PLANT YOUR SPIRITUAL GARDEN

One of my simple pleasures in life is to garden. I find it very therapeutic and rewarding. This is a beautiful time of the year where the garden is an array of colour and I never cease to be amazed at the intricacy and the wonders of God’s creation. I also love to grow vegetables and gain great satisfaction from planting a tiny seed that grows into a bountiful crop, providing sustenance for the body.

In many ways it is like our spiritual life. No matter how small the seed that is sown if we tend to it with care on a regular basis the reward will be great. We will reap sustenance for the soul. This lovely little reflection is something which I came across many years ago and whilst it is light-hearted I believe it contains some really important messages for us.

GARDENING GOD’S WAY

Plant three rows of peas:
Peace of mind
Peace of heart
Peace of soul

Plant four rows of squash:
Squash gossip
Squash indifference
Squash grumbling
Squash selfishness

Plant four rows of lettuce:
Lettuce be faithful
Lettuce be kind
Lettuce be obedient
Lettuce really love one another

No garden without turnips:
Turnip for meetings
Turnip for service
Turnip to help one another

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love.
There is much fruit in your garden
Because you reap what you sowed.

To conclude our garden we must have thyme:
Thyme for God
Thyme for study
Thyme for prayer
Dear Members of the Mount Lilydale Mercy College Community

I hope that you have enjoyed a fantastic Cup long weekend and that the Spring Carnival is providing you joy and excitement. Where else in the world, but Melbourne (Victoria) would there a public holiday for a horse race and another for a football match. It was pure delight to see a locally owned and trained horse (Ballarat and Warrnambool) win the Melbourne Cup.

The arrival of the Melbourne Cup indicates for our Year 11 students that exams quickly approach as does their Academic Foundation Program (AFP). At this time of the year parents and carers often want to know how best to support their children. I found this article which I have modified to reflect our context.

PARENT GUIDE TO EXAMINATIONS

STUDYING

- Check they have met all coursework requirements and finalised all work to be submitted.
- Ensure that each student has a dedicated study space and help them keep books and notes tidy and organised. Minimise electronic disruptions (phones, iPods and the like).
- Provide a steady supply of healthy snacks and drinks of water. The brain works better!
- Plan a short break between chunks of study, to refresh both the brain and the body.
- Help map out a study programme that leads sensibly to each subject exam. Publish it by placing it on the fridge for all to see. This allows ongoing words of encouragement.
- Encourage the use of revision methods they have been taught like mind maps, brief notes, pictures, spider diagrams, self-testing. Just reading things through doesn't usually work. Encourage students to practise doing exam type questions and past exam papers if they are available.
- Rewriting notes that look good is not an effective form of study. It is classic procrastination.
- Television, devices and loud music do not help revision, but quiet background music might.
- Working with a friend can help by letting them test each other and talk about the work. Just check that the work load is being shared.
- Talk about what teachers have recommended for study as different subjects may require different approaches.
- Encourage them to explain something to you. If you can understand their explanation, then they will be able to produce a good answer in the exam.
- Stay positive and reassuring to build their confidence and calm nerves.

EXAM TIME

- Go over the exam timetable thoroughly so you both know exactly when and where each exam is scheduled.
- Organise transport.
- Make sure school attendance stays regular and they go to revision classes.
- Make sure the rest of the family gives them space and peace while they work.
- Emphasise the need for plenty of sleep, especially the night before an exam.

ON THE DAY OF THE EXAM

- Get them up on time and at the venue in plenty of time before the exam is due to start. Being late for an exam causes unnecessary tension.
- Check they have everything they need.
- Check what is to be excluded from the exam room and make sure devices are left at home if they are not needed.
- Ensure that the correct uniform is worn to the exam.
- If allowed, a small bottle of water can be useful.
- Afterwards, forget about that exam and focus on the next one.

Hopefully these tips will help keep tensions and stresses in your household to a minimum.

Again, with this newsletter, you will find the nomination form for the Mark Prest Award. The selection criteria are clearly set out in the nomination form and each year we have a number of staff nominated by families and students. Please consider writing in support of staff that you think are worthy. History shows that the Mark Prest awardee will require submissions from both colleagues and families.

Please also find once again a discussion about The College Advisory Council which was placed in the first newsletter of the term. At the end of this year a number of Council members will retire or complete their term and they will need to be replaced.
Mount Lilydale Mercy College is a Mercy school operating under the governance of Mercy Education Limited. As a part of that structure an Advisory Council is promulgated whose role it is to:
- Act as a Consultative Group for the Principal
- Promote the Mercy Ethos and Charism
- Assist the College in Policy and Foundation documents formation
- Assist with the Budget process (Pass the Budget)
- Advise the Principal about:
  - Financial Administration and setting school fees
  - Fundraising
  - Capital Development
  - College Facilities
  - Strategic Planning
  - Community Development
- Facilitate:
  - Welcome of Parents and families
  - Promotion of the College

The College Advisory Council is an important group in the life of our College and its Members of our community interested in nominating themselves or others to the Advisory Council should contact me at the College (principal@mlmc.vic.edu.au). Council members usually attend two or three meetings a term as well as participate in one of the Council Committees. Council meetings are generally on Thursday nights from 6.30pm until 9.00pm. I understand that governance does not interest everyone, but it is vital in the structure of our College. Please consider this as an opportunity and consider involvement.

Since our last newsletter a number of families grieve the loss of loved family members. Let us remember in our thoughts and prayers those that suffer such losses:

Mavis Prentice, Grandmother to Josh (Year 10) and Kayley McKenna (Year 8); Anita Galante, Aunt to Melissa Batsanes (Year 10) and Old Collegians Aaron (2009) and Justin (2013); Maria Van Gastil, mother to staff member Gina Webster and the Van Gastil Family (past students); Maria de Munk, grandmother to staff member Dean de Munk and relative of the de Munk family (Collegians); and Edna Boyle, grandmother of Katherine (Year 10), Emma (Year 8) and Sarah Boyle (Year 7), and the Finn family, Old Collegians Amanda (2003), Brad (2005) and Rick (2006).

Let us pray for the repose of the soul of Mavis, Anita and Maria, Maria, Edna and may they rest in peace.

God bless

Philip A Morison
Principal

For all enquiries regarding Bob Stewart Uniforms please contact the shop directly on 9735 4370
Caitlyn Massarotti of Year 11 has made an outstanding contribution to Operation Christmas Child this year. Together with her family and friends, she filled 124 shoe-boxes with gifts and fundraised the $9 per box for postage.

The first time I heard about Operation Christmas Child (OCC) was in Year 7 from my Homeroom Teacher. I thought it was an amazing idea, so I went home and did some research. It was then that I came across a video that showed young children opening their shoeboxes and the reactions on their faces and how happy they were to have received a Christmas gift.

This video inspired me to follow in the footsteps of Samaritan’s Purse charity in organising these shoeboxes so that I am able to put a smile on children’s faces.

Since Year 7, I have filled boxes with my family and each year I have increased the number of boxes. It was my goal this year to try and fill 100 boxes.

Earlier in the year I invited family and friends to a fundraiser I hosted and told everyone about my goal. It wasn’t very difficult to get everyone on board once they realized what a worthy cause that Operation Christmas Child is.

Samaritan’s Purse (who organise this) is an amazing charity and with a little effort and a giving heart we can all put a smile on a child’s face.
FROM THE FINANCE OFFICE

2016 COLLEGE FEES
Information relating to College fees in 2016 has now been uploaded onto the Parent Portal under the parent's name. You can locate this by clicking on the Docs tab and selecting the first name on the right hand side. If you are having difficulty locating this letter, please contact the Finance Office for assistance.

PAYMENT PLANS
Once again, all current families will automatically continue with the same automatic payment plan that they have set up for the payment of fees in 2015. If you wish to change your current payment plan, please click on the following link to access the form to be completed. Any changes must be done prior to 8 December 2015.

MACBOOK AIR DEPOSIT – YR 9 2016
Just a reminder to any family that has not yet paid their MacBook Air deposit for Year 9 2016, as previously advised, this needs to be paid by 6 November 2015. This will ensure each student commencing Year 9 in 2016 will have a device at the beginning of the College year. The $250 deposit can be paid by credit card securely via NAB Transact on the Parent Portal. Please see below for instructions:

http://www.mlmclilydale.catholic.edu.au/
Select Parent/Student Tab
Select Parent Portal
Login with your Username (family ID) and Password (please contact College if you cannot locate)
Select Payments Tab
Select MacBook Air Deposit Icon
Follow the prompts
NB: Only full amounts of $250 can be processed via the Parent Portal

If you are unable to pay this via the Parent Portal, please pay in person at the Finance Office at the College. This will apply to families that are on a split billing arrangement also.

BOOKLISTS
Please be advised that booklists are now available for 2016 via the College website or Parent News. Books can be ordered online via http://www.lilydalebooks.com.au/BookList/School/Mount-Lilydale-Mercy-College

Cathy Pote
Assistant Business Manager

LOTE DEPARTMENT

We are looking for a family to host our current Japanese Language Assistant, Shiho, who will be with us until the end of Term 1. This would be a great opportunity for any student, but particularly those studying the Japanese language. It is not expected that you will have to host for the entire time (although that would be looked favourably upon), so it is possible for a number of families to share the hosting.

If you would like more information about either of these opportunities then please contact Mrs Marie Prusac via email (mprusac@mlmc.vic.edu.au) or phone (92371344).

Marie Prusac
LOTE Faculty Leader

INVITATION TO MASS OF REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY, 15 NOVEMBER 2015

On the reformation of the Mount Lilydale Mercy College Old Collegians’ Association in 2011, a Mass of Remembrance to commemorate those community members who had entered Eternal Life was initiated. The purpose was to offer support to the bereaved by paying tribute to loved ones no longer with us.

This year the Mass will be celebrated on Sunday 15 November at 2 pm and will be followed by afternoon tea in Mount Saint Joseph’s dining room. Names of deceased loved ones will be acknowledged in the Prayers of the Faithful during the Mass. A Memorial Book is located in the Our Lady of Mercy Old Collegians’ Chapel. If you wish to have a family member’s name included in the Book and the Prayers, please contact Patricia Olson, olsont@mlmc.vic.edu.au or phone 9237 1356.

Cathy Pote
Assistant Business Manager
Reading Classic Novels

I think we would all agree that Classic novels are the milestones of our literary tradition, they have stood the test of time and still endure. Our Year 10 Literature class decided that Classics should have lasting artistic merit with an underlying meaning for the reader which should still apply to our modern day society. So perhaps we could think about the Classics as the must-see historical sites that you visit when you travel — the Eiffel Tower, the Colosseum or the Pyramids. Like these historical sites, the Classics have withstood the test of time and are part of our heritage. It is through reading classics that we improve our vocabulary, our writing and the ability to articulate thoughts and ideas. Students will learn the context and meanings of famous quotes and phrases. As we prepare for the end of the school year here in Barak Library we have been discussing our reading list for the holidays. Our students have shown a growing interest in reading from our classics collection and below I have shared the following thoughts. . . .

"I read the Classics to improve the sophistication of my language." Alice Hardinge - Year 12

"I read Classics because it brings back memories of my mother sharing these with me as a young girl." Holly White - Year 12

"I read the Classics as a snapshot of a certain time and place that you cannot capture any other way." Jordan Sibberas - Year 12

"Classics take me to an alternative reality which provides insight into my own reality." Luke West - Year 12

"I have just began reading the classics and am discovering that there are ideas that are still relevant today" Nicholas Birzieks - Year 10

"I read Classics as I enjoy experiencing how life was back then." Abigail Pettigrew - Year 10

Search for Classic from our catalogue link using the search term "Classic reads" and you too may want to add a Classic to your reading list. Please let us know if we can be of assistance http://library.mlmclilydale.catholic.edu.au/oliver/libraryHome.do

Andrea Coney
Head of Library and Information Services

Life by Olivia Hawker Year 10 Bronze

Life. One word with many meanings and many ways to be interpreted. One word that by definition means ‘the existence of an individual human being or animal.’

Existence. A word that by definition means ‘the fact or state of living or having objective reality.’ What does existence mean to you?

Live. This one word means ‘remain alive.’ I don’t know about you, but I honestly believe that there is more to this one word, live, rather than just what the dictionary states. To live, whilst it means to remain alive it also means that we are capable of anything we set our minds to. To live means to takes risks, fall in love, be adventurous, fight, do what you love. It means to take everything as it comes because everything happens for a reason. To have no regrets because everything that happens to you is something you can gain from or learn from. To do the things that make you and your heart smile most and to be the best you can be. To live means to chase your dreams, to have fun and to live life to the fullest.

Living, simply does not just mean ‘be alive.’ Live in the moment that you’re in right now, because it is time you’ll never get back. Try not to live in the past or the future, rather in the moment. You’ll get so much more out of life if you do this. Life is precious so don’t waste what you have of it.

Embrace everything that comes your way and tackle it head on. Make the most of everything. “The less you worry about what people think, the less complicated life becomes.” Once you get past caring about what others think, life becomes so much easier and you become happier within yourself. I know this from experience. When you don’t care about what others think, it makes it easier for you to achieve your goal, it’s easier to hold your head higher and to say ‘stuff it all.’ It’s not all done with ease though, there are days when I get down and do care about what everyone says. However, it’s okay to have bad days, because you need the bad days to understand and value the good days.

Trust me. You should not let people control the way you feel and think and the things you do. You control you, and only you. Others may have a significance in your life and help guide you to make the right decisions but in the end, it was you who made the final decision. You are responsible for how you feel and act. You are responsible for everything you do, no one else. Put yourself first and look after yourself. Make sure you are always smiling and doing what you love because YOU are unique and special and awesome and beautiful. YOU are YOU. Don’t change for anyone. Be happy with you. It does take time, but I can promise it is worth it in the end.

Living, is the act of doing what you love everyday and being the best you can be. It is not just the act of remaining alive. So go out there, and make the most of everything you have and smile everyday. Spread kindness and don’t take the simple things for granted.
A fortunate group of Year 10 History students were invited to a presentation by one of our staff members, Paul Bernetzke, a Vietnam veteran. Mr Bernetzke kept the students captivated with first hand experiences from the “Vietnam War” or as the Vietnamese recall, “The American War.” Insights were shared of war experiences, tales of living in Vietnam during this time, humorous encounters with wild life and of the cultural divide of the time that was a revelation for the U.S. forces which Mr Bernetzke was part of. The honest telling of these experiences was invaluable, providing our students with knowledge beyond the usual sources of information. Students’ questions were numerous, varied and revealed an intelligent interest for this time in history. We are indeed fortunate here at the College to be able to share with our students such valuable learning experiences.

Andrea Coney
Head of Library and Information Services

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END OF YEAR EXAMINATIONS 2015

YEAR 9 EXAMINATIONS
VENUE: Year 9 Homerooms PWR Building

Monday 23 – Thursday 26 November (4 Days)

NB: Core subjects only.
Elective subjects may have exam PRIOR to exam time not during the 4 allocated days

YEAR 10 EXAMINATIONS
VENUES: Old Gym (Bradshaw Building)
Centennial Hall (CEH)

Friday 20 – Wednesday 25 November (4 Days)
(NB: Thursday 26 November – Feedback Day)

YEAR 11 EXAMINATIONS
VENUE: Old Gym (Bradshaw Building)

Friday 6 – Friday 13 November (6 Days)

YEAR 12 EXAMINATIONS
VENUES: Old Gym (Bradshaw Building)
Centennial Hall (CEH)

Wednesday 28 October – Thursday 19 November
Since 2013 students in Years 7 to 9 have been invited to apply to be part of the Aspire program offered at the College. This program provides students with the opportunity to challenge themselves beyond the normal curriculum in an area of interest or future aspiration. The only limitation is the student’s own personal goals.

During the past three years students have selected a wide range of interests such as flying lessons, recording a demo CD in a commercial recording studio, acting audition tapes, working with an author and experiencing a commercial waste collection service to see how they operate and process everyday rubbish.

This year student’s interests were again varied and included experiencing working in a law practice, a netball player for Australia, a BMX track designer, mountain bike racing, a zoologist, an aquarist, a guitar maker and a sports commentator.

Lexie Cilla Year 7 – An Aquarist for a day – Lexie was lucky enough to spend one day of the Term 3 holidays at the Melbourne Aquarium experiencing life as an Aquarist at Sea Life which included preparing food and feeding the animals such as giant smooth stingrays, hand feeding the cow nosed rays, seahorses, tropical fish and anemones, spitting archer fish and tree frogs. Lexie even got to name one of the tree frogs. She said the stingrays were really funny—they slurp when they eat because they have to flip on to their backs to show you their mouth.

Kane McDonald Year 7 – Sports Commentator – Unfortunately Kane was not able to land his dream job of calling an AFL Game on TV but he did have the opportunity to spend the day at the MCG and the Sports Museum. This helped Kane learn a little more about behind the scenes at ‘The G’ and about a variety of different sports through the Memorabilia displayed at the Sports Museum.

Louis Chidiac Year 7 – Mountain Bike Australia Camp – Louis attended a three day Mountain Bike Australia (MTBA) camp in Bright, North East Victoria. Mountain Bike Australia is the National sporting body responsible for the development, facilitation and growth of the sport within Australia and works at all levels of the sport’s participation. It strives for excellence in delivering development opportunities, services and support to all mountain bike riders, coaches, and commissaries. Louis was fortunate enough to undertake a mix of downhill and uphill riding and greatly improved his techniques and skills over the weekend.
MELBOURNE MARATHON
On Sunday 18 October several MLMC staff members took part in the Melbourne Marathon Running Festival.

HALF MARATHON 10km
- Andy Leaumont (1.41.46)
- Marco Cardinali (1.53.41)
- Lauren Dwyer (1.55.07)
- Michael Johnston (1.56.22)
- Lauren Van Der Westhuizen (1.59.57)

Well done to all staff who competed, you are all fantastic role models for health and fitness within our community.

GREAT OCEAN WALK 100KM TRAIL RUN
Another amazing effort from PE staff member, Dan Beard, who completed yet another 100km trail run on Saturday 17 October along the GOW trail. Mr Beard finished the run in a little over 11 hours, finishing 6th overall in an extremely competitive field. Congratulations on another super run!

NETBALL NEWS
Congratulations to Stephanie Durant (Year 11), who was recently voted the Under 17 Netball Best and fairest for Yarra Valley Mountain District Football Netball League this season. Steph was also awarded MVP for the U17 YVMDNFL Interleague Team. Well done, Steph!

INTERSCHOOL SHOW JUMPING
Congratulations to Maddi Clark (Year 11), who competed in the last round of the 2015 Interschool Show Jumping at Ayr Hill Equestrian Centre on 18 October. Maddi rode in the advanced class on Northern Irresistible (1.15m), winning her first class and placing 5th in her second class. She also rode Northern Conrelias in the Intermediate class and placed 8th in the first class. Maddi finished Reserve Champion overall for the year on Northern Conrelias. Congratulations on a fantastic season, Maddi. We look forward to many more great results in the 2016 season!

VICTORIAN TEAM SELECTION
Congratulations to Serena Gibbs (Year 9), who has recently been selected to try out for the Under 17 Victorian Netball Team. She has also been selected to play in the Monash University Under 19 VNL Team for the 2016 season - well done Serena - we wish you all the best for your netball in 2016.

KARATE STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS
Congratulations to Anthony Molluso (Year 9), who competed in the State Championships for Karate on 18 October. He placed 2nd for Extreme Weapons (nunchaku), 2nd for Traditional Weapons (sword) and 3rd for Kata (traditional forms). Well done on a very successful competition, Anthony!

EISM YEAR 9 RESULTS 22 OCTOBER

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## MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS

Twelve students from Mount Lilydale Mercy College had the privilege of being part of the Kool Skools program where they were able to work within a professional recording environment to record and package an album of music. **Kool Skools** is a multimedia and recording project for secondary school students across the Australian states of Victoria and New South Wales. Kool Skools promotes, develops and supports a diverse range of talent and genres of contemporary music.

The very talented students include Marlee Carter, Chloe De Groot, Montana Drieberg, Chris Fox, Samuel Lees, Charli Lilagan, Bohdi Lindsey, Georgia McAleer, Krystal Meyer, Kayla Murphy, Tysha Ramacula, Oliver Ryan, Chelsea Scott and Peter Verhagen.

The Music Department would like to congratulate these students on their ongoing enthusiasm and professional approach throughout this journey.

**CDs on sale Wednesday 17 November at a cost of $10**

CD’s can be purchased at the Kool Skools CD Launch on Wednesday 17 November in McAuley Quad during lunchtime or through Mrs Flint in the Music Department (before school, recess or lunchtime).

**Note:** Correct money will be required when purchasing.
INSTRUMENTAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM 2016

Please return to Reception, Music Department or email music@mlmc.vic.edu.au
To encourage excellence in Music our Mount Lilydale Mercy College awards 24 Instrumental Scholarships to students equal to half the fees of private instrumental/vocal lessons for the year. This reduces the fee to $288 per semester.

Scholarships are given to students who display an outstanding ability at their chosen instrument (including voice) for their age. Scholarships are awarded based on their performance in an Audition.

Students should prepare two contrasting pieces for the audition. The applicant will be notified of the audition date and time in writing. You are most welcome to attend your child’s audition. Auditions will take place on Tuesday 1 December and Wednesday 2 December 2015.

Successful and unsuccessful applicants/parents will be notified via email by mid December 2015

Scholarship Conditions:
Students who receive a scholarship must participate in a college band or choir. Students who miss more than 3 rehearsals without due reason in one term will have their scholarship revoked.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE ON FRIDAY 20 NOVEMBER AT 4.00pm

Student Surname: ___________________________ Student Given Name: _____________________________________________

Postal Address: _____________________________________________________________________________________

Email Address: ___________________________ Telephone Number: ________________________________

Instrument/Voice: _____________________________________________________________________________________

Years studying this instrument/Voice: _______ Previous Instrumental/Voice Teacher: ________________

Please list any exam results (eg: Grade 4 AMEB, Trinity College etc, include both theory and practical examination results).

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Other instruments studied: ___________________________________________________________________________________

Other bands/ensemble memberships etc:

Year ___________ Band _____________________________________________________________________________________

Year ___________ Band _____________________________________________________________________________________

Year ___________ Band _____________________________________________________________________________________
MOUNT LILYDALE MERCY COLLEGE

MARK PREST AWARD

To commemorate our much loved and admired Deputy Principal, who commenced at the College in 1996 and became Deputy Principal in 1997, the College Executive has named an annual award for an ‘educationalist’ in his honour. Mark had a deep love for his God and was passionate educator who had a deep sense of the school community. He listened, accepted and embraced all the people he found in his life. Mark demonstrated strength during his own battle with illness and throughout his life he was willing to be a ‘shelter in a storm’ for others. He was a deep thinker and came to believe strongly in the stewardship model of leadership.

The award will be presented annually to a member of staff who most exemplifies Mark’s educational philosophy and witness as judged by the following criteria which embody the spirit of Mark as an educator. It is expected that the recipient of this award will reflect many of these characteristics.

Mark:
• had a passionate respect for the dignity of each person
• set a public example of integrity, love, commitment and awareness each day
• showed empathy and concern for the welfare of others
• fostered genuine, honest, authentic, compassionate and just relationships
• had a healthy sense of tolerance, acceptance and openness
• was filled with the excitement of teaching
• was a courageous and committed learner
• aspired to and encouraged excellence
• exhibited a quality of teaching which opened up learning to others
• encouraged a love of learning in others
• was willing to take risks and learn from experience
• believed that teaching mattered
• fostered a strong climate of community involving students, teachers and parents
• had a sense of civic responsibility and pride
• contributed to the social and spiritual environment of the school

The selection of the winner will be made by a special panel. The Members of the Selection Panel will be the Principal, an Advisory Council Member, two Staff Members and one Student (a Student Leader).

I wish to nominate ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….. for the Mark Prest Award

Signature of Nominator: ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

Please attach a Statement addressing the above criteria and forward to the Principal by 9 November 2015