Key Dates

Friday 29 March
Good Friday

Sunday 31 March
Easter Sunday

Monday 1 April
Easter Monday Public Holiday

Tuesday 2 April
Student Home Study/Service Day

Wednesday 3 April
12.7 RE Mass
Parent Course - Engaging Adolescents (6pm - 9pm)

Friday 5 April
PARA Swimming Carnival
House Film Weekend (until 7 April)

Sunday 7 April
Trinity College Quarry Concert

Monday 8 April
Choral Night 6.30pm

Tuesday 9 April
P & F Meeting 6.30pm - 7.30pm

Wednesday 10 April
11.1 RE Mass
Parent Course - Engaging Adolescents (6pm - 9pm)

Thursday 11 April
Year 7 Mercedes & Trinity Picnic
3.30pm - 5.00pm

Insight from Catherine McAuley:
Sadness lessens the value of works performed in God’s name, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Principal’s Report

Aim for success, not perfection. Never give up your right to be wrong, because then you will lose the ability to learn new things and move forward with your life. Dr David Burns

This is Holy Week – the commemorative week in the life of Christ, when the first day promised so much and what followed was certainly not the way his friends would have expected or wanted. Last Sunday we celebrated Jesus’ grand entry into Jerusalem where he was welcomed with such enthusiasm. By week’s end Jesus had been arrested and crucified. The crowd was no longer there for Jesus; only a few women, together with Mary and John, were gathered under the Cross. At this time in particular, I often try and put myself in the shoes of Mary, Jesus’ mother. It is impossible to imagine the deep anguish that tore her apart as she watched helplessly the suffering of her Son.

Today we begin the Sacred Paschal Triduum when the Church solemnly celebrates the greatest mysteries of our redemption, keeping, by means of special celebrations, the memorial of Our Lord, crucified, buried and risen. During this sacred time, we pray that we become more like Christ. We ask for the help we need to develop an inner strength that is capable of handling life’s situations. Help us Lord to provide a place in our heart where you reside.

With only a few weeks left until the end of a very busy term, I hope it is a productive time for the girls. We are continually urging them to ensure they have a good balance in their lives and are managing their time across their academic, co-curricular and other commitments. It is too late when the end of the year comes and academic achievement has not reached the level of excellence to which a girl aspires and is more than capable of attaining. Parents, please have those conversations with your daughter to assist her to be well organised and to maintain the personal challenge of achieving her personal best in her academic studies. Hopefully, all the extra things keep her passionate and highly motivated to excel.

A beautiful liturgy was presented by students telling the story of Jesus in his final days.
I was reading recently about the importance of social connectedness, and I am not only talking about the Internet! I often say to the senior girls – look after yourselves, eat well, exercise when you can, learn to relax and get enough sleep. Many studies suggest that social connection is as important to both our physical and psychological wellbeing. Findings include that the lack of social connection is a greater detriment to health than obesity, smoking and high blood pressure and that, on the other hand, social connectedness can lead to faster recovery from disease and lower rates of anxiety and depression. We need to encourage our young people to build relationships by face to face conversations with others. We can all fall into the trap of spending far too much time on computers and mobile phones rather than actually socialising with people and getting together with friends. So often I hear parents say that their daughter walks into the house after a day at school, straight into her bedroom, onto the computer or phone, and they hardly see her for the rest of the night. Even meals are eaten in the bedroom. We cannot over estimate the value of sharing a family meal around the table and actually talking with each other. Sharing a laugh or a disappointment even can be very therapeutic. Our young people need that caring support.

Last week I was made aware of some rumours that are circulating, rumours in regard to proposed fee increases at Mercedes College. The figures varied but the most common rumour was that next year’s tuition fees will increase to $11,000. As is part of our tradition at Mercedes, fee increases of any sort are kept to a minimum. We work hard to keep costs down across the board. We do not aim to make a huge profit or to have huge amounts of money in the bank. We aim to provide the very best resources and facilities for our young women that we can, within the lowest fee structure possible. We say to our families that we are a disciple of Jesus. “Aren’t you another of that man’s disciples?” If only we were more so.

The good news today was shared by our Prefects with the College Community at our Lenten Liturgy in the Cathedral, accusation and denial were not the last words in Jesus’ life but rather the love of his disciples struggling with the reality of Jesus’ fate. No matter what we’ve done or what we’re doing, nothing can separate us from the love of God poured out in Jesus Christ. No matter what particular crosses we carried with us into the Cathedral this morning, we believe that God’s commitment to us was us that he even went to suffering and death to reveal his saving love.

No wonder we call tomorrow ‘Good Friday’. What greater goodness could we know than that the Cross of Jesus reveals that our God, whether named or not, is our companion at every step of life’s journey?

Wishing you an Easter filled with Faith, Hope and Love!

Ms Rosa Speranza - Mission Leader

CARER WANTED

We are in need of a carer for one of our students. The position would be full time, term time only, for the remainder of 2013 and possibly for 2014. The successful applicant would need to have a Senior First Aid Certificate.

Please contact the Principal, Sheena Barber on 9323 1323 or sbarber@mercedes.wa.edu.au if you are able to fill this position.

Year 12 Retreat
(Please note change of dates)
17 - 19 June 2013
Pastoral Care News

Year 7/8 Learning Community

Year 8 - Mrs Melissa Trolio

I would like to congratulate all Year 8 students on their continuous positive and caring behaviour and also their diligent approach to study. Next week Mrs Leanne Davis will launch the Year 8 Mercy Service Learning with the focus being on care and assistance in the home environment. Parents are asked to email ldavis@mercedes.wa.edu.au if there are any concerns or queries. Our homerooms have been generously contributing to many of our Project Compassion fundraising activities. Students have been involved in lunch time movies, coin tossing, slushy and icy pole selling and an Easter egg raffle. Congratulations especially to 8.4 who raised $336.00 after a very successful slushy stall. Please keep up the good work as every dollar does and can make a difference. I would like to thank the homeroom teachers, many prefects and Trinity staff who assisted with our social picnic last Thursday afternoon. Students enjoyed afternoon tea together and got to know each other better through a variety of team building activities. The feedback I have received has been very positive and we look forward to our second social event here at Mercedes. I wish all families a safe, happy and holy Easter season.

Year 9/10 Learning Community

Year 9 - Mrs Sherrin Adams

I have had two reasons to be very proud of the Year 9 students recently. Firstly the girls’ behaviour and enthusiasm at our recent Reflection Days were first class. It was a pleasure to accompany them to the Monastery, where they were in small groups with facilitators from Loving for Life WA. I received glowing reports from the ladies about how the girls were willing to share their thoughts and respect the views of others. The Mercedes staff that facilitated the days at the Cathedral on the theme of Integrity also praised the girls on their participation and positive approach to all activities. Many thanks to all staff involved.

On Thursday 21 March the Year 9 community mass was celebrated in the College Chapel. This provided an opportunity for reverent participation in the Eucharist. Again the girls’ behaviour was exemplary. On behalf of the girls I thank Sr Vedette, Ms Speranza and Mr Cole for their organization.

Parents will soon receive a letter concerning dancing classes - as there is a great deal of organization to be completed prior to the first break, it is imperative that the permission slip is returned by the due date.

I wish all the girls a restful few days break, whilst not forgetting the real meaning of the Easter Season.

Year 10 - Mr Liam Smith

A lot has happened in the last two weeks. Although it seems like a long time ago now, I must make mention of the wonderful family mass. It was great to see so many of our Year 10 girls and their families coming together with the other families of our Year 11 & 12 students to celebrate the occasion. Although the fire alarm at the start was an unplanned inclusion, the mass continued and the evening had a delightful sense of unity and togetherness about it.

I am sure your girls have been looking forward to the combined bowling afternoon with Trinity College. The afternoons were filled with numerous strikes, spares, gutter-balls, laughs and lollies. I would like to commend all the girls for their behaviour and manners exhibited during the socials. Our young women represented themselves and Mercedes College in such a positive manner.

Caritas fundraising has been a focus for our cohort over the last couple of weeks and with totals slowly coming in the Year 10 group have raised over $675 to date. An effort I would like to congratulate the girls on achieving. We now quickly turn our focus to last minute additions for the College fete - I encourage all families and girls to continue to bring in donations that will go towards making the 2013 fete the best and most successful ever.
Year 11/12 Learning Community

Year 11 - Mrs Marianne Morphett
The term is drawing to a close and the girls are eager to commence the Easter break. The recent River Cruise provided a pleasant interlude from the pressure of homework and assessment preparation, as the girls enjoyed an evening of dancing and socialising with the boys from Trinity College. In contrast, the first Poverty Immersion held during Harmony Week provided the opportunity for ten Year 11 students to challenge themselves in less familiar surroundings to gain an appreciation of the difficulties associated with financial disadvantage in our society. The beautiful Lenten liturgy presented by the Prefect group enabled the College community to reflect on the true meaning of Easter, and provided a spiritual and prayerful experience to commence the holidays.

Congratulations to Courtney Vale (11.4) who has been offered a position in the Australian Defence Force Indigenous Student Study Tour in Canberra during the term holidays. This will include the opportunity to tour of the Australian Defence Force Academy and the Royal Military College Duntroon.

We wish the girls and their families a relaxing and prayerful Easter.

River Cruise

Year 12 - Mrs Bernadette Dell
We are grateful for the time and effort our student leaders have put into preparing for the presentation of the Lenten reflection, under the guidance of Ms Speranza and Sr Vedette. The liturgy helped the whole community to focus on the true meaning of the most important season in our Church calendar. We value the opportunities to worship as a whole-school community and the Year 12 students always play an important in these celebrations.

As we move towards the end of term, the students need to remain focused on work and completing tasks in a timely manner. The Easter break will give everyone a chance to rest and catch up on any work that still needs to be completed. It is important to keep a balance between relaxation aimed at ‘recharging’ our energy levels and working to catch up on unfinished tasks or extra preparation. This is such a short year for the girls, and there is so much work to complete, that it is advisable not only to stay up-to-date but also to be investing time in extra study to prepare for the exams. It is a demanding schedule but if approached in a steady and consistent manner, the girls will find it manageable – and very rewarding.
General News

Habits of Mind - Mr Tim Poga
Over the last few weeks the College has taken another important step in focusing on the 16 Habits of Mind with the roll out of activities, led by the Student Representative Council, which focus on one of the Habits each week. Last week students were given the chance to complete an online quiz which provided feedback on how effectively they ‘Managed Impulsivity’. Almost all students showed they can still be more effective in this area through more thorough planning of assignments, removal of distractions from homework areas and less time spent on social networking and mobile phone use. We urge students to reflect on the feedback and take positive action. Students who have not completed the quiz can do so via the Habits of Mind page on Moodle. This week we are looking at ‘Listening with Understanding and Empathy’ as found in the world of music.

Making Mercedes Greener - Mrs Marg Ryan, Coordinator of Making Mercedes Greener
Vertical Garden Launch
Initiatives of the Making Mercedes Greener group are gaining momentum with the launch of the Vertical Garden on Monday 18 March by The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, Lisa Scaffidi. The Lord Mayor, who is also Earth Ambassador for World Wildlife Fund, joined the Making Mercedes Greener students, staff and guests, in sampling some of the garden produce, in what is the latest strategy implemented by the environmental group.

The Making Mercedes Greener group was established by the College in 2010 to reduce its global environmental footprint. The launch of the Vertical Garden follows a successful funding application to the City of Perth’s Sustainable City Development Unit, and is the College’s most significant strategy to date.

The garden will not only reduce waste by providing vegetable produce for use in the school’s kitchens and canteens, but will also be a valuable resource for students studying plant growth and sustainability. Students will be able to collect and analyse data including harvesting times, soil temperatures, and other factors.

Tree Planting
On Monday 25 March, Year 9 students including Environmental Stewards visited the Arden Street Reserve in East Perth to assist with tree planting in a native garden. The Lord Mayor planted a tree in one of the gardens and the girls assisted in planting native plants in two other gardens. It was wonderful to see the enthusiastic and cooperative way that the girls participated. Thank you girls and thank you Miss Hannah Eaton who assisted on this excursion.

Mathematics - Mr Peter Mee, HOLA
Have Sum Fun Competitions
The Senior and Junior School Have Sum Fun competitions took place on Friday 15 and 22 March respectively. The senior team consisted of Year 12 students Christine Le, Isabella Carbone, Kimberley Hoang, Jamela King, Andrea Parafina and Rhianna de Vries. There were two junior teams, consisting of Year 9 students Phoebe Mahon, Olivia Bozich, Ashlee Culmsee, Rachel Crock, Year 8 students Marcella Moulton, Cassandra Cheng, Georgina Versteeg, Lily McMillan, Putri Sunarko, Emily Roberts and Year 7 student Amruta Lakkoju.

All teams performed admirably, had a fun night and were a credit to the College. Many thanks to the students for their...
Music - Mrs Claire Gamlin, Music Coordinator

Thank you to everyone involved in the Choir rehearsal weekend over 15 – 17 March. There were over 200 girls involved in the weekend, rehearsing hard for the upcoming Choral Night and House Choir competition. The help from parents, staff and students made the weekend a huge success.

Choral Night and House Choir Competition

Our annual Choral Night and House Choir Competition is fast approaching on Monday April 8! Ticket order forms have been sent home. If your daughter needs to collect another form, they are outside Room 63 in Rostrevor. The night is themed Contemporary Choir – Legends of Pop and there will be many familiar songs suitable for all ages. The concert starts at 6.30pm in the Mercedes College Hall. Tickets will be available on the night for $10 student/concession, $15 adults and $40 for families (2+2), but it is advisable to pre-order to avoid congestion at the door. Seating is unreserved.

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.

Saturday 30 March
National Band Championships (Wind Orchestra) held at UWA on Saturday morning. Meet in Hackett Hall at 8.15am. The performance will be at approximately 9.30am in Winthrop Hall.

Sunday 7 April
Trinity Quarry Concert – Stage rehearsal during the day, concert in the evening (Trinity Strings, Wind Orchestra)

Monday 8 April
Choral Music Night and House Choir Competition – rehearsals in the afternoon at From 1.30pm, performance commences at 6.30pm (Select Choir, Choir, House Choirs, Madrigals)

Saturday 13 April
USA Tour Farewell Concert – an informal performance given by the groups going to the USA in April. The concert will be held at Trinity College in Gibney Hall. Students required at 5.30pm wearing neat casual clothes, concert commences at 6pm.

Sunday 14 April
Mercedes Fete (Select Choir, Choir, Madrigals, Rock Band, Jazz Band, Jazz Quartet, Flute Ensemble, Saxophone Ensemble and String Ensemble) Times not yet known but will be advised in the near future. Performances will be held in Catherine’s Garden.
Rehearsal Changes for the next few weeks

**Trinity Strings**
Tuesday April 2 from 10am - 12 noon; Monday April 15 from 3:15pm - 5pm in lieu of Tuesday April 16.

**Mercedes/Trinity Orchestra**
No more rehearsals for the rest of term due to Easter weekend, Choral Night and Trinity Strings USA tour rehearsal.

**Wind Orchestra**
April 3 All students until 5pm, tour students until 6pm; April 10 TOUR STUDENTS ONLY (finishing time 6pm)

**Week 11**
No rehearsals for Select Choir, Mercedes/Trinity Wind Ensemble, Mercedes/Trinity Wind Orchestra, Choir, Jazz Band.

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**National Harmony Day**

As a symbol of the richness of our diversity as a Mercedes College community, the Canteen was decorated on Harmony Day. Students were encouraged to visit the Canteen to learn about the many different colours, races and peoples of the world all made in the image and likeness of God.

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**Politics & Law Student Experiences Excitement in Canberra - Mr Tim Poga**

Year 12 Politics and Law student Sofia Varricchio had an exciting time in Canberra last week as a delegate to the 2013 National School's Constitutional Convention. Apart from investigating the ideas of ‘Indigenous Recognition’ and ‘Inclusion of Local Government’ into the constitution, Sophie visited both the old and new houses of parliament and other institutions such as the High Court. Sofia and the other delegates also saw the most recent ALP leadership challenge in action on the day.

Sofia (3rd from left) with other delegates meeting their local MHR, Steve Irons (Member for Swan) in his Canberra office.

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**Sport**

**Senior School Badminton - Mr Greg Smith**

On Wednesday 13 March, 10 Year 11 and 12 students represented the College in the Badminton WA Schools Tournament at Kingsway International Sports Stadium.

The girls were placed in different pools and played a round-robin doubles competition, which involved playing 6 games. The winner from each pool then moved into a quarter final, playing the winner of another pool. The girls were competitive but, unfortunately, we did not have any pairs win their pool, so they did not progress into the finals series. Girls who performed very
well included Abbey Raven and Grace Cumming finishing second in their pool and Olivia Cipriano and Naomi Leahy, who finished third in their pool.

Members of the team included Year 11 students Bella Bettini and Megan Mudd and Year 12 students Olivia Cipriano, Grace Cumming, Shrishti Devgun, Georgina Hill, Naomi Leahy, Shelby Maher, Abbey Raven and Anushka Sharma.

Congratulations to the girls on your performance in the tournament.

**Interschool Swimming/Swim camp - Miss Corinne Kirry**

The main focus in term one for Interschool sports has been swimming. With many girls training three days per week, they have cut their times from the Interhouse carnival. The fastest girls and others, who were highly dedicated to training before the Interhouse carnival, earned an invitation to the swim camp on Friday 15 and Saturday 16 March.

Thank you to the generous parents who cooked an amazing breakfast for the swim team after a hard morning session by students. After school, the team trained in the 50m pool at Trinity College and finished the night off with dinner at Miss Maude’s.

The training session included the use of an underwater camera to analyse their own technique. There were also two special visitors; Olympians Jason Evans (Australia) and Heidi Gas (Malaysia) who shared their experiences; both positives and challenges.

Congratulations to Abbey Raven who named the 2013 swim captain and Emma Lauriston as the vice-captain. Both girls have performed consistently over the years and are young leaders who help to inspire the younger girls to strive for their highest potential.

Thank you to swim Coach Courtney Spanbroek and all of the PE teachers for their support!

**Interschool swimming - Miss Corinne Kirry**

Yesterday was the ACC A division swimming carnival held at Challenge Stadium. It was a fantastic day particularly for the senior media students who filmed and broadcast live footage onto a large screen - the first time at an ACC Swim meet at Challenge Stadium. Thank you to Miss Nyunt and Mr Balshaw for your management of this.

The day ran smoothly with Mercedes College showing high spirits in and out of the pool. 7.1, 7.4, 7.5 and 7.6 were all cheering extremely loud under the guidance and enthusiasm of the Year 9 and 10 SRC’s and teachers.

Congratulations to all girls in the swim team for finishing second in the Overall Girls aggregate. All girls swam with pride and honour. The senior girls tied with St Brigid's College to win the Senior Girls Shield (Years 10-12).
Student News

Congratulations to Olivia Ridley who won gold in the Triple Jump at the recent Athletics Australia Junior National Championships where she was representing WA. Olivia also came 4th in the long jump and 5th in the hurdles. All results were Personal Bests.

Parents & Friends Association

Mother/Daughter Camp - Mrs Jackie Stacey, P & F Liaison Officer
Thanks to all the mums and daughters who attended Mother/Daughter Camp last weekend. The drive down provided an opportunity for mums to meet and socialise before reaching camp. The whole weekend was great fun filled laughter, anticipation, excitement, adventure and lots of food. Friendships were forged amongst mums and daughters, which will no doubt grow over the years I’m sure. I look forward to seeing you and some new mums on camp in 2014!

Upcoming Events

- The New Entertainment Book is due to be released soon. Cost is $65 per book with $13 from every book going towards the College fundraising. The booking form will be emailed to all families shortly. You can reserve your copy via email (jstacey@mercedes.wa.edu.au). There are plenty of savings to be gained from the book.
- Father/Daughter Camp - Bookings are now open for Father/Daughter Camp. All students are asked to collect a booking from Student Services and students must return the form with their payment to Student Services. Due to the popularity of this camp, for the first two weeks of bookings being open, no bookings will be accepted via email or fax. This make it fair on students who do make the effort to bring the form back personally with their payment, to Student Services. Thank you.

Thank You to Parents

Poverty Immersion
Dean Davidson, Terry Richards, Stuart Mangan, Rudy Perone & Mark Brambillia.

Choir Rehearsal Weekend
Sara Macmillan, Maria Main, Catriona Harrison, Jennifer & Kevin Moore, Belinda Ipsaro-Passione, Jo Symons, Nicole O’Rourke & Maryanne Newsome.

Swim Camp Breakfast
Frances McKenna, Cecilia Cappeluti, Barbara Hughes, Jo McCluskey, Kathryn Agatr & Joanne Alligan.

Year 9 Reflection Days
Marina Hayward, Helen Jerkovich, Rachel Hackwill & Agatha Manel.
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 through out the year. For more information visit 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.

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

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.

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.

Youth Mission Team - 1st iSTAND Camp 2013. For students in Year 9 - 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 #1 2013” on Facebook.

Vic Park Rovers Football Club - encourages girls born in 2000 or 2001 to register for the 2013 soccer season. If you are interested in playing, please go to our website www.vicparkrovers.org.au for registration details or contact the registrar, Ms Anna Kelly on 0402 841 283.

VLounge - Friday 12 April 2013, 7.00pm- 9.30pm, C Block at TAFE Leederville, Richmond Street between Oxford St and Scott Street For youth aged 13-17 years. Come celebrate National Youth Week with games and entertainment, free Pizza and give aways. For FREE tickets visit www.vincent.wa.gov.au/youthevents for more info call Erika 9273 6030