Key Dates
Friday 15 February
Year 7 Sleepover (until Saturday 16 February)
Monday 18 February
Year 7/8/9 Family Mass 6.00pm
Wednesday 20 February
12.1 RE Mass
MESA AGM 6.15pm
Thursday 21 February
Year 9 Parent Information Evening
Friday 22 February
Music Camp (until Sunday 24 February)
Sunday 24 February
Mercedes Dads Sundowner 3.30pm - 5.30pm
Quest Training 4.00pm - 6.30pm
Monday 25 February
House Swimming Carnival
Tuesday 26 February
Year 8 Parent Information Evening
Wednesday 27 February
12.2 RE Mass
Thursday 28 February
Year 10/11/12 Family Mass 6.00pm

Principal’s Report

“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.” Barack Obama

It has been a wonderful start to the 2013 academic year - from the Year 7 girls who are managing the transition and embracing life at Mercedes, to our Year 12 girls, who are already realizing the busy-ness of the year ahead of them. The pursuit of excellence starts from day one of the year and I hope that each student has clear, challenging goals in front of her and gives of her very best to gain the highest achievement in all she does. Winston Churchill said that Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts. May every girl be blessed with the persistence she needs to stay focused.

This week we began the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday and the blessing and distribution of the ashes. For the next six weeks we are given a special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God, to reflect upon our lives, what we have done and failed to do, to pray more deeply and to be generous to those in need. We pray that the Spirit will dwell within us as we strive to deepen our commitment to a way of life modeled by Jesus.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome all new students, parents and staff to the Mercedes College community. We welcome, firstly, Mrs Liana Strutt, who is joining the Executive Leadership Team of the College as Deputy Principal Academic Services. Welcome, too, to Mrs Tracey Rouhiainen, English Teacher, Miss Kristyn Rowland, Media teacher, Mrs Rosemarie Lawless and Mrs Melinda Evans, Education Support teachers in the Team for Inclusive Education, Ms Lara Fresson, Health/Physical Education teacher, Mr Kevin Hall, Religious Education teacher, Ms Catriona Caulfield and Ms Crystal Driver, Teacher Assistants in the Team for Inclusive Education and Mrs Kerry Craigie, Teacher Assistant in Foods and Textiles. We also welcome back Mrs Alicia Sharpe and Mrs Tanya Draper who are returning from parental leave. There is a wealth of experience here to add to our already amazing staff and I wish them every blessing.

On Tuesday last we welcomed back some of our Class of 2012 to our Excellence Assembly. I hope that each student seated in the Hall was thinking

Insight from Catherine McAuley:
The compass…goes round its circle without stirring from its centre. Now our centre is God from whom all our actions should spring as from their source.

Some of the 2012 graduates who were acknowledged at the Excellence Assembly.
Hospitality at Mercedes College
The Welcoming Heart of Mercy

From the documents of the Sisters of Mercy:
We strive to witness mercy when we reverence the dignity of each person, create a spirit of hospitality…

Constitutions #8

When the first House of Mercy opened its doors on Baggot Street in Dublin, Ireland, a letter was sent to the surrounding neighbours asking for contributions. Notice that the women were invited into this house as their home. "Young tradeswomen of good character who have employment yet not sufficient means to provide safe lodging are invited to this house at night as their home…practiced in prayer and meditation, prepared for sacraments and guarded against the dangers that surround them. You are most earnestly entreated to contribute to the support of this Institution.

From the beginning, the atmosphere of the House of Mercy was imbued with gracious loving service, celebration, fun and a touch of beauty...nothing was left undone to promote the happiness (of the women in the House of Mercy, Baggot Street). On the feast days, of which the principal are Christmas Day...the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy, Mother McAuley used to herself aid in decorating with evergreens and flowers their dining rooms and, with several of the sisters, she would serve and wait on them at table.

D. Murray, D.D.

At Mercedes College, Hospitality is the cornerstone of Mercy, and it has characterised every Mercy enterprise I have been a part of. Without warm, welcoming, and hospitable hearts we are simply unable to be the instruments of God’s generosity to all we encounter. I have learnt, in the company of Mercy, that nothing is more important than creating spaces of welcome in which persons may grow into their full potential as human beings cherished by God.

“Rune of Hospitality” (Gaelic Rune)
I saw a stranger yesterday; I put food in the eating place, drink in the drinking place, music in the listening place and in the blessed name of the triune, he blessed myself and my house, my cattle and my dear ones. And the lark said in her song often...often goes the Christ in the stranger’s guise often...often goes the Christ in the stranger’s guise.

Ms Rosa Speranza - Mission Leader

that when her turn comes she too will be standing up on that stage. So many of the 2012 Graduates can be very proud of what they achieved. For our 2013 students to hear of those achievements and the list of awards and scholarships that many of the girls have been offered will hopefully motivate them to aim for the same. Many personal bests were achieved and those girls could not have asked any more of themselves. We now wish the girls every success in their post-school studies, traineeships or employment, or in their travels if they are taking some time out from further study. We look forward to hearing of their future endeavours.

The Year 12 Ball has been and gone and what a wonderful night it was. The girls all looked absolutely beautiful and they behaved with the utmost dignity and decorum that I would expect of a young Mercy woman. The Hyatt was a sea of colour and the music, photo opportunities and food seemed to provide everything the girls wanted to make the night very special. As I greeted each girl and her partner at the entrance to the Ballroom, I felt very proud and privileged to be journeying this year with this outstanding group of Mercedes girls.

Thank you to our parents who have ensured that their daughter has returned looking beautiful in her full summer uniform. You know we set high standards of dress and it is a pleasure to see the girls looking so neat. Uniform checks throughout the year will ensure a consistent high standard. Parents, please ensure that everything your daughter has is clearly marked with her name in a way that cannot be removed. Please also impress on her the importance of keeping her things in her locker and ensuring that the lock is securely fixed.

Many students have been bringing their own mobile devices to school and I am sure they appreciate the opportunity to have ready access to technology. To add to the opportunity for the girls to bring iPads to school, we feel we are now in a position to manage students bringing their own laptops if they so choose. As with any mobile device, laptops need to be presented to the IT Support office for logging and for the student’s Diary to be stamped, prior to permission being given for the device to be used in class. Parents, please be aware that any mobile device can only be used during class time. Recess and lunch are times for the girls to socialize and I do not want them sitting playing games on a mobile device. The device should be securely locked in the student’s locker. Also, parents please remember that there is absolutely no obligation for a student to have a mobile device. The College provides ready access to technology across the campus.

Could I please urge all parents to take care when dropping off or picking up their daughter in Goderich St? Parents have been seen doing three point turns in the midst of heavy traffic and with traffic including buses, ambulances and many cars, you are putting our girls’ lives at risk. Please be patient and allow plenty of time to get to school and wait for your daughter. It is better to pick up in Hill Street or Hay Street, or even to wait in Goderich Street in front of the Mint where the girls can cross with the lights. We want our girls to be safe.

I look forward to seeing all parents at our Family Masses (Years 7, 8 and 9 on Monday 18 February, and Years 10, 11 and 12 on Thursday 28 February, both at 6.00pm) followed by the sausage sizzle provided by the P&F in Catherine’s Garden. We are a Catholic faith community and these celebrations honour that, as well as our Mercy tradition. We have already had three of our Parent Information evenings and I’d like to thank parents for the excellent turnout at each of them. I look forward to seeing parents at the remaining three.

Peace and best wishes

Sheena Barber, Principal

Sheena Barber, Principal

Dads of Mercedes Sundowner / 24 February / 3.30pm
International Women’s Day Breakfast / 8 March / 7.00am
Mother/Daughter Camp / 22 March
Years 7/8 Learning Community

Year 7 - Ms Danae Murphy
It has been an exciting and fun-filled start for the newest members of the Mercedes community. Students spent their two orientation days learning as much about the school, and each other, as possible. Thursday saw the girls meet their Year 10 peer mentors and sharing a sausage sizzle with them before the mentors took the girls on tours of the school. On Friday the girls enjoyed a series of activities including the Great Mercedes Race, displays from the Mercedes Rhythmic Gymnastics Club and the music department, swimming and House activities. It was impressive the see how well the students coped in their new environment and the effort that they put in to meeting new people.

Now that the girls have had the chance to get to know one another and to feel welcome and comfortable at the College I would encourage them to start concentrating on managing the daily demands of secondary schooling, such as organising their belongings and lockers independently in the mornings, using their diaries effectively and maintaining their files and books neatly. It is important that the girls become confident with these routines. I would also ask parents to encourage their daughters to seek assistance from teachers on their own wherever possible, rather than relying on their parents to find out information from teachers on their behalf. The result will be strong, independent and courageous young women.

We are all very excited about the upcoming Team Building activities and sleepover and look forward to including photographs of these events in the next newsletter.

Year 8 - Mrs Melissa Trolio
I wish to extend a very warm welcome to parents and families of our Year 8 Mercedes College community for 2013. I congratulate the students in Year 8 on their great start to a new school year. They have settled in well, been very welcoming to the three new students joining us this year, and displayed beautiful behavior at our Opening Mass and the first assembly. I look forward to getting to know many more of your daughters during our first session of our Rising Generations program this Friday. The program is designed to encourage personal development through resilience and promote the use of leadership skills. Thank you for your support and I will share more information with you during our Parent Information Evening on Tuesday 26 February at 6.30pm in the College Hall.

Year 9/10 Learning Community

Year 9 - Mrs Sherrin Adams
Welcome back to all of the Year 9 students for what I hope will be a fantastic year for you all. As our theme for the year is Celebrating Sisterhood – which was so wonderfully introduced to us by Rising Generations last week I hope that you all embrace this concept and the group can be united throughout the year. As I said to you at our recent assembly, you get from Mercedes what you are prepared to put in, there are many aspects of school life in which you can become involved.

I look forward to meeting Year 9 families on Thursday 21 February at our Information Evening where you will be provided with a great deal of information that will help you and your daughters during our first session of our Rising Generations program this meeting, your daughter can access it on Moodle. Contact details for all Pastoral Care staff can also be accessed in the Year 9 Pastoral Care section.

The first social activity with the Trinity boys is on the 7 March. Continuing great behaviour, as has been demonstrated so far, will ensure that girls receive an invitation to attend. Remember that good grooming includes having a dress that is knee length and leaving make-up for weekends.

Congratulations to the ten girls who were selected as student Representative Council Members last year and who received
this important year has started well with the Year 12 students displaying a great degree of maturity and enthusiasm in these early days. We had two busy days to start the year with the ‘Rising Generations’ group returning to help the students clarify their aims for the year and examine some strategies for giving and seeking support as they meet challenges. Former students also came in and shared some examples of the struggles they faced and how they overcame them. Mrs Strutt and I gave the girls information about the key points they need to keep in mind for the year.

The Ball was a great success and we have had many compliments about the appearance and behaviour of our young ladies and their guests. The atmosphere was very positive and it was very heartening to see that our Year 12 students can enjoy themselves immensely and still retain a sense of their own dignity and the rights of others.

On Thursday, we had a very uplifting ceremony in which the Year 12 students received their ‘Mercedes Senior’ Badges and pledged themselves to be good leaders of the College. They have committed to living the Mercedes values this year and have promised to care for those around them as they strive to achieve their best. After the wonderful start they have made to the year, I am hopeful that we will see this group of young women make a positive impact on the College and excel in their many undertakings.

Year 10 - Mr Liam Smith

With the commencement of the 2013 academic year, I would like to welcome you into the Year 10 community here at Mercedes College. It was great to see so many parents attend the first of the Information Evenings, it is always a good opportunity for Homeroom teachers and Year Coordinators to meet parents and visa-versa. The Family Mass on Thursday 28 February provides us with the second opportunity to gather as a learning community and I encourage you to introduce yourself to your daughter’s Homeroom teacher, if you haven’t already had the opportunity to do so. I trust your daughters are enthusiastic about the exciting year ahead. Please feel free to contact myself or any staff members should you have any concerns regarding your daughter.

Year 11/12 Learning Community

Year 11 - Mrs Marianne Morphett

The two day Leadership program at the University of Notre Dame provided an energetic and inspiring start to the academic year. The guest speaker, Holly Ransom, a dynamic 22 year old who combines her passion for social justice with corporate success and working for intergenerational social change, shared many of her experiences with the girls urging them to think positively about their ability to lead. She challenged them to identify their passion, and to become involved in the school and wider community to promote change. The Rising Generations team worked with the girls to highlight the skills required for effective leadership, while the team from Elevate Education focused on the study skills and time management. Very positive reviews have been received from the girls on all aspects of the program.

The Parent Information evening last week was well attended and provided an opportunity for parents to meet the Pastoral Care team working to support their daughter as they move to senior courses. We hope the information shared will enable us to work together to achieve this aim.

Year 12 - Mrs Bernadette Dell

This important year has started well with the Year 12 students displaying a great degree of maturity and enthusiasm in these early days. We had two busy days to start the year with the ‘Rising Generations’ group returning to help the students clarify their aims for the year and examine some strategies for giving and seeking support as they meet challenges. Former students also came in and shared some examples of the struggles they faced and how they overcame them. Mrs Strutt and I gave the girls information about the key points they need to keep in mind for the year.

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Academic Excellence Graduating Class 2012 - Mrs Liana Strutt, Deputy Principal - Academic Services

At the start of this new academic year we have taken the opportunity to acknowledge the wonderful achievements of our students who were our graduates in 2012. At the annual Excellence Assembly held on Tuesday 5 February, the Mercedes College community were presented with the students who achieved ATAR scores above 95 in the WACE external examinations. Principal Mrs Sheena Barber emphasised the exemplary work of these students was the result of diligent study and a willingness to participate in the diverse activities of the College. Wishing them well in their future endeavours, Mrs Barber asked students to look to the Class of 2012 as a benchmark for their own success.

100% of the 150 students who applied for WACE graduation fulfilled all requirements. 127 students sat at least 4 ATAR scoring subjects and 126 students have been offered positions at ECU, Murdoch, UWA, Curtin, Notre Dame University and Bond University (QLD).

At this assembly, recognition was also given to current Year 12 students who received Academic Honours for a Certificate of Excellence. These students achieved over 10 A grades in the Courses of Study they have completed so far. These students are: Sarah Bell, Charlotte Burnell, Isabella Carbone, Sarah Clifford, Laura Cocks, Grace Durack, Donna Lam, Beth Litjens, Andrea Parafina, Amanda Phillips, Isabella Pitt, Amelia Plummer, Sian Rogerson, Patricia Suryawinata and Regina Yap.

We know that the journey of academic pursuits is different for each student. There are many ways to gain success: with this in mind, at Mercedes College there is the enduring value that one must have perseverance to do the best that one can. Knowing how to achieve your personal best comes with conversation and seeking advice from teachers who are committed to ensuring success. Reflecting, evaluating, setting goals – these are all hallmarks for achieving your best. We can ask for no more than an honest account of how you are making this journey with us.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the students, staff and parents who have welcomed me into this wonderful place.
General News

Important Safety Message — Drop Off / Pick Up - Mr Chris Cole, Deputy Principal Student Life
Student safety is our concern. Already in the first week we have reports from members of the public about risky behaviour of some students:

I was driving towards the city this morning along Adelaide Terrace (near E-sense coffee shop) when one of your students walked out into traffic from behind a parked truck, looking the wrong way and with an ipod in her ears. I swerved to miss her, but barely had time to break.

I am calling to report an incident this morning as I was driving along Hay St in front of your school. A student being dropped off got out her car on the traffic side causing two cars to swerve nearly causing an accident. This is not the first time this has happened.

Another common concern is students not crossing roads at the lights or ignoring the traffic light signals. Mercedes College is an inner city school and extra precautions are needed due to the heavy traffic. Please discuss safety procedures with your daughter so that risky behaviours do not occur.

The Arts

Dramadance Fest 2013 - Mrs Kathleen Cocks & Miss Dhana White
The big event for Term 1 will soon be cast! Auditions have been conducted and Cast Lists of dancers and actors will be announced next week.

Please note that each House combination can only cast 20 dancers and 20 actors and over 80 of each from the House combinations have auditioned for the Year 12 leaders! If you have missed out this time, remember that more opportunities are coming up with Specialist Dance, Production and House Choir.

Dramadance Fest Rehearsals commence Tuesday 19 February as follows:

- Mondays 3.30pm - 5.00pm
- Tuesdays 3.30pm - 5.00pm
- Wednesdays 3.00pm - 4.30pm

- Frayne/Cooper
- Frayne/Cooper
- McAuley/Serisier
- McDonald/Wright
- McAuley/Serisier
- McDonald/Wright

- Directors & choreographers will issue rehearsal schedules so girls know when they are required.
- Two Sunday rehearsals in Term 1: 10 March & 17 March (10.00am-3.00pm).
- School Holiday rehearsals in the second week of the April holidays: Wednesday 1 May, Friday 3 May and Sunday 5 May. All rehearsals are 10.00am - 2.00pm
- Performances — Saturday 11 May (5pm and 8pm TBC)
- Girls are asked to bring afternoon tea with them and quickly eat it before the rehearsal begins. Dancers will need to change into dance clothes/sports uniform for all rehearsals.
- Girls who have been successfully cast will receive a letter on Monday with information about rehearsals and performances and will be asked to sign a Contract of Commitment and return a medical form

Specialist Dance - Mrs Kathleen Cocks
Calling all trained dancers...Specialist Dance is a Dance Ensemble who represent the College at special events throughout the year, including the Catholic Performing Arts Festival in August. Members of this troupe will be expected to have a high level of dance skills and will be selected through an audition process.

In 2013 our choreographer is Matthew Treadgold, a dance specialist who is a WAPPA graduate, and has danced with STEPS Youth Dance Company, Bent Knee Creative and John Curtin College of The Arts.

There will be a free trial workshop with the choreographer on Friday 15 February 3.30pm - 5.30pm in the Coady Sports Centre. Girls are asked to wear dance clothing or sports uniform to this session. They may wear jazz shoes, if they have them. Year 7 students will not be able to attend the workshop due to their Team Building Day activities. They are still welcome to audition for the Specialist Dance program.

Auditions Friday 22 February 3.30pm - 5.30pm (Coady Sports Centre)
- Rehearsals/class every Friday commence 8 March from 3.30pm - 5.30pm in the Coady Sports Centre.
- Cost $330 (including GST) which covers costumes and choreography for the year. Only girls who successfully audition will pay this amount, the trial class is free.
- Girls can collect a Specialist Dance flyer from Mrs Cocks in the PAC any lunchtime.
Mathematics - Mr Peter Mee, HOLA

Mathematics Help
The following sources of mathematics help (outside class) is available to students through the College:

- The Maths Focus Room (Room 18) is open during the 2\textsuperscript{nd} half of lunch every day, with a maths teacher on duty to help with homework, assignments and study. Opening times are 1pm on Monday, Tuesday and Friday, 12:40pm Wednesday and 1:20pm Thursday.
- Afterschool homework classes in the library on Monday to Thursday. A mathematics teacher is present at most sessions.
- Students in Years 7 to 9 will be able to re-sit a majority of tests if they score below 65%. Details of the 'Repeating Assessments Policy' are on the College Moodle site (Mathematics section), and have also been given out in class.
- Students in Years 7 to 10 will have access to the Mathletics website (www.mathletics.com.au). This online resource includes lessons on a range of topics, interactive objects, questions which adjust the difficulty level to cater to the ability of the student, plus extension material. Login and password will be distributed to students within the first few weeks of Term 1. Students are encouraged to utilise this valuable learning resource to assist in their understanding of mathematical concepts and to practice basic number skills.
- All students Years 7 to 12 will have access to the MyMaths website www.mymathsonline.com.au which contains additional resources to help improve their mathematical understanding. First level access is available to all members of the College community (login: merc / password: graph )
  - Details on how to access assorted features of this site have been included on the Moodle maths page.
  - Some teachers may use this site to set work. If they do, they will distribute an individual login and password to students which will give them access to specific tasks set by their teacher. Note: Even without this additional login, students have access to all resources contained within this site.
- For Parents and students interested in Maths tutors we keep a list of people available (this includes teachers from other schools and ex-students). Please access the College Moodle site (Mathematics section). It has also been placed on the 'Student_Common' drive, in the 'Mathematics' folder.

Issues, problems, queries
If you have any concerns, please contact your daughter’s mathematics teacher which can be resolved quickly.

Calculators
All calculator orders should have been distributed, however if you placed an order with Abacus calculators and your daughter has not received yet received it, please contact the College.

Numeracy Basics Testing
The Numeracy Basics Testing Program was initiated with our Year 7 students in 2012. The aim of the program is to ensure that students have fundamental numeracy skills in place to enable future mathematical success. The program generated significant improvements in a majority of students, and has been extended into both Year 8 and 9. An explanatory letter can be downloaded from the Maths moodle page, as can the XL version of the test (also available on the Student Common drive in the Mathematics file). Students are encouraged to download the test, generate multiple versions, and practice the questions. If they are struggling they should seek help. More information will be delivered at the Year 7, 8 and 9 Parent Information Nights.

CAS Calculator Charlie Watson visit
Charlie Watson (an ex-mathematics teacher) has significant experience using the Casio Classpad. He ran sessions for our Year 12 students last year, teaching them tips and tricks which enhanced their use of their Calculator. Feedback from the
students was very positive. It is planned to bring him back on Friday 6 September where he will deliver sessions for Year 11 and 12 students studying Mathematics 2CD or higher. Attendance is not compulsory, but highly recommended. The cost is $10. An information letter will be sent home soon (and has been placed on the Moodle Maths page). Please return the permission slip with payment if you would like your daughter to attend.

Music - Mrs Claire Gamlin, Music Coordinator

Ensemble Information
All ensembles will have commenced by Week 3. Notices are on display in the Music Department and also in Homerooms advising girls about the ensembles they may join at Mercedes. It is recommended they make a note of any information in their diary and discuss with parents if they are interested in joining a group. Many of our Music ensembles (Choir and House Choir) do not require an audition, so we would love to see as many new faces at these rehearsals as possible! If your daughter has missed the first rehearsal, she can still join in later in the year, as soon as she is ready.

Choir is held on Thursday from 3.30pm – 4.30pm in Room 63. The first rehearsal is Thursday 14 February. House Choirs run for Term 1 only. Rehearsals are only one lunchtime per week, as well as Friday after school (3.30 – 4.00pm). The first rehearsal for all choirs is Friday week 3, 22 February!

Instrumental Music Lessons
All lessons will have commenced during week 2, unless enrolment forms have been submitted late. Late enrolments (after Friday 15 February) will not commence until Term 2, as schedules have already been organised. Any changes to enrolments must be approved by the Music Coordinator, contact cgamlin@mercedes.wa.edu.au

Instrumental Music Weekend
Notes for the Music Rehearsal Weekend have been sent home this week. Please make sure you take note of the relevant rehearsal times. Only the Wind Orchestra girls (Wednesday afternoon) and Trinity Strings girls are sleeping over on the Friday of the rehearsal weekend. The other ensembles, Wind Ensemble (Tuesday afternoon) and String Ensemble, will come to Trinity or Mercedes to rehearse on Saturday and be picked up at the conclusion of the rehearsal. Please prioritise the rehearsals for this weekend as we make a lot of progress on our pieces for concerts and this is difficult without all members in attendance.

Thank you to all of the girls in Select Choir who have been involved in the Welcome Mass and the upcoming Family Masses. Thank you also to the girls in Year 11 and 12 Stage 2 and 3 Music who entertained the Year 12 parents and staff with their music solos at the Soiree on Monday evening.

Diary Dates
Please check these dates each fortnight for information regarding performances and extra rehearsals. On occasion, dates and information may change slightly from the school calendar, however all details sent home on notes from the Music Department will be the current information.

Friday 15 February
- Music Parents Sundowner – all parents and music students are welcome to join us in Catherine’s Garden between 5.30 – 7pm
- Monday 18 February
- Family Mass (Select Choir)
- Friday/Saturday 22-23 February
- Instrumental Music Weekend held between Trinity and Mercedes (Wind Orchestra, String Ensemble, Wind Ensemble and Trinity Strings) notes have been sent home this week if your daughter is involved.
- Thursday 28 February
- Family Mass (Select Choir)
- 15-17 March
- Choir Rehearsal Weekend held at Mercedes (All House Choirs, Choir, Select Choir)
- Saturday 30 March
- National Band Championships (Wind Orchestra) held at UWA Saturday morning
- Sunday 7 April
- Trinity Quarry Concert – Stage rehearsal during the day, concert in the evening (Orchestra, Wind Orchestra)
- Monday 8 April
- Choral Music Night and House Choir Competition – rehearsals in the afternoon at 1.30pm, performance commences at 6.30pm (Select Choir, House Choirs, Madrigals, Senior Percussion Ensemble)
- Sunday 14 April
- Mercedes Fete (Select Choir and other groups to be advised closer to the date)

Sport

Interhouse Swimming Carnival - Mr Greg Smith HOLA, Health & Physical Education
The Interhouse Swimming Carnival will be held on Monday 25 February at Challenge Stadium, Stephenson Avenue, Mt Claremont. The first event is scheduled to start at 9.45am and the carnival will conclude at 2.30pm. This year will see the introduction of two new houses, Cooper and Wright.

Students are to wear their House shirt, as part of their sports uniform, to school and to bring their sports bag, as space is limited at the Stadium and on the buses. Please ensure that all items are clearly labelled. Students will be transported to and from Challenge Stadium on buses in their respective House groups. As there will be no canteen facilities on the day at Mercedes College and there is no access to the Stadium cafeteria, students will need to bring their own lunch, some snack food and drink bottle.

Parents are welcomed to attend and support on the day. If parents intend on taking their daughter home from the Stadium they will need to provide a note addressed to their daughter’s homeroom teacher by Friday 22 February. Students who are being picked up from the Stadium must be collected from their House area, in the Aquatic Centre.

Click HERE to view the programme for the day.
Australian Volleyball Schools Cup 2012 - Shelby Maher (12.1)

In December two Mercedes teams ventured off to Melbourne to represent Mercedes in the 2012 Australian Volleyball Schools Cup. Both teams had been training up to three times a week in the months leading up to the tournament to ensure they had the best chance of succeeding in the upcoming tournament.

The junior team consisted of Olivia Stewart, Taylah Stewart, Ruby Martin, Aleisha Sleight, Chelsea Williams, Tami Corkran, Jess Bergman, Bailey Taylor and Tori Sumner as coach, an ex-student who had also competed in this competition in previous years. The girls grew as a team improving their skills as the competition progressed and finished 11th over all in U16s division two. The talent displayed by these girls was pleasing and makes us excited for what skills they can bring to the future of Mercedes volleyball.

The senior team consisted of Grace Smith, Grace Cumming, Olivia Cipriano, Emma Lauriston, Dakoda Hallam, Christina Da Rui, Matilda Martin, Shelby Maher and Cole Durant as coach. This was the first year Mercedes had a team entered into U17 honours division, as they were determined to compete at the highest level of volleyball, aiming to go one better than their previous second place. The senior team won bronze in the end in a thrilling five setter against the team that had beaten them in 5 sets in previous days. The improvement in the teams skill level and teamwork was remarkable and created a great platform for the achievements to come in their last year at Mercedes.

This was a great experience and one we will never forget but it wouldn’t have been possible without the support of the parents and the time and dedication from the coaches. We would like to say a special thank you to Joanne Lauriston and Kel Tricket for stepping up to manage each team, making sure the girls were well looked after.

National Sorry Day

This week our Aboriginal and Indigenous Students celebrated the Anniversary of the first National Sorry Day 12 February 2008, when our Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, acknowledged and apologised to all indigenous Australians for the harm and displacement they experienced, in particular to the stolen generation, who were forcibly removed from their families and communities.

Students went to the four corners of the campus, stamping friends, peers and teachers with the aboriginal flag. This symbol reminds us of the blood that has been shed and that we are all united under the sun, which offers us light and life and the night sky which brings rest and peace.
Canteen - Mrs Kathy Smith, Manager
Following healthy guidelines, we try to make many items fresh each day. With your help we can reach our goal. A few hours each day, week, month or term is a tremendous help. The canteen is open 8am - 2pm Monday to Friday for breakfast, recess and lunch. Friends of Canteen require volunteers to keep us in contact with the school community. Suggestions, ideas, complaints, taste tests and menu items are collected, sorted and acted on as required.
If you have an interest in volunteering for the Canteen, please contact 9323 1377 / canteen@mercedes.wa.edu.au.

Parents & Friends Association

Upcoming Events
- Year 8, 9 & 10 P & F Family Sundowner / Sunday 17 March / 3.00 – 4.30pm More information to follow.
- Mother/Daughter Camp / 22 – 24 March.
- Engaging Adolescents Parenting Course for all Mercedes College parents, 3, 10 & 17 April / 6.00pm – 8.00pm.

Student News

Mercedes Rhythmic Gymnastics - Barbara Smith
Congratulations to the Mercedes Rhythmic Gymnastics Club who placed Second in WA for 2012 at the Annual Gymnastics WA Awards. This is an outstanding achievement for the small Mercedes Rhythmic Gymnastics club and the highest possible ranking the club could achieve given their status and numbers.

Athletics
Congratulations to Olivia Ridley (8.3) who won a Bronze medal at the recent Little Athletics State Multi Events Championships. Olivia will be representing WA at the Australian Junior National Athletics Championships in Perth, 14 - 17 March.

Thank You to Parents

Friends of Hospitality - Agatha Manel for assisting with refreshments for the Year 10 & 11 Parent Information evenings.
Friends of Mercy Ministry - Agatha Manel and Kate Taylor for assisting Sr Vedette Lendich and Ms Rosa Speranza with the distribution of Ashes to the students and staff on Ash Wednesday morning.
Prefect Parents - for organising and hosting the Year 12 Parent Soiree on Monday 11 February which was sponsored by the P & F.

Victoria Square Alumni

Mercedes College Ex-Students’ Association
AGM 2013
The MESA Committee invites ex-students to attend the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 20 February 2013 / 6.15pm / Mercedes College Staffroom. For more information contact mesa@mercedes.wa.edu.au.

2013 Mocktail Party
The Class of 2012 is invited to the 2013 Mocktail Party, Friday 15 March 2013 / 5.00pm - 7.00pm / Catherine’s Gardens. RSVP to mesa@mercedes.wa.edu.au.

Noticeboard

Academic Task Force - To maximise your daughters academic performance, including WACE Help classes contact 9314 9500 / learn@academictaskforce.com.au / www.academictaskforce.com.au

Reach Your Potential Tutoring Centre - 1-on-1 Specialist Tutoring Centre now open in Joondanna to assist children with Dyslexia, ADD, ADHD and other learning difficulties (children 4 - 19). Limited places call 0433 700 888 for more information.

Subiaco Basketball Club - registration for the Junior Basketball season for girls and boys, 7 - 19 years of age is now open. Visit www.subiacobbc.com.au for more information.