, and have little to no means of hygiene or proper schooling resources.

It would be greatly appreciated if anyone in our community would be willing to donate any coloured pencils, texters/crayons, art and craft materials (pipe cleaners/googly eyes/buttons/cardboard etc.) as it would be extremely helpful. Furthermore, any hygiene products, like soap, and clothes, like old jeans, which we will use during our trip for sewing, are also welcomed for donation.

The smallest contribution can make the biggest difference, so even a simple gold coin donation will help. We are sure the people in Cambodia would be extremely grateful for all your kind offerings and support.



# Careers @ Mercy

## YEAR 10 2020 and WORK EXPERIENCE

Our current year 9 students were introduced to Work Experience for 2020.

As year 10 students in 2020 during Activities Week, Monday April 20 2020 to Friday April 24, 2020 the students will be completing their work experience placements.

### Why do Work Experience?

- Important learning outside the classroom
- Use skills that have been developed in class in a practical way
- Assists students to develop positive skills interacting with others
- May secure/create work opportunities

Students have been advised to source their work experience placement these school holidays as positions such as in law courts, hospitals and a number of highly popular positions are filled quickly and if students wait until 2020 they sometimes find it very difficult to source a work experience placement in their chosen industry.

### What do students need to do?

Students need to decide what type of work they may like to explore for their future career direction. The idea of work experience is to explore possible careers that are of interest for future direction. So students are advised to contact employers that have jobs they may be interested in so during the work placement they can:

- ask questions about the course of study people have done to gain employment in this area
- get an understanding of what individuals do in this career
- it may help students to decide if this career is for them or not

### Steps to take:

1. Contact a suitable employer
2. Deliver the work experience form to the employer (students can download it from the Work Experience 2020 Classroom page)
3. The employer may wish to arrange a meeting
4. Students need to give the form to the employer to sign
5. Arrange to collect the signed form from the employer form
6. Both the parent/guardian and student need to sign the form
7. Return the form to Ms Harvey at Mercy College



**When is the form due back to school?** before the end of Term 4

Click on the following link to Work Experience Arrangement Form: [CLICK HERE](#)

## YEAR 12 and VTAC

Students have been advised to complete a spreadsheet with all of their options for the courses they wish to apply for in 2020, as well as possible pathway courses (as a safety net)

***Students have been advised to submit 8 course preference applications in their VTAC Account***

***Timely applications for 2020 tertiary courses will close at 5pm, Monday 30 September.***



# Careers @ Mercy

Current year 12 students must submit preferences by this date to access the discounted \$39 application fee. The late application fee is \$113, and courses with early closing dates are not available to late applicants. Courses with early closing dates can be found on the following link: [CLICK HERE](#)

Application fees can be paid later (until the December payment deadlines), however students must submit a course application including preferences by the 30 September deadline to access the timely fee. Details can be found on the following link: [CLICK HERE](#)

## Check prerequisites and essential requirements

Students have been advised to check their prerequisites and essential requirements (previously called selection criteria) for the courses they have chosen as their preferences for University and TAFE courses for 2020.

If students do not meet the prerequisites and/or essential requirements they cannot be considered for an offer in the course. They therefore need to ask:

- Do I have to complete a Personal Statement? (It is found in the student's VTAC Account?)
- Do I have to complete a Supplementary Form? (There will be a link in VTAC CourseSearch for this)
- Do I have to complete a Pre-Selection Kit? (There will be a link in VTAC CourseSearch for this)
- Do I have to book/attend an interview? (Check CourseSearch)
- Is there a compulsory information session that I need to attend? (Check CourseSearch)

\*\* Students have further been advised to **CHECK** their personal emails and the **emails in their VTAC Account on a daily basis** - as VTAC and the institutions will contact students this way.

CourseSearch Link: [CLICK HERE](#)

### ***If students are applying for a job in the education field and CASPer***

Any of the Bachelor education courses, early education, primary and secondary, require students to book a CASPer test to be eligible. Please click on the following link for further information. [CLICK HERE](#)

## SEAS and Scholarships

Students are reminded that SEAS and Scholarship applications through their VTAC Account are due **October 11 at 5pm**. This requires students to:

- Have applied for the relevant SEAS Category - they can apply for as many as suits their circumstances
- Have provided the financial supporting documentation if they have applied for SEAS Category 2
- Have provided an Impact Statement completed by the student if they have applied for SEAS Category 3 or SEAS Category 4
- Have provided a Statement of Support if they have applied for SEAS Category 3 or SEAS Category 4

Further information can be found on the following link: [CLICK HERE](#)

## CAREERNEWS

Please [CLICK HERE](#) for the latest edition of Careernews

# The 2019 Creative Arts Concert @ Mercy



Congratulations to all performers, crew, and staff who were involved in a highly successful inaugural Creative Arts Concert! Thanks also to parents and guardians who have provided the creative team with feedback thus far. Given that this year we evolved our semesterly Performing Arts Concerts held in McAuley Hall into the now yearly Creative Arts Concert held at Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre, we are now in the process of evaluating the effectiveness and success of this event in order to best plan and prepare for 2020. As key stakeholders, we ask that you and any audience member who attended fill in the below form which asks two simple questions: 'what worked well' and 'even better if'. Your feedback is highly valued so that we can continue to support and grow our young people.

Please find the link to the feedback form on the following link: [CLICK HERE](#)

The creative team has already had some questions regarding filming of the concert. As a Catholic school, we have an APRA AMCOS licence which allows us to utilise copyrighted material (such as music and backing tracks) for the purpose of public presentation. We do, however, run into copyright issues if we were then to film and distribute these works. This is something that the creative team will continue to seek advice on.

Professional photographs were taken during the performance and are available through Hikari Events Photography as per the details below.

## Mercy College Events photos

Event code: **MRC2019E**

You can view and download photos from Mercy College events on our website.

We currently have photos from the Commencement Mass in Term 1 and the Creative Arts Concert last week. We will be adding all the co-curricular group photos shortly as well!

### FREE DOWNLOAD FOR EVENTS

All the events photo are free for you to download. You can download as many images as you want and there is no limit. If you prefer to get prints, you may still do so from our website. Prints are at a discount price starting from \$5 a print plus postage and handling.

### REGISTRATION TO VIEW PHOTOS

You will need to register to view the photos, please use the link below to register:

<https://www.hikarieventsphotography.com.au/members/signup.php?event=MRC2019E>

### IF YOU ALREADY HAVE AN ACCOUNT FROM SCHOOL PHOTOS...

If you have an account for school photos, the galleries are already automatically linked to your account! You can login and view the photos straight away.

If you have any questions about login or access, please email us at: [info@hikari.com.au](mailto:info@hikari.com.au)

e. [info@hikari.com.au](mailto:info@hikari.com.au)

w. [www.HikariEventsPhotography.com.au](http://www.HikariEventsPhotography.com.au)



# Alumni News

Dear Mercy Community

It was a delight last Friday to welcome back our Class of 2018 students in celebration of their first year as Mercy Alumni. One of the girls said that it seemed like yesterday that they were here and about to sit exams and feeling excited about future prospects. Well, the excitement of working towards their goals was clearly still evident as we listened to animated accounts of their progress to date.

I asked Class of 2018 Co-Captain, Nicole Nabbout what advice she would give to current students. This was her reply, 'Always challenge yourself and step out of your comfort zone. Don't be afraid to try something new or to immerse yourself in the abundance of opportunities offered to you throughout the remainder of your schooling. Embrace the time you have left at Mercy and ensure that you can look back and feel proud of the impact you have made.'

It's great to pause and look to our youth. There is much to see and learn there. At any age, trying something new or pursuing an interest, whatever it may be, is good for the soul. It may not always work out the way you first envisioned, however the experience and journey itself is a valuable lesson of discovery and growth.

The First Year Out Class of 2018 reunion was a great success and we look forward to our annual Alumni reunion next month when all generations come together to connect on common ground.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read inspirational messages from Class of 2018 to our current students.

We are Mercy  
Diane Psaila, Alumni President



Front row left to right:

Mary Carmen, Siana Tomarchio, Jingyu Wang, Nicole Markis, Brianna Dal Col, Katherine Dawn Manalo, Tiffany Borrelli.  
Back row left to right:

Ms Kay Toll, Therese Moffitt, Jiaxi Liao, Katherine Hua, Bianca Fatone, Filomena Rosella, Shashika Pathiranage, Victoria Ursino, Chiara Beccia, Nicole Nabbout, Mikayla Burrell, Nicola Veneris, Amanda Hanna, Ms Lila McInerney.



MERCY COLLEGE

# Alumni Reunion

Past students and staff of Mercy College are invited to join us for our annual afternoon Alumni celebration.

All Alumni - Staff and Students - are welcome to attend what promises to be an afternoon trip down memory lane. Enjoy the company of old friends and teachers to reminisce on College days and catch up on current news!

This year we will also acknowledge milestone years: 1969, 1979, 1989, 1999 and 2009.

**WHEN:** Sunday 20 October 2019 2.00pm - 5.00pm

**WHERE:** Mercy College Cafeteria - Enter Gate 2  
760 Sydney Road Coburg North VIC 3058

**RSVP:** 10 October 2019  
[events@mercycoburg.catholic.edu.au](mailto:events@mercycoburg.catholic.edu.au)  
or Phone 9319 9299

I AM MERCY

X ← [www.heraldsun.com.au](http://www.heraldsun.com.au) ⏪ ⏴

☰ Menu Rewards Hi John

Home NEWS AFL SPORT OPINION ENTER

## 7. JOHN HIATT, EFM HEALTH CLUBS COBURG

760 Sydney Rd

Karine Russell says John Hiatt is the only trainer she's ever had that has made her want to go to the gym. He must be doing something right, because she's been training at the Coburg health club for two years now.

His sense of fun and motivational skills can even make those dreaded burpees less painful, Georgia Stephenson says.

"John inspires me to work harder and push myself. He doesn't treat me like a client, but like a friend," Rebecca Gauci, a client of two years, says.



So great to see all the fun in the club yesterday with our Phone Number session 🎉

9 Comment Share

More: [efm.net.au/club/coburg](http://efm.net.au/club/coburg)



Check out the recent article from the Leader newspaper that listed the top 10 Personal Trainers in the area.

Your local EFM Health Clubs franchisee John Hiatt was voted as the 7<sup>th</sup> best in the entire North of Melbourne and the best within a 6km radius of Mercy College.

I am very humbled and thankful for all the votes for me from my current and past members.

You should come and see why EFM was voted the best club in Coburg and have Head Coach John with you every step of the way for no extra cost.

We are located at Mercy College for your convenience.

Spring is the perfect time to start and I'll help you out by offering your first 30 days for only \$30!

Helping people live a healthier life is my aim and I would love to assist you too.

Contact 0432037781 for a no obligation chat about your health and fitness.