Jesus teaches us that we should not be obsessed worrying about the future. It is not wrong to be wealthy. What is wrong is that we pursue material comfort as our primary aim. Christians are asked to live a full life marked by generosity and self-giving for others. We need to place our trust in God and focus on building a right relationship with God and other people.

I encourage students to study hard and to learn about the many ways you can help other people. During Lent we will all have the opportunity to help others. Make the most of the opportunity. Work hard to develop your skills and be observant of the needs of others.

‘Put your whole confidence in God; he will never let you want.’

and

‘Although I should be simple as a dove, I must also be prudent as a serpent.’

Catherine McAuley

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Guardians, Students, Staff and Friends

Thank you to all who attended the Opening Mass in such large numbers last Wednesday. It was a celebration of unity in which we affirmed Year 12 students and welcomed Year 7 students and their families. I apologise to the new students from Years 8 to 12 who were not presented with their College Badge as part of the celebration. These will be presented in assemblies over the next few days.

TOP ACHIEVER’S ASSEMBLY

Last Thursday we were able to acknowledge the Catherine McAuley Winner and the Top Achievers in VCE and VCAL in 2010. They have used their gifts well and all have every reason to be proud of their achievements and contribution to the College. Both Mayer and Jordi spoke about the benefits of involvement in many aspects of College life and encouraged students to also be involved. Their speeches are printed for your benefit and as a model for students.

Congratulations to Jordyn Belli (Dux), Samuel Darvell, Jess Fouet, Jake Fraser, David Hickey, Alexander Ingham, Carly McConnell, Mayer Melhem, David Morelli and Ashleigh Walsh as Top VCE achievers and Sean Dardengo and Rocky Molluso as top VCAL Achievers. Mayer Melhem is also the Catherine McAuley Award winner.

SPECIAL PERSON’S DAY

Tomorrow will be a very special day for our community. It is an opportunity for current students to pay tribute to a Special Person in their lives as this day is celebrated as Special Person’s Day. I encourage all students to consider asking the special person or persons in their lives to attend. The Parents and Friends Association will be providing refreshments for all our guests and their student hosts.

ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Advisory Council met on Thursday 17 February with Mrs Marianne Birtchnell as Chair for the first time. I am pleased to announce that Marianne has been appointed as Chair for this year. In welcoming Marianne to this position I would like to pay tribute to Mr Kevin Dwyer who has been chair for the past two years. He has led the Council well and provided me with great support between and at Council meetings during this time.

We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people who are the Traditional Custodians of this Land. We pay respect to the Elders both past and present of the Kulin Nation and extend that respect to other Indigenous Australians.
ASH WEDNESDAY
Wednesday 9 March is Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. This is a day of Fast and Abstinence. Students are asked to carry out a small act of self denial on this day by going without something that they would normally do or eat. Meat products will not be available through the Canteen on Ash Wednesday. We will also be participating in prayers on this day and throughout Lent we will be encouraging students to pray and to do something to help others. An excellent way to do this is to go without a small treat and donate the money that would have been used for the treat to Project Compassion. Project Compassion boxes are available in each Homeroom.

PROJECT COMPASSION
SPREADING LOVE AND COMPASSION WORLDWIDE

STUDENT FREE DAY
This year we are fully involved in a School Improvement Day. Staff have been meeting in Groups since last year to prepare a report under several different spheres of College life. We are now in the process of analysing the data arising for the Parent, Student and Staff Surveys conducted last year and comparing this data with other data we have available. Following this internal review an external review will be conducted with two reviewers visiting the College. We will then develop strategies to make improvements and develop Action Plans for the coming four years.

On Tuesday 8 March the staff will have to spend the day on this project and so no students will attend classes on this day.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS’ ASSOCIATION
The Parents and Friends’ Association Annual General Meeting was well attended and the year promises to be an exciting one for all. I thank those who accepted leadership positions and look forward to working with the Association again this year. The Office Bearers for this year are:
Co-Presidents Jacqui Mc Donald and Catherine Saniga
Co-Secretaries Helen Di Martino and Michelle Gough
Co-Treasurers Maureen Griffin and Linda Martin

The Association does great work in building a sense of community. It does this by providing parents/guardians with access to second hand uniforms and books, the provision of scholarships to students, the organisation of the Debutantante Balls, the presentation of special parenting and other programmes, the provision of refreshments at Sporting Carnivals, Mercy Day and special events and undertaking social and fundraising events leading to purchases of equipment for the students of the College. I encourage all parents/guardians to support them.

Bernard Dobson
Principal

SWIMMING CARNIVAL
The Swimming Carnival will be conducted this Wednesday at Croydon Pool commencing at 5pm. Parents are encouraged to attend to support their children. Whilst it is not a compulsory carnival, I encourage students to participate.

PLEASE PRAY
Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of recently deceased Mr Jim McKenna the grandfather of Hugh McKenna (Year 9).

God of loving kindness, listen favourably to our prayers; strengthen our belief that your Son has risen from the dead and our hope that your servant Jim will rise again. Comfort those who mourn with the belief that one day they will joyfully greet him again when the love of Christ, which conquers all things, destroys even death itself.

CATHARINE MCAULEY AWARD - SPEECH By Mayer Melham

Good morning Mr Hawthorne, Mr Dobson, Members of the Executive, fellow staff and students.

For those who don’t know about me, I was born in Brazil and when I was eight years old my family decided to call Australia home. But after migrating to the “lucky country”, I consider myself every so grateful to have been part of the “lucky school” of Mount Lilydale Mercy College.

This school offers so many diverse types of co-curricular activities and the main reason I took part in these activities was to get something good out of them. By always giving it a go I was able to create a repertoire of the skills and this in turn leading me to all sorts of open doors in the wider world of today.

To improve your academic skills you may take part in Debating, the Frayne Speech Festival and various maths and science competitions, Year 7s this year can come along to the Transition Night if they wish and learn about subjects such as Maths and Science. You might get involved in the school choir, the school play or musical to express your talents or, like me, just have a go in something different for a change and discover an inner talent you never knew you had. If it’s helping the community that gets you going consider the Pastoral Ministry, the St. Vinnies Conference, Year 11s may take part in the Yellow Ribbon Program and become the new Ambassadors for 2011 and Year 12s have a massive opportunity in running the weekly “Soup Van”. And finally you may build your leadership skills, something which is widely respected, by applying for Class Captain, McAuley Captain or Year 11s may be considering possible Prefect roles for 2012.

So by doing a little bit of everything you are able to develop all the aspects that are awarded through the Catherine McAuley Award. Academic Excellence, Social Justice, Leadership and the general spirit of Catherine McAuley, the true all-rounder student of the year.
Although it may seem tough, the balance is vital especially as it comes to the later years. Don’t be frightened to create that balance of school and social-life and perhaps work as well. For me it was about organising prior, planning well ahead and most importantly having faith in yourself.

At the end of each day you really have to thank those who have helped you and been busy getting you around the all these different events. It’s my parents who I have to thank.

So remember, once you believe in yourself then you take your step and have a go! Thank you.

Mayer

DUX OF THE COLLEGE AWARD - SPEECH By Jordyn Belli

Good morning staff and students.

I’d like to start by thanking you all for having me here today; it’s an absolute honour to be addressing you as the 2010 College Dux, something I never, ever thought would occur. I’m actually still waiting for the call from VTAC to inform me there was a mistake with my score. But I’m hoping they’ve forgotten by now.

I was invited here today to speak to you all about what got me to where I am today. So, I guess, a few study tips for you. And though it is a very important point, I refuse to use the word balance in this speech, just to change it up from other speeches focusing on academic achievement.

For all 13 years of it, I loved coming to school every day. I loved the idea of getting to school every morning and being greeted by my best friends. Well actually in my case, I was the one greeting them because I somehow ended up at school at 8am every morning.

I think school was so enjoyable for me because it wasn’t just about work. As I’ve already mentioned, it’s about friends, it’s about involvement, growth, opportunities and fun. And though work is extremely important, especially in Year 12, knowing there is more to school than just the academic side made it a lot easier getting up every morning and making it to school (either on time or ridiculously early) and enjoying if not all, most days spent in schooling.

Mayer has already spoken about the many different activities and events that you can get involved in at Mount Lilydale, and I’ll back him up on persisting you to include yourself in some of these over your whole time at high school. For me, these activities hold some of my favourite high school memories.

Now, to the work side of school. The point of coming to school is to learn. Learn about algebra and books and Indigenous Australians and music and chemicals and health and life. In order to learn about these things and do well, I believe you need a consistency of work. That is, managing time and planning homework so you gradually do it each night, and not leave a huge bulk the night before it’s due or try and cram it into homeroom before your period 1 class of that subject. In Year 11 and 12, I found the consistency of writing my notes for each subject as we learnt them relieved a lot of the stress associated with SAC and exam times, as I was already prepared to study when the SAC date was announced or exam date was coming closer. For the younger years, consistency included gradually doing assignments and trying not to leave sticking pieces on my poster or writing conclusions to maths assignments to the night before.

Before I mentioned some of the many things you learn at school, and all of these are important for when you reach your final year of schooling. I’ll admit, I used to sit in Year 7 Maths class and wonder why you needed a written introduction for maths, or why I spent Year 8 and 9 Humanities lessons learning about history when I didn’t want to be a historian, or why in Year 10 we had so many exams in such a small period of time, or in Year 11 why we were tested at the end of every single topic of every single subject. But now I realise the maths introductions helped develop pivotal writing skills needed for Year 12 essays, knowledge of history could help support arguments in an English exam, and Year 10 exams and Year 11 tests were all in preparation for our weekly routine in Year 12. So consistency in learning throughout all the Year levels is important to succeed in Year 12.

Another really important study tip is to not always study. It may sound conflicting, or just stupid, but having equilibrium in academics, co-curricular activities, sport, part-time work, socialising with friends and family, or just lying on the couch watching endless episodes of American teen dramas (which is not recommended as a nightly activity) is so critical to fulfilling academic achievement. You can’t always just study. Even in Year 12. Especially in Year 12. The many 18ths throughout the year help with the socialising side, involvement in school in an area other than homework hits peak involvement in Year 12, and movie nights after a week full of SACs covers the TV watching side. All of which I engaged in last year, between my daily dose of face book of course.

So there it is, the secret to what got me to where I am today. But honestly, I think it would have been a completely different story if I didn’t go to Mount Lilydale. This school always has an emphasis on involvement. The teachers here are brilliant and always ready to go out of their way to help you, and allow you to find the personal way of studying and working that lets you gain the most out of your academics. And what Mayer covered, the huge focus on social justice and charity at Mount Lilydale, which played a huge part in getting me to where I am today.

As Mr Hawthorne said, this year I’m beginning a double degree at RMIT in social work and psychology, to then eventually fulfil my Grade 4 dream of becoming a Police Officer. I’m so excited to start uni and meet a bunch of new people that I’ll spend the next part of my life with. All my work at school has been to get me to this point, about to begin a life of helping people succeed in their own lives, something that Mount Lilydale helped me do. And something this school will allow all of you to do too. Thank you.
As February draws to a close the blazer now becomes a compulsory part of the uniform for travel to and from school. The relatively mild summer weather that we have been experiencing should make this a fairly smooth transition. Should it be considered too warm to wear the blazer home of an afternoon then an announcement will be made advising students of this. All students should be wearing the blazer of a morning. The spray jacket that is part of the sport uniform is not a substitute for the blazer. This jacket should only be worn on the designated day of the week where students at Years 8-12 are permitted to wear their sport uniform to school.

The visit by students and staff from our Japanese sister school, Horyuji International High School will take place from March 13 – 27. Thank you to the families who have so generously offered to host. A meeting for host families is to be conducted on 3 March at 7pm in the staff dining room at the rear of the Mt St Joseph Building.

As part of our student leadership program, the Year 12 Prefects will be involved in a twilight seminar on Thursday 4 March. Their commitment in the early part of the school year to the leadership roles they have taken on is admirable. Last Friday we raised in excess of $450- at lunchtime with the sale of chocolate ripple cake that students made. This money will go to the Queensland flood relief appeal and in particular to the families associated with Mercy schools in the hardest hit regions. It is not just about the actual dollars raised. An important part of this social justice type work is to raise awareness in our community and to develop a practice of reaching out to those less fortunate.

Each year we support the World’s Greatest Shave to raise money for the Leukaemia Foundation. It is a wonderful cause that offers support and hope to the many people whose lives have been impacted by blood cancer. On Friday 11 March students will have the option of having their hair coloured or having a No 2 buzzcut from a qualified hairdresser. A $5 donation is expected from students who participate. All students who participate (buzzcut or hair colouring) must complete a permission form which requires parent consent. These will be available through homerooms next week and from Student Reception.

A further reminder that Tuesday 8 March is a student free day for all year levels due to staff professional development linked to the School Improvement Framework.

Parents should be aware that if your child catches Invicta 18 of a morning there is a strong possibility that it will arrive late to school. This is sometimes referred to as the ‘station bus’ and connects with the 8.40 train at Lilydale. Should the train be on time the bus will arrive just on the bell for the start of the school day but if the train is late then the bus is late. Students cannot be arriving late on a regular basis and it may be that an earlier train is the solution. We will be monitoring this situation.

Michael Johnston
Deputy Principal - Director of Students

YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED
To attend our

SPECIAL PERSONS DAY
ON
TUESDAY 1 MARCH
Come and join us for a fun filled morning combined with a personal College Tour.

MORNING TEA WILL BE PROVIDED

Special Person’s Day is an opportunity for students to show people who are special in their life, just what happens at Mount Lilydale Mercy College. The morning begins with an assembly in Centennial Hall where we will showcase students talents.

Following the assembly each student will offer their guest/s a tour of the College followed by morning tea in McAuley Hall. Also in McAuley Hall will be a display of some articles from the Heritage Centre (which has been archived while we wait for the new building) and a DVD about life at Mount Lilydale Mercy College.

Who: Family and/or friends
What: Display tour and refreshments
When: Tuesday 1 March at 9am (please be seated by 9am)
Where: Centennial Hall (parking on the basketball courts just past the hall)
Why: For students to present their school to loved ones, family and friends

If you would like to attend, kindly email administration@mlmclilydale.catholic.edu.au with numbers attending for catering purposes.

Mary Ryan
Registrar
FROM THE DESK OF THE YEAR 7 CO-ORDINATOR

Year 7 News
Congratulations Year 7’s on your wonderful transition from Primary school into our College community.

YEAR 7 TEAM FOR 2011
A very warm welcome the Year 7 Homeroom Teachers and Coordinator Ms Emily Tineo, who will be coordinating each Wednesday.

7 Blue Mrs Kathy Harris
7 Bronze Mrs Nerrida Burnham
7 Gold Ms Emma Whitehouse
7 Green Ms Ann Collins
7 Jade Ms Maybelle Pangilinan
7 Orange Ms Renee Laurence
7 Purple Ms Ainsley Stibbs
7 Red Mr Stuart Thornhill
7 Silver Mr Michael O’Dea
7 White Mr Michael Slagtman

Mrs Gail Preston is the Learning Coordinator for Years 7, 8 and 9.

The feeling amongst the Year 7 classes is very welcoming and positive. The students appear very happy and eager to greet the teachers each morning. It is indeed delightful to see them smiling and being so enthusiastic.

ORGANISATIONAL SKILLS
This year we have 40 parents who have volunteered to come in and participate in this program. The parents were involved in a 4 hour training session to prepare them for this task.

Thank you to all the volunteer parent helpers and special thanks go to Mrs Unmack, Mrs Rees, Mrs Ricciuti, Mrs Graziano and Mrs Knapping who have undertaken the role of Coordinators of the Parent Volunteers of the Organisational Skills Program. Your work and dedication is greatly appreciated.

THE YEAR 7 CAMPS WERE A HUGE SUCCESS
The Year 7 students excitedly participated and enjoyed their Orientation / Transition Camp Week. Congratulations and many thanks to the students for their enthusiastic participation and to the many staff members for such enjoyable and successful camps.

Special thanks to Ms Ann Collins, Miss Mary Ryan, Miss Emily Tineo, Miss Emma Whitehouse and Mr Michael Slagtman, for their leadership on Camps. Many thanks also to all the Peer Support students who so excitedly visited the camps and participated in the various activities with the Year 7 students. Thank you also to Mr Michael Johnston for organising the Peer Support students.

To the many staff who so willingly gave of their time and for their care in making the camps so enjoyable for the students a huge thank you. It was indeed a wonderful team effort.

These camps provided a real chance for students and teachers to get to know each other in a casual atmosphere and for the students the opportunity to experience a variety of fun indoor and outdoor activities.

THE CATALYST PROGRAM
On the Monday and the Friday of the Year 7 Camp Week the students were also given an opportunity of participating in a Catalyst program. This program provided the students with some extra curricular activities. The day began with guest actors, from Class Act. They performed a skit on “bullying issues”. This was followed by a talk by Ms Sue Gunn on the story of Catherine McAuley and in the afternoon the swimming program which was organised by Ms Maria Flood.

We were very grateful and thankful to all teachers who took sessions, their assistance was very much appreciated throughout the week.

Well done once again to the Year 7 students for their fantastic start at Mount Lilydale Mercy College. Thank you also to parents for their support and we are looking forward to working with you in partnership.

Mrs Magda Piototek
Year 7 Coordinator

In light of the recent events in Christchurch New Zealand I felt compelled to drop a line to express my thanks to those in the Mount Lilydale Mercy College community whom have enquired as to the wellbeing of my family and friends across the Tasman. It has been truly humbling. My family and friends are at this stage all safe and well.

Furthermore to those who have left their own family to assist the people of Christchurch in the recovery from the earthquake I would like to say a big thank you. It is a true reflection of the spirit that has existed between the two nations for generations.

Dean Fox
Staff Member MLMC
Homework Club

In order to provide an opportunity for students to receive assistance with homework tasks and any class work that they have found difficult, the College is offering a Homework Club for any students wanting to take part in the program from Years 7 to 10.

The club will be run by teaching staff at the College as well as members of the Educational Support Department.

The Homework Club will run on a Wednesday afternoon from 3.30 to 4.30pm. It will be held in PWR 2.24 (the Computer Room located alongside the McAuley Campus Library). Given the time that the Club is running, it will be necessary for students to find alternate methods of transport home at the end of the sessions. The first session will be held on **Wednesday 2 March**.

If you would like your child to be involved in the Homework Club, please contact Ann Rayner in Educational Support. We look forward to providing valuable assistance to students through the Homework Club.

Kamahl Russell  
Educational Support Coordinator

---

Promoting Positive Body Image and Healthy Eating

Eating Disorders Victoria and the Shire of Yarra Ranges present a community awareness evening on positive body image and healthy eating. This event is supported by the Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation.

**Thursday 3rd March 2011**

**7.00 – 8.30 PM**

**Venue:** Lawrence Hallroom, Yarra Ranges Council

**Presenter:**

Dr. Naomi Coatsworth (Nutritionist/Author)

**This presentation covers:**

- What is body image and what are the risks of negative body image?
- How do negative body image contribute to eating disorders?
- What is weight bias?
- Are the effects of food diets?
- Tips for developing a positive body image and promoting healthy eating
- Tips to reduce the risks of developing eating disorders
- How EDN can help

**Does someone you know or love...**

- Worry constantly about how they look and what they weigh?
- Go on fad diets where they cut out important food groups?
- Skip meals or binge eat or both?
- Exercise excessively or not at all?
- Think they aren’t good enough just the way they are?

If you answer ‘yes’ to any of these questions, please come along to this free information night run by Eating Disorders Victoria (EDV).

**Where:**

Conference Room, Yarra Ranges Council, Anderson St, Lilydale.

**Booking:**

www.cuttingthecord.org.au or phone 9988 3443

---

Cutting through the confusion...
Mount Lilydale Mercy College
House Swimming Carnival

TUESDAY 1 MARCH
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

BBQ provided for a small fee
Parent volunteers most welcome - please contact Miss Flood on 92371323

“Don’t miss out on the fun”