The Year of Faith began on October 11 2012, the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council, and concludes on November 24 2013, the feast of Christ the King.

Pope Benedict XVI's hope is that, during this time, people throughout the world will take the opportunity to appreciate the gift of faith, deepen their relationship with God and strengthen their commitment to sharing their faith with others.

This week on Ash Wednesday we will gather as a College community to celebrate the beginning of the Church's season of Lent. In preparation for his ministry Jesus spent forty days in the desert fasting and praying. Lent gives us the time for a “spiritual makeover” in preparation for Easter. We are encouraged to take stock of our attitudes, values and actions. It is a time to renew our commitment to living the life Jesus wants us to live.

In keeping with our Mercy Tradition we are called to reach out to the marginalised, to walk in solidarity with the world's most vulnerable.

Each Homeroom will be given a box from Caritas to collect donations during the season of Lent. Also each week there will be stories of people who will benefit from these funds raised. You can read these stories on the Caritas website.

During the week please pray this prayer (taken from the Caritas Ash Wednesday liturgy) with your family.

God, as we begin this time of Lent, open the doors of our hearts and our minds.
Empower us to move beyond our own world to see you in the faces of the poor.
Give us the courage to be different and to share what we have.
May our actions during Lent help to renew the world in your ways of peace and justice.
We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Dear Parents, Teachers and Students of the Mount Lilydale Mercy College Community

Welcome to this the second newsletter of the year and the second full week of school for our students. As I watch them walk around the yard they seem full of life and happy to be here and that is a wonderful sign that they find school a good place to be. As we know only too well the more engaged that students are with the community, the more open they are to learning.

Interestingly I have had several conversations with parents this week about how their children are loving school and it reminds us that this is not just fluke or fate but as a result of a lot of work by a lot of people. The first and most important people to influence a child’s education, their success and academic standing is of course their parents.
This was highlighted in an article written by Elisabeth Tarcia and published on February 7 2012 entitled “Meet the most important person in your child’s schooling – you” and being the parent of four teenage children myself I must admit that I found myself in total agreement with her. At the information nights last week I know that Mr Molinari and many of our staff referred to this article and in fact handed a copy to some parents. It is well worth a read. From the article some important things to remember:

♦  Read to your children. We know that the most important gift that we can give our children is the love of reading. Reading to students from an early age models to them that it is important, that it is enjoyable and valued. Reading is the best way to improve academic success.

♦  Build Self Confidence. We must always be positive with our children and teach them that mistakes are merely learning opportunities. Children should never be afraid to try something because of a fear of success. We must never give our children permission to fail.

♦  Set high but realistic expectations. We must be prepared to set expectations for our children and then help them to achieve them.

♦  Create a study space, stay organised. Ensure that students have a regular study routine which includes a dedicated study place.

♦  Stay involved, parent teacher interviews are powerful. Make use of every opportunity to give and gain feedback from your teacher as it is a partnership.

♦  Encourage learning at home. From an early age provide stimulating learning experiences.

♦  Limit television, social networking and electronic games.

This is a very brief discussion of the article and it is well worth a read. I would however add that it is important that we remain parents and not try to be the best friend of our children. I know very few teenagers that need a thirty plus something best friend.

LENT
Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday and thus we start the time of preparation for the Paschal Mystery and the time when we remember and celebrate the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ. Please use this opportunity to discuss this special time with your children as we will be doing here at Mount Lilydale Mercy College. Easter, the Crucifixion and the Resurrection are central to our belief.

OPENING MASS
Last Wednesday the whole school community celebrated the Opening Mass and I was pleased to see some sixteen hundred people come together for such a special service. I was privileged to be blessed by our College Captains and formally welcomed by the student body. I was pleased at the attentiveness of the student body as a whole and how they participated in the Eucharist. Thank you to all those that organised this special celebration for us.

STOP WORK ACTION
You would be aware that the Catholic Teachers Union has called on its members to stop work as a protest action and to support their government colleagues in their dispute with the State Government. You may also be aware that the wages outcome in government schools is directly linked to that of staff in Catholic schools. The date for this action is set for Thursday February 14. If this action proceeds some 39 teachers within our College will support it and stop work and this will impact on our ability to run all programs safely. At this stage we have decided to not run classes for Years 10 and 11 and a letter attached to this newsletter explains this outcome.

COLLEGE SWIMMING CARNIVAL
On Tuesday February 12 our College Swimming Carnival is being held. I encourage students to be involved in the carnival, even if you are not an excellent swimmer. Parents are encouraged to attend the Croydon Pool to support their children. The programme commences at 5pm and should be completed by 9pm.

CONGRATULATIONS
Two of our Year 12 2012 students have been asked to audition for Top Acts. They are: Melina Lucisano for Drama, and Bianca Farley for Dance. We wish them well for their auditions and are very proud of their achievements in being asked to audition.

PLEASE PRAY
Sadly in the last fortnight Ms Jo Egan lost her grandmother after a short and sudden illness. This came as a shock to the whole family. Please pray for the repose of the soul of Jo’s grandmother and keep the entire family in your thoughts and prayers at this time as they struggle with their loss.

God Bless

Philip A Morison
Principal
Welcome to the 2013 school year. We hope you all had a wonderful holiday with your family and friends. We want to welcome all new students to the McAuley Campus but in particular the 256 Year 7 students.

The start of the school year once again has been hectic but with milder temperatures making the conditions more comfortable. The students however are to be congratulated on looking smart, proud and bright in their uniform. We were very pleased to see all students return to school with correct uniform. The expectation is that the uniform is to be worn with pride. The uniform is a symbol of belonging and connecting to the Mount Lilydale Mercy College community and it is a visual symbol to the wider community at large.

In the student planner on pages 10 – 11 information has been included to clarify a variety of issues, such as jewellery, make-up and all other aspects of appearance and grooming.

Please pay particular attention to the following:

- Dress length - on the knee or longer
- Earrings – ONE small sleeper/stud to be worn in the LOWER lobe of each ear.
- Only a watch and a necklace with a small Christian symbol to be worn.
- NO bracelets or rings.
- Plastic earrings or band-aids covering earrings are NOT PERMITTED.
- NO visible body piercings permitted.
- Makeup is NOT PERMITTED.
- Low-heeled black leather lace up shoes required. Mary-Jane and T-Bar shoes are NOT PERMITTED.

Refer to page 9 in the Planner for Regulations and Procedures for students such as student management issues, the use of electronic equipment and more.

Mobile phones and other electronic devices are NOT to be used at school. It is the responsibility of each student to ensure that these items are kept in their lockers during school time. The College does not accept any responsibility for lost or stolen electronic equipment.

The expectation is that you also become familiar with the information so that you can DISCUSS these matters with your son/daughter, thus ensuring that they understand the dress code of the College and other policies and protocols.

SUNSMART
Mount Lilydale Mercy College promotes sun safety and has included HATS for both the boys and girls as part of the PE/Sports Uniform. Students need to wear their Hats during any outdoor practical PE/Sport lesson. Staff have been asked to be vigilant and consistent with the treatment of students without hats and that is they must remain under the shade or in the injury/incorrect uniform room if they do not have the correct uniform - “NO HAT NO PLAY”. Please help us promote the wearing of hats and at the same time educate your child about the hazards of the sun.

SPECIAL PERSONS DAY
Tuesday March 5 promises to be one of great celebrations as students welcome special people in their lives to an Assembly, Tour and Morning Tea in the Centennial Hall foyer. More information will be provided over the next few weeks via the newsletter. We look forward to seeing you on this day.

THE YEAR AHEAD
Our aspirations for the year ahead are based on a foundation of MUTUAL RESPECT, treating others with care and fairness and the need to follow Jesus’ call to “LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU”. Students should strive to develop their personal best in all of their learning opportunities and endeavours both in and out of the classroom. With the assistance of their subject teachers they will discover their personal BEST and strive to achieve it. Learning takes time and effort, and so there is a real need to develop a sound work ethic in these formative years. Our approach is working as a TEAM so that Together Everyone Achieves More and individual goals and dreams can be realised. If you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact us at the College on our direct numbers.

YEAR 7 HOMEWORK POLICY TERM ONE
Over the last few years we have endeavoured to consult parents regarding the nature and extent of homework at Year 7 and have trialled limited homework for Term One.

Term One is particularly difficult for some families as both parents and children are becoming acclimatised with their transition into secondary school, extended travel, camps, etc., and all affect students to different degrees.

What we have sometimes experienced as the students begin Year 7 is a cohort of excited and conscientious students wishing to do their very best. In their eagerness this can lead to many students spending excessive hours on activities that were designed to take but a few minutes. Interpretation of homework activities can be subjective due to the open-endedness of some questions and students level of understanding or skill. Some students also spend a lot of time on presentation beyond what is needed.

After extensive consultation with parents in a survey and from homeroom teachers’ past experience a decision has been made that we adopt a NO Homework Policy in February (4 weeks) and in the last 4 weeks of Term One we introduce Maths and English homework only ie: spelling, reading, tables etc.

PARENT INFORMATION EVENINGS 2013
Thank you to all parents who attended the McAuley Campus Years 7 - 9 Level Information Evenings which were held on Wednesday 6 February (see photos overleaf). It was a great opportunity to share information and meet the staff, especially the Homeroom teachers at each year level. A Parent Information Booklet was distributed on the night with general and specific information pertaining to each year level. Parents who could not attend the evening please ask your son/daughter for a copy of the booklet which was given to them to take home - they are clearly labelled with family name. Any issues/concerns with the booklet please notify us directly.

COLLEGE THEME 2013
The College Theme as chosen by the Prefects at their Training day last November states: “DREAM TOGETHER, EMBRACE CHANGE, STRIVE AS ONE”

All of us have different dreams aspirations and goals for the future but together we can support each other along life’s journey. Often we confront obstacles along the way, the road is bumpy and may not be smooth sailing but we persevere and not give up. If we can embrace change with a real sense of OPTIMISM and JOY, people will recognise the light of Christ shining in us.
PROJECT COMPASSION
As we will commence the season of Lent on Wednesday, the Church asks us all to take a journey to review the past, look forward to the future and ‘journey into the desert’ to meet others as we travel to our final destiny.

Let us pray that this LENT we will emerge with a much deeper understanding of ourselves and of our dependence on God. We ask you to please support CARITAS AUSTRALIA through Project Compassion and encourage your daughter/son to contribute by donating generously to this wonderful project in the homeroom.

Donation Hotline: 1800 024 413
Website: www.caritas.org.au
NB: Donations of $2 and over are tax deductible.

PREMIERS READING CHALLENGE
Mount Lilydale Mercy College this year will be participating in the Reading Challenge. The VPRC is open to students in Prep to Year 10. To complete the challenge students must read a minimum of 15 novels of which 10 must be from the Challenge Booklist. The booklist can be found on the following website:


Reading is strongly recommended at Mount Lilydale Mercy College and all Year 7, 8 and 9 students will be enrolled in the challenge with great individual and class prizes. Ms Katie Stanley will be the contact person with the McAuley Library Staff support. The Challenge will be a wonderful experience for all the students. More information regarding passwords and login details will be disclosed by letter in the next few weeks.

Our College Mission Statement encourages us all to work together in aspects of Spirituality, Learning and Community as we empower all members of our school community: staff, students and parents with the compassion, joy and a sense of unity to Make a Difference (MAD) to our school and in the wider community.

Peter Molinari
9237 1362

John Rodgers
9237 1386

“Achievement lies within the reach of those who reach beyond themselves”

WISHING YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY, ENJOYABLE AND SUCCESSFUL 2013 ACADEMIC YEAR!
THANK YOU!

Pictured is the cache of instruments purchased through the 2012 “Earn & Learn”. They include over 100 small percussion instruments and a number of acoustic guitars.

The Music Department thanks all those families who generously gave the College their stickers.

Dr Paul Curtis

OLD COLLEGIANS’ NEWS

BUSINESS BREAKFAST
The first official function of the Old Collegian’s Association for 2013 will be a Business Breakfast to be held on Wednesday March 6, at the “Bird and Barley Restaurant” Lilydale Motor Inn from 7.00-9.00am. Key note speakers will be Jeanette Suhr OAM, Founder of the Road Trauma Association and Mark Evans, Football Operations Manager, Hawthorn Football Club. The cost of the ticket for a full breakfast is $35.00 per head. Please contact Mrs Margaret Kirkwood at the College on 9237 1315 for tickets. Bookings are essential.

MERCY HONOUR ROLL
At a Gala Dinner to be held on June 2 in Centennial Hall at the College, the Old Collegians’ Association will launch the Mercy Honour Roll. The purpose of the Mercy Honour Roll is to acknowledge inspiring Alumni who have achieved success in a recognised field and who would serve as role models for future Mount Lilydale Mercy College Students. A copy of the criteria and nomination form is attached and is also available on the College Website. Nominations close on Monday April 30. Further details regarding the Gala Dinner will be published shortly.

THANK YOU!

HOMEWORK CLUB
Homework Club will be starting on Wednesday 27 February for all students who would like assistance with completing homework or overdue assignments.

Wednesdays after school
3.30pm until 4.30pm
Room: PWR 2.14

MLBC LAKERS BASKETBALL CLUB
Live it. Love it. Lakers.
Are you looking for a fun Team Sport?
Are you wondering how to get involved?
MLBC Lakers Wants You!

5-20 years Girls
Michelle Morstead 0408 534 995
5-14 years Boys
Anne-Louise Stelzenhain 0412 518 178
15-20 years Boys
Jason Dwyer 0422 094 350

Or email MLCLakers@bigpond.com
For all enquiries, visit our website:
www.mlclakers.com.au

Team Training conducted at Mt Lilydale Mercy College

NOW RECRUITING
Summer Season
Term 4 & 1
Winter Season
Term 2 & 3
MOUNT LILYDALE MERCY COLLEGE OLD COLLEGIANS’ ASSOCIATION

MERCY HONOUR ROLL

The purpose of the “Mercy Honour Roll” is to acknowledge inspiring Alumni who have achieved success in a recognised field and who would serve as role models for future Mount Lilydale Mercy College Students.

The person’s last year of attendance at the College must be at least 10 years ago

Living and Deceased persons shall be eligible

In order to be eligible for the “Mercy Honour Roll”, the nominee must be:

- A Graduate of Mount Lilydale Mercy College and must have attended the College for at least 4 years.
- A former Member of Staff who gave distinguished service for 8 years or more.
- A member of the wider College Community who has made significant contributions to the College.
- There may be exceptions to the above at the discretion of the Principal and Committee

Selection to be based on the following criteria

- Commitment to Mercy Ethos
- Character
- Leadership
- Integrity

The categories will be as follows:-

- Significant contribution to Religious/Spiritual Life/Social Justice
- Excellence in a profession such as law, education, medicine, journalism, armed services
- Recognised outstanding success in business, industry or trade.
- Excellence in professional or amateur sport
- Excellence in one or more fields of cultural endeavour in the arts, music, theatre, dance, writing
- Outstanding service to the Community

SELECTION COMMITTEE

The Selection Committee will consist of at least 10 members of the Old Collegians’ Association Committee, plus the Principal of Mount Lilydale Mercy College. The Committee will make recommendations to the Principal. Two nominees will be inaugurated in any one year. No member of the Committee will be eligible for nomination whilst a member.
MOUNT LILYDALE MERCY COLLEGE OLD COLLEGIANS’ ASSOCIATION

MERCY HONOUR ROLL

NOMINATION FORM

Nominee’s Name: .................................................................

Address: ...................................................................................

Years attended/associated with Mount Lilydale Mercy College: ....................................................

Current Occupation: ..................................................................

Reasons for Nomination:
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Extra sheets may be attached if desired.

Nominated by: ............................................Date: ..............................

Address: .....................................................................................

Seconded by: ............................................Date: ..............................

Address: .....................................................................................

Return by Wednesday May 1, to

Executive Officer
Mount Lilydale Mercy College Old Collegians’ Association
120 Anderson Street
Lilydale 3120
Application Forms for the Education Maintenance Allowance are available from the Finance Department

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children.

From 2013, the Victorian Government is restructuring the EMA to better target financial support to families on lower incomes. Payments made direct to the parents will be increased for eligible recipients at all year levels up to the age of 16, with an additional increase for parents with students in Prep and Year 7 in recognition of the additional costs at these transition points.

The School Start Bonus which was previously received by EMA families has been discontinued as a separate payment from 2013.

From January 2013, a new payment called the ‘Schoolkids Bonus’ will be introduced by the Commonwealth Government. The Schoolkids Bonus will be paid by Centrelink in January and July each year to help families with school costs. Families receiving Family Tax Benefit A will receive up to $820.00 for each child in secondary school.

For more information about the Bonus visit: www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/information/schoolkids-bonus

From 2013, the EMA will no longer be paid 50/50 between the parent and the school. The 50% school portion of the EMA will no longer be paid to the schools on behalf of the parents

To be eligible for receipt of the EMA you must:

♦ be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and

♦ be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the *State Concessions Act 2004* or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a foster parent.

♦ Consequently parents/guardians are able to access the EMA if they have a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of Term 1 (29 January 2013) which is the first day for teaching staff and Term 3 (15 July 2013).

The EMA application must be submitted to the school by 28 February 2013 for the first instalment and 2 August 2013 for the second instalment.

The EMA for secondary students provides an annual amount of $300.00 for Year 7 students and $250.00 for students in Year 8 – until age 16 and is paid in two instalments, one in March and one in August.

Students turning 16 years in 2013 will be paid on a pro rata basis.

New EMA payment options

♦ From 2013, on the EMA application form you can choose to have your EMA payment;
  ♦ Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your nominated bank account
  ♦ Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school or
  ♦ Paid to the school to have applied directly as a credit to your School Fee Account. This is our preferred method.

Parents with continuing eligibility, who are paid the first instalment of 2013 through this school will not be required to complete a new application for the second instalment. Parents who transfer children to another school after 29 January 2013 and prior to or on 15 July 2013, must reapply at the new school for the second instalment.

Contact: If you have any questions please contact Mrs Margaret Kirkwood on 9237 1315.

Applications for the 1st Instalment must be submitted to the school with a PHOTOCOPY of your valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card by 28 FEBRUARY 2013.

NO LATE APPLICATION FORMS CAN BE ACCEPTED.

Please refer to the attached application form or it can be downloaded from http://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/edulibrary/public/schadmin/schoolstartbonus/emaformap.pdf
# EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (EMA)

## Parent/Guardian Application Form - 2013

The following details must be completed by the applicant (the concession card holder). EMA is payable by Direct Deposit (EFT) to the applicant, Direct Deposit to the school, or as a cheque payment.

## APPLICANT / PARENT DETAILS

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* Foster Parents must provide a copy of the temporary care order letter from the Department of Human Services (DHS) or Courts, etc.

## EMA PAYMENT METHOD

Please tick the box below for your nominated EMA payment method:

- [ ] Direct Deposit to parent
- [ ] Direct Deposit to school
- [ ] Cheque

**ACCOUNT NAME** (e.g. John Smith)

**FINANCIAL INSTITUTION** (e.g. Westpac) AND BRANCH

**BSB No.**

**BANK ACCOUNT No.**

* If you are unsure of the above details check your Bank Statements or enquire at your Financial Institution.

## STUDENT DETAILS

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<th>CHILD'S SURNAME</th>
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The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development collects your personal information for the purpose of administering the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) payment. Some personal information may be disclosed to other Victorian Government departments, such as the Department of Human Services, for the purpose of evaluation and monitoring of concession card services.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development may disclose some of your personal information to Centrelink to confirm that the details provided matches Centrelink’s records. This is to be used for testing eligibility for EMA applications for 2013.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will provide the above bank account details to Westpac Bank for the sole purpose of making the EMA payment into your nominated bank account. The bank account details provided will not be disclosed or used for any other purpose. You are able to request access to the personal information that we hold about you, and to request that any errors be corrected, by contacting your child’s school.

**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT**

**DATE** / /
MOUNT LILYDALE MERCY COLLEGE
HOUSE SWIMMING CARNIVAL

TUESDAY 12 FEBRUARY
5.00 PM – 8.00 PM

CROYDON MEMORIAL
SWIMMING POOL

Parents and Friends most welcome

50m & 25m Events

Year 12 vs Teachers Relay

Age group Champions

Other fun competitions

BBQ provided for a small fee

Parent volunteers most welcome contact
Miss Esnouf on 9237 1323

“Don’t miss out on the fun and games”
11 February 2013

Dear Parents and Members of the Mount Lilydale Community

Re: Partial Closure of College on Thursday 14 February

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 time. 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 Thursday 14th February and will involve teachers and other staff attending a rally. As a consequence of 39 teachers being absent on Thursday, we will not be able to conduct normal classes at all Year levels. The greatest impact is upon Year 11 and Year 10 classes and so it has been decided to ask students in Year 10 and Year 11 to remain at home on Thursday. VET classes will operate as normal but VET classes may not operate in Government schools. Year 11 students that are currently undertaking Unit 3 study are welcome to come to school for that class as scheduled. If transport becomes an issue and students need to remain at school they are welcome to study in the library. Other classes will operate according to the Thursday timetable although not all will have their regular teachers in charge of the lesson.

Teachers have been asked to provide students in Years 10 and 11 with work that can be completed at home on THURSDAY 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. If you cannot they are welcome to come to school and spend the day working the College Library.

Yours sincerely

Philip A Morison
Principal