

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Issue 15/2020

18 September 2020

Dear Members of the Academy Community

Mercy Day 2020

glorious singing



gifted musicians

Senior Leaders at the forefront of the ceremony



Fr Varengo's homily

skits and dances and House events

Heartfelt prayers



A connected Academy community

Yes, you might think - a typical Mercy Day. BUT...NO!!

We were together in prayer and in spirit but not in person. All of the above took place online but, despite this, the overwhelming feeling was of connectedness, joy and a palpable sense of unity. We were indeed united in hope, united in faith, united by the strength of the Mercy charism which is at the core of the dynamic and life giving community that is the Academy of Mary Immaculate.

Mercy Day 2020 will go down in Academy's history as a unique and significant event where the year's theme - Make it Happen - was well and truly actioned.

Once again I thank all involved in the day especially Mr Mark Hyland, Director of Faith and Mission, for his organization of the Prayer Service and Ms Emma Spreckley and Mr Dave Molino for their organization of the entertainment, in conjunction with the Senior Student Leadership Team.

We come to the end of an incredible term, the majority of which we spent in front of a screen in our own homes. Who would have thought? But as the term draws to a close, we can be so proud of our efforts.

Excerpts from the Prayers of the Faithful
– Mercy Day Prayer Service

Year 7 prayer

Merciful God,

We pray that you help us to continue to be hospitable and to show generosity towards one another, and everyone in the school community. We ask You to open our eyes to the needs of people around us and to be helpful and compassionate towards them. We ask you to help us include and welcome everybody no matter their race, culture, social status or religion.

Year 8 Prayer

Merciful God, we pray that we persevere through this tough time that we are being faced with and push through as a community and family of God. We pray that all cultures no matter colour or race are respected and continue to be that way. We hope that you guide the people who are yet to learn respect and appreciation of others and allow them to gain those traits so we can have a positive and open community. Being in this pandemic, we pray that you teach us how to hold out hope and continue to be thoughtful and kind towards one another in the midst of it.

Year 9 prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

We thank you God for being with us during these difficult times and we pray that you continue to grant us compassion, humility and self-discipline to take care of each other. God of love and mercy we give you thanks for filling our hearts with courage and we pray for the families who have suffered during this pandemic. We pray that you continue to keep us safe throughout the days of our lives.

Dear God of mercy and righteousness, may you please help us to be courageous by overcoming xenophobia, recognizing racism, discrimination and bringing peace and equality to our world.

Lord hear us

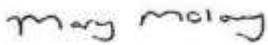
Lord hear our prayer

I quote from my Mercy Day speech:

“In fact what we have demonstrated this year, by working together and supporting one another, is the invincible spirit that is within us all, both individually and as a community. We have traversed the year with determination, integrity and courage and have learnt so much about our resilience and the resilience of others. This year has changed us irrevocably but I hope it has given us some understanding of the preciousness of life and the support that can be received by working together for a common goal”.

I wish everyone a well-deserved rest over the holidays and I look forward to our community returning renewed in body and spirit and ready for the challenges of Term 4.

Every blessing,



Sr Mary Moloney rsm
Principal

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL – WELLBEING AND OPERATIONS

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Thank You

It has certainly been a long term and the students and staff have been challenged in so many ways.

In navigating this landscape we call remote learning, your support has been so invaluable. We know that families have been also been challenged in managing a myriad of competing agendas and demands while trying to maintain some degree of sanity in their respective households.

Throughout the term we have received copious amounts of correspondence expressing support of the College and we are most grateful for such support.

The fact that the girls have managed to sustain their desire to learn and their will to achieve is a testament to the family support and, indeed, love they have received.

Closing Remarks

The next two weeks provide an opportunity to rest and recuperate. It also provides an opportunity for people to reconnect with some easing of restrictions seemingly possible with the reduction in numbers of positive cases which we have witnessed in recent weeks.

During this quite dramatic phase created by the pandemic never more than ever, it seems, has the notion of family been more important. In speaking with my mother on the weekend, she was saying herself that despite the potential dangers which could arise from COVID-19, she still feels a great sense of hope because of the love of her family. Now, my mother, is one of the more positive people whom I have ever encountered, so the comment did not surprise me. However, it did give me pause to consider the power of love and the hope it can engender in others.

Throughout these past few months we have witnessed the ugliness in the manner in which some people have treated others. Their anger, frustration and despair has caused some to act out their emotions on others in a way that has been divisive as it has been callous in its disregard for human dignity. However, on the flipside, we have borne witness to acts of great decency and love which have impacted immeasurably on the lives of others.

I often talk about hope as it is an emotion which is so life-giving. There are those who say that love can also lead to great disappointment and there is some truth to that. That said, love imbues hope. Love can do wonders for the self-worth of others. Love does not have to be romantic. Love can be represented by simply telling someone else that they are worthwhile and that they do have value.

Love was what underpinned Jesus' mission because it was because of God's love that he sent his only son to us. It was Jesus' love for us which led to his crucifixion on the cross. To love others is to be the face of Christ.

I began these closing remarks by stating that this holiday break would be a good opportunity to rest and recuperate. Let it also be an opportunity to seek ways in which we can express our love for the people who continue to support us - our **families. Don't let frustration and disappointment overcome the opportunity to love because it is through love that we can be true people of mercy and hope.**

*"The secret of Christian living is love. Only love fills the empty spaces caused by evil.
Let the Church always be a place of mercy and hope, where everyone is welcomed, loved and forgiven."*

Mr Paul Finneran, Deputy Principal - Wellbeing & Operations

DIRECTOR OF FAITH AND MISSION

Mercy Day

This is to add my voice of thanks to the many people who worked so hard to bring together last Friday's Mercy Day Service. The result was a beautiful expression of the spirit and strength of our College.

I will begin by recognising the amazing leadership that we have seen all through this difficult year by Mr David Molino, College Captain, Katja Curtin, College Vice Captain, Elora-Danan Dingle, Justice Captain, Phoebe Baillon and the Year 12 Student Leadership Team. In the service, and in the Mercy Day concert, the capacity of our Student Leaders to reach out to the whole college was a highlight.

Thanks to the College Justice Team and to the Year 7 – 11 student leaders for the beautiful prayers that they prepared and presented.

The College is blessed to have such wonderfully talented student musicians who have been nurtured and developed by Mr Andrew Power, Ms Mirelle Morris, Ms Mina Yu, Ms Marsali Slocombe and the Instrumental Music teachers. As we now come to expect of College liturgies, the music was uplifting and transformative.

I also want to recognise the work of Ms Kate Garrone from OLMC and the Directors of Faith from Mercy schools around **Australia. Their efforts allowed us to bring a 'global Mercy' perspective to this** very unique Mercy Day celebration.

A very large vote of thanks is due to Ms Deni Hexter and her Marketing Team for taking a hotch potch of amateur videos and weaving them into a powerfully moving narrative of Mercy. Thanks to Ms Kerri Ruff for preparing the commemorative booklet for a Mercy Day in such an historic year, to Ms Fabiola Salvo for gathering many of the visual images that were used and to Mr Gary Lin for the technical expertise he brought to the final presentation.

Thanks to Sr Mary, Mr Paul Finneran, Ms Fiona Lennon and Mr Andrew Baker for their support of this very different project.

Finally, there is an important thank you to all in the Academy Community. Upwards of 680 computers were logged onto the Zoom Meet. Staff, parents and students readily saw past the variability in production quality of the home made videos, coped with moments of graininess and maybe the odd lagginess in internet connection and participated as a College. In the isolation of our lounge rooms, there was a powerful feeling of our College celebrating its Mercy Spirit.

End of Term 3

This is to wish families at the College all the best for the two week holiday break. I want to thank all of the teachers in the Religious Education Department for the wonderful job that they have done in adapting to the on-line teaching of Religion. With resourcefulness and creativity, teachers have adapted our units of work to develop engaging units in an iso world. Similarly, congratulations are due to our students who rose to meet the many and varied challenges that on line learning created. Time for a well-earned break.

Mr Mark Hyland, Director of Faith and Mission

EARTH AT ACADEMY

Many girls from Earth At Academy had the privilege of attending the **Melbourne Girls' College 2020** Climate Change Virtual Conference. **The conference was held on many virtual platforms, and was led by leaders from Melbourne Girls' College, and the founders of the Student Voice Network, an organization giving the opportunity for youth to express their thoughts on justice issues, a fundamental issue being climate change.**

We began the conference with leaders from the Australian Youth Climate Coalition, The five speakers all had a strong passion and expertise in climate change. Firstly, one of the speakers outlined the scientific data underpinning climate change? He taught us about greenhouse gases and the role they play in global warming. The second speaker educated us about how humans came to be experiencing this climate emergency. Furthermore, Richard the third speaker taught us about "what is happening now" and the peril the changing climate is placing on entire ecosystems. Finally, Jazz inspired us all on the next steps we need to take to deal with climate change, and the AYCC mission to move Australia to 100% renewable energy by 2030. This is possible!



We finished the session with a test of our listening ears and knowledge, through an engaging collective Kahoot.

The highlight of the conference for me personally was the panel. In this session we were introduced to some inspirational and phenomenal panelists, including Damon Gameau, the man who directed 2040, a film about what and how the effects of Climate Change will impact on us. We were also introduced to an inspirational student Anj, a young girl making a difference in raising awareness of climate change and holding politicians to account. All panelists from all age groups defined how they are making difference to climate change whether through awareness raising, action or education.

We finished the day off with an interactive session in a Zoom call. We were put into many different groups and discussed ways we are taking action on climate change in our school. Albert Park College has set a high bar, planning to be carbon neutral in a few years! We then united as a school and communicated with each other on ideas we want to roll out at the Academy.

The conference was an amazing opportunity for the Academy girls to engage with others. There were lots of laughs but we all came to realise that we have a true passion for action on climate change and that youth want to make a difference.

Ruby Hoare, 10 Silver

VISUAL ARTS

Join the NGV Teen Team - **National Gallery of Victoria's Teen Council**

The National Gallery of Victoria's Teen Council (NGV Teen Council) is a group of students from Melbourne who share an interest in art. NGV Teen Council meets once a month and contributes ideas, co-design, plans and delivers NGV teen programs, such as the Art Party and workshops.

Year 9 student, Venice Angley, participated in the 2020 Council with 11 other students from across Victoria.

'The experience in the team can strengthen communication, teamwork, time management, organisational and planning skills,' Venice said. 'Through this experience you can learn more about career choices in art and gain volunteer hours to add to your resume.'

The Teen Council also works with the NGV to develop video series the NGV Collection. Venice spoke about the work of **Petrina Hicks, and the exhibition 'Bleached Gothic'**. You can watch Venice's video here:

<https://vimeo.com/446735225/5e27d711dd>.

We encourage all Academy students interested to apply for the National Gallery of Victoria's Teen Council (NGV Teen Council) 2021.

Ms Lorelle Evans and Mr Martin McInerney, Visual Arts Co Learning Leaders

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

STEM MAD COMPETITION

Year 7 students Cara Egry 7S, India Kerr 7S, Evie Morris 7R, Olivia Leahy 7R and Alice Portz 7R recently competed in the STEM MAD competition during Term 3. Our students solved a real-world problem using Science and presented their solution to judges using a 90-second video.

Using 3D modelling software, Year 7 Silver students Cara and India showed how a 'sharps cutter' prototype could cut the metal needle from a syringe so that the plastic barrel could be disposed of in a normal recycling bin, while the metal needle could be disposed of in a sharps container.



Safety & environmental challenges were met as people who use needles could safely dispose of both parts of a needle, while allowing the two parts to be recycled effectively.

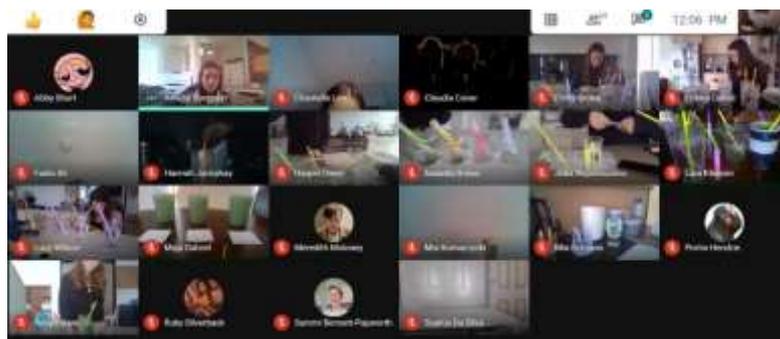
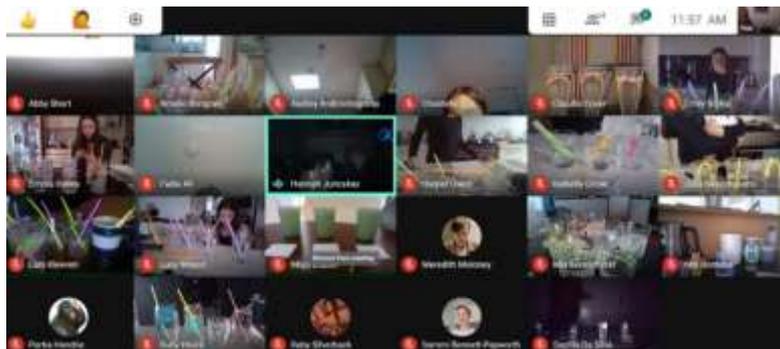


A Year 7 Red team focused on health. Evie, Olivia and Alice envisioned a purification device for dirty water to pass through a layer of rocks, then a layer of sand removing particle matter and, finally, a layer of charcoal so bacteria were trapped. Device and design thinking like this is critical to regions of the world without access to piped and cleaned water.

Our students not only participated in the STEM MAD competition remotely, but also obtained experiment materials despite COVID-19 restrictions. These students are commended by our College community for their ingenuity taking on this challenge in addition to the ongoing challenges of completing Year 7 remotely. The competition video has been submitted and will be judged late October.

Mr Mark Molino, Science Learning Leader

Year 10 Science have been investigating how different factors affect the rate of reaction. Students have carried out individual investigations where they identified the independent and dependent variables along with the controlled variables. They worked with household substances including vinegar and sodium bicarbonate; sugar and yeast; hydrogen peroxide and yeast; Some of the factors students chose to investigate included: temperature of substance; surface area of substance; agitation of mixture; concentration of substance. The students have presented their findings as scientific posters which will be displayed in the McAllen Science building next term. Before undertaking these investigations students explored how the temperature of water affected the rate of reaction in glow sticks. The photographs show students from 10E Science during their online class carrying out this practical experiment at home.



Ms Annette Williams, Science Teacher

ENGLISH

8 Green English wide reading class - our girls love their reading!



Mrs Tamara Hall, English Teacher

WORK EXPERIENCE

Today Year 9 Students have attended an introductory session outlining the anticipated Work Experience Program for 2021. All Year 10 students will be expected to attend Work Experience scheduled 13-17 September 2021, and additional placements during school holidays are encouraged throughout the year. We remain hopeful and flexible around opportunities for our students gaining industry placements in 2021.

Students have been emailed an information booklet including examples of resumes, job applications and work experience arrangement form.

Traditionally Work Experience is focused on Year 10 students. However since many Year 10 students missed out this year due to severely challenged workplace conditions, some industries will be honouring confirmed placements during 2021. We will of course support Year 11 students should they wish to gain placements during 2021. We encourage Year 11 students, where possible, to take up these offers earlier in 2021, particularly during term holidays.

Term 4 presents a unique opportunity for some Year 10 students to attend an online Work Experience STEM Pathways Project (26-30 October) with GHD Engineering. Current Year 10 students need to send applications to annemarie.allan@academy.vic.edu.au expressing interest by Wednesday 30 September (or latest Friday 9 October).

Students have been emailed information of Work Experience/Career insights as follows:

RMIT Experience surveying day

29 September 2020: 2-3pm

If Students in Years 10,11, 12 are interested in a career as a land surveyor, this FREE one hour event hosted by RMIT University provides a fantastic opportunity to do surveying activities with the help of fully qualified Surveyors.

GoIT Girls 2020

There are positions available for the final online GoIT Girls programs.

- 19 October - 22 October 2020
- 16 November - 19 November 2020
- 7 December - 10 December 2020

The program attracts female students in Year 10 and 11 who are curious about a career in technology. Similar to the face to face GoIT Girls program, students will get an opportunity to interact with senior executives from TCS (Tata Consultancy Services) and from client organisations.

Ms Lauren Sach, Careers Practitioner and Mrs Anne Marie Allan, Work Experience Coordinator

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



During Term 3 ten students, whilst at home in Remote Learning, have **participated in the National Computer Science School's** programming challenge. They have developed skills of thinking logically, using curiosity, displaying perseverance and attention to detail to write complex computer code in the Python programming language (one now used and taught at university level). The challenge is offered at multiple levels depending upon your previous programming experience.

Congratulations to the following students who received participation certificates:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 10
Alice Portz Nicola Georgoulos Elise Dabbs Phoebe Gowans	Trish Nguyen Georgia Taylor Annaeya Biticon	Brielle McCarthy Georgia Wood Kenya Williams

I would like to offer special congratulations the following students who achieved very high scores:

Alice Portz 7 Red	Elise Dabbs 7 Silver	Nicola Georgoulos 7 Green	Phoebe Gowans 7 Silver
Perfect Score Python Beginners	High Distinction Blocky Beginners Perfect Score Python Beginners	High Distinction Python Beginners Perfect Score Beginners	Perfect Score Python Beginners

Trish Nguyen 8 Silver	Georgia Wood 10 Blue	Annaeya Biticon 8 Silver
Perfect Score Python Beginners	Perfect Score Python Beginners	High Distinction Python Intermediate

Bebras is an international initiative aiming to promote Computer Science and computational thinking among school students at all ages.



During final week of Term 3, students from Years 7 and 8 DigiTech took on the Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge. Students collaborated on a variety of challenging problems, mostly in pairs, over 45 minutes.

Bebras was founded in 2004 by Professor Valentina Dagiene from the University of Vilnius, Lithuania. Bebras began with 3470 student participants from 146 schools and has now grown to almost 60 countries with over 1.6 million students participating each year! In this first round for 2020, in excess of 28,000 students have participated.

Year 8 participants in the Semester 2, Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge:

8 Green			
Isabella Venturini	Sofia Sportelli	Zoe Accetta	Nyawech Chol
Emma Coates	Julia Polidori	Christina Camilleri	Ava Briedis
Amelia Bosio	Harriet Berman	Nicole Massimo	Claudia Aiton
Anna Jackson	Isabella Arena	Audrey Heaney	Ellen Daffey
Lilliana Carroll	Lillie Cieciora		Ms Jones
8 Blue			
Ava Carnovale	Jessica Bain	Sienna Arena	Sinitta McCarthy
Shadia Michienzi	Isabel Juricsay	Sienna De Fazio	Sofia De Fusco-Kouiroukidis
Claudia Trioli	Maya Mastorakas	Padi McNally	

Ms Kate Jones, Technology (IT) Learning Leader

McAULEY RESOURCE CENTRE

Curious Creatures Wild Minds: CBCA Book Week 2020 – 17-23 October

The CBCA run Book Week every year celebrating outstanding Australian children's authors and illustrators. A shortlist is announced in April and winners announced in Book Week.

You can see the full list on <https://www.cbca.org.au/shortlist-2020>

My personal favorite in the older reader category is, *When the ground is hard* by Malla Nunn. The story revolves around Adele and her life in a boarding school in Swaziland. A great tale of rivalry, racism, class divisions but most of all a story of two girls who become friends despite their differences whilst reading Jane Eyre.

Book Week in the MRC

We will be running two competitions online to celebrate Book Week this year.

1. Curious creatures Quiz
2. Create your own curious creature

Find the details on the Academy Website from this Friday.

Enjoy your break and remember to Click and Collect at your local library if you need something to read over the break.

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

YEAR 9

As a way of virtually connecting with one another we, as a class, engaged in cooking rocky road for our final Homeroom of the term! Although we were all behind a screen, cooking this much-loved dessert all together made us feel like we were back in the classroom full of happiness and laughter alongside our teachers and peers!



Caeli Keegan, 9 Bryce