**Key Dates**

Thursday 22 March  
Have Sum Fun Junior Competition  
7pm - 10pm  

Friday 23 March  
Yr 10 Bowling Afternoon with Trinity  

Sunday 25 March  
Annual Choral Night and House Choir Competition - 6.30pm  

Monday 26 March  
School Production auditions all week  

Wednesday 28 March  
12.7 RE Mass  

Thursday 29 March  
Yr 7 Picnic with Trinity  

Friday 30 March  
ACC Para Swimming Carnival  
House Film Weekend (until 1 April)  
Italy Tour departs  

Sunday 1 April  
Trinity College Quarry Concert  

Monday 2 April  
Yr 12 Drama Performance 7pm  

Tuesday 3 April  
Yr 12 Drama Performance 7pm  
Yr 10 Reflection Day  

Wednesday 4 April  
11.1 RE Mass  
Yr 10 Reflection Day  

Thursday 5 April  
Frog Jog  
End of Term One

**Principal’s Report**

“If there is any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now, and not deter or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again.”  
*William Penn*

In the Cathedral Sunday Bulletin recently there was this beautiful quote from Mother Teresa. “How do you approach the thirst of Jesus? Only one secret – the closer you come to Jesus, the better you will know His thirst. Jesus thirsts even now, in your heart and in the poor. He knows your weakness. He wants only your love. He wants only the chance to love you.” Like all of us, Mother Teresa wanted reassurance that God loved her; however, in looking for this evidence, she missed it. In fact, she was the evidence of God and Jesus in the world. It was her action, her work with the poor, despite her doubt, that is the essence of the faith that Jesus spoke about in the Gospels.

Catherine McAuley, Ursula Frayne, the many Mercy men and women that have followed Catherine’s path and those who live the tradition of Mercy today, have been and are faith in action each time they are caring, compassionate and forgiving. During Lent we try and take more time to reflect on our lives and renew our resolve to walk the way of the Gospels. Often this leads us to doubt our own capacity to be evidence of Jesus in the world. Let’s pray that in the weeks of Lent remaining we can all reach out in kindness and understanding in the spirit of Mercy and be more sensitive and open-minded to the situations of other people.

Next week the first reports will be mailed out to parents and hopefully there will be no surprises. The girls have had a very busy Term One and yet the majority have managed to stay focused and do the very best they can. Again I ask all our parents and guardians to communicate with us if you are finding your daughter struggling to keep up with homework. At the same time I urge you to be fully aware of how much time your daughter is spending on other distractions. From the first days of secondary schooling, the girls should have a study routine with a set time and place set aside for review of the day’s learning, completion of homework, time to work on projects or reading.

For our Year 7 parents I would like to say how impressed I have been with these young women from the day they joined us. They are motivated and very keen to get involved in College life. At the same time we have also had some

**Insight from Catherine McAuley:**

*Mercy is more than Charity – for it not only bestows benefits, but it receives and pardons again and again – even the ungrateful.*

Deputy Head Girl Andrea McLure (left), Head Girl Dominique Everall (centre) and Rebecca Lawrence with Archbishop Hickey at his Farewell Assembly last week.
Prayer

Loving God, you know how deeply the fear of death scars our lives. Send us you Spirit that we may truly believe Jesus to be our Resurrection and Life. As we live faithful to his word, may our lives be radiant with your glory. We ask this in Jesus’ name, confident that you will hear us. Amen

Gospel

5th Sunday of Lent Year B Sunday 25 March 2012

Jn 12: 20 - 33

In Jerusalem, there were some Greeks who had come to worship at the Feast of Passover. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we want to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew and together they went to Jesus. And Jesus responded to them saying, “Now, the time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, I am speaking seriously: Unless a seed of grain falls into the earth and dies, it exists alone. But if it dies, it yields many grains. Those who love their life, lose it but those who hate their life in this world, preserve it for eternal life. If a person serves me, that one will follow me. Where I am, there will be my servant as well. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour that person. Now my soul is troubled! What shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour.’ but it was for this very hour that I have come. Rather, ‘Father, glorify your name’!

Then there came a voice from heaven, “I have glorified it and I will glorify it even more.” The people standing nearby, having heard this, said it was a clap of thunder but others said an angel had spoken to him. But Jesus answered them saying, “This voice wasn't for my sake but for yours. The time of the world’s judgement has begun. Now the prince of this world is being cast out. And I, when I am lifted up, will draw all to myself.” By this he meant the type of death he would die.

Concerns raised by parents about the amount of homework. If your daughter is spending more than the recommended time on homework (as stated in the College Information Handbook) then please let your daughter’s homeroom teacher know. It might just mean some adjustment to how your daughter is using her study time or assisting her with setting up a study routine. It might mean that she needs extra learning support. Sometimes we find the girls are still spending too much time on the presentation of the material rather than focusing on the content and showing their knowledge of the topic. We know it is difficult for those of our Year 7 girls who come from primary schools where homework has not been a focus; however, we make no apologies for having high expectations of our girls developing good study habits very early. I know our teachers are very generous in providing support to the girls as long as they are alerted to the fact that the girls are struggling. So please communicate your concerns to us as quickly as you can before the issue becomes too overwhelming for your daughter.

I read this story recently, A British television interviewer was talking to a female production-line worker in a London biscuit factory. “How long have you worked here?” asked the interviewer. “Since I left school (probably about 15 years).” “What do you do?” “I take packets of biscuits off the conveyor belt and put them into cardboard boxes.” “Have you always done the same job?” “Yes.” “And do you enjoy it?” “Oooh yes, it’s great. Everyone is so nice and friendly; we have a good laugh.” The interviewer continued, with a hint of disbelief: “Really? Don’t you find it a bit boring?” “Oh no, they often change the biscuits…”

We must never assume that the things that motivate us will motivate others; we need to recognize that sources of happiness and contentment may vary widely between people; it might not be all that easy to impose our own needs and ambitions on to other people who may not share them. As parents we always hope that our parenting will offer our children guidance rather than answers and will ask leading questions instead of giving directions. Our choices for our children, as well meaning as they may be, may not be the answers they are looking for. Rather experience shows us that we can do better by our children by helping them develop the self-confidence and the mental stability to make good choices and to think through the consequences of such choices.

Peace and Best Wishes.

Sheena Barber, Principal

New Website

We are pleased to announce the new website has been launched. While there are some areas which are still being updated with information, we hope you enjoy looking through this celebration of College life.

Position Vacant

RECEPTIONIST - ADMINISTRATION
Temporary Part Time 2012

We are seeking suitably qualified and experienced applicants for the above position

3 days per week, 40-45 weeks per annum

The closing date for applications is Monday 2 April 2012.
More information will be posted to www.mercedes.wa.edu.au on Monday 26 March.
Years 7/8 Learning Community

Year 7 - Mrs Michelle Lloyd

It is difficult to imagine that nearly an entire term has passed. Our Year 7 students have settled so comfortably into their new environment that it feels as though the girls have been here forever. It has been wonderful to catch up with so many Year 7 students who are now achieving 5 good notes in their diaries. Such excellence is to be applauded! As the end of the term approaches however, it is timely to remind our Year 7 students about maintaining a balance between their school and home lives. Currently our girls are putting the finishing touches on assignments and preparing for tests, but it is important to take time to relax and to re-energise. If your daughter is struggling with Homework and assignment work, please contact the subject teacher to discuss this, rather than letting it build and become unmanageable.

This week we would like to congratulate our Homerooms Heroes for the past fortnight. Well done to Taylor Sinclair (7.2), Stefeni Little (7.3) and Emily Roberts (7.5)

Year 8 - Mrs Melissa Trolio

As we are rapidly approaching the end of a very busy first term, I would like to congratulate all Year 8 students on their continuous positive and caring behaviour and also their diligent approach to study. Last week students completed their health checks as part of the UWA Self Esteem Research Project that was begun as Year 7 students. I am sure this research will prove worthwhile for these students. This week Mrs Leanne Davis launched the Year 8 Mercy Service Learning with the focus being on care and assistance in the home environment. Parents are asked to email ldavis@mercedes.wa.edu.au if there are any concern or queries. I wish the Year 8 students luck in contributing to the Mercy spirit of our College in your homes. Finally, all of our homerooms have been generously contributing to many of our Project Compassion fundraising activities. Year 8 students have been involved in breakfast stalls, cake stalls, purple ribbon days, white elephant stalls and Easter egg raffles. Congratulations especially to 8.3 who raised $413.00 after a very successfully breakfast stall on Wednesday morning. Please keep up the good work as every dollar does and can make a difference.

Year 9/10 Learning Community

Year 9 - Mrs Sherrin Adams

This week Year students completed their two Reflection Days - one at school and the other at the North Perth Monastery. I was exceptionally proud of the girls on both days at the Monastery, as were the other teachers who accompanied them. The staff of the Loving for Life team had nothing but praise for the mature way the girls participated in their groups and wholeheartedly joined in the day’s activities.

Many thanks to Ms Rosa Speranza and the staff who presented activities on the Mercy value of Integrity here at school. The girls appreciated the time and effort you put into presenting interesting and relevant information for them. Thank you girls - your behaviour was first class and as always you were a credit to your parents and to the College.

Year 10 - Mr Liam Smith

The Year 10 Homerooms took part in our Project Compassion activity last week. The project had each homeroom bringing in donations of coins; which they formed into pieces of art, before donating the coins to Caritas. After careful planning and design creations by all homerooms, a special mention must be made for both 10.1 and 10.2 for their creative designs, wonderful presentations and spirit of participation.

Friday 16 March saw girls from 10.1, 10.3 and 10.5 attend a bowling excursion to AMF Bowling in Morley. I would like to commend the girls for their behaviour during the excursion with Trinity. This Friday afternoon girls from 10.2 and 10.4 will be participating in the bowling activity and I am sure we will have pleasing reports again.

Finally well done to all the girls that attended the Interschool Swimming Carnival, we know you represented Mercedes with strength and pride. A selection of Year 10 students lead the spectators and made sure the Mercedes Cheer Squad was the loudest in the stadium.

The creative designs of 10.1 and 10.2 for Project Compassion
Year 11/12 Learning Community

Year 11 - Mrs Marianne Morphett
It has been a busy couple of weeks for the Year 11 students and the River Cruise provided a welcome relief from the pressure of assessments. The girls relished the occasion to dress up and shared a fun night of dancing and socialising with the boys from Trinity College while cruising on the Swan River.

In marked contrast, the Poverty Immersion conducted last week provided the opportunity for the girls to gain valuable insight into the lives of those less advantaged than themselves, including “sleeping rough” on one of the nights. I would like to thank Ms Speranza and Mrs Aldous for facilitating this unique programme for our Year 11 students.

Following their involvement in the student activities associated with CHOGM last year, four students volunteered to attend the celebrations for Commonwealth Day. Siobhan Poupard (11.7) and Charlotte Burnell (11.6) attended the Multi-faith Observance at St George’s Cathedral at which they acted as flag bearers, while Georgia Wilson (11.1) and Regina Yap (11.2) attended the Commonwealth Day Youth Rally at Government House.

Congratulations also, are extended to Siobhan Poupard (11.7) and Charlotte Burnell (11.6) on their successful application to attend the Amanda Young Foundation Young Leaders’ Eco Health Summit which will be held during the term break. I am confident the girls will find this camp a challenging and worthwhile experience.

Year 12 - Mrs Bernadette Dell

The girls are all looking very tired and some girls need to ensure that they are not over committed to co-curricular activities and outside demands such as work. Year 12 is a very challenging year in terms of the workload so girls should be examining their other activities to ensure that they are making school work their priority. Hopefully, everyone will have a good break over the Easter holidays.

The Leavers’ jackets have arrived and, even though we used a supplier who has been very reliable in the past, we had a number of problems with the quality of the finish and other aspects. I am working with the manufacturer to resolve these problems as soon as possible. I was very impressed with the generous and mature way in which the individuals who were affected responded to the disappointing situation of having their jacket returned. I hope that the bulk of issues will be corrected by the end of this week and that the manufacturer will attend to the more difficult problems promptly.
Innovation in Education
It has been a very exciting week for teachers, as we have had the opportunity to attend workshops with James Nottingham and a small group were able to listen to Alan November. If you have time, I truly recommend going to James’ website www.challenginglearning.com and looking up Alan on youtube or view his site – www.novemberlearning.com Being a life-long learner is one of our goals at Mercedes and this week, after over 20 years of teaching I learnt new skills in pedagogy and technology that I put into practice straight away. Both speakers were inspiring and I hope you have the opportunity to visit their site and be inspired too.

Interim Reports and Triangular meeting information
Year 7-12 Interim Reports will be sent out next Friday, 30 March. This report is an early indication of Student Performance and Academic Progress. Students will have only had 8 weeks of class contact prior to teachers having to make this report. As a result the feedback needs to be viewed within this context. It can provide a reference to parents for ongoing discussion of personal work habits as well as an opportunity to review any study or work strategies which have been implemented.

This Interim report may highlight areas needing attention and will be a useful discussion point at the Triangular Meetings on Tuesday, 26 April. Triangular (student/parent/teacher) meetings provide an opportunity for all parties to discuss areas of concern or gain personal feedback on academic and behavioral progress.

For these interviews we are using an internet-based booking system called Parent Teacher On-Line (PTO). It will save time for parents, staff and students! Using this system you will be able to book the interview times that suit you best from any internet-connected computer. A letter outlining details on how you access the system and make your bookings will be sent home with the Interim reports.

Mrs Loretta Wholley - Deputy Principal, Academic Services

Mathematics
Numeracy Basics Testing - Year 7 Parents
Many thanks to the parents who attended the parent information session earlier this term. Being able to address you directly has had a significantly positive impact on the success of this new program. As a reminder, Numeracy Basics tests Australian Curriculum content from previous years which the students require for future mathematical success. The program is aimed at identifying the areas where students struggle, then encouraging practice to help them to improve their understanding. Benchmarks have been set at relatively high levels. Competent is 90% and above, ‘Satisfactory’ is 80% and above. ‘Unsatisfactory’ is below 80%.

So far, we have had a practice test and Test 1. The overall improvement between these two assessments is impressive. The average for the practice test was 67%. This increased to 76% for Test 1. The number of students who have rated as ‘Satisfactory’ or ‘Competent’ has also significantly increased, as shown in the graph below.

Many thanks to the parents who have encouraged their daughters to practice – your support is helping to drive this improvement. Congratulations also to those students who have improved their results. Hard work and practice is what is needed here. Keep it going, and continue to strive to improve. For those who showed no significant improvement, we encourage you to identify your areas of weakness and practice, practice, practice. The next Numeracy Basics test is coming up soon – we look forward to all students achieving their very best. Well done and keep up the hard work

Mr Peter Mee, Head of Learning Area

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

- Extra time to work
- Extra time to rest
- Use of Lap Tops or PC
- Use of a scribe
- Special supervision
Mrs Loretta Wholley, Deputy Principal (Academic Services), must approve any special examination arrangements prior to their implementation. Any student who may have special needs, who is not presently approved for any special examination arrangements, should discuss their needs with either Mrs Loretta Wholley or Miss Joanna Jenkins (College Psychologist).

Year 12 students are advised that the closing date for applications for the use of special examination arrangements in the 2012 Tertiary Entrance Examinations is 25 May 2012. Please see Mrs Loretta Wholley or Miss Joanna Jenkins if there are any queries regarding this.

### General News

#### Cybersafety

Information on a number of cybersafety programs and initiatives is given below.

The **Cybersafety Help Button** is a free application to help and advise young people. When a user double-clicks on the downloaded Cybersafety Help Button when connected to the internet, a cybersafety help and advice page opens to provide assistance to: talk to a counsellor about cyberbullying or anything else, report cyberbullying, inappropriate or offensive online material, scams and fraud or unwanted contact, learn how to stay safe online with tips and information on a range of cybersafety issues. The application can be found at [www.dbcde.gov.au/helpbutton](http://www.dbcde.gov.au/helpbutton)

The **Cybersmart** website provides practical help and advice to young people on cybersafety issues including cyberbullying. The website can be found at [www.cybersmart.gov.au](http://www.cybersmart.gov.au)

**Budd-e** is a cybersecurity package and comprises of interactive and self-learning modules for primary and secondary students to help develop secure online behaviours and practices. The package is available at [http://budd-e.staysmartonline.gov.au](http://budd-e.staysmartonline.gov.au)

**ThinkUKnow** Australia is a partnership that aims to raise awareness among parent, carers and teachers of how young people are using technology and how to help keep them safe online. More information is available at [www.thinkuknow.org.au](http://www.thinkuknow.org.au)

#### House Dance - Miss Dhana White

**House Dance Festival / Saturday 12 May 6pm & 8pm / Octagon Theatre UWA / Ticket $20**

Tickets are now on sale for all students. Pink booking slips are available from student services and must be returned with correct money in an envelope to Miss White or the box outside Student Services. Tickets will be distributed closer to the date.

#### Library - Mrs Margaret Ryan


We are missing a number of annuals from our collection in the Library and would like to complete our collection. We hope that families of past or present students of Mercedes College may search and discover copies that they may wish to donate to the College. For further information please contact Mrs Margaret Ryan at the Library on 9323 1359.

#### Mathematics

**Senior Have Sum Fun Competition - Miss Katherine Lindsey**

On Friday 16 March, six Year 12 students ventured to St Hilda’s to participate in the Have Sum Fun maths competition. The team consisted of Emma Port, Kimberlee Baird, Cecilia Mai, Jennifer Nguyen, Amy Stiklius and Hannah Mathews. The girls were one team of approximately thirty. There were four rounds with eight questions in each. In round two the girls scored 8/8! The competition was a great success and I feel everyone enjoyed the night. Well done girls!

**Music - Mrs Claire Gamlin, Music Coordinator**

Thank you to the wonderful staff, Miss Katie Lindsay, Miss Nilar Nyunt, Miss Amanda Russo, Mr Brent Skufca, the PE staff and parent helpers who volunteered to help with Music Camp over the weekend of 9 - 10 March. We could not have had such a smooth and successful camp without your assistance! Thank you also to the Music staff and tutors, Mr Paul Waterhouse, Mrs Sharon Beros, Miss Grace Gardner, Miss Mia Brine and Miss Kay Dewar who helped organise the music rehearsals.

Thank you to the Select Choir girls who again gave generously of their time to perform at the St Patrick’s Day mass on Saturday 17 March.

Congratulations to Emmanuelle Dodo-Balu (9.1) and Tara Belle Lie (7.2) who received an A+ (100%) in their first grade AMEB flute exam. Both girls received an Award for Excellence last week at the ceremony at UWA. This is an excellent achievement and shows outstanding commitment to their instrumental studies.

Veronica Bravo (12.3) has co-written and recently released an original song on iTunes, “Breathe” which is now available to download. She will also be releasing a new song, “Talking in Colour” so make sure you keep your eye out for more information. This is a wonderful achievement and very exciting for Veronica.

#### Choral Night and House Choir Competition

Our annual Choral Night and House Choir Competition is on this Sunday 25 March! Come along and see The Wonderful World of Disney - there will be many familiar songs suitable for all ages. The concert starts at 6.30pm in the Mercedes College Hall and tickets will be available on the door for $7 student/concession, $12 adults and $30 for families (2+2). Seating is unreserved.

Students are reminded that they are required for their final House Choir rehearsal on Friday afternoon, 3.30 – 4.30 in Rostrevor and on Sunday at 2.15 for a 2.30 start for our tech rehearsal in the Mercedes Hall.

**Trinity Quarry Concert**

Parents are reminded to purchase tickets for this wonderful evening concert on Sunday 1 April. Tickets are available online through Online Store on Trinity’s website and are limited at two per family. Tickets always sell out so don’t miss out.
Diary Dates
Sunday 25 March Choral Music Night and House Choir Competition – rehearsals in the afternoon at 2pm, performance commences at 6.30pm Select Choir, Choir, House Choirs, Madrigals, Senior Percussion Ensemble, Rock Band
Sunday 1 April Trinity Quarry Concert – Stage rehearsal during the day, concert in the evening Orchestra, Wind Orchestra

Preparation for Sacraments - Sr Breda O’Reilly
First Communion and Confirmation
It has been brought to our attention by a family in the school that their girls have missed out on being prepared for and reception of the Sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation. If there are any other families who have daughters who would like to be prepared for the Sacraments, there’s a possibility of the College offering the preparation. Of course we would need to make contact with the parish in order to find out what is the Parish offering in the way of preparation as well as when the Sacraments will be administered. If you are interested please contact Sr Breda O’Reilly, Mercedes College or email breda.oreilly@mercy.org.au or boreilly@mercedes.wa.edu

Sport
Beach Volleyball Schools Competition - Georgia Wilson (Year 11)
On March 8 and 9 2012, 14 teams from Years 9 - 12 participated in the WA Alcohol Think Again Beach Volleyball Schools Championships which where held at one of the most picturesque beaches in WA, Scarborough Beach. The girls either participated in the two or four-a-side competition and had previously been training hard to ensure that we were well prepared for the event. While the weather provided the perfect playing conditions for beach volleyball, with no wind and clear skies, the ocean in the background provided the perfect backdrop. The day began well with all the Mercedes teams winning their games and this enabled the confidence and performance of the girls to grow as the day progressed. The competition was of a high level and showcased some of the best High School beach volleyball players in WA, with several of these girls being Mercedes College students. The playing intensity and suspense increased as 9 teams progressed into the finals with 6 teams winning gold or silver medals. The girls’ efforts are to be congratulated regardless of their final placing. Our thanks go to the PE Staff for assisting us on the day and enabling us to participate in such an enjoyable sporting experience that will be eagerly looked forward to next year.

Badminton A Schools Tournament - Mr Greg Smith
On Friday 16 March the following girls; Christina Da Rui, Srishit Devgun, Dakoda Hallam, Georgina Hill, Shelby Maher, Anushka Sharma, Courtnet Brown, Ashleigh Hogg, Alannah Leishman and Julia Tana represented the College in the Badminton WA Schools Tournament.
The girls were placed in different pools and played a round robin doubles competition, which involved playing 6 games. The winner from each pool then moved into a quarter final against the winner of another pool. The girls played extremely well against some very talented players, some who are state and national representatives. Well done to Ashleigh Hogg and Alannah Leishman who were runners up in their pool, losing only one game, and to Shelby Maher and Georgina Hill who won their pool and played in the quarter final. Unfortunately, Shelby and Georgina did not progress to the next game but it was a wonderful experience for them both. Congratulations to the girls on your performance in the tournament.

ACC Div 1 Swimming Carnival - Ms Corinne Kirry, Sports Coordinator

On Wednesday 21 March, 55 girls from Years 7-12 competed in the ACC Division 1 Swimming Carnival. They started training early this term in our re-vamped College pool three times per week in preparation for this big event. Looking great in their new College bathers, all the girls achieved faster times than they did in the Interhouse Swimming Carnival. This shows that their dedication to training and participation in Swim Camp was beneficial. Our captain Madison Moore and vice captain Caitlin Taylor were extremely enthusiastic with coordinating loud cheering prior to the first race of the day.

The Mercedes College relays were brilliant. Five of our six B Division 4 x 50m freestyle relays finished 1st! And all of the Division 1 4 x 50m freestyle relays finished in the top 4.

Overall the day was successful. Every girl swam giving 100% which made the staff and parents very proud. The Junior girls came 2nd and the Senior girls came equal 3rd. Overall Mercedes College finished 2nd in A division. Thank you to all girls who competed and to the parents who dedicated their early morning sleep-ins for driving their daughters to training. And to our new and proud coach Courtney Spanbroek, thank you for helping our girls achieve excellence in swimming and also, to Mrs Sloper and Mrs Barrett for assisting with swimming training.

Fitness - Ms Corinne Kirry

There are so many opportunities for every student to improve their fitness at Mercedes College. The fitness classes that are offered for all year groups are held on Tuesday mornings (7-8am) and Wednesday afternoons (3-4pm) in the Coady Sports Centre. In week 9, there is Hip Hop on Tuesday and Zumba on Wednesday and week 10, there is Step on both days. The cost is $5 per session per student.

The Fitness Centre is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3.30-4.30pm. There is a gym instructor who can teach you how to use the equipment properly. This is only available for students in Years 10-12 and costs $5 per session.
Mercedes Netball Club
Grading is now complete and the club is now finalising teams. We would like to thank the committee and all parents who have come forward to help. It has helped the process run very smoothly. Thank you to our wonderful players who have had almost 100% attendance to grading and thank you to all parents on getting girls there on time and being so patient.

If you are interested in Coaching or Umpiring please email mercedesnetball.club@yahoo.com.au Keep an eye out for team and coach announcements.

Parents and Friends

Father/Daughter Camp - 25 – 27 May 2012, Forrest Edge Bush Camp, Waroona. Keep this weekend free for an exciting and bonding weekend for dads and their daughters. Cost will be approximately $230 per dad and $230 per daughter. Booking forms will be distributed later this week. First in with their form and payment will secure a place.

Mother/Daughter Camp 2012 - Mrs Jackie Stacey
Friday 16 March mums and their daughters headed off to Camp Kerem, West Bullsbrook for a fun weekend. The weekend began with mums and their daughters settling into their new home. Friday night was fun after dinner...have you ever tried introducing yourself and talking about your family without using the words ‘um’ or ‘and’! It was the start of many challenges that the mums and their daughters had to overcome during the weekend.

Saturday morning everyone woke up to a lovely hot breakfast before starting a day full of activities and challenges—low ropes, archery, Polymer Clay bead jewellery making and swimming. The evening was spent playing games followed by the mums being pampered by their daughters with a facial. Of course everyone had to get into the spirit of St Patrick’s Day by dressing up in green. Well done to everyone! It was a full day and everyone was exhausted at the end and looking forward to crawling into bed!

Sunday morning after breakfast, we headed off to the Maze Fun Park where we managed to conquer every Maze we came across without too much confusion! The weekend ended with a number of mums participating in something that they would never had done as well as achieving the main goal....spending quality time with their daughter(s) and meeting new mums. Thank you to everyone who attended and I look forward to the 2013 camp.

Multi-Faith Observance Commonwealth Day
On Sunday the 11 March my fellow student Charlotte Burnell and I were given the opportunity of attending the Multi-Faith Observance Commonwealth Day Service, held at St George’s Cathedral; based on one similarly observed at Westminster Abbey, London. Fifty-four student representatives from schools across Perth were selected to pay tribute to the Commonwealth partnership of nations and the people and the ideals they hold in common. Charlotte and I represented the countries Samoa and Bangladesh, and were privileged enough to meet many distinguished guests including the Governor General of Western Australia. Together we celebrated the core beliefs of the Commonwealth through prayers and Psalms, spoken in a diverse range of languages including; Pali, Arabic, Hebrew and Maltese. The evening encouraged us students and the members of the congregation to focus on the union between the people and leaders of the 54 commonwealth countries.

Siobhan Poupard (Year 11)
Hi everyone!

We’re all really excited at the moment to be organising the Frog Jog, which is coming up on the last day of Term 1! Hopefully all the girls have started thinking about whether they are going to run, jog or stroll the distance and have begun to collect money from their sponsors for this worthy cause. All proceeds of the day are donated to Mercy ministries.

A big thank you to everyone who joined in our Random Acts of Kindness Week activity, which was set up in the canteen and involved writing “happy thoughts” on coloured paper and adding it to out cork board display. Thanks also go to everyone who contributed to our Harmony Week display, which was conducted on the bottom floor of the Serisier building and involved girls writing what culture their family is from on the posters provided.

On Monday of the final week of school, we as prefects, along with our deputies, will be holding two cake stalls to raise money for Caritas - one in Catherine’s garden and one in the Frayne garden. We ask everyone to support this initiative generously.

Hope you have a great last few weeks of term!

From the Prefects.

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**MESA**

The Class of 2011 Mocktail Party held at the College on Friday 9 March was an enjoyable evening filled with happy conversations, delicious snacks and thirst-quenching mocktails. With the tour of the new Buildings definitely being the highlight of the evening!

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**Noticeboard**

**ATARGET Education April Revision Program** - Christ Church Grammar School, 16 April - 20 April 2012. The program aims to revise the important components of the syllabus and includes a Study Skills Course. For more information contact Dr Robert Hallam (08) 9486 1377 or visit [www.atarget.com.au](http://www.atarget.com.au)

**Catholic Youth Ministry Events** - Holy Hour at CYM Every Wednesday followed by $5 supper and fellowship. Mass at 5.30pm and Holy Hour (Adoration) at 6.30pm at the Catholic Pastoral Centre, 40A Mary St, Highgate. More details on [www.cym.com.au](http://www.cym.com.au) or call 9422 7912

**Goliath Music Festival** - an original Catholic music festival Sunday 1 April. CYM is seeking local musicians and songwriters to get involved - open mic nights will be held fortnightly from Wednesday 15 February after CYM Holy Hours to feature original Catholic music. Contact admin@cym.com.au or call 9422 7912 for more information.

**Loreto Nedlands** - Easter Fair on Sunday 1 April 11 - 3pm at 69 Webster Street Nedlands. Everyone is welcome.

**Parents and Friends Federation WA** - Annual Conference, Saturday 24 March 2012 Mercedes College Hall. Begins with Mass in the Cathedral at 8am with the Conference from 8.30am - 3.30pm. Free for parents from affiliated schools, $75 from non-affiliated schools. Email admin@pff.wa.edu.au or call 9271 5909 to book.

**Purple Cake Day** - Fundraiser Movie Night, 11 April 2012, 6.30pm - 8.30pm. Windsor Cinema, 98 Stirling Highway Nedlands. Tickets - $20. To book email veronica@purplecakeday.org