Welcome to the New Year of Mercy 2016
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FROM THE PRINCIPAL - “WELCOME TO THE NEW YEAR OF MERCY 2016”</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FROM THE LIBRARY</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITALIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE TOUR</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SR LECIA’S THOUGHTS</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARENTS &amp; FRIENDS</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONTE NOTICES</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear Parents and Friends of Monte,

Welcome to the New Year of Mercy 2016.

As we embark on the Jubilee Year of Mercy Pope Francis proclaims: ‘Mercy is the force that reawakens us for new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope’.

Prior to your daughters returning to Monte to commence the new year, teachers and staff looked to the future by participating in our Professional Learning Conference held here at the College from 18 to 27 January. The theme “Leadership, Formation & Innovation” covered a wide range of professional development and formation areas, including sessions from inspirational keynote speakers and special guests:

Sr Deirdre Mullan RSM Consultant Director, UNICEF, the main body of the United Nations focusing on children and girls education. As a Sister of Mercy, Deirdre served as Director of the Mercy Global Concern at the United Nations for over ten years.

Dr Carol Rittner RSM, distinguished International Professor Emirita of Holocaust and Genocide studies. Carol has published 17 books and numerous scholarly journal articles about the Holocaust and other genocides, including Violence Against Women (2011), and Rape as a Weapon of War & Genocide (2012).

Dr Simon Breakspear, known internationally for his insights on education and innovation spoke to us on developing agile leadership for better learning.

Summer Howarth, National Director of Learning at Education Changemakers spoke on “Unleashing teacher led innovation in schools.”
Congratulations to the Class of 2015

The class of 2015 reinforced the College’s tradition of academic excellence, through both the NSW Higher School Certificate (HSC) and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP). Of the 189 students, 152 students completed the HSC and 37 completed the full IB Diploma.

This was the sixth consecutive year that one or more Monte students have achieved perfect ATARs. This year we congratulate Alice Dardare and Charlotte Haunton for achieving perfect ATAR scores.

Other highlights included:
• Eight students with an ATAR 99+
• Eighty-one students with an ATAR 90+
• Eight Distinguished Achievers in the Premier’s All Rounders
• First Place in Geography – Eugenie Taylor
• Top Achiever in Ancient History – Jessica Polley
• Nominations in HSC Showcases SHAPE & ENCORE

In the annual HSC Leagues tables, published by the Sydney Morning Herald, Monte achieved an overall state ranking of 43, placing it ahead of the majority of independent schools and many selective schools. (As many of you may be aware, published HSC leagues tables, do not yet include the results of the IB Diploma.)

At our Laureate Assembly this week we acknowledged the achievements of the 2015 graduates who attained excellence in their Year 12 studies.

A summary of Monte’s Year 12 HSC and IB Diploma Programme results for 2015 are available on the College website. We congratulate all students on their outstanding efforts and success.

As we welcome with excitement new and returning students and families, I encourage all our Monte community to join with us to become an “Intentional Community of Mercy”. Theologian Bernard Lonergan writes that an intentional community is an achievement of meaning and that it comes alive when members are willingly and actually committing themselves. People called to mercy in the tradition of Catherine McAuley are not just spectators. They are active.

Finally, to quote Sr Deirdre Mullan RSM from our staff conference, “As Mercy people, as each of us enters this special year of Mercy, it is not enough to be compassionate. We must ACT!”

I wish every member of the College community a happy and fulfilling year of Mercy.

God Bless.

Mrs Nicole Christensen
Principal
Blind Date with a Book

Here in the Monte Library we are gearing up for an action-packed year of events, promotions, guest speakers and workshops, which will provide your daughter/s with a diverse array of ways for her to engage with all things literary and research related. From 12 hour writing marathons (Write a Book in a Day) to ‘books’ that you can have a conversation with (The Human Library), and forensic treasure hunts (Murder in the Library), we truly operate at a point where learning and fun intersect. Our first major promotion occurs on February 14. Valentine’s Day? No, it’s Library Lovers’ Day, and we will be spreading the love with a matchmaking exercise that encourages students not to judge a book by its cover, literally. ‘Blind Date with a Book’ involves students choosing a book to read without having any idea what the title is, who the author is, or what the jacket looks like. Brown paper wrapped books will be inscribed with just a handful of descriptive words, with the aim that students will opt to take home a ‘blind date’ that they may never have considered had they been able to judge the book by its cover. In this way we get students to take reading risks, and to go outside their literary comfort zones. As in real life, not all dates are successful, but sometimes an unexpected pairing of book and reader results in a match made in heaven.

If you are the parent of a Year 7 student this year, please know that you are always welcome to visit the Monte Library to see what we have to offer your daughter. Our physical collections include a large selection of fiction which is arranged into genres such as Fantasy, Dystopia, Suspense and so on. Our digital collections include online databases and encyclopedias, as well as hundreds of e-books and audiobooks that can be accessed from home or school every day of the year. We are open from 7.30am each morning, until 5.30pm Monday to Thursday, and till 4pm on Fridays. This year we are introducing an optional reading challenge for Year 7 with the aim of drawing them into the reading culture of the college and challenging them to read widely. The Principal’s Reading Challenge will charge students with reading 15 books over the course of the year, with at least one book to be chosen from each fiction genre. Students who complete the challenge will receive a certificate signed by Ms. Christensen, the College Principal, and will go into a draw for some fabulous book prizes.

I encourage you to engage with and encourage your daughter in her recreational reading choices throughout the year. We have a list of recommended reads for all years here.

Deborah Brown
Manager, Library & Information Services

FROM THE LIBRARY

As in real life, not all dates are successful, but sometimes an unexpected pairing of book and reader results in a match made in heaven.

Deborah Brown
Manager, Library & Information Services
“Language is the road map of a culture. It tells you where its people come from and where they are going”
- Rita Mae Brown

On December 30 2015, 24 students together with four teachers departed from the sunny shores of Sydney to embark on a journey of mangiare, macchiato and Michelangelo!

Il Bel Paese, otherwise known as Italy, would be home to our group for three weeks as we immersed ourselves in the history, culture, language and traditions of this enchanting country.

Our journey commenced in Milan on New Year’s Eve; continuing south through the cities of Padua, Venice, Pisa and Florence before arriving in the medieval marvel of Siena. Students attended the Dante Aligheri Language School in order to further develop their Italian language and culinary skills.

From Siena, a pit stop at the famous Perugina Casa del Cioccolato, allowed us to not only discover how Italy’s legendary Baci chocolates and confectionaries take shape, but also devour the many samples of these delectable delights!

The eternal city of Roma welcomed us with unseasonably warm weather as its ancient cobbled streets led us on an adventurous voyage through time. Pope Francis proclaimed this year to be the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, and we as pilgrims of the Church, were privileged to walk through the Holy Door in an atmosphere of spiritual devotion.

Our travel continued further south as we made our way to the UNESCO heritage listed city of Monte Sant’Angelo to see the cave on the mountain where Saint Michael the Archangel appeared. The Adriatic Sea and the snow capped mountains beckoned us to the region of Puglia, famous for its Baroque architecture, where students were now able to meet their Epals and spend three unforgettable days learning from their Italian peers.

Whilst we reluctantly bid arrivederci to il Bel Paese, the journey continues as we endeavour to further expand on our knowledge of the Italian language and its culture.

Maria Gaudioso & Annalisa Ramundi
Languages Teachers
Sister Lecia’s Thoughts

Food for the spirit

Dear Friends,

How blessed are we to be embarking on a new Chapter of our life’s journey, in this special place of Monte, in this special Jubilee Year of Mercy! I hope you have all enjoyed a refreshing break with your children.

One of my holiday highlights was spending a week at Apollo Bay, experiencing the natural beauty of the Great Ocean Road. The photo above is one of the many I snapped on the way. On the long, forward car journey we saw the heavens proclaiming the glory of God! Large, shapely clouds floated effortlessly and majestically against a bright blue sky. Next, dainty puffs of white danced their way across our horizon. Then the panorama changed to a huge curtain, a flimsy fluorescence of shimmering light! The Light of God?

No matter who or where we are, all of us are confronted with the unfathomable mystery of God. Some respond with joy and gratitude; others with fear and trembling; others with quiet oblivion and indifference; yet others with denial. People in this last category have no purpose in life but to enjoy what there is, overcome obstacles and glory in the achievements of their fellow human beings. After that, they believe there is nothing more to hope for.

We have many names for God. We say “God is Love! God is Light!” Not so! The best we can do is to say God is like Love, like Light. Our descriptions of God, neither individually nor in total could possibly capture the true essence of God, Who is and will ever remain Mystery. So how can we get to know Him?

Perhaps the most natural and obvious way is to find God in Nature - in its beauty and yes, in its terror. Another way is to discover how God has gradually revealed himself to us throughout the history of humankind. He spoke to His People through the Prophets of old.

Surely He speaks to us also through the prophets and mystics of our own times.

The sad fact is that we may have ears that don’t hear, and eyes that don’t see what is beyond our sensory world.

The greatest and fullest revelation of God has come to us through Jesus, the Word made flesh! Here was a man with a mission to make God known and loved on earth, and to restore our full dignity as God’s children, through His life, death and resurrection, with its promise of eternal life.

But enough for now; more next week! Until then, we might prayerfully ponder Psalm 8, which speaks to us of God’s glory and our human dignity.

Best wishes from Sr Lecia RSM
PARENTS & FRIENDS
A very warm welcome to the many newcomers to the Monte community this year – parents, students and staff. We hope this is the beginning of a long and fulfilling association with Monte for you. And of course, welcome back to continuing members of Monte.

I hope everyone had a chance to recharge over the break – I know I did!

Term 1 is always chock-a-block full of events, particularly for new parents and girls. Don’t worry – it does ease off – but please try to attend as many of the events as possible. It will make the next 6+ years easier if you know your way around the place and get to know the many friendly faces.

The parent community is a broad church, with a range of differing views on pretty much every topic. One of the important roles of the P&F Executive is to provide opportunities for those different views to be aired, and then to synthesise them into something cohesive and actionable. It is harder than it sounds! The more people contribute – through attending our once-a-term General Meetings, attending P&F events, assisting run events and even joining the Executive – the richer and more varied the activities we can support.

Please visit the P&F webpage at http://www.monte.nsw.edu.au/community/parents-friends/ to find out how to contact us and how the P&F Class Parent Network is run.

Have a great first week back.

Andrew Rutherford
P&F President
MONTE NOTICES
From the Health Centre

Year 7 Vaccinations (and any catch up year 8 vaccinations) will be held on Tuesday 16 February 2016.

By now you should have received the consent packs (sent home with the students). Please ensure you fill in all required fields and return to school no later than Tuesday 9th February.

Please have a read of the Information Sheet from Public Health Unit by clicking here.

Any queries please contact the college Health centre.

Lauren Jacobs
Clinic Nurse

Australian Army Cadets

Australian Army Cadets is a leadership program for teenagers between the ages of 12.5 and 19 years. It provides young Australians with opportunity to learn, develop and practice many interesting, fun and valuable skills. It is the only government sponsored youth group in Australia. 206 ACU (Army Cadet Unit) is the regional unit closest to Monte. We parade every Tuesday night of the school term from 5.30-8.40pm and we attend one weekend camp at the end of each term.

As a cadet there are lots of other activities you can participate in like: an annual camp (one week); leadership, abseiling and water craft courses; military marches (such as on ANZAC Day) and much more. We also learn lots of skills such as first aid, navigation and organisational skills.

206 ACU is currently recruiting. Our information night is being held on Tuesday 16 February 2016 at 7.00pm at Marist College North Shore, 270 Miller St, North Sydney.

If you are interested in finding out more please check out our website 206acu.org.au

If you have any questions you can contact CAPT Tim Wark on 0400 369 312 or speak to one of our cadets at Monte.

Lesley Spencer
Year 11
Great news!

Your school is a subscriber to the ELES Online Study Skills Handbook.

That means that you get full access all year to all the study skills units listed on the right.

This site will help you improve in the areas where your skills may be weak – such as in time management, study notes or even how to deal with distractions.

You can ask questions, see how other students handle issues for school, print grids and templates for planning, ask questions and much more.

To access the handbook, go to www.studyskillshandbook.com.au and login as a subscriber with these details:

Username: monte
Password: 49results

We encourage all students to take advantage of this opportunity to further develop their study skills abilities through this online resource.
A MESSAGE TO PARENTS

The North Sydney local government area is very busy and the area around our schools becomes particularly congested at drop off and pick up times. North Sydney Council Rangers and Parking Officers, with the assistance of New South Wales Police, will be monitoring parking in all our school zones during these times in an attempt to ensure the areas remain as safe as possible for children.

Below are some useful tips for parents driving and parking in school zones:

1. Drivers should always take extra care in 40km/h school zones, which operate on gazetted school days.
2. Park legally, even if it means walking further to the school gate. Observe all parking signs. They are planned with children’s safety in mind.
3. Never double park as it puts children at risk.
4. Model safe and considerate behaviour for your child – they will learn from you.
5. You must not wait in “No Parking” zones for longer than 2 minutes.
6. Always park and turn legally around the school. Avoid dangerous manoeuvres such as U-turns and three-point turns.
7. Avoid parking across the school driveway or the entrance to the school car park. Using your school’s drop off and pick up facility will help keep all children as safe as possible during the busiest times of the school day.

For your information, below is a table that sets out most major parking offences in school zones and the penalties that apply for each offence. Please note that all of these offences are also demerit point offences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL ZONE OFFENCE</th>
<th>EXPLANATION</th>
<th>PENALTY AMOUNT*</th>
<th>DEMERIT POINTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disobey No Stopping sign</td>
<td>“No Stopping” means no stopping. You can’t take a phone call or wait for a passenger in these zones, even for just a minute or two. There are no exceptions.</td>
<td>$319</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disobey No Parking sign</td>
<td>You are permitted to park in a No Parking zone for a maximum of 2 minutes and you must remain within 3 metres of your vehicle at all times. These zones are used for parents to pick up children and move away. They should not be considered as places to wait beyond the 2 minute limit.</td>
<td>$177</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stop on/near a children's crossing</td>
<td>You must not stop within 20 metres of the approach to a crossing or 10 metres after a children's crossing</td>
<td>$425</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stop on/near a pedestrian crossing</td>
<td>You must not stop within 20 metres of the approach to a crossing or 10 metres after a pedestrian crossing</td>
<td>$425</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stop in a bus zone</td>
<td>A bus is the only vehicle permitted to stop in a bus zone. No other vehicle is allowed to stop in a bus zone, not even to pick up a passenger.</td>
<td>$319</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stop at/near a bus stop</td>
<td>You must not stop within 20 metres of the approach of a bus stop sign or 10 metres after a bus stop sign.</td>
<td>$319</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double park</td>
<td>It is an offence in school zones to park or stop a vehicle next to a vehicle parked on the side of the road. Other drivers overtake double parked cars, and with obscured vision can fail to see a child.</td>
<td>$319</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stop on path or strip</td>
<td>You must not park on a grass strip or on a footpath.</td>
<td>$177</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stop on or across a driveway</td>
<td>You must not stop on or across a driveway, unless you are picking up or setting down people, in which case you cannot stop for more than 2 minutes.</td>
<td>$177</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
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* Subject to change on July 1 each year

THINK SAFETY OVER CONVENIENCE WHEN PARKING IN SCHOOL ZONES
COMMUNITY NOTICES

206 ARMY CADET UNIT

ARMY CADETS INFO NIGHT

JOIN NOW
TERM 1 2016

TUES 16TH FEB, 7:00PM | FOR BOYS & GIRLS AGED 13-17
MARIST COLLEGE NORTH SHORE, 270 MILLER ST, NORTH SYDNEY
AN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY FOR ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

_DISPLAY_ 206acu.org.au  _DISPLAY_ 206acu