\`Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law of the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them.\"

Mt 5:17

We live by rules. These have been established to provide guidance and support to us; to keep us safe and to allow us to grow as human beings. There is a reason for every rule. If we understand the guiding principle behind the rule, we are more likely to obey.

Jesus spent his public ministry trying to provide guiding principles to those who were listening to him. He wants people to enjoy the fullness of life. He is not in favour of outdated rules or customs that no longer have a purpose, especially if they are interfering with the capacity of people to enjoy life. We are invited to respect the dignity of each person, not just those in power. We are encouraged to follow the 'spirit' of the law, not just the letter of the law. We are encouraged to adopt an attitude that will shape our whole being and guide all our actions and responses, especially those that relate to dealing with other people.

Look for the spirit or purpose for laws that affect us. Try to work out how each of us can use this to enhance the fullness of life of ourselves and others.

\`PRESERVE UNION AND PEACE. DO THIS AND YOUR HAPPINESS WILL BE SO GREAT AS TO CAUSE YOU TO WONDER.\'

Catherine McAuley

Prayer

Lord, be my rock of safety. Lead me and guide me to do what will bring joy to me and others.

Amen

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Guardians, Students, Staff and Friends

I trust that all students have settled in well and I thank parents and guardians who attended the Information Evening last Wednesday for the support they provided to their children and the staff. I invite and encourage parents and guardians of students in Years 10, 11 and 12 to attend the information evening this Wednesday.

CONGRATULATIONS

The TOP TEN VCE students for 2010 who will be acknowledged at the Top 10 Assembly on Thursday February 24 are: Jordi Belli, Samuel Darvell, Jess Fouet, Jake Fraser, David Hickey, Alexander Ingham, Carly McConnell, Mayer Melhem, David Morelli and Ashleigh Walsh. The Dux for 2010 is Jordi Belli. Sean Dardengo and Rocky Molluso are acknowledged for their excellence in VCAL 2010.

The College also acknowledged students who were nominated for the Catherine McAuley award, an award presented to the Year 12 Student of the Year. The criteria for the award includes academic effort, academic excellence, participation in a variety of co-curricula activities, commitment to social justice, leadership and general commitment to the College and the spirit of Catherine McAuley. The nominees are: Jordi Belli, Daniel Dickson, Patrick Dwyer, Jess Fouet, Alexander

FEBRUARY 2011

14 February Year 11 & 12 Agriculture Horticulture Excursion
14-16 February Year 7 Camp
7BL, 7BR, 7GR, 7RE and 7SI
16-18 February Year 7 Camp
7GO, 7JA, 7OR, 7PU and 7WH
16 February Parent Information Evenings
7.30 - 9pm Years 10-12
17 February 6.30 - 9.30pm Advisory Council
21 February School Photos
23 February 7.30pm Community Mass
24 February 2010 Top VCE & VCAL Presentation
8.50am Full School Assembly
25 February Soup Van
Ingham, Amy James, Mayer Melhem, Elise Naismith and Emily Wright. The winner of the prestigious award is Mayer Melhem.

Shari Miles and Hannah O'Connor have been asked to audition for Drama Top Acts for 2010; Alex Ingham, Elise Naismith and Hannah O'Connor have been asked to audition for Top Class for Theatre Studies and Natalie Middlemast has been asked to audition for Dance Top Acts. Each student is to be congratulated as the auditions are only for the outstanding students in Dance, Drama and Theatre Studies in the State.

COMMUNITY OPENING MASS
You are all invited to attend our Community Opening Mass to be held in the Doyle Centre on Wednesday 23 February at 7.30pm. Whilst it is essential that all Year 7, Year 12 and new students attend, all students really should attend to honour their commitment given upon enrolment as members of this Catholic School. The Eucharist is an ideal way to welcome new students into our community and to pray for a successful year. Please arrive by 7.15pm to ensure that you can find a parking place and be in the Doyle Centre by 7.30pm.

PARENT, STAFF AND STUDENT INVOLVEMENT
I invite parents/guardians, staff and students to join one of the Advisory Groups relating to Policies and Curriculum, Buildings and Finance. The Role of each Advisory Group is to evaluate and advise upon matters referred to it by the Advisory Council and/or Principal; to make recommendations through the Council to the Principal, on new initiatives developed by the Group in relation to its area of operation; to undertake such projects as may be referred to it by the Principal and/or Council. The responsibility of each group is listed below and I ask any parent, student or staff member interested in joining a group to advise me of your interest in writing, by email or via the telephone.

Business & Finance Advisory Group: The Business and Finance Advisory Group is responsible to provide advice and assistance to the Business Manager; to oversee the financial reporting system of the College on behalf of the Council, and to make recommendations to the Principal through the Council regarding the College Budget and Fee Structure. In addition to analysis of current financial records it also focuses on long term development.

Building and Planning Advisory Group: The Building and Planning Advisory Group's area of responsibility is to develop a vision of the present and future building needs of the College. This includes the implementation of or modification of the Master Plan for new buildings and the refurbishment of existing buildings. The Building and Planning Group should focus on strategic issues for the College rather than maintenance issues.

Policy and Curriculum Advisory Group: The Policy and Curriculum Advisory Group is responsible for advising the Council and Principal on Policy associated with all learning experiences which impact upon the well being of the students within the school, including the Pastoral policies and the Courses of Study.

PLEASE PRAY
Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Mrs Winifred Boulton the grandmother of Harrison Boulton (Year 11) and past students Ainsley and Sam. Winifred died recently.

God of love, listen to our prayers. We recall that your Son Jesus proclaimed “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will have eternal life.” Strengthen our belief and our hope that your servant Winifred will rise again. Help us to provide comfort to those who mourn through the knowledge that they have our prayerful support.

Bernard Dobson
Principal

PRE LOVED DEBUTANTE DRESS SALE
If you have a Debutante Dress hanging in the wardrobe which you no longer have a use for don't let it just gather dust. The Mount Lilydale Mercy College Parents and Friends are facilitating the sale of pre-loved Deb dresses and any accompanying accessories. As this is a fundraising activity we ask for a small payment of $10.00.

The Sale will be held
Thursday Evening 17 February at 7.30pm

To make a booking to sell your items please contact Mary Ryan on 9237 1320 with all your details.
The first full week of classes commenced smoothly with a positive approach presented by students. Thank you to parents for ensuring that students returned in complete school uniform. This helps create a positive environment when staff are not required to address such basic matters.

Research plus our own anecdotal evidence shows a clear link between students having a positive sense of belonging to their school and improved academic results. We are always encouraging students to get involved in their school and this builds a whole range of skills and attitudes that apply throughout life. The level of involvement and interest that parents have in their children’s school life is a major factor in this area. The notion of a school/parent partnership begins with a sense of everyone being on the ‘same page’. To this end I have added a list of points that may assist parents. It is sourced from a Canadian teachers association document.

Last Tuesday we gathered as a school community to celebrate Mass. Fr John Prest was our celebrant and did a wonderful job in challenging the students to achieve their best in the year ahead.

Thank you to those parents who attended the Information Evening for Years 7, 8 & 9 last Wednesday. The meeting for Years 10, 11 & 12 is scheduled for the evening of 16 February. Parents have been mailed a letter with the details. Much valuable information about specific year levels will be issued along with the chance to meet Homeroom Teachers and Year Level Coordinators.

As part of the Year 11 courses this year, there will be a fortnightly seminar program running on Thursdays in Week A during Periods 1 & 2. Attendance at each of these sessions is compulsory. Thursday morning in Week B will be classes as normal for Year 11 students. The seminar program will consist of a range of presentations some of which will be school based (e.g. study skills, VCE related, social justice) with others facilitated by outside presenters (e.g: decision making, road safety, mental health). The initial session was last Thursday with a presentation on VCE organisational matters. The next is scheduled for 24 February when we have a speaker on mental health issues. Ingi Barr is an author and illustrator who will speak about her experience with depression using a wonderful book she has written entitled "Walking the Black Dog". Ingi delivered her presentation last year to Year 11 and it is a very powerful story. It is a very honest account of her battle with depression yet at the same time it is a story of hope.

Over the next couple of weeks we will be engaged in selecting Class Captains and Student Council members. These are great leadership opportunities for students so make sure there is plenty of encouragement from home to get your child involved in the process.

Best wishes to staff and students for the Year 7 Camp this week.

A reminder to check important school dates from the College webpage under the ‘Information’ link. An early reminder that 8 March is a student free day due to professional development linked to the School Improvement Framework that we are commencing this year.

Michael Johnston
Deputy Principal - Director of Students

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL - DIRECTOR OF STAFF

Student Photos will be taken on Monday 21 February. Please ensure your child is looking their best as they set off for school on this morning. Crisp Summer Uniform is required.

PLEASE NOTE: COLLEGE BLAZER IS NOT REQUIRED.

All students have been issued with an envelope describing the different options and pricing. This envelope must be brought to school on the morning of the 21 February containing the correct money as change cannot be given on the day.

Our biggest challenge will be the return of the envelope. The good news, Homeroom group photos will be taken this year. 'This is a particularly good photograph to look back on when we become somewhat older'.

Family photos will be taken on this day at lunchtime. An order form for Family Group Photos may be collected from Student Reception prior to the day.

The annual Year 12 Group Photograph will be taken on Tuesday 22 March.

Victor Miles
Deputy Principal – Director of Staff
EDUCATION TAX REFUND

The Australian Government is assisting you with the costs of educating your children. The Education Tax Refund (ETR) provides parents and guardians up to 50% back on a range of children's educational expenses. Refunds may be as much as $397 for each child at primary school, and up to $794 for every child at secondary school. Making the claim is simple. If you need to lodge a tax return, you can complete an ETR in your return or let your tax agent know you want to claim the refund. If you don’t need to lodge a tax return, you can complete an ETR for an individual 2010 claim, which you can get from the Tax Office Website or by calling 1300 720 092.

Who is eligible:
- A person who is entitled to receive Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part A for a child undertaking primary or secondary school studies.
- Independent students in primary or secondary school.
- People on other allowances may be eligible too. So check your eligibility and the full list of what can be claimed on the Website.

I urge you to keep eligible item receipts and take advantage of the refund. Parents and guardians can claim for expenses such as school textbooks, study guides, stationery, computers, internet connections and educational software. You can also claim for prescribed trade tools for secondary trade courses.
For more information, go to www.australia.gov.au/educational refund

Education Maintenance Allowance Information for 2011

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. 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 (1 February 2011) which is the first day for teaching staff) and Term 3 (18 July 2011).

The EMA application must be submitted to the school by 28 February 2011 for the first instalment and 5 August 2011 for the second instalment.

The EMA provides an annual amount of $460 for secondary students and is paid in two instalments. This amount is split evenly between the parents/guardians and the school.

Students turning 16 years in 2011 will be paid on a pro rata basis.

Eligible parents have the option to receive the 50% ‘parent portion’ of the EMA payment directly into the parent’s nominated bank account, or as a cheque payment. The application form includes a section for you to nominate whether you would like your EMA payment to be made to your own bank account or to receive your payment as a cheque. The banking details required will include the BSB code and the Account number.

Parents with continuing eligibility, who are paid the first instalment of 2011 through this school will not be required to complete a new application for the second instalment. Parents who transfer children to another school after 28 February 2011 and prior to or on 5 August 2011, 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 copy of your valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card by 28 February 2011.

NO LATE APPLICATION FORMS CAN BE ACCEPTED.
FROM THE CAREERS DEPARTMENT

YEAD 10 WORK EXPERIENCE Monday 27 July to Friday 1 July

NEW WORK EXPERIENCE ARRANGEMENT FORMS Year 10 students will be handed new Work Experience Arrangement Forms and Guidelines for Employers during Homeroom. The new forms are RED and very distinct from the forms previously used.

All students will undertake one week of compulsory work experience at the end of Semester 1 this year. Late in 2010 Work Experience Arrangement Forms (Ministerial Order 56) were distributed to all Year 10 students. Many students have had their forms signed by employers and have returned them to the Careers Resource Centre.

In December 2010 all schools were advised that a new Work Experience Form (Ministerial Order 382) was to be used from 31 December 2010. As a result, any forms signed after 31 December 2010 will not be valid.

In December 2010 all schools were advised that a new Work Experience Form (Ministerial Order 382) was to be used from 31 December 2010. As a result, any forms signed after 31 December 2010 will not be valid.

FORMS SIGNED BEFORE 31 DECEMBER 2010 DO NOT NEED TO BE REPLACED.

Help Wanted For Mock Interviews

The Year 11 VCAL program, as part of their “Living and Working in Melbourne” integrated unit, is having a Mock Interview day on Tuesday 1 March. This is a fantastic opportunity for the students to gain experience and develop what is one of the most important skills a young person must learn if they are to be successful in life. We would like to invite members of the Mount Lilydale Mercy College Community to take part in this day by conducting a Mock interview with Year 11 students. If you have experience in one of the fields of work listed below be it as a contractor, employee or business owner and would like to become involved please contact Steve Tarulli (VCAL co-ordinator) on 9735 4022, or email starulli@mlmclilydale.catholic.edu.au for further information. Alternatively fill out the tear off form and your son/daughter can return it to the McAuley Staff room – and Steve Tarulli will contact you.

Fields of Work/Industries

- Furniture Making
- Children's Services
- Clothing – Retail/Manufacturing
- Building and Construction
- Hairdressing
- Electrical
- Retail
- Hospitality
- Horticulture
- Beauty Therapy
- Plumbing
- Small Business

PLEASE RETURN TO MR STEVE TARULLI

My name is _______________________________ and I would like to find out more information about being involved in the VCAL Mock Interview Day in the capacity of an interviewer in the following field(s)

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

I can be contacted at the following: Please provide your address and phone numbers.

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
This year the Year 12 Theatre Studies students are performing a modern play about the ancient Greek myths. The play is called *Metamorphoses* by Mary Zimmerman and it retells Ovid’s tales in such a way that it brings them to life, with wit and beauty.

The Theatre Studies students are eagerly preparing lighting, costumes and special effects for this very entertaining show and now it is everyone else’s turn to audition.

**Auditions begin this week and will run until Wednesday 23 February every night after school.**

Students are to collect Audition forms and Permission letters from Student Reception. The Permission letter will give details and dates for the play. Please get your child to put their name down in Reception, or ask Student Reception for help.

The play is open to all students from Years 7 through to 12 so please, if your child is interested, encourage them to have a go. If you have any queries please don’t hesitate to contact me on 9237 1369.

Elizabeth van Oosterom
Performing Arts Faculty Head

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**15 helpful and healthful tips for parents**

1. Encourage your child to develop a positive outlook toward school.
2. Stay in contact with your child’s teachers.
3. Attend parent–teacher meetings, school plays and concerts, social events, exhibitions, fairs and sports events.
4. Inform the school in advance (whenever possible) of your child’s absence from school.
5. Avoid taking holidays during school time.
6. Avoid making appointments outside school during school hours (unless it’s essential).
7. Meet with school staff (in confidence if necessary) when an incident involving your child arises in school.
8. Cooperate with the school when solving problems related to your child.
9. Inform school staff of issues that might affect your child’s progress or behaviour.
10. Watch for changes in your child’s mood or behaviour that might suggest problems at school.
11. Review your child’s homework and assignments, and sign diaries or planners.
12. Provide access to reading and study materials (library, bookstores, Internet).
13. Read all communications (newsletters, reports etc) from school.
14. Encourage your child to participate in school activities outside regular school hours (sports, drama, art, debating).