The Production - Romeo & Winifred - was a Hit!

Winifred, a.k.a Kate and the Romeo, a.k.a Bailey along with all the cast did a wonderful job presenting ‘Romeo and Winifred’.
The Big Story of Life - II

In this week’s editorial Principal Martin continues to reflect on the issue of how we use the Bible. Teachers need to understand the Biblical story well if they are to open this up with students and explain how the Bible helps make sense of their/the world. Throughout this year and last, each morning before school all the teachers meet in the staffroom to look at a part of the Scriptures. We’ll have covered all 66 books of the Bible over the past two years. The key resource we are using is Gordon Fee’s ‘How to Read the Bible book by book’. It explains so clearly how each book works in the broader context of the Scriptural story.

What do the students think?

I wonder what students think about the Bible, when as teachers we open it at devotion time, or speak of a biblical perspective or ask, ‘What does the Bible say about this?’

What is the Bible to our students?

Is it a dusty set of books that sit on the bench to the side? Is it a book that Mum and Dad call ‘the good book’? Is it a long list of instructions of how to be good or moral? Is it weird and uncomprehend-able? Is it an interesting book full of old, gruesome and fascinating stories? Is it one of those ancient texts that every religion has to justify its own existence?

Your children, our students could have any of those reactions. As a child growing up in a Christian family that was well and truly immersed in the Scriptures, I had most of those reactions. As an adult, who believes the Scriptures to be God’s Word, that helps me answer all the big questions of life, how do I understand and use the Bible? How do we as teachers understand and use the Bible?

What understanding of the Bible do our students have? What understanding have they gained through what you’ve been doing, through what your church does, through what we do at school?

A Big Story

One of our big goals is that our students understand that the Bible is a story about God walking with his people in the past and speaks about God’s desires to continue that journey with his people now. In this sense the story continues and our hope is that each student sees themselves as a part of that story.

In the editorial a few weeks ago, I used the opening story from a small book, ‘The Insect and the Buffalo’, to show how our worldview is rooted in our understanding of life, or the way we see the world. That little book talks of the way in which smaller stories are pieced together into a large, overarching narrative that helps us make sense of life. In other words, everybody has a worldview, or a way of living out of their big story of the world.

The Insect and the Buffalo

The section that follows here is the conclusion to the first chapter of this marvellous little book. The rest of the book is basically a story telling of the whole biblical account. I commend it to all families as an excellent devotional resource. Order it on-line or through Koorong/Word.

(p. 11) “The Bible is this kind of story. It is an overarching, complex narrative, made up of smaller narratives, that claims to be the story of global human history. It is a collection of books, written over a period of some 1600 years by more than 40 different authors in three languages. It contains narrative, official (and unofficial) history, poetry, songs, prayers, genealogies, legal statues, international treaties, census data, personal correspondence and much more. Yet, despite this great diversity, the Bible tells a single overarching story from the first Creation in Genesis to the Revelation of a second (renewed) Creation. It is the story of a creator God, the rebellion and death of humanity, and God’s mission to redeem the entire human world. This story, and the person who is at the centre of it, should define our worldviews.

Near the end of his Gospel in the Bible, Luke tells us a story about two people walking along the road towards a town called Emmaus. They were walking away from Jerusalem. But they were also walking away from the death of a story that had framed their worldview. Jesus, the man from Nazareth, whom they had followed for perhaps as long as three years, had been executed by a coalition of Roman military and Jewish religious leaders, and with him had died a story of how the world was.

According to this narrative, God would send a Messiah, who would bring to an end the spiritual and political Exile of the people of God (Israel), by overthrowing the Roman Empire in the same way that Moses had overthrown the Egyptians at Exodus. He would establish a Kingdom under God, the same way that David and Solomon had established the temple in Jerusalem, finally fulfilling God’s promises to Abraham. It was a big story. And their hopes that Jesus might be this Messiah had unravelled on a cross.

Imagine then their surprise at being joined on the road by another man who put the same events into a different story. In this narrative, the Messiah had to die, because God was doing something far bigger than restoring the political independence and religious devotion of Israel. This second story was about God redeeming the whole of humanity by undoing Adam’s rebellion in Eden and even death itself.

This retelling of the familiar events of the story of Israel, now fulfilled in the person of the resurrected Jesus, transformed their worldview. The same historical landmarks were there: Adam and Eve in Eden, Abraham about to sacrifice Isaac, Moses and the Exodus, David and the Kingship, and the Exile to Babylon. But now they took on new meaning: they became part of a story about Jesus.” (p. 13)

Back to MECS

Just like those travellers on their way to Emmaus, having their eyes opened, we want our students to understand that those same old stories of God interacting with the people he loved are a part of their history. We want their eyes opened. We want our students to know that God’s love still reaches out to them and that he’s provided the Scriptures to help us understand that.
Save the Date!

MECS hosts Dr Michael C for a Parent Seminar on "The Five Greatest Challenges for Parents in 2012".

Topics Michael will cover during this presentation include:

- What every parent needs to know about Millennial Parenting, alcohol, on line safety, sleep and other issues.

Date: Thursday 16 August, 2012
Time: 7.30pm
Location: MECS Gymnasium

Entry is Free.
Enter via senior School gate, Hawkins Road, Mount Evelyn

About the Presenter:

Dr Michael C is one of Australia’s highest profile psychologists. He works in private practice as a nationally registered child and adolescent psychologist and is passionate about delivering national and international evidence based psychology workshops and seminars that make a difference to the health and well being of young people. Michael is also the resident parenting expert on Channel 7’s Sunrise.

Bek’s News

Our family would like to take a moment to thank the wonderful MECS community for all the prayers and support you have given us while Bek has been so unwell. So many people have prayed, sent letters, gifts, visited, made meals, given lifts, given love... the list goes on. I never thought that when we made the decision 10 years ago to move our children to MECS that such an outpouring on our family would one day follow.

Through God’s grace and goodness, Bek and our family, have survived a very stormy 4 or so years. After having spent 4 months in hospital, and 18 months on the waiting list, Bek was blessed with a miracle, a new chance of life. God had put Bek’s News
Music Notes

Congratulations to Heidi & Sarah

We’re so very proud of Heidi who has passed her First Grade Violin exam and Sarah who passed Third Grade Piano. Both girls received honours. Amazing effort!

‘Try-the-violin-or-flute’ days

On Mondays in Term 3 you can come and try the violin (all ages) or flute (age 11+) with one of our wonderful teachers. If you’d like to participate, please contact me via email or leave your contact details at the office and I’ll arrange a time for you to ‘try-the-flute-or-violin’.

Kerrie
Instrumental Tuition Coordinator

Brighten up your winter with music

We have vacancies for piano, violin, drums and guitar (all ages) and for bass, mandolin, flute and singing (age 11+). Parents are welcome to enrol for lessons too! Our Instrumental Specialists have experience teaching students of all ages and abilities - and they’re endlessly encouraging. Enrolment forms are at the office.

MECS Notes

Music for Young Children

The program was written by Prep teacher Wendy and will be led by Music teacher Rachel on Tuesdays in Term 3 & 4. It aims to present flexible, hands-on sessions which develop music concepts and general life skills through using a combination of activities.

It will be held on Tuesdays (during MECS School Term), 2 Session times available: 9.00-9.30am or 9.40-10.10am.

For a brochure with more information and fees, or an enrolment form see the MECS website under Year Levels - Early Years or contact the Main Office.

Lost Property, going, going...

At the end of term all the lost property is taken to the local op-shop. Could parents please either get their children to check the racks or come in before or after school and check for anything that is yours before it goes to charity. The lost property is situated opposite the First Aid Room/Middle School girls toilets. Please remember to clearly name your children’s clothing. Thanks.

Melinda
First Aid Officer (& used clothing merchant!)

Parents & Friends

Woolworths Earn & Learn and Coles Sports For Schools Vouchers

We are collecting both of these again this year. Please remember to ask for your stickers or vouchers when you shop and then place them in the boxes provided in the Main Office. The Woolworths Earn & Learn stickers finish on Sunday July 1 so can you please make sure you have them all in the box first day back at school in Term 3 as we need to send them off that week. Thanks for your participation.

Sewers Needed

We are looking for some people to help with the sewing of the Library bags and Art Smocks. It would be great to have a number of people who could do this throughout the year so that the pressure is taken off at the end of the year. If you can help out with this or would like some more information please contact me.

Coffee Morning

First day back in Term 3 there will be a coffee morning in the Main Staffroom. This is a great way of catching up after the holidays and meeting new people (and the food is good too). Hope to see you all there.

Evelyn
P&F President

P&F Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Monday July 30 in the Conference Room in the Main Office at 9.15am. Everyone is welcome.

Parents & Friends

“What’s the point of teaching kids to blog?”

Let me give you a real example from last week’s international news.

Nine year old Martha had a simple idea of blogging* each day about her school lunch, rating it for nutrition and value for money. Her blog struck a chord with children in other countries and they joined in with photos and comments about their school lunches. Some people donated to a charity which Martha had linked to her blog – a feeding program in Malawi. That simple blog has now raised nearly $154,000 and if $15.00 feeds a child for a year, lots of needy children are going to benefit by this one child’s initiative. (Read all about it at http://neverseconds.blogspot.co.uk)

In learning to blog, Martha has learned to write for a real audience which might be parents, grandparents, or overseas relatives, or in her case, the world. That’s a real incentive to getting the spelling and punctuation right, to be security conscious, not to mention the legal matters of copyright. It’s one thing to teach about the importance of these things, but blogging gives a context for actually doing it for real. With a worldwide audience instead of just the teacher, it really matters!

Unlike typing up a story for the teacher to read and mark, blogging encourages communication about what has been written. Parents, grandparents (and the world if you really want to) not only see the writing and images but can comment and interact with them too. It can be so encouraging to have a wider audience appreciate your writing, and respond to it with new questions or ideas to follow up.

I’m always amazed to see that some students who loath writing anything, will happily blog without noticing that it’s the same task. They will write, edit spelling and punctuation and illustrate with enthusiasm, in the medium where they feel most happy!

*blogging – the updating of a blog, which is like a journal on the Internet. A blog can be private, shared with a few or many invited people, or open to all, in which case you can search for it in Google.

Q&A

Answering questions that parents ask

Carole
Teacher/Librarian

Mount Evelyn Christian School News

Thursday 28 June 2012
A Para – what?

‘Romeo and Winifred’ is a comic parody on William Shakespeare’s tragic love story ‘Romeo and Juliet.

The play is set in Manhattan, New York; the Montagues and the Capulets are two rival fashion stores. The Montagues sell high fashion and designer labels where the Crazy Capulets cater for the discount market of fashion.

And so... from forth the fatal loins of these two foes, a pair of star-crossed lovers take their life.

Wait a minute... this is a comedy so... no one actually dies.

How does Romeo meet Winifred and overcome their rival families’ feuding over fashion? Is it love at first sight?

There is a slap fight, a disco, a flurry of fluoro, Italian fashion designers, shady characters, pirating goods and an obsessed nurse and of course, a pie in the face, just to list a few of the highlights and characters that mould together to create a bit of mayhem and fun. Romeo and Winifred was a great success.

Alison
Cycle A Teacher

Last week was the big week and Cycle A were pumped! We kicked off the week with a full dress rehearsal up in the theatrette. The costumes looked amazing and the sound and lighting brought it to life! But we weren’t too sure if we could go on- it was up to the students to pull it together and we sure did!

The Wednesday rehearsal filled the teachers with confidence and we were ready to perform the next day. We came to school ready to perform but first the boys had to overcome a big hurdle- they had to wear makeup! They found it funny and bravely wore it.

The first performance was to the primary school. The cute little kids in the primary school were definitely different to the adults that night! They laughed at different things and were forgiving of the little mistakes we made.

We ironed out some of our mistakes for Thursday night’s performance, and were lucky to have the following day off to prepare ourselves for Friday night. This audience was a lot of fun! They laughed at everything and left us on a high! I’m sure the teachers were impressed at how we improved and gained more confidence on each night. The Saturday performance was excellent and we finished it off by a ‘flash mob’ for the audience! We danced to “When love takes over” together as a group and it was so much fun. We all worked as a team and it was great that our hard work paid off.

Cycle A left with some mixed emotions. We were very tired and in some ways glad that we wouldn’t have to rehearse anymore! But we were also sad that it had finished.

Cycle A would like to thank Anne-Maree, Annora, Anne, Kathy, Karissa and Sue for helping us do make-up. We would also like to thank Ron and Kathy for helping us with the fabulous sets. But most of all we would like to thank Alison, Sharon, Sharon and Nicky for not only directing us but putting on our make-up and inspiring us to put on the best production!

Sophie
Cycle A Student

continued on Page 6 and 7
Romeo & Winifred

Kate & Alex

Sophie & Ruby

Rachel & Dorothy

Madi

Nathan & Trent

Reilly

Alex & Nick

Samuel & Siennah

Abbey & Bek

The Capulet Boys

Ethan & Keanu
Romeo & Winifred

Kate

Cameron

Josh & Sienna & Alex

Alex, Brenton, Bailey, Ethan & Brendan

Amy & Brooke & Becc

Brenton

Sam

Bailey & Kate

Kyisha & Nick

Disco Dancers
School Accountant Position
Mount Evelyn Christian School is seeking a School Accountant.

The Accountant:
• Assists the Administration Manager with the financial operations of the school.
• Keeps accurate and orderly accounts as required by the school, government and law.
• Oversees the work of the Accounts Clerk (Payroll, Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable).
• Manages the bus operations of the school.

This is a four day per week role.
We would like the successful applicant to wholeheartedly join a team implementing a distinctively biblical approach to education.
Please contact the MECS office for an Application Form and further information.

For Sale – Bunk Bed
Black steel with timber posts, can be separated into 2 single beds.
Good condition, side rails for top bunk included, mattresses not included.
$150. Phone Evelyn.

Room for Rent
Shared house situated in Croydon/Ringwood area, close to shops and transport.
Newly renovated and fully furnished - ideal for a young Mum or Single lady.
Interested parties please contact David or Karen.

Kindergarten Employment Opportunities
We will be advertising for a 3yo kinder teacher, a 3yo kinder program assistant and a 4yo kinder program assistant towards the end of July. Job Descriptions will be available in the first week of Term 3.

Ranges TEC Open Campus
Friday 27 July, 4.30 - 6.30pm
Come along to meet the staff and students, take a tour of our facilities and learn more about our programs.
1/9 Hightech Place, Lilydale 3140
Enquiries: Please phone the office.

Cliff celebrated his 60th birthday in style with Lemon Meringue Pie - in the face! Did the school production get some ideas from this?

NAIDOC Week July 2-8
A week of prayerful awareness for Aboriginal people and support of local Aboriginal Christians in ministry. For more information - www.naidoc.org.au

NOTICES SENT HOME THIS WEEK
(can also be downloaded from website)
• School Reports
• JP Home Challenge Letter
• Year 9 Excursion Letter
• Readiness for Yr 10 Letter in Yr 9 Reports
• Ranges TEC Open Campus Flyer Yr 9 & 10

NOTES ON PAGES 2-8

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Calendar
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11am Tuesday on published week. Email articles (images attached as jpg) to the Newsletter Office

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