GUARD OF HONOUR TO FAREWELL SR MAUREEN MCGUIRK RSM AM

MONTE MATTERS

15 SEPTEMBER 2016 / TERM 4 WEEK 1
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Dear Parents and Friends of Monte,

It is with great sadness last week that we announced the passing of Sr. Maureen McGuirk RSM, former Principal of Monte Sant’ Angelo Mercy College. Sr. Maureen passed away on Friday, 30 September with her family by her side, and supported by the Sisters of Mercy.

Sr. Maureen McGuirk was an inspiring, compassionate, scholarly Mercy woman to thousands. During her extraordinary 21 years of service as Principal of Monte, Sr. Maureen was known for the deep and meaningful commitment she had to the education of young women and in particular, the students of Monte.

“Maureen entrusted all to God and offered her life to the spiritual and corporeal works of Mercy, bringing life and love to all those she encountered.” Sr. Patricia Shoveller RSM

The Mass of Thanksgiving was held on Tuesday this week at St Mary’s Church, North Sydney lead by Fr. Daven Day as Principal Celebrant.

Speaking at the service Sr. Maureen’s loyal friend Sr. Maureen Gleeson RSM said, “Maureen had three great loves in her life: her faith, her family and the girls at Monte Sant’ Angelo.”

“Whether she was Aunty Maureen, Sr. Maureen, or Headmistress, we all knew her as our favourite Aunt, our other mother, a confidante and certainly a mentor,” Paul Brennan, Sr. Maureen’s nephew reflected.

Following the service 1200 Monte students, teachers, Alumni and community formed a guard of honour down three blocks of Miller St from St Mary’s Church as the funeral procession made one final pass around the College’s Circular Drive to farewell and pay tribute to this extraordinary Mercy Pioneer.

Sr. Maureen’s final address to the Monte students of 1993 resonates as strongly today for our Year 12 students who are beginning their final examinations. “You freely choose the person you will become, the person you reflect to the rest of the world.”

“I have admired your courage in adversity, your patience in disappointment, your perseverance in goodness, your simplicity in success, your generosity, your good humour, your intelligence, your enthusiasm and your talent, and I have been delighted by your affection. I thank your wonderful parents for trustfully sharing you with us and I wish you God’s blessing and peace in your future.”

As a community let us all keep the Sisters of Mercy in our prayers.

God Bless

Nicole Christensen
Principal

Click here to view this moving tribute to Sr. Maureen McGuirk RSM AM
Vale Sr Maureen McGuirk RSM
Monte Sant’ Angelo Mercy College Principal 1973-1993

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

SR. MAUREEN MCGUIRK AS PRINCIPAL OF MONTE IN 1973

SR. MAUREEN WITH STUDENTS IN THE 1960S

SR. MAUREEN MCGUIRK RSM AM IN 1993

SR. MAUREEN WITH STUDENTS IN 1975

SR. MAUREEN IN 1988
Curiosity about the world is fundamental to the experience of being an artist in the IB Diploma Visual Arts programme. The Year 12 IB Diploma Visual Arts exhibition at the end of Term 3 exemplified this curiosity and was testimony to the creativity and diversity of student responses to their world. The exhibition is an important assessment component whereby students curate the display of their artworks as a culmination of the two years experience of the course. Choices about what and how to display, artwork titles and exhibition statements are all part of the curatorial decisions a student must consider in order to communicate and connect with their audience effectively. At the turn of last century Post Impressionist artist Edgar Degas claimed, ‘Art is not what you see, but what you make others see’. Year 12 made us see the world in new ways, each with a personal lens. With an openness to different modes of expression, they have grappled with issues of global and personal significance, providing a snapshot of their engagement with self-understanding and making sense of their world. Testament to this are some extracts of student exhibition statements:

“International-mindedness represents an openness and curiosity about the world and its people. It begins with students understanding themselves in order to effectively connect with others.”

FROM THE HEAD OF ART

Natural Habitat ‘I have always found peace and comfort in my family’s annual holiday in New Zealand. The embroideries aim to show how I feel at home in the mountain landscape. The choice of working with embroidery was inspired by British artist Debbie Smyth as well as my family’s own interest with embroidery. This work aims to capture sense of tranquillity that I’ve always found in the picturesque fortitude of the New Zealand mountain range.’

Katie Richards

All Living Things ‘This series depicts the metaphorical connection to the natural world. In these images, photographs of native Australian flora, such as eucalyptus, were superimposed over a human figure in different arrangements. I made use of the double-exposure effect to evoke questions regarding our place within nature, and used the colour green to highlight natural elements.’

Jessica Barrallon

‘Cinder-latte’s Castle is a found material sculpture referencing famous fairy-tale castles, such as Disneyland’s Cinderella’s Castle, made out of café materials, mostly coffee cups and lids. The cups and the imagery of the castle contrast the imagination of childhood with the realities of adulthood. The work nostalgically considers how we change as we grow.’

Katrina Milliner

‘Liberty Leaving the People appropriates the famous revolutionary painting “Liberty Leading the People” by Delacroix...The frames contain found images showing the harms and impacts of war in our current day. The juxtaposition conveys how we glorify the legacy of war, while ignoring the atrocities of today.’

Katrina Milliner

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Jessica Barralon
FROM THE HEAD OF ART

**Natural Home**  ‘This artwork uses sepia ink and paper to create a lucid depiction of natural areas that have significance to me personally. I based this positive aspect of human relationship of my experiences in Central Australia, where an individual’s connection to land is important. This artwork links to my overall theme by giving context of my own relationship with the natural world…’

_Sarah Upfold_

**Movement**  ‘The movement emphasises how my international moves have forced me to stretch beyond myself, leave my comfort zones, create new boundaries and ultimately reshape myself. My technique was inspired by local artist Jess Cochrane’s practice of layering and stripping back paint…’

_Elysa Graham_

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Each student can be proud of their achievements and are to be congratulated, along with their teachers, Mr Malcolm Harding and Mrs Claire Harrison who guided the students through the first experience of the new IB Visual Arts guide. Year 12 were also ably assisted by Mrs Lenore Betteridge, our Visual Arts facilitator in preparing works for exhibition and Mr Ken Jones for the printing of photographic artworks. We wish Year 12 well as they now prepare for exams and await the results of their Diploma.

_Kate Watson_

*Head of Visual Arts*
Every five years the International Baccalaureate Office (IBO) reviews each subject guide as part of its process of continuous improvement of its curricula. Much “behind the scenes” online collaboration occurs among teachers and IBO administration staff worldwide and arising from these discussions teachers have the opportunity to be selected to contribute in face-to-face meetings in The Hague about future directions in teaching and learning.

Brett Hall of Monte’s Science Department has been selected by the IBO as one of five people in the world to review IB Physics and Theory of Knowledge in The Hague. The IB reviews each subject every five years and invites people around the world to contribute to an online committee. Only a few of these people are selected to attend the meetings in The Hague, which will be held in late October. Brett is the only Australian representative and is the only person in the world who will be contributing to two subjects.

This is a rare opportunity for the Monte community to have direct input into what the new subject guides will contain and how assessment in the diploma sciences and TOK occur. All diploma students must take a science and study the Theory of Knowledge course.

Brett would appreciate any feedback from students (past, present or future) as well as parents and carers about the diploma sciences broadly (but in particular physics) and the Theory of Knowledge course. A survey has been created here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NGF63C6 (all contributions are completely anonymous) or feel free to email Brett directly at bhall@monte.nsw.edu.au if you would like to put your name to your ideas. The IBO listen keenly to the opinions of all stakeholders about its programs and whatever ideas you might have for “future directions in education” is something they will take on board with all seriousness.
Recent Liturgy Readings included some of Qoheleth's Old Testament Wisdom Literature, rarely encountered. In Ecclesiastes 1:2-11, the question is asked: “What profit can we show for all our toiling under the sun?” We are reminded that generations come and go and yet the Earth stands firm for ever. The wind turns in circles, and though all the rivers return to the sea, the sea is never filled. What was, will be again; what has been done will be done again, and there is nothing new under the sun! Is this a grim picture of a wearisome life? Or is it more an awakening to the mystery of creation?

I am “deliciously” reminded of Eliza’s song “Without You” in “My Fair Lady”. Disillusioned by the insensitivity of Henry Higgins, she says to him: “What a dominated fool I was to think you were the Earth and Sky. No, my reverberating friend, you are not the beginning and the end! There’ll be spring every year without you. There’ll be fruit on the tree, and a shore by the sea; there’ll be crumpets and tea without you! Art and music will thrive without you. Without your pulling it, the tide comes in. Without you twirling it, the Earth can spin. Without your pushing them, the clouds roll by. If they can do without you, ducky, so can I. I shall not feel alone without you!”

More familiar is Ecclesiastes 3:1-11, reminding us “there is a season for everything, a time for every occupation under Heaven.” In Ecclesiastes 11: 9 - 12:8, we are told to make the most of our days of youth, to follow the promptings of heart and eye, but to remember that God will call us to account for everything! We are exhorted to rid our hearts of indignation, and keep our bodies clear of suffering, though youth and the age of black hair are both futile.” (Some of us may find comfort in this last phrase!)

My thoughts are now with Sr Maureen McGuirk RSM AM. Somehow she exemplifies the wisdom of these passages. She fully enjoyed life, and was able to inspire and enthuse others, yet always with a sense of direction and purpose to serve God loyally in a spirit of mercy and compassion towards all. I am indebted to her example, as well as the opportunities, encouragement, appreciation and gratitude she gave me. In recent times I told her I was finding a particular situation distressing. Without waiting to hear what it might be, she said, “Well, just get over it!” This was about the best advice anyone could have given me!

Quoheleth, Maureen and Eliza are all telling us to rid our hearts of indignation and get over our hurts!

Best wishes to each one from

Sr Lecia RSM
STUDENT SHOWCASE
In Week 6 of Term 2, two groups of Year 7 students studying French set on a little adventure to explore athletes and their countries in the contexts of the recent Rio Olympic Games. Together with a group of girls from Santa Sabina College in Strathfield, the girls collaborated on a Google Slide document to complete this simple research and writing task. They have been presenting these orally in class to practice their pronunciation and to perfect their writing skills with the help of their peers.

This has been an opportunity for the girls to develop and reflect on their collaboration skills with people they do not necessarily know personally. This is something we predict many of our current students will be regularly doing in their professional life. We have all reflected on how this collaboration could have worked more efficiently and are ready to face another of these challenges in the future.

Please find below the links to some of these presentations for your enjoyment. We hope you get your daughters to show you theirs at home too!

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1id3qjYiLkY3gG_LA7WyQvpXyNcK6tL4PMSLkCRMsJZLO/edit?usp=sharing

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1YbC5o3kg688Tdk04r-5fliXEFXNsc BTC-eOKnLAI/edit?usp=sharing

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1HB56kq3lyjLB5-xgKfkaRGX_g8z01seA-hNJ62gqzLM/edit?usp=sharing

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1zmqIpf_cD9z39_T9RnEP6zVRdINLR3pPYZOgAxMWY/edit?usp=sharing

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1zmqIpf_cD9z39_T9RnEP6zVRdINLR3pPYZOgAxMWY/edit?usp=sharing

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1HNWBLAxigleb 2TbX10HRsdBICR4P9jAw7HwrolXizko/edit?usp=sharing

Kati Batista-Varela
Language Teacher
Summer Sport

Nearly 700 Monte students will take to the court, field and pool this weekend as Summer Sport ‘kicks off’. I would like to make a general reminder about uniform. Monte students are expected to wear the correct uniform for their sport and if it is cold they should be wearing the Monte tracksuit or polar fleece. No other items should be worn. This includes caps or visors – the Monte shop has caps and visors for sale – the visors are only $8. Students who wear incorrect uniform can expect to receive a notification just as they would if they wore incorrect uniform to school.

Basketball

Monte is fielding 4 teams in the Santa Sabina Competition this term – students playing basketball can wear the Monte PDHPE Shorts (without pockets) or the Monte ‘bike’ shorts and the multi-purpose singlet (this is the one which has Velcro strips on it).

Softball

Softball season makes an early start and as such they are actually in week 5 of competition this Saturday. All softball players should be wearing Monte PDHPE Shorts or Netball Skirt and the Monte PDHPE Polo Shirt and the Monte ‘Hockey/Football’ socks.

Tennis

Sixteen tennis teams will be participating in the HKDTA 2016 Schoolgirls competition. Our home venues are Wakehurst and North Manly and all teams will play at least 2 games at a home venue. Tennis players can wear the Monte PDHPE Shorts or Netball Skirt and the Monte PDHPE Polo Shirt.

Touch Football

Touch at Monte is our fastest growing sport with twenty two ‘full’ teams participating in the Easts Schoolgirls Term 4 Competition. This term games will be played at Reservoir Fields (Main Felds on Oxford St), Mission Fields (in the middle of Centennial Park) and Lynne Park. The finals should return to Queens Park which is unplayable at the moment due to turf resurfacing. Monte touch players should be wearing the Monte ‘bike’ shorts and the multi-purpose singlet (this is the one which has Velcro strips on it).

Volleyball

Volleyball teams play in the Santa Sabina Term 4 Competition and this year Monte is entering 6 teams. Monte volleyball players can wear the Monte PDHPE Polo Shirt or multi-purpose singlet (this is the one which has Velcro strips on it) and the Monte PDHPE Shorts (without pockets) or the Monte ‘bike’ shorts.

Water Polo

Water Polo is the fastest growing sport at Monte with 10 teams taking to the pool in the IGSSA competition this term. All players are to wear the Monte swimming costume.

Coaches

I am extremely proud to inform you that there are over 25 ex-student coaches working with our teams this term. Over ten are fresh recruits who are giving back to this program for the first time so please make sure you make them all feel welcome.

I want to congratulate the following students who have volunteered to coach teams this term:

- Volleyball: Selina Da Silva and Saskia Heath
- Water Polo: Lexia Chilcott, Ella Todd and Nichola Cook
- Touch Football: Yasmin Bamford, Harriet Phelps, Sienna Berte, Maddie Sau-Harvey, Hannah Dirou and Gen Casey.

Sports Awards Dinner

Monte’s annual Sports Awards Dinner will be held in the McQuoin Centre on Wednesday 16th November.

Our guest speaker will be Rio Olympian Milly Clark who was the first Aussie across the line when she finished 18th in the Marathon. Please save the date.
Welcome back to Term 4. We hope you had an enjoyable and safe break.

The school community was saddened to hear of the passing of Sr. Maureen McGuirk RSM AM during the holidays. Sr. Maureen, whom our purple colour house is named after, was the Principal of the school for 21 years. The school community joined the Sisters of Mercy, Sr. Maureen’s family and friends on Tuesday to celebrate her life. Following the service, our current students and staff formed a guard of honour lining both sides of Miller Street and the circular drive to farewell Sr. Maureen as she visited the school one last time. Sr. Maureen was led to the school by our current Principal, Ms Christensen, and School Captain, Katie McNamara, and was followed by the Alumni who wore a splash of purple in her honour. The honour guard was quite a sight to see and a beautiful way to farewell to a lady who had dedicated so much her life to our school and the education of young women.

With the HSC starting this week and the IB exams starting soon, our thoughts also turn to our 2016 Graduates and their families. We wish them all the best in their final exams. For some families, this marks the end of their time at the College but not as part of our school community. We look forward to staying connected through our Alumni and P&F.

Term 4 social events kick off with the Golf Day on Friday 28 October. Followed soon after by “the race that stops the nation” – the Melbourne Cup luncheon on Tuesday 1 November. This event is always fun and a great way to catch up with friends and make new ones. Hope to see you there.

Margot Henville
President, P&F Committee
From The College Shop

We are looking for volunteers to assist us with the outfitting of our incoming yr7. We require helpers from 8am till noon on the following Monday’s, Tuesday’s and Thursday’s in November: 7th, 8th, 10th, 14th, 15th, 17th, 21st, 22nd and 24th. Lunch will be provided. If you can find the time to join us we would be most grateful for the helping hand. Please contact Fiona Ell on 94096256 or fell@monte.nsw.edu.au.

THE MEETING ON TUESDAY OCT 25TH WILL BE IN RY102 AND IT IS FOR INTERESTED STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS
MONTE MATTERS
15 SEPTEMBER 2016  /  TERM 4, WEEK 1

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jenny_sullivan@icloud.com

MONTE NOTICES

MONTE SANT’ ANGELO MERCY COLLEGE PRESENTS

2016

Melbourne Cup Lunch

Tuesday, 1st November
12 noon - 4pm

North Sydney Harbourview Hotel
17 Blue Street, North Sydney

Early Bird Price: $99 per head
($110 per head after 18th October)

Champagne on arrival, a Three Course Meal, Lucky Door Prizes, Sweeps and a stunning view over Lavender Bay to the Harbour Bridge. Prizes will be awarded for Best Hat, Best Dressed and Best Dressed Table! (Drinks purchased at bar prices)

Tables of 8
Book a table with friends or we will happily place you on a table with parents from your daughter’s year group

RSVP Tuesday 25 October
Contact Jenny Sullivan
jenny_sullivan@icloud.com

PURCHASE YOUR TICKET AT WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/MTUK
MONTE P&F ANNUAL GOLF DAY

Come and join current and past Monte parents for a great day of fun golf and prizes!

Book as an individual, arrange a group or bring a friend.

**Date:** Friday 28th October 2016 – 8.00am for 8.30am tee off

**Venue:** Northbridge Golf Club, Sailors Bay Road Northbridge

**Competition:** 4 Ball Ambrose

**Cost:** $60 per player including light lunch (Carts available - contact Northbridge GC)

**Bookings:** [www.trybooking.com/MPHL](http://www.trybooking.com/MPHL)

**Contact:** Samantha Parker fdalbon@bigpond.net
Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose

Developing your child’s social media scripts

It’s important to start conversations with children about using social media at a young age to prepare them to be savvy users when we’re not around.

“If a job’s worth doing, it’s worth doing well.”

This mantra always pops into mind whenever I’m about to cut some corners or do a rushed job in any endeavour. As a result I double-check every article I write for mistakes. I over prepare every talk I give. And I continually edit and re-edit my books. This message keeps me at the top of my game.

I can thank, or blame, my mother for inserting this mantra in my mind as she repeated it whenever I did a rushed job as a youngster making my bed, doing homework or cleaning up my bathroom mess.

Parents of every generation have always found ways to frame messages of safety and success for their children to remember. Parents of past generations who only had to contend with the offline or real world intuitively knew that they needed to teach children important lessons about safety and manners rather than assume they’d be understood.

The same maxim holds true for the world of social media that children now inhabit from an increasingly young age. Even though our children are growing up with technology as a part of their every day lives, they will still make plenty of mistakes while using it. This means we need to have direct conversations with our kids about the comments and posts that are okay to make using social media of all forms.

As parents we teach our kids to talk politely and clearly so that they know how to speak to others when we’re not around. In effect, we give our kids social scripts to fall back on when they talk to friends, teachers and relatives. There’s no guarantee they’ll look an adult in the eye when they speak to them, but our discussions, reminders and lessons about manners will hopefully hold up when we’re not around.

The same applies to social media. Our conversations and lessons will prepare them to be savvy users when we’re not around. Here are some ideas to get you started:

1 “Is this worth posting?”

The relatively impersonal nature of social media means that we can post information and pictures with relative immunity. Also its immediacy means that we can do so without much thought. This means that kids need to be very critical about what they see online. ‘Is this accurate?’ and ‘Is this worth posting?’ are two valid questions children can ask when they read posts placed by others.

2 “Have you taken a big breath?”

A child who blurts out everything that comes into his mind without thinking is sure to put plenty of people offside. ‘Think before you speak’ is the type of message that every child should have in mind.

more on page 2

Want more ideas to help you raise confident kids and resilient young people? Subscribe to Happy Kids newsletter, my FREE weekly email parenting guide at parentingideas.com.au. You’ll be so glad you did.

parentingideas.com.au

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