Key Dates

Friday 23 November
Yr 8 Reflection Day

Monday 26 November
Yr 7 Geography Big Day Out

Tuesday 27 November
Yr 11 exams conclude
Advisory Council Meeting

Wednesday 28 November
Yr 7 Mass (Cathedral)
Prefect Retreat (until 30 November)
WACE Exams conclude

Thursday 29 November
Yr 10 Exams commence

Friday 30 November
Yr 11 students return for final day

Monday 3 December
Yr 9 Exams commence

Tuesday 4 December
Yr 9/10 Exams conclude
Yr 8 Arts Immersion Day

Friday 7 December
Final Day Yrs 7 - 10

Saturday 8 December
Second Hand Book Sale
8.30am - 10.00am (Hall)

Principal’s Report

“Love begins at home, and it is not how much we do…but how much love we put in that action”. – Mother Theresa

Continuing the breaking open of our value of Justice, it is timely for us to remember that Christmas is coming up. Whilst many families look with joy and expectation at this time of celebration, especially as a faith community, many families are also anxious that they will not be able to provide anything special, especially for their children. It is difficult to empathise with those who suffer from poverty, or with those who are out of work due to ill health, or those who suffer abuse, when we live such blessed lives ourselves. Last Sunday, our Archbishop launched his Christmas Appeal for Lifelink. This Appeal supports the Catholic church agencies here in Perth that provide emergency accommodation, food, clothing, financial assistance, mental health services, respite and disability support and protection for women and children escaping domestic violence and abuse. In his letter to the people of the Perth Archdiocese, His Grace urged us to recognize the extraordinary courage displayed by so many people day by day: “...the unemployed who strive, sometimes with great difficulty, to maintain a spirit of hope; young people who feel isolated or rejected but who still try to find friendship and support; single parents who make extraordinary sacrifices for their children”.

The Mercedes College community has always been incredibly generous in supporting those who are in great need. Over the remaining weeks of term we will again be asked to dig deep and contribute to the hampers that will be distributed to refugee families here on our own back door step. Archbishop Costelloe reminds us that “God’s love for us is the source of our love for others”.

I would like to make comment on ‘carpark conversations’ that have taken place regarding the Year 12 Graduation. Over the last couple of years, we have had increasing numbers of graduates unable to attend the Graduation Dinner due to parents struggling with financial difficulties. This year it was my aim to make the Graduation after function as affordable as possible so that no family missed out. The intention was always to make certain that Graduation was a memorable occasion for our girls. Jackie Stacey, our Parent Liaison Officer,

Insight from Catherine McAuley:
May God bless and animate you with His own divine spirit, that you may prove it is Jesus Christ you love and serve with your whole heart.

2012 Year 10 Dragon Boat Winners: McAuley
Mission Leader’s Musings

Sunday 25 November 2012: Our Lord Jesus Christ, king of the Universe Year B

Gospel
Jn 18: 33-37

You say that I am a king

This week marks the end of the liturgical year. Next week, with the first week of Advent, we begin the new liturgical cycle. It is fitting that the Church concludes the liturgical year with the celebration of Christ the King.

The conversation between Jesus and Pilate displays a lot of word play on the part of Jesus and quite a lot of confusion on the part of Pilate. The confusion stems from different perceptions of what it means to be a king. For Pilate, part of the most powerful political and military rule in the ancient world, the idea of a king was about power and authority. Jesus, of course, had a completely different idea about ushering in a kingdom. He does indeed declare that he is a king and that is what leads us to today’s feast of Christ the King. However, his intention is not to claim a position of power and authority.

When we think back to Jesus’ teachings about the kingdom of God, we recall that he declares the people of highest status - the first - in the kingdom to be the lowliest of this world. It is the poor, the sick, the outcast, the children and the widows who will hold the highest places in the kingdom of God. In a kingdom like that, what does it mean to declare oneself king? To be the servant? To the lowliest? To display humility? The confusion about what it means to be a kind captured in this interaction between Jesus and Pilate challenges us to think about leadership in very different ways!

and her small group of dedicated and very generous mums, did an amazing job in preparing Catherine’s Garden and organizing all the food and drink. We were all disappointed in the fact that many people missed out on food, not because we hadn’t catered for the numbers, in fact we catered for more than the numbers that came, but because we didn’t anticipate how hungry people would be after waiting until after 8.00pm for food. We have learned a lot and I have valued the constructive feedback from people as to how we could do it better next time.

I am committed to keeping the cost of graduation down as low as possible. Sometimes I think we overlook the fact that the most important part of Graduation for us as a Catholic and a Mercy school is the Mass and Graduation Ceremony in the Cathedral. This year the ceremony in the Cathedral was absolutely beautiful and so many parents commented on the reverence of the girls and the dignity with which they conducted themselves. I was very proud of them as I always am. Already there are discussions underway as to how we can make the Graduation after function better and yet still keep costs to a minimum.

I am asking all families of 2013 prospective graduates, to be mindful of the broader Mercedes College community. Like all Catholic schools, we have a significant number of families who are struggling financially and in the spirit of Mercy, ensuring they are included in College events is paramount. Whatever is planned, parents need to know that ensuring our girls’ last memory of Mercedes College is one of a caring, supportive, and joy filled community is all we wish for.

Whilst I am speaking about money, I would also like to plea with parents of our 2013 Year 12 students to keep the planning for the Ball moderate and avoid excessive spending. Again, what is important is the recognition that this is a highlight of Year 12 and at the same time making certain that families spend within their means. Sometimes, this involves having the tough conversations with our daughters. Each year I love seeing those girls who have made their own Ball gowns or have picked up bargains either on e-bay or in retail sales, brimming with pride. They enjoy the Ball just as much as those girls whose parents have spent hundreds of dollars on dresses that may well only be worn once. I also see more and more money being spent on limousines – again, stretching the family budget. It would be wonderful if we could get back to basics and for our young people to realize that the most enjoyable things are often the simplest and the things that don’t cost a lot of money.

On Monday last it was wonderful to welcome on campus most of the 2013 Year 7 girls. The girls participated in their Orientation day, experiencing just a little of life at Mercedes College and hopefully giving them a taste of the myriad of things, both academic and co-curricular, of which they can be a part in the future. Thank you to all our feeder primary schools who supported the girls attending this day. They were a credit to you and to themselves and families.

The WACE and Year 11 exams are nearly finished and we hope our girls are content with their efforts. I wish our Year 12 students all the very best if they are going away to celebrate and urge them to stay safe and look out for each other.

Peace and best wishes

Sheena Barber, Principal

Come on Pilgrimage in 2013

Join Monsignor Michael Keating on 31 May, when he travels to Barcelona, Montserrat, Manresa (Spain), Lourdes (France), Burgos, Loyola, Leon, Santiago de Compostela (Spain), Porto, Fatima, (Portugal), Avila, Toledo and Madrid (Spain) - 19 days in all. Excellent accommodation, flying Emirates (people may remain in Europe and return later). Cost $6150 (single supplement $1020).

Price includes deluxe coaches, breakfast & dinner each day, tips etc.

Telephone Monsignor Keating 9223 1356 or Sally at Northline Travel on 9328 6100
Pastoral Care News

Year 7/8 Learning Community

Year 7 - Mrs Michelle Lloyd

It is a busy time in the Year 7 Community as we approach the end of the year. On Friday 9 November the Year 7 Reflection Day was held at the Maylands Bowling Club. The girls spent the day reflecting on the values we hold so dear at Mercedes College as well as enjoying the friendship and company of each other. Thank you to Ms Speranza for her organisation of the event and to the staff and parents who assisted on the day.

On Monday we welcomed the Year 7 students for 2013 to Mercedes College with our first Year 6 to 7 Orientation Day. There were many excited (and some nervous) faces among the girls and it was wonderful to see our current Year 7 students greet the girls with such enthusiasm.

A reminder that on Monday 26 November we will be attending the Geography Big Day out at the Zoo. Please pack lots of water and sunscreen. A reminder that the girls must bring their own lunch.

Gracious God,
You have blessed this ancient land
with many gifts, especially its people.
We thank you for the Year of Grace,
a time to start afresh from Christ.
You invite us to contemplate the face of Jesus your Son,
that we may experience a new wave of grace,
and that the light of Christ may burn more brightly in our lives.

Attune our hearts and minds
to the presence of your Holy Spirit,
that our Church may be transformed,
our relationships be healed,
and our nation grow in compassion and justice.

With the intercession of St Mary MacKillop,
who showed us new ways of living the Gospel,
we make our prayer
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mary, Help of Christians, pray for us.
Year 9/10 Learning Community

Year 9 - Mrs Sherrin Adams

Well done to all of the Peer Mentors who showed the new 2013 Year 7 students around the College last Monday. I hope this is the beginning of a great experience for you in this important leadership position.

Congratulations to the girls who were chosen as House Ambassadors for the opening of 2013. I was most impressed that you showed resilience and a commitment to serve the College by overcoming your disappointment at not being selected as a Peer Mentor. On your Training Day you will see how you can contribute to the proud tradition of House activities that are so much a part of the College.

With final exams and assessments fast approaching it is essential that all girls combine study with sufficient rest and healthy eating. Too many girls are still attending school without eating breakfast.

We will have our final Year 9 assembly on 29 November, as the last week is very full with exams and Training for the SRC, Peer Mentors and House Ambassadors. I know there will be many Certificates for this wonderful Year group.

Year 10 - Mr Liam Smith

The long awaited Year 10 Dragon Boating Day finally arrived and I do not think we could have hoped for a better day. The weather was amazing, the girls were in the spirit of the day, the food was delicious and the Perth Pirate Dragon Boating Association made sure that each and every one of us made use of every last bit of energy as we attempted to have our boat cross that finish line first.

Before we knew it, the grand final match was upon us, one dragon boat filled with Frayne paddlers, the other by McAuley. The gun sounded and the race began, each team paddling strong to the beat of their boats drum. At the finish line it was the McAuley boat crossing the line first just one dragon head in front of Frayne.

The final race of the day saw the winning student boat McAuley #1 setting challenge to battle a boat crewed by the staff. The girls tried their best to intimidate the staff boat, this included a pre-race drenching and splash attack as the staff sat like sitting ducks in their boat. Unfortunately the girls had to watch as their boat slowly lost ground and once again finished the day runners-up to the staff boat.

Overall the day was a huge success, filled with laughter, smiles, challenges, good food and good company. I would like to thank all members of staff that accompanied us for the day. It was also great to see many parents attending to cheer on and watch the Houses doing battle on the water.
Concert For A Cause - Carmel Mohen (11.2)

As part of the Poverty Immersion program we were given the opportunity to work in small groups to organise an activity that would help to support one of the various agencies that we encountered on our experience. So on Tuesday 6 November our group which included Matilda Martin, Grace Cumming, Lucy Gilbert, Georgia Rodgers, Jamela King and Carmel Mohen, held a concert after school to raise funds as well as awareness for the Mobile GP. Mobile GP provides free medical services from drop in centres as well as a Street Doctor who operates from the back of a van which visits common places where the homeless congregate, such as outside the State Library. We heard about Mobile GP services when some of us attended the Homeless Expo whilst on the Immersion. We met some of the volunteers who told us about their services as well as that donations and awareness raising was very much appreciated because they are not a very known organisation. So we held a concert which featured Veronica Bravo as well as the Trinity Rock Band, Three Hands One Hoof and a gymnastic performance by Megan Hille, Olivia Ridley and Annabel Ridley and singing performances from Pascha Forster, Jasmine Pavan, Lucy Gilbert and Grace Cumming. We are incredibly grateful to all the girls who came along to support this very special organisation by purchasing tickets and the drinks and chips, which in the end raised over $600. Thank you very much to the staff and parents who stayed back to supervise and help us, Ms Speranza, Mrs Aldous, Miss Kirry, Miss Eaton, Mrs Cocks, Miss White and Mrs Cumming and a big thank you to all the performers who made the concert such a success.
Mercy Now - Sr Breda O'Reilly
An invitation to staff, parents, friends of Mercedes College and friends of the Sisters of Mercy.
You are invited to join in the Mercy Prayer Circle if you would like to have some quiet time for yourself. The time for our Mercy Now Prayer is 3.30pm - 4.30pm. Our final gathering for Term 4 is: 27 November. I would love to see you there. If you are interested or know anyone who is interested in this prayer gathering, please contact Breda at breda.oreilly@mercy.org.au

Music - Mrs Claire Gamlin, Music Coordinator
Thank you to all of the girls who have performed this term at Presentation Evening, Graduation Mass and at Trinity College’s Presentation Evening.

Veronica Bravo performed solo at Telethon for the third year in a row. This time she launched her fantastic new single, Talking in Colour, which is available through iTunes. She is also a support act for this weekend’s “Dance it Out” concert featuring Johnny Ruffo and Justice Crew at the Perth Convention Centre on Saturday and Sunday night. If you would like to go and support Veronica, Tickets are available through Ticketek.

Diary Dates
Sunday 25 November: Ms Formentin’s Christmas Concert – Mercedes College PAC 2pm
Week 7: Lunchtime Concerts Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday – Rostrevor Lecture Theatre
Friday 30 November: Year 8 & 9 Select Choir Mercy Hospital Volunteer Christmas Lunch (during school time)
Friday 30 November: Senior Percussion Ensemble – St Jude’s Primary Multicultural Night, Langford (4.30pm)
December 10, 11, 13 & 14: USA Music Tour Rehearsals (details sent home on a separate note)

Sport
Swim Squad
Courtney Spanbroek, Mercedes College Swim Coach, has been appointed as Coach/Manager to the School Sport WA Swimming Team for 2013. This team will be competing in the National Schools Championships in Adelaide in August next year. Congratulations to Courtney!

Triathlon - Mrs Marnie Barrett
On Thursday 8 November, Mercedes College participated in the School Sport WA Triathlon, held at Champion Lakes in Armadale. We took 45 competitors to the event, with six individual triathletes and the rest of the girls competing in teams. The race consisted of a 300m swim, 16km bike ride followed by a 3km run. It was great to be able to train for all of the events in our fabulous new facilities and there were some great results on the day.

An inspirational effort from Kate Martin (Year 8) and Rebecca Moore (Year 9), placed them first and second respectively in the individual novice event and we also had teams that placed 4th, 7th, 8th and 9th in the intermediate division. A great day was had by all and we left with big smiles, red faces (it was very hot!), sore legs but very proud of our achievements. The enthusiasm shown by all girls was amazing and the team spirit really shone through. Well done to all competitors.
Student News

Dance
Well done to Caitlin Comiskey (10.1) who competed in the recent Australian Dance regionals. Caitlin placed high Gold for her modern solo in the Broadway Jazz and gold in her lyrical solo. She will compete for WA at the National Dance Championships in January 2013 under her dance school; Lets Dance Studios.

Netball
Congratulations to Year 9 student Maddison Jones (see below) who has been selected for the State U14’s Indoor Netball team. She will compete in Brisbane at the Australian Indoor Netball Junior Nationals in early December with teams competing from Australia & South Africa. Maddison has also been announced Team Captain.

Public Speaking
Beth Lorian (10.4) spoke very confidently and convincingly at the state Semi-final of the Rotary Four-Way Test Public Speaking contest, competing against five other students. She presented a carefully researched speech that sensitively examined better ways in which our society can tackle mental health issues. Unfortunately, she did not win a place in the grand final however she is to be congratulated on her hard work and on being a fine ambassador for Mercedes.

Swimming
Well done to Mikaela Powell (10.5) for her recent achievement of “Most Improved Female” of the Superfins Swim Club. Mikaela swims three times a week, all year, with Superfins at Challenge Stadium.

Superfins Swimathon
Mikaela Powell (10.5), Mia Devilee (8.1) and Stephanie Neville (10.2) took part in raising funds the annual swimathon for Superfins at Challenge Stadium on Saturday 17 November 2012. Their effort was amazing and their sponsors should be extremely proud of the fantastic efforts they put in.

Parents & Friends Association

Behaviour Tonics - Engaging Adolescents
The parent education program ‘Engaging Adolescents’ presented by Behaviour Tonics will be held over 3 workshops in April 2013 at Mercedes College. This course is designed to provide parents with skills for resolving teenage behaviour problems. The workshops are limited to 30 places, therefore bookings are essential. Cost per person is $99. Contact Mrs Jackie Stacey, 9323 1323 or jstacey@mercedes.wa.edu.au to make a booking.

Thank You to Parents

Dads & Daughters Bike Day Out
Thank you to the Dads of Mercedes (DOM) Group for organising the Bike Day Out on Sunday 4 November. Despite the inclement weather the rain held off at the right time in order for the 20 dads and their daughters to participate. It was wonderful to see eight of those participating being new 2013 dads. It’s amazing what you can do with the power of prayer and positive thinking! The DOM group look forward to future events in 2013.

Melbourne Cup Lunch
What a wonderful day was had by mums & friends from Mercedes and Trinity on Tuesday 6 November. Thank you to the organising committee from Trinity, and to all the Mercedes parents and sponsors who supported the event (Bra Bar, Blue Spirit, Glen Parker Cycles and Langley Hotel). Julie Fazey and I look forward to future Trinity/Mercedes events in 2013.

Year 7 Reflection Day
Mark Baxter, Marc Brambilla, Jenny Kastropil, Lidia Messina and Marie Nicholls
Year 8 Reflection Day
Anna Young, Millie Chang, Natasha Psaila, Mark Baxter and Marc Brambillia

Year 6 Orientation Day
Amoreena Galvin, Mel Banks, Albana Ripani, Jo McCluskey, Tracey Harris and Christina Bormolini.

Noticeboard

Academic Task Force - WACE Head Start Program, 15 - 25 January 2013. Enrol now with full payment before 18 December, to received the 10% Early Bird discount. For more information contact 9314 9500 / learn@academictaskforce.com.au or visit www.academictaskforce.com.au.

Armadale Film Festival & The National Sound and Film Archives Luna Leederville - presents The Joys of the Women 20th Anniversary screening, Thursday 29 November / 7pm / Luna Cinemas Leederville. Tickets $20 adult / $15 concession. Special guest include director Franco Di Chiera, The Joys of Women Choir and Kavisah Paola Mazzella (ex-student).

MercyCare Fostering Services Program - Can you welcome an extra child into your family? MercyCare’s Fostering Services are looking for foster carers. For more information contact 9442 3444 or fosteringservices@mercycare.com.au.

RSPCA WA - January School Holiday activities. Bookings open on 3 December 2012, call 9209 9325. For more information visit www.rspcawa.asn.au.

St Jude’s Multicultural Family Night - Friday 30 November (5pm - 8pm), St Jude’s Catholic School, 17 Barnston Way in Langford. All money raised from the event will go to much needed learning resources and materials for St Jude’s Catholic School.

The Santos Great Bike Ride for Charity - 25 November. 300 Volunteers needed to make the event happen. The Great Bike Ride supports charities such St John of God Horizon House. For more information visit www.greatbikeride.com.au.

Youth Mission Team - 4th iSTAND Camp 2012 / 23 - 25 November. For students in Year 8 - 12. Learn more about yourself and God, meet new friends and have lots of fun. For more information contact Marty perth@ymt.com.au / 0417 637 040 or search for “iStand Weekend #4” on Facebook.

The University of Notre Dame - a range of January School Holiday Courses will be running for Year 12 students. The courses are low-cost, with limited places. More information can be found at www.nd.edu.au/january.