



ACADEMY
OF MARY IMMACULATE

NEWSLETTER

THE CITY SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

2021

EMBRACE
EMPOWER
EVOLVE

College Theme

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Members of the Academy Community

Last Wednesday we welcomed to the College approximately 150 prospective families and students for a Talk and Tour. We had had to postpone two earlier Talk and Tours due to Covid restrictions and it was wonderful to finally be able to welcome prospective families. Despite the significant numbers, I believe we were able to provide an excellent insight into what the Academy can offer future students.

Certainly, our Year 8 student ambassadors for the occasion were ready for the challenge of addressing such a large audience and did so with self-possession and aplomb, conveying their great love of the Academy and explaining the particular areas that they most enjoy. I was very proud of these students who epitomised the 'strong, resilient' women of whom we often speak.

Plans are well underway for the Young Mercy Leaders Pilgrimage. In years past, this group met at Tullamarine Airport and travelled together to Dublin, where there was an opportunity to join with students from all over the world. Unfortunately, international travel is not possible at this time so staff and students will be meeting via Zoom. The Australian cohort will consist of about 30 representatives from all across Australia. This online Pilgrimage will take place in the first week of Term 3.

Yesterday I was able to meet with the staff and students involved in the production of Oliver. At that gathering, I congratulated students on their wonderful performances and the spirit in which they coped with the disappointment of the cancellation of three of the five performances. We are still hopeful that there will be an opportunity at an Assembly for a couple of the big numbers to be performed. At the conclusion of the meeting, each staff leader and student participant received a memento of the production. As Mr De Cata, Director, stated

"we need to cherish the experience and celebrate all that it taught us. For one very brief moment, we created magic. The cast and crew will always be part of the AMI Oliver family – no pandemic can ever take that away from us".

I wish everyone happy and restful holidays after this challenging term and extend congratulations to staff, students and parents for your successful navigation of the term and your continual support of one another.

Every blessing,

Sr Mary Moloney rsm
Principal

Issue 10 – 25 June 2021

Lord,

Forgive us for allowing the cold, grey skies and dark winter days to steal the joy of our hearts.

Help us use extra downtime to restore our energy and slow our schedules.

Soften our hearts to look beyond the inconvenience of the season.

For we know that without the tiring leg of the current season, the next one wouldn't be so welcome and exciting of a change.

Amen



Prayer for Refugees – Refugee Week (20 – 26 June)

Prayer Companion of the Companionless, let my day not go by without remembering the 70 million people forced from homelands due to poverty, crime and political conflict.

Home of the Homeless, gather the shawl of your compassion around those who have nowhere to abide, nowhere to call home, nowhere to work.

Nurturer of the Impoverished, turn the attention of political leaders toward systems that cause oppression; urge them to open their doors to refugees.

Comforter of the Injured, the prophet Hosea describes your love As that of a parent lifting a child to her cheek. Lift, now, the demoralized and beaten-down.

Refuge of the Lost, protect those who are tossed upon the seas. Be near to those thirsting in the deserts And romancing dangerous city streets.

Hope for the Hopeless, lift up the heavy hearts Of families who have lived for years in camps; do not let their hope slip away.

Justice Bringer, bother us. Keep after us. Open our eyes. Widen our hearts. Change our judgements. Urge us. Chase us. Badger us, until we act on behalf of the 70 million people whose tears fall on foreign soil.

Amen

Principal's Appraisal

As part of the formation of leaders in our Mercy schools, Principals undertake regular processes of appraisal. This year, Sr Mary Moloney will undergo a formative appraisal of her role as Principal of the Academy of Mary Immaculate. You are invited to offer feedback by completing an online survey which has been emailed to all parents and carers.

This survey is for the information of the appraisal panel only and answers will be collated with feedback from other parents and carers.

The collated responses will be aggregated by Mercy Education Ltd and will not identify any original author by name. No individual will be identified by name or nature of response in feedback to the Principal.

This information will be used to help set goals and objectives for Sr Mary as a College Leader with the aim of continuing to build her capacity as a leader. If you wish to complete this survey, please do so **by 4.30 pm on Friday 16 July**.



A NOTE FROM BUXWEAR

Unfortunately, due to Covid, the material for the **girls slacks** has been held up by the manufacturer. They now won't be available until after the school holidays. We were told we would have material by June but this has been delayed again. Apologies for this hold up.

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL – WELLBEING AND OPERATIONS

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we come to the end of another very busy term, I would like to commend the students for the manner in which they have completed the first semester of their studies. Coming off the harsh restrictions of 2020 as well as two 'snap' lockdowns in 2021, the students have continued to show resilience, perseverance and adaptability in all aspects of College life. I invite and encourage all students and their parents / guardians to find some time over the next week to reflect on all efforts and achievements so far this year. This reflection should then inform all students of the approach they need to employ in Semester 2 in order to continue to improve in all aspect of their personal development and their studies.

Unfortunately the end of the Term 2 College Assembly which was scheduled to take place on Tuesday of this week, had to be cancelled as a result of some of the restrictions we are still facing. The end of term assemblies are a wonderful way to come together as a community and celebrate all things 'Academy'. The Student of the Term Awards, Academic Awards and Catherine McAuley Awards as well as the 'extra-curricular' awards for Semester 1 will be presented at year level assemblies prior to the next newsletter being published. We will then as a community be able to congratulate all award recipients.

Uniform

While most of the students have been wearing the winter uniform correctly over the course of this term, there are still a number of students who need to address the following:

- Jewellery – no ankle bracelets, wrist bracelets, inappropriate and/or multiple earrings (one earring in each lobe of the ear is permitted) necklaces, nose rings, etc;
- Shoulder length hair or longer should be tied up at all times;
- No extreme hair styles or colours;
- Skirts should be at mid-knee length or longer;
- Fitted pants are not to be rolled up;
- No coloured socks/wearing socks over tights
- No make up

I would ask you to encourage your daughters to ensure their uniform looks its best at all times, including whilst they are travelling to and from school. I would also encourage your daughters to use the holidays to address any items of uniform that may not be up to standard. The College conducted a uniform blitz this week, where a number of students were issued with warnings. There will be more uniform blitzes over the next semester where there will no longer be warnings but instead detentions issued. Your support with this matter is much appreciated.

Online safety

Over the last few weeks some of the Academy Wellbeing Leaders and I have had to deal with a plethora of online issues. Many of these involved social media platforms such as Messenger, Snapchat and Instagram. On all occasions the issues involved not only Academy students but also students from other schools and all took place after hours, some of them well into the night or even the very early hours of the morning. Could I please ask all parents to ensure that they monitor and are aware of their daughter's online activities? Please do not hesitate to refer to the Office of the e-safety commissioner website for resources, ideas and strategies. The website address is <https://www.esafety.gov.au/>. At school we work very hard at ensuring that our students are not only safe but are also responsible citizens online. The vast majority certainly are. But unfortunately in every school there are a small number whose actions are not desirable or acceptable. We will continue to work hard to get the 'digital footprint' message across and offer students the appropriate learnings associated with all things digital.

I wish all students a very happy Term 2 break. For those lucky enough to be escaping the freezing conditions in Victoria enjoy your time interstate. For those who are remaining in Melbourne, rug up and re-experience what this beautiful city has to offer. Most of all, regardless of what you are doing and where you are going, remain safe and we look forward to seeing you all back at the Academy at the beginning of Term 3.

As always, please remember never hesitate to be in touch should you have any queries or concerns.

Mr Sam Di Camillo, Deputy Principal - Wellbeing & Operations

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL – LEARNING AND TEACHING

Dear Parents/Guardians,

After a busy term, both students and staff are looking forward to a well deserved break.

For our VCE students in Year 12, this school break offers a respite from the continual assessment cycle that is characteristic of their final year. While we hope they use this time to rest and reset before their final semester at school, we also encourage them to not lose sight of their studies altogether. This break is a valuable opportunity to reflect on their learning to date, and to keep to a consistent, albeit reduced, study schedule, to help them prepare for the forthcoming external exams. Our 7 – 11 students may find that they have some preparation and study to complete over the holidays. However, by and large, this midyear break is one where students have time to rest: to devote time to family, to friends and to exploring other interests and passions outside of school.

This week, in my own classes, I have been encouraging students to invest some time in reading these holidays. As an English teacher myself, I am well aware of the value of encouraging the young, developing minds in my care, to read for pleasure. Reading improves our concentration and memory, it develops our vocabulary, and it enhances our creativity and empathy. The inimitable Dr Seuss said it best: *"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."*

Please do encourage your daughters to take some time these holidays to read a book. The research suggests it will be time well spent! Wishing everyone in our community a safe and happy holiday break.

Reports: Just a reminder that End of Semester Reports will be available through the parent portal (PAM) from Friday at 5pm.

Ms Fiona Lennon, Deputy Principal - Learning and Teaching

DIRECTOR OF FAITH AND MISSION

Year 12 Ethics: Workshop with Professor Peter Norden

It was a great privilege for our Year 12 students to attend a workshop with Professor Norden as part of their Ethics unit. Professor Norden spoke about Catholic Ethics. The perspective that he brought to this workshop was informed by his work as founder of Jesuit Social Services and his work for many years as the Chaplain at Pentridge prison. The workshop was framed around the contention that good, informed ethical decision making was the key to a fulfilled life. He explored the ethics of capital punishment and then of human stem cell research. His ideas were challenging and they have provided our Ethics classes with rich material to explore.



International Young Mercy Leaders Conference: 13 – 15 July

In those wonderful pre-covid years, teachers and students from the Academy have been able to participate in a pilgrimage to Baggot St in Dublin for Young Mercy Leaders conferences.

This year, the conference will be held on zoom. While the experience of meeting Mercy students from around the world will be compromised, the quality of the speakers and presentations is just as high. Two of the highlights for this year will be presentations from Sr Angela Reed from Melbourne and Sr Karen Schneider from USA. Both of these women are great speakers with powerful messages of mercy.

Last Wednesday, there was a zoom link up with participating students from Adelaide, Melbourne and regional Victoria. In a simple get to know you session, the students were invited to share what they liked about their schools and how they saw Mercy in action within their school. As the song says, from small things great things grow. It was a privilege to hear these students speak with maturity and conviction about their experience of living mercy within their Colleges. This is going to be an excellent conference.

Reflection

Our Year 10 Religious Education classes are commencing a unit on the Gospel of Mark. The provocative question for the unit is "*What is the relevance of the Gospel of Mark to contemporary society?*"

Last Sunday's readings brought this theme to my mind. The first reading was from the Book of Job, and the gospel reading was the story of the calming of the storm. This week, there can be no more contemporary theme than storms and bad things happening to good people.

Somewhere around three or four thousand years ago, the writers of the Book of Job wrestled with a fundamental religious problem of how could a loving God allow evil to happen to good people. Bad things seemed to happen to Job. In one day, the god-fearing, successful Job receives news that his livestock have died, his servants have been murdered and his ten children are dead. As the book progresses, Job laments the injustice that God lets wicked people prosper while he and countless other innocent people suffer. In the resolution, Job recognises that wisdom is hidden from human minds, and he resolves to persist in pursuing wisdom through his love of God.

I have been challenged numerous times by those who claim 'how can God allow evil to occur to good people'.

There is no simple answer to this challenge. As I have pondered the readings, I am aware of the Catholic belief that God created humans to have freedom and independence. An interesting modern interpretation of the Adam and Eve story, is that in order for human beings to grow and develop they needed to challenge the alluring comforts of the garden of Eden.

I have often mischievously declared that children in loving, caring families should recognise that they are in a 'garden of Eden' and just happily do whatever their doting parents ask them to do! Of course, what true loving parents want for their children is the maturing and growth that comes with independence. We learn and grow through the broken bones and the broken hearts.

The placing of the miracle of the calming of the storm as the gospel reading to Job might suggest is that God will step in to solve any crisis.

An issue with this thesis is the 'messianic' secret that is a significant element of the Gospel of Mark. Time and again, after performing a miracle, Jesus orders his disciples not to tell others about the incident. An understanding of this is that Jesus is saying that he is not just another miracle worker. What Jesus is proclaiming in the gospel is the kingdom of God!

In Victoria, critics of government attempts to protect us by legislation from all manner of bad things, argue that we are becoming a 'nanny' state. Whether this is true or not, it got me to thinking that I do not want to believe in a 'nanny' god.

The people in the east of Melbourne, who have suffered through severe damage to homes and property and no power and safe drinking water for weeks, may well have wished for a one off miracle to resolve their devastating misfortune. I do not want to trivialise the journey of recovery from the trauma that these Melbournians have experienced, but - the reports of the kindness of neighbours, the welcome of local churches and community agencies, the dedication of SES workers and others point in the direction of the kingdom of God.

Mr Mark Hyland, Director of Faith and Mission

STUDENT COUNSELLOR

In the last eighteen months the pandemic has precipitated enormous challenges and change in every aspect of our existence. Politically, socially, economically, mentally and emotionally we have all been affected, albeit to varying degrees.

The impact of this unprecedented assault on our lives has left many of us feeling fearful and insecure. We seek solace in the normal and we yearn for the return to what we once had, whilst at the same time, knowing all too well that what was, has forever changed and that there will be no going back.

How we cope in a crisis is very personal and sometimes those responses are not necessarily beneficial to our mental and emotional wellbeing. In focusing on what we have lost, we are kept hostage to fear and anger, trapped in a loop of anxious thoughts and feelings; the continued roll of lockdowns possibly amplifying that negativity.

How do we help ourselves? In recent times much emphasis has been placed on the benefits gained from practising **"Gratitude"** and there is scientific evidence to back the claim. In our Positive Education classes, we have been introducing the girls to the concept and helping them to implement this practice in their lives. If you are interested to know more please ask your daughters and take a look at the article on Gratitude in the link provided. https://www.huffpost.com/entry/gratitude-research_b_7707042?utm_hp_ref=healthy-living&ir=Australia

As always if you have concerns about your daughter, please feel free to contact me.

Ms Giovina Costantini, Student Counsellor

EARTH AT ACADEMY

We remember our first time attending our College Earth club – Earth at Academy, as little Year 7s, when there were only a few students who were determined to make a sustainable change in our school. Now we are finally a few steps away from accomplishing our main goal as we have recently received a proposal for solar panels in our school. However, we have faced many barriers in reaching our goal to make this school more sustainable. The main barrier being that our 164 year old school is heritage listed, meaning that we cannot install solar panels on particular buildings. As a team we have remained persistent and resilient, advocating for the installation of solar panels over the years. In this way we aim to do our part in society by attempting to reduce the effects of climate change, the emission of Greenhouse gases and to improve our overall carbon footprint. We are so excited to finally be at the finish line of a long journey which we have worked hard for and are so appreciative of the support we have been given.



Krissy Francis and Akos Brobbey-Awuah, Year 10

HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT

ANCIENT EGYPT

In our Humanities class we were given an assignment to choose an aspect of ancient Egyptian culture and make a detailed poster answering all of the designated questions. Our topics of choice were:

- their beliefs and customs;
- the clothing and food of the time;
- ancient Egyptian housing;
- the common work of ancient Egypt,
- ancient Egyptian leisure and entertainment and schooling
- the legacy of ancient Egypt

Students who tackled ancient Egyptian beliefs and customs wrote about the gods and goddesses such as Osiris, the god of the dead, and Ptah the godly craftsman. Students who researched the food and clothing of ancient Egypt admired the craftsmanship of their jewellery and learned about the most common food of the time - **'beer bread'**. Students who studied the architecture of ancient Egypt were amazed at the quality of the buildings in a time where quite primitive tools and resources were available. Students learnt about the hardship and struggles of the ancient Egyptian working man.

They learnt about what they did for fun, what they learnt and were immersed in the entertainment of the time. Finally, when they researched the legacy of ancient Egypt they were amazed about the feats that the people of ancient Egypt accomplished.

The first step was to look through the topics and choose what topic we were going to do. After we chose our topic, we read the criteria sheet, the next step was to find out how we were going to present our assessment. Some chose posters, some chose books and a lot of other displays. Then we researched our topic, and wrote it down on a document.

Whilst completing this assessment we came across many challenges, but successfully overcame them. One of our biggest challenges was going into snap lockdown. This caused us to have to publish our work at home with very little supplies. Most of us overcame this challenge by working with what we had and being creative. Overall completing this assessment at home was a new experience and quite enjoyable.

We enjoyed learning about ancient Egyptian beliefs, clothing, food, housing, work entertainment and its legacy. We also found Ms Hall's informative films very entertaining such as videos about the Nile River and Tutankhamun. Another enjoyable thing was all the choices we had in how we could display our work. We enjoyed working independently as well as collaborating with other classmates. This unit in Humanities will definitely be something we will remember in later years.



Tutankhamun by Bella Brockman



Amun By Allira Silvestro

Belle O'Brien, Ava Chehade, Keeley Hanley, Zoe Bassiliadis, Sylvia Bulfone and Alilra Silvestro, Year 7

WORK EXPERIENCE – YEAR 10

We encourage all Year 10 students to finalise at least one placement for the College designated Work Experience Week – 13-17 September this year. Some students have chosen multiple placements enabling greater insight into what may inspire their future study and career pathways.

Currently three year 10 students are engaged in virtual work experience through Melbourne University, School of Physics another student is thoroughly immersed in a placement through Victoria Police.

Despite setbacks and challenges around work experience this year, many employers have confirmed their support for our students.

Your encouragement, guidance and practical support through assisting our year 10 students will be a great gift to them. This brilliant opportunity in 2021 for all Year 10 students to experience a snippet of life beyond school is theirs to be seized wholeheartedly!

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

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

TERM 3 – NCSS Challenge is coming

Starting on Monday 26 July 2021, the NCSS Challenge is a fun and friendly 5-week competition where students learn to code as they go along. The NCSS Challenge supports student learning through:

- live online tutors;
- real-world and engaging problems;
- interactive content; and
- differentiated streams for students of varying abilities and literacy levels.

For more information, please check out www.groklearning.com/challenge/. Interested students will need to email Ms Jones at kate.jones@academy.vic.edu.au

I am very keen for students to join the AMI team who will meet regularly on Tuesdays and Thursdays at lunchtime to look at the challenges for the week ahead and get the programming bug!!!



Ms Kate Jones, Information Technology Learning Leader

PERFORMING ARTS

Performing Arts Upcoming Event - Winter Music Recital Night - Thursday 5 August

This Performing Arts concert will feature instrumental items from a variety of students, showcasing their development and work so far this year on their chosen instrument. We look forward to welcoming all music student performers and family members to the concert in support of the Instrumental program at the Academy.

There will be three venues for the concert and each venue will begin with an ensemble performance from one of the Senior Ensembles - Strings, AMICCI and Concert Band.

Students and teachers have been preparing for this event and it has been my pleasure to hear the progression of students performance repertoire, from beginner level through to the more advanced musicians. I look forward to seeing you at this event and more details for performers will become available at the beginning of Term 3.



Combined String Ensembles Rehearsal

Ms Mirelle Morris, Instrumental Music Coordinator