

# NEWSLETTER

26 July 2019

## From the Principal



**Lila McInerney**  
Principal

M.Ed Lead, B. Theol, Grad Dip. Stud. Guid & Welfare, Grad Dip. RE, Grad. Cert. Curr. Lead, Dip. Teach



MERCY COLLEGE

760 Sydney Road  
Coburg North Vic 3058  
t: 03 9319 9299

[mercycoburg.catholic.edu.au](http://mercycoburg.catholic.edu.au)



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### A SEMESTER TWO WELCOME

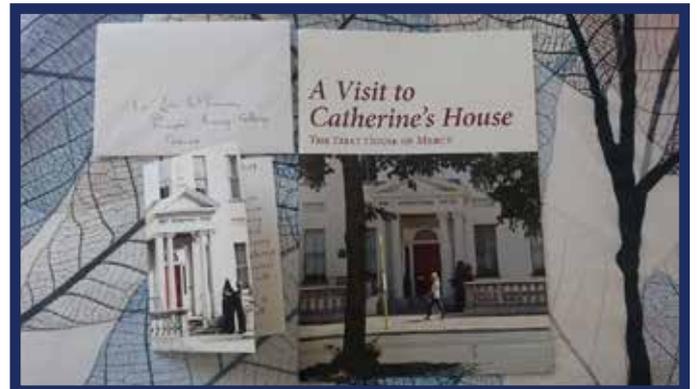
I hope the term break provided students with an opportunity to relax, spend time with friends and family and reflect on their learning in semester one. As we begin second semester our Year 7 and 8 students are settled and will continue to be involved in a broad range of sequential learning experiences as they undertake a variety of core subjects. Year's 9 to 11 students are currently making subject selection decisions and the various information sessions for parents and students continuing over the next week will assist them in discerning preferred pathways and following their passion and capabilities. Our Year 12 students are now more than halfway through the academic year and we look forward to supporting them as they complete their secondary education.

As a staff we began the term with a professional learning day on the use of data. The focus was on how we can best gather and record quality evidence to determine where all students are currently at in their learning. We also concentrated on how to provide our students with strategies to grow and excel in their learning.

### LEARNING-A JOURNEY OF ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

In the document "Horizons of Hope", the vision expressed is one that describes learning as bringing hope. In a Catholic school, the notion of hope is based on the experience of God's love and care for all. As Catholic educators at Mercy College we see learning "as a journey of endless possibilities, where students are energised to seek meaning and explore questions about the world around them".

This vision is one that was shared by our Foundress, Catherine McAuley, and this week I was thrilled to have received a card from Margaret Roche a Mercy Sister based in Dublin, Ireland. The note was kindly delivered by Mercy College Alumni President, Diane Psaila, who has just returned from a humbling and faith affirming pilgrimage to the First House of Mercy; Catherine McAuley's house in Baggot Street. Diane reflects on her fascinating trip further on in this Newsletter, in the Alumni News section.



I hope the term ahead is a positive and productive one for all in the Mercy College community.

*Let us never lose trust in the patience and mercy of God.*

Lila McInerney  
College Principal



# From the Principal Lila McInerney



## UPCOMING DATES

**Tuesday 30 July**  
*International Day of  
Friendship*

*Current Year 8, 9, 10 & 11  
Subject Selection Expo*

**Wednesday 31 July**  
*Kitchen Kapers Program  
years 4-6 4.00pm - 5.00pm*

**Thursday 1 August**  
*Discover Mercy Day  
9.30am and 6.00pm*

**Saturday 3 August**  
*Feast of St Dominic*

**Wednesday 7 August**  
*Kitchen Kapers Program  
years 4-6 4.00pm - 5.00pm*

**Thursday 8 August**  
*Feast of St Mary of the Cross*

**Saturday 10 August**  
*National Science Week*

### PRAYER TO BEGIN A NEW SEMESTER

Lord, as we begin a new semester, help us to be ready, attentive and available to hear you.

Thank you for the gifts of creativity and uniqueness, and the energy to put them to good use.

May the work we do and the way we do it, bring new hope, new life, and courage to all we come in contact with this semester.  
We thank you, Lord.

Amen



DISCOVER MERCY  
**OPEN DAY**

Meet our Principal, explore the facilities and chat with our students and staff.

**Thursday 1 August – 9.30am or 6.00pm**

*Presentation and tour will take approximately 90 minutes*

**Book your sessions online or call 9319 9299**  
[mercycoburg.catholic.edu.au](http://mercycoburg.catholic.edu.au)

# Director of Curriculum and Pedagogy

## Vanessa Folino



### Subject Selection for 2020

It's been a future focused week for our senior students at Mercy College. With Year 10 career counselling sessions, VCE/VCAL Parent Teacher Student Conferences and the Senior Careers Expo, there's been plenty of opportunity for discussion and thought around what the future may hold.

These conversations continue next week as parents/guardians and students will attend the Subject Selection Expo on Tuesday 30 July from 6.30pm in McAuley Hall. There will be a compulsory session for each year level to deliver general information about the subject selection process in the Performing Arts Space:

**6.30pm - Address to current Year 10 students and families**

**7.00pm - Address to current Year 9 students and families**

**7.30pm - Address to current Year 8 students and families**

We look forward to meeting with parents/guardians and students at the expo and continuing our home and school learning partnership.

### 2020 Curriculum Handbook

All students have now received their 2020 Curriculum Handbook. Students are asked to begin to reflect on possible programs and future pathways. The Subject Selection Expo evening offers students and families the opportunity to chat to teachers about various subjects and program offerings.

Students will be required to complete their online selections by August 6. Codes to complete the online selection will be provided on Tuesday evening.



*Change is the end  
result of all true  
learning.*

*Leo Buscaglia*

# Director of Student Engagement and Wellbeing

## Maureen Fogarty



A warm welcome back to the Mercy Community and in particular we extend a special welcome to our new families who are joining us for the first time. A community flourishes when it grows and welcomes new members and we look forward to the opportunities this growth brings.

I hope that all families were able to spend some time together during the recent break as we all know the value of rest and time spent with those we love. In fact, I was reminded of this very thing during the past week when I was very privileged to meet with many Year 10 students and a parent/guardian at the Senior Pathway Interviews. Having a conversation about each student's future with the young person herself and adults who care for her was so positive and very purposeful. I look forward to seeing all of you at the Subject Selection Expo for current Year 8, 9 and 10 students on Tuesday 30 July, at your designated time.

### Student Engagement

High student engagement is defined largely as having a strong connection with one's work and peers, feeling like a real contributor, and enjoying chances to learn. High student engagement consistently leads to positive outcomes for individuals with the rewards including higher productivity, better-quality work, and increased wellbeing.

So, how do we promote student engagement at Mercy? Let us focus on the opportunities available outside the classroom environment in Term 3...

- **2020 Student Executive Leadership positions** - the appointment process begins
- **Planning your Pathway** – focus on student investigation into subject selection with support of teachers and parents/guardians
- **Discover Mercy Day** – Student Guides and performers
- **Mercy Day** – planning led by Student Voice Leaders and involving all students through Homerooms
- **Yr 10 Ball** - participation in dance lessons at Parade College
- **Student Wellbeing** – planning R U OK Day
- **Creative Arts Concert** - Auditions are underway
- **Kitchen Kapers after school program** - student volunteers



# Director of Student Engagement and Wellbeing

## Maureen Fogarty



### Looking after our girls

Often we turn to our family and friends for advice and support to do the best for our children. Here at the College, all staff, Wellbeing staff in particular, are readily contactable if you would like some advice and support regarding the social and emotional health of your daughter. Sometimes we turn to the internet looking for information. Below are a few sites that are recommended for parents/guardians as they navigate the challenging path of parenthood.

<https://www.youthbeyondblue.com/>

Youth beyondblue is an organisation devoted to increasing community awareness and understanding of depression, anxiety and related disorders amongst young people.

<https://au.reachout.com/>

The ReachOut.com site provides young people with the information, help, support, advice and connections they need to manage mental health difficulties.

<https://parents.au.reachout.com/>

This site provides resources to help parents support their teenagers through everyday issues and tough times.

<https://headspace.org.au/>

Australia's National Youth Mental Health Foundation.

### **ANAPHYLAXIS REMINDER**

For Parents and Guardians of students that are at risk of anaphylaxis, please be aware of the following:

- It is a Policy of the College that students at risk of anaphylaxis must have a current Anaphylaxis Action Plan and a valid EpiPen at the College.
- In order for students to attend excursions or an offsite activity they must carry both their individual epipen as well as the EpiPen that is stored at the College.

Please contact the College if you have any questions or concerns around Anaphylaxis Management Plans. Thank you for ensuring a safe community for all of our students.

# Year 8 Learning and Wellbeing Level Leader

## Suzan El-Khoury



Welcome to the beginning of a new term. I hope you had a restful and enjoyable break with your families. It was lovely to see the Year 8 group begin this term with the energy and excitement that defines them as they take on new subjects, welcome new teachers and students into their classrooms and join again with their regular teachers.

Choosing electives gives students the opportunity to design their own learning program for Year 9, which is essential for getting an insight into which areas of study they wish to pursue in the future. The Subject Selection Expo will give you and your daughter the opportunity to receive further information about the electives available next year, and meet with subject teachers to explore these further. As mentioned, the Year 8 address will be at 7:30pm, and a reminder that this event is compulsory. In the interim, I recommend that you have a discussion with your daughter about the subjects that interest her, and which subjects she is achieving success in, in order to inform her decisions.

The process of choosing subjects is very new to your daughter, and may be new to you as well, so please, should you have any questions about this process, do not hesitate to contact me.

# Year 9 Learning and Wellbeing Level Leader

## Caitlin Lamont

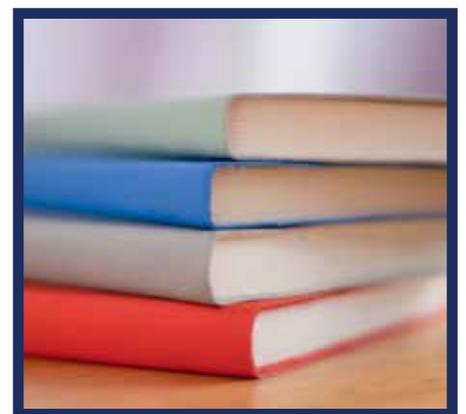


Welcome to Term 3! It has been wonderful to see happy faces throughout the Year 9 corridor in the first week back over the break.

Year 9 students have experienced some new electives, new semester based core subjects, and new classmates.

As Learning and Wellbeing Leader, I regularly receive reports on progress and learning dispositions that students display in the classroom. I am thrilled to have heard positive feedback from multiple staff about the focus and dedication to learning that the Year 9 year level has displayed this week. Well done girls!

I look forward to meeting with parents, guardians and our Year 9 cohort at the Subject Selection Evening. The process of choosing subjects can be difficult so should you or your daughter have any questions about this process, please be in touch.



# Year 10 Learning and Wellbeing Level Leader Kate Todorovic



Welcome back to what is anticipated to be an outstanding and exciting term.

This week has been a significant one for our Year 10 students as they begin to design their individual learning programs for VCE or VCAL in 2020 and 2021. This process began earlier in the year in the student's Next Step classes but has continued this week with our Senior Pathway Interviews. During each interview the students were asked to reflect on their future career aspirations, passions and strengths. Individual recommendations were provided to each student ensuring they meet required prerequisites, while developing a program which will enable them to achieve individual academic success and excellence.

A recent article from *The Herald Sun* on 17 July 2019 entitled "Advice for Year 10 students: Follow your passion when choosing VCE subjects", highlighted for me the need for students to ensure they have a balance when designing an effective learning program. This balance should reflect a student's strengths but also allow them to follow their passions. I strongly believe there is a direct connection between passion and success. [Click here to read the article](#)



Students and their parents/guardians are reminded to attend our annual Subject Expo on Tuesday 30th July 2019. The year 10 address from Ms Vanessa Folino will commence at 6.30pm in our Performing Arts Space, after which you are encouraged to go down to McAuley Hall and speak with our subject specialists. The students are encouraged to ask questions of these specialists and gather further information to help them make an informed decision regarding their Senior Learning program.

Please note students are required to submit their subject selection by Tuesday 6 August 2019.

A friendly reminder that Year 10 Ball practice begins next week on Wednesday 31st July 2019, all students are to be in their full winter uniform even if they have PE timetabled.

## STEM @ Mercy



### High School Cancer Challenge Symposium

Year 10 students studying Unit 2 Biology have had an amazing opportunity to meet with world renowned research scientists whose research is at the forefront of science in diagnosing and treating cancer. Let Enza of 10 D explain:

On the 18th of July five year 10 Biology students went on an excursion to the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research and had an insight as to what it was like researching ways to cure cancer. While we were there, we had the chance to speak with cancer survivors and hear their stories of how they were diagnosed and how they felt about the situation. We also heard from several different scientists who explained what motivated them and how they were trying to find a way to cure the disease. Overall it was a great day and it is safe to say that all five students who attended learnt lots from the experience!



# Senior Learning and Wellbeing Level Leader

## Jane Stiles



### Study Skills Session

Last week Dr Prue Salter from Enhanced Learning Educational Services ([www.enhanced-learning.net](http://www.enhanced-learning.net)) ran a study skills session with Year 11 and 12. The session focused on helping students identify changes and improvements they could make to their approach to their studies in order to maximise their results in their final years of school. The main areas covered with the students were working effectively in the evenings and dealing with distractions, managing time efficiently, planning for assessments, making brain-friendly study notes on a regular basis and using a wide variety of active study techniques to suit individual learning styles. Parents are encouraged to review the handout from the session with students and discuss the main areas identified where changes need to be made.

Parents can also find extra study skills tips on the following website: <http://studyskillstoptipsparents.com/>.

Students are reminded that they should visit ELES website to download the slides from the presentation which will be available for another week, and to access planning and study templates. Dr Salter has also offered to provide students with feedback on their note taking skills if they send her through some samples.

The feedback from students was very positive:

Dr Prue Salter discussed a variety of evidence based techniques and methods that have been found to support students in performing successfully in their last few years of secondary school. She provided us with a number of helpful tips, resources and examples of notes to guide us and for us to utilise following the presentation. This study skills session was highly beneficial to us all considering the upcoming final exams.

*Marta Year 12*

The session provide extra motivation for us for these coming weeks leading up to final exams and taught us multiple ways to study smarter, not harder. For example, breaking up study into three blocks per night or using our diary to maximise our study time while also keeping time for ourselves. I found this study session to be extremely helpful and worthwhile as it showed me so many different ways to improve the way I study.

*Mia Year 11*

Over the school holidays, we were honoured to participate in the McWhirter Conference, a convention that aims to inspire “young people to debate topical issues and to think about their future role in society.” From the 11th to the 12th of July, 95 senior students from around Victoria gathered at the University of Melbourne to discuss the controversial question of “Who should set the limits on free speech?” We heard from four guest speakers who have been immersed in the topic whether it be from a legal or media perspective.

After hearing each speaker, we broke into syndicate groups to discuss what was heard and how it contributed to our understanding and stance on the limits of free speech. The outcome of the conference was a plenary session comprised of participating students who answered questions that were intricately crafted by each syndicate group.

The conference also enabled us to familiarise ourselves with university life by exploring the University of Melbourne through the informative tours and staying overnight at a residential college. We are beyond grateful to have been given this unique opportunity to hear from inspiring people and discuss such a prominent issue with our peers.

*Nirgun and Mina Year 11*



## VCAL @ Mercy

### VCAL Numeracy -On The Road!

Last term the VCAL Numeracy students explored the costs associated with buying and maintaining their first car. The girls searched Car Sales for a car within their budget. They explored what it means to borrow money and through the MoneySmart Government website they compared loans from different lenders and used loan calculators to calculate interest payments. They obtained insurance quotes and realized that there are different types of insurance covers available. They identified the annual and ongoing costs of running a car and worked out a weekly, monthly and annual budget to meet these costs.

The girls also used an App, PetrolSpy, to monitor the changing price of petrol over several weeks in petrol outlets near their houses. They were able to graph this data and clearly show the fluctuations in price that contribute to running a car.

This term we have continued with the car theme and focussed on calculating stopping distances on different surfaces when travelling at different speeds and in different weather conditions. Much fun was had when the girls simulated braking and measured their reaction times. The next focus will see the students looking at the calculation of BAC (Blood Alcohol Concentrations) and what makes a standard drink. This will aim to promote safe driving and responsible behaviours.

VCAL Numeracy provides many interesting activities based on real life mathematical applications!



## Languages @ Mercy

### Memasak masakan Indonesia: Martabak Manis Cooking Indonesian cuisine: Sweet 'martabak'

In term two as part of our Indonesian class, we were given the opportunity to make 'martabak manis', a traditional Indonesian sweet dish. Martabak manis is essentially a thick pancake stuffed with butter, cheese, chocolate sprinkles and condensed milk. When we first read the recipe, most of us were shocked at the flavour combinations. Most of us were able to push ourselves out of our usual flavour boundaries to try this unique combination and for the most part, it paid off. Overall, this was an enjoyable and delicious experience that enabled us to delve straight into Indonesian cuisine and culture.

Rhea



### Indonesian cultural immersion - Family Day Out!

PPIA (Perhimpunan Pelajar Indonesia Australia) - a university student lead Indonesian association in conjunction with the Consulate General of Indonesia are running an 'Indonesian Cultural Workshop' day. It is on Saturday 3rd August and runs from 10.00am-6.00pm. The event is free but registration is required.

Please register directly with the organisers via [this link](#).



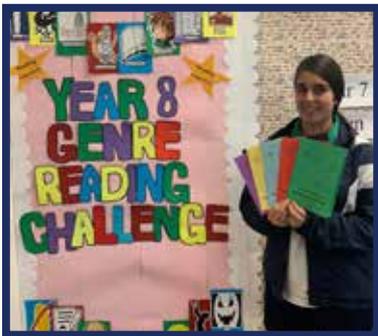
# Information Centre @ Mercy

## Reading is for Everyone

Last week marked the beginning of a very eventful term of learning. In our classrooms students have continued with their core subjects and commenced some new subjects. To be able to succeed in all subjects there are some special skills required. On Thursday 18 July one of these skills, reading, was highlighted at the College assembly for Years 7 to 10 students along with Homeroom teachers and the College's Leadership Team. All present were asked to be courageous, be inquisitive and be persistent as over the next eight weeks, students will be challenged in various reading based quests...

## The Innaugral Year 9 - 12 and Staff Reading Competition

This reading competition is open to all students in Year 9, 10, 11 and 12 as well as all staff, and participants will compete for much sought after House Points! Students and staff are asked to read as much as they can and to record their reading on the specially designed bookmarks. All completed bookmarks need to be lodged in the Library. The House with the most completed bookmarks will be deemed the winner. House points will be awarded and prizes will be made available for those who have read the most items. All reading is to be completed by Friday 13 September.



## The Year 8 Genre Reading Challenge

All Year 8s will participate in this reading event which commenced last Thursday and will conclude on Friday 13 September. It, too, is a House competition with Frayne v Kane v Marian v O'Hea v Thecla. Students need to read at least four books from four different genres. There are sixteen genres in total. It is important that students record their reading on the Record Card provided to ensure their house points are allocated!

## The Year 7 'Seven Million Words' Challenge

The year 7 seven million words reading quest will see all Year 7 students needing to read at least seven million words in seven weeks. To achieve that goal each student will need to read at least three books by Friday 6 September. There is an official Record Card to be completed and lodged in the Library. Once the Record Card has been handed into the Library, the number of words from each book read will added to the tally. This reading quest is a challenge amongst year 7 homerooms with the class who reads the most words to be deemed the winner.



Ms McNerney launched the Reading Challenges with the following advice:

*To all students and staff present here in McAuley Hall, I now entrust you to be courageous in conquering your respective reading event.*

*Utilise your persistence to participate wholeheartedly for the seven or eight weeks required and to do so with our value of excellence. Be inquisitive in selecting a variety of reading material to attain your individual goals. Be respectful and responsible in assisting your peers and/or House members to achieve victory.*

**Let the reading begin!**



# Careers @ Mercy

## Year 10 Real Industry Job Mock Interviews (RIJI)

In preparation for the Year 10 students attending the Real Industry Job Mock Interviews (RIJI) next Tuesday 30 July, Annie Paz and a team from Active Moreland came out to work with the students to develop their interview skills. The Active Moreland team worked with students to discuss how to present yourself for an interview and how to be prepared. Students worked in small groups and then presented to the larger group on the types of questions you could be asked in the interview and the type of responses that would be suitable.

The students greatly appreciated the opportunity to learn from a local employer and we hope that the students feel better prepared to cope with the interviews next week.

Thank you to the Active Moreland team!

## University Of Melbourne visit

The University of Melbourne provides visits to schools through their Melbourne Connect program where students who are currently in their early years of university study engage with senior school students to provide an insight on university life. On July 18, Emilie Washington spoke to Year 12 students during a lunchtime lecture.

Today, VCE students had the wonderful opportunity of speaking to Emilie Washington, a current student at the University of Melbourne undertaking the Bachelor of Music. Emilie provided an informative insight into university life covering areas such as what her course entails, getting involved in the community, school fees, entry requirements and much more.

We were also able to learn about the programs that the university offers to students such as ACCESS Melbourne and different types of scholarships.

*Mina Year 11*

The VCE students were given the opportunity to hear from a current Melbourne University student, Emilee who is studying Music at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music. Emilee spoke about her experience at Melbourne University- the process of her enrollment and the importance of meeting course requirements such as prerequisites. She also gave us some insightful advice about getting involved in University life such as through clubs and societies and the importance of developing connections with other students. The talk gave students the opportunity to ask questions. This was a great chance for students considering going to Melbourne University to get some clarification on any uncertainties. Emilee also spoke about the many scholarships that she suggests that we apply for. Overall, this was a very beneficial opportunity that was appreciated by all.

*Theodoula Year 12*

## Planning for 2020

Students who wish to discuss their choices for Year 12 subjects and Tertiary courses for 2020 are asked to email Ms Ryan [eryan@mercycoburg.catholic.edu.au](mailto:eryan@mercycoburg.catholic.edu.au) or Ms Harvey [vharvey@mercycoburg.catholic.edu.au](mailto:vharvey@mercycoburg.catholic.edu.au) Please indicate a few optional times when students either have a Private Study session, before or after school and/or lunchtimes and we will check the availability and reply with a suitable time and date for students to confirm.



# Careers @ Mercy

## Tertiary Expo Thursday 25 July

There were a number of tertiary institutions represented at this year's Tertiary Expo

University of Melbourne  
Australian Catholic University  
RMIT  
Victoria University  
LaTrobe University  
Kangan Institute  
William Angliss  
Swinburne University  
Whitehouse Institute  
Local Learning and Employment Network (LLEN)



The aim of the Tertiary Expo is to assist Year 10, 11 and 12 students as they make decisions about future subject choices, tertiary courses and career directions.

Here are some 2 student perspective:s

Can Vicki add the student perspectives and send photos Thursday afternoon after the Expo? Is this too late?

## 2019 Melbourne Career Expo - Friday 26 to Sunday 28 July

The 2019 Melbourne Career Expo is on from Friday 26 to Sunday 28 July at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre. They are offering students a FREE Ticket to attend and receive information from 150 exhibitors, from Universities, TAFE's, RTO's, Emergency Services, Apprenticeship Support, Career Advisers and Employers.

To see what is happening at the Career Expo please view the event guide here -

<http://careerexpo.com.au/event-guide/view.html?page=1>

A printed copy of this guide will be handed to everyone upon arrival.

You can also see updates to schedules and the exhibitor list at the website -

<http://www.careerexpo.com.au/attend/>

[CLICK HERE](#) for a copy of the free E-Ticket for any student who may wish to come with their families over the weekend.

## CareerNews - [CLICK HERE!](#)

It is a good idea for students to read the CareerNews this week as it has:

- Updates on new courses for 2020
- tertiary institutions information sessions that focus on courses and career pathways
- Open Day listings of all tertiary institutions

Career Focus - Are you thinking of becoming a Graphic Designer?

Performing Arts @ Mercy  
Caitlin Lamont



MERCY COLLEGE & PARADE COLLEGE PRESENT

# *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

29<sup>TH</sup> 30<sup>TH</sup> 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST

7:30 RIVERGUM THEATRE

[WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/BDEMh](http://WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/BDEMh)



## **A Midsummer Night's Dream**

A Mercy College & Parade College co-production

Rivergum Theatre at Parade College

1436 Plenty Rd

Bundoora 3083

Thursday 29 August 2019 @ 7.30pm

Friday 30 August 2019 @ 7.30pm

Saturday 31 August 2019 @ 7.30pm

Tickets - \$15.00 Adult, \$10.00 Concession, \$45 Family

Reserve a seat now on [www.trybooking.com/BDEMh](http://www.trybooking.com/BDEMh)



# Alumni News

## *'We can never say it is enough'*

*From the Writings of Catherine McAuley, Familiar instructions, p2*

Dear Mercy Community,

Recently, I was blessed to have been able to travel overseas to visit family, friends and explore beautiful and diverse cities across five countries. Taking a break from the thriving tourist hotspots, the centre of my vision was in awe of the old areas; people's culture, traditions and resilience to repair broken cities after eras of war, natural disasters or economic shortfalls. The design and detail of ancient architecture is magnificent to see when you think of the limited tools they would have had on hand in those times. They are revered for what they stand for in their history; a stance of power, resolve and devotion to need and beliefs. I came away with a distinct feeling of pride of place, of the tireless drive and work in preserving remnants of history while at the same time appreciating the additions of modern growth and continuing developments.

Dublin, in Ireland, is a charming city to visit. Loved the coloured doors and splashes of well-maintained potted colour along the roads and hanging baskets on buildings. My former work colleagues, Ulla and Martin, were terrific hosts during my stay taking me to interesting landmarks. I listened to many stories of life in their city and its eventful past. There was one other momentous visit in Dublin. An anticipated visit to the First House of Mercy; Catherine McAuley's house in Baggot Street.

It was the 1st July 2019. Our tour was booked for 10am. Ulla and I caught the bus getting off at a stop to walk a short distance to Mercy International Centre. We were curious to see where the Mercy story began and to learn about foundress, Catherine McAuley.

In front of the Centre and its red painted front doors, there was an immediate sense of welcome as we were greeted by a life size statue of Catherine McAuley with her hand outstretched as if to guide our way. Catherine's other hand is around a woman holding a baby. My first impression is a strong message of commitment in reaching out to help and educate people in need, but at the same time, there is a great feeling of connection to the spirit of Catherine, her tremendous courage and dedication to continue with her mission when faced with challenges.



Warmly greeted by our host Margaret Roche, MIA, we were led up to the first floor, up the same staircase that Catherine used and after watching a film on her remarkable life, we went on a tour of the house built in dedication to Mary, the Mother of Mercy, to help the poor people of Dublin, particularly women and children. We passed through many purposeful and sacred places that hold symbolic treasures of the past.



# Alumni News

Catherine was well educated and known in influential circles. She used her astute business sense to manage her home and pursue her vision. Catherine's cousin Catherine Byrn, and Catherine's first companion, Mary Ann Doyle, were the first Sisters of Mercy. Nowadays, there are 8000 Sisters of Mercy in over 40 countries helping people in need and providing education.

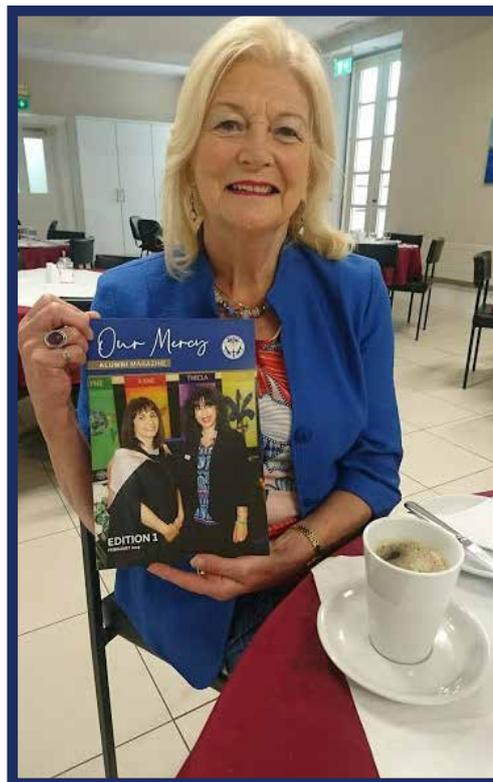
At our tour end, we enjoyed a treat of scones with jam, cream and 'a good cup of tea' in the room Catherine had set up as a dining room that is still used for gatherings today. A true experience of hospitality.

Copies of our 1st edition – February 2019, Our Mercy Alumni Magazine with a note from our Principal, Ms Lila McInerney were presented and well received by Margaret Roche.

As we were about to take our leave, Margaret Scroope, RSM, met us at the main floor corridor. I left feeling very proud and inspired by my visit to Catherine's house. I echo Catherine's words to say it is not enough when there is more to be done.



Diane Psaila  
*Alumni President*



## Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) On School Students with Disability

### What is the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data?

Schools must now complete the *Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD)* every year. It counts the number of students who receive additional adjustments or “help” at school because of a disability. The NCCD helps governments plan for the needs of students with disability.

### Who is counted in the data collection?

To count a student in the NCCD, schools must think through some key questions:

1. Is the student getting help at school so that they can take part in education on the same basis as other students?
2. Is the help given because of a disability? The word ‘disability’ comes from the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#) (DDA) and it can include many students?
3. Has the school talked to you or your child about the help that they provide?
4. Has the school kept records about the help they provide, the student needs and the reasons that the student needs this help? The school will need to keep copies of tests, student work, assessments, records of meetings, medical reports or other paperwork and information about how the student’s learning is moving along over time?

Once the school decides that the student should be counted in the NCCD, they then choose a disability group and one of four levels of help that has been given to the student.

### What does word ‘disability’ mean in the NCCD?

In the NCCD the word ‘disability’ comes from the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#) (DDA). There are four types of disability that the school can choose from; sensory, cognitive, social-emotional and physical.

Many students that need help at school can be counted in the NCCD. For example, students with learning problems, e.g. specific learning disability or reading difficulty (sometimes called dyslexia), health problems (e.g. epilepsy or diabetes), physical disability (e.g. cerebral palsy), vision/hearing loss and social-emotional problems (e.g. selective mutism, Autism Spectrum Disorder, anxiety).

Letters from doctors or specialists can be very helpful for schools as they plan how to support students with their learning. Schools do not need to have these letters before they can count a

student in NCCD. Teachers can use all that they know about the child's learning and the records that they have collected over time to decide if a student can be counted in the NCCD.

### **What sort of help does the school give students?**

Students need different types of help at school. Some students need a little help sometimes while other students need a lot of help nearly all the time. The type of help given depends on the needs of the student. The help can include changes to the school buildings or grounds (e.g. ramps or things like special desks or chairs), extra teacher help in classes, special learning programs, changes to the work they give the student or extra adult help.

### **How will the NCCD be different this year?**

All schools have been counting students in the NCCD since 2015. The government will use the NCCD data as part of the funding to schools.

### **What will the school need to know about my child for the NCCD?**

Schools work together with families to understand the needs of each child. It is helpful if families give their child's teacher a copy of any letters or reports they have. The letters or reports will help the school understand the child and the help that they might need. Letters from doctors, psychologists, speech pathologists, doctor, and occupational therapists etc. can be very helpful for schools. These reports along with information that the teacher has (i.e. school based tests, your child's work and learning plans) helps the school to understand and meet the student's needs.

### **What happens to the NCCD data? Who will have the NCCD information?**

Each school principal must check the NCCD data in August of each year. The school will give the information to the Catholic Education Office. The school will work with the Catholic Education Office to make sure that the NCCD data is OK before they give the data to the government. The government will not be given the names of any students or any letters or records. Please ask your school for their privacy policy if you need to know more.

### **Does the school need me to agree with them about counting my child in the NCCD?**

Amendments were made to the [Australian Education Act 2013](#) and [Australian Education Regulation 2013](#). Schools do not need you to agree to let them count a child in the NCCD. You cannot ask the school not to count your child.

### **Where can I find out more?**

Please contact your child's school if you have further questions about the NCCD and/or refer to the national [NCCD Portal](#).

## **EFM Health Clubs - Available to the Mercy College Community**

Hi Mercy parents, as you would have noticed Efm Health Clubs is onsite at Mercy College. If you have been wondering who we are or what we do; read on.

EFM has been operating since 1991 and specialises in providing health and fitness facilities and programs at schools, including over 65 health clubs across Australia. John Hiatt owns/operates Efm Coburg which opened in January 2017. John has a wealth of knowledge having worked in the industry for over 7 years.

EFM assists your students by providing over \$100,000 worth of brand-new fitness equipment which can be utilised during the PE curriculum. I would love to be able to assist you and by this you can help me keep providing this service to your daughters.

EFM provides a service known as Personalised Training, which is like having your own personal trainer however for a fraction of the cost. The times the facility will be open to the Mercy College community include weekdays from 6:00am – 8:55am, and from 4pm – 8pm, as well as Saturday mornings from 7:30am – 10am.

At EFM, you'll have John as your Fitness Coach who will guide you through each and every workout. Memberships are month-by-month and you can workout at a time that suits you with no bookings required and no rigid class start times to rush for. EFM creates a friendly non-intimidating environment, which includes wearing what you are comfortable in! If John hasn't seen you for 7 days, you will receive a friendly reminder via text, phone call or email to help you stay on track towards achieving your health and fitness goals.

What does this mean for Mercy College students, staff, parents and the local community?

- ✓ With a vast range of cardiovascular and resistance training equipment, the Mercy College Sports/P.E. faculty will be vastly improved for all students
- ✓ Flexibility of month by month memberships – No 12 month lock-ins!
- ✓ A Fitness Coach on hand to encourage and support you towards your goals
- ✓ A friendly comfortable environment
- ✓ Based in the Mercy College gym so less time travelling and more time burning calories
- ✓ 20-45 minute tailored express programs for when time is an issue
- ✓ Reminder text message, phone call or email if your attendance wains, to keep you on track towards your goals

The days of paying a gym membership + extra for a PT to ensure correct technique and time efficiency are gone. It's all included in your EFM membership for a fraction more than you would pay to use someone's facility.

There's a reason why Efm Coburg boasts one of the highest member success & retention rates. Come and see why for yourself.

To organise a Free trial, contact John on 0432 037 781 or [coburg@efm.net.au](mailto:coburg@efm.net.au)