Prayer

Lord Jesus, You hold us in loving regard like a mother tenderly protecting her child against pain and suffering. May your love poured out so unconditionally flow through us to all in need of mercy. May this love inspire us to give generously to those who can provide practical support to the needy.

Amen

Mark 7:32, 34-35

“The Gospel gives us another example of Jesus reaching out to comfort the poor. By healing the man he is making him be more independent and helping him earn an income.

This practical assistance is what Catherine McAuley used as her model when she established the Sisters of Mercy. It is the model still maintained by Sisters of Mercy today and a model for all members of our Mercy community. Catherine reached out to help oppressed women and children and gave them practical support including shelter, education and training.

Having just completed Child Protection Week we can follow the example of Jesus and reach out to support children, and others in need by supporting two worthy causes on Mercy Day. Please give generously. Parents and Carers who would like to support the two particular causes are invited to make a donation by sending extra money with your child or by forwarding a donation through the Finance Office.

Dear Parents and Carers, Students, Staff and Friends

Mercy Day is our most important day of the year. It is the day when we celebrate our Mercy Tradition and at the same time allow mercy and compassion to touch our hearts to reach out to help those in need. This year we are supporting the Mukuru Project in Kenya and McAuley Community Services for Women. It is expected that all students will attend school on this day.

McAuley Community Services for Women continues Catherine McAuley’s mission by providing accommodation and support to women who are homeless, and women and their children escaping family violence. Each year they assist between 600 and 700 women and children in desperate situations. 46,000 women are homeless in Australia. There are four integrated programmes which care for women and their children in crisis.

- Family violence crisis accommodation
- Children’s programme
- Women’s homelessness programme
- Women’s employment programme

‘Truth is bitter unless seasoned with grace’
St Bernard of Clairvaux

Are you looking for ways to put your faith into action?
Get involved in a group that is working for others.
Share your story of involvement with others and invite them to join with you in living out your faith in action.

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.
McAuley House provides accommodation and support to approximately 70-80 women each year. It is a safe community where women live and stay to rebuild their health and wellbeing as being homeless can take a serious toll on a person’s mental and physical well-being. Essentially, McAuley House is about recovery with a focus on building confidence, social and practical skills and enabling them to move into their own accommodation.

McAuley Works is an intensive employment programme that assists 100 women a year to achieve qualifications and secure work. Once the women have work McAuley Works provides ongoing support to ensure that these women remain in their jobs.

McAuley Care is the only safe house in Victoria open 24 hours per day 7 days per week. 250 women and 300 children receive support each year staying for an average of 3-4 days.

The women are provided with emotional support as well as practical support including assistance on legal, medical and financial matters. McAuley Care provides all food, as well as clothing, pyjamas, toiletries and toys for the children. It also provides a children’s programme which focuses specifically on children’s needs some as young as 13 weeks old.

McAuley receives 54% of its funding from the government and relies on the ongoing and generous support of the community for 46% of its funding.

By supporting McAuley Community Services for Women on Mercy Day you will be helping many women and children have safer and brighter lives.

The slums of Mukuru are home to over 600,000 people. Most of these people have left their rural homes because of poverty and came to the city in the hope of finding work. Some are successful but the majority, being unskilled and uneducated, remain jobless. They live in very poor shacks made from cardboard or plastic material while those who are a little better off have houses made from corrugated iron sheets. These one-roomed houses are approximately ten by ten feet and have no sanitation or running water. There is no waste collection and most of the waste, household and other, goes directly into the nearby river.

About 60% of Nairobi’s population live in slum conditions. Slum dwellers pay rent for their shacks to landlords who ‘own’ the land. The amount varies from US $12-25 per month depending on the location of the house. There is no space for children to play. There are no recreation facilities for adults or children with the exception of bars, video shops, pool tables. Many turn to local brew, drugs and crime, against this background, Mukuru Promotion Centre, which is run by the Sisters of Mercy, is making an impact implementing a holistic program of education, health and social development components in collaboration with the Mukuru community.

Just a few dollars from us is able to make a big difference in Mukuru. Our support on Mercy Day is another way of keeping Catherine McAuley’s mission alive, a way of responding to the call issued by Jesus to bring comfort to the poor.
STUDENT PROGRESS INTERVIEWS FOR YEARS 7-11

Student Progress interviews are scheduled for Tuesday September 18. The partnership between home and school is strengthened through the discussions at these interviews and I urge every parent and carer to make an appointment to speak with your child and your child’s teachers. Your child will benefit!

SPEECHES BY COLLEGE CAPTAIN NOMINEES

Last Thursday morning I had the blessed opportunity to listen to nomination speeches by Year 11 students who have nominated for College Captain for 2012-13. I use the word blessed very deliberately because their words lifted me up. In many ways this was a moment of grace for me. I was lifted up by their comments about a sense of community, their understanding of the mission of Catherine McAuley, their pride in their school and the Mercy Tradition. Some of their comments were:

‘Gratitude to Mount Lilydale Mercy College for helping me become the person I am’
‘An opportunity to give back to an amazing school’
‘We gain so much more than facts and figures’
‘A welcoming family atmosphere’
‘Proud to represent my school’
‘Keep the Mercy Spirit alive’
‘Represent the values of our school and empower others’
‘This school and Year Level is full of potential’
‘I realised that I love this school’
‘We can work together and “treat all with kindness and ease”’
‘This school has given me so much’
‘It is left to us to maintain the Mercy Spirit’
‘We must represent the whole school and “we can never say it is enough”’
‘Delighted to be back in this school – a positive feel to the school’
‘Represent the school with honour and grace’
‘Bettering myself as a person’
‘Look out for others’
‘Compassion and stay true to each other. A special bond’
‘High on Mercy Spirit’
‘Consider others and be ‘united as one’’
‘Create memories that will last forever’

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Prime Minister’s Funding Response

This week the Prime Minister delivered the Australian Government response to the Gonski Review and outlined worthy aspirations for Australian education.

The Prime Minister has not given specific details about how funding might change as yet, but has stated that the Australian Government’s policy would include some recommendations made in the Gonski report.

The Gonski Review recommended that all disadvantaged students should be treated equally, with equal funding through loadings. This was a very positive proposal that will help meet the significant needs of disadvantaged students, particularly students with disability.

However, if adopted, the Gonski Review proposals would be disastrous for some Catholic primary schools. If the proposals were adopted, some Catholic primary schools would have to close and many parents would face big fee increases.

Any changes to school funding should be about delivering funding increases to schools, not fee increases to parents.

Catholic Education is waiting for more detail on the Australian Government’s future funding policy. We will keep you informed on any updates when they become available.

Bernard G Dobson
Principal

Mercy Day Mass

Mercy Day Mass will be celebrated on Thursday 13 September. The Mass will be held in the Doyle Centre commencing at 9.00am.

Parents and family are warmly invited to attend.
STUDENT PROGRESS INTERVIEWS
This year we are trialling new procedures to help facilitate improved opportunities for parents and students to participate in these important three way dialogues. The first change was holding Year 12 interviews on a separate evening (August 28). The second change is to make appointment times 7 minutes. Reminder chimes will operate but I encourage all involved to come prepared with some questions and also a willingness to take on board strategies raised to help enhance learning.

The Year 7 to 11 Student Progress Interviews will be held in the Doyle centre on Tuesday September 18. Our online bookings opened on September 3 and will close on September 16. Personalised log in details were distributed to students in Homerooms. Bookings are available between 10.30am and 8.25pm.

To help facilitate these interviews there are no scheduled classes for students in Years 7 to 11 on September 18. Year 12 classes will however operate as normal.

Interim reports were distributed to students on Friday September 7. Please take the time to discuss the relevant learning strategies suggested and clarify any aspects of the report at interview.

It is pertinent to mention that a recent research article on improving academic achievement states in its findings that short term interventions can bring about striking improvements in student’s non cognitive behaviours, which in turn improves their academic performance.

Academic behaviours are the visible outward signs that a student is engaged and putting in effort to learn. This includes regular attendance at class, arriving ready to work with correct materials, doing homework, participating in class and studying. All aspects of academic performance are expressed through academic behaviours.

Academic perseverance is a student’s tendency to complete school assignments in a timely and thorough manner to the best of their ability. Perseverance drives positive academic behaviours, which lead to academic performance.

Academic mindset is the belief one has about themselves in relation to academic work. These beliefs feed academic perseverance, which in turn drives academic performance, which circles back and validates positive academic mindsets.

The overall findings of the study conclude that working on academic mindsets has the greatest impact on student performance.

Mr Brian Hawthorne
Deputy Principal - Director of Studies

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, if you would like to help or have any queries on 9237 1373.
An important part of Mercy Day is fundraising - this year our funds will go to Mukuru Promotion Centre and McAuley Community Services for Women. Students will be required to pay $2.00 in order to wear neat casual clothing on Mercy Day. This money will be collected in homeroom in the early part of this week.

Michael Johnston
Deputy Principal – Director of Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sausage</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegieburger</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamburger</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roast Beef in Roll</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hot Dogs</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devonshire Tea</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasta</td>
<td>$2.50 per serve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poffertjes</td>
<td>$2.00 per serve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soft Drinks</td>
<td>$1.50 per can</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spiders</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairy Floss</td>
<td>$1.00 per stick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chocolates, Cakes &amp; Lollies</td>
<td>50 cents per bag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sushi</td>
<td>$1.50 per piece</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donuts</td>
<td>$1.50 each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coffee/Hot Chocolate</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gourmet Pizza</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Popcorn</td>
<td>$1.50 per bag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottled Water</td>
<td>$2.00 each (500 ml)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice Cream Van</td>
<td>Price per serve</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CARNIVAL RIDES
$3.50 per ride or 3 rides for $10.00

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.
In August we took two groups of eight students, led by Michael Callanan and myself the first week and Dean Fox and myself the second week, to Jigalong, a remote Indigenous community in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. We flew via Perth to Newman where we stayed overnight. The following morning we did our shop for the week, a convoy of 5 shopping trolleys full of food! Once packed into the back of our 4WD’s, with not much room to spare, we drove for almost 2 hours east inland along red, dusty, corrugated roads to Jigalong. Jigalong is a dry community and as such no alcohol is allowed. This doesn’t mean that Jigalong is without problems, but it greatly reduces all the problems for which alcohol plays a major part and gave our students a different perspective on Indigenous people compared to those one sees in touristy areas.

After arriving at Jigalong, we unloaded our shopping into the Rabbit Proof Visitor Accommodation, which we called home for the week. We then picked up our swags and loaded some in our 4WD’s and the rest on top of the rangers’ troupe carriers. We headed off in convoy with the aboriginal rangers, led by Ngungkarri (a white ranger), along narrow, sandy tracks into Martu country, half way to the Canning Stock Route. This was such a unique experience and special in that we were the first white people outside of Jigalong to have ever been to that area. I felt like an explorer! It was unique in that we were able to see the work that the Indigenous rangers are doing in the Pilbara and how they are enthusiastically managing their own land again under the guidance of Ngunkarri. Their understanding, knowledge and connection with the land is truly amazing to witness. We experienced the catching, preparation and cooking of a bush turkey. We walked to a newly discovered waterhole and were shown grinding stones and other artefacts as well as 5000 year old paintings. On our return from the waterhole the rangers were burning large areas of spinifex grass to regenerate the land with new growth. We camped overnight in swags and ate dinner cooked on the camp fire prepared by both the rangers and our students. The rangers gave a talk to us about their work and in turn our students gave an impromptu speech about their lives back in Melbourne. This was a fantastic exchange and there were many comments about how well our students spoke.

Back in Jigalong the remaining 3 days were spent at Jigalong Remote Community School assisting and observing in the classrooms. The Jigalong students are so warm, friendly and welcoming. Mount Lilydale Mercy College has been going to Jigalong now for 10 years and each year the Jigalong students can’t wait for the ‘Melbourne kids’ to arrive. The day begins with breakfast at school (8am) followed by fitness where each morning the students play a different sport. Then after some fruit it is into the classroom for lessons. The school day finishes at 2.30pm. One day, Greg the Principal, then took us out to see the Rabbit Proof Fence remains, Old Jigalong, Robertson’s Range, Donkey Hill and a climb up the local water towers. In the second week a Martu language assistant, Janelle, came with us from school and showed us some bush tucker. We also took the students to visit the local Police station and the medical centre where we learned about the work done by the Police and health issues in the Community. The week ended with us hosting a BBQ for the Jigalong teachers and any food we had left over was taken to the Jigalong Retirement Village where 9 elderly aboriginals are capably looked after by a retired nurse.

We were truly immersed into the community and came back very much enriched for the experience. It broadened our horizons and engaged us in a part of this wonderful country we live in that not many people get to experience.
SPORTS REPORT

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to the senior basketball team. They recently finished 5th in the State Basketball Championship and are now the highest ranked Catholic School in Victoria.

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

OLD COLLEGIANS’ NEWS

The next edition of the Old Collegians’ Newsletter will be distributed this week. If you are an Old Collegian and have not received your copy please email oc@mlmclilydale.catholic.edu.au and let us know. Alternatively you may wish to complete the information under the Old Collegians’ Contact tab on our website www.mlmclilydale.catholic.edu.au.

In the upcoming months the Old Collegians’ Association will be holding several functions. Please keep these dates free:

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - The Old Collegians’ Association will hold its ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING on Wednesday September 19 at 7.00pm in the Mount St Joseph Dining Room at the College.

ALL YEARS’ REUNION will be held on Friday October 12 from 5.00 - 8.00pm in Centennial Hall. Tours will operate from 5.00pm to 6.00pm with Entertainment from 6.00pm to 7.00pm. Refreshments will be served from 7.00pm to 8.00pm. If you wish to attend please RSVP for catering purposes by Friday September 14 to Leonie Ziolkowski on 9237 1356 or email oc@mlmclilydale.catholic.edu.au

OLD COLLEGIANS’ MEMORIAL MASS will be held in the new Our Lady of Mercy Old Collegians’ Chapel on Saturday November 17 at 10.30am. Please contact Patricia Olson or Leonie Ziolkowski regarding those you wish to be remembered on 9237 1356 or email oc@mlmclilydale.catholic.edu.au.

1992 REUNION will be held on Friday October 26 for the class of 1992. The time and location is yet to be determined. Please contact Kellie Fielder on 0438 319 475 for further details.

OLD COLLEGIANS’ UPDATE

Rohan Spong attended Mount Lilydale Mercy College from 1994 to 1999. He has been travelling for many years making independent documentaries mostly in the United States. He is passionate about telling unfamiliar stories across a variety of film mediums and genres. His work spans film, video, photography and animation. Rohan has made numerous music videos, contributed projections to theatre, exhibited photographs (USA, Israel, Australia) and has made a handful of short films. He is perhaps best known for his acclaimed feature length documentaries.

Rohan studied film theory and practice at the University of Melbourne following his education at the College. Whilst living in Los Angeles in 2008, Rohan began to assemble his first feature length documentary T IS FOR TEACHER (2009), about the experiences of four transgendered school teachers in American schools. The film went on to screen at a number of prestigious international festivals, alongside Oscar contenders. It was named by two Australian reviewers as amongst the best screen in Australian cinemas in 2009.

He is now returning to Melbourne with a feature film he shot and directed in New York and Los Angeles. The film is entitled ALL THE WAY THROUGH EVENING and it opens in 4 cities - Melbourne (Cinema Nova), Sydney, Adelaide and Brisbane on November 29.

“I remember my time at the College very well - some of the many teachers that encouraged me to follow my own unusual journey were Kelly Bunning, John Collins, Patricia Olson, Trish Portbury, Julie Shields and the late Mark Prest. I have no doubt that the gift of their teaching (and it must be said: their enduring patience with someone so desperate to get out of the classroom and have adventures) gave me the confidence to believe that some dreams really were worth following. I applaud them for all that they did to prepare me for the world”. - Rohan Spong
My Black Light!!!
1973 St Bernadette’s school for girls

Whispers spread through the halls,
Echoing around to each set of ears wishing to hear it,
The new girl, the new girl, the new girl.

Rumours spread like fire,
Every girl, teacher and visitor
The new girl.

People don’t understand,
People don’t get it,
Being like me is hard, being alone.

Being alone feels terrible,
Being black in a sea of white,
Being grey scale.

Moods,
Floating in to me,
Floating from those around me,

Moods overpower,
I’m now drowning,
No longer floating but drowning.
Girls pass me, stare at me,
A beacon of light appears,
Ironic.

My similar,
Only other one like me,
A black-light.

The moods leave,
No longer alone,
Power in numbers.

Stares still remain,
I cope with my similar,
Greeted with a black smile.

Being Black is easier,
When someone’s there,
To be black with you.

FROM THE REGISTRAR - MARY RYAN

Open Day last Friday saw a constant stream of visitors touring the College throughout the day. The Year 10 Peer Support students are to be congratulated for the fine way they led the tours with many guests commenting on their enthusiasm.

I would like to remind parents to return the re-enrolment forms as soon as possible as they are now overdue. Whether your child/ren are returning, leaving or unsure at this stage, it is vital that the forms are returned. Please return the completed form to Student Reception. Thank you to those who have already completed and returned their forms.

Mary Ryan
Registrar

FROM THE PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

A very big thank you to everyone who helped on Open Day.

The Parents and Friends Uniform Shop WILL NOT BE OPENED THIS THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 13. We will reopen on THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 20 between 12.00pm and 1.30pm.

In Term 4, the Parents and Friends Uniform Shop will be opened EVERY THURSDAY from 12.00pm to 1.30pm

Jacqui Macdonald
President Parents and Friends
MERCY DAY!

RAISING MONEY FOR:

MUKURU PROMOTION CENTRE

McAULEY COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR WOMEN

September 14th of 2012