FEAST OF CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

“I came into the world for this, to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice”
Jn 18:37

Christ’s kingdom is not like any earthly kingdom. It is one where the king has an absolute responsibility to care for the people. It is not one like so many earthly kingdoms where the king abuses his power and status for his own personal needs.

Our Gospel challenge is to listen to the message of Jesus and take up His command to love our neighbour, to take responsibility to care for others. In our school, workplace, neighbourhood, home or world we need to look out for those who need our guidance and support.

“IN VAIN CAN WE HOPE TO ATTRACT SOULS TO GOD UNLESS OUR OWN HEARTS BE FIRST ATTRACTION TO HIM “
Catherine McAuley rsm

Prayer

Compassionate Jesus, create in us a commitment to care for others.
Help us to be a light in the darkness.

Amen

Dear Parents/Carers, Students, Staff and Friends

The special assembly last Wednesday was a very moving occasion for me and my wife Kath. I felt very honoured to be farewelled in such a manner and I will certainly cherish the occasion always. The Eucharist of Thanksgiving and the Special Afternoon tea on Sunday were two other very special occasions. These occasions gave me the opportunity to thank students, staff and parents, past and present, for the wonderful encouragement and support they have provided to me for 14 years. It has been a privilege being Principal of this great Mercy school. There could be no more fitting way to conclude 46 years of teaching and 28 years as a Principal of a Catholic School than to complete my vocation as a teacher at Mount Lilydale Mercy College.

I was asked if Catherine McAuley would be pleased with what she saw if she paid the College a visit. I have no hesitation in saying that she would be pleased and amazed that her commitment to education could bear such powerful and positive results.

NIGHT OF EXCELLENCE
Our Night of Excellence is an opportunity for parents and carers to show very clearly to your children that you support all their endeavours to excel. The example of high achievers in all fields of endeavour is sure to encourage your child to strive for excellence. All parents/carers are invited to celebrate the excellent achievement of students on Monday December 17 at 7.30pm in the Doyle Centre.

AWARD WINNERS
Congratulations to Award Winners from Years 11. All Award Winners will be acknowledged in the final Newsletter posted with reports.

CONGRATULATIONS
Emmie Guy of Year 10 has been announced as one of 4 students in the Melbourne Archdiocese to be awarded the 2012 Father James Wall Bursary. The bursary is sponsored by the Catholic Development Fund (CDF) and the presentation by Archbishop Denis Hart took place last Tuesday. The criteria for the award indicates that the student should: demonstrate of a high degree of leadership in school and the community; be self-directed and demonstrate initiative; demonstrate leadership potential in a range of areas, focusing on the student’s willingness to coordinate and organise these activities; demonstrate an emphasis on helping others and providing service to others and; to be inclusive, cooperative and committed to making a difference.

I believe Emmie is the first student in the history of the College to win this bursary.
Emmie is pictured with the Archbishop, the Director of Catholic Education Stephen Elder and the Managing Director of the CDF John Hurran and other winners.

KWONG LEE DOW YOUNG SCHOLARS PROGRAMME
Congratulations to Alex Schafer of Year 10 on being accepted into the Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars Programme. The Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars Programme is an academic enrichment programme for high-achieving students. Congratulations!! The certificate will be presented at the Night of Excellence.

YEARS 7, 8, 9 & 10 LITURGIES AND AWARDS

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All of the Liturgies will be held in the Chapel and all of the Award ceremonies will be held in Centennial Hall.

CORRECTION DAY
Wednesday November 28 is a Student Free Day to enable teachers to work on corrections.

YEAR 7 ORIENTATION DAY
We will welcome the incoming group of Year 7 students on Tuesday December 11. Peer Support students will be available to assist in this welcome and to provide a link with a senior student for each Year 7 student.

PLEASE PRAY
Please pray that God will grant everlasting peace to Don Hodge, the father of Mardi – Year 11, Ella – Year 12 2011 and Jackson Hodge Year 7 2014 and Doreen Gossip, the Great-Grandmother of Kayla Gossip - Year 7.

In your love you gave Don and Doreen life and told them not to let their hearts be troubled but to trust in God, and trust in you. You have called Don and Doreen from this life to be with you and with your Father. You are the way, the truth and the life and you bear witness to the truth. Help us support those who mourn, comfort them with the knowledge that they will see Don and Doreen when the mercy of God reunites us all in the joy of the Kingdom of God.

CHANGES TO CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE
Recently the State Government, in a shock announcement, introduced changes to the allowance paid to families for transport to schools.

Conveyance allowances are paid to all students who have to travel more than 4.8kms to attend school at Mount Lilydale Mercy College. The metropolitan boundary is being changed to reflect Melbourne’s urban growth boundary and expanded public transport network. In addition, means testing is being introduced which targets the allowance towards those deemed by the State Government to be in need of financial assistance. Because Lilydale is regarded as an area where public growth has not expanded sufficiently, this area is granted a concession in that all students who are currently eligible will retain the allowance unless they move to a different house or school. If that does happen, they will be subjected to the means test.

The changes effectively remove the allowance for most incoming students or current students who move to a different house. It is a decision that goes against the right of parents to send their children to the nearest school of their choice. This policy will have a significant impact on families across the Catholic Education community, not just members of our particular community. Some families may no longer be able to exercise their right to choose a Catholic education for their children.

The Catholic Education Office of Melbourne and the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria (CECV) are raising this issue with the Coalition State Government and advocating for families who will be affected by the changes to conveyance allowance eligibility.

Please do not make any hasty decision about your child’s enrolment at the College. The policy has not been implemented yet. If you do have concerns, please contact me or the Business Manager, Dean De Munk, immediately. Hopefully the CEOM and CECV will be able to negotiate successfully with the State Government and if stronger advocacy is required, I will ask for your assistance in contacting your local State Members to outline your concerns.

Bernard Dobson
Principal

The Victorian Young Achiever Awards are now open. These Awards recognise Victoria’s young achievers up to 28 years of age who are making a valuable contribution in their field of endeavour in the categories of sport, community service and volunteering, small business achievement, science and technology, regional achiever or leadership innovation.

Nomination forms are available from the office of David Hodggett MP, State member for Kilsyth or Award sponsors. Nominations close on December 7 2012. For more information please phone the Awards office on 9720 1638 or log onto www.awardsaustralia.com/VicYAA_vic.php or email vicyaa@awardsaustralia.com
On Wednesday of last week a full school assembly was conducted to offer a formal student farewell to Mr Dobson. It was the final opportunity for the school to gather the Year 7-11 cohort. The assembly consisted of a brief liturgy, an ‘on the couch’ interview with Mr Dobson conducted by 2013 College Captains, Taylah McConachy and Alex Grieve, a speech by 2012 College Captains, Alex Sherman and Dan Wright to acknowledge the work of Mr Dobson during his Principalship of the College and a special presentation of a portrait of Mr Dobson that was completed by Visual Arts Prefect, Tessa Van Eckelen. Mrs Kath Dobson was also in attendance and was presented with flowers to show our appreciation for the support she has provided to Mr Dobson that has allowed him to devote the time and energy to the role of Principal.

In March of 2013 our school community will host staff and students from our Japanese sister school, Horyuji International High School. This cultural exchange is a fantastic way to learn something about a culture that is very different to our own and to help develop the sister school relationship that has been operating for many years. Students interested in participating in the Japan Study Tour in September of 2013 are strongly encouraged to act as hosts for the Horyuji visit. Horyuji have indicated that they have 19 students involved in the visit so I encourage you to consider hosting. If you are willing to host a Japanese student for a two week period in mid to late March next year you can ring me on 9237 1332 or contact me via email johnstom@mlmclilydale.catholic.edu.au

The return visit to Horyuji International High School in Nara is planned for departure on September 14 and returning on about October 2. The Japan Study Tour is open to students at Years 10 & 11 (2013) who are studying Japanese. Consideration would be given to students who have studied the language in 2012 but have decided not to continue with it in 2013. Final costing is still to be completed. In 2011 the cost of the trip was around $3,600. Students who are interested should write an “expression of interest” letter to Mr Dobson explaining why they would like to be part of this trip. This should be completed and handed in at Student Reception by Thursday November 29.

Michael Johnston
Deputy Principal - Director of Students

BOB STEWART UNIFORM SHOP
ORIENTATION DAY UNIFORM SALES
TUESDAY 11 DECEMBER 2012 FROM SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP - 9am

DECEMBER 2012
Saturday 1 9:30am - 12:30pm
Monday 3 12:30pm - 4:00pm
Tuesday 4 12:30pm - 4:00pm
Thursday 6 12:30pm - 4:00pm
Saturday 8 9:30am - 12:30pm
Tuesday 11 9:00am - 2:00pm Orientation Day

JANUARY 2013
Saturday 19 9:30am - 12:30pm
Monday 21 12:00pm - 4:00pm
Tuesday 22 9:00am - 1:00pm
Tuesday 29 12:00pm - 4:00pm
Thursday 31 12:00pm - 4:00pm

FEBRUARY 2013
Saturday 2 9:30am - 12:30pm

Normal Trading Hours Commence Monday 4 February 2013

The Mary McKillop Centre will host a special Christmas event on Tuesday November 27 from 1pm to 8pm in support of the Sisters of St Joseph Peruvian Project. Hand crafted goods, which make great Christmas gifts, will be on sale and all proceeds will go to the Peruvian Project. Christmas carols will be sung from 1pm—2pm and Peruvian food will be available after 5pm. Please come along and support the women of Peru and their families at Christmas.
Hay fever is the common name for a condition called allergic rhinitis, which means an allergy that affects the nose. Most people associate hay fever with spring, when airborne pollens from grasses are at their peak. However, hay fever can occur at any time of the year. This is known as perennial allergic rhinitis, which is usually caused by a reaction to allergens around the home, such as dust mites, moulds or animal hair or fur.

**Symptoms of Hay Fever** - Some of the symptoms include: Sneezing, A runny or stuffy nose, Itchy ears, nose and throat, Red, itchy or watery eyes, Headaches. In some cases, the symptoms of hay fever can be so severe that a person can’t sleep or concentrate, and may feel tired or unwell.

**Hay Fever is an Allergic Reaction.** Your nose acts as a filter. The tiny hairs and mucus that line the nasal passages trap dust, pollens and other microscopic particles. A person with hay fever is allergic to some of the particles that get trapped in the nose, such as pollen. An allergic reaction means the immune system treats a harmless substance as if it is dangerous, and launches an ‘attack’. The nasal passages become inflamed and more mucus is produced.

**Reducing Hay Fever Symptoms** - Suggestions to prevent or limit symptoms of hay fever include:
- Check the pollen count forecast on television or in the newspaper. Try to stay indoors if it’s a high count.
- Stay indoors as much as possible in spring, on windy days or after thunderstorms.
- In your garden, choose plants that are pollinated by birds or insects, rather than plants that release their seeds into the air.
- Replace your lawn with bricked or paved areas.
- Smear petroleum jelly (like Vaseline) inside your nose to stop the pollen from touching the lining of your nose.
- Splash your eyes often with cold water to flush out any pollen.
- Reduce your exposure to dust and dust mites, animals and animal hair or fur (dander).

**Medication Can Help** - If you have hay fever, your body produces a substance called histamine, which leads to inflammation (redness and swelling) in the nose. Some medications may help the symptoms of hay fever. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice. You may be advised to try:
- Corticosteroid nasal sprays – these help reduce the inflammation in the nose, which is the cause of nasal blockage and other symptoms. They need to be used regularly as directed to be effective.
- Anti-histamine medications (non-sedating) – these may be useful to control sneezing and itching, but are not as effective as sprays to control a severely blocked or runny nose. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice if you are breastfeeding, as some medications can cause breastfed babies to become irritable and restless.
- Eye drops – may relieve itchy, swollen or runny eyes. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice on choosing the correct eye drops.
- Decongestant nasal sprays – are useful for quick relief, but should not be used for more than a few days as long-term use can damage the lining of the nose.
- Immunotherapy – some people may benefit from immunotherapy, which exposes a person to increasing amounts of an allergen to improve tolerance and reduce symptoms. This therapy may help hay fever and some cases of asthma, but does not help food allergy. It should only be conducted under medical supervision as exposure to allergens can be dangerous and potentially life threatening. Seek advice from your doctor.

**Where to Get Help** - Your doctor - Pharmacist

**Things to Remember**
- Hay fever is an allergic reaction to pollen and is common in spring.
- Perennial allergic rhinitis occurs all year round.
- Avoiding your triggers is the best way to reduce the frequency of hay fever attacks.

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**WANTED URGENTLY** - A Coach for Lakers Boys U18 C Grade Basketball Team.

All the boys are students at the College.

Any questions or more information please call Selena (Team Manager) on 0401 183 613.