“A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: ‘If you want to’ he said, ‘you can cure me.’ Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. ‘Of course I want to!’ he said. ‘Be cured!’”

Mark 1: 40-41

Communities in the time of Jesus did not know how to treat leprosy and so to avoid others catching the disease the lepers were made to live outside the community. They were totally excluded. They certainly were not enjoying life to the full.

The response of Jesus was to offer this person an opportunity to have life to the full by enabling the person to re-join the community. The leper took action, taking the initiative, by asking Jesus to be cured. This was a sign that the leper still has not lost hope. Jesus stretched out his hand and touched the leper, probably the first human touch received by the leper for a long time. Jesus took a risk in doing this and of thereby being excluded himself.

We are encouraged to take action ourselves whenever we feel excluded in any way ourselves. We can take the initiative and make the first move. On other occasions we can ‘stretch out our hand’ to help others. We can offer a sign of acceptance or a gift of compassion in our action as well as our words.

There are three things the poor prize more highly than gold, tho’ they cost the donor nothing; among these are the kind word, the gentle, compassionate look and the patient hearing of their sorrows.”

Catherine McAuley rsm

Prayer

Loving God,
May the Spirit of God find a home in us.
Amen
May the Spirit of God animate us.
Amen
May the Spirit of God create new hearts in us.
Amen

Dear Parents/Guardians, Students, Staff and Friends

All students have now returned and the College is a vibrant place once again with the sounds of youth resounding in our ears.

WELCOME:
Welcome Mrs Tania De Simone who is returning to the College for Semester 1. She is replacing Mr John Kingma who will be on leave for the Semester.

CONGRATULATIONS:
Congratulations to Daniel Dickson (College Captain of 2010) who has recently been employed as an AFL Development Officer in Northern NSW, based out of Coffs Harbour. Daniel will work full time whilst studying over the next 3 years (Cert III, Cert IV & Diploma in Sport & Recreation.) His major role is in implementing the game in school and community centres and assisting clubs with their growth.

In Daniel’s first week he managed a Talent Camp for 11-15yr olds, which had presenters including Paul Roos, Jason Saddington & Tom Harley. Daniel has quickly impressed everyone in the organisation.

We acknowledge the Koori people who are the Traditional Custodians of this Land. We pay respect to the Elders both past and present of the Koori Nation and extend that respect to other Indigenous Australians.
Congratulations also to Josh Petracca – Year 12 who will be participating in the World Cup Qualifier against Samoa in Grid Iron on the Gold Coast later this month.

Danielle Hughes – Year 12 will represent both junior women and open women from the Oceania Region in Inline Hockey in New Zealand in April.

Good luck to both Josh and Danielle!!

**COMMUNITY OPENING MASS:**
You are all invited to attend our Community Opening Mass to be held in the Doyle Centre on Monday 13 February at 7.30 p.m. Whilst it is essential that all Year 7, Year 12 and new students attend, all students really should attend to honour their commitment given upon enrolment as members of this Catholic School. The Eucharist is an ideal way to welcome new students into our community and to pray for a successful year. Please arrive by 7.15 p.m. to ensure that you can find a parking place and be in the Doyle Centre by 7.30 p.m.

**PARENT, STAFF AND STUDENT INVOLVEMENT**
I invite parents/guardians, staff and students to join one of the Advisory Group relating to Policies and Curriculum, Buildings and Finance. The role of each Advisory Group is to evaluate and advise upon matters referred to it by the Advisory Council and/or Principal; to make recommendations through the Council to the Principal, on new initiatives developed by the Group in relation to its area of operation; to undertake such projects as may be referred to it by the Principal and/or Council. The responsibility of each group is listed below and I ask any parent, student or staff member interested in joining a group to advise me of your interest in writing, by email or via the telephone.

**BUSINESS & FINANCE ADVISORY GROUP:** The Business and Finance Advisory Group is responsible to provide advice and assistance to the Business Manager; to oversee the financial reporting system of the College on behalf of the Council, and to make recommendations to the Principal through the Council regarding the College Budget and Fee Structure. In addition to analysis of current financial records it also focuses on long term development.

**BUILDING AND PLANNING ADVISORY GROUP:** The Building and Planning Advisory Group’s area of responsibility is to develop a vision of the present and future building needs of the College. This includes the implementation of or modification of the Master Plan for new buildings and the refurbishment of existing buildings. The Building and Planning Group should focus on strategic issues for the College rather than maintenance issues.

**POLICY AND CURRICULUM ADVISORY GROUP:** The Policy and Curriculum Advisory Group is responsible for advising the Council and Principal on Policy associated with all learning experiences which impact upon the wellbeing of the students within the school, including the Pastoral policies and the Courses of Study.

**NEW CHAPEL:**
I am pleased to announce that the same Builder, 2 Construct, will construct the Chapel. Their competitive tender and highly acclaimed work on the Mansfield Learning Centre and Dublin House earned this appointment.

The Chapel will be available for the community and Old Collegians.

**INFORMATION NIGHTS:**
The Information Nights for Years 10, 11 & 12 will be held on Monday February 20 at 7.30 p.m. The venues are:

- Year 10: Lecture Theatre
- Year 11: Doyle Centre
- Year 12: Centennial Hall

Bernard G Dobson
Principal

---

**Invitation to Year 8 Families for Term 1**

In Term 1 all Year 8 classes will be preparing their own class Mass and celebrating the Eucharist together. The students would like to invite family members to this special occasion, which will be held in the College Chapel located in the Mount St Joseph building. The date and lesson time will be published in the College newsletter each week. Your son or daughter will also inform you about the details of their Mass preparation and celebration.

The first class Mass will be 8 Jade – on Friday 17th February in lesson 4 (11.55am) You are most welcome to join us.

---

The Mary MacKillop Museum, at 362 Albert Street East Melbourne, will be open to the public on Saturday 11 February, 24 March, 4 August. 20 October and 24 November from 10.00am—4.00pm to enable visitors to view the special exhibition on loan from Sydney titled: “Mary MacKillop and the Irish Sisters” - the story of Mary’s travels in Ireland and her return journey to Australia with the Irish postulants.
Welcome back to the start of the school year. Our College theme for 2012 as determined by the Prefect group is “Be a light; animate others; share the journey”. The notion of light was twofold in their thinking - a light to guide as well as being the light of Christ. Animate was an interesting one - taken from a saying of Catherine McAuley it is calling us to give life and vitality to those around us. The discussion at the time was about the value of displaying a positive attitude and how this rubs off on those around you. Share the journey is saying that we are a community and we are about developing a sense of belonging. A favourite Prefect theme is always concerned with encouraging students to get involved in school life and the positive spin offs that flow from this. Special mention to Visual Arts Prefect, Tessa Van Eekelen for her wonderful depiction of this theme which adorns the cover of the Student Planner.

A timely reminder about the wearing of correct uniform to commence the school year. This extends to the requirements for jewellery and make up. Please refer to the letter that was sent to all families at the end of last year. The other aspect of uniform that is vital, is for all items to be clearly labelled with names. So much uniform ends up in lost property during the year, most of it without any indication as to the owner. A few minutes at the beginning of the year can avoid unnecessary expense later on replacing lost items.

A reminder that the blazer will not be required to be worn by students during February. On cooler days students are **not permitted to wear the jumper as the outer garment to or from school**. Under these circumstances the blazer must be the outer garment. We would hope that such a fundamental issue as uniform needs to be an issue at the very beginning of the school year. The expectations are clear and all students are expected to wear the full uniform in the correct manner.

Our Sunsmart Policy requires students to wear hats at recess and lunch during Term 1 and Term 4. The only hat that is permitted is the College bucket hat. Replacement hats can be purchased from the Uniform Shop. We encourage sunscreen to be applied and this is available from various locations around the school. Students without hats will be directed to shade areas by staff members.

I would ask that parents continue to observe the procedure of using the College Reception if there is a need to contact students during the course of a school day. Whilst it may seem more straightforward to contact your child directly via their mobile phone, this can create other issues. The same applies if you need to drop something off to your child during the course of the school day.

Wellbeing Coordinators for 2012 are:

Year 7: Mrs Magda Pisotek (Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri) & Mrs Karen Myers (Thurs)
Year 8: Ms Emily Tineo
Year 9: Mr Terry Hill
Year 10: Mr Neal Haining
Year 11: Mr Steve Palmer
Year 12: Mrs Janet Barr

Campus Directors for 2012 - at McAuley Campus, Mr John Rodgers and Mr Peter Molinari and at Barak Campus the role will be performed by Ms Lucia Tabacchiera and Mr Michael Callanan.

Michael Johnston
Deputy Principal - Director of Students
FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL - DIRECTOR OF MISSION - David Finch

I have experienced a wonderful start to my time here at Mount Lilydale Mercy College and certainly looking forward to being part of this community. It is nice that everyone I have met has been very friendly and accommodating towards a “South Australian” (even a Crows supporter!)

It is great to be part of a school community where there is a clear evidence of the Mercy tradition and ethos. To believe in it, to act on it and to share it with others. As teachers at Mount Lilydale Mercy College we all have the responsibility to share that spirit of Mercy, one that invites us to be significant adults in the lives of our students. In my role as Deputy Principal – Director of Mission, I look forward to learning more about Catherine McAuley and the tremendous legacy she has created.

In the words of Catherine, “where would we be if we have not received Mercy ourselves” – is a valid point we share, as parents and educators of our children

Term one is an exceptionally busy time with many events approaching. We also welcome 250 new Year 7 students and a number of other students represented in all Year levels. Our senior students embark on their final year of studies – so I wish all students every success in 2012. I also encourage students to look at getting involved in the many opportunities the staff at the College provide, particularly in the area of social justice and outreach programs.

Next week we mark the beginning of Lent with a liturgy together. Lent is a time about taking the opportunity as a Catholic community to have a ‘spot check’ of our perspective on life and to get things back in order where we sense we are drifting from where we want to be as responsive and mature Christians. It is a time when we are more formally invited to appreciate how we have been blessed and to re-evaluate how we respond, individually and as a group, towards our fellow human beings, especially those who are most in need of our assistance and support.

Catherine McAuley, used to continually invite people to be respectful and loving towards each other. She used to say that one’s actions ought to be a visible sign of how God loves each one of us.

Catherine used to often re-evaluate where life was going for her. She was convinced that listening to the voice of God within one’s own heart would lead her to respond appropriately to the needs of the poor and disadvantaged in her time. Her response was to help the poor through the provision of Catholic education.

The call to re-evaluate our own lifestyle is not necessarily an easy one to follow through. Many of us are still struggling to come to terms with our own concerns, and find it difficult to think about how we can assist the welfare of others.

To re-evaluate, on the home front, means that we are being challenged to become more genuinely attentive to each other – especially towards those whose heart may be troubled, those who feel lonely, those who are victims of troubles at home or at school, those who feel that no-one cares, or those who find it difficult to make friends. So Lent is a special ‘reminder time’ where all of us, students, staff and families can think about our Christian calling to remember others and not just focus on ourselves.

We begin our Lenten journey with the sign of the cross traced upon us in ashes. Many Christians around the world receive a cross of ashes on their foreheads on Ash Wednesday. God’s people have used this powerful sign for hundreds of years. This cross of ashes tells friends and neighbors that we know we are not perfect.

We sometimes don’t follow God’s law of love. We may hurt people or act selfishly. On Ash Wednesday we tell God that we are sorry for these things and we ask God for help during these next six weeks so that we can become better people and really change our hearts.

A PRAYER FOR LENT (to share with your family)

Jesus, our Brother, help us to follow you.
Help us to follow you into the desert, with you to fast, denying false luxury-values, refusing the tempting ways of self-indulgence, the way of success at all costs, the way of coercive persuasion.

Jesus, our Brother, help us to follow you.
Help us to follow you into untiring ministry to town and village, to heal and restore, to cast out the forces of greed, resentment, communal hatred and self-destructive fears rampant in our lands.

Jesus, our Brother, help us to follow you.
Help us to follow you into the place of quiet retreat, to intercede for the confused, the despairing, the anxiety-driven, to prepare ourselves for costly service.

Amen

I look forward to meeting all the students and as many families as possible during the course of the year – which may take me some time? (as my last school was half the size!!)

David Finch
Deputy Principal – Director of Mission
EDUCATION TAX REFUND

The Australian Government is helping you with the costs of educating your children.

The Education Tax Refund (ETR) provides parents and guardians up to 50% back on a range of children's educational expenses. Refunds may be as much $397 for each child at primary school, and up to $794 for every child at secondary school (2010-2011 Year). The amount of the refund increases each year by the Consumer Price Index.

Making the claim is simple. If you need to lodge a tax return, you can complete an ETR in your return or let your tax agent know you want to claim the refund. If you don't need to lodge a tax return, you can complete an ETR for an individual 2011 claim, which you can get from the Tax Office Website or by calling 1300 720 092.

Who is eligible?
A person who is entitled to receive Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part A for a child undertaking primary or secondary school studies.
Independent students in primary or secondary school.

People on other allowances may also be eligible. So check your eligibility and the full list of what can be claimed on the Website.

I urge you to keep eligible item receipts and take advantage of the refund. Parents and guardians can claim for expense such as school textbooks, study guides, stationery, computers, internet connections and educational software. You can also claim for prescribed trade tools for secondary trade courses. You cannot claim for School fees or Levies.

Update – The Government has changed the Education Tax Refund to include school – approved uniforms purchased from 1 July 2011.
For more information, go to www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au/

Dean de Munk
Business Manager
Phone : 9237 1314

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE INFORMATION FOR 2012

Application Forms for the Education Maintenance Allowance are available from the Finance Department.

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children.

To be eligible for receipt of the EMA you must:
- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004 or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a foster parent.

Consequently parents/guardians are able to access the EMA if they have a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card. The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of Term 1 (1 February 2012) which is the first day for teaching staff) and Term 3 (16 July 2012).

The EMA application must be submitted to the school by 29 February 2012 for the first instalment and 3 August 2012 for the second instalment.

The EMA provides an annual amount of $470 for secondary students and is paid in two instalments.

Students turning 16 years in 2012 will be paid on a pro rata basis.
Eligible parents have the option to receive the 50% ‘parent portion’ of the EMA payment directly into the parent’s nominated bank account, or as a cheque payment. The application form includes a section for you to nominate whether you would like your EMA payment to be made to your own bank account or to receive your payment as a cheque. The banking details required will include the BSB code and the Account number.

Parents with continuing eligibility, who are paid the first instalment of 2012 through this school will not be required to complete a new application for the second instalment. Parents who transfer children to another school after 29 February 2012 and prior to or on 3 August 2012, must reapply at the new school for the second instalment.

Contact: If you have any questions please contact Mrs Margaret Kirkwood on 9237 1315.

Applications for the 1st Instalment must be submitted to the school with a PHOTOCOPY of your valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card by 29 FEBRUARY 2012.

NO LATE APPLICATION FORMS CAN BE ACCEPTED.
COLLEGE PLAY FOR 2012 IS “MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING”

Being on stage can be a great feeling. Creating something with other students from all year levels can be an amazing experience. This happens to students when they join the College play, the performance put on by the students, under the leadership of the Year 12 Theatre Studies students.

This year the play is a shortened and simplified version of Shakespeare’s Much Ado About Nothing. Our Theatre Studies students are already working on the production and we are delighted with their ideas. The play will be performed on Thursday 10th (Technical and Dress Rehearsal), Friday 11th and Saturday 12th May.

Rehearsal nights will be:
- Wednesday and Thursday 3.30 – 6.00 p.m. until full run throughs of the show which will go until approximately 7 p.m. closer to the date
- All cast will be required for part or whole of the first rehearsal
- There may be one Sunday afternoon rehearsal but students will be advised of this as soon as possible
- There will also be four days of rehearsals during the first week of the 1st term break.

Auditions begin next Monday, 13th February run after school each night until 28th February, after which time the cast list will be put up, along with a callback list for those going for speaking parts or main roles.

If students are interested in having a go, they need to pick up a permission letter from Student Reception, choose an audition time in the book and write their name against it, and turn up in Centennial Hall at the appropriate time, with their signed Permission Slip portion of the letter. If students have any questions, they can see me, Ms. Van O in Centennial Hall any lunchtime. Parents can telephone me at the College.

The play is fun; it increases your confidence, public speaking skills and your friendship group.

Have a go!

Elizabeth van Oosterom
Faculty Head, Performing Arts

Music Lessons

Considering individual music lessons in 2012?
Tuition is available at the College in the following areas:
- Guitar (electric, bass and acoustic), Violin, Singing, Drum Kit, Piano/keyboard
- Flute, Saxophone, Clarinet, Trumpet and Theory of music.

Music Scholarships

To enrol complete an enrolment form available from Student Reception and SLR music rooms.

An instrument and voice tuition scholarship are available for each year level. Application forms available from SLR music rooms.

Dr Paul Curtis
Music Coordinator

VCE CREATIVE SHOWCASE

Congratulations to:
Alyce Seamer
James Murffett
Heath Nunn
Ellie-Marie Herbert

The creative excellence of last year’s Mount Lilydale Mercy College VCE students will be celebrated at local exhibitions in the Shire. You are encouraged to attend the Red Earth Gallery display to experience the exciting artwork of our students.

VCE Creative Showcase on display at Red Earth Gallery Mooroolbark Community Centre from Thursday 16 February 7pm to Thursday 15 March
Old Collegians’ Business Breakfast

Guest Speakers:
- Sr Nancy Freddi rsm
- Hon James Merlino MP – Deputy Leader Victorian Opposition

When:
Wednesday 21 March 7.00am - 9.00am

Venue:
Bird & Barley Restaurant, Lilydale Motor Inn, 474 Maroondah Highway, Lilydale

Breakfast Includes:
Fruit Juices, Cereals, Fruit Compote, Toast & Condiments, Bacon Eggs, Sausages, Beans, Tomato etc. plus Tea and Coffee

Cost:
$35.00 per head

Proceeds:
Towards Old Collegians’ Memorial Chapel

Tickets:
Contact Leonie on 9237 1356 or email: ziolkowl@mlmclilydale.catholic.edu.au

Welcome to the National Year of Reading

What is the National Year of Reading 2012?

The National Year of Reading 2012 is both a celebration of the pleasures of reading and an ambitious campaign to help turn Australia into a nation of readers by promoting a universal appreciation of the benefits of reading and the notion of a reading culture in every home, school and community.

Why do we need it?

There is plenty of evidence to show that literacy is a major issue for this nation. According to the 2006 Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey, nearly half of all Australians (46%) don’t have the literacy skills they need to cope with everyday life and work. A survey by the Australian Industry Group in May 2010 of major employers found that more than 75% felt their businesses were affected by low levels of literacy in the workforce.

Australian libraries and library associations are behind the campaign to turn 2012 into the National Year of Reading, linking together all the great things that are already happening around books, reading and literacy, and giving them an extra boost, with inspirational programs and events taking place across the country.

What will this look like at Mount Lilydale Mercy College?

We ask that you, as parents, support our endeavours to enrich your child’s academic experiences by supporting the literacy events and programmes that we will be offered throughout 2012. We will keep you updated on how you can be involved both here at the college and at home.

We also invite you to speak with our Teacher Librarians regarding ideas, suggestions, or concerns as we work towards creating confident communicators, imaginative thinkers and informed citizens through nurturing a community of readers within the college through engaging staff and students in the reading process while aiming for reading success for all.
Mt Lilydale - Players Wanted
Mt Lilydale Old Collegians Soccer Club - Players Wanted for the Upcoming 2012 Season for Seniors and Reserves, Men’s and Women’s.
For further information and Club contacts please visit us www.mlocsc.com.au

Yarra Glen Jets
To all Parents and Budding Football Heroes! If you ever dreamed of playing AFL for your favourite team, well it all starts here, this is an Invitation to all boys and girls who wish to play. Ages 6 – 16, Come and join a happy and safe environment where you can have fun and develop your skills
For further information contact Club President: Andre Massoud 0413 497 911 or join us on SUNDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2012 at 10.00am - midday

Wandin Junior Footy Club 2012 Registration Day - Sunday 19th February 2012 from 10.30-12.30 at the Wandin Junior Footy Club Oval, Clegg Rd, Wandin North. Please come along to renew your membership or to become a new member of our fantastic club. If you would like to join but can’t make it to the registration day please phone our registration officer Joanne Hartman on 0438 082 442. For any Auskick enquiries please phone Peter Dall on 0457 309 715 www aflauskick.com.au

Montrose Football Club are seeking players for Under 15 & Under 17. Brett Johnson, ex captain of Williamstown is the Club’s Senior Coach & he promotes a comprehensive game plan from U12s through to Seniors. Contact can be made for further information to Darren Roth 0430 358 355 full details can be found on our website. All our U17 players will participate in an EFL Youth Development Course.

MONTROSE CALISThenICS - Enrolments are now being accepted for students aged 3 to 18+. For further information please call 9728 4167 or check out our website : www.montrosecalisthenics.com

MANSFIELD LEARNING CENTRE - NEW YEAR 7 COMPLEX
Back to School 2012 – Tips for Parents and Carers

A significant ‘spike’ in asthma symptoms, and subsequent hospital admissions of children occurs during the first few weeks of Term 1. While there have not been direct links established, the February ‘asthma spike’ is believed to be largely due to children coming into contact with triggers that they have had time away from now that they have returned to school.

What can parents and carers do to help their children avoid asthma exacerbations at school?

- Ensure that your child is always carrying their reliever medication (e.g. Ventolin, Asmol, Airomir or Bricanyl) as well as a spacer. Also ensure that you provide medication to the school or preschool that your child attends if required
- Ensure that you have provided the school or preschool with an updated Asthma Action Plan that has been signed by a medical practitioner
- Ensure that your child knows how to recognise early asthma symptoms, and can self-administer their reliever medication properly
- Encourage your child to seek assistance from school/preschool staff if they experience asthma symptoms

For further information, please contact the Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 645 130 or email schools@asthma.org.au

Preparing Your Child for School Sports Days

Sports carnivals are an important highlight in every school’s calendar, and it is important that all students are able to participate to the best of their abilities. Exercise is a trigger for over 50% of people with asthma, so asthma exacerbations are common on sports days. Parents and carers can take several easy steps to help manage their child’s asthma, and to prevent them from having a serious asthma attack.

- Return an updated Asthma Action Plan to the school so that staff are ready to respond appropriately to any asthma symptoms that your child may have
- Teach your child to recognise early asthma symptoms, and help them to feel confident to self-administer reliever medication (also using a spacer where possible)
- Encourage your child to notify staff if they experience asthma symptoms, even if they self-administer reliever medication and feel comfortable returning to activity
- Be aware that if your child is unwell or has poorly managed asthma, they are more likely to experience symptoms during exercise.

For further information, please contact the Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 645 130 or email schools@asthma.org.au
EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (EMA) & SCHOOL START BONUS APPLICATION FORM - 2012

The following details must be completed by the applicant (the concession card holder). EMA is payable by either Electronic Funds Transfer (Direct Credit) to your nominated bank account, or by cheque. However, you must complete the banking details section if you have a child commencing Prep or Year 7 in 2012 – to receive the School Start Bonus payment.

SCHOOL NAME

APPLICANT / PARENT DETAILS

SURNAME

FIRST NAME

ADDRESS

TOWN/SUBURB ________________________________________________ STATE ______ POSTCODE ______

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER: ____________________________

CENTRELINK PENSIONER

CONCESSION / HEALTH CARE CARD NUMBER (CRN) OR

FOSTER PARENT (*) OR

VETERANS AFFAIRS PENSIONER

_______ - ________ - ________ - ______

* Foster Parents must provide copy of the temporary care order letter from the Department of Human Services (DHS) or Courts, etc.

PREFERRED EMA PAYMENT METHOD Please TICK the box below for your preferred method for your EMA payment

EMA by EFT Complete bank details below for direct credit

EMA Payment by Cheque

SCHOOL START BONUS - for 2012 Prep & Year 7 students ONLY*

*If you have a child entering Prep or year 7 in 2012, and you hold a Centrelink concession card, please complete your bank account details below as you may be eligible for a School Start Bonus payment – only payable by EFT into your bank account

ACCOUNT NAME (e.g John Smith)

FINANCIAL INSTITUTION (e.g Westpac) AND BRANCH

BSB No. ________ ________ BANK ACCOUNT No. __________ ________

* If you are unsure of the above details check your Bank Statements or enquire at your Financial Institution.

STUDENT DETAILS

SURNAME

FIRST NAME

STUDENT ID

DATE OF BIRTH DD/MM/YYYY

YEAR LEVEL

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development collects your personal information for the purpose of administering the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) and/or School Start Bonus payment. Some personal information may be disclosed to other Victorian Government departments, such as the Department of Human Services, for the purpose of evaluation and monitoring of concession card services.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development may disclose some of your personal information to Centrelink to confirm that the details provided matches Centrelink’s records. This is to be used for testing eligibility for EMA and/or School Start Bonus applications for 2012.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will provide the above bank account details to Westpac Bank for the sole purpose of making the EMA and/or School Start Bonus payment into your nominated bank account. The bank account details provided will not be disclosed or used for any other purpose. You are able to request access to the personal information that we hold about you, and to request that any errors be corrected, by contacting your child’s school.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT ______________________ DATE ____ / ____ / ____

I authorise Mount Lilydale Mercy College to apply payments directly to my Fee Account.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT ______________________ DATE ____ / ____ / ____
EMA Eligibility:
The Education Maintenance Allowance is paid to parents of eligible students under 16 years of age, and the student is enrolled at a Government or non-Government School in Victoria on census day, 29 February 2012 for instalment 1 and 3 August 2012 for the second instalment.

The Education Maintenance Allowance will be paid in two instalments and to be eligible you must:
on the first day of 1st Term (1 February 2012) for the first instalment and
on the first day of 3rd Term (16 July 2012) for the second instalment:
(a) be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit, that is, a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or an eligible Health care card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, OR
(b) be a Veteran Affairs Pensioner (TPI), OR
(c) be a foster parent AND
(d) submit your application to the school by the date/s listed below.

Parents who receive a Carer Allowance (formerly known as Child Disability Allowance), or any other benefit or allowance
not income tested by Centrelink are not eligible for the EMA unless they also comply with one of (a) (b) or (c) above.

Submission dates
The application form must be lodged at the school by:
29 February 2012 for the first instalment or
3 August 2012 for the second instalment.

Parents with prep or year 7 children commencing in 2012 must lodge the application form before 15 December 2011.
For late enrolments, applications will be accepted up until 29 February 2012.

Important information
A separate application is required for each school if you have children attending different schools.
If you transfer your child, you will need to make a new application at the new school.

School Start Bonus Eligibility: To be eligible for the School Start Bonus you must:
(a) On 16 January 2012 be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit, that is, a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or an eligible Health care card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, OR
(b) be a Veteran Affairs Pensioner (TPI), OR
(c) be a foster parent AND
(d) have a student enrolled in Prep or Year 7 in 2012 & not have received the School Start Bonus in a previous year.

How to Complete the Application Form
NOTE: ALL SECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT / PARENT
1. Complete the APPLICANT/PARENT DETAILS & STUDENT DETAILS section.

Make sure that the Surname, First Name, and Customer Reference Number (CRN) details match those on your Centrelink card - unless you are claiming as a Foster Parent or Veterans Affairs Pensioner.

If you are claiming as a Foster Parent or a Veteran Affairs Pensioner, tick the appropriate box. In this case, you will need to provide a copy of documentation confirming your status as a temporary Foster Parent or provide your Veterans Affairs Pensioner card to the school.

2. Nominate your preferred payment method for EMA. Complete banking details if EFT option is selected section to identify the bank or financial institution account into which you wish the payment to be deposited. Cheques will be posted to your child’s school for distribution.

3. You must complete the banking details section if you have a child commencing Prep or Year 7 in 2012 – to receive the School Start Bonus payment.

4. Complete the STUDENT/S DETAILS section for students at this school.

Enter SURNAME AND FIRST NAMES in full.
Enter the DATE OF BIRTH e.g. 15/09/2006.
Enter the YEAR LEVEL, unless the student is ungraded, e.g. attending a Special School or Language Centre, then enter ‘UNGRADED’ in the YEAR LEVEL column.

5. Sign and date the form and return it to the school office.

LATE APPLICATIONS CANNOT BE PROCESSED

Queries relating to eligibility and payments of the EMA & SSB should be directed to your school.