Winter can be a time of darkness and cold and yet there is something wonderful and comforting to wrap up in our warm clothes and go for a long walk or sit in the comfort of our homes by the fire. It can provide us with an opportunity to slow down a little and take time to ponder on our faith and the purpose of our lives. I recently came across these two prayerful reflections which I believe give us much food for thought.

In this season, make us short on grumpy thoughts,  
long on sharing of words of gentleness.  
Make us short on being rushed,  
long on attentiveness.  
Make us short on seeing what’s right before us,  
long on peering into the horizon.  
Make us short on out-of-control to-do lists,  
long on savouring kindness.  
Make us short on overlooking the dark sky,  
long on gazing at the twinkling stars.  
Make us short on tradition as a habit,  
long on re-owning and re-creating.  
Make us short on ignoring the hungry,  
long on making a delicious meal.  
Make us short on rushing,  
long on wondering and pondering.  
Make us short on walking past those sleeping in the cold,  
long on sharing blankets and hot tea.  
Make us short on longing for what’s next,  
and long on savouring the darkness.

© John Birch
Dear Members of the Mount Lilydale Mercy College Community

Welcome to the new semester and welcome to an opportunity; an opportunity for a new beginning. I thought to start this new Semester with you with a story that I hope you find worthwhile.

The Creator created people, gave them words for communication and thinking, settled them in the fertile valley at the foot of the mountains, gave them longevity and started to observe, how they will aspire to the development. The time has passed, but people did not develop. They did not go beyond their village and did not climb up the mountains. Their eyes did not look at the sky and did not look in the Heart. So they became old.

The Creator decided to find out, what was the matter. He became a man and came to them as a traveller. Before sunset people gathered at the square to talk with the traveller. He described them a life beyond the horizon and suggested:

– Do you want me to lead you there, and you will see how people live in these places?
– Oh, — they answered sadly, — it is late, we became old …
– Then come with me to the mountains to look at the world from the top!
– Oh, — they suspired, — it is too late, we have no energy …
– Look at the sky, — the traveller said them, — and I will tell you about the life in the Kingdom of Heaven!

They answered again:
– It is late; our mind will not understand your story …
The traveller became sad. He decided to cheer people.
– Let’s sing a song! — he said and was going to sing first, but people noticed that the sun went down.
– It is late, — they said, — it is time to sleep… — and went to their huts. The traveller shouted them:
– People, when life is continuous and infinite, it is not late for any achievements! But they did not turn back. Then the Creator told himself:
– I will take away all words of limitation from people: „late”, „not”, „impossible”, „far”, „high”, „hard”, „will not understand”, and will place in their hearts the joy of infinity. Maybe they will perceive my Law: nothing is late, because there is no end, there is only the beginning!

He did so and waited for the morning: will people change and will they go with him to the mountains?

So as we start our new Semester, let us put away such words as to limit our achievement, to limit our goals, to limit our dreams and to limit that of which we are capable. Let us remove such words as:

I can’t do it
Too Hard
Too Late
Too Much
Impossible
Can not

And let us use again this new beginning to set our goals to achieve.

In the coming weeks we will be celebrating the many achievements of Semester 1 with our Awards Ceremonies at each year level and I encourage you to attend if at all possible, especially if you have received an invitation, but even if you have not. It is important for our children to know that we are proud of their efforts and their successes. It is important that our students know that we value academic success and academic effort. It is also important that they immediately set new goals to challenge themselves over the new Semester to again improve.

Our Year 12 (Unit 3) classes are about to start exams that mark the end of the unit and I know that their preparation will have been rigorous. These exams will help to consolidate the learnings of Unit 3 to prepare for Unit 4 and then the final exams at the end of the year. We will keep our Year 12 students as a focus of our prayers at this time and until they finish assessment at the end of the year.

At the end of last semester I informed you that a number of staff were taking leave for a range of reasons, the main ones being Maternity and Long Service Leave. A number of new staff have therefore joined us at the College, many of whom will be familiar to families as they have been previously employed at the College and some are Old Collegians as well. This semester we welcome:

Miss Jessica Tipping
Mr Thomas Warren
Mr Trevor Murray
Miss Mary McKenna
Miss Danielle Fontana
Miss Cassandra Hasan
Mr Gary Hearnes

We also welcome Miss Amy Sheehy who has joined our office.

We also welcome back Mr Michael Callanan and Mrs Eliana Bonaccorso who return to us having taken Long Service Leave over Semester 1.

Lastly just a reminder that this Friday 17 July is also a student free day as the staff will be hosting teachers from Mater Christi College in Belgrave and St Joseph’s College in Ferntree Gully in a combined professional development program.

God Bless

FROM THE ACTING DEPUTY PRINCIPAL - STUDIES - PETER MOLINARI

INFORMATION EVENINGS
Tuesday 21 July: VCE/VCAL 2016 Parent Information Evening 7.30pm in Centennial Hall
Tuesday 28 July: Year 10 2016 Parent Information Evening & Expo 7.30pm in Centennial Hall

KEY DATES TO REMEMBER
20 July: Year 11 into 12 Subject Selection Assembly
21 July: Year 8 into 9 Subject Selection Assembly
21 July: VCE/VCAL 2016 (10 into 11) Parent Information Evening 7.30pm in Centennial Hall
22 July: Subject Selection Booklets available online for Years 8-12
28 July: Year 9 into 10 Subject Selection Assembly
28 July: Year 10 into 11 Subject Selection Assembly
28 July: Year 10 2016 Parent Information Evening & Expo 7.30pm in Centennial Hall
29 July: On-line Bookings open for Subject Selection
29 July: On-line bookings open for Year 10 Subject Appointments (parents)
30 July: VCAL Expression of Interest Forms available
10 August: Subject Selections due for Year 10 into 11
12 August: Year 10 to 11 Parent Appointments re: confirmation of subjects 4.00-6.00pm and 6.30-8.30pm.
13 August: On-line Selections due for Year 8 into 9 and Year 9 into 10
14 August: On-line Selections due for Year 11 into Year 12
MY SITA VISIT

In the later part of last year, Mr Donovan, Jamie Marshall and myself went along to the SITA Hallam Resource Recovery Facility. The Resource Recovery facility is broken up into 7 parts, which are:

**Construction and Demolition (C&D) Waste Sorting Facility** - This component sorts through waste from the Construction industry, with the aim to reduce what goes into the onsite landfill by recovering things like untreated timber for composting/mulching and plastics and metals for recycling.

**Construction and Demolition (C&D) Facility** - This part turns items like Bricks, Rubble and Masonry into aggregate for use in road base and other construction projects.

**Product Destruction Unit** - The Product Destruction unit destroys end of line stock, bad batches, and customs seized items. It is monitored 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to ensure that no one knows if there’s been a bad batch from a big company, which can damage their reputation with the consumers, who ultimately buy their products.

**Transfer Station** - The transfer station, or ‘tip’ as some of us would commonly know, is operated by a third party (Outlook Environment) who provide employment opportunities for disabled people. The transfer station is open to the public to dispose of things like excess garden waste, recycling, hard waste, TV’s and other electronic items and so on. Outlook Environment also operate a nursery within the transfer station complex.

**Engineered Landfill** - The Engineered Landfill takes up a large part of the Hallam Site. It receives waste from Garbage bins across South East and Eastern Melbourne. The Landfill is made up of a series of ‘cells’, which are basically just large holes in the ground. Each ‘cell’ is lined with a plastic liner, compacted clay, a pipe which sucks out all methane produced from rotting garbage, and a pipe which takes out all the leachate (bin juice or any liquid which has come into contact with rubbish). One of the reasons waste disposal is so expensive is partly due to the cost of the lining and piping systems which need to be installed to stop the Landfill harming the environment.

**Methane Power Generator** - The methane sucked from the Landfill ‘Cell’ is taken to the power generator. Methane is produced from rotting organic waste (Food and Garden Waste) and is explosive in large amounts. The methane is then used to power over 6,000 homes. Although we can harvest this methane, it is a better option to instead compost this waste.

**Leachate Treatment System** - The Leachate Treatment System treats all the water which has come into contact with rubbish and has been sucked out of the ‘cell’. This is aerated in a large pond before being discharged into the sewerage system for further treatment.

I learnt so much from my visit to SITA, and I didn’t realise the amount of technology and innovation that goes into getting rid of the stuff we no longer want. It was an eye opener and I would like to thank all who organised it.

Pat Keating, Year 8
On the evening of the 18th of June a number of year 12 students participated in the St. Vincent de Paul Winter Sleep Out, an initiative to raise awareness and funds in aid of the homeless population. The night started with a short liturgy in the chapel; this provided an ideal opportunity to reflect on our responsibility as a mercy community to provide support for those less fortunate than ourselves, in addition to learning about the life of St. Vincent, and the great works the foundation do. A video presented to the group proved most compelling in highlighting the human face of homelessness, and demonstrating the manner in which homelessness can be forced upon anyone.

After the liturgy it was back to the CSYMA Lounge as dinner was prepared. Dinner consisted of soup and a simple bread roll with butter; this reflected a true homeless experience, particularly for those students who had already participated in the soup van program. For many of us, this humble dinner was a far stretch from what we would usually eat, further exemplifying the difficulties of being homeless. The group then gathered for some ice-breaker activities and games. For many these were the highlight of the night, as we got the chance to enjoy each other’s company in a semi-competitive environment. One activity, which pitted the genders against one another, was particularly effective at getting the competitive juices flowing. After these activities ‘The Pursuit of Happiness’ was screened, further attesting to the difficulties of homelessness, and the importance of providing support, in addition to reiterating values such as perseverance.

Once the movie was over it was time to truly experience sleeping rough, as we came to realise the unforgiving nature of a cold June’s night. Many in the group discovered that the term “sleeping” is used extremely loosely when one talks about sleeping rough. Cardboard and thin yoga mats don’t provide the comfort level we are accustomed to, and many were left feeling tired once morning arrived. While we were able to go home at this point, it was with a greater understanding of the plight of the average homeless person. This understanding will hopefully fuel the flame of our fundraising, and increase our determination to do everything possible in aid of those stuck in the cycle of homelessness.

Ben Morison

On 23 June, Senior VCAL played an integral role by facilitating workshops in the Global Gathering, an annual event designed to provide inter-cultural contact between students within the eastern region. The attendees were a mix of primary and secondary school students from a range of different cultural backgrounds, from both government and non-government schools.

The day started with an interactive African drumming session that filled Lilydale Baptist Church with rhythm as hundreds of hands struck the cowhide drums in unison. Senior VCAL students joined in before preparing to facilitate workshops for the attendees. The workshops were designed around the theme ‘Healthy Relationships’, and with the simple aim for participants to have fun. There was much smiling and laughter as VCAL students and attendees participated together in a range of interactive games. Throughout the activities many VCAL students demonstrated leadership by problem solving and taking the initiative to guide attendees, some of whom which were recent arrivals to Australia.

Communicating with an audience that included refugees was a focus in planning the workshop. Students were also required to be culturally sensitive. During each workshop VCAL demonstrated a welcoming spirit that became contagious. By the end of each workshop attendees grew in confidence and were soon talking and laughing with our VCAL facilitators.

At the end of the day each participating school was presented with a gift and Senior VCAL students were given a special thank you and a round of applause for their efforts in planning and assisting on the day. Overall the day succeeded in developing an understanding and respect for people from different cultures while creating and strengthening links between local schools and services. Thank you to all VCAL students who participated on the day and in the planning of an event that celebrated the rich cultural diversity of schools within the eastern region.

Steve Tarulli
Applied Learning Coordinator

VCAL SUPPORTS GLOBAL GATHERING

VINNIES WINTER SLEEPOUT

STUDENT REFLECTION

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YEAR 7 ENROLMENT APPLICATIONS 2017

Do you have a child in Grade 5 this year?

Application forms for Year 7 2017 students who have siblings currently attending Mount Lilydale Mercy College have now been sent to families. If you have a child in Grade 5 and have not yet received an application form in the mail please advise us by contacting Marilyn Ryan on 9739 2229.

Year 7 2017 Enrolment Information sessions will be held for new families. If you wish to attend one of these sessions the dates are:

INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR NEW FAMILIES YEAR 7 2017

WEDNESDAY 29 JULY at 1.30pm (Open Day)
TUESDAY 11 AUGUST at 7.30pm
In Centennial Hall

UNIFORM SHOP HOURS - TERM 3

| Tuesdays            | 12.30 - 4pm |
| 1st Saturday of the Month | 9.30am - 12.30pm |

HOLIDAY OPENING HOURS

| Saturday 4 July | 9.30am - 12.30pm |
| Monday 13 July  | 12.30 - 4pm     |

For all enquiries regarding Mount Lilydale Mercy College uniform please contact the shop directly on 9735 4370.
Supporting our Young People in an Online World

We are holding an information session for parents on:

Wednesday 22\textsuperscript{nd} July 2015
7pm – 8.30pm @
Mount Lilydale Mercy College
120 Anderson Street, Lilydale
RSVP: Monday 20\textsuperscript{th} July, ph: 9735 4022

Join in the discussion with an ACMA Cybersmart expert.

Arm yourself with the knowledge of 'what's trending' and how to assist your child navigate safety online.

FREE EVENT – TEA & COFFEE PROVIDED

www.cybersmart.gov.au
DO YOU FEEL NERVOUS IN THE CAR WITH YOUR LEARNER?
WANT SOME TIPS FOR TEACHING YOUR CHILD TO DRIVE?

YARRA RANGES
SUPERVISOR
DRIVER TRAINING

Saturday 18th July 2015
Lilydale Lake Community Room
9:30am - 12:30pm
RSVP: by June 12th | 9294 6826
l.clark@yarraranges.vic.gov.au
STEEL & ALUMINIUM

IN 2010, AUSTRALIANS RECycled ONLY 36% OF THEIR STEEL CANS AND 67% OF ALUMINIUM CANS. MANY STEEL CANS AND ALUMINIUM CANS ARE STILL BEING SENT TO LANDFILL DESPITE 75% OF ALUMINIUM CANS HAVING ACCESS TO RECYCLE.

AUSTRALIANS SEND ENOUGH STEEL TO LANDFILL EVERY YEAR TO MAKE 4,000 RIDGES ON THE EIFFEL TOWER!

Producing one aluminium can requires the same amount of energy as producing 20 steel cans. It takes only 6 days for a can to become ready to recycle. Most of the steel in a car can be recycled.

The energy saved by recycling one steel can is enough to run a TV for 3 hours.

It takes 2.5 million aluminium cans to produce one tonne of steel. Nine million steel cans are sent to landfill every year. aluminium.

In 2010, Australians recycled only 36% of their steel cans and 67% of their aluminium cans. Many steel cans and aluminium cans are still being sent to landfill despite 75% of aluminium cans having access to recycle.

What happens to aluminium?

STEEL & ALUMINIUM

THE FACTS ABOUT

STEEL & ALUMINIUM

THE FACTS ABOUT

STEEL & ALUMINIUM

THE FACTS ABOUT

STEEL & ALUMINIUM

THE FACTS ABOUT

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THE FACTS ABOUT

STEEL & ALUMINIUM

THE FACTS ABOUT
The parishioners of St Aloysius are delighted to invite our friends at Mount Lilydale Mercy College to our 125th Anniversary celebration.

- Mass at 10:30am
- BBQ lunch follows at noon
- extra seating is undercover in case of rain
- please park at the tennis club, Anzac Ave
- disabled parking and drop-off zone provided

Sayle St
Yarra Glen

Please RSVP for catering purposes:
healesville@cam.org.au
03 5962 4026