Working Bees are Fun

Isaac (Prep), helps clean on off the Buses at the Working Bee. Story pg 6.
Did you just say what I think you just said?

This week Principal Martin revisits a topic that has come up frequently – the challenges that confront adolescent children and parents in a rapidly changing world. It's topical because next Thursday we have the privilege of Dr Michael C-G leading a free parent seminar. It's a night not to be missed.

Before I start, I should preface my comments to say, things aren't always as bleak as what this article might suggest. Many MECS parents are absolutely relishing the teenage-world and it's only on occasion that a small blip occurs. That being said, at times it is this tough.

Addressing real problem issues

Back in March I wrote a pastoral letter to all parents of Year 9 – 12 students about some of the challenges we face – things like parties (drugs and alcohol), Facebook and social media, friendship and bullying, drugs and peer influence, choices and the contexts one lands in, self confidence and identity, and so on.

Big challenges don't have easy fixes. All of us need to do our bit. At the conclusion of that letter I promised that the school would do a few specifc things; a Drug and Alcohol information session is coming up for our Year 10-12s; the family directory that provides parents with the relevant contact information (when parties, sleep-overs and trading information is helpful) is also on its way; and now I'm very pleased that Dr Michael Carr-Gregg is coming along to share some of his plain-speaking, common-sense advice.

Aggggghhh

We love our adolescent children dearly but we also find them incredibly frustrating at times. If I had a bunch of parents sitting here and I asked, 'What drives you nuts?', would they say things like this?

Just look at the state of that bedroom. I can't see the floor... They won't talk to me. It’s mono-syllabic grunts... Why can't you do as you're told? Do I always have to argue with you?... What's so hard about giving a hand occasionally, I'm slaving away all day, every day... I've told you a thousand times to take those earphones out. No wonder I'm slaving away all day, every day... I've told you... Look at me when I'm talking to you. Is some basic respect too much to ask for?... If I see you playing that computer game one more time, I swear I'm going to throw it out the window... Go to bed. If you aren't in bed in five minutes I'm pulling Facebook for a week...

We say young people are special because God has made them in His image and He was willing to sacrifice His Son for every one of them. We know that kind of love. It's the reason why you'd jump into a perilous situation to save your child if they were drowning. They're special because they are loved.

3. Intimacy – I need to be loved

Secondly, it is the nature of young people to push the boundaries, ask hard questions, experiment and seek out their own identity. When we work with that and don’t fight it (unless we should because their safety is at stake), we recognise that young people need to find their own way to learn, meet, study, drive, relate and so on.

Thirdly, their core needs are basic to us all. Sociologists talk of the five "I's" of youth. Recognising and working on these areas can be so helpful.

Whilst these basic needs remain constant, the way in which these things show themselves is constantly changing. This is the part parents struggle with the most.

1. Identity – I need to find out who I am
2. Independence – I need to find my own feet
3. Intimacy – I need to be loved
4. Inspiration – I need to dream and discover my spiritual self
5. Investment – I need to develop my passions and commitments

Fourthly, whilst these basic needs remain constant, the way in which these things show themselves is constantly changing. This is the part parents struggle with the most. You might be like me. I'm a no fan of Facebook. I can trot out all the standard lines: Don't have the time; who's interested whether someone sneezed? it trivialises; rather talk face-to-face; it's not everyone's business, and so on. However, the new reality is: it is around to stay; it is a new form of community; friendship does work here and for some it is a vast improvement.

We've got to admit that this technology has many brilliant uses. Those of us who struggle with the changing context (like me) need to remember to do all in our power to engage positively and not just react negatively.

Our young people need so many things - the Lord; an understanding of who they are and what they've got to contribute (a sense of purpose); loving parents; helpful teachers and a list of other wise things, that's even longer than their excuses for why the dishes didn't get done.

Some basic helpful truths

As together we address some of these issues, it is helpful to remember a few basic truths.

1. Identity – I need to find out who I am
2. Independence – I need to find my own feet
3. Intimacy – I need to be loved
4. Inspiration – I need to dream and discover my spiritual self
5. Investment – I need to develop my passions and commitments

‘All that every teenager needs is a simple strong dose of positive self-image’. Now there’s lots of good that comes from a positive outlook, but over-emphasising the building of self-confidence without rooting that in who we are before God, quickly leads to your child becoming the ‘centre of their own universe’, and rank selfishness comes along for the ride.

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Some basic helpful truths

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**School Notes** from Martin, Principal

**Kinder Assessment**
We had a visit from the Department of Education last Thursday as part of the process of becoming a registered kindergarten provider. It went very well and we are all on track for our 2013 opening.

**Student Leaders/Board dinner**
On Tuesday evening the student leaders shared dinner with the Board, then witnessed the first part of the Board meeting. It was a great opportunity for the student leaders to see a Board meeting in action and spend some time getting to know the Board members.

**Olympics Day Postponed**
It’s a pity that we’ve had to postpone this wonderful celebratory day. At the time of making this call (Tuesday morning) the Bureau was predicting 9° and showers throughout the day. Therefore we’ve pushed it out one week (Thursday 16). We’re hoping for a good day. I hope this hasn’t inconvenienced any families. We’d still love parents to join us on the day.

**Fundraising for our Cambodian and Ugandan schools**
On Tuesday we collected donations for these two schools. The tally to date is $3213. With the food having been donated for next week’s Olympics sausage sizzle lunch, all proceeds will be added to the funds collected and we’ll report on the full amount then.

**Chinese Visitors**
Last Friday we had a visit from 26 Chinese teachers. They clearly enjoyed their experience and the opportunity to see a school setting totally different from their own. They also took much pleasure in the morning tea of high Australian cuisine - lamingtons and Tim-Tams. It’s great to share multi-cultural experiences.

**40th Anniversary Invites**
Did you get yours? Why not eat the delightful chocolate after you’ve completed the booking. This is an evening for everyone, even if you aren’t a dancer. Just come along and enjoy the entertainment and celebration. If you are a dancer, or want to learn a little, then please check out all the instructional nights.

**Staffing**
Staff interviews for next year have commenced. It’s good to be as early as we can be. Often times there are many variables that need to be considered before appointments can be offered. Last week we interviewed for the School Accountant position; this week it’s the Interim Deputy Principal and Primary School positions; next week it’ll be the Kindergarten teachers and assistants. Please pray for those conducting the interviews and for those who are being interviewed.

Di heads off on some well-earned long service leave this Friday. We wish her all the best in her travels, and pray for her safe return early in Term 4. Sue returns from her LSL break and will be back with us on Monday Aug 13.

**Year 9 Centre Opened**
This coming Monday morning we’ll undertake the official opening of the new Year 9 Centre. Even though we’ve been using this new/renovated set of classrooms since the beginning of the year, whenever government money is contributed a formal ‘opening’ needs to occur. We’ll be undertaking this opening at 9am in the Year 9 Centre and parents are most welcome. Because it was state government funds, we are privileged to have the Member for Evelyn, Christine, attend and officially ‘open’. Parents are welcome to join in the morning tea that will follow for the Year 9 staff, student leaders, Executive and Christine.

**Free Michael C-G Seminar – not to be missed. Next Thursday, 16 August**
I hope you all received the separate letter that was making sure you didn’t miss the invite to attend this outstanding event. I’m trying to use every convincing way I know how to get every school parent along (and then invite your neighbours and friends). Not to fill the gym, but because Michael’s message is incredibly useful for every parent. I’m sure you’ll say, “I’m so glad I went along”.

**New School Accountant**
It is with great pleasure that we announce that the School has selected Craig as the School Accountant to replace Tony. We were faced with the great problem of having to select from a number excellent candidates. This decision means that Craig will be stepping down from the Board as employees cannot be MECS Board members. Craig will join the Admin team this week and we will farewell Tony at the end of Term 3.

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**Student Board Dinner**

**Student Leaders meet with the Board**
On Tuesday night the student leaders had dinner with the Board and then observed the beginning of the Board meeting. The students were challenged to mix it up and sit near Board members during the shared meal and most significantly ask questions about the Board and leadership in general. Some very insightful questions were asked and answered. The Board delights in the opportunity to play a part in encouraging leadership among the students.

_Gerry_
Administration Manager

**Board notes**
At the Board meeting on Tuesday night the Board received the Principal’s report, the major infrastructure report (both in part with student leaders in attendance), the monthly financial snapshot, and a report on Ranges TEC. The infrastructure report flagged the fact that the Infrastructure Master Plan is undergoing renewal and so no decisions on our buildings were required. We discussed and responded to an announcement from CEN (our umbrella body) about impending changes to the way they are financed and the shape of our partnership in the movement.

A first conversation about how MECS might look beyond itself took place as a paper on overseas partnerships was considered. The paper raised more questions than answers; further work on guiding principles needs to take place. The Executive also updated the Board on progress in staff selection for 2013. We finalised our plans to participate in a Board professional development day this Saturday.

_Sue, Board Chair_
**MECS Notes**

**Ranges TEC Director**

In February we were delighted to open Ranges TEC. Years of planning and thousands of hours of preparation and work had gone into getting registered as a school and RTO and getting courses started. There has been a whole team, but at the front has been the Director, Ellen, and we have much to be thankful to her for.

Recently Ellen has informed the Ranges Working Group that she'll be finishing up at the end of the year. We are saddened to hear this news because Ellen has been pivotal to the successful establishment of Ranges TEC. Her tireless, dedicated and expert guidance and direction has been an essential ingredient in Ranges TEC's success. Ellen has effectively and enthusiastically conveyed the message that Ranges TEC has something special to offer young people and the wider community.

The Working Group will undertake the task of finding and appointing a new Director to commence for 2013. The staff, student and parent community at Ranges TEC have been recently informed of this news. We wish to take this opportunity to publicly thank Ellen for the selfless and massive investment of time and energy that she has invested into establishing Ranges TEC. At the end of the year Ellen will be able to leave knowing she has contributed in a significant way to a new educational venture that is enduring and unique. The three founding schools will say, 'well done good and faithful servant.'

**Ross**  
Chair Ranges TEC Working Party  
Principal, Donvale Christian College

**MECS Notes**

This term we have several performance events coming up!  
Please note the following dates that apply to your child.

**Thursday August 30 - VCE Music Solo & Ensemble Recital, 7pm Theatrette.**

**Thursday September 6 - Bandfest 2012, 7pm Theatrette (for Ensembles and Bands in the school).**

**Thursday September 13 - Middle School Recital, 7pm Theatrette.**

We hope to see you at these musical events.

For more information please watch this space or contact Annora.

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**Parents & Friends**

**Coles Vouchers**

Our collection continues. If possible can you place them in an envelope with the amount on the front to help with the counting. This would be much appreciated.

**Woolworths Earn & Learn**

Just one week to go. New total 21,184. Well done to everyone. New target to reach of 25,000! 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 Evelyn.

**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 Evelyn.

**Evelyn**  
P&F President

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**Parents & Friends**

**“MECS used to be known as a ‘no-competition’ school. Is a Christian approach having ‘no losers’?”**

When I first started teaching at MECS and was organizing the Primary Athletics Cross Country event, I proudly ordered ribbons for all students. I thought that by giving ‘well done’ and ‘competitor’ ribbons to all participants they would enter into the spirit of the competition and not feel left out. I was surprised when a Prep student who was in line to receive his ‘well done’ ribbon stated, “But I want the blue one.”

It reminds me that society’s view of what is important in life is not always in line with what Jesus would say. When the disciples asked Jesus who will sit at his right hand (in other words who is the best), Jesus replied ‘The first will be last and the last will be first’. The prep student had already seen what was going to bring him the most recognition.

A ‘no-competition’ school is not possible or realistic. Whether we set up formal competitions or not, students gauge how they are going by comparing themselves to others.

As a Christian school we would hope to first and foremost affirm the students as wonderful and unique individuals created in God’s image, with a purpose. However, we are not all gifted in the same way. A school community needs to help individuals find what makes them feel that they are useful and can do something well. Some may excel in sport and be motivated by competition that pushes them to test their limits.

An approach of ‘having no losers’ assumes that it is bad to lose. Our response to winning and losing in competition is a window into our hearts and is an opportunity to see what it is we value. Although we need to protect children and young adults from repeated failure that eats away at their self-esteem, loss in the context of structured competition can be used for discussion. Loss can motivate us to do better and help us empathise with others in the same situation. Loss can build resilience and can help us prioritise what is really important to us.

A stance against competition is understandable if you see winning as a means to further one’s status at the expense of others. MECS is now involved in intra and inter school sporting competitions but will always view such competitions as a chance to express a God given desire to ‘play’ and cooperate as a team rather than a single-minded need to win. However, sport is competitive by nature and part of the game is to win.

A Christian approach to competition will make sure that community takes priority over individualism. Learning will take place through winning and losing.
MECS Notes

Future Enrolments at MECS

We realise one of the great ways that people come to MECS is by personal invitation and referral by our current families and we greatly value this. If you have friends and family who are interested in Christian education, please encourage them to telephone the school to speak with either Nicole or Amanda regarding enrolment possibilities. You can also pick up an information pack from the school office to give to them.

We are currently processing enrolments for 2013 and 2014 and future years. If you have a sibling of a currently enrolled student whom you would like to be considered for a position at MECS, could you please ensure that you have completed an ‘Application for Sibling Enrolment’, available from the office and return it to the school office as soon as possible.

This will help us tremendously in our forward planning. If you are unsure as to whether you have already completed a form, do not hesitate to contact Christine, MECS Registrar, via the office. Please note that if your child is not attending MECS in 2013, the school requires one full term’s notice in lieu of leaving MECS.

Amanda and Nicole
Community Relations Officers

Community Meals
Freezer is Empty

There are families in our school community who need some practical support. We would like to be able to give some meals to them but the freezer is EMPTY. 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 and Nicole
Community Relations Officers

New Employment
Opportunities

Details can be found on the MECS Website


Applications close 13 August 2012.

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MECS Kitchen News

Weekly Special
The Weekly Special this week is a Hot Dog with cheese. Sauce 20c extra - $3.50

Extra Special
Chicken only Sausage Rolls. Limited stock - only $2.00

New Menu Item - UFO’s (Chicken UFO pictured)
A soft mini Pita with either
1. Chicken, cheese and mayonnaise - $4.00 or
2. Beef burger with cheese and sauce - $4.00

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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.
Focus on Working Bees

Working Bees come around so quickly! We have 6 Working Bees during the year and they are a great way to improve the school grounds. Activities include landscaping, building sleeper walls, cleaning buses, maintenance on the school buildings, replacing worn chair and desk tops, fixing taps, cleaning S-bends on sinks, replacing lights, blowing all the paved areas, cleaning drains, spreading mulch, keeping the fitness track in good condition, and pulling weeds, blackberries and pittosporums.

These are really just a few of the jobs we do on Working Bees to help keep MECS looking as good as it does and it would not happen if Steve and I did not have the support of all you parents.

It is great for parents to come to one or more Working Bees a year as it is a terrific way to see where your child/children go each day and you can be involved in making it a beautiful place to go to school.

Coming to a Working Bee is also a great way to meet other children’s parents as well as catch up with friends or make new ones.

Working Bee morning teas are a highlight! We have a great morning tea organized by Sheryl and usually Susan (an ex parent who loves helping out even though her daughter left last year). These are a great way to share with a wider community at school. You might see a friend from the past or meet other people you did not know had children at MECS. In February and December we have a great big hearty breakfast instead.

Sadly last Saturday, Colin did his final working bee. He has been attending for 28 years! Thanks for a fantastic effort Colin.

So when your next Working Bee form comes home, think about it and what it means to your children, and how you can benefit the school before you just decide to pay the fee for not coming. We keep the Working Bee fee low, because we want you to come to a Working Bee because you want to, not because you want to avoid a big fee.

Thanks so much for everyone’s help and support at our Working Bees and especially for the fantastic effort last Saturday.

Peter and Steve
Property Team
BullyBusters comes to MECS

Bullying is such an emotive word! It is laden with all sorts of thoughts and emotion. Does it conjure up memories for you of being pushed around by the mean kid, or excluded or taunted? Do you remember your own school days and do you have a burnt-in memory of something that happened to you? Our own experiences can make us very sensitive to bullying and, as parents, we want to make sure our own kids don’t experience bullying. We want our kids to be safe and happy at school.

MECS Primary have been thinking and talking about bullying over this last term.

Here is our definition of Bullying:

What Bullying Is:-

• Bullying is intentional (they mean to do it to you).
• Bullying is ongoing (it keeps going and doesn’t stop).
• Bullying makes you feel powerless.
• The bully acts like they have all the power.
• It can be, punching, hitting, kicking, tripping, pushing or be leaving you out on purpose or ignoring you.
• It can be put downs, nasty and mean talk, name-calling, swearing at you, teasing, threatening you, following you, stalking, taking your things, breaking your things on purpose. It can be putting you down or have a fight.
• It is not when you get hurt by accident.
• It is not when you and your friends have trouble getting along or have a fight.
• It is not when you are having difficulty finding or making friends.

Last term all students filled in a bullying survey to see how we were going in this area. It was heartening to see that the majority of our children feel very safe at school.

However, bullying is something we need to continually raise awareness of and be proactive about. Hence last week we had a visit from ‘BullyBusters’.

What is BullyBusters?

BullyBusters is an awareness program that our students in Year 3-6 participated in. The hour long session covered the topics of:

• What is Bullying and what forms does it take?
• What can you do if you are being bullied?
• What can you do to help keep yourself safe?
• What is the difference between dobbing and getting help for a real problem?

Following is an outline of what the session covered. You may want to use some of these helpful words when you talk with your child at home.

Bullying can be physical, verbal or emotional.

We can respond by being aggressive (angry, violent, abusive, reactive) or passive (sulky, oppressed, withdrawn, silent) or we can be assertive (speak up for ourselves, honest, upright, firm, not afraid).

Students learnt, and role played, that if we stand firm (use a strong body - stand up straight, be relaxed and look at the person) we can say “Stop it, I don’t like you doing.....” or “Stop it, I don’t like you saying.....”

This can go a long way to helping keep ourselves safe and make the person aware that what they are doing is unacceptable.

Students also learnt that it is important to tell ‘someone who cares’, a trusted adult, who you know will act on your behalf.

If your child comes home with a story about something that has happened you can assist them by checking through the following list:

1. Listen to their story
2. Check the story against the definition of bullying. Is it a one-off incident, accident, annoyance or falling out, or is it really bullying - ongoing and taking all the power away from your child?
3. Help them rehearse the phrases... “Stop it, I don’t like it...” Use a firm, strong voice and firm relaxed body
4. Make sure they have told someone who cares and who will address the issue. Students need to learn to tell someone straight away so things don’t get out of hand.

During the session the BullyBusters challenged us to think about being a bystander to bullying – and how doing nothing actually keeps the problem going and continues to give the power to the bully. The students were given, and practised, strategies of ‘standing up’ and responding as a bystander.

Our students were wonderful during the sessions and many of them were already rehearsed and able to use this sort of language. Well done MECS Primary.

We plan to follow up the session in our Circle Times and in class devotions and discussion as we remind our students of God’s command for us to love each other and be in community with each other. Bullying, or not standing up to bullying that you see, is not faithful to who God has created us to be and how he wants us to further his Kingdom. We will also link this to our restorative practises in the Primary School and talk about the need for God’s forgiveness and restoration as we tackle our sinfulness in this area. Please remember to pray for our students as they learn these life skills.

Diane
Primary School Coordinator

Zoe, Beth & Savannah demonstrating the aggressive, passive and assertive responses to bullying.
**Mon 6 - Fri 10 August**
Preschool Visits and Early Years Conversations

**Thur 9 August**
2013 Yr 10 Information Evening

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

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

**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**
Olympics Theme Day (weather permitting)
Michael Carr-Gregg Seminar 7.30pm Gym

**Fri 17 August**
Yr 6 Positive Boys and Empowering Girls

**2012 Term 3 Week 5: 19 AUG - 25 AUG**

**Mon 20 - Fri 24 August**
Preschool Visits and EYCs

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

**Wed 22 August**
Yr 5 & 6 Hoop Time
Kindergarten Open Night for 2013 (for new Kindergarten parents and others) 7.30pm

**Thur 23 August**
Parent Seminar (A) in Staffroom 7pm

**Fri 24 August**
Yr 6 Positive Boys and Empowering Girls
SP Space Expo in Gym

**2012 Term 3 Week 6: 26 AUG - 1 SEPT**

**Mon 27 August**
Yr 11 & 12 Interschool AFL & Netball

**Tues 28 August**
Prep Connect Morning Tea 9am

**Wed 29 August**
JP Planetarium Excursion
Yr 3 & 4 Hoop Time

**Thur 30 August**
Fathers Day Stall
VCE Music Recital 7pm

**Fri 31 August**
Yr 6 Positive Boys and Empowering Girls
Fathers Day Stall, Lunchtime Only

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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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**TV & DVD For Sale**

Sony Bravia LED Edge TV 80cm/32 inch for $750

Sony Blu-Ray / DVD Player $150

Both brand new in box. Both unwanted raffle prizes. All serious offers considered.

Contact Tim.

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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.

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**Holiday Home For Rent**

In Shoreham (near Flinders) on the Peninsula. A 4 bedroom holiday home is available for rent, in a quiet court, not far from the beach. If you are interested in renting it for a few days, a weekend, a week or longer, just let us know. Very reasonable rent. 1 week is available in the Sept school holidays.

Please ring Maria and Henk.

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**Alto Saxophone For Sale**

Alto Saxophone in excellent condition and all accessories.

For more information, please call Jade.

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**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.

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**Book Publishing Seminar**

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

Saturday 18 August, 2012, Mount Evelyn Christian School.For details go to: www.yourpublishingsuccess.com

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**Flat for Rent**

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

Please ring Julian or Marrie.

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**MECS 40th Anniversary event details:**

This week the invitations have been sent out for the MECS 40th Anniversary Ball - this event launches an exciting 12 months of celebrating 40 years of MECS. The Ball - being held on **October 20**, is a celebration for the current MECS Community.

**March 16 and 17, 2013** - we will be celebrating with our pioneers and founders, early staff members and students by re-enacting the Opening Ceremony held on the grounds 40 years ago. We will continue celebrating with an afternoon tea and a formal dinner, then on the following morning we will be joining with the Mount Evelyn Christian Reformed Church in a celebratory Church service. Invitations will be sent out soon.

**October 26, 2013** - will be our Reunion-Festival day, all past students and staff are invited to come back for a wonderful day of re-connecting, reminiscing, and celebrating 40 years of MECS together.

If you are interested in being involved in the organising any of these events I would love to hear from you.

Nicole
Community Relations Officer