Dear Members of the Academy Community

Meetings are currently taking place with our prospective Year 7 2022 students and their parents. These meetings provide an excellent opportunity to learn a little more about the families wishing to become part of the Academy community in 2022. It has been most heart-warming to see the pride of parents as they ‘present’ their daughters to us and also to see the courage of these potential students as they reflect on their strengths and their hopes and all they have to offer the College. We look forward to continuing these meetings over the next couple of months, until the close of enrolments for 2022 – see dates below.

A reminder to our current parents of the critical 2022 enrolment dates - if you have a daughter currently in Grade 5 and wish to enrol her at the Academy or indeed at any Catholic Secondary school please note these dates:

**Enrolments Year 7 2022 - Critical Dates**

- Term 4, Friday 9 October 2020 – all applications to Colleges close
- Term 4, Tuesday 1 December 2020 – offers of places to prospective Year 7 students are to be posted
- Term 4, Tuesday 15 December 2020 – the final date for families to accept offers made

Should you require any assistance please contact the College Registrar, Kerri Ruff on (03) 9412 7154 or kerri.ruff@academy.vic.edu.au.

**Child Safe School**

At the Academy of Mary Immaculate, we are committed to being a nurturing, child-safe school where our students are respected, their voices are heard and where they are safe and feel safe. Our commitment and responsibility to child safety is driven by Jesus Christ’s message of hope, love and care for all.

Listed below are several strategies currently in place in our school designed to keep students safe and to affect positive student learning, for example:

- Child Safety Code of Conduct – reviewed on an ongoing basis and signed by all staff
- Child Safety Policy - reviewed on an ongoing basis
- Child Safety Reporting Obligations - reviewed on an ongoing basis
- Child Safety Procedures - presented to students on an ongoing basis

As a school we will continue to reflect, review and approve our Child Safety strategies. Wellbeing and Child Safety is everyone’s responsibility. As always, we welcome your comments and would be happy to discuss any ideas or concerns you may have regarding the matter of student safety.
We are also well aware and adhere to the Child Safe Standards:
1. Strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety
2. A child safe policy or statement of commitment to child safety
3. A child safety code of conduct
4. Screening, supervision, and training and other human resources practices that reduce the risk of child abuse
5. Procedures for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse
6. Strategies to reduce or remove risks of child abuse
7. Strategies to promote child participation and empowerment

In this time of remote learning, Child Safety continues to be of paramount importance and none more so than in video conferencing via Google Meets or Zoom. In Term 2, all parents were asked to give their consent for video conferencing to take place and this request was again made for Term 3. We have also strongly encouraged students attending online classes to do so with their cameras turned on. This enables us to ensure that the students are present and it also enables greater interactivity in classes and students to be more effectively engaged within the lesson.

We are now half way through the 6 week lockdown period and teachers are continuing to work hard to ensure that students are experiencing optimum learning during this time. Once again, I applaud the absolute commitment of our teachers and the courageous efforts of the students during this difficult period. I also pay tribute to you as parents, for your absolute support of your daughters and of the College and your kind words during this time. At this stage, of course, we are unsure when the Academy community will be reunited onsite, but we remain a connected, life-giving community while offsite. The Mercy values of respect, compassion, justice, service, hospitality and courage continue to inspire us all.

Every blessing,

Sr Mary Moloney rsm
Principal

Message from Bishops Commission for Social Justice, Mission and Service

Social Justice Sunday will be celebrated on 30 August 2020.

The 2020–2021 Statement, To Live Life to the Full: Mental health in Australia today, encourages faith communities, governments and each one of us to make mental health a priority. It is a timely message in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting the mental health of many members of our parishes, schools and communities. Understanding mental health will help us to be aware of those who need our support. In the Social Justice Statement 2020-21, To Live Life to the Full: Mental health in Australia today, the Bishops invite us all to reject stigmatisation, to work for the transformation of social determinants of mental ill-health and to call for policies and service provision that meets the needs of the poorest and most marginalised members of our community. Download the Statement at https://agora.catholic.org.au/e/576423/SocialJustice-2020/nf41c/517742600?h=5VcGTOqu7eBqSWBi_k2msmgwFEjjiSwqnE1wpZI1oc

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL – WELLBEING AND OPERATIONS

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Family Contact During Remote Learning
As indicated in the previous newsletter, we are seeking to make contact with families during this lockdown to check-in on the wellbeing of families.

Last evening, Year 7 Wellbeing Leader, Hannah Simon and I, met with Year 7 parents to discuss the positives and negatives of remote learning and how they are managing this lockdown period. It was an opportunity to share ideas about how best to manage a difficult situation. It was a very positive session in which parents offered ideas about how they can support one another should we be forced to be in remote learning again in the future.
Next week, I will be organising a meet for Year 12 and Year 8 families, followed by Years 9, 10, and 11 in the following week. Please be advised that you will be invited to attend these meetings with an opportunity to put forward any questions or voice any concerns you may have. Also present at these meetings will be your daughter’s Wellbeing Leader, the Deputy Principal - Learning & Teaching, Ms Fiona Lennon and College Principal, Sr Mary Moloney. We look forward to speaking with you in the coming weeks.

Wellbeing
A reminder that the Wellbeing site is available for use for all parents and families. On this site are many resources which may help in dealing with this very uncertain time. The site can be found at: https://sites.google.com/academy.vic.edu.au/studentwellbeing/home

In particular, on this site exists the ‘Coronacare’ and the ‘Academy Student Support’ pages which contain not only resources to help deal with any anxiety about the current situation but also some morale-boosting videos from the Senior Student Leadership Team.

Wellbeing Leaders will be checking in on their respective year levels each week and, as aforementioned, homeroom teachers will be checking on homerooms twice a week. Please know that you can also contact me on 9412 7102 should you have any issues that arise throughout this time.

Parents Association Meeting - Monday 24 August
I would like to remind parents about next week’s online meeting on Monday 24 August beginning at 5pm. Should you wish to attend this meeting, please email me directly at: paul.finneran@academy.vic.edu.au. All expressions of interest should be emailed to me by Friday 21 August. Once I have the list of attendees, I will email the link to the meeting. I look forward to seeing you all then.

Closing Remarks
Throughout this difficult time, we often turn to our leaders for not only guidance, but hope. I can only imagine how difficult these past months have been for Premier Dan Andrews and for Prime Minister Scott Morrison. They are being forced to make decisions, often unpopular decisions, with the safety and welfare of the wider community in mind. They have had to be exemplars of resilience, calm and collaboration. I can honestly say that our Senior Student Leadership Team have been just as assured and as collaborative despite the fact that their last rite of passage at Academy has been decimated in so many ways.

These young women made a choice to lead our student body. In making such a choice they were fully cognizant of the fact that they would be challenged in so many ways, yet in making that choice they displayed their want to ‘make things happen’. No one could have factored in a pandemic to disrupt their final year at the Academy. Indeed, there is no road map to show how to navigate such unfamiliar terrain. This brings to mind something American essayist, poet and philosopher once said, “Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”

There can be no doubt that these students have left a trail; a trail marked with courage, inspiration, creativity and hope. They have shown themselves to be leaders in every sense of the word. They are true Mercy women whose courage and resilience are the epitome of the women Catherine McAuley would have sought to form. Catherine herself was described as having an “unworned perseverance” and our Senior Student Leadership, although they may have been disheartened at times, have, like Catherine before them, remained undaunted about the task at hand. They can feel justly proud of their leadership journey this year.

“We’re here for a reason.
I believe a bit of the reason is to throw little torches out to lead people through the dark.”
Whoopi Goldberg

Mr Paul Finneran, Deputy Principal - Wellbeing & Operations

CareMonkey name change
As from 10 August, CareMonkey have changed their name to Operoo. Operoo is the same product, just with a different name. They have the same team and the same management. The ‘Oper’ part of Operoo is simply short for ‘operations’. The ‘roo’ is a reminder of their Australian origins. There will be a new Operoo App in app stores soon. However, the CareMonkey mobile app will continue to work as normal.
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL – LEARNING AND TEACHING

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Term 3 has always presented something of a challenge to students. Students are past the half way point of the school year and it can be difficult to muster the motivation to keep on track for what remains of Term 3 and 4. No doubt, the current context makes that challenge even more acute.

Increasingly, teaching and learning practices are informed by the fields of neuroscience and psychology. One of the most significant contributions in recent years has been Carol Dweck's research on the 'growth mindset'. The premise of the 'growth mindset' is the understanding of the plasticity of our brains and that our brains can grow significantly in capacity over time. If students understand this basic premise, they are more likely to persist with their learning, instead of being gripped by what Dweck terms the 'tyranny of now'.

Supporting the development of a growth mindset in our students means that they are more inclined to embrace challenge, see effort as a key component of mastery and to persevere, despite the inherent difficulties presented to them. From Dweck's research we understand the power of the phrase 'not yet'; a phrase that gives us a path to future success. Perhaps there has never been a more timely opportunity to remind our students of this notion and to gently encourage them to persist. In doing so, they will face this moment, both academically and personally, with greater resilience.

Stay safe and well.  Ms Fiona Lennon, Deputy Principal – Learning and Teaching

DIRECTOR OF FAITH AND MISSION

Reflection

Last Saturday, 15 August was the feast of the Assumption of Mary. In ‘pre Covid’ times there would be a special morning mass, organised by our Senior Student Leaders in honour of the patron of our College. Mary has a preeminent place in Catholic belief, teaching and prayer. There is great richness in the role Mary plays in the lives of many Catholics. For the purposes of this reflection, my thoughts go to two of the gospel stories in which Mary features. The first is the twelve year old Jesus getting lost in the city and the second is the wedding feast of Cana.

For a parent, losing contact with your child in a crowd is the stuff of nightmares. When it happened to my wife and I, it was a roller coaster emotional ride of shock and fear. Then to be followed by feelings of joy tinged with inadequacy when our daughter was rescued by strangers.

In the wedding feast at Cana, we observe that Mary’s calm, persistent faith in Jesus draws him into the first public sign of his ministry. When asked by his mother to help out, the response of Jesus is ‘Woman, what does this have to do with me?’ Mary’s response is to say to the servants “Do whatever he tells you”. Faith was the dominant theme of the gospels from recent Sundays.

There was the story of Jesus walking on the water across the stormy Sea of Galilee. The apostles were in the boat being battered by the wind and waves. Jesus walks towards them and says, “Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." As is often the case in the gospel stories, the apostles fail to rise to the challenge that Jesus sets them. Called by Jesus to set foot on the stormy waters, Peter sets forth only to panic and begin to sink.

My Year 10 RE class reflected on the messages that this story offered to our lives. A memorable response from one of the students was that we should not give in to fear, but give in to faith.

As a parent, or as a teacher, one is constantly navigating the restless seas of adolescent life. We cannot protect those for whom we care for from the ‘storms’ that assail us. But, we are called to respond with faith not fear. With a calm and persistent faith, our role as parents is to draw out from our children the many capacities that they have to do wondrous things with their lives.

Mercy Day in Lockdown

Mercy Day 2020 is going to be the most memorable Mercy Day since the Spanish flu epidemic of 1919!! Under the direction of Mr Andrew Power and Ms Mirelle Morris, our musicians have worked from ‘iso’ to prepare a beautiful sound track to our Mercy Day service. Via video conferences, I have been meeting with the Directors of Faith and Mission from Mercy schools around the world to develop opportunities for an international flavour to our Academy service.
Student leaders from all year levels are preparing readings, prayers and reflections. Fr Peter Varengo, our College Chaplain, will join us from his home to support us. It will be different. It will be memorable. It will be a celebration of Mercy.

We have upgraded our video conference capacity to allow all College families to join in watching the Mercy Day service and celebrations. However, there are limits to our conference capacity and we ask that you join via one device per household.

If there is a reason why you think that you will require more than one device per household, I ask that you email me and we can negotiate a suitable arrangement.

Mr Mark Hyland, Director of Faith and Mission

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

Winter Sleep Out
We are very pleased and proud to announce the results of our Winter Sleep Out In evening. Our Academy community, students, staff and families worked together to raise funds for our Mercy causes and made Mercy Happen to the grand total of $8,500. The winning year level will be announced next week. Thank you for your support.

People Seeking Asylum
The Academy community has worked together to raise funds for a young man seeking asylum, who we met through our relationship with the St Joseph’s Flexible Learning Centre. Sally Morgan, a teacher at the centre, brought many young people seeking asylum to our school to share their stories with our students in the Synergy program. We focused our efforts on supporting Omid in his dream to become a dentist. Sally is now on the board of the Hope Co-Op and has asked if we might be able to contribute to the following crowd funding campaign.

I’m writing to ask you to consider donating to a fund-raising campaign I’m helping lead, to continue keeping asylum seeker students in Melbourne from destitution and hunger. It sounds dramatic, and it is.

You may be aware that asylum-seekers and refugees (those who are only allowed temporary protection) have been locked out of all government Covid19 support. Most have lost their jobs, but get no JobSeeker, no JobKeeper, no Centrelink of any kind if they’re tertiary students.

HOPE Co-Op, of which I’m on the board, has been running a food delivery project in Melbourne for the past few months, in efforts to address this shocking situation. As you’re probably aware, HOPE Co-Op is run by and for asylum seeker students, with a few partner members such as myself. Last week we launched a crowdfunding campaign, to make sure we can keep going and hopefully expand the numbers of people we can support.

We are aiming for a minimum of $20,000. However, if we could raise lots more, we can DO lots more. We are at a point where, as a co-operative of students of asylum seeker background, we could put any amount of funding to really positive use.

The link for donations is https://www.pozible.com/profile/hope-co-op. Anything at all you are able to put in is really appreciated, even just $10. Please help also by sharing this email, or the posts we put up on social media, with your wider networks.

Warm regards
Sally Morgan

Any contributions you could make to this campaign would be in support of excellent work we have been witness to as an Academy community and will help young people many of our students have met.

Ms Sue Moran and Mrs Catherine Glenister, Justice Leaders
HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT

Acknowledging a WW2 Milestone Anniversary!

By Kym Middleton ABC correspondent:

‘August 15 marks 75 years since World War II ended in the Pacific with Japan’s surrender to a group of countries that included Australia and its new superpower ally, the United States. As we get further away from those events, both culturally and through time, even a milestone anniversary like this can easily slip by. But the outcomes of the war in the Pacific can still be seen and felt today. When Japan took Britain’s port in Singapore and 15,000 Australians as prisoners of war with it, it was clear the empire could no longer protect its Asia-Pacific dominions. In just a few days, Japan invaded Pacific islands, attacked more parts of Asia, and bombed the Australian mainland.

WWII events that led to the ANZUS alliance

- December 7, 1941: Japan bombs US fleets in Pearl Harbour
- February 8-15, 1942: The fall of Singapore to Japan
- February 16-19, 1942: Japan attacks the Philippines, Malaya, Thailand, Guam, the Gilbert Islands and Hong Kong
- February 19, 1942: Japan bombs Darwin
- May 31, 1942: Japanese submarines enter Sydney Harbour
- August 6 and 9, 1945: US drops atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki
- August 15, 1945: Japan announces its surrender, ending WWII in the Pacific
- September 1, 1951: Australia, US and NZ sign ANZUS alliance

These events help explain why we followed the US into conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, why we pay such close attention to what China is doing, how our economy transformed since the 1940s, and even the make-up of our multicultural population.’

Mr Alan Tomassini, Humanities Learning Leader

FOOD STUDIES

The Year 11 Food Studies class unearthed further talent amongst the parent group to enliven the Zoom cook-offs. Angela, mother of Lorena Gigliotti, offered to teach students how to make a traditional Southern Italian tea cake. This recipe, and its associated back story, worked perfectly with our current topic-influences on Australian food culture. As with many traditional recipes, it wasn’t written down and so Angela was documenting her version of the cake for the first time.

The students and I enjoyed cooking the tea cake and achieved some lovely results. Angela’s passion for traditional cuisine and depth of knowledge about her food heritage were a pleasure to listen to. Thanks Angela and Lorena for organizing this memorable lesson!

Italian ricotta tea cake

This cake is easy to make and delicious. It is quite dense and can be served warm with or without cream. It is also yummy the next day.

The most interesting ingredient is deli-style ricotta. It can be purchased in most supermarket delis and is usually cut for the amount needed. This recipe uses one cup which is about 200g.
Ingredients
- 1 cup, deli-style ricotta
- 3 eggs
- ½ cup melted butter or margarine
- ½ - ¾ cups caster sugar*
- 1 tablespoon lemon or orange rind*
- ½ teaspoon vanilla essence
- 1 ½ cups sifted SR flour
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon baking powder
*to taste

Equipment
- Large mixing bowl
- Whisk
- Fork
- Spatula
- 20cm ring or 22cm round tin
- Baking paper

Tips
- The trick to this cake is to ensure the ricotta is well combined with the wet mixture and to not over mix when adding the dry ingredients. I suggest using a spatula for this step.
- Preparing the tin is also very important. Baking paper lining is essential

Optional extras
- ½ teaspoon almond, lemon, orange or other essence
- ¼ cup sultanas, currants, cranberries soaked in ¼ cup water for at least 30 mins
- ¼ cup fresh or frozen berries
- ¼ cup diced apple or pear (if you choose this, add cinnamon as the optional essence)

Ms Amy Prendergast, Food Studies Teacher

WORK EXPERIENCE

Academy’s first ever on-line Work Experience Student Placement 10-13 August 2020
Congratulations to our year 10 student Lucy Wilson for securing and completing a very successful on-line placement at Tata Consultancy Services last week. The following report reflects Lucy’s outstanding involvement in the program.

Lucy has been a pleasure to have on the program. She has been on time and has been actively and insightfully contributing to the program.

Her presentation was fantastic and provided some really interesting and creative ideas on technology that can be used at the new Powerhouse Museum being built in Parramatta.

Lucy has also sought help or assistance when needed and I know how daunting that can be considering the program is completely online.

Overall, I have really enjoyed Lucy’s participation in the program and really commend her for adapting and embracing the unique online experience as we know it’s not the ideal face to face work experience.

I hope she has enjoyed the experience and gained insight into the IT world but mainly just inspired to pursue STEM!

Sarah Draper
Corporate Social Responsibility Executive - Australia and New Zealand
Tata Consultancy Services
Lucy's report
This week I participated in the online GoIT work experience program. This opportunity gave me the chance to talk to many workers at the TCS Company. We also had the chance to create a digital project to present to the judges from the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney. For this project I built a prototype of an app to help provide a more interactive experience of visiting the museum.

The experience not only gave me the chance to meet girls online from both Melbourne and Sydney, but also to gain skills on the appropriate guidelines in an online format which we are all becoming very accustomed to.

This unique opportunity taught me many lessons in staying focused despite lots of distractions, while also needing to keep engaged and making the most out of the speakers and their experiences.

I was able to learn so much about jobs in STEM, women in this area, stories from women working hard to achieve their goals and just in general about working and the steps we have to take from now as school girls. While not the work experience I had envisaged, it was a very rewarding and unique opportunity.

Swinburne University of Technology are unable to conduct their regular work experience program this year. Instead an online holiday research program over two days during the September holidays has been made available to two of our year 10 students who had applied for work experience earlier this year.

The ASTRO 3D Education and Outreach Officer at Swinburne anticipates a fun two days, and the best work experience replacement by the Centre for Astrophysics and Supercomputing being offered in 2020.

Mrs Anne Marie Allan, Work Experience Coordinator

COMMUNITY ACTION
INVITATION TO CREATE A HANDMADE CARD
We have invited students to respond to the following request from Royal Melbourne Hospital for handmade cards.

With current Covid-19 restrictions many patients at Royal Melbourne Hospital cannot have their loved ones visit. The RMH "Letters from Loved Ones" program will connect patients with their families by allowing families to email a message to their loved one in hospital. This message will be printed out and pasted into a card. The card will then be delivered to the patient as a message of love for them, which they can keep on their bedside table.

If you are able to assist in making cards, please continue to stay safe at home, and if it is safe for you to do so, send cards via Australia Post to the following address:

Volunteer Service, C/- Post Office, The Royal Melbourne Hospital, PARKVILLE Victoria 3050

Year 10 student Yasmin Pitisano has provided images of her stunning creations already sent to RMH. If anyone would like to join with this activity or requires further information please contact annemarie.allan@academy.vic.edu.au

Mrs Anne Marie Allan, Community Action Coordinator
SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

This week was Science Week and even though our students were not onsite, the Science Department still had lots of activities for the students to participate in remotely.

The Theme for 2020 is Deep Blue: Innovations for the future of our oceans.

Monday lunch time Year 7 Kahoot!
Tuesday lunch time Year 8 Kahoot!
Wednesday lunch time Year 9 Kahoot!
Thursday lunch time Year 10 Kahoot!
Friday lunch time STILE: Ocean Escape Room

There was a staff Google Meet Quiz with some awesome prizes won! There was also daily ocean quizzes for all students on the Daily Bulletin.

Miss Jessica Dowton, Science Lab Technician

On Tuesday 11 August, 7 Blue Science hosted Mandy Robertson from the Dolphin Research Institute. Mandy talked to us about the Dolphins in Western Port Bay and Port Philip Bay and their habitats and food webs. She also explained how human activities have affected the Dolphins and other marine organisms and birds. Mandy gave us a task of identifying dolphins by their fin patterns.

Students have written their thoughts from the class.

I thought that when Mandy came in it really helped me understand the way dolphins live and all the different breeds of dolphins there are. Also it really helped me understand what plastic can do to the ocean and everything living in it so that really opened my eyes and now I will start cutting down on plastic.
Thanks Annabel Kelly

I highly enjoyed our session with Mandy from Dolphin Research Institute. I learned so much about dolphins, their habitats, their prey and even different types of fins! Fun fact: did you know Orcas (also known as Killer whales), are actually dolphins, and are the largest species! This was such an amazing experience and I took way so much from that lesson. You can really tell how passionate DRI workers are, and it shows when they teach others about this matter - Sophia Michael

Mrs Annette Williams Science Teacher

McAULEY RESOURCE CENTRE

In Science week we would like to remind you of a quote by Carl Sagan, author and astronomer from his 1980 book, Cosmos. He said this of books:

"What an astonishing thing a book is. It's a flat object made from a tree with flexible parts on which are imprinted lots of funny dark squiggles. But one glance at it and you're inside the mind of another person, maybe somebody dead for thousands of years. Across the millennia, an author is speaking clearly and silently inside your head, directly to you. Writing is perhaps the greatest of human inventions, binding together people who never knew each other, citizens of distant epochs. Books break the shackles of time. A book is proof that humans are capable of working magic."

RAGE Book Club

This term we all started reading the novel, The year the maps changed by Danielle Binks. The book is set in Sorrento, Victoria in the late 1990’s during the time the Kosovar refugees were settled at the old Quarantine Station at Point Nepean. On Monday, we were fortunate enough to have Danielle host an online chat with the book club students. A lively discussion ensued about the characters, the maps, the complexity of family and refugees. Danielle also explained to the students that this novel took five years to complete, largely due to the background research she undertook before writing the book.
Resource of the Week: Trove
“Trove is the digital discovery platform of the National Library of Australia. It is a collaboration between the Library, State and Territory libraries and hundreds of community, cultural and research organisations around Australia. Bringing together the collections from these diverse organisations to view online in a single place, Trove is a community, a place to do research and build, an aggregation of information about collections and a growing repository of full-text digital resources. As a window into Australia’s stories, Trove contains digitised newspapers, journals, books, maps, music, data and much more.”

Research Essentials for Secondary students - SLV
The State Library of Victoria Education unit has produced six videos to assist secondary students develop their research skills. Episode 6 focuses on Trove, check out the link below:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wBTFRvX6Mio&list=PLYIIINPTar9j4xMjo4Hj1PZX5c- _WRro6Q&index=6

Local Library
Your own local library will also have a number of resources available to you including access to eBooks, audio books, and databases all online and free.

Stay safe everyone. If you need some please contact us via email:
Anne.chowne@academy.vic.edu.au
Pam.Saunders@academy.vic.edu.au

Mrs Anne Chowne and Ms Pam Saunders, McAuley Resource Centre Co Learning Leaders