Michael C-G Seminar
Coming Soon
Aug 16

Planning for the Future

Year 12 Students Sarah & Rachael enjoy the Tertiary Information Session at Swinburne
The Languages Question - I

In this week’s editorial, our Administration Manager, Gerry, a former Bible Translator and linguist, looks at part one of the question of learning languages other than English.

Why Learn Languages?

Developments in the Australian Curriculum are causing us to carefully look at the place of languages in the MECS curriculum (among other things). During the mid-year break Martin, Paul and I had the opportunity to go on a retreat with Professor David Smith from Calvin College (USA). Smith has some fabulous insights into Christian education. He shared with me a paper that he and two other scholars (Scott and Rusthoven) have recently written titled: Why Learn Languages? (Journal of Christianity and Foreign Languages 12 (2011): 67–78.) In this editorial and in next week’s I’d like to share with you some of their key ideas (if you would like a copy please ask me via the office).

Smith & Co. ask, “How does learning other languages and cultures fit into a Christian framework?”

“Love your neighbour as yourself” (Lev. 19:18, Matt. 22:39)

This central command comes from the book of Leviticus where it is paired with an additional saying in Leviticus 19:33–34, “The foreigners residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt.” This is a high standard for Christian interaction with those of other languages and cultures. It is not just those who travel overseas who need to take note. The command asks us to remember that we, too, are strangers and foreshadows another central text for Christian ethics: “Do to others what you would have them do to you” (Matt. 7:1). We could ponder what we English speakers would like others to do for us.

Clearly, there is no tight logical line from ‘love your neighbour’ to ‘learn another language.’ However, a focus on my neighbour’s well-being requires empathy, open communication and a willingness to reach out on their terms rather than mine. And so we should probably not be letting speakers of other languages put in all the effort needed to connect fruitfully. Often if we are to fully care for others, we will make some investment in learning others’ languages instead of assuming that they should adjust to our linguistic needs.

“...act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God” (Mic. 6:8)

In many parts of the world English can represent economic and cultural opportunity; but it can also evoke experiences of oppression, injustice and threats to local cultures. To choose to speak only English can identify the speaker, regardless of personal intentions, with power and privilege. While power can be wielded for both good and evil, Christian educators have good reasons to resist founding their practices on power and privilege; instead they will focus on justice.

A focus on justice returns us to the question of who is expected to do the work of adjusting to whom. Many English speakers take it for granted that their path through the world will be eased by others investing the years of work needed to communicate in a second language. They do not stop to question whether their easy reliance on English, even when overseas, implies an expectation that others labour to serve their needs. On the other hand, even halting attempts to converse in another’s language can generate significant goodwill – as we have seen with Warlpiri over the years.

Seeking justice implies enabling students to begin meeting their global neighbours on their own turf. Loving mercy suggests urging students to go the second mile, reaching beyond what strict fairness might require of them. Walking humbly entails resisting the temptation to be at the centre and accepting the often uncomfortable role of the faltering apprentice in another’s tongue.

“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me” (Mark 8:34)

The call of Jesus is costly; Christian discipleship is not compatible with individual or cultural self-centeredness. On a pragmatic level it is often possible to get by without learning other languages or without growing in understanding of other cultures. Christ, however, calls us to resist making our own preferences the touchstone of our behaviour.

Operating only in our own language sustains our sense of control and avoids the decentring, the vulnerability and the sheer hard work that comes with trying to communicate with others on their terms. A willingness to move out of one’s linguistic comfort zone and relinquish the power that comes with mastery of one’s own language is a self-denying choice that can open up liberating possibilities for encountering and loving others.

“You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8)

This version of the Great Commission envisions the church in motion, and as the church has grown and spread, the gospel has put down roots in an ever-increasing array of cultures and languages. The Western, English-speaking church is only one moment in this larger history, a part of a larger whole in which those of every nation, tribe and tongue are joined together in grace and love.

English-speaking Christians are linked to and have a lot to learn from others. The truth we hold is not grounded in an exclusive ethnic, cultural, or linguistic identity but is called to embrace the humanity of all ethnicities, cultures and languages. It is directed to bear witness to the possibility of approaching difference with self-sacrificial love. This is bigger than the particular callings of those who work as missionaries; all Christians participate in this witness, not least by the way they relate to those who do not share their language and culture.

In part two of ‘Why Learn Languages?’, we will look our response these ideas.
Welcome Back
I hope that you have had a good break and are looking forward to a great Term. For our Year 12s this is the 51st of 52 terms of their schooling. Term 4 is only 3 weeks long before exams set in. Therefore it is fairly jam-packed for them. Being only 9 weeks long, this term is shorter than the last and we hope it’ll bring many pleasant surprises.

Some Well Deserved LSL Breaks
It appears that its Long Service Leave season for many long term Coordinators. We welcome back Roger from LSL. Roger and Janette had the opportunity to travel to Europe as well as Roger’s place of birth and early childhood, Sri Lanka, along with two of his children. Sue and family are catching up with son Damien, in Spain and also taking a LSL break (Tracey is filling in). In Week 4 of this Term, Primary Coordinator Di, heads off to the NT to catch up with her daughter Bek who is teaching up in remote east Arnhem land.

Olympics Theme Day – August 9
On this Thursday during Week 3, we’ll be holding a whole school celebration day. Parents are most welcome to come and join the fun. If you can make it, that would be great. A full program will appear in next week’s newsletter. The SS students will be running the day involving all Primary and Middle School students in a range of sporting and playful competitions.

Apart from celebrating sport in our lives we’ll also be focusing on a range of countries that hardly get to turn up - Cambodia, Uganda, Solomon Islands, East Timor, Iraq, Bangladesh, Haiti, Sudan, Afghanistan. In the lead up our classes are focusing on these countries that have a connection to MECS or to us as a nation.

There will also be a fundraising focus on the day that will be geared towards two schools: Hope School in Phnom Penh, Cambodia (the school that Jo regularly supports/visits and assists in training teachers); and Wairaka School, the school Anne and Ron are establishing in Uganda. Lunch will be sold and all students are asked to bring along a ‘note’ donation on Tuesday Aug 7 (collected during morning devotions).

David S Conference
During the Workbreak week, Di, Mic, Karissa and Sharon travelled over to SA to participate in a conference run by David, who Gerry refers to in his editorial. David heads up the Kuyers Institute at Calvin College in the US where he specialises in training teachers in pedagogy (the art of teaching). The Executive team – Martin, Gerry and Paul also caught David during the holidays at a 2 day leadership conference.

Prep Rooms
We were hoping to be in the renovated Prep rooms from last Monday, but a few last minute glitches held us back. We’ve asked the Prep parents to look after their Preps tomorrow, so Wendy and Jan can move in. Thanks Prep parents for working with us during the renovation period. I’m sure you’ll agree that the wait has been worth it.

Michael C-G Aug 16
This is an evening not to be missed. Please put it on your calendar and invite others along. It is free and will be a wonderful assistance to parents. More on this next week.

Swinburne Closure
We’ve been asked on a few fronts to join in political action to lobby the State Government about cutbacks to TAFE sector funding, i.e. the possibility of having this closure reversed. Whilst I can sympathise with viewpoints about local access to tertiary and TAFE education, this Swinburne decision has little to do with these recent State budget decisions and therefore in my view, such action is fruitless. The Swinburne decision might be clever politically (the State Government has capped the flag) but is more to do with Swinburne’s course numbers and offerings, cost cutting and funding development work elsewhere. Concerns should be directed to Swinburne’s leadership.

40th Anniversary Ball
Please check out the details about this huge event that will launch our 40th Anniversary. Two things to remember for the moment: mark Oct 20 on your calendar and ensure you take advantage of the early bird $40 dance package (for tickets bought before August 13th). If you do the sums, you’ll see the value. Don’t miss out.

Attention Year 9 & 10 Students
Ranges TEC Open Campus is happening this Friday 27 July, 4.30-6.30pm
Go along to meet the staff and students, take a tour of the facilities and learn more about our VCAL and Trade programs in Aeroskills, Building and Construction, Electrotechnology, Engineering, Furniture Making, Horticulture and Hospitality for Years 10, 11 and 12.
1/9 Hightech Place, Lilydale 3140
Enquiries: Please phone the Ranges TEC office .
www.rangestec.vic.edu.au
MECS Notes

EMC Forms Due Aug 3
All new and amended Education Maintenance Allowance forms are due August 3.
Please forward all applications to the Main Office.

Welcome Back Bek
We are thrilled that Bek is back at school. At the same time we wish to remind the school community about the need for Bek to avoid anyone who is sick. She is immunosuppressed as part of her treatment and very prone to getting infections.

So we ask that parents please be sure to let the school know about any infectious illness such as chicken pox/shingles, measles, mumps, gastroenteritis or glandular fever their child has. Thanks.

Heather
Newsletter Editor

Congratulations to Dean & Alison
... on the birth of their twin boys William and Jesse. The boys were born on Monday July 23.

Their big sister Dana was all smiles this morning at school telling her Prep class about her new brothers.

Best wishes with love from the MECS Community

Parkinson’s Walk
As you probably know, Marc has Parkinson’s Disease. This, naturally, impacts greatly on our family. The fundraising event Unity Walk is coming up on Sunday 26 August to raise funds for research and for public exposure and understanding. If you’d like to sponsor one of us then use this link, https://register.eventarc.com/sponsor/view/168507/marc-billing. If you want to find out more then use this link: www.parkinsonswalk.com.au

If you’d like to join me and the rest of “Billabong’s Mob” on the day, let me know so that we can arrange meeting time and place.

Paula

Parents & Friends

Woolworths Earn & Learn
Woolworths has extended the stickers until mid August so please continue to collect them for the school. We have collected an amazing 13,207 points so far. Well done. Sticker cards are available from the Main Office or online at www.woolworths.com.au/earnpandlearn.

Coles Sports For Schools Vouchers
The tally is now up to 8000! Keep them coming. It is helpful for counting if they are cut first.

Thanks.

Olympics Day
On August 9 the school will be running an Olympics Day. P&F have been asked to run a sausage sizzle for the whole school for lunch. We are only a small group so we need more helpers to come on board. If you could help us cooking sausages or serving please contact Evelyn.

P&F Meeting
This Monday 30 July we will have our next P&F meeting. It will be in the conference room at 9.10am. Everyone is welcome to come, have a laugh, meet new people and enjoy a yummy morning tea. See you there.

“Healr
Newsletter Editor

Congratulations to Dean & Alison
... on the birth of their twin boys William and Jesse. The boys were born on Monday July 23.

Their big sister Dana was all smiles this morning at school telling her Prep class about her new brothers.

Best wishes with love from the MECS Community

Parkinson’s Walk
As you probably know, Marc has Parkinson’s Disease. This, naturally, impacts greatly on our family. The fundraising event Unity Walk is coming up on Sunday 26 August to raise funds for research and for public exposure and understanding. If you’d like to sponsor one of us then use this link, https://register.eventarc.com/sponsor/view/168507/marc-billing. If you want to find out more then use this link: www.parkinsonswalk.com.au

If you’d like to join me and the rest of “Billabong’s Mob” on the day, let me know so that we can arrange meeting time and place.

Paula

Q&A

“Block or not to block – that is the question”

Well, it’s not quite Shakespeare and while it is certainly not the question, it is an important one to consider. There is some debate about whether or not schools should censor Internet access through blocking or filtering. What do we mean by blocking? It describes a number of methods that restrict access to certain websites usually because they contain inappropriate or offensive content. It usually occurs in schools, libraries and other places that children have access to the Internet and impacts our duty of care to our students.

Why would we need to even consider this question? There is a lot of “stuff” (how else do you describe it?) out there on the Internet – you just have to Google something or start exploring YouTube videos to begin to get a feel for this. Did you know that about 864,000 hours of YouTube videos are uploaded each day? That’s 98 years worth of viewing! Given there are more than 300 million web sites (and growing all the time), you can start to see how difficult it would be to make this filtering and blocking process fool proof. Blocking could become a bit over-restrictive but how easy would it be to step into something inappropriate without the maturity to deal with it?

Maybe you have tried searching on the Internet for something “innocent” and been surprised (or even shocked) by some of the results that come up. Unfortunately, the freedom allowed by the Internet also opens it up to many differing standards of appropriateness. It could be likened to suddenly finding an adult centrefold in the business section of The Age – and could be very distressing.

Opponents to blocking might use the term ‘censorship’ instead and suggest that any form of filtering is over-restrictive. The argument is that students today rely on the Internet for research more than on traditional print resources and filtering impedes their legitimate learning. They question who decides what is “inappropriate”; that at home there is usually no filtering, so how will they cope if they only have a “sanitised” version of the Internet at school? The Internet is certainly a big part of our students’ lives.

On the other hand, cyber bullying, exposure to mature, age-inappropriate or unhelpful content, erroneous sources of information and distractions are very real consequences that can’t be ignored.

So how does MECS try and find a balance? We do this through nurturing class environments, where students can question and feel supported. We aim to manage a balance between good supervision and age-appropriate responsibility. We teach students skills in cyber safety, Information Literacy and researching both in class and through the Resource Centre. And we are constantly fine-tuning our filtering settings. We also rely on parent partnership in this area. Of course, if you have any concerns or further questions, please raise them with your child’s teacher or the ICT Coordinator.
The 5 Greatest Challenges for Parents in 2012

Presented by Dr Michael Carr-Gregg

Thursday 16 August, 7.30pm
Mount Evelyn Christian School Gymnasium
Enter via Gate 2, Senior School Entrance, Hawkins Road, Mount Evelyn.

Entry is Free

Dr Michael Carr-Gregg 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.

MECS Notes

New Employment Opportunities.
Details can be found on the MECS Website

Interim Deputy Principal
This is a full time 12 month fixed term role.
Applications close Monday 6 August 2012.

Full Time Primary Class Teacher beginning 2013
Applications close 3 August 2012.

Part Time 3 year-old Kindergarten Program Teacher beginning Term 1, 2013.
0.26 FTE over 2 days per week.
Applications close 6 August 2012.

Part Time 3 year-old Kindergarten Program Assistant beginning Term 1, 2013.
0.22 FTE over 2 days per week.
Applications close 6 August 2012.

Part Time 4 year-old Kindergarten Program Assistant beginning Term 1, 2013.
0.54 FTE over 4 days per week.
Applications close 6 August 2012.

Applications close 13 August 2012.

Our New Defibrillator
Huge thanks go to the P&F for raising the funds to get our new Defibrillator - now hanging on the wall in the photocopy room. It is good to know it is there if we need it. Pete and I will be providing training for its use soon.

Melinda
First Aid Officer
Work Experience

Last week, while most of the students in the school were still enjoying another week of holidays, Year 10 students were having a productive time in the work place. They were participating in Work Experience.

Students went to a great variety of places including florists, hospitals, cafes, a dentist surgery, a science laboratory, primary schools, an advertising agency, child care places, Melbourne Storm and many more. This is a great opportunity for students to investigate opportunities for work and experience a week of full-time work. Many found out how much they enjoyed the particular workplace and may seek to follow this type of career path. For a few, they discovered that they would not like to follow this path. Of course both of these are valuable. I was really pleased to see that most of the students put a lot of effort in to get worthwhile experiences.

The reports back about students were fantastic. Employers were very happy with our students and most students had a great time, albeit tiring. We really appreciate the employers as we recognise that while students may be helpful, they are extra work for them. Many of the employers made special efforts to make sure the experience was worthwhile.

Year 10 students will complete another work experience in November and then, in Year 11, students can also participate in work experience in a more voluntary basis if they have completed the two weeks at Year 10.

Anne
Careers Teacher
Next Year is Coming...

On Tuesday afternoon, Year 12 students headed off to Swinburne, Lilydale to attend a Tertiary Information Session. This session provides students with options for their future. It is run by universities, TAFEs and private providers of tertiary education. The students appeared to have a great time, gained some good information about the VTAC guide, applying and most left with bundles of brochures to peruse as they investigate options for the future. Please pray for these students, not only are they studying hard, trying to do their best but in the midst of this they are also involved in deciding what the future might hold.

With next year in mind, the Herald Sun had a special supplement on Tuesday and so all Year 10s were supplied with a Herald Sun, in order to start the process of deciding what VCE subjects they might like or need to do. This is a process; they have been having extensive career guidance with counselling provided by Jacqui Mason as well as the Transition Education Week. In coming weeks there will be parent evenings as well to assist in the whole process. Again, it is important that good decisions are made and I would ask that you pray for them too. For any parents or students interested there are free tickets available for the Career Expo this weekend.

I would also like to take this opportunity to let you know of the upcoming University Open Days. These provide a great chance to see some of the different courses available, get a feel for institutions and help students and parents to think about the future together. The main dates for these open days are August 12, 19 and 26. Students in the Senior School are being alerted to all the specific dates.

Anne
Careers Teacher

Bread and Butter

Last term Preps were busy reading fairytales, and as a response to “The little Red Hen” we made our own bread and butter! Shaking the cream till it became butter was so exciting! We waited till after lunch, and as we came into our classroom we smelled the MOST amazing smell... fresh bread baking! Just right for a cold winter’s day. The challenge then was to cut the warm bread and spread our home made butter on the bread, and of course then to eat it!

Wendy & Jan
Prep Teachers
### Calendar

#### 2012 Term 3 Week 1: 22 JULY - 28 JULY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 23 July</td>
<td>Term 3 Begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 27 July</td>
<td>Year 6 Empowering Girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ranges TEC Open Evening 4.30-6.30pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 2012 Term 3 Week 2: 29 JULY - 4 AUGUST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues 31 July</td>
<td>Bully Busters Program Yr 3-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 1 August</td>
<td>Empowering Girls Info Evening 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thur 2 August</td>
<td>2013 Yr 11/12 Information Evening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 3 August</td>
<td>Yr 6 Positive Boys and Empowering Girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 4 August</td>
<td>Working Bee 8am-1pm with Morning Tea</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 2012 Term 3 Week 3: 5 AUG - 11 AUG

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 6 - Fri 10 August</td>
<td>Preschool Visits and EYCs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 7 August</td>
<td>Student Leaders &amp; Board Dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 8 August</td>
<td>‘Are you Ready?’ Session for 2013 Preps Parents 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thur 9 August</td>
<td>Olympics Theme Day VCE Excursion to Arts Centre 2013 Yr 10 Information Evening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 10 August</td>
<td>Yr 6 Positive Boys and Empowering Girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yr 12 VTAC Meeting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 2012 Term 3 Week 4: 12 AUG - 18 AUG

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 13 - Fri 17 August</td>
<td>Preschool Visits and EYCs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 14 August</td>
<td>Positive Boys All Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 14 - Sat 18 August</td>
<td>Sattler Christian College Yr 8 Visit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 15 August</td>
<td>Yr 7 &amp; 8 Interschool AFL &amp; Netball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thur 16 August</td>
<td>Michael Carr-Gregg Seminar 7.30pm Gym</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 17 August</td>
<td>Yr 6 Positive Boys and Empowering Girls</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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

### MECS COMMUNITY NOTICES

MECS does not endorse the products or services of any private advertiser. No responsibility is accepted by Mount Evelyn Christian School for the accuracy of information contained in advertisements or claims made by them.

#### As New Back Packs for Sale

Used once for the Wilsons Prom Camp Packs have large internal compartment, sleeping bag/boots compartment, 5 exterior pockets, 2 drink bottle holders, waterproof cover and is hydration compatible to 3ltr.

- Happy to help with fitting the pack.
  - 2 X Large (75ltr) $70.00 each.
  - 2 X Medium (65ltr) $60.00 each.

Call Stuart.

#### Book Publishing Seminar

If you have ever had the desire to write or get your own book published then you don’t want to miss this one day Publishing Seminar.

Author of 7 books in the Teen Talk series, Sharon will cover every stage from how to get your ideas down on to paper, to having your printed book on the shelf.

**Note Change of Date - Now on:**
Saturday 18 August, 2012

Where: Mount Evelyn Christian School
For details go to:
www.yourpublishingsuccess.com

#### Flat for Rent

Newly renovated, spacious 2 bedroom flat in Silvan. Quiet court location.

Please ring Julian or Marrie.

#### Car for Sale

Ford Laser 2000 model, Silver VGC, 102,000 kms RWC supplied.

$6000 or nearest offer.

Contact Geoff or Debra at MECS Office

#### Stentor Half Size Violin for Sale

In excellent condition. Case, bow and chin rests. $150

Call.

#### 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.

### Flat for Rent

Newly renovated, spacious 2 bedroom flat in Silvan. Quiet court location.

Please ring Julian or Marrie.

### Car for Sale

Ford Laser 2000 model, Silver VGC, 102,000 kms RWC supplied.

$6000 or nearest offer.

Contact Geoff or Debra at MECS Office

### Stentor Half Size Violin for Sale

In excellent condition. Case, bow and chin rests. $150

Call.

### 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.

### Stentor Half Size Violin for Sale

In excellent condition. Case, bow and chin rests. $150

Call.

### 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.

### Next Working Bee

Sat August 4
8am-1pm with Morning Tea

### Notices Sent Home This Week

(can also be downloaded from website)

- Active After School (AASC) Notice
- Prep Room Renovation Notice
- VET Bus Transport Notice
- JP Term 3 Letter

### Found

Single Camp mattress in excellent condition. Left at school kiss and drop.

Please see Deb or Paula at the Office