Prayer

Lord, You asked that the little children be allowed to come to you; for it is such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. You entrust them to the care and protection of our communities of faith. Guide us as we strive to ensure that our Catholic communities provide a safe environment for each child. We pray especially for all those who have been harmed in their childhood. Give them courage in facing the past and lead them to your healing protection.

Amen

We are challenged by James to absorb the word of God into our lives. It is not enough just to hear the word and even to preach the word. We must live out the word in our actions.

Sexual abuse of children should never happen. Such abuse by teachers and clergy is particularly abhorrent as it is a complete betrayal of their position of trust and so contrary to how we are called to live. What such perpetrators have done is to preach one thing and act in a completely contradictory way.

I offer my apology as a member of the Church and as a teacher to those who have been abused. I pledge myself again to act in the best interests of all children placed in my care.

“Speak as your mind directs and always act with courage”

Catherine McAuley

SUNDAY, A SPECIAL DAY OF GRACE

Try to make Sunday special for the family. Start the day by attending Mass together and do something enjoyable following Mass and during the afternoon. Make Sunday a family day. Finish the day with a blessing, perhaps a simple ‘God Bless You’ to others in the family.

Dear Parents and Carers, Students, Staff and Friends

Today week marks the beginning of Child Protection Week and every person is invited to be part of making the future safer for children than it has been in the past. This is not just the task of teachers, priests and religious. It is the task of every family member. We are called to build a safer future for children and young people. They are amongst the most vulnerable members of our society. We have a duty to ensure that they feel and are safe and secure so that they will be able to flourish into bright, warm and loving adults.

CONGRATULATIONS

Mr David Finch, Deputy Principal—Director of Mission has been appointed as Principal of O’Loughlin Catholic College in Darwin. I congratulate Mr Finch on his appointment which he will take up in January. I have taken steps to advertise the Deputy Principal position at the College.

STUDENT PROGRESS INTERVIEWS FOR YEAR 12

Thank you to all who attended the Year 12 Student Progress interviews last week. These were held earlier than usual in order to give students time to implement suggested strategies to help them improve their results. This is part of our school improvement process.

NATIONAL SHADE DAY

Friday September 7 is National Shade Day and gives us all an opportunity to promote sun safety and to raise awareness of melanoma. I strongly support action that will raise awareness of the risks we face from sun damage and skin cancers. We do need to change some of our habits and all students should wear hats to prevent sun damage.

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.
OPEN DAY

Thank you to all who attended Open Day last Friday. Open Day is certainly a marketing event for prospective parents/carers and students but it is more than that for current parents/carers and family members. It is an excellent opportunity to strengthen partnerships and for parents/carers to gain an additional insight into the educational programme offered to their children. The greater the connectedness students feel to their school, the greater the likelihood that their educational outcomes will improve. Our commitment to school improvement demands that we do all that we can to strengthen this connectedness and this partnership with parents/carers. Thank you for your response.

FRAYNE SPEECH FESTIVAL

Congratulations to the Voice Choir on their success in the Festival. In a very high quality Final our team came second to Catholic College Bendigo.

PLEASE PRAY

Please pray for the repose of the soul of John Byrne who is the Grandfather of Sarah Year 10 and Liam Year 8.

We pray that John who shared his love with others will be welcomed into the fullness of life promised to him through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. May our prayers and support comfort his family and encourage them to look back on John’s life with joy.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

The government will soon announce its funding policy.

There are three main principles for funding Catholic schools by which any new funding model will be judged:

- Additional funding to Catholic schools is needed to close the gap between Catholic schools and government schools.
- Government funding must keep pace with the cost of educating a child in a government school.
- Fair funding for students with disability and special needs is essential, so that all students, regardless of the school they attend, receive funding to meet their needs.

The best way to influence politicians and decision-makers is for our parents and carers to advocate for their schools. When all funding is considered, Catholic schools operate with less per student than independent and government schools. Appropriately funding Catholic schools helps take the pressure off government schools.

Reduced funding will force up Catholic school fees, which will place an additional financial burden on families and may then force families to transfer their children into an already pressured government system.

"A FRAGILE BEAUTY: SCENES OF MELBOURNE AND BEYOND". AN EXHIBITION BY OLD COLLEGIAN MARTIN PRESCOTT

Imagine outback colours transported to the Melbourne skyline. Print making, painting and sculpture are used to highlight the natural beauty of Australia in this exhibition by emerging artist Martin Prescott. The exhibition is a series of contrasts: the serenity of a Hattah-Kulkyne sunrise over a family campsite compared with a steam locomotive at Flinders Street Station, the pools in a Karijini gorge with the Yarra and the fragility of the Great Barrier Reef with a solid bronze rendition. Visitors will be delighted.

Where: 300 Flinders Street, Melbourne between Elizabeth and Queen Streets. Ground floor gallery, Victoria University.
When: Weekdays 8.30am to 8.30pm, Weekend 10am to 5pm (closes Sunday September 2).
Cost: Free

Bernard G Dobson
Principal

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL - DIRECTOR OF STAFF - VICTOR MILES

STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

The staff of the College recently undertook a full day of professional development in two distinct areas. With the increase in the number of children suffering from life threatening allergic reactions, the State Government has mandated Anaphylaxis Training for staff in schools. It is interesting to note that our College has the highest number of students identified as sufferers of the most severe form of allergic reaction in the state.

St John’s Ambulance provided two trainers who delivered a three hour session devoted to prevention, identification of symptoms and emergency response procedures. In all, 75 members of staff have now been formally trained to respond to the life threatening reactions that can be triggered by what many consider an everyday occurrence, such as digesting milk, eggs or nuts or being stung by a bee or bitten by a jack jumper.

Another group of staff focused on the impending changes to the College Curriculum. Mandated changes have occurred and new curriculum documents have been developed for introduction to schools in 2013. The new National Curriculum has been named AusVELS. The state’s previous mandated curriculum was the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS). The VELS curriculum forms the basis of the new curriculum thus AusVELS. Teachers developed new curriculum units in the subject areas of English, Mathematics, Science and History. AusVELS will be phased in over a number of years with the above subjects being the first to be delivered within Victorian schools.

Victor Miles
Deputy Principal – Director of Staff
**MERCY DAY**

Mercy Day (September 14) is a day of celebration where we acknowledge our rich mercy heritage. On Wednesday September 12 there will be a simple liturgy conducted at Lilydale cemetery to acknowledge some of the early Sisters of Mercy who are buried there. On Thursday September 13 we will gather as a full school community for our Mercy Day liturgy. There is always a strong sense of stewardship - acknowledging the debt we owe to those who have come before us and the responsibility this places on the current generation to continue the work. A really important part of Mercy Day is the social justice aspect. This year we will direct our fundraising to the Mukuru Promotion Centre in Nairobi, Kenya (see below) and McAuley Community Services for Women (Melbourne) which provides accommodation, support and advocacy for women and their children who are experiencing homelessness, resulting primarily from family violence or mental illness.

*Mukuru is a project conducted by the Sisters of Mercy in the vast slums of Nairobi. In excess of 400,000 people exist in desperate living conditions. In true Mercy tradition a small group of sisters are operating school and health care facilities in an attempt to improve the prospects of the people who live in the slums. In the last 12 months Mount Lilydale Mercy College has offered financial support to the people of Mukuru and our aim is for this to be ongoing.*

Please find below the price list for food items on Mercy Day. Students will be permitted to wear neat casual clothing on Mercy Day and a $2.00 donation will be required for this. The money will be collected in homeroom in the days prior to Mercy Day.

**UNIFORM**

Winter uniform is compulsory for all students until the end of Term 3. From the beginning of Term 4 students will have the choice of wearing either summer or winter uniform.

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**MERCY DAY 2012**

**FOOD PRICE LIST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sausage</td>
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<td>Vegieburger</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hamburger</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roast Beef in Roll</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hot Dogs</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Devonshire Tea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pasta</td>
<td>$2.50 per serve</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poffertjes</td>
<td>$2.00 per serve</td>
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<tr>
<td>Soft Drinks</td>
<td>$1.50 per can</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spiders</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fairy Floss</td>
<td>$1.00 per stick</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chocolates, Cakes &amp; Lollies</td>
<td>50 cents per bag</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sushi</td>
<td>$1.50 per piece</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donuts</td>
<td>$1.50 each</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coffee/Hot Chocolate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gourmet Pizza</td>
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<tr>
<td>Popcorn</td>
<td>$1.50 per bag</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bottled Water</td>
<td>$2.00 each (500 ml)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ice Cream Van</td>
<td>Price per serve</td>
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</tbody>
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Parents are welcome to join in the celebrations – lots of entertainment, food and exciting activities. Please remember to sign in at the bus at the college entrance.

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Michael Johnston  
Deputy Principal – Director of Students
Term 3 started well and is in full swing for many of our students on the Barak Campus, and we are already looking at Pathways and options for 2013. Year 10 and 11 students are finalising their subjects for next year and our Year 12 students are working towards their final examination period. In support of the final exam period the College will run compulsory practice examinations on October 3, 4 and 5 for students studying specific Unit 3 and 4 VCE sequences. The Practice exams are a compulsory part of the preparation for exams and a vital learning tool. The exams will be run by external examiners in exactly the same fashion as the final VCAA exams in November. These Practice exams will be marked by the subject teacher and will be used in examination preparation prior to the exam period. Mrs Barr, Ms Ellul and Mr Callanan will be assisting the examiners during this period and the Barak Library will be open throughout the holiday break for students use. Students will receive an examination timetable prior to the end of Term 3.

Students who are completing external practical examinations with the VCAA such as Music, Dance or an oral component have been notified of the venue, date and time for their examinations in addition to all students receiving their VCAA examination timetable for the Oct/Nov period. As students work towards their final exams it can be a time of pressure and heightened anxiety. If parents have any concerns I encourage you to communicate with the subject teacher or the Wellbeing Coordinator or any other member of the Wellbeing Team for support.

Presentation and preparation to work says a great deal about the individual and is linked closely to performance and success. Indeed many employers have high expectations of employees in the same way. Over the past few months Homeroom teachers have been actively encouraging students to be responsible in getting to school and class on time, completing homework and revision tasks in a timely fashion and taking pride in their appearance and commitment to wearing the college uniform. We ask parents to please support this message at home and if you have any queries please contact the Homeroom teacher or Wellbeing Coordinator.

As this newsletter goes to print our second group of Year 10 students have returned from a week in the Jigalong community in outback Western Australia. The 16 students and 3 staff who have participated in this exchange are to be congratulated for their work and commitment to the Jigalong community. We are hoping to host a group from the school here next year prior to again supporting the school in the annual pilgrimage. Our Jigalong students will provide a detailed presentation to the Barak Campus on September 17 at our final assembly. We wish those students and staff participating in the Central Australia Trip and Italy Study Tour all the best on their travels later on this term and over the school holidays.

Michael Callanan & Lucia Tabacchiera
Barak Campus Directors

CHESS CLUB

Last Sunday four Mount Lilydale students competed in the final tournament of the year in the Billanook Chess Classic at Billanook College. It was a strong field and included some adult players with international rankings as well as some students who will compete in the Chess Olympiad in Istanbul, Turkey later this year. Congratulations to everyone who competed, including our best player on the day, David Remminga (9SI) who came third in the unranked players’ division. A number of other Mount Lilydale Mercy College students won chess pieces for successfully solving logic puzzles.

Chess Club runs every Wednesday at lunchtime in McAuley Library. Students can meet to play Chess and also have the benefit of our Chess tutor, Paul, who is there to help them improve their skills and strategies. All students at Mount Lilydale Mercy College are welcome, regardless of age or Chess ability. Students have the opportunity to represent the school by competing in the Billanook Chess Classic, a series of five tournaments held through the year at Billanook College. Once again, any standard of player is welcome to compete in these tournaments.

Katie Stanley
McAuley Teacher Librarian
A delightful evening was spent with our Parents and Friends, David Metzenthen and Leesa Lambert. David presented on the joy of reading and the process of writing with good humour through stories of his life and his family. David reminded us that each one of us has a story to tell and through careful and thoughtful delivery we are all able to ‘Share our Story’. I would like to express our sincere thanks to the Parents and Friends for their generous and ongoing support for the College Libraries.

Our annual event Books - Your Choice ensured that students continue to be involved in the selection of books for our College Libraries with Year 7 and Year 9 students selecting reading materials for both libraries. This process began with an engaging ‘book talk’ from Jess, our representative from The Little Bookroom, on the latest Young Adult literature for students which inspired our students to select from a range of recommended titles to be added to the College Libraries.

This week I take great pleasure in sharing with you the poem entitled Speaking the Truth Without Mind from our Year 11 Poetry Winner, Mikaela Baker-Passioni.

Andrea Coney
Head of Library and Information Services

**Speaking the Truth Without Mind**

The tear of a dry mellow winter,
As the sunlight rays go down,
So does the darkness as it comes up,
The blood is within my family.

The child smiles at me,
The blue eyes show glamour of lights,
The rosy cheeks go up because of joy,
But no hope in light can return within me.

Black eyelashes follow the purple shadows,
The arrow has shot its star,
The moonlight’s waxen turns full,
The ruby is within the eagle’s blood.

Changing the flow of my hair,
Dragons beat their fiery wings,
Someone calls my name,
Read reality like a complex mind.

Dig up your grave of your once held mind,
Let the nothingness sink into you,
The subject leaves you to be forgetful and blank,
It lets me go.

The arms of the ocean are comfortable,
Rolling me away from the troubles,
The world is known as pain from my eyes,
Block the secrecy that’s holding me.

Frail the cosiness from my home,
The poison stallion smells its last flowers,
Two doves share alike,
The bricks are like smooth lace.

My shoulders shatter to the chill as they break from you,
Hearing the sounds of crying pains from me,
To speak the truth in love,
And speaking the truth without mind.
THE CSYMA STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

NEW COFFEE LOUNGE WILL OPEN IN TERM 4

WE INVITE FAMILIES TO SUPPORT OUR EXCITING NEW INITIATIVE THROUGH SPONSORSHIP OR THE DONATION OF ITEMS TO ASSIST IN SETTING UP.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR UNWANTED LOUNGE SUITES, COFFEE TABLES, SOFAS, FRIDGES ETC.

Please contact David Finch, Deputy Principal - Director of Mission,

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ARRE YOU EX NAVY, ARMY, OR AIR FORCE?

Then Carry On (Victoria) may be able to help you with education costs if you meet our eligibility criteria.

If you have served in the Australian Defence Forces or Allied Forces and you wish to apply for a Secondary Education Grant for 2013, please telephone Carry On on (03) 9629 2648 to establish eligibility and request an application form.

Carry On (Victoria) assists Secondary School students in Years 7-12 with grants for expenses such as fees, books, uniforms, excursions etc. For those students going on to Tertiary Education a grant may also be available.

Children whose Parents or Legal Guardian/s have a need for financial assistance and comply with our eligibility criteria may apply. All grants are income tested and the closing date for applications is 23 October 2012.

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CHILD PROTECTION SUNDAY
9 SEPTEMBER 2012

AT THE CONCLUSION OF CHILD PROTECTION WEEK

WORKING TOGETHER TO PROTECT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR CHURCH AND SOCIETY
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Our Sports Captain Casey Wright has again been competing at Falls Creek, this time in the world-renowned Kangaroo Hoppet competition. Casey was unlucky to make third position, missing out by only two seconds. Another excellent effort.

If you know of a student achieving in their chosen field of sport, please send us the details at lworrell@exchange.mlmclilydale.catholic.edu.au or mflood@exchange.mlmclilydale.catholic.edu.au

EISM GRAND FINAL RESULTS

A tough and demanding season was wrapped up by our Senior and Year 9 sports teams with ten teams representing the College in various sports. An excellent effort by all teams throughout the season and a special congratulations to our three Premiership teams.

Premiers
Senior Girls Football (3.3-21) defeated Aquinas (1.0-6)
Senior Girls Soccer (1) defeated Mt. Scopus (0)
Y9 Girls Netball A (31) defeated Aquinas (28)

Runners Up
Senior Girls Netball B (12) lost to Aquinas (73)
Senior Boys Volleyball A (2) lost to Billanook (3)
Senior Boys Volleyball B (0) lost to St Josephs (3)
Year 9 Boys Football (3.5-23) lost to St Josephs (14.4-88)
Year 9 Boys Table Tennis A (10) lost to St Josephs (11)
Year 9 Girls Netball B (27) lost to Aquinas (33)

YEAR 9 TABLE TENNIS

MLMC 3 rubbers, 10 sets defeated by St Joseph’s 3 rubbers, 11 sets

It has been a terrific season for the Mount Lilydale Mercy College Year 9 Table Tennis team. The A team, made up of Luke Ramsden, Tom Page, Lionel Stanly and Chris Roberts, lost their first game in the last round against St Joseph’s and the rematch in the big one ended in the same way. The boys played admirably in going down in the Grand Final, by almost the barest of margins, one set difference over 21 sets.

Captain Luke Ramsden was the best player across the season. His ‘hit up’ partner was far and away the most improved in Tom Page. By playing with Luke so regularly Tom developed his skills to be an indomitable force in his own right. Lionel and Chris worked away tactically in support of the top 2 players but simply couldn’t win enough sets in the Grand Final. This was in contrast to their top quality play across the home and away season.

James Bird, Riley Anastasi, Caleb Hailemariam, Nick Corbett and Jack Ricciuti, in the B team, worked hard for a few wins over the journey. Each of the boys developed his skills and some good partnerships were fostered particularly throughout the doubles’ matches. It was terrific the way they wanted to come and support their teammates in the Grand Final too. They are top quality people.

Thank you to the Table Tennis boys for the season. Overall quite a successful one finishing the second best team. Well done lads.

Mr Beard
MERCY DAY!

RAISING MONEY FOR:

MUKURU PROMOTION CENTRE

MCAULEY COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR WOMEN

14th of September 2012
In 1896, the Sisters of Mercy established a Catholic Convent School in Lilydale. The local community provided financial support to the Sisters for the development of the school at this time. For over 100 years since 1896 parents and guardians have continued to support the College through the payment of School Fees, Levies and donations that have enabled their children to be educated at this magnificent and popular College.

In recent years we have borrowed funds and successfully completed significant building projects such as the Doyle Centre (Hall/Gymnasium), the Harley Building (Science), the Callaghan Building (Design/Technology), the Mansfield Learning Centre (Year 7) and the Dublin House Administration Centre in addition to many smaller projects to enhance facilities for students and staff without borrowing such as shade structures, re surfacing of courts, air conditioning in several buildings and refurbishments of many classrooms and offices. In 2012 we remain committed to the provision of excellent facilities for our students and their families.

Currently we are constructing a much needed Chapel whilst trying to keep School Fees and Levies at an affordable level in future years. The Chapel is due for completion in September and the Archbishop of Melbourne has agreed to Consecrate the Our Lady of Mercy Old Collegian Memorial Chapel on September 21.

The Chapel will be used for a wide range of activities including Year Level Liturgies, a private place of prayer, an appropriate place to pay tribute to students and staff along with a wonderful facility for community members to celebrate marriage and other significant events. The Chapel will serve as a constant reminder of the importance of liturgical celebrations, the need for prayer and our need to acknowledge those who have touched our lives.

We believe that the location at the entrance to the College will add a very special spiritual dimension. Students will pass the Chapel each day as they arrive and depart. They will have access for private prayer at all times during the school day.

The project itself will cost approximately $1.4m. Already we have raised $710,341 through generous donations and fundraising. During the remainder of 2012 we will continue to fundraise and seek donors so that we can not only pay for the construction but also so that we can furnish it appropriately and enhance it with religious art. All donors will be recognised in an appropriate manner.

We need your help and are seeking donations to the Mount Lilydale Mercy College Building Fund so that the entire Mount Lilydale Mercy College Community can benefit.

There are two ways members of our community can donate funds. The first is to make a direct tax deductible donation. We are seeking donors capable of different amounts as per the scale below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Donors</th>
<th>Amount $</th>
<th>Number of Donors</th>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>$1,000</td>
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Our Lady of Mercy Old Collegian Memorial Chapel
The second way members of the community can donate funds is to pay for the purchase of liturgical furniture, liturgical equipment, religious art and vestments. This could be done individually or by several people combining their donation. These items could be dedicated to the memory of a family member or an Old Collegian. I am delighted to announce that staff and students are designing and making some of the liturgical furniture but the materials still have to be purchased. Each donation will be suitably inscribed with the name of the person we are remembering or the donor.

Please contact The Principal, Mr Bernard Dobson or The Business Manager, Mr Dean de Munk, for more information on 9735 4022.

Please make payment to: The Mount Lilydale Mercy College Building Fund via: Cash, Cheque or Credit Card (Visa and Master Card only).

Name: .............................................................................................................. Address: ..............................................................................................................

Donation Amount: $............................................. Item to be purchased: ..............................................................................................................

Name of person/s to be honoured by the donation: ..............................................................................................................

Credit Card Details: Name on card: ..............................................................................................................

No. __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ Exp. __ / __

Please mail or deliver to:
Business Manager,
Mount Lilydale Mercy College
120 Anderson Street
LILYDALE 3140
31 August 2012

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Partial Closure of College on Wednesday September 5

Members of the local branch of the Independent Education Union have decided to take action in support of better pay and conditions for teachers and School Officers. Catholic Employers and the Independent Education Union have been conducting amicable negotiations on a new Industrial Agreement for some months. Progress in discussions is slow because salaries in Catholic Education are linked with salaries in Government Schools. Unfortunately negotiations with regard to the Government Agreement have broken down with the Australian Education Union wanting a salary increase above the 2.5% being offered by the Government. No agreement can be reached between Catholic employers and employees until there is a new State agreement.

It is my understanding that the action is not directed against Catholic Employers but is designed as a protest against the State Government over its refusal to grant the pay rise to staff in Government Schools.

This action will be held on Wednesday September 5 and will involve teachers and other staff attending a rally. As a consequence of 33 teachers being absent on Wednesday, we will not be able to conduct normal classes at all Year levels. The greatest impact is upon Year 9 and Year 10 classes and so it has been decided to ask students in Year 9 and Year 10 to remain at home on Wednesday. Year 11 and 12 students who usually have sport or supervised study on Wednesday afternoons, will be dismissed for the day at 12.50 p.m. unless they are studying VET subjects at the College. These VET classes will operate but VET classes may not operate in Government schools. Other classes will operate according to the Wednesday timetable although not all will have their regular teachers in charge of the lesson.

Teachers have been asked to provide students in Years 9 and 10 with work that can be completed at home on Wednesday so that the learning programme will not be too seriously affected.

I apologise if this action is causing you inconvenience but with this number of teachers absent for the day, we are unable to supervise or teach all classes. I trust that you will be able to make suitable arrangements for the care of your children.

Yours sincerely

Bernard G Dobson
Principal
Information for Parents

Order to Stop Unprotected Industrial Action by the Independent Education Union of Australia

The Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV) is the authorised representative of all employers of staff in Catholic schools regarding industrial relations matters.

The CECV is negotiating a new multi-enterprise agreement with the Independent Education Union of Australia (IEUA).

The IEUA announced on 1 August 2012 that their members would be stopping work for a full day on 5 September 2012, which is the same day that the Australian Education Union (AEU) is taking industrial action in support of their wages and conditions claim. The IEUA has labelled this stopwork as a day of protest against the Baillieu Government.

The CECV regards industrial action by the IEUA during the current enterprise bargaining negotiations as unreasonable and unwarranted. Apart from the fact that negotiations between the IEUA and CECV had been progressing well, the State Government (against whom the IEUA is taking action) is not the employer of staff in Catholic schools. It is difficult to interpret the proposed action as anything but support for and endorsement of the AEU, a union that has been vigorously campaigning for a reduction in funding to non-government schools, including Catholic schools.

In general, for industrial action to be lawful it must be protected industrial action. The Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth) (FW Act) clearly sets out when industrial action is protected industrial action. The IEUA action is not protected industrial action as the requirements of the FW Act have not been satisfied.

The CECV decided to obtain an order from the nation’s industrial umpire, Fair Work Australia (FWA) to prevent the IEUA action:

- to minimise the disruption to schools and student learning
- to demonstrate to the community that every effort has been made to minimise the impact of industrial action on parents who have paid school fees in good faith
- to avoid the impact on parents who bear the cost and inconvenience caused by unprotected industrial action in schools, including the need to take paid or unpaid leave from their employment to care for their children or pay for additional childcare.

On 24 August 2012, FWA agreed with the CECV that the proposed IEUA directed stopwork on 5 September 2012 would be unprotected industrial action and was not a political protest. FWA subsequently issued an Order which required the IEUA to stop organising and engaging in industrial action involving Catholic school employees. Any action taken by the IEUA in defiance of this order is not lawful.

The CECV expects that the IEUA and employees in Catholic schools to agree with the industrial umpire’s decision and comply with the order.

The CECV remains committed to negotiating a fair outcome for all staff in Catholic schools.