Key Dates
Friday 9 November
Yr 7 Reflection Day

Sunday 11 November
Remembrance Day
Catherine McAuley Memorial Day

Tuesday 13 November
Yr 7 HPV Vaccinations
P & F Meeting 6.30pm

Wednesday 14 November
7.1 & 7.2 RE Mass
Yr 11 Exams Commence
Yr 10 Drama Showcase

Friday 16 November
Yr 10 Dragon Boat racing
ACC Para Ten Pin Bowling

Monday 19 November
Yr 7 2013 incoming students
Orientation Day

Wednesday 21 November
7.3 & 7.4 RE Mass

Principal’s Report
“Let us touch the dying, the poor, the lonely and the unwanted according to the graces we have received and let us not be ashamed or slow to do the humble work.” Mother Theresa

This term we continue our focus on transforming our lives through putting into daily action our value of Justice. Not only are we called in the Gospel of Matthew (25:35) to give food to the hungry, drink to the thirsty, welcome the strange and care for the sick, as Mercy people we are called to search out people everywhere who are oppressed by poverty, illness, ignorance or violence. We pray that, like Catherine McAuley and Ursula Frayne, we will always have a special care for the earth and all people, and will keep our ‘hearts centered in God’. In this Year of Grace, we remember the words of the National prayer:

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.

Before the last holidays, we had the thank you dinner for our Student Representative Council members and more recently, the 2012 Prefects and their parents shared a thank you liturgy and meal at the College. Both of these events made me so much more aware of how our young women grow when they are given responsibility. I am reminded of the saying “If you want children to keep their feet on the ground, put some responsibility on their shoulders.” You as parents and we at the College help our girls to develop their moral compass by promoting moral activities through self discipline, good work habits, our kind and considerate behavior to others, our community involvement. As parents, we guide our children’s attitude by teaching them to have a healthy regard for themselves, to grow up to be confident, capable and independent individuals. Again, our Mercy roots call us to live the added dimension of service, to serve those whom we lead by always putting others first and ourselves last and being humble and merciful. This year our student leaders, including Prefects, SRC members, Peer Mentors, have been outstanding leaders and role models. Their formation sessions have stressed the need to stand up for our Mercy values and the girls have not only spoken for those values, they have lived them. The College community is very proud of each one of them.

Insight from Catherine McAuley:
If the love of God really reigns in your heart, it will quickly show itself in the exterior. You will have a tender esteem for...others.

House Drama Winners: Serisier, Anne of Green Gables
Mission Leader’s Musings

Sunday, 18 Nov 2012: Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

Gospel  Mk 13:24-32

Watch for the signs of the coming of the kingdom.

The whole of chapter 13 in the Gospel of Mark is devoted to a discourse about the future. Over the next two weeks, our readings narrate for us Jesus’ foretelling of the destruction of the Temple and the fall of Jerusalem. He predicts war on a massive scale and the persecution of his followers. By next Sunday’s Gospel reading, Jesus predicts the return of the Son of Man and the fulfillment of the kingdom of God.

In the midst of this despair and fear, the followers of Jesus are challenged to remember the teachings of the one they follow. This passage is written for them as an encouragement to not give up in the face of what appears to be overwhelming odds. It is a call to hope. Although we can understand the context in which it was originally written, we are also challenged to apply its message of hope and perseverance to our own lives. I believe our Year 12 students currently sitting their WACE exams know this message all too well. May hope and perseverance guide them at this time as they take their final steps to securing a future pathway that will hopefully bring them much joy, meaning and purpose.

Whilst the community who were the intended audience of the Gospel of Mark were expecting the return of Jesus and the end times to occur during their lifetimes, nearly two thousand years later we realise that wasn’t the case. Today, as in Mark’s time, many people approach the future and change with fear and apprehension. As Christian people we are called to be optimistic and hopeful as we approach the future. We know that God is good, that God loves us unconditionally and that God has a dream for us. That is the simple basis of Christian hope.

Over the next few weeks, the 2013 SRC members and Year 10 Peer Mentors will be nominated and voted in to their positions. Whilst there are clear criteria for these leadership roles, every student makes a choice to embrace the criteria and put herself forward. We look forward to the process of selecting the 2013 student leaders who will work alongside the Prefects to ensure that the student body has a voice and are very much a part of living out our College Vision.

I know that there will be families who are already planning family holidays for next year. Parents have already been phoning the College for dates for 2013. I cannot stress enough the necessity of students being in school and parents avoiding family holidays during term time. The consequences can be enormous for a student when assessments are held during the time of the holiday and the College Assessment Policy is enforced, resulting in loss of marks. I often hear parents say “it’s only Year 7”. The first years of Secondary education are formative and crucial learning years. Missing school means that gaps in learning can occur. If those gaps are not closed the consequences can be far reaching. Parents should not expect that on their daughter’s return to school after a family holiday, teachers will devote extra time to re-teaching past content. Parents, please familiarize yourself with the College Assessment Policy and work with us to maximize your daughter’s opportunity to achieve excellence in all areas of College life.

I have had a few phone calls regarding students using their own mobile devices at school next year and what type of devices parents should be buying. Please note, there is no expectation that parents must purchase such devices; however, just some further specific information. A mobile device refers to a device that does not have a physical connection to the College server infrastructure. Preferred devices/operating systems are Apple iOS (iPad) and Android (Honeycomb, Ice-Cream Sandwich or Jelly Bean). Neither of these operating systems can connect directly to servers, nor are they susceptible to propagating unwanted material. Parents, please make sure that any device purchased for school has the capacity to connect to a Wireless network operating in the 5GHz range, as this is the only connection frequency being used at Mercedes. The most flexible of any of the mobile devices on the market is the Apple iPad. If you have any further queries, Neil Sheridan, our College Network Manager, will be more than happy to help.

Last week we had the wonderful entertaining House Drama Productions. Congratulations go to Serisier House for the outstanding performance of Anne of the Green Gables. All the plays showcased yet again the amazing talent of the plays showcased yet again the amazing talent of the student directors and producers. Well done to all the girls who played a part for their House. The grand final of House Debating was also held last week and congratulations go to McDonald House. This was another opportunity for our talented debaters to shine. Thank you to the staff and parents who supported the girls in both these events.

Please continue to keep our Year 12 girls in your prayers as the WACE exams continue.

Peace and best wishes.

Sheena Barber, Principal

Come on Pilgrimage in 2013

Join Monsignior 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 11/12 Learning Community

Year 11 - Mrs Marianne Morphett
This week we celebrated the Eucharist to mark the conclusion of our time together as a Pastoral Care group and to give thanks for the many blessings and achievements we have enjoyed this year. The girls also received recognition and thanks for their contributions to the life of the College at our final Year Assembly.

Scheduled classes for Year 11 students conclude next week and the girls will be on study leave from Wednesday 14 November, returning for their final day on 30 November. It is important that the girls use the assessment free week prior to the exams to focus on revision. We wish them well in the forthcoming examinations.

Congratulations to the girls who were involved in the very successful House Drama Festival, in particular those who acted in leadership roles as Producers and Directors. The high quality of the performances drew rave reviews.

Alliance of Girls’ Schools Parliament House Luncheon - Matilda Martin (11.2)
On Thursday 1 November two Year 11 students, Amanda Phillips and Matilda Martin, accompanied by Ms Speranza gathered with other student leaders at Parliament House. The lunch was hosted by Lynne Thompson, the Principal of St Mary’s Anglican Girls School, who invited two women in politics, Robyn McSweeney and Andrea Mitchell to share their experience of political life in a male dominated area.

In their presentations they inspired those gathered to develop an interest in future involvement in public life. They spoke admirably about wanting to make a difference in the community and serving faithfully those whose interests they represented. Many students asked thoughtful questions regarding daily schedules of politicians from balancing work/family responsibilities to challenging questions regarding the moral compass of politicians and party politics. Both speakers were more than happy to answer queries from the student leaders gathered and following the presentation we were fortunate enough to have lunch with the staff, students and politicians.

Overall it was a very worthwhile and informative afternoon and we are definitely looking forward to the next Alliance of Girls’ Schools gathering.

2013 Year 12 Prefect Visit to the Sunday Times - Matilda Martin (11.2)
Following the Parliament House excursion the 2013 Year 12 Prefects were invited by the Lord Mayor of Perth, Lisa Scaffidi, to join her for a special gathering of women in journalism at the Sunday Times’ Perth headquarters of News Limited. The gathering was part of a series of opportunities offered by the Lord Mayor to our Prefect Council as part of her role as Patron to the student leadership team. Ms Scaffidi believes that the exposure to influential young women in a number of professional settings will be valuable for Prefects as we determine how we will make a difference in the world around us.

Prefects sat at the feet of the recently appointed Managing Director of the Sunday Times and PerthNow, Michelle d’Almeida. Perth-born d’Almeida started her career with News Limited at The Sunday Times in 1995, and over time has accumulated a wealth of experience in senior advertising and digital positions in Australia and America. She shared her story of success and introduced the Prefects to a group of young women on her team, including Yasmine Phillips, the Sunday Times Education journalist, who was recently recognised at the WA Media Awards for her outstanding reporting of Indigenous Affairs. It was a fantastic afternoon enjoyed by all, including the staff who accompanied the student leaders, Ms Speranza, Mrs Alach and Mrs Aldous.
The Arts - Mrs Kathleen Cocks, HOLA

House Drama 2012
Serisier won the 2012 House Drama Festival on Saturday night with their play *Anne of Green Gables*. Congratulations to the directors – Emily Theseira and Christina Tilenii, the producer Natasha Rodrigues, the cast and crew. It was a very close competition with each house only separated by 1 point. Results are:

1st Seriser 91 points *Anne of Green Gables*
2nd McAuley 90 points *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*
3rd Frayne 89 points *Snow White*
4th McDonald 88 points *Matilda*

Congratulations to all students who participated and special thanks and congratulations to all the Year 11 directors and producers. The professionalism of your performances was fantastic to see, and the adjudicator was so impressed with all of you. I am very proud of what each of you achieved in this Festival – the best House Drama Festival ever! And the closest ever! Congratulations to Serisier, and all the houses for the great competition and excellent standard. Next year will see the new Drama-Dance Festival begin and I know the new leaders of this Festival are already thinking ahead and planning. These leaders will be announced in the next newsletter.

Clockwise: Serisier, McAuley, Frayne and McDonald

2013 Drama-Dance Fest
The current House Dance & House Drama Festivals will be merged into one Festival - the Drama-Dance Fest. For more information, click [HERE](#)
College Wear Shop
Cooper and Wright House polos are now available to purchase. All sizes are $30 (current students only).

Crazy Shoe Day - Gabrielle Inga (11.6)
On Thursday 27 September, Mercedes College had its first very own ‘Crazy Shoe Day.’ This event was a Poverty Immersion fundraising project to raise money for the Daydawn Advocacy Centre. The centre’s mission is to advocate, lobby and negotiate with government and non-government agencies on behalf of indigenous people, and in particular the Noongar people of the South West.

It was great to see so many girls and staff involved and walking around the College in anything from bright pink slippers to fluffy Ugg boots. The day was a great success and raised over $200 for Daydawn and the great work Sr Dolores Coffey and her staff are doing in the community. Thank you to all girls who participated and staff who entered into this activity with so much spirit!

House Debating – Miss Amanda Russo, Debating Coordinator
The Inter-House Debating season has come and gone for another year, and for the last time as a competition between four houses. While all houses gave a solid effort, congratulations must go to the winning house for another year, McDonald, and acknowledgement to Frayne who put up a strong fight. Well done and thanks to the Year 10 Mentors (McAuley: Rhiannon Cary 10.4, Jessica Anstiss 10.4, Sara Clunies-Ross 10.2; McDonald: Sheridan Lockwood 10.2, Alice Lynch 10.4, Mai Nguyen 10.1; Serisier: Madison Pigliardo 10.3, Jasmine Pavan 10.5, Sophia Sabatino 10.1; Frayne: Katie Dorman 10.2, Senaida D’Souza 10.4, Shaye Guillory 10.5) and to the Year 8 and 9 students who were part of their teams. Congratulations also to Genevieve Mascarenhas 9.5 who won Best Overall Speaker on the day. Thank you must also go to the teachers who gave their time to adjudicate all the rounds: Mr Edward Slotwinski, Mrs Catherine O’Toole, Ms Rebecca Bryant, Ms Callie Steven, Mr Frank Doria, Mrs Sherrin Adams, Mrs Vita Mews and Mrs Bernadette Dell.
Languages
Culture in the City Club

The Culture in the City Club explored the Chinese culture with a demonstration of Tai chi in the Confucius Classroom, last week.

Mathematics - Mr Peter Mee, Head of Learning Area
University of New South Wales ICAS Mathematics Competition Results
Congratulations to all the Year 8 Mathematics: Infinity and Beyond students who took part in the UNSW ICAS Maths Competition during August. Special mention goes to Ashlee Culmsee who achieved a Distinction – a fantastic effort. Commendation also to students who achieved a Credit: Jaia Bourgeois-Brookes, Kathlyn Del Rosario, Gillian Hackwill, Aloyse Murray and Catherine O’Donoghue. Well done to all participants.

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 final two gatherings for Term 4 are: 13 November and 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

Sport
Middle School Badminton (Year 8/9/10) 2012 - Mr Greg Smith
On Friday 2 November, 24 students selected from Years 8 - 10 represented Mercedes College in the Badminton WA Schools Tournament at Kingsway International Sports Stadium.

The competition involves five separate pools; the students play a round robin doubles against six other pairs within their selected pool. The winners, and top three runners-up, of each pool then play each other in a quarter final. Winners progress to semi-finals, and then the final. At the conclusion of the round robin four pairs from Mercedes moved through to the quarter finals. Unfortunately, none of the pairs won their games but it was a wonderful effort to reach the quarter final. Congratulations to Natasha Bengura, Alicia Jong, Georgia Siwrigt, Nicola Hynes, Stephanie Martin, Novita Putri, Ruby Martin and Sofia Locantro who reached the finals.

Well done to the following team members who participated in the tournament:

Year 8
Melaine Moroney, Shellee Devereux

Year 9
Deborah Benedict, Natasha Bengura, Sylvia Campagna, Julia Celenza, Michelle Curro, Claudia Fawcett, Amy Gartrell, Nicola Hynes, Alicia Jong, Sofia Locantro, Ruby Martin, Jelvie Paclibar, Isobella Purbrick, Megan Roach, Roisin Shortt, Georgia Siwrigt, Aleisha Sleight, Olivia Stewart, Anna Terry, Rachael Wales

Year 10
Stephanie Martin, Novita Putri

Student News

Athletics
Well done to Olivia Ridley (7.1) who competed for Mercedes College recently in the All Schools’ Athletics Competition run by Athletics WA. Olivia competed up an age group and finished second in the Long Jump and 5th in Triple Jump. She will travel to Nationals in Hobart on November 29 as part of the WA team.
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Swim Squad News - Courtney Spanbroek, Coach
Saturday 27 October kicked off the summer swimming season, with Round 1 of the Swimming WA Open Water series held at the iconic North Cottesloe beach.

Kate Martin (8.4), Aleisha Sleight (9.2) and Elysia Greene (9.1) swam the 2.5km and 1.25km events respectively. Aleisha finished the 2.5km in 3rd place with a time of 39:12.74 and Kate in 7th place with a time of 41:59.85. Elysia finished 11th in the 1.25km in a time of 28:46.50. Fantastic effort girls!

Victoria Square Alumni
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.

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.

Give Your Child the Edge - free 1 hour talk from learning expert Diana Vogel. 14 November, 9.30am/ Bodhi Tree Café, cnr Scarborough Beach Rd and Oxford St, Mt Hawthorn. Limited seats, contact Jasmine 0433 700 888 / nyptc.perth@ymail.com to reserve a place.

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.

St Brigid’s Church Fundraiser - 17 November, 7pm / Tuscany Club, 100 Jones Street, Balcatta. Three-course tripe meal/ Spaghetti Bolognese, music and dancing. $40 per person, BYO drinks. Contact Jan 9227 7956 / st.brigid.nb@perthcatholic.org.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.

St Mark’s/CBC Highgate - 30th Anniversary Reunion, 9 November, 7.30pm / Hyde Park Hotel. Contact Chris Avis 0408 244 734 / Viv Manno 6229 0161.

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. 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.