



## I AM MERCY

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21 April 2017

## ACTING PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

Welcome back to Term 2 and I am delighted to be in the Acting Principal role until the commencement of the new Principal which will be announced shortly. I trust that students, families and staff have enjoyed the Easter holiday break and are absorbed in the excitement of Week One! The holidays may quickly seem to be a very distant memory but I am sure that each family enjoyed each other's company, sharing stories and laughter, and I hope that Easter itself brought a new and reinvigorated understanding of our faith. We have an action packed term ahead with planning for Activities Week, NAPLAN testing, Year 7 to 10 Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences, the ANZAC Day commemoration ceremony and the rehearsals for the school musical – 'Catch Me If You Can' well under way.

At the close of last term, we celebrated the Term 1 Showcase and the many and varied talents and achievements of students across all year levels. This also included the awarding of Students of the Term. The Term 1 recipients were: Taylah Caputo – Year 7; Sabrine El Moussawi – Year 8; Laura Miceli-Melen – Year 9; Cassandra Sadler – Year 10; Martina Cappello – Year 11; and Natalie Pafralis – Year 12. Congratulations to these students. I look forward to celebrating their achievements with morning tea next week. Please see below for more details regarding these awards.

Also at the end of last term, as a Catholic and Mercy school, we recognised and celebrated Easter with a liturgy and the Year 9 installations of the Stations of the Cross. Thanks to all of the students and staff who prepared these commemorations and celebrations.

During the Easter holidays, we had a group of students and staff visiting overseas. Miss Zoe Wood and Ms Anne Girolami accompanied 12 students, along with other students and staff from Marian College and St Aloysius College, to Cambodia where they embarked on community work involving helping on construction sites. The work may have been tiring but it was certainly very worthy and, by all accounts, the enthusiasm

and commitment was second to none. Such an experience is priceless, and I would like to thank all involved for spending the Easter break away from family and friends and committing themselves to doing Mercy work.

We have had some staff changes for Term 2 with Mrs Suzie El-Khoury replacing Ms Margaret Mosca who is on leave for the term. We also welcome Ms Rebecca Mazzone who will join the Educational Support Team for Term 2.

As I mentioned earlier, Year 7 to 10 Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences will take place on **27 April** from **1.30pm to 8pm**. This is an excellent opportunity to engage in a conversation with teachers and students about their learning journey so far. These are important occasions, where information is shared, achievement is celebrated and improvement is articulated. I am always heartened by the number of parents who take time out of their busy schedules to attend, which ensures we are all on the right footing for the year ahead. **All students will finish school at 12.50pm on that day.**

Mercy students will participate in an ANZAC Day commemoration ceremony on Monday 24 April, prior to the ANZAC Day public holiday on **Tuesday 25 April**.

A final diary note - Activities Week 2017 is not far away and every student and family has received information outlining the structure for their week. It is sure to be an exciting and exhausting time for all. Thanks in advance to all staff for their participation in this out of school hours adventure over multiple nights. Please note that, due to Activities Week, the next College newsletter will be distributed on Friday 12 May but it is sure to be a bumper issue with details of the activities enjoyed during Activities Week being shared with you.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Nissan family (Angela, Year 11) at this sad and difficult time with Mrs Suham Nissan, Angela's mother, passing away over the term break.

Best wishes

**Mrs Jenni Hickey**  
**Acting Principal**

## STUDENT OF THE TERM



### TAYLAH CAPUTO – YEAR 7 (JMG3)

Taylah has made a conscientious start to Year 7 at Mercy. Always friendly and inclusive, she is a role model in her class. She has taken on many new opportunities in the very short time she has been here -

music lessons, College Band, a JMG leadership position, swimming for her house at the swimming carnival, inter school sport competitions, star making in Mercy against Bullying Week - she is willing to give anything a go. Her enthusiasm and positive attitude has earned her respect from fellow students and her teachers.

### SABRINE EL MOUSSAWI – YEAR 8 (JMG2)

Sabrina has been a willing and positive student in all her classes throughout the year. Her steady and calm manner has been a highlight and it has enabled her to offer assistance to those around her, particularly the Year 7s, when it is needed. Each day she displays persistence, diligence and care in all her subjects. Her gentle manner and respectful behaviour is a calming influence on those around her. She is a reliable and dependable person and she meets all the expectations of her class leadership position.



### LAURA MICELI-MELEN – YEAR 9 (MMG5)

Laura is definitely trying to achieve her best. She approaches her teachers when she has difficulty or to seek clarification which has been most beneficial for her learning this term. She is a friend to all her classmates -

gentle and kind, she shows an interest in others, always making others feel welcomed and cared for. She is a kind hearted young woman who never refuses to assist others! She fosters a sense of community within the Middle School and particularly in her Mentor Group. This was evident for all to see when she made cupcakes for all students in the mentor group for no other reason than to give them a Monday treat!!

### CASSANDRA SADLER – YEAR 10 (MMG1)



Cassandra tackles all of her academic studies with the utmost zeal, making sure all facets of her work are thoroughly completed. She has a positive attitude that impacts on all of her peers. Her friendly smile is shared with staff and students alike. A thoughtful and caring young woman, Cassandra is always ready to lend a hand when needed. A regular participant in co-curricular activities, she recently was part of the Mercy swimming team, committing herself to both morning and afternoon trainings so as to be able to take part in the interschool competition. A true “all rounder”, Cassandra exemplifies what it is to be a Mercy girl.



### MARTINA CAPPELLO – YEAR 11 (SMG1)

Martina is enjoying the challenges of VCE and is very proactive about her learning. She seeks support when needed, but only after trying to work her way through any challenges. She participates in class

discussions - even if she is unsure about the answer - but is willing to take a risk so as to aid her understanding. She is always smiling and always always always chatting to others. She is aware of others around her and attempts to be inclusive. Often the first to volunteer when something needs to be done, this student goes about her business with maturity and humour.

### NATALIE PAFRALIS – YEAR 12 (SMG2)



As she completes her last year of secondary school, Natalie has made her very last Term 1 a successful one by using all of the skills and abilities she has developed across the years to her advantage. She has a strong commitment to study, work independently, complete work in class and seek help and support when she needs it. The Mercy spirit is alive and well when Natalie is seen around our school. She welcomes others, offers to help out, gets involved in simple and complicated things and she does it all with a smile that says, “nothing is too much of a bother”. Natalie has shown great leadership aptitude by being an active contributor to our school community. She gets involved and encourages others to do the same.

## ACTING CO-DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

Please note that, until the commencement of the new Principal, Ms Loretta Kitch and Mrs Michelle McNamara will be acting as Co-Deputy Principals in addition to their regular roles. Please see their separate articles below.

## DIRECTOR OF MISSION – MS LORETTA KITCH

### Project Mercy Totals 2017

Lent seems like a long time ago now, but this is the first opportunity to publish the results from our Lenten collection, known as Project Mercy. Special thanks go to the amazing JMG3 who were the most generous members of our school community this Lent. As the numbers of students vary in each PC, the best comparison can be drawn by looking at the average donation per student in each class. The results were as follows:

PC/MG	Total	\$ / student
<b>Junior School</b>		
JMG1	\$77.85	\$2.78
JMG2	\$205.05	\$7.32
JMG3	<b>\$436.75</b>	<b>\$16.18</b>
JMG4	\$282.55	\$10.46
JMG5	\$238.00	\$8.81
JMG6	\$38.25	\$1.37
<b>Middle School</b>		
MMG1	\$164.25	\$7.14
MMG2	\$126.90	\$5.52
MMG3	\$85.95	\$3.74
MMG4	\$29.90	\$1.30
MMG5	<b>\$181.55</b>	<b>\$7.89</b>
MMG6	\$128.35	\$5.58
<b>Senior School</b>		
SMG1	\$161.50	\$6.21
SMG2	\$216.35	\$8.65
SMG3	\$37.90	\$1.52
SMG4	\$45.45	\$1.82
SMG5	<b>\$351.35</b>	<b>\$14.05</b>
SMG6	144.80	\$5.57

Our final overall total for 2017 was: **\$3,467** (this is a \$900 increase over last year).

Once again our thanks to all members of our school community who sacrificed a little during Lent in order to assist others in need, especially through Caritas Australia. We were also able to donate \$250 from our proceeds to our Mercy in Action group to buy supplies for families they meet in need in Cambodia. Thank you to all for your generosity.

## Easter Season

In the Church we are currently in the Easter season which is actually 50 days long. It starts with Easter Sunday and finishes with the Feast of Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit. It is a time when we give thanks for the resurrection and the hope that the risen Christ allows each of us.

There are a number of celebrations throughout the Easter season. This coming Sunday is Divine Mercy Sunday (always the first Sunday after Easter Sunday) - one of the newer feasts on the Roman Catholic Church's liturgical calendar. Established on April 30, 2000, when Pope John Paul II canonized St. Maria Faustina Kowalska of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Jesus is said to have appeared to St. Faustina telling her: "Humanity will not find peace until it turns trustfully to Divine Mercy". These words still challenge us today to find mercy and to shine the light of mercy for others.

When we face struggles and dark times in our lives, with perhaps loss or depression, it can seem like we are carrying our cross and our burdens can seem a lot to handle. At other times we can feel empty or alone, like we are standing in the empty tomb. As Christians, we believe these times are only temporary and that we will eventually enjoy the blessing of the resurrection. The light will shine through the darkness. The Easter season is a reminder of the power of resurrection in our own lives thanks to the sacrifice of Jesus.

We live the resurrection when we discover meaning and life in the ordinary "bits and pieces" of our daily lives, when we have a positive attitude to our work or learning, when we make our life a journey of wonder and thanksgiving, when we remove the limits we place around ourselves and others by daring to believe. We all need moments of resurrection, moments when God's glory and power are shown to us in our daily routines and through the love and care of others. These simple moments of new life have the potential to carry us through the difficult times.

In this Easter season, we are called once again, to believe in the incredible power and hope of the resurrection. And so, in the spirit of Easter resurrection and at the start of a new term, let us take a moment to reflect on the joy of our family and the hope offered to us through the resurrection.

### *Easter God*

*As we come together again as a school community in this new term, open us to the new life offered through your Easter story.*

*In the months ahead, during our time of seeking and learning together, continue to mould, shape, and transform us to be your mercy in our world.*

*Enlighten and expand our minds, illuminating new possibilities and helping us to strive for excellence.*

*Give us a heart full of compassion and help us to seek to understand how to best shine the light of mercy with others.*

*Amen*

## DIRECTOR OF LEARNING – MS VANESSA FOLINO

### Years 7-10 Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences

Assessment and reporting contribute to student success through the conversations and feedback provided to students. The reporting process for Semester 1 includes the Online Reporting and the Parent-Student-Teacher Conference. The Parent-Student-Teacher Conference is an invaluable opportunity to: discuss academic, emotional and social development; meet and get to know the teachers; make plans with the teacher in order to improve outcomes and build a relationship with the school. Ms Louis, the Chaldean translator will be available from 4.30pm.

The PSTC for students in Years 7-10 will be held from 1.30pm - 8.00pm Thursday 27 April. Interview times can be booked via the link below. Bookings close Tuesday 25 March at 11.00am.

<http://pam.mercycoburg.catholic.edu.au>

To make an appointment, click the [Parent Teacher Interviews](#) link on the right. A list of subjects will appear. From here click the subject and a list of available times will appear.

For parents that don't have access to the internet, students are able to book these interviews online at school. Interviews are strictly 5 minutes and spaces are limited. If you require more time, please contact your teacher directly to make alternative arrangements.

### NAPLAN Equating Tests

The National Assessment Program—Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) provides an assessment of the literacy and numeracy skills of students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. No two tests can have exactly the same level of difficulty so, as a result, a rigorous equating process is carried out so that the difficulty of the current year's tests can be adjusted, if need be. Mercy College has been selected to take part in the Maths Equating Tests for 2017. These tests will take place on Friday April 28. The Year 7 group (7A) will undertake the test during Periods 3&4 and the Year 9 group (9A) will undertake the test during Periods 1&2.

Students undertaking the NAPLAN Maths Equating Tests will require: pencil, rubber and calculator. There will be two 50 min tests (one with the calculator and one without) with a short break between the two tests.

### NAPLAN

NAPLAN is short for the National Assessment Program and it was introduced in 2008. The NAPLAN test period for 2017 is **9 - 11 May**. NAPLAN provides an opportunity to identify the skills students have developed up to a certain point in their education (Years 3, 5, 7 & 9). The results provide teachers with the data required to tailor programs to meet the needs of the students. The skills tested during NAPLAN are ones that are developed over time. The skills which NAPLAN examines include:

- Reading
- Writing

- Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation)
- Numeracy.

### Reading

Students are provided with a magazine containing different writing styles. Students read the texts provided then answer related questions in a separate booklet. The tests start with simple, short texts and get increasingly longer and harder.

### Writing

Students will be provided with a prompt, either narrative or persuasive. The text type will be revealed on the day of the assessment. It is important to remember both genres require an introduction, a body and a conclusion.

### Language conventions

The Language conventions tests assess the understanding of spelling, grammar and punctuation.

### Numeracy

The numeracy tests determine students' skills and understanding of:

- number and algebra
- measurement and geometry
- statistics and probability

The Numeracy tests contain two types of questions: multiple-choice and constructed response. It is important the students answer all multiple-choice questions, doing their best to eliminate the incorrect answers. In Years 7 and 9, students sit one numeracy test, the first 50 minutes with a calculator and the last 10 minutes without a calculator.

If you would like to help familiarise your daughter with the various NAPLAN tests, you can visit the National Assessment Program website. This link will take you to examples of the tests:

<https://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/the-tests>

***You learn something everyday if you pay attention -  
Ray LeBlond***

## DIRECTOR OF STUDENT WELLBEING – MRS MICHELLE McNAMARA

### The Resilience Project at Mercy College

On Wednesday evening, we were delighted to have Martin Heppell from The Resilience Project speak to our students and their families. The Resilience Project aims to help young people (and older people as well!) improve their mental health and wellbeing by doing some really simple things - showing gratitude, developing empathy and practising mindfulness. Martin's talk was powerful - presenting statistics (1 in 4 adolescents have a mental illness, 1 in 7 primary school kids have a mental illness, 1 in 5 adults have a mental illness and 65% of adolescents do not seek help for mental illness), talking about simple strategies that have been proven to help, and

telling very funny but also very real stories to highlight how important this issue is. Martin got the message across loud and clear that we can all work towards helping our young people be mentally healthy.

*“WOW! Nothing short of BRILLIANT! A perfect combination of anecdote, data, and wellbeing practices.*

*I cannot find words to articulate adequately enough the IMPORTANCE and VALUE of the Resilience Project presentation I was privileged to attend last night.*

*Martin's presentation was HUMBLING, REFRESHING, INSPIRATIONAL, POWERFUL, and a great reminder of those basic qualities and practices that lead to a happy, fulfilled and selfless individual.*

*I feel blessed and excited that my 3 girls will have exposure to and experience in the Resilience Project during their time at Mercy.*

*Well done! THANK YOU”*

**Silvana Mirabelli**

Our weekly wellbeing lessons are based on The Resilience Project, an emotionally engaging program that many schools, sports clubs and businesses throughout Victoria are participating in. Our students are learning evidence based, practical strategies to build resilience. Please ask your daughters to share with you what they have learnt and encourage them to put into practise any new skills - it can't hurt and it might help!!!

## Activities Week 2017

During one week in the academic year at Mercy College, each level participates in a compulsory activity that is aimed at assisting the students' social, emotional and spiritual development. All students from Years 7 through to 12 and all teaching staff take part in Activities Week. Below is a table which lists the dates and activities for each year level.

	Friday April 28	Monday May 1	Tuesday May 2	Wednesday May 3	Thursday May 4	Friday May 5
Year 7	Timetabled classes	Adanac CYC	Adanac CYC	Adanac CYC	Adanac CYC	S T U D E N T  F R E E
Year 8	Timetabled classes	Don Bosco Camp	Don Bosco Camp	Don Bosco Camp	Don Bosco Camp	
Year 9	M.A.D. (Make a Difference) Week					
Year 10	Timetabled classes	Work Experience	Work Experience	Work Experience	Work Experience	
Year 11	Timetabled classes	Canberra Tour	Canberra Tour	Canberra Tour	Canberra Tour	
Year 12	Timetabled classes	Retreat	Retreat	Retreat	Study Day	

Students who have not yet returned permission/medical forms are asked to do so as soon as possible so that arrangements for these activities can be finalised. Parents of students who are unable to take part in the organised activity for their year level are asked to speak with the appropriate Level Leader.

## Term 2 uniform expectations

All students are expected be wearing their winter uniform after Activities Week. The College scarf is a winter accessory and is only to be worn with the winter uniform. Please note no other scarves are acceptable and gloves must be navy blue. Please check the length of the tunic to ensure it sits at the knee.

## Arrangements for students needing to leave the College before the end of the school day

Students needing to leave school early must bring a note explaining the reason for the early departure. At the beginning of the day, the student shows her Level Leader the note and has her planner signed. The student then gives the note to her mentor. At the appropriate time, the student shows her planner to her class teacher showing that she has permission to leave. She makes her way to reception and signs out of the College, also showing her planner to staff attending reception. Please note students need to be collected from reception if they are leaving before the end of the school day.

## 'CATCH ME IF YOU CAN'

*“Over the duration of the holidays, the cast and crew of the Mercy and Parade College production of 'Catch Me If You Can' have been working really hard to put together an amazing show for our friends and family. This musical has enabled us to challenge ourselves, through tough dance numbers, energetic songs and the process of becoming our characters. I was lucky enough to be cast as the female lead 'Brenda Strong'. It's been an amazing journey and the cast are so supportive and encouraging. When I come to rehearsals, I'm always welcomed with open arms. The key to musicals is to work hard, and it's all about pushing your limits and going out of your comfort zone to provide a phenomenal performance for our audiences. The show is looking absolutely stunning and the cast are looking forward to opening night!!!!”*

<http://www.trybooking.com/OOUZ>

**Rivergum Theatre at Parade College, 1436 Plenty Rd, Bundoora**

Friday 12 May 2017  
Saturday 13 May 2017  
Thursday 18 May 2017  
Friday 19 May 2017  
Saturday 20 May 2017

All shows start at 7.30pm

*Tickets - \$25.00 Adult, \$20.00 Concession, \$70 Family (2 adults, 2 children)*

**Laura Russo ('Brenda Strong') 10A**

## HUMANITIES NEWS

### ANZAC Day

On 25 April each year, Australia commemorates ANZAC Day. This day was originally a commemoration of the landing of the Australian and New Zealand forces at Gallipoli 102 years ago but is now a day where Australians reflect on the ANZAC spirit.

The ANZAC legend was described by Sir William Deane, Governor-General of Australia in 1999:

*“ANZAC is not merely about loss. It is about courage, and endurance, and duty, and love of country, and mateship, and good humour and the survival of a sense of self-worth and decency in the face of dreadful odds.”*

Dawn services will be held across the country on the morning of ANZAC Day at many local RSLs. The Victorian State service will be held at the Shrine of Remembrance at 6am followed by the ANZAC Day march. For details on how to get to one of these services visit the Public Transport Victoria website at

<http://www.ptv.vic.gov.au/anzac-day-2017/>

Mercy students will participate in an ANZAC Day commemoration ceremony on Monday 24 April and have the opportunity to support the ANZAC Appeal by purchasing badges in the days leading up to ANZAC Day.

### Law Week 2017

Law Week is held between 15 - 21 May. It is an annual festival of events to provide Victorians with an insight into the legal system. It is an excellent opportunity for students interested in the law or a career in the legal profession to find out more. Details about Law Week, including a schedule of events can be found at the Law Week website

<https://www.everyday-law.org.au/law-week/whats-on-in-law-week-2017>

Examples of events include:

- Courts Open Day
- ‘Day in the life of an accused’ court tour
- Behind the scenes tours of the County Court
- Capital punishment exhibition
- What lies beneath - tour of the historical cells of the Supreme Court
- Custody cells tour
- Mock hearings

For more information please see Ms Ind.

### Year 11 Legal Studies Victoria Police visit

*“On 23 March, two members from Victoria Police came to our school to have a talk to the Year 11 Legal Studies class. They taught the class about different offences, the courts, gave us example scenarios and warned us not to do certain things because it will impact us in the long*

*term. They gave us an insight into the police world and what it takes and the training involved to join the police force. It was very interesting and a memorable session. Each and every one of us got something out of the talk that we will remember for the future.”*

**Nikki Lo, Year 11 Legal Studies student**

**Ms Jemmah Ind, Head of Humanities**

## FROM THE COLLEGE PSYCHOLOGIST

### How can parents promote resilience?

A presentation from ‘The Resilience Project’ this week has taught us about strengthening our mental health through practising empathy, gratitude and mindfulness. Research has shown that resilience - *the ability of an individual to function competently in the face of adversity or stress* - is a skill that can be learned and improved over time.

Research has identified a number of characteristics in adolescents that are associated with resilience. Among these are... confidence, belief in oneself, social skills, problem solving skills and emotional self-regulation. One factor that is particularly important in building resilience is the presence of support from one or more caring adults.

- Parents and caregivers who maintain open communication with their adolescent, and support their growing independence, promote the young person’s self-worth.
- Parents can support adolescents’ participation in a variety of healthy activities, including academics, but also in sports and social pastimes. Such participation can help adolescents relieve stress, as well as help them develop stress management and conflict resolution skills.
- Adolescents whose parents are actively involved in their education are more likely to be resilient.
- Adolescents who have positive relationships with adults outside their families also experience mental health benefits; they feel more supported and are more socially expressive.

<http://theresilienceproject.com.au/>

Looking forward to the term ahead! As always, feel free to email with any questions or concerns: [landressen@mercyoburg.catholic.edu.au](mailto:landressen@mercyoburg.catholic.edu.au)

## MERCY IN ACTION – CAMBODIA IMMERSION 2017

*“From 25 March to 8 April, 31 staff and students embarked on the journey of a lifetime. Twenty-six students came from three different schools which were Marian College (10 students), St. Aloysius (4 students) and Mercy College (12 students). In the process of leading up to go to Cambodia, we each had to raise*

\$500+ to help build houses and contribute resources to those less fortunate than ourselves. Each school came together as a whole to make a difference in a war torn, developing country like Cambodia.

Our first stop was Phnom Penh in the south of the country. We visited the infamous S21 & The Killing Fields, Champey Academy of Arts, participated in building 10 houses with the Tabitha organisation and visited a number of elderly women that Mercy College have sponsored since 2013 who call the rubbish tips home.

At the S21 and The Killing Fields, some students found this really difficult as it was very intense and overwhelming. We met three survivors of the Pol Pot regime and they were generously brave enough to share their story and allow us to understand why education and resilience is so important in society.

After a day of bus travel, we arrived in Siem Reap which is in the north of the country. We went to ACCB which is a centre for animal repopulation of nearly extinct or extinct animals, the Cambodian Landmine Museum and also Phare (the Cambodian Circus for disadvantaged youth). During our time at the Jesuit Reflection Centre, our home for four nights, we built wheelchairs and participated in a group liturgy and attended two mass services - one at the local parish and one at the centre. Our sunrise visit to Angkor Wat, the largest temple in the world, was followed by a cooking class where we made traditional Khmer food.

Although we did a lot of work, we made sure to support the local economy by going out for dinner most nights to (mainly) restaurants that help victims of human rights abuses, such as sex trafficking and domestic violence, to start a new life with the help of non-government organisations.

This trip would not have been possible without the organisation of Mrs McNamara - thanks Mrs Mac, the trip was truly one we will never forget. We would also like to thank Miss Wood for her leadership skills on the ground in Cambodia, and Ms Girolami for being our human first aid kit.

Thank you also to our friends, families and the College community for your support and assisting us with our preparation and donations for the trip. We had an amazing trip and would definitely recommend it for the years to come.

**Pia Taylor & Chloe Hocking (Year 10)**

## YEAR 11 VCAL

The Year 11 VCAL students have created a website to give Year 10 students and parents a better understanding of work experience and things that they wished they had known at the time. This presentation was part of a VCAL project. Click the link below to find out some more helpful information:

<https://jspacagna.wixsite.com/workexperience>

**Mrs Angela Heydon, VCAL Coordinator**

## SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

This week, Dr Prue Salter from Enhanced Learning Educational Services ([www.enhanced-learning.net](http://www.enhanced-learning.net)) ran a study skills session with Years 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 girls were:

- Moving into a senior mindset
- Working effectively at home and dealing with distractions
- The importance of independent learning
- Managing workload and planning for assessments
- Organising resources for school both paper and digital
- Steps to effective study for assessments
- Increasing the range of study techniques used
- How often and how to make study notes
- Making study notes brain-friendly

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/>

**Ms Jane Stiles  
Senior School Level Leader**

## PRAYER

*Prayer for Divine Mercy*

*Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is love and mercy itself. Amen*

## REFLECTION

*By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us. (Luke 1:78)*

## OTHER

### **PACER (Parliament & Civics Education Rebate)**

Students from our school will soon be undertaking an education tour of the national capital. Students will be given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion, the Australian Government is contributing funding of \$30.00 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards these costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion.

### **Preston Darebin Blue Light**

The next Preston Darebin Blue Light is on Friday 28 April at 6.30pm.

### **Mother's Day Market**

Newlands Pre-School is holding a Mother's Day Market.

See the online newsletter for more information.









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POLICE AND VOLUNTEERS

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FRIDAY  
APRIL  
28TH



# PRESTON (DAREBIN) BLUE LIGHT

**PRESTON  
TOWN HALL**  
274 GOWER ST, PRESTON

**6.30-9PM | 8 TO 14 YEARS**

**\$7  
ENTRY**

 MARYBOUROUGH BLUE LIGHT DISCO - VICTORIA  
PLEASE ASK YOUR PARENTS TO LIKE THE PAGE IF YOU ARE UNDER 13.

**CONTACT JO PARISSIS 0418 144 446**

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