Last Friday the Church celebrated the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians. This feast of has been a solemnity for Australia since our first Archbishop, John Bede Polding entrusted our nation into the protective care of Mary, under the title Our Lady Help of Christians. In doing so, Archbishop Polding, with the approval of Rome, placed the Australian Church under the patronage of Our Lady Help of Christians.

Mary, Help of Christians is one of the numerous names by which Catholics have come to know and love Mary. It refers specifically to the aid that Mary gives as intercessor, meaning one who prays with and for us to God.

The title of “Helper” has been applied to Mary at least as far back as the fourth century. Because of her closeness to Christ and her unique role in bringing about God’s plan, Catholics have traditionally viewed her as a particularly effective intercessor.

Dear members of the Mount Lilydale Mercy College Community

Last week I received a communication from the Catholic Education Office in Melbourne indicating that they noticed an increase in reports about unwanted persons loitering in close proximity to some schools. The report suggested that there have been attempts to engage students in conversations, to try to get them into cars, to offer them cigarettes, gifts, food and the like. These attempts have been made both during school hours and after school.

Now the report did not distinguish between primary and secondary schools and nor did it distinguish between areas whether they be inner city, suburban or country. Please understand that there have been no suggestions about such behaviours around our school or around areas associated with our College, however, it is a timely reminder.

We must be vigilant and consistent in reminding all our children about the dangers associated with engaging strangers in conversations. Students should be reminded not to approach persons acting suspiciously but rather seek help in the form of a teacher, a known parent or the police and relay to them as much information as possible.

You would also be aware that each year Mount Lilydale Mercy College, like all other schools, is required to produce a report called The Annual Report to the School Community. This Report has been drafted and submitted to the Catholic Education Office. In the next week it will be available to you on the College Website, however, this year we do not intend printing one for every family in the College. If you would like a hard copy of the report then please feel free to pick up one or request one from the College Office.

This week the College also farewells Rosemary Buchanan as she leaves us to travel overseas for five weeks on long service leave. We wish Rosemary all the very best for her trip.

Please continue to pray for Lucy Wright (Year 11) and her family as Lucy continues to battle Leukaemia.

God Bless

Philip A Morison
Principal
We are now into the second half of this term. These last few weeks have been very busy across all year levels with Retreats, Excursions, EISM Champions Athletics Carnival, College Cross Country Carnival, NAPLAN testing, practice GAT and many other activities. This shows what great opportunities our students have to be involved in a wide range of experiences. The focus in coming weeks must be on completion of work as staff move towards the reporting cycle for Semester 1. Parents can support this by taking an even more active interest in what is happening in the classroom and the work that needs to be completed. The VCAA GAT will be held on Wednesday, June 12 and exams in Years 9, 10 & 11 are only three weeks away. Organisation and commitment to study remain the key to ensuring all work is completed and exam preparation is adequate. As parents we may not always be able to help with completion of homework but we can give guidance and encouragement to ensure that students understand the importance of school work.

In the last few weeks I have spoken at a couple of level assemblies about the importance of attitude. There is a wonderful reflection that I use to highlight how we are in control of the attitude we have. An extract from it reads: "The remarkable thing is we have choice everyday regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past...we cannot change the fact that other people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude. I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you...we are in charge of our own attitudes."

I use this because we can often make excuses for why things don’t get done. I think it is important that we can acknowledge that with a different attitude a better outcome may have resulted. This applies to many situations in life and not just school work.

Also linked to this is the idea that things won’t always turn out as we may have hoped. The question of how we respond to disappointment also says much about character and attitude. AFL footballer, Darren Jolly, wrote in The Age recently that perseverance is a quality that sets people apart. In the face of hardship and difficulty it is especially important. He finished with a quote from an American civil rights leader - "There is nothing better than adversity. Every defeat, every heartbreak, every loss contains its own seed, its own lesson on how to improve your performance next time." He concluded his article by saying the only thing holding you back is yourself. This message is so true for students. There will be times when things don’t go the way we want them to. The ability to keep trying and not give up is something to be applauded.

Thank you to members of Student Council for organising a fundraising concert last Friday. Money collected will go to the Sisters of Mercy working in the slums of Mukuru in Nairobi, Kenya.

Well done to Riley Stow (9 Bronze) for his fantastic achievement in representing Australia at the FIRST® Lego League World Championships in St. Louis, Missouri, USA. Riley’s team, IC Robotics, placed 35th out of the 80 finalists selected from the 29,000 teams who entered around the world. This is a truly outstanding achievement.

FIRST® is the Foundation for Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology and each year they have a themed competition that requires teams to design and program a robot to complete a series of challenges. The teams must also invent a solution to a problem related to the theme. In 2012/13 the theme was ‘Senior Solutions’ and IC Robotics designed a Companion Cube to address the problem of isolation and loneliness that can be an issue for the elderly. This year the theme will be ‘Nature’s Fury’. More information about the competition and how to enter is available: http://firstlegoleague.org/challenge/2013naturesfury

Early notification that Friday, June 21 is set down as a report writing day and as such is a student free day for all year levels.

Michael Johnston
Deputy Principal – Director of Students

PARENTS AND FRIENDS NEWS

The next Parents and Friends Meeting is on this TUESDAY MAY 28 at 7.30pm in the Mount St. Joseph Building.

The Parents and Friends Uniform Shop will be open this THURSDAY MAY 30 from 12.00pm – 1.30pm and will open every second Thursday thereafter (WEEK A)

If you would like to join Parents and Friends or need to contact me regarding the Uniform shop my email address is: pfs@mlclilydale.catholic.edu.au

Jacqui MacDonald
President
Congratulations to the following Award Winning Writers for May

“Writers of the Month at Mount Lilydale Mercy College”

Jasmine Hendriks – 7 Orange
Katharine Graziano – 9 Red
Erica Fawdry – 11 Blue
Bree Tyndall – 12 Jade

Special Commendations to
Miranda Gurney – 8 White
Harley Dingey – 11 Blue
Natalie Hamment – 10 Jade

We continue to encourage the students at the college to submit their poems and short stories for consideration for monthly awards and look forward to sharing these with our college community.

If you would like further information on the competitions that are running please visit our library website with online resources or chat to the library staff. [http://libguides.mlmclilydale.catholic.edu.au/content.php?pid=376147&sid=3820805](http://libguides.mlmclilydale.catholic.edu.au/content.php?pid=376147&sid=3820805)

Andrea Coney
Head of Library and Information Services

**LOST**

Scars left on the surface dug too deep
Reminders of my past, burdens to keep.
Lies, darkness, scream and shout
Got to get away, got to get out.

Broken girl, broken bone
I’ll never fit in, in this fairy tale home.
Cold and alone in this cannibalistic world
Wonder what will happen to a broken, lost girl.

Tear burnt eyes, tear stained page
Past, present, future, I wonder though the endless maze.
What is my purpose, what is my aim?
Why is life the unwinnable game.

Am I important or just part of the crowd?
Can this lost soul ever be found?
As the waves come in and the wind blows cold
I wonder what is beyond the stars, the cosmos.

Is there a place far away
To keep the dark, the darkness at bay?

Poem by Erica Fawdry

**HORTICULTURE NEWS**

**FIRST TIME A TREE WAS PLANTED FROM SEEDS GROWN IN THE HORTICULTURE CLASS.**

**EUCALYPTUS CITRIODORA, NOW 11 YEARS OLD.**

**MR DAVID BANFIELD AND THOMAS ONDARCHIE PLANTING OUT EUCALYPT SEEDLINGS DURING A RECENT HORTICULTURE CLASS.**
School Improvement is a systematic approach to effective organisation within a school to ensure improvement of learning opportunities and outcomes for all students.

The definition above describes exactly the journey the college embarked on in 2010. Over the next few weeks I will be describing to you the structure of the School Improvement Framework (SIF) and telling you about some of the many initiatives already undertaken at the college as a result of SIF.

Our journey commenced with a period of self-reflection (end 2010 and first few months of 2011) followed by an external review. The review had a two-fold purpose. As an integral part of registration renewal the college had to show that it met the minimum standards set by the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA). These cover a broad range of areas including safety, building and curriculum. The second aspect of the review was a time of inspection and consultation by the reviewers. They spoke with students, staff and parents and also looked closely at the self-reflection report we had prepared.

A four year School Improvement Plan (SIP) (mid 2011-mid 2015) was then developed, taking into account the recommendations of the reviewers and also the things we had discovered about ourselves in the initial stages of the journey. The plan contains goals and targets which result in the answering of questions such as: How are we going? How do we know? What would we like to achieve? What actions are necessary for achievement? What evidence will there be to show we have achieved our goals? The work of the plan is organised into five spheres – Education in Faith, Leadership & Management, School Community, Student Wellbeing and Learning and Teaching.

Each year an Annual Action Plan (AAP) is developed to address some of the goals in the SIP and give them action. The focus and purpose of the whole process must never be lost … ‘improvement of learning opportunities and outcomes for all students’.

The cycle will be complete when we commence our period of self-reflection again towards the end of 2014.

Next week I will tell you of some of the terrific action which has taken place at Mount Lilydale Mercy College during two years since the review.

Susan Gunn
School Improvement Coordinator

---

**SAC DATES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 7 A</td>
<td>27/05/2013 Methods: Ap Task Specialist Maths IT – Apps</td>
<td>28/05/2013 Studio Arts FOLIO</td>
<td>29/05/2013 Philosophy Dance: Evening Performance</td>
<td>30/05/2013 PE: SAC 3 Specialist Maths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 8 B</td>
<td>03/06/2013 Further maths Hist Rev Methods: Ap Task Physics IT – Software</td>
<td>04/06/2013 Tech: Textiles/wood Literature</td>
<td>05/06/2013 Dance: Written Technique Solo</td>
<td>06/06/2013 Drama Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 9 A</td>
<td>10/06/2013 Queen’s Birthday</td>
<td>11/06/2013 Psychology Studio Arts H &amp; HD (SLE, ELE)</td>
<td>12/06/2013 VCAA Exams (SAT) Dance: Written Part B Ruby</td>
<td>13/06/2013 H &amp; HD (DLW)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PLEASE NOTE: The arrow is an indication that the SAC will be completed throughout that week.
CONGRATULATIONS
Four Year 8 students who play for the Wandin Junior Football Club have all made the representative interleague team for the Dandenong Ranges Junior Football League. The carnival will be played over the Queens Birthday Long Weekend and we would like to congratulate them all and wish them all the very best for their games and for their representation of the Wandin Junior Football Club and the Dandenong Ranges Junior Football League.


SENIOR EISM RESULTS vs St Josephs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOYS</th>
<th>MLMC</th>
<th>St Joes</th>
<th>Winner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>St Joes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball A</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>St Joes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball B</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>St Joes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>MLMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Badminton</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>MLMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table Tennis A</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>MLMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table Tennis B</td>
<td>No Team</td>
<td></td>
<td>MLMC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GIRLS</th>
<th>MLMC</th>
<th>BYE</th>
<th>Winner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netball A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netball B</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hockey</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bye</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

YEAR 9 EISM RESULTS vs Luther

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOYS</th>
<th>MLMC</th>
<th>Luther</th>
<th>Winner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>MLMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Badminton</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>MLMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>MLMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table Tennis A</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>MLMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table Tennis B</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>MLMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawn Bowls</td>
<td></td>
<td>No Team</td>
<td>MLMC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GIRLS</th>
<th>MLMC</th>
<th>BYE</th>
<th>Winner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netball A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netball B</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawn Bowls</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bye</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Details of each week’s fixture, venues and results can be found at [http://www.eism.org/](http://www.eism.org/)

FORTNIGHT AT A GLANCE - CALENDAR DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week A</th>
<th>Week B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27 May 8.45am - 3.15pm 1HOE10A Rock Climbing - Cathedral Ranges State Park</td>
<td>3 June Full School Mass 8.50 -10.00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7pm Lilydale Toastmasters</td>
<td>4 June 8.45am - 3.00pm Dante Alighieri Poetry Competition Melbourne University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28-31 May 1HOE09A Great Ocean Walk</td>
<td>8.50 –9.30am Years 8 &amp; 12 Level Assemblies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 May Level Assemblies - Years 9 and 11</td>
<td>5 June 1.37-3.15 Year 7 Walkathon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm DAV Debating Round 4</td>
<td>7.00 - 8.30pm Business &amp; Finance Advisory Group Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 May 7.30pm Parents and Friends Meeting</td>
<td>1 June 7.00pm Old Collegians Gala Dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 May 7.30pm Year 8 Leadership Course Presentation Evening</td>
<td>2 June 11am Chess Tournament - Billanook College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.30pm Year 8 LOTE Excursion - Red and Purple</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.30pm Music concert - Rhythm Machine—Melbourne</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Welcome to another edition of Captain's Corner.

It is nearly halfway through the year. Particularly for Year 12’s the business end of schooling is quickly approaching. Year 12’s and a large group of Year 11’s will be undertaking the GAT within the next few weeks. Year 10 and Year 11 mid year exams are also quickly forthcoming, therefore it is fair to say it’s a very important educational time for the Barak Campus.

The Year 12 group photo also took place last week. The previous date for the photo was cancelled due to the photo company being unable to come because of a flat tyre (of all days for it to occur). Luckily enough we were able to reschedule and everyone looked at their finest, ties up and blazer collars down. Now the eager wait begins for when the group photo joins the Year 12 corridor. I must emphasize that if you haven’t had the opportunity to see the photos in the corridor, do try to on an Open Day, as you may find many people you know, possibly even yourself!

Our athletics squad consisting of Year 7-12’s, finished 3rd in the EISM Athletics Carnival and as a result were able to attend the Champions Carnival. We have had the biggest turn out in the history of Mount Lilydale Mercy College so well done to all of those involved; you’ve done our school proud! A special request by Sports Prefects, Isabella and Adrian, we would ask you to please ‘like’ the Mount Lilydale Mercy College Sports page on Facebook, if you are interested in keeping up to date with sports news and updates within our school.

It’s that time again, this time we are introducing our final group of Prefects. On that note, Taylah and I would just like to emphasise what an incredible group of Prefects our Year 12’s and teachers of Mount Lilydale Mercy College have chosen. We have been meeting fortnightly and discussing matters that affect both the school and the broader community. One example introduced by a Year 12 student Bree Tyn dall, was that we were able to (as a prefect body) learn and practice basic first aid skills that were taught to us by our school nurse Mr. Conway.

Today’s final line up include, Maguire (the finest house) and O’Neil House Prefects, Environment and Resources Prefect and Visual Arts Prefect

**ALEXANDRA CARTER**
Role: Environment and Resources Prefect
Best part about your role: working with the younger students.
Plans after school: I’m not sure what I would like to do after school just yet.
Favorite sports person: Mick Fanning and Stephanie Gilmore, amazing surfers.
Hobbies: My hobbies are dancing and surfing

**LEAH WINGETT**
Role: Maguire House Prefect
Best part about role: best part of the role is encouraging everyone to get involved and build house spirit
Plans after school: After Year 12 I hope to study art therapy and teaching and one day own my own gallery.

**JORDANA MACPHERSON**
Role: I’m the Visual Arts Prefect for 2013.
Best part about role: The best part of my role is that I get to run art activities with my fellow students.
Hobbies: I love all forms of art, and hello kitty and chocolate
Plans after school: After Year 12 I hope to study art therapy and teaching and one day own my own gallery.

**JO BRINDLEY**
Role: As a Music Prefect I help to encourage music ensembles such as choir and band and help the younger students out with their music theory and practice. I work with other prefects for fundraisers through performances and organise performances at lunchtimes and the MLC music students on music performance evenings.
Best part about role: The best part of my role is organising a performance and seeing it come together on stage.
Hobbies: My hobbies include playing and listening to music, netball and painting.