Don’t forget donations for Tues morning devotions see page 7

Preps have amazing new rooms!

Michael C-G Seminar Coming Soon Aug 16
The Languages Question - II

In this week’s editorial, our Administration Manager, Gerry, a former Bible Translator and linguist, continues with part two of ‘Why Learn Languages?’

Why Learn Languages? Part Two

In part one of Why Learn Languages I reminded you that it is developments in the Australian Curriculum that are causing us to carefully look at the place of languages in the MECS curriculum. I also shared with you some ideas from Smith, Scott and Rusthoven (Why Learn Languages? Journal of Christianity and Foreign Languages 12 (2011): 67–78.)

The Shape of the Australian Curriculum: Languages (I’ll abbreviate that as SACL) puts forward a range of ideas as to why students should learn languages. In part two of Why Learn Languages? I want to briefly quote those and note how the ideas from Part One affect our response.

SACL says, “The major rationale for learning languages is that being able to communicate proficiently gives learners essential communication skills in the target language, an intercultural capability, and an understanding of the role of language and culture in human communication...”

SACL says, “Learning languages broadens students’ horizons to include the personal, social, and employment opportunities that an increasingly interconnected and interdependent world presents... It has also brought the realisation that, despite its status as a world language, a capability only in English is not sufficient, and a bilingual or plurilingual capability is the norm in most parts of the world.

SACL says, “Learning languages extends the ability to communicate and extends literacy repertoires...”

SACL says, “Learning languages contributes to strengthening the community’s social, economic, and international development capabilities. Language capability contributes to the development of rich linguistic and cultural resources through which the community can engage socially, culturally, and economically in all domains, including business, trade, science, law, education, tourism, diplomacy, international relations, health, and the arts.

SACL says, “...For all students, learning Aboriginal languages and Torres Strait Islander languages provides a distinctive means of understanding the Country in which they live, including the relationship between land, the environment, and people.”

All of these reasons are worth considering; different ones concern different students to varying degrees at different times. All of them, however, need to be seen and evaluated in the light of the call to love one’s neighbour, seek justice, deny oneself, and witness clearly to a watching world. These various goals take their legitimate place as valuable avenues to love God and compassionately serve one’s neighbour.

There is no doubt that our Warlpiri language and culture learning course has opened up our students’ understanding and concern for our indigenous neighbours. The national curriculum will, however, demand more than a short course in Year 10. We must formulate a response to its expectations and perhaps more significantly to the challenges put to us by Professor Smith.

Whatever language is selected, we would like to be able to achieve immersion experiences with native speakers.

At this point many of you adults will be having flash backs to the awful experiences of language learning at school. Indeed, many of those experiences inoculated you against the wonder of discovering another language. Thankfully current language teaching practices and resources have developed beyond those that may have destroyed your interest in languages.

Our Languages Working Group met for the first time near the end of Term 2. The task of this Working Group is to develop a recommended response to the Languages part of the national curriculum. It has considered the idea of teaching Warlpiri throughout the school. This is an adventurous approach, though the practical reality of implementation both in terms of cost and personnel may be too great for our school community to sustain. If we did not implement Warlpiri from Prep to Year 8, the most likely alternatives seemed to be either Chinese or Indonesian (no decisions have been made, I’m just letting you in on ideas so far). Whatever language is selected, we would like to be able to achieve immersion experiences with native speakers (so perhaps we should choose a current Burmese refugee language). Of course quality teaching personnel and creative pedagogy are vital to an effective language learning program whatever language is chosen – Lord protect us from a wonder-deadening response!

These things challenge our comfortable notions of what is essential in the education of our children. The 2006 census shows us that the Shire of Yarra Ranges is the most monocultural local government area on the east side of Melbourne. In this context of low levels of contact with people from other cultures it is harder to hear the call to be a community that excels in teaching the languages and cultures of others as an expression of love, justice, humility and testimony.

Pray with us as we wrestle with these ideas. And by all means if you have any thoughts on the matter, let us know.
School Notes from Martin, Principal

Student Leaders Dinner with the Board
A key feature of our student leadership program is leadership training and exposure to leadership contexts. Next Tuesday evening our 40 student leaders will share dinner with the School Board and then see part of a Board Meeting in operation.

Olympics Theme Day – August 9
On page 7 in this newsletter you will find all the details about this fun day coming up next Thursday. On Tuesday all students are requested to bring along a ‘note’ donation towards assisting the two schools we are supporting presently: Wairaka School in Uganda and Rokapoke School in Cambodia. Please give generously.

40th Anniversary Ball
A very special 40th Anniversary event is coming up early next term. This week all school families will be receiving all the necessary information and a special invite. The dance package is a deal not to be missed. Please check it out.

Prep Rooms
On Monday our Preps received a very special treat. They were able to move into their newly renovated classrooms which look brand, spanking new. The PS multi-purpose (PUMP) room is back for the whole primary and Jan and Wendy, our wonderful Prep teachers, can’t stop smiling. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this big move and particular thanks to our builder, Jonathon and his team of tradies who did an outstanding job.

Peter York – good news
After many months of struggle with prostate cancer there’s been some good news for Pete (a MECS long term guitar instrumental teacher). Blood tests confirm that the medication is working well and the growth of the cancer is slowing down. Please continue to pray for Peter.

July Board Report
At the recent Board meeting Martin reported briefly on various events at school including teachers’ workbreak activities, the new Prep rooms and the upcoming 40th Anniversary Ball. Planning for next year was noted in relation to enrolments and staffing.

The Board was pleased to hear about the leading role our school Executive is taking in proposing the development of a co-ordinated response to the National Curriculum from Christian schools through Christian Education National (CEN). As part of the process, MECS will host science leaders later this year. We are grateful for the commitment our school has to the wider Christian schools movement.

Under consideration for this meeting was the Staffing portfolio and the Staff Report. This was presented by Martin and Paul who noted some highlights of the past year. Special mention was made of the staff retreat during the April workbreak, where staff were introduced to the Transforming Education curriculum document and embraced its substance wholeheartedly. The Board expressed appreciation for the excellent work of Jo Miller in coordinating a larger number of Educational Support staff following an increase in funding available and gratefully acknowledged the outstanding work of teachers and all staff at MECS.

Gerry presented the Finance Snapshot and along with Board member Ian provided the Board with an update on Ranges TEC.

Finally, discussion of leadership in 2013, when Martin will take a sabbatical, led to the Board deciding it was appropriate to advertise for an interim Deputy Principal for next year.

Louise on behalf of the Board

Dollarmite at GT
Have some fun with School Banking at Assembly on Monday Aug 13. There will be free giveaways! Haven’t joined yet? What are you waiting for? It’s great fun and teaches you how to save! Tell Mum and Dad or your carer they can join you up on the day.

In Term 3, activities offered are:
- Monday 3:45pm – 4:45pm: Athletics (Fun and Fitness Activities
- Monday 3:45pm – 4:45pm: Football
- Thursday 3:45pm – 4:45pm: Football

This is a free program and places are limited. For further information, contact the office on 9738 6000. The program will run for 7 weeks beginning 30 July.
MECS Notes

Practical Support Needed

From time to time, families in our school community need some practical support.

We would appreciate meals, in disposable containers, either bought freshly made and we can freeze them or frozen. They can be taken to the Main Office. Please mark the container with the ingredients, the amount of people it will feed and the date it was made. Many thanks.

Amanda
Community Relations Officer

Headline Help

Yarra Ranges Council has released a video designed to help parents with the treatment of head lice. Head lice is an ongoing and often reoccurring problem at most schools.

This 3 minute video shows the conditioner process and clearly outlines each step for parents to follow.

To view use this YouTube clip link http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Residents/Public_Health/Headlice

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.

Parkinson’s Walk

MECS parent, 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. Phone or email.

Paula
MECS Parent

Parents & Friends

Coles Vouchers

Our current tally is 12,000. Coles is giving double points at the moment, so if possible can you place them in an envelope with the amount on the front to help with the counting. That would be much appreciated.

Woolworths Earn & Learn

17,705. Well done to everyone. New target to reach of 20,000. Please only put 30 stickers per sheet. If you have more just drop them in the box.

Thanks

Dollarmite Banking

Just a reminder that Dollarmite Banking is every Wednesday. If you would like to open an account for your child please contact me.

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 by phone or email.

Evelyn
P&F President.

Q&A

"Why should I send my Child to Kindergarten at MECS? Is Kindergarten at MECS going to be any different to Kindergarten elsewhere?"

Imagine if…

... you were a family wishing to educate your young children with a Christian perspective, where values such as being friendly, caring and respectful for each other and for the environment around us were taught and modelled

... you were looking for a place where your children can take natural steps to transition to Primary, then Middle, then Senior School

... there was a place which reflected your values about meaningful relationships where young children will feel safe, secure, respected and loved by others.

... you could find a place where your child gets to connect with older siblings

... you could enter a purpose built kindergarten where your child is excited to discover and explore, experiment and experience!

These are the things that make MECS Kindergarten different.

MECS is very delicate and purposeful when it comes to Christian education. Central to our Kindergarten philosophy and practice is the image of the child as wonderfully created, powerful, capable and full of curiosity about the world.

Children are spiritual beings with an appetite for knowledge and a natural sense of wonder and curiosity. Creativity is a God-given characteristic; a need to express oneself or accomplish a goal or purpose. Children’s natural curiosity leads to action as they respond to their own spoken and unspoken questions of ‘What is that?’ ‘What will happen if I…?’ ‘Will the same thing happen each time?’ As the children explore a variety of experiences and responses, they begin to discover their gifts and interests.

The MECS Kindergarten will respect the uniqueness of childhood, and address a broad range of educational needs and interests. We will strive towards finding a balance of experiences that challenges each child in their learning and which helps them develop and grow in as many areas of knowledge, skill and performance as possible. Above all, each child will be encouraged to be the best ‘you’.

What a wonderful opportunity we have to offer Christian education to very young children in 2013!

Imagine that!
A Hero Story
Mount Evelyn Mail Tues 24 July
By Mara P-S and Russell B, Picture by Mara P-S
Aleksei (2009), a former Mount Evelyn Christian School student, jumped into freezing water to save a drowning mother and child.

Aleksei is a part-time lifeguard at Yarra Centre in Yarra Junction was at Phillip Island for a holiday with friends when they went for a stroll on the jetty at Cowes. As they arrived they found an Italian family in the Car Park yelling “Police”. While trying to ring emergency services they noticed two people struggling in the water and Aleksei and his friend Christelle Franc jumped in to help.

Five year old Ben had fallen off the jetty at about 1.30pm on Wed 18 July and his step-mother Kim, 44, had jumped in after him, but also got into difficulty in the icy water.

Aleksei rescued the mother who was unconscious and Christelle, Aleksei’s friend, the boy. They dragged them to the shore. Ben was ok but Kim was cold and drifting in and out of consciousness. No one had yet called the emergency services despite watching all this unfold and Aleksei had to ask someone to do that while he helped Kim. They stayed at the scene for another 20 minutes, assisting the paramedics.

Aleksei was able to use his lifeguard skills to make a difference. He said it felt a bit crazy that they just happened to save two lives, but people do this kind of thing every day.

The 5 Greatest Challenges for Parents in 2012
Presented by Dr Michael Carr-Gregg

1. Milennial parenting - be the world expert on your kid, set limits and boundaries - have a developmental perspective...
2. Alcohol - zero tolerance until 15 years of age - be aware of brain damage
3. Online safety - no facebook for anyone under 13
4. Sleep - make it a priority
5. The five secrets of resilience

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.
Preps Move in!

Monday was a very special day for the Preps who excitedly stepped into their new rooms. Actually the teachers were even more excited than the children!

The renovation has made a huge difference, giving a great sense of space and light. There are more spaces now for things like inventing and reading corners and special spaces for teaching groups. This includes a withdrawal room which has already been enjoyed by our wonderful take home book helpers. Both Prep rooms now also have interactive whiteboards.

The children prayed thankful prayers about lots of the things we share in our new rooms. Teachers, children and parents are all appreciating the blessing of our lovely learning environment.

Thank you to the parents who came and helped with the move last Thursday and Friday. We really appreciated it.

Jan and Wendy
Prep Teachers
Join Our Olympics Day

All day Thursday 9 August.
Preps – Yr 12s

Please bring along a ‘note’ donation on Tuesday 7 August. Collected during devotions for our two ‘supported’ schools in Uganda and Cambodia.

Parents are very welcome to cheer, enjoy the spectacle, buy lunch and support a great event.

See nine nations that won’t get gold medals be celebrated: Cambodia, Uganda, Solomon Islands, East Timor, Iraq, Bangladesh, Haiti, Sudan and Afghanistan.

Fundraising: providing basic school equipment to Wairaka School (the school the Mathesons are establishing in Uganda); and Rokapoke School (the school that Jo Miller regularly supports/visits and assists in Cambodia).

Hear Jo Miller and Ron & Anne Matheson speak about these schools at the closing ceremony (2:45pm in gym).

Games, competing, sports, country vs country, winning & losing, fanfare and playfulness. Don’t miss the ‘tough mudder’ obstacle course on the oval at 2pm.

Lunch is a fundraiser for our ‘supported’ schools. Organised by P&F. Sausage in bread (gluten free available) = $2.50; drink = $1, fruit = free.

Join

Celebrating sport, the Olympics and the worldwide community of nations, not forgetting those who do not get gold medals.

Opening Ceremony at 9:00 on the asphalt. Closing Ceremony at 2:45 in the gym.

Join Our Olympics Day

Thursday 9 August.

Mount Evelyn Christian School News
Thur 2 August  
2013 Yr 11/12 Information Evening

Fri 3 August  
Yr 6 Positive Boys and Empowering Girls
Yr 12 VTAC Meeting

Sat 4 August  
Working Bee 8am-1pm with Morning Tea

Mon 6 - Fri 10 August  
Preschool Visits and EYCs

Tues 7 August  
SP Poetry Incursion
MP CSIRO Incursion
Student Leaders & Board Dinner 6pm

Wed 8 August  
'Are you Ready'? Session for 2013 Preps
Parents 7.30pm

Thur 9 August  
Olympics Theme Day
VCE Excursion to Arts Centre
2013 Yr 10 Information Evening

Fri 10 August  
Yr 6 Positive Boys and Empowering Girls
Yr 9 & 10 Interschool AFL & Netball

Mon 13 - Fri 17 August  
Preschool Visits and EYCs

Mon 13 - Sat 18 August  
Sattler Christian College Yr 8 Visit

Tues 14 August  
Year 6 Positive Boys All Day

Wed 15 August  
Yr 7 & 8 Interschool AFL & Netball

Thur 16 August  
Michael Carr-Gregg Seminar 7.30pm Gym

Fri 17 August  
Yr 6 Positive Boys and Empowering Girls

Mon 20 - Fri 24 August  
Preschool Visits and EYCs
MS Special Week

Mon 20 August  
Year 10, 11 & 12 Drug and Alcohol Info Session

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**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.

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**Netball Club Registration**

Mount Evelyn Netball Club Spring registrations will be held on Tues 14 and Wed 15 August from 4-5pm at the Mount Evelyn Netball Clubrooms at Morrison Reserve, Mount Evelyn (behind the SDS and Secondary College). All age groups from 9 and under through to open. If you have any enquiries please contact Sheelagh.

**Tutor for Yr 1-7 students**

High quality private, professional tutoring for students at reasonable rates. Comprehensive & caring support to improve student confidence with Mathematics or Literacy skills. My home or yours; negotiated hourly rates according to distance. Phone Natalie Business hours.

**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.
Geoff or Debra at MECS Office.

**Stentor Half Size Violin for Sale**

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

**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.

Stuart.

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**Next Working Bee**

This Saturday!

August 4
8am-1pm
with Morning Tea

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**NOTICES SENT HOME THIS WEEK**

(can also be downloaded from website)

- SP Newsletter Term 3 (sent home last week)
- MP CSIRO Incursion
- Year 9 & 10 AFL Netball Day
- 40th Anniversary Ball Invitation

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**Found**

Canon Camera lens cap was found in the Pump Room this week. Please see Deb or Paula at the Office.

**Found**

Single Camp mattress in excellent condition. Left at school kiss and drop. Please see Deb or Paula at the Office.