“There are things the poor prize more highly than gold though they cost the donor nothing: the kind word, the gentle, compassionate look, and the patient hearing of sorrows.”

“Darthe McAlley

"I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me"

Jn 10:14-15

Sunday’s Gospel is about care, protection and love. Jesus freely gives his life for His flock, for each one of us. This is the ultimate gift of freedom given to us so that we may have life in abundance.

As we reflect upon Anzac Day and the celebration of the freedom we all share in this country, let us remember that each of has the capacity to freely sacrifice something of ourselves. We do have freedom to make decisions to welcome the stranger, to feed the hungry, to respect the prisoner and to offer comfort to the lonely. We can show mercy with a smile, a kind gesture or by sharing our food and general prosperity.

Prayer

From your abundant mercy, Lord, let me draw mercy into my life. Give me new life through your forgiveness and help me to foster new life in others as a witness and instrument of your forgiveness. Bless and renew the world with your compassion and mercy.

Amen

Dear Parents/Guardians, Students, Staff and Friends

Thank you to the parents and guardians who attended the Student Progress Interviews last week. Thank you also to the students, who with the support of their parents/guardians, wore their uniforms to the interviews as requested. I trust that students gained an understanding that both their parents/guardians and their teachers have their best interests in mind at all times. I urge all students to take note of the recommendations provided and to work to improve their learning outcomes for the remainder of the year.

WELCOME

On behalf of our community I welcome Ryan Paterson to the College. Ryan will be in Year 8. I wish Ryan and his family every blessing as they commence their association with Mount Lilydale Mercy College.

ENRICHMENT LEAVE

The Mercy Education Board has approved a period of Enrichment Leave for me from May 18 to June 6. I will use this leave to walk in the footsteps of St Paul, retracing his journeys through Greece and Turkey. In my absence Mr Michael Johnston will be Acting Principal, Mr John Rodgers will be Acting Deputy Principal - Director of Students, Mrs Magda Pisotek will be Acting Campus Director of McAuley Campus and Mrs Karen Myers will be Year 7 Wellbeing Coordinator on a daily basis. Leave at this time will allow me time to pass on some knowledge of the background to Paul’s writings to staff, students and parents.

STAFFING CHANGES

Mr Brian Hawthorne, Deputy Principal Director of Studies will be on leave from May 7 to July 27. In his absence Mrs Janine Biggin will be Acting Deputy Principal — Director of Studies. Mr Peter Molinari and Mr Michael Callanan will add Mrs Biggin’s duties as Director of Learning to their duties as Co-Campus Directors of McAuley and Barak respectively.

PLEASE PRAY

Please pray for the repose of the soul of John McVeigh, the grandfather of Connor Atwell of Year 8 Bronze and Peter Cain, the grandfather of Ashley Cain of Year 11 Silver.

We pray that like a shepherd Jesus who knows both John and Peter will welcome them to fullness of life and commend them for their lives of service and care of others. May their families give thanks for their lives and may this and their belief in the resurrection provide them peace and hope.

We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people who are the Traditional Custodians of this Land. We pay respect to the Elders both past and present of the Kulin Nation and extend that respect to other Indigenous Australians.
ANZAC DAY CEREMONIES
When acknowledging the sacrifice made by our service women and men, we should remember that members of the Army Reserve (formerly known as the Citizens Military Force) have also been involved in defending our freedom and maintaining peace in the world. Reservists are everyday people who go above and beyond their normal lives to serve our country. Today, around 25,000 strong, active and trained Reservists make up a quarter of our total Defence Force. A further 20,000 Reservists are in the Standby Reserve, serving in a variety of roles, both in Australia and abroad.

The Reservists have played a pivotal role for our nation, some of whom are currently involved as members of the Stabilisation Force in Timor Leste, including several local Reservists, some with direct links to our community.

Prayer of Remembrance:
We remember with thanksgiving those who made the supreme sacrifice for us in time of war. We pray that the offering of their lives may not have been in vain. We dedicate ourselves to the cause of justice, freedom and peace; and for the wisdom and strength to build a better world.

EISM ATHLETICS
Congratulations to the students who represented the College at the EISM Athletics Carnival on April 26. Results will be published next week.

OFFICIAL OPENING AND BLESSING OF NEW BUILDINGS
The Mansfield Learning Centre and the Dublin House Administration Centre will be Officially Opened and Blessed on Thursday at 12.30 p.m.

YEAR OF GRACE
The Bishops of Australia have invited the whole Church to a Year of Grace which will commence on Pentecost, 27th May 2012. The website below has a short video with the Bishops breaking open the theme “Starting afresh from Christ”. http://www.yearofgrace.catholic.org.au/

Bernard G Dobson
Principal

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL - DIRECTOR OF STUDENTS - Mr Michael Johnston

On Thursday 24 May we will be conducting the first Parent Seminar for the year. We have engaged noted clinical psychologist Andrew Fuller as the presenter and he will speak on the topic of ‘Building resilience in children and raising real people’. Andrew is an engaging speaker and has recently been described as an “interesting mixture of Billy Connolly, Tim Winton and Frasier Crane”. He specialises in the wellbeing of young people and their families. We hope to attract a large audience on the night. The seminar will commence at 7.30pm in Centennial Hall. Could you please indicate your intention to attend by ringing Ms Debra Woods at the College on 9237 1347. The opportunity to hear a speaker of this quality who is an expert in the field of adolescent psychology is rare so please make an effort to come along. By all means invite friends and neighbours.

The World’s Greatest Shave was conducted last week and there was an excellent response from the student body. Around two dozen students and staff had the buzzcut and large numbers had hair colour applied. Many thanks to members of the Student Council who assisted with arrangements for the day and to Mrs Joan D’Abreo for her commitment to this great cause. All money raised is sent to the Leukaemia Foundation.

Last Wednesday I had the privilege of attending the ANZAC Day dawn service in Lilydale to support members of our choir and Dr Paul Curtis. Much is spoken about ANZAC Day but it is only in the respectful silence of the occasion that you truly appreciate what it means to modern day Australia. To me it is about the sense of gratitude and an appreciation that we are so lucky to live in a nation that is free and that values diversity. It is important for our young people to witness an occasion such as the dawn service and to see so many people make the effort to come out despite the appalling weather conditions. As I read in one commentary about the day, “our men and women who went to war deserve to be remembered forever.”

Michael Johnston
Deputy Principal – Director of Students
In the darkness of a very cold, very wet, Wednesday 25 April, thousands of people gathered at the Lilydale Cenotaph. As the ANZAC Day service began members of our very dedicated choir huddled under their umbrellas ready to take their part in proceedings. At the recitation of the honour roll each name was highlighted; as the lone piper played community groups, including our College, placed wreaths at the foot of the monument. As the dawn slowly, obliquely and with comforting reassurance, resolutely peeked through the rain clouds the choir sang *The Recessional*. This beautiful hymn, with text by Rudyard Kipling, contains the words: **Lest We Forget**. As our voices blended with those of thousands around the world, we remember, in our small yet significant way, those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for their family, country and their world community. We also paid tribute in song and silence to those this very day will take up arms in support of peace and justice. **At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them.**

Dr Paul Curtis
Music Coordinator
ATTENTION YEAR 12 STUDENTS

2012 WINTER SLEEPOUT IS HERE !!

Year 12 Students have the fantastic opportunity to participate in Mount Lilydale Mercy College’s Winter Sleepout.

The event will take place on Friday 18th May commencing at 7.30pm and concluding on Saturday morning at 8.30am with a cooked breakfast.

If you would like to be involved, please collect a permission form from student reception and return asap.

DONATIONS !!

The Senior Prefects and Year 12 Students would like to know if any Mount Lilydale Mercy College families would like to sponsor our 2012 Winter Sleepout with the donation of bread, eggs, bacon, orange juice for our cooked breakfast or any unwanted blankets, clothing etc we can present to St Vincent De Paul on the night of our event.

Your support of this important cause would be much appreciated.

For further details, please contact David Finch, Deputy Principal – Director of Mission on 9237 1373
WELCOME BACK STUDENTS
This term is already shaping up to be a very busy and exciting term 2. We trust that you and your family were able to enjoy some of the great Autumn days that we were blessed with over the holiday break and now we approach the winter season with cold and wet days! We encourage all students to continue working to achieve their potential during the term and strive to receive academic and merit awards and to look forward in completing Semester One studies on Friday 29th June.

STUDENT PROGRESS INTERVIEWS
Thank you to all parents and students who took the opportunity to attend the progress interviews held last week. It was great to see so many attending on the 2 days and for parents who could not attend please make contact with the subject teacher by phone or email.

ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS
A big thank you to Mrs Francis Unmack, Mrs Cathy Ruscitti (in photo) and Mrs Natalie Rees who have once again undertaken the role of Coordinators of the Parent Volunteers for the Organisational Skills Program. The ladies presented the program at the recent Student Progress Interview Evenings held the last week, by having a display board with information about the working of the program, samples of the satchels that the students use and how to get involved as a volunteer. For more information and details please contact Frances on 9739 2220 or email funmack@mlcmclilydale.catholic.edu.au

NAPLAN TESTING FOR YEARS 7 & 9 2012
Years 7 and 9 will undertake the NAPLAN testing on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 15 – 17 May 2012. A letter was mailed to all parents regarding the Testing Program on Monday April 23 which clearly outlined the program in some detail. A summary report of each students’ results will be mailed home in the Term 3 holidays. Any concerns/issues regarding the NAPLAN please contact Mr Molinari (NAPLAN Coordinator) on 9237 1362. We wish all the Year 7 & 9 students the very best over the 3 days.

McAULEY CAMPUS ASSEMBLY TERM ONE
On Tuesday March 20 the McAuley Campus College community came together for the first time to pray, to give thanks and to acknowledge student achievement and performances. As usual we began the assembly in prayer led by Mr Rodgers on the Theme of “If you want Peace, Work for Justice”. This was followed by the acknowledgement of land read by Gemma Ryan of Year 7 Bronze and the singing of the National Anthem ably led by the College Choir under the direction of Dr Curtis. Mr Dobson gave his Principal’s Address and then presented the Class Captains with their badges - 60 in total! A highlight of the Assembly was the announcement of the McAuley Captains: Danielle Wolff and Russell Phillips. The badges the students received are a symbol of the trust that the College bestows on the students to carry out all the leadership duties and to be a positive role model. We wish all the Captains all the very best for a successful and enjoyable year ahead!

The McAuley Prefects and Sports Prefects were introduced and they responded with a few words of encouragement and support for all students to get involved in school activities. The Wellbeing Coordinators announced their respective Student of the Term recipients for Term One. The Assembly concluded as usual with the singing of the College Anthem “Omnia Cum Deo”. Students were thanked for their support and generosity with Project Compassion. They were encouraged to participate in the Easter ceremonies and rituals as a family and wished a safe and wonderful holiday period!

Peter Molinari & John Rodgers
McAuley Campus Directors

“TEAMWORK TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE THE EXTRAORDINARY”

STUDENT OF THE TERM AWARD - TERM ONE 2012
This award is to acknowledge one student in each year level who has achieved or performed ordinary tasks, extraordinarily well in the daily events of school life, such as; the classroom, in interschool or co-curricular activities, displaying courtesy and punctuality, a strong sense of social responsibility and identity, a deep respect for the dignity of the human person, responsiveness to College ethos, the correct wearing of the uniform and a positive attitude.

Mrs Pistotek the Year 7 Wellbeing Coordinator, Miss Tineo the Year 8 Wellbeing Coordinator and Mr Hill the Year 9 Wellbeing Coordinator were called up to the lectern to announce the Student of the Term awards for their Year Level, and Mr Molinari presented the certificates and momento.
On the 28th and 29th of March all Year 8 students were involved in a day of Orienteering at Cardinia Reservoir Park. It was a much anticipated event, where students were split into teams of five from their homerooms. They were then transported by bus to the destination, where the sun was shining both days. All students were excited about what Orienteering would bring and what it was all about.

Once they arrived at the park they were able to eat their morning tea and then it was straight into action. All students were briefed about Orienteering and given packs to help them throughout the day. They were then sent out in their groups to mark out on their maps which route they would take, to ensure they found the most checkpoints and other requirements. Students were then required to come back as a group for a safety briefing. After this they were off, to try and find as many checkpoints and requirements as they possibly could within the allocated time.

All students left in a hurry, excited to get out and start their day of Orienteering. They were so excited that some forgot to collect their crosswords. Students were busy for the next hour and a half looking for checkpoints, collecting rubbish and answering bonus questions in order to be crowned the winning team for the day. Students were running up hills, through trees and along bridges. Some were lucky enough to even come across a few kangaroos and some other beautiful wildlife.

Students had to be back at the finish line within a time frame and if they were not back they would be deducted points for every minute they were late. After students had finished collecting checkpoints they ran to the finish line, where their times were recorded and points added up. We then had lunch and had a final presentation with the top three teams being awarded medals, as well as announcing the top scoring homeroom for the day. Students boarded the buses tired but enthusiastic and excited about the day.

Overall, it was a great day and students were able to enhance their friendship groups with members of their homeroom, as well as learning valuable team building and communication skills.

Thank you to all of the Year 8’s and the staff involved during the two days.

Miss Emily Tineo
Year 8 Wellbeing Coordinator
BUILDING RESILIENCE IN CHILDREN AND RAISING REAL PEOPLE

A Parent Seminar
At Mount Lilydale Mercy College
Presented by Clinical Psychologist
Andrew Fuller

A MUST FOR ALL PARENTS AND GUARDIANS!!!

When: Thursday 24th May 2012
Time: 7.30 – 9 pm
Venue: Mount Lilydale Mercy College
       Centennial Hall
       120 Anderson Street, Lilydale

Hear from the expert in adolescents and resiliency
Andrew Fuller

Tea/coffee/biscuits provided
No cost to attend the seminar