Key Dates
Friday 15 March
Year 10 Bowling with Trinity College
Year 11 River Cruise
Have Sum Fun Senior Competition
MESA Mocktail Party for the Class of 2012
Choir Rehearsal Weekend
Swim Camp (until 16 March)
Saturday 17 March
P&F Year 8,9,10 Family Sundowner 3.00pm - 4.30pm.
Tuesday 19 March
Poverty Immersion (after school until 22 March)
Wednesday 20 March
12.5 RE Mass
Thursday 21 March
Year 8 Picnic with Trinity College
Friday 22 March
Have Sum Fun Junior Competition
Year 10 Bowling with Trinity College
Mother/Daughter Camp (after school until 24 March)
Saturday 23 March
Year 12 Justice Immersion (until 24 March)
Wednesday 27 March
12.6 RE Mass
ACC “A” Division Interschool Swimming Carnival
MESA Meeting 6.15pm

Principal’s Report
People become successful the minute they decide to be. Harvey Mackay

Here we are at the end of Week 6 and, as Lent continues, we try to focus intentionally on what helps or hinders our commitment to Christ. We are reminded that we are all made in the image of God but we may not be so Christ-like in our behaviour. Zig Ziglar, the great motivational speaker and author, said “You will get all you want in life, if you help enough people to get what they need.” We pray that God’s love may be the foundation and motivating force for our lives and that, as we try to step out of our sheltered lives, we can take God’s love to other people in a way that is personal to each one of us.

Over the last few weeks I have had the great pleasure of spending a little time with our Year 7 girls in their homerooms. It is such a joy to see the energy and enthusiasm with which they have embraced College life and to know that in the main they are settling in and happy. I know that at the moment they want to get involved in everything and parents, I ask you to keep a watchful eye on your daughter/s to ensure they keep a good balance and do not take on too much. Many of our young women have heavy commitments outside of school as well and it is crucial that the focus on their academic studies does not falter. They must keep on top of their class work and their homework and ensure that they are organised and manage their time well.

I have reflected over the last few weeks too on the resiliency of our girls. Many of them have auditioned for various co-curricular activities, tried out for sporting teams and been given the opportunity to be responsible for themselves. I have noticed that some of our girls do not handle disappointment well and that parents are stepping in to fight their cause. As a parent I often wanted to do everything for my children and I often learned the hard way that I was not preparing them to take care of themselves. Young people need to take personal responsibility for their behaviour and for developing new skills. Self-management has the value of increasing a person’s empowerment, reducing dependence on external rewards to the benefit of intrinsic gains and improving

Insight from Catherine McAuley:
How do we expect to take up our cross and follow Christ if we are not to meet with it in those with whom we are associated?

Spirituality and Justice Prefects, Siobhan Poupard (left) and Regina Yap (right) with ex-students Audrey Ng and Dr Susan Byrne who spoke at the International Women’s Day Breakfast.
Mission Leader’s Musings

The First Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea Chapter Statement (2011) calls the community of Mercy to Mercy in Action wherever they are.

The Chapter statement speaks of “a new moment”, “a new heart”, “new eyes”, “new possibilities” “new consciousness”; of “yearning to relate”, “imagining new possibilities”, “being impelled to respond”, “living the gospel”; of fidelity”, “personal and communal conversion”, “of hearts centred on God”, of “a world longing for God’s mercy”.

The Chapter Statement offers opportunity for discernment regarding purpose and direction, invites us to contemplation and communion, challenges us to examine further our own context of ministry, impels us to exercise our public voice, sets the way forward for new partnerships and healthy collegiality, and reminds us of the true identity of the Mercy charism.

Throughout rural and urban Australia, in Papua New Guinea and internationally, the Sisters of the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea (ISMAPPNG) are advocating for people with special needs of Australia and Papua New Guinea and internationally, the Sisters of the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea (ISMAPPNG) are advocating for people with special needs.

The Sisters of ISMAPNG are educators, theologians, scripture scholars, liturgists, writers and publishers, researchers, archivists, historians, musicians, artists, bioethicists, ecumenists, canon lawyers, lawyers and advocates for justice.

Our young women at Mercedes College stand on the shoulders of magnificent role models and are fortunate to be part of a community imbued in Mercy with a clear Vision that points them to a future that will impel them to make a difference in the world.

Ms Rosa Speranza - Mission Leader

long-term behavioural and academic success. I read a beautiful quote recently that said “The greatest gifts we can give our children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence.” (E-Teaching 165)

When our daughter comes home upset or disappointed over something that has happened at school, I know the immediate instinct is to get on the phone or email and express our anger over what we perceive to be an injustice. Often these conversations can be unproductive. How much better it would be if we could sit with our daughter, listen to her concerns, and help her to problem solve the situation and come up with strategies to cope with it. Of course if the situation continues then it is essential that you contact your daughter’s Homeroom teacher, or the relevant classroom teacher if it is a learning issue. In the first instance, however, we parents need to empower our children to think for themselves and be more responsible for themselves. They need to figure out how to deal with situations and not have to rely on Mum and Dad to step in.

We are preparing them to take their place in a world that is full of injustices, disappointments and hurt. Your daughter is looking out the corner of her eye to see what you are thinking and how you are reacting. You show her how an adult deals with life.

During this week and next, the College community is involved in completing the Quality Catholic Schooling Surveys. The Surveys are an opportunity for staff, students and parents to comment on how the College is going and to contribute to our whole school improvement plan. A randomly selected group of 120 parents will have been mailed a survey form. Please take the time to complete it. Your responses will be invaluable in our data gathering. In addition, 250 of our students will be completing an on-line survey, one class from each year level. The Survey will take approximately 30 minutes to complete. Thank you in anticipation of you generously giving of your time.

We have made the decision to change our policy on Mobile phones. Now the girls will be required to leave their mobiles turned off and in their lockers during the school day. There have been instances of girls using their mobiles and parents messaging or phoning their daughters during the school day. Use of mobile phones during the day is not permitted. If it is necessary for a girl to contact her parents, she can request to use the phone in Student Services. If a student is found carrying a mobile phone on her person she will have the phone confiscated and only a parent will be able to claim it back from Student Services. Parents, please support us on this. The girls have been given the message through the Daily Bulletin and the College Handbook has been altered to reflect this change.

As the school year is now in full swing, it is a good time to consider what you expect of your daughter/s. Having expectations that are high – yet also realistic – is essential for school success. Finding the right balance of expectations will stretch her to grow without frustrating her. I found these “Tips for Young Children” and I thought they were especially important for our Year 7 girls as they are transitioning into Secondary schooling. I will share one each fortnight.

Tip 1: Help your children develop predictable routines around waking up, getting ready for the day, eating nutritious meals, taking care of their bodies, going to bed at a regular time, and getting enough sleep.

Children are more likely to be successful when their routines help them thrive. (Principals’ Digests Vol 19 No 5)

Peace and best wishes.

Sheena Barber, Principal

IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday 2 April 2013

Student Home Study/Service Day,
Year 9/10 Learning Community

Year 9 - Mrs Sherrin Adams

I was most impressed by the great behaviour and positive spirit displayed by the girls at our recent social activity at Trinity. They were a credit to the College and to their families. Thank you to the Pastoral Care teachers who assisted in the afternoon and to Trinity College who hosted this event. Thank you also to parents who arrived punctually to collect their daughters, it was however disappointing that a number of parents were quite late - whilst I appreciate that traffic congestion can cause delays it is distressing for your daughter if she is left waiting.

All of the Year 9 students will be attending their Reflection Days next week. I expect them to be in their correct Sports Uniform (as per the letter sent home) and to bring all of the required equipment. Each year I receive great comments about the Reflection Days - I hope this trend continues.

Year 10 - Mr Liam Smith

Year 10 students enjoying the Reflection Day at the Perth Zoo.

Year 11/12 Learning Community

Year 11 - Mrs Marianne Morphett

It has been a busy and eventful few weeks for the Year 11 girls with many opportunities becoming available for them to expand their horizons and develop their leadership abilities. The Quest Retreat allowed the girls to work with the Peer Ministers from Trinity College as they welcomed the Year 8 students into their school community and provided an enjoyable and valuable experience for the girls. The selection process for two students to attend the LEAP program in Los Angeles was completed this week with panel interviews for the successful candidates. Mr Cole, Ms Bryant and I were impressed by the maturity and poise demonstrated by the girls, and would like to thank them for their enthusiasm and willingness to apply for this leadership opportunity. Congratulations to Jessie Lonergan (11.5) and Senaida D’ Souza (11.7) who will represent the College and the City of Perth at LEAP later this year.
Commendations also, to Jasmine Pavan (11.7) and Sarah Berhanu (11.5) who attended the Mercy Justice Tree Leadership experience held in Adelaide. We look forward to seeing the justice and service initiatives promoted by the girls in the future.

The River Cruise with Trinity College will be held this Friday and we anticipate an enjoyable social evening. I would like to remind parents that we depart at 7.00pm, and students will need to be collected promptly at 10.00pm.

Year 12 - Mrs Bernadette Dell

Many students are feeling the pressure of assessments and are struggling to maintain a balance between the competing demands for their time. Please encourage all the girls to ensure that they are prioritising the things that are genuinely important. Many girls complain about lack of sleep and the amount of time they spend working for assignments or studying. However, they will also say that they ‘cannot live’ without Facebook or other things that adults would see as a distraction from the really important things in life. Companies, like Apple, provide the opportunity for users to set parameters on the time spent on social media and students, or their parents, can arrange for periods of time to be blocked out from access to a site so that an individual can focus on work.

Sleep experts suggest that removing communication technology from the bedroom will enhance a full night’s sleep and this is essential for your daughter’s health and academic progress. Please discuss the need for sleeping long enough, and without interruptions, with your daughter and reinforce the messages we have been presenting at school. Breakfast is another crucial element in academic success that a number of our girls are missing. Without a good breakfast (and my definition of ‘good’ does not include the bottles of coke or bags of chocolates that I sometimes see being consumed before school) health professionals tell us that no one has the fuel they need to keep their minds focused and ready to learn.

Teenagers are not always the best judge of what is good for them but, between us, we may be able cajole them into good habits that will help them in this challenging year.

Academic Services - Mrs Liana Strutt, Deputy Principal - Academic Services

By now students in all years are well underway in their courses and are enjoying the opportunities for learning provided for them. At this stage there are tasks and tests being set. So you can know how your daughter is progressing in her schoolwork, an Interim Report will be available to you at the end of term. These will be sent out to homes on Friday 12 April.

Triangular Meetings

In response to the information of the Interim Reports, meetings with students, teachers and parents will be held on Tuesday 7 May from 8.30 am to 6.30 pm. We ask that you set time aside in your calendar for a 10 minute meeting to discuss your daughter’s progress.

Homework

In response to enquiries about the Homework Guidelines developed by the Academic Council at Mercedes College, please click HERE to view a document outlining the expectations and timings for each year group.

Psychologists

Students with Special Needs

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

- Extra time to work
- Extra time to rest
- Use of Laptops or PC
- Use of a scribe
- Special supervision

Mrs Liana Strutt, Deputy Principal (Academic Services), must approve any special examination arrangement prior to implementation. Any student who may have special needs, who is not presently approved for any special examination arrangements, should discuss their needs with either Mrs Liana Strutt or Mrs Joanna Sleight (College Psychologist)

Year 12 students are advised that the closing date for applications for the use of special examination arrangements for 2013 Tertiary Entrance Examination is 24 May 2013. Please see Mrs Liana Strutt or Mrs Joanna Sleight if there are any queries regarding this.
Interhouse Chess Competition - Mrs Marg Ryan, Chess Club Coordinator

Congratulations of Anna Duong (10.5) from Wright House who won the House Chess competition last week. Anna played against the Cooper Champion, Jade Mascarenhas (7.1). It was great to see our two new houses in the grand final, with Wright House off to a good start. The other House Champions are McAuley - Rebecca Ye (7.3); Frayne - River Armenti (7.2); McDonald - Kimberley Martin (8.2); Serisier - Patricia Suryawinata (12.1). The girls were enthusiastic and skilful when playing their games with an exciting conclusion at the Finals.

Art - Mrs Denise Fitzgerald

Year 12 Perspectives 2012 (7 March - 30 June 2013/ The Art Gallery of Western Australia).

Year 12 Perspectives is a yearly exhibition held at the Art Gallery of WA of art by some of the best, brightest and most talented graduating high school artists in the State. The works explore personal and universal commentaries and points of view of the world in which we live.

This year we have two students from the graduating class of 2012 from Mercedes College that were chosen to have their work exhibited in this prestigious exhibition. The exhibition opened last Thursday and the girls were very honoured and proud that their works were selected. By coincidence, both pieces used their siblings as the main subject.

(L to R) Grace Lee (right) and her sister Evelyn with her watercolour and art-line piece “Sit, stay, fetch”; Samantha Verini and her brother with her watercolour “The Fear”

Mathematics - Mr Peter Mee, HOLA

Numero Club

Are you a student who is searching for a co-curricular opportunity which is available all year round? Then search no further, because Numero Club has arrived. Numero is a fun card game which can be played at a variety of difficulty levels. It is easy to learn and we would encourage you to come along and have a game. Numero Club runs on Tuesdays in Room 18 (the Maths Focus Room) from the start of lunch. Just come along, sign in, find someone to play the game with, and enjoy.

Hope to see you there.
Science - Mr Peter Mountford HOLA

Rio Tinto Big Science Competition 2013
All students from Year 7 to 10 are invited to participate in the 2013 Rio Tinto Big Science Competition to be held in May. This national competition tests critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and knowledge of science. The Competition runs for 60 minutes and will require students to answer 30 multiple-choice questions.

The Competition is open to students of all abilities, at two levels:
- Junior (Years 7 - 8)
- Intermediate (Years 9 - 10).

This year the competition dates are: Year 7 and 9 - Wednesday 22 May, Year 8 and 10 - Monday 27 May. Cost of entry is $7.00.

Parents and teachers will receive reports showing how their students performed, identifying areas of strength and weakness for each student. The questions are developed by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) and are of the highest quality.

All participants receive a certificate and a detailed report of their performance. Certificates are awarded as follows:
- High Distinction (top 2%)
- Distinction (top 15%)
- Credit (top 25%)

More information (including sample questions) about the Big Science Competition is on the website: www.asi.edu.au. Students will be provided with a letter detailing relevant information and a permission form which needs to be returned by Wednesday 10 April.
Sport

Beach Volleyball - Mr Liam Smith
The beach volleyball girls have been training hard in preparation for the West Australian Beach Volleyball Schools Cup which was held last week. Following some tiring training sessions, battling sand, sun, heat and flies the Year 8 & 9 students competed on Thursday 7 March. The competition held at Scarborough Beach saw teams of four playing for school pride and the opportunity to be named champion team. After a long hot day Mercedes College brought home 2 medals; ‘A’ Division won Gold & ‘B’ Division won Silver. The Year 10, 11 & 12 students had their competition day on Friday 8 March once again held at Scarborough Beach. Following a brief meet and greet with Mr Colin Barnett the senior students commenced their march for volleyball honours. As the day came to an end Mercedes students once again claimed two medals; Shelby Maher & Emma Lauriston claimed highest honours winning Gold in open pairs, also adding to the medal haul was another Silver in ‘B’ Division fours. Both days were hugely successful and it was very pleasing to see the sportsmanship, high level of volleyball skills and friendliness on show from all the Mercedes girls.

International Women’s Day

Live the Lives You Want - that was the message to students and their mothers from guest speakers and ex-students, Dr Susan Byrne and Audrey Ng speaking at this year’s International Women’s Day Breakfast. More than 140 guests enjoyed a beautiful breakfast hosted by the College’s Friends of Hospitality group.

Student News

Congratulations to Olivia Ridley (8.3) who was selected to compete for WA at the recent Athletics Australia Junior National Championships in Perth.

Congratulations to Sophia Varricchio who is on of 124 Year 11 and 12 students selected to investigate how to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in the Constitution at the 18th National Schools’ Constitutional Convention, being held at Old Parliament House in Canberra from 20 - 22 March. Sophia was selected from around 4000 students.
Parents & Friends Association

Upcoming Events

- **Footy Tipping Competition** with less than two weeks before the first game, you don't have much time to register for the Mercedes Footy Tipping competition. If we don't get at least 55 registrations, the competition cannot go ahead with the advertised prizes as we have to cover costs. Please consider joining our competition as this is purely for fun, not a fundraiser. For more information check the College website for the form or contact jstacey@mercedes.wa.edu.au

- **Entertainment Books** - Hurry and pre book your Entertainment Book and receive some extra vouchers. The booking form is on the College Website or contact jstacey@mercedes.wa.edu.au

- **College Fete** - Please keep the Homeroom donations coming in, as contributions are very few and far between. Don't forget those items for White Elephant, Books, Toys, Music, Silent Auction and the other food stalls. The success of the Fete is dependent on the support from the Mercedes College Community.

Thank You to Parents

**Year 10 Reflection Days**
Rosalba Ricci, Helen Moulatsiotis, Annemarie Harris, Marie McKenna, Anne Gartrell and Germaine Williams

**International Women's Day Breakfast**
Thank you to all the Year 7 parents who stayed back after their Parent Information evening on Thursday to help setup for Friday morning, too many to mention.

Thank you also to all the mums who helped with the hosting and cleanup of the breakfast - Julie Porter, Marina Jones, Natasha Psailia, Paula Dunn, Suzanne Biundo, Agatha Manel, Monica Lavery, Leanna Taddei, Audrey Princi, Anne-Marie Murray, Kathy in the Canteen, Dave Green and all the unsung heroes of this event who helped with either ironing or last minute cleaning up. The success of this event is credited to you.

Noticeboard

**Catholic Youth Ministry: World Youth Day Final Boarding Call** - bookings for the Rio WYD close on 31 March. For information contact CYM Perth 9422 7912 or email admin@cym.com.au.

**Curtin University Programs** - There are several Science based programs and competitions being run throughout the year. For more information visit [http://science.curtin.edu.au/outreach/schools.cfm](http://science.curtin.edu.au/outreach/schools.cfm)

**GATCA ‘Children’s Invention Workshop** - once a week program beginning 16/17 March. Different levels available for ages 7 years and above. For more information contact Cameron Gibbs cameron@openii.com.au.

**GATCA ‘Fantasy Quest** - Writing Extension Course' - Term 1, commencing 16 March. Aimed at upper primary school students. For more information contact kbrough@aapt.net.au.

**Harmony Festival** - A celebration of culture with live performances, stall and children’s activities. Saturday 16 March/Stirling Civic Gardens/2pm - 7.30pm/Free event.

**Meningococcal B Investigational Vaccine study** - The Vaccine Trials Group (VTG), Telethon Institute for Child Health Research needs healthy volunteers aged 10-25 years to participate in a Meningococcal B Vaccine trial. For more information go to [http://vaccine.childhealthresearch.org.au/clinical-trials/currently-recruiting.aspx](http://vaccine.childhealthresearch.org.au/clinical-trials/currently-recruiting.aspx)

**Sacred Music Concert & Reflections** - Saturday 16 March 2013 / 3.30pm / St Anne’s Church, 11 Hehir Street, Belmont WA 6104. For more information contact 9444 9604.

**Santa Maria College** – 75th Anniversary Staff Cocktail Evening for past and present staff. Friday 22 March / 5.30pm – 8.30pm / Mercy Community Room, Santa Maria College. RSVP by 15 March to maslin.kimberley@santamaria.wa.edu.au or 6330 0310

**St Patrick’s Day Mass** – Saturday 16 March / 10am / St Mary’s Cathedral. Contact 9446 3784 for any enquiries.

**Write-a-Book-in-a-Day Competition** - 1 April to 31 August. Registrations accepted from 14 February. For more information go to [http://www.writeabookinaday.com](http://www.writeabookinaday.com).