FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“Be on your guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with … the worries of this life.”

Lk 21:34

It is very easy for all of us to focus on the cares of this life; to worry about our work; our future careers; our income; our possessions and even our team’s success. We do need to be careful not to allow those worries to distract us from the important things of life such as relationships.

Jesus tells us through Luke’s Gospel that we must not be distracted by the cares of the world but be ready to love God and love our neighbour as an extension of that love. We are called to work at our relationships with all of humanity, not just one or two people who are close to us. It is because of the importance of loving God that we respect the dignity of each person and do works of justice.

Our Gospel challenge is to realise that there are others in need of assistance and to then do something about it.

“THE CIRCLE OF MERCY IS TIMELESS, IT IS SPIRIT OF LIFE ITSELF “
CATHARINE MCAULEY RSM

Prayer

God of my heart, I give myself to you. Look on me today with tenderness and give me the grace to walk on the path of mercy marked out for those who follow you. May all I do today reflect your merciful love.

Amen

Dear Parents/Carers, Students, Staff and Friends

This is the penultimate Newsletter for both this year and for me. The final Newsletter will be printed and sent home with reports as well as being distributed electronically. This will have several important messages and dates that will be important to keep for 2013.

NIGHT OF EXCELLENCE

I do hope that the date for the Night of Excellence, Monday December 17, is in your calendar. I really encourage parents/carers to attend with their children as I do believe that when young people see others being acknowledged for excellence it encourages them to strive that little bit harder.

AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to Award Winners from Year 10. All Award Winners will be acknowledged in the final Newsletter posted with reports.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Matt Jones (Matt finished Year 11 in 2004) on his selection by Melbourne Football Club in the recent AFL Draft. Matt never gave up on his dream and he is to be commended on his perseverance.

Gabby Stolzenhain of Year 10 has been selected to attend the 2013 Schools National Constitutional Convention. She is one of 25 students in Victoria chosen to attend this event in Canberra next year. I am sure that Gabby will represent us and the youth of Victoria very well.

YEARS 7, 8 & 9 LITURGIES AND AWARDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Mass of Thanksgiving</th>
<th>Award Ceremony</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>1.35 pm on December 5</td>
<td>1.35 pm on December 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td>11.10 am on December 7</td>
<td>9.05 am on December 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>11.10 am on December 6</td>
<td>9.05 am on December 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
All of the Liturgies will be held in the Chapel and all of the Award ceremonies will be held in Centennial Hall.

**YEAR 7 ORIENTATION DAY**
Tuesday December 11 will be a very special and important day for 260 students who will be joining the Mount Lilydale Mercy College community for the first time in 2013. This is our Orientation Day when we will welcome these excited and nervous young people.

**MESSAGE TO PARENTS/CARERS RE SEXTING**
Schools have been asked by the government to include the following information in their newsletters in relation to Sexting. Parents/Carers are asked to read the information and as age appropriate discuss with their children.

'Sexting' means sending sexually explicit photos or videos electronically (e.g. By mobile phone, app, chat, social networking or email). With modern technology this can be done instantly, but it can have serious and lasting consequences.

For people under 18, sexting is illegal. It is a criminal offence to take, possess, or transmit a naked image of a person under the age of 18 years. It doesn't matter if your child took their own photo or willingly sent or published it.

You cannot 'give someone permission' to break the law. Penalties for these offences are serious and can result in your child being placed on the sex offenders' register.

It is important that you regularly talk to your child about their experiences with communications technology. Make sure that you continually reinforce that your child should come to you if they have any problems, if they see something that they know is wrong or anything that upsets them.

If you require further support, please speak to the College Counsellors or Michael Johnston, Deputy Principal Director of Students.

**UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS**
A special letter to parents/carers relating to uniform will also be distributed with the Special Edition of the Newsletter.

The College Office will close on Friday 21 December.

During the holidays, if you need to check a date for 2013 including Book Distribution Day, Uniform Shop times and commencement dates, please refer to the College Website.

**SECOND HAND UNIFORM AND BOOK SALE AND CAMPION BOOKLIST**
The Parents and Friends Association is conducting a Second Hand Uniform and Book Sale on Saturday December 8 from 9am to 12pm. Completed Campion Booklists can be placed in a box on the Saturday. Campion will collect these forms on Monday December 10. This allows you to purchase 2nd hand books prior to placing your order with Campion.

We should all be very grateful to the Parents and Friends Association for providing this outstanding service. Parents/carers should note that the Association does not control the pricing, the quality of books or the quantity of books available. I trust that we will all show our appreciation of their generous gift of time in providing some assistance to parents/guardians.

**YARRA VALLEY EDUCATIONAL PRECINCT**
The Yarra Valley Educational Precinct Committee represents the concerns of residents, businesses, schools and community groups of Melbourne’s Outer East with regard to the level of provision of higher education and training within our region. These concerns have arisen from the recent announcement of the closure of the Lilydale Campus of Swinburne which will exacerbate the already low participation rates in higher education and training in the outer east. On Track data for 2012 indicates that the region has a significantly lower retention rate of young people to Year 12 and a lower participation rate in higher education.

One intent of the founding legislation for Swinburne University (1996) was to establish a tertiary education institution in the outer east to address high level of schools discontinuation and low levels of higher education participation.

In 2012 addressing these issues remains a priority across the region. There is a sense of urgency with the imminent closure of the university as there will then be no higher education provision located for these students in the outer east. Other institutions are interested in providing these services on the site.

The first priority is therefore to secure the existing site for educational purposes and then, with the land secured, it is essential that appropriate governance is established to ensure the ongoing provision of these essential services. In my role as Convenor of this Committee, I invite you to make representations to your local members of parliament to support the students of your school regarding continued higher educational provision within the region.

**CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE UPDATE**
The Education Minister has announced that the Victorian Government has decided to modify the conveyance allowance changes that were previously proposed. These modifications are a result of location representations and liaisons by diocesan offices, directly with the Department and Government.

The introduction of a means test for new applicants and students starting at a new school or changing address will be withdrawn.

This will now allow the Conveyance allowance to be paid to all eligible students who have to travel more than 4.8kms to attend school at Mount Lilydale Mercy College if this is their closest school.

Bernard Dobson
Principal
At this time of the year it is easy to get caught up in a sense of ending. Exams are concluding, transition classes are finishing up and reports are being written. I would argue the complete opposite. Things are just starting. In what is now a global society, learning is not only life long, but 24/7. Why not make a jump start to 2013. Revise concepts that proved a challenge, ask questions, read ahead, do transition homework and most importantly discuss new strategies that can be utilised based on report feedback.

Don’t get me wrong, I’m not saying don’t have a rest and recharge over the holiday period. What I am saying is maximise the remainder of the year and then build into this time a sequential phase into studies for 2013 with the aim to do your absolute best.

Some important dates for parents pertaining to the remainder of the year are as follows.

- Year 9 and 7 Awards Ceremonies Thursday December 6
- Year 8 Awards Ceremony Friday December 7
- Reports will be mailed out on December 10. Teachers will be available to be contacted at the college until December 17 to discuss any aspect of the reports.
- Year 12 VCAA ATAR results will be published on December 17.

Our Annual Night of Excellence will be held in the Doyle Centre on the evening of Monday December 17. Students receiving awards will receive notification. It is an expectation that students attend on the evening to receive their award. Students are required to RSVP for this event.

I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable Christmas; a time to celebrate the love of Jesus and God with and through time with our families.

Brian Hawthorne
Deputy Principal
- Director of Studies

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL - DIRECTOR OF STUDIES - MICHAEL JOHNSTON

On Sunday of last week a Mass and afternoon tea was held to acknowledge the retirement of Mr Dobson after 14 years as Principal of Mount Lilydale Mercy College. It is also the end of a 46 year career in teaching. It was a fitting tribute to a person who has made an enormous contribution to this school. Mr Dobson’s wife, Kath, was also acknowledged for the support she has given to him during his time as Principal. Other members of the Dobson family were also present to hear a range of tributes from members of the school community. Mr Dobson spoke of how it has been a privilege to lead a community that truly reflects the spirit of Mercy.

Thank you to the families who have responded to the request to host students from Horyuji International High School. With a larger group of students in 2013, I am still in need of families to host a Japanese student for a two week period in mid to late March. If you can help out it would be very much appreciated. 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. If you can assist please contact me on 9237 1332 or via email johnstom@mlmclilydale.catholic.edu.au

Michael Johnston
Deputy Principal - Director of Students
HORIZONS STUDENTS “NEW FOODS” JOURNEY….

Over the past few weeks, I have had the absolute pleasure of teaching these students. During the program, we have used food as a medium for facing new challenges or trying something different. We discussed often the feelings and sensations that someone can experience when trying something for the first time. When this happens, great learning occurs! I am pleased to report that on all occasions, many “new experiences” were trialled and enjoyed.

Scaffolding the students to try a new food is an important part of the process. For example, we started with foods and flavours that were familiar, deconstructed food items into its components and used the SOS approach to trying new foods.

The group chose a “Melbourne Cup” theme to explore. This was a great option as there is a range of both casual and formal food and eating experiences involved with this event.

Pictured are some snapshots from our formal “restaurant” experience. We were very fortunate to dine in the private dining room at “Locale” at De Bortoli in the Yarra Valley.

Prior to our departure to De Bortoli, students were taught about place settings and social etiquette. At De Bortoli, we put this into practice with conversation starters and a modified “fashion on the fields” event where students asked each other questions to get to know each other a little better. This was great fun and all had a good time.

I would like to thank Steve Tarulli and Lisa D’Argent from De Bortoli for her assistance and support in making this happen. Also, “Chef Heath” who not only prepared a diverse range of foods, but also came and talked with the students about his reflections and experiences of food and eating and being a chef.

Tania Hawthorne

BOOK LISTS for next year have been distributed and there are a number of ways for you to purchase your books.

1. On line: We have an online forum through which you can buy and sell your books. To access this, go to the school web site, click on the home page and then information. The second-hand book forum is on the bottom of the list. After you have registered, you can list the books you want to sell and those you wish to buy.

2. In person: On Saturday December 8 in the old gym, you can buy and sell your books. (Please try to bring small notes as it is difficult organising change!) Second hand books in good condition are usually sold at half the cost of the new book.

3. At school: Encourage your child to speak to a student in the higher year level and organise to purchase their books.

4. New: The Campion book lists are now due on December 10. We have made arrangements to have a collection box in the gym at the second hand book sale on Saturday to enable you to buy what you can and then order what you need.

PARENTS & FRIENDS UNIFORM SHOP

Parents and Friends Uniform Shop is open every Thursday in Term 4 from 12.00 to 1.30pm. At this time of the year the demand for good quality second hand school uniforms is high. If you wish to sell your child’s uniform please fill out the attached form in this newsletter and hand it in, attached to the clothes, either at the shop or at Dublin House Reception.

Mary Ryan
Registrar
Many thanks to Mary Ryan and Michelle Gough who did a wonderful job with the Deb Dress Sale, a few pre-loved dresses were sold and a lot of interest shown in new dresses by Silk Bridal Studios of Ringwood. We hope to have another evening early next year for those still looking for the perfect dress at a reasonable price.

We are now running short of good quality second hand school uniforms, so please all families especially Year 12 students wanting to sell uniforms complete the form attached to this Newsletter. If you wish to donate school uniforms you can drop it in at the office or at the shop.

Uniforms can be left at Dublin House at any time or the shop on Thursday from 12.00pm till 1.30pm.

**BLAZERS MUST BE DRY CLEANED** and docket attached.

The P&F Second Hand Uniform Shop will be opened on the Saturday December 8 2012 from 9.30am till 12.30pm.

---

**SIT20307 CERTIFICATE II IN HOSPITALITY (KITCHEN OPERATIONS) CALL FOR “CELEBRITY CHEFS”**

- Do you work in the hospitality industry as a “cook” or chef”?
- Are you available between 3-5pm on a Wednesday afternoon?

Our students would love to cook with you. Most importantly, they can learn about your passion for food, cooking and real life happenings within the industry.

We already have a few chefs who agreed to take up this offer but we need more.

Please contact the college on 9735 4022 if you would like to take up this fantastic opportunity. If you need further details, please contact Tania Hawthorne.

---

**YEAR 7 AND 8 SCIENCE BOOKLIST**

The booklist contains the following items at both Years 7 and 8:

- Oxford Big Ideas Science AC (eBook/ewbk & assess) $31.95
- Oxford Big Ideas Science AC Workbook (Print/oBook) $13.95

Both items need to be purchased. The first item includes an electronic version of the textbook, an electronic version of the workbook and also provides online access to a variety of assessment items. The second item is a print and electronic version of the workbook. The print copy of the workbook is required for students to write in, both in class and at home. The nature of work to be completed, such as drawing diagrams and using scientific symbols, is far more easily accomplished with pen and paper. We do not have the facility to print directly from iPads in the Harley building and printing your own workbook is also a costly option.

---

**HOMEWORK CLUB**

There will be no more Homework Club sessions for 2012.

I look forward to working with students again in 2013.

Mrs Buchanan
Uniform items are placed with the Mount Lilydale Mercy College Lilydale Mercy College Second Hand Uniform Shop on consignment. A 10% consignment fee will be deducted from your total sales. Vendor cheques will be mailed in due course.

The Manager of the shop, in consultation with a staff member of Mount Lilydale Mercy College, has the right to refuse unsuitable items.

Items must be current wearable Mount Lilydale Mercy College uniform. Old style caps, netball skirts, basketball uniforms, non uniform trousers etc. will not be accepted. If the aforementioned items are sent to the uniform shop, they will be disposed of without communication to the vendor.

In the interest of health and safety all items must be cleaned. Blazers to be dry-cleaned. Please leave dry-cleaning docket on Blazers as proof of cleaning.

Stained, damaged or worn items will be deemed unsuitable and will be disposed without communication to the vendor. Socks will no longer be accepted for sale.

We do not give ‘over-the-phone’ or ‘sight unseen’ pricing quotations.

Pricing quotations on items that you do not intend to sell through the P & F shop will not be given. You are welcome, however, to come in and browse to help you make an informed pricing decision.

Items placed in the shop will be kept on consignment for a period of 12 months. If items have not sold in that time they may be removed from sale.

It is the Vendors responsibility to collect items removed from sale. If the removed item/s from sale have not been collected within 1 month of notification, they will be disposed of. The Vendor may price their own items, however, we will be happy to price the items on your behalf according to their condition.

All items must be clearly labelled with the Vendor’s name.

The uniform shop is run and managed by Volunteers. No financial gain is made by them.

In placing your items with the Second Hand Uniform Shop, you are agreeing with the above mentioned terms and conditions.

P & F SECOND HAND SHOP

ITEMS TO BE SOLD

PLEASE INDICATE IN THE BOX HOW MANY ITEMS ARE TO BE SOLD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BLAZER</th>
<th>SCHOOL JUMPER</th>
<th>PE JACKET</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PE TRACK PANT</td>
<td>PE SHORTS</td>
<td>PE POLO TOP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIRLS SUMMER DRESS</td>
<td>GIRLS WINTER SKIRT</td>
<td>BOYS LONG TROUSERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LONG SLEEVE SHIRT</td>
<td>BOYS S/SLEEVE SHIRT</td>
<td>BOYS SUMMER SHORTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAB COAT</td>
<td>BLUE APRON</td>
<td>GREEN APRON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIE</td>
<td>SCHOOL HAT</td>
<td>SAFETY GLASSES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCARF</td>
<td>SCHOOL BAG</td>
<td>SPORTS BAG</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Vendor’s Name: ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Postal Address: ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Contact Telephone Numbers: ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Vendor’s Signature: …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………… Date: ……./………./……..

NB: It is the Vendor’s responsibility to notify any change of address.