Key Dates
Tuesday 30 October
Advisory Council Meeting 6pm
Wednesday 31 October
8.4 RE Mass
Thursday 1 November
WACE Exams commence
House Drama Performance 7pm
Friday 2 November
ACC Para Tee Ball
House Drama Performance 7pm
Saturday 3 November
House Drama Performance 7pm
(Sold out)
Wednesday 7 November
8.5 RE Mass
Thursday 8 November
Year 11 Prac Exams

Principal’s Report

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.” Martin Luther King, Jr.

What an amazing start to the final term! Last Friday night we enjoyed seeing so many of our girls reap the benefits of hard work and determination. Congratulations go to all the Award winners and, in particular, the 2012 Dux of the College, Hannah Matthews and the Proxime Accessit, Kimberley Baldry. In addition to the commitment to their studies, both girls have given generously to co-curricular areas within the College and will certainly leave their mark on the history of Mercedes. I also acknowledge those girls who came so close to taking off the top awards. Thank you to you all for your achievement of personal excellence. The Year 12 Service to Awards were presented at the Graduation Ceremony on Tuesday night and the recipients are listed below. The co-curricular life of the College owes its strength to these girls and to the generous staff who have supported them. We will certainly miss the girls’ passion and dedication.

Presentation Evening was a celebration of the many gifts and talents of our girls – the combined Mercedes/Trinity Orchestra, the Jazz Quartet, the Mercedes/Trinity Chorale, the Specialist dance Group and the Year 12 tribute to the Year 12 students. Another highlight was the announcement of the Head Girl – Georgia Wilson and the Deputy Head Girl – Abby O’Rourke. I am sure 2013 will be a very rewarding year for both Georgia and Abby, and for the other fourteen prefects. We wish them all well for their leadership journey ahead. It was wonderful last Wednesday to be able to celebrate the commissioning of our prefects at Mass followed by the morning tea for the girls and their parents. Thank you to the parents (and grandparents) who were able to join us. Not only is the year ahead a busy one for the prefects but also for the prefects’ parents. I know how proud you must be of your daughters and I hope you enjoy every minute journeying alongside them.

This week has been a week of farewells. On Monday night the 2012 Prefects celebrated their final liturgy together and were joined by their parents for a thank you dinner. Thank you to the staff – Mrs Desi O’Kane and Mrs Sharon Rosato - who prepared and served the meal. The girls have done a wonderful

Insight from Catherine McAuley:
Our charity must be in our hearts and from our hearts, and a charity such as Jesus Christ practised while on earth.

Farewell to Year 12 students
Mission Leader’s Musings in Mercy Week

Mercy Impels Us ....

As she left her homeland for Australia, with a daunting voyage ahead of her, Ursula Frayne prayed “God of Mercy
I go with a sense of your call.
Let it be true
And give me strength for the journey ...”

Like Abraham and Sarah,
Like Catherine McAuley, Ursula Frayne and her companions,
may we respond to the call of God.
May we be a channel for the Mercy of God.
May we follow the teaching of Jesus not just in words, but in action.
May we make a journey to the heart, And may we be willing to sail to new shores.
May we dare take the risks of discipleship.
May we be people of conscience.
May we find the living water.
May we hear the sound of the deep.
God, be the deep spring inside each of us.

Blessing

May the God of Mercy bless and protect us all. May the Spirit of God find a home in us. May the God of love shine forth in our lives.
Amen

job in representing the student body and the College and I have enjoyed every minute of working alongside them. On their behalf I would also like to thank Ms Rosa Speranza for all her mentoring and encouragement of the Prefects. All the people who have touched their lives have helped make the girls the leaders they are and I just pray that all the skills they have learned will be channeled toward some great good.

On Tuesday we sadly said thank you and good luck to our Class of 2012. The final celebrations were a fitting tribute to an outstanding group of young women. The girls themselves behaved with dignity and decorum on their last day and were great role models to the younger students up to the very end. The Graduation Mass was in the Cathedral followed, this year, by the presentation of the ‘Service To’ awards and acknowledgement of life-long membership of MESA in the College Hall and the meal in Catherine’s Garden. Sincere thanks go to Jackie Stacey and the group of Mums who spent many hours planning and preparing this very special night for the Graduates. The weather was very kind to us and the Garden was magical. I’m sure the girls will retain many fond memories of the night. The girls now look to their WACE exams and I ask the College community to keep all the girls in their prayers. Hopefully they will go into their exams confident that they have done the very best preparation they can.

The lead up to the exams can be just as stressful for parents as it is for the girls. The girls will be anxious and probably very moody as a result. Parents can only support them by keeping their surroundings at home as stress free as possible and encouraging them to be methodical in their study. They won’t have time to do household chores yet, at the same time, they need to take breaks from their study and play some sport or listen to some music for relaxation. Most importantly they need to keep off the social networking sites. Facebook will still be there after the exams! The girls cannot risk anything that might cause them to lose focus.

On another note, I have had a number of parents inquire as to whether or not the girls can have their own laptops at school next year. As you know, the College has achieved 1:1 ratio of laptops and computers on campus to avoid the girls needing to bring their own laptops. In fact our ICT Policy does not permit students to bring personal laptops to school; however, iPads are definitely encouraged. If you are looking for a Christmas gift for your daughter then I would ask you to consider purchasing an iPad. Many text books are now available electronically and it certainly saves on carrying weighty text books around if the girls have their own iPad and digital texts.

Could I also please remind parents to check their daughter’s summer uniform? I congratulate all the girls who returned after the holidays looking impeccable and proudly wearing their uniform as it should be worn. Hats are compulsory travelling to and from school and on campus when the girls are outside the classrooms. Also, many of the girls have had a growth spurt and the length of uniform needs to be checked. The dress should be knee length and certainly should not be shortened with belts or ties. There will be uniform checks over the next week or so and I hope there will be no Wednesday detentions as a result.

I wish all our girls every success for this final term and encourage them to focus on finishing the year with the best possible level of excellence in all aspects of College life.

Peace and best wishes.

Sheena Barber, Principal
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.
Pastoral Care News

Year 7/8 Learning Community

Year 7 - Mrs Michelle Lloyd
Welcome back to Term 4. I cannot believe that we are now in the final term for the year – I know it will fly by. I hope that all families had a relaxing and refreshing holiday and are ready to face the busy challenges that Term 4 brings. It was wonderful to see how well groomed the Year 7 students were with the return to school. It might be timely however to look at the length of your daughter’s summer uniform as I think there have been some major growth spurts over the holidays!

Lots of congratulations are due to the Year 7 students this week. Firstly, my congratulations must go to all of the Year 7 prize winners. They are to be congratulated on outstanding results over the year culminating in the receiving of their prizes on Friday night. Secondly to all of the Year 7 students who represented the College so well at Presentation Evening. We were very proud of their beautiful performance as well as their ability to sit so still in view of the audience for so long! Congratulations for not only your behaviour on the evening, but also for your dedication to our practice sessions – especially to those that started at 8am in the morning. Well done!

A note will be going home soon in regards to our Year 7 Geography Big Day Out which will be held on Monday 26 November. This is an excursion organised by our Society and Environment Department. Please read the information carefully and return the permission slip by the due date.

Year 9/10 Learning Community

Year 9 - Mrs Sherrin Adams
I have been overwhelmed by the great response by the girls to the Peer Mentor Program with 75 girls applying for the 50 available positions. Applications will be processed over the next two weeks, with all applicants being notified of the success or otherwise of their applications. Unfortunately I am going to disappoint a number of girls. We do however have some other wonderful leadership positions available which will be offered to unsuccessful applicants.

Congratulations to the girls whose academic successes were acknowledged at Presentation Night. Well done to the many Year Nines who sang, played instruments or danced on Friday evening.

Year 11/12 Learning Community

Year 11 - Mrs Marianne Morphett
The academic year is fast drawing to a close for the Year 11 girls and they will be finalising their assessment program over the next few weeks. The final exams commence on Wednesday 14 November and the girls will soon be informed of the examination timetable. During this time, students are only required to attend school for their scheduled exams, however everyone will return for a final day on 30 November.

Last week was one of special events and celebrations. The Prefect Council for 2013 was commissioned during the opening Mass of the term and shared morning tea with members of their families. Thank you to Ms Speranza, Mrs Stacey and all the staff and parents who worked to make such a meaningful event. The Prefects were also required to present leadership speeches prior to the election for Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl. These prestigious positions were announced on Presentation Evening and I would like to extend my congratulations to Georgia Wilson (11.1) and Abbey O’Rourke (11.4) respectively. Commendations also, to our Award winners and to all the girls who shared their talents to entertain us on Presentation Evening.

Curriculum News

Congratulations to those girls who were recognised for their academic and pastoral achievement at Presentation Evening. The presence on stage of the Year 12 cohort of 2012 provided a fitting opportunity to formally farewell these girls. The graduating class of 2012 has enjoyed success with the encouragement and urging of their teachers. Many of these girls have been at school this week as they have been tackling revision groups for their WACE Examinations. The exams will begin next week and we continue to pray that the girls perform well and recall what they have learnt.

Year 11 Semester 2 Examinations commence on Wednesday 14 November and conclude on Tuesday 27 November. In the past the assistance of parents and grandparents has been invaluable and once again we are seeking the help of those able to act as examination supervisors. All volunteers are placed with a teacher so the task is not daunting and assistance is always at hand. If you are able to contribute, even an hour of your time, please contact Jackie Stacey: jstacey@mercedes.wa.edu.au. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

In the calendar you will see there is an “Assessment Free Week” coming up for students in Years 11. This time is set aside to enable students to revise and go over topics and tasks with their teachers in preparation for their exams. This exemption applies only to those courses that hold exams. Other courses and subjects; which do not have an exam, will continue with ongoing assessments and tasks.

Mrs Loretta Wholley, Deputy Principal Academic Services
Mathematics - Mr Peter Mee, Head of Learning Area
Parents and students should be aware of the following sources of mathematics help (outside class) which are available through the College:

- The maths focus room (18) open every day (during the second half of lunch), with a Maths teacher on duty to help with homework, assignments and study.
- Afterschool Homework Club in the library (Monday - Thursday), with a staff member on duty to assist.
- Students in Years 7 to 9 will be able to re-sit a majority of tests if they score below 65%. Details of the policy have been sent home with students. Please contact Mr Peter Mee (pmee@mercedes.wa.edu.au) if you require another copy.
- Students in Years 7 to 10 will have access to the HOTmaths website (www.hotmaths.com.au). This online resource includes lessons on a range of topics, interactive widgets, questions pitched at a range of difficulty levels, plus extension material.

General College News

The Arts - Mrs Kathleen Cocks, HOLA
House Drama
Next week the PAC will come alive with House Drama performances. This year’s theme is Kids Classics. See McAuley perform CS Lewis’ classic tale of The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe, Frayne’s dark interpretation of the fairy tale Snow White, McDonald’s exploration of magic in Matilda by Roald Dahl, and Serisier’s olden days presentation of Anne of Green Gables.

Performances are Thursday 1 November, Friday 2 November and Saturday 3 November, 7pm in the Performing Arts Centre. (Saturday night is sold out) Tickets are $15 each and order forms are in the PAC and at Student Services. For information, click HERE

We look forward to a very close competition. All houses are looking magnificent!

Drama-Dance Fest
In 2013, the current House Dance & House Drama Festivals will be merged into one Festival - the Drama-Dance Fest. For more information, click HERE

Information Technology – Mr Des Loh, HOLA
Year 8 Live IT Up! Excursion
In the final week of last Term, a new group of Year 8 students who took up the subject Live IT Up! (Information Technology) were involved in the excursion called Computer Game Research Through Play. This Term, students are asked to draw on knowledge gained from the excursion and incorporate it into their coursework and assessment task.

The location was Timezone, in the heart of Northbridge. Mr Loh, Mr Grigg and Mrs O’Kane accompanied this group of enthusiastic students where they accumulated points as they played a number of prize games and an unlimited number of certain video games. At the end of their time there, these points were exchanged for prizes.

Back in class, students were required to complete an activity based on how they engaged in the games at Timezone. Students needed to outline what made a good game, what the goals for various games are, how music heightens the enjoyment of game playing and so on.

Students are currently in the process of being taught how to create their own game using Game Maker and will be given the opportunity to work collaboratively on a game design task.
Presentation Evening

Highlights from the 2012 Presentation Evening, clockwise top (L-R): Principal, Mrs Sheena Barber presenting the 2012 Dux Award to Hannah Matthews; The Deputy Lord Mayor of the City of Perth, Cr Janet Davidson presenting the City of Perth Award - Student of the Year, to Year 12 student Andrea McLure; Carol Mitchell, MESA President with Janelle Thezeira, winner of the inaugural MESA Year 12 Award “Living the Mercy Values”; The Mercedes/Trinity Chorale and Head Girl Dominique Everall delivering her Valedictory Speech.
The Big Issue Street Soccer - Carmel Mohen and Isabella Carbone
The Anti-Poverty Week Soccer Cup run by The Big Issue Street Soccer Program was held on Tuesday 16 of October at Wellington Square. Girls from the Young Mercies were assisted by staff and parents to prepare a meal of hotdogs, hamburgers, muffins, cakes and drinks for the 120 soccer players and spectators who were from various agencies in the city working with the poor and marginalised. A team of Mercedes College students comprised of Poverty Immersion students, Young Mercies and a handful of talented soccer players from younger years, participated in the matches. It was a very rewarding experience to assist in such an event that interacted with the less fortunate people of our community in such a friendly atmosphere. Thank you to Mrs Chris Aldous, Ms Rosa Speranza, Mrs Tanya English, Mrs Jackie Stacey, Mr Dave Green, Mr Lyle Bell, Mr Liam Smith, Ms Corinne Kirry, Mr Dean English and Mr Steve Symonds who gave up their time to contribute to the wonderful event.

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 has been changed from 3.45pm - 4.45pm to 3.30pm - 4.30pm. Our four gatherings for Term 4 are: Tuesdays 23 October; 6 November; 13 November; 27 November. I would love to see you there.

The idea for the Mercy Prayer Circle was designed by the Mercy Now Team. This is a group of enthusiastic, professional and Mercy enthused younger women who come together to pray, enrich our sense of community and be of service. Part of their vision is to bring the joy of prayer and contemplation to anyone who seeks to set aside some time for prayer and reflection in their busy working lives.

If you are interested or know anyone who is interested in this prayer gathering, please contact Breda at breda.oreilly@mercy.org.au

Student News

Student Achievements
National Ten Pin Bowling Championship
Congratulations to Jessica Acquarola (12.3), who competed in this year’s national competition held in Sydney, which attracted over 400 competitors from Australia and New Zealand. Jessica was rewarded with a silver and a bronze medal at the event.
Girlfriend Covergirl Competition 2012
Congratulations to Molly Nylander (10.4) who is a national finalist in Australia’s most prestigious modelling competition for teens. Molly has won a modelling contract with Chic Model Management in Sydney for 2 years and her finalist shoot appears in October’s issue of Girlfriend magazine. The winner from the 8 finalists will be announced in November and will feature on the cover of the November issue of Girlfriend magazine.

Thank You to Parents

Wellington Square Anti Poverty Week Soccer
Dean English, Tanya English, Steve Symons

Year 12 Graduation
Saying thank you does not seem enough compared to all the hard work and support given by the Year 11 and Friends of Hospitality parents and their daughters who helped with the Year 12 Graduation Celebration in Catherine’s Garden. As this was the first time Mercedes College parents have organised such an event, I must express my sincere thanks and appreciation. You are all amazing and I could not have done it without you.
Jackie Stacey, Parent Liaison Officer

Miranda Baker, Mary Barclay, John Barclay, Michael Bazeley, Anne Marie Bloomfield, Sandra Bransby, Jane Burnell, David Burnell, Hettie Child, Elisa Cipriano, Lisa Clabro, Freda Crucitti, Irene Cumming, Clive Cumming, Julia Da Rui, Claire Doherty, Feryn Geiles, Michelle Geiles, Andrea Gilbert, Leanne Gunther, Debbie Hogg, Sally John, Joanne Lauriston, Brendan Leahy, Janine Leahy, Judy Lijens, Maria Main, Ramsey Main, Agatha Manel, Sue Martin, Stephen Martin, Anne Monaghan, Lisa Munro, Nicole O’Rourke, Lucia Phillips, Laurie Phillips, Bernie Poupard, Jessie Poupard, Christina Richards, Terry Richards, Doreen Sherry, Fiona Smith, Carmel Trevenen.

Mercedes Ex-Students’ Association (MESA)
MESA Life Membership is open to all recent Year 12 graduates. If you would like to become a Life Member, please contact Tanya Finch: tfinch@mercedes.wa.edu.au.

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.

Sacred Heart Primary School Fete - 28 October 2012, 10am - 3pm. Mary Street, Highgate.
Schoenstatt Spring Fair - Sunday 4 November / 9.30am - 2.30pm / Talus Drive, Mt Richon

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.

St Joachim’s High School - 25 Year Reunion, Friday 2 November 2012 / 7pm / Oxford Hotel, Leederville. For more information or to RSVP email stjoachims87@gmail.com.

St Thomas Aquinas College, Bedford - Class of ’87, 25 Year Reunion. Saturday 17 November 2012 / The Oxford Hotel, Leederville / 7pm / Contact Deb Humphries for more information 0428 205 899 / djzac70@live.com.

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.

Highlights from last term’s Mercy Day celebrations