Running in the Sun - Great weather for the Sports

Tristan & Adam run in the 13 Year Old 100 meters race
40th Anniversary -
The Reasons Why

This week Principal Martin answers some of the issues that have been coming in as our community considers whether or not to attend the 40th Anniversary Ball on October 20th.

Should I really go?
Yes! These events are rare. 40 years is a good innings and we want to kick this celebration off with a fun gala event. It’s a night out where you don’t cook, there’s lots of things to hold everyone’s interest and you’re joining us in celebrating a big milestone. God has been good to us and we want to party. Please join in.

I’ve got nothing to wear?

Male response: What a lot of rot. I know it’s easy for a bloke to say this; all we need to do is find the lovely white shirt that’s been pre-pressed for us, some black daks, the tie, quick polish of the shoes – all of 5 minutes. What’s the problem?

Female response: Don’t stress about what to wear! Despite its title, this is not a ‘ball gown’ affair (unless of course you want it to be). The faithful black dress at the back of the wardrobe is perfect. Or actually anything on the dressy-side that you feel comfortable in. Don’t let ‘nothing to wear’ stop you, because I’m pretty confident you do have something!

But I don’t want to dance
That’s fine. No compulsion. There’s something for everyone at this 40th anniversary celebration. It’s not just about dancing. The choice to dance or not reminds me of that courtyard conversation in Dead Poet’s Society …

Keating: Now we all have a great need for acceptance… I want you to find your own walk right now, your own way of striding, pacing: any direction, anything you want, whether it’s proud or silly. Anything. Gentlemen, the courtyard is yours. You don’t have to perform. Just make it for yourself. Mr Dalton, will you be joining us?

Charles: Exercising the right not to walk.

Keating: Thank you, Mr Dalton. You just illustrated the point. Swim against the stream.

But I do want to dance. I just couldn’t make the lessons
Not a problem. Even though our dance instructors have suggested a minimum of 4 lessons (on either Monday or Thursday nights 7:30 in the gym) if you only get to one or two that’s fine. Or you might try to pick it up on the night. Our Dance Instructor Monica will be there helping us along; or there’ll be some free dance options also.

It’s too expensive.
Really? Or is that just an excuse? It’s value for what’s on offer. If finance is an obstacle, please drop me an email and we’ll get it sorted. Our mission statement says we provide what we do “…at a price affordable to committed parents”

You can’t wear stilettos on a gym floor
Who said it was in the gym? It’s at the Hawkins Heights Emporium, second driveway up Hawkins Road. Pull in at the grand entrance and let the coachman undertake your valet parking.

We’ve dance-floor tested stilettos and they’re fine, though avoid the pencil thin ones if you can. So high-heel up and come along in your best formal gear.

Does my… look too big in this?

Not an area any self-respecting principal would venture into.

Do I really want to go out for dinner with people I don’t know?
You don’t necessarily have to – you choose who will sit at your table. Just buy eight tickets and you can even choose who sits next to who. So ask your nan and anyone in your extended family (anyone with some form of connection to the school). If you’re not buying a table, you can request who you would like to sit with. Or, be brave! You never know who you might meet. MECS folk are really nice!

I can’t find babysitters
Look up Jim’s Babysitting service and we’ll provide a $20 voucher towards your costs.

What if Martin prays for too long?
This is not a condition he suffers from and the only thing he’s down for on the program is judging the desserts.

What if my husband has two left feet and embarrasses me?
You’re in good company. How would anyone notice… (bit like one of my dress comments).

What if I end up on Facebook?
We won’t let anyone out until they’ve signed the disclaimer stating they would never dare participate in such a vile abuse of privacy.

It’s all too much for me to think about now, paying, dressing up, it’s in October. I’ll think about it when it gets closer.

No you probably won’t! They’re just silly excuses. Think about it now because we’ve got to ensure the MECS Grand Ballroom becomes a stupendous transformational experience and in order to do that we need to know the numbers.

So deal with it now, tomorrow or definitely next week. Sat Oct 20th – come along and celebrate 40 years of God’s blessings to MECS.
School Notes from Martin Hanscamp, Principal

Developing Leaders Conference
Last week a number of our teaching staff and I spent three days at the CEN Developing Leaders Conference. It was a time of inspiration and skill development for some of those involved in areas of leadership in Christian Education. The MECS staff that attended have been sharing their insights with the rest of the staff. These events are great opportunities to meet with other people from around Australia who share the vision for Christian education.

Natalie’s Memorial Service
On Tuesday a number of MECS staff attended the memorial service of Natalie, past student of MECS (Class of ’91). It was an opportunity to celebrate Natalie’s life and mourn her loss, particularly for her husband Josh and four young children. We continue to uphold the Natalie’s family in our prayers.

Athletics Day
The Year 7-12 Tribal Athletics day is always a great day, and Tuesday’s event was no exception. It’s always terrific to see the tribes working together across the age groups. What great weather after the last few years.

The challenges of School Life
Last week was a pretty tough week for the school with multiple challenging student issues. We were reminded again of how tough the journey sometimes is for our young people. Please remember to pray for the school and for those of us in leadership as we seek to carry out God’s desires within our community.

Yesterday’s State School Strike
One of the things about being an independent school is that you are not locked into large systems-driven approaches. Today most state schools are on a skeleton crew as are many Catholic schools. The key issue in dispute is wages. The state government is sticking to its 2½% and the union is requesting 30% over three years. We find these ambit claims and postulating such an unhelpful approach. Because wages are such a large component of the overall school budget (≈ 70%) this is a very important issue. The board has a policy of being strongly guided by the state rates as we seek to keep parity, although we are planning around a 3 – 3.5% indexation for the moment, but we’ll wait to see the outcomes of this highly divisive issue.

JP Planetarium Excursion
On Wednesday all the Junior Primary students, teachers and parent helpers went on an excursion to Scienceworks.

First we got inside and went to a place called Nitty Gritty Super City. There were lots of games and amazing things to see. Lots of people were there!

Next we went to the General Viewing Area. There were lots of good facts and tricks.

We all went to the Planetarium and saw a movie called ‘Tycho to the Moon’. In the second part in the Planetarium we saw famous shapes in the sky because we are learning about Space.

Finally it was time to go back to school. It was lots of fun!

Jess

Lastly we went into this dark room, found a seat and watched ‘Tycho to the Moon’.

Tycho is a dog who howls at the moon, he needed a kennel, so they bought one. It looked stranger on the inside than on the outside. He pressed one of the buttons and they visited the moon. Then the sun and finally they came back to Earth.

Shelly

On Wednesday JPs went to Scienceworks. JPs are learning about Space. We watched ‘Tycho to the Moon’ and a constellations movie. The bit I liked best about it would be the Planetarium. I loved it!

Jasmine

On Wednesday I went to Scienceworks. First we went to look at cool stuff. Next we went to the bottom of Scienceworks. Then we went to the Planetarium. Finally we saw Tycho to the Moon. It was about a dog going to the Moon. The best thing about the excursion was the Planetarium.

Josh

On Wednesday JPs went to Scienceworks. JPs are learning about Space. We watched ‘Tycho to the Moon’ and a constellations movie. The bit I liked best about it would be the Planetarium. I loved it!

Jed

Hope

Isobelle
MECS Notes

Parent Teacher Interviews for Primary and Middle School

The Parent Teacher Interviews for Primary and Middle School students are being conducted on 19, 20 and 21 September. There will be no classes for Primary or Middle School on Friday 21 September.

Today you will receive a letter about our new system Parent Teacher On-Line (PTO) which is an internet-based booking system for parents to book their Parent Teacher interviews. This system will save time for parents and staff and make it much easier to choose the Interview times that suit you! It will also provide you with control over the times you choose and any changes can be made quickly and efficiently using PTO.

You will be able to book interview times from any internet-connected computer. If you do not have internet access at home or elsewhere do not PANIC. You will be able to contact the Office and the office staff will be able to book these online for you. The easy to follow instruction sheet contained in the letter will also have your user name (parent surname) and a unique password. The system is accessible by clicking on the PTO logo from the school's website www.mecs.vic.edu.au and will be available from 12 September to make Interview bookings.

If you have questions about the new system after reading the letter, instruction sheet and ‘had a go’, then feel free to contact the Office.

Christine
Office Manager

Q&A

“Should every older adolescent do a Third World short term experience?”

The easy answer to the question is of course “No”. I do however believe we should be made aware of the needs in the developing world. For some an experience can provide them with a deeper understanding of the realities of life there. This has recently been very apparent with the SBS series last week; “Go Back to Where You Came From”, when a variety of people were able to ‘experience’ conditions similar to asylum seekers.

I am very concerned by the trend apparent in our society of finding the next experience to fill the consumer cry. Poverty should not be the newest tourist destination. However, watching the ‘schoolies’ last year be confronted by the lives of people so much less fortunate than themselves, I saw them grapple with the issues of life in a developing country. For many this was life changing, and the path of their lives will never be the same. For others, it had a big impact at the time with varied long term effect. Having context is extremely important. I am thrilled to see students at MECS gain some of that context. The Olympics day and work around it, focussed on the different opportunities for people based on their birthplace. In Middle School, Cycle B are spending this week looking at issues in developing countries. In Senior School students of Religion and Society are focussing on poverty and disability as well as Health and Human Development looking at the millennium goals. Without continued connection with the issues, short term experiences can be significant events that have no ongoing effect.

I would encourage anyone who is interested in becoming more aware of what life is like in a ‘Third World’ situation to do so. I would not force it on them and would not consider it an ‘experience’ that is a right of passage in the way that overseas travel has become for many young Australians.

The mandate of the Bible is for all to be aware of the needs of others. We have been blessed and because of this we can be a blessing. This can happen in the family, in the local community, in the national arena or internationally. None are better, but sometimes by seeing the extreme needs of others, we can become more aware of how we can meet the needs within our own community.

Year 3/4 Hooptime

On Wednesday 29 August a group of Middle Primary students went to Hooptime at Knox Stadium. MECS had five teams entered in the basketball competition. There were six schools taking part in the day. The other schools put up a strong competition and our teams played together well. Whilst none of our teams got into a grand final, all of our students put in a fantastic effort and showed great sportsmanship. It was a wonderful day of learning about team work, cooperation and just having fun playing sport.

A huge thankyou to the MS coaches who have trained students throughout this term. They encouraged the players and showed great support to their teams. Well done Hooptimers!

Jess and Sandra
MP Teachers

Music Performance Coordinator

We had our Senior School Musicians last term and this term is our Middle School Musicians turn! Next Thursday evening (September 13) 7-9pm in the Theatrette, please come along and support our musicians and singers as they showcase what they’ve been learning this year with their teachers. If you are performing please arrive at 6.45pm. See you there!
VCE Music Recital
Last Thursday evening the Theatrette rang with song as students from our VCE Music class performed their ensemble and solo items for assessment. We are blessed to have such a wide range of skills in our musical cohort and it was a pleasure to be entertained by the fruits of their hard work. It has certainly been exciting to see each student develop in confidence and ability throughout the year. Our thoughts in particular are with the Unit 4 students who begin their externally assessed performance exams in October. We wish each the very best in their preparation as they refine their programs and ready themselves for their big day!

Tim
VCE Music Teacher

MECS Notes

MECS Kitchen
Please note: the Canteen will be shut during the last week of term, so there will be no canteen on Wed 19 Sept (Sheryl on Centre Trip) and Fri 21 Sept (Parent-Teacher Interviews).

Weekly Specials
The Weekly Special this week (Sept 7) is Hot Chicken, Cheese & Mayo Roll - $4.00
The Weekly Special next week (Sept 12 & 14) is Meat Pie Lite - $3.50

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

Congratulations Siennah
The Victorian Elementary Artistic Skating Championships were held in Dandenong last weekend and our Year 7 student, Siennah successfully defended her 2011 Victorian Championship title.
Siennah won her division last year in both team and individual events. In 2012 she defended her Victorian Champion title - successfully winning another Gold medal in her event. Siennah started skating with the MECS community when she was in Prep. Amanda organised a holiday program get together at Bayswater skating rink and she has never looked back. Siennah started doing star classes, moved through the levels and has been with her coach for the last 4 years. She is proficient in Artistic Freestyle and Artistic Dance Skating. She skates solo and as part of the Victorian Skating Centre's Artistic team, 'The Lilypads'. Congratulations Siennah on an outstanding result!

Dee
MECS Parent
Secondary Athletics

Complete success!

The weather, the community, the involvement, the colours, the staff, the record breakers, the helpers, the timing, the enthusiasm, the teamwork, the early finish, the jump start Sacha gave my car at the end when everyone had gone!...

Thanks to all the staff and students who made this a terrific community event. Best attendance ever! Well done. We will give more details of records and scoring later.

Oh, by the way, White came 1st, Blue 2nd, Gold 3rd and Red 4th.

Anne-Maree
Secondary Sport Coordinator
Secondary Athletics

Tegan & Isaac

MECS 40th Anniversary Ball
Saturday 20 October 2012, 7pm

Ball tickets are still available - $45.00 per person.
(This includes a 3 course dinner, wine and soft drink)
Please book by Sept 17, tickets are selling fast!

Dance lessons are running each Monday and Thursday at 7.30pm in the gym until the end of term (and then again in week 1 of term 4). If you want to turn up and join in the fun please just come along - your first ‘try it out’ lesson is free. Further lessons - $10.00 per person, per lesson.

Primary Craft Group

In Craft Group we are developing our creative skills and imaginations. Recently we made a tie blanket and each of us personalised it with our own design glued onto it. Zoe and Charlie (on left) - display the lovely blanket and scarf they made.

Sandy
Learning Assistant

Adam, Caylen, Ryan, Trent, Daniel, Becky & Brooke in the 13 Year Old 800m Race
2012 Term 3 Week 7: 2 Sept - 8 Sept

Mon 3 - Fri 7 September
MS Special Week

Thur 6 September
Bandfest 7pm Theatrette
Dance Lessons for 40th Anniversary Ball
7.30pm Gym

Fri 7 September
Yr 6 Positive Boys - Guest Speaker

2012 Term 3 Week 8: 9 Sept - 15 Sept

Mon 10 September
Dance Lessons for 40th Anniversary Ball
7.30pm Gym

Mon 10 - Tues 11 September
SS Parent Teacher Interviews (Yr 10 & 11)

Tues 11 September
SP Connect Morning Tea 9am in Staffroom

Wed 12 September
Year 6 Mother & Daughter Evening 7pm

Thur 13 September
Yr 9 & 10 Well Being Program
MS Recital 7pm Theatrette
Dance Lessons for 40th Anniversary Ball
7.30pm Gym

Fri 14 September
Yr 6 Positive Boys Billy Cart Races

Sat 15 September
2013 Prep Orientation - Teddy Bears
Picnic 12 noon.
Centre Trip Bus Packing 4pm

2012 Term 3 Week 9: 16 Sept - 22 Sept

Sun 16 Sept - Wed 3 Oct
Year 10 Centre Trip

Mon 17 September
Dance Lessons for 40th Anniversary Ball
7.30pm Gym

Wed 19 - Thur 20 September
PS/MS Parent Teacher Interviews from 4pm

Thur 20 September
Yr 7 & 8 Well Being Session
Dance Lessons for 40th Anniversary Ball
7.30pm Gym

Fri 21 September
No Classes PS/MS Parent Teacher Interviews
End Term 3

Sat 22 Sept - Sun 14 Oct
Term Holidays

Michael C-G
The powerpoint from his seminar is on our website on the home page and also under downloads.

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.

Trade Training Centre Director
Ranges TEC, our Christian Trade Training Centre, founded by Mount Evelyn Christian School (MECS), Donvale Christian College and Mountain District Christian School under the Commonwealth's Trade Training Centres in Schools program. MECS is the lead school of this venture and Ranges TEC is currently a second campus of MECS. MECS is seeking a Director for Ranges TEC. The Director will have an ongoing educational and administrative leadership role at Ranges TEC and will report to the Principal of MECS.

Ranges TEC is designed for Year 10 to 12 students. It offers training in seven trade areas and the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning. A key partner for the delivery of Aeroskills mechanical training is the Australian Centre for Mission Aviation. The main campus is located in a newly constructed facility in an industrial area in Lilydale; there is also a small farm site in Monbulk.

The commencement of this position is mid December 2012 when the current Director concludes her service. The successful applicant should be able to understand and articulate a Christian approach to education, be familiar with trade and vocational training, and be able to continue developing a new educational community.

If you can wholeheartedly join a team implementing a distinctively biblical approach to trade and vocationally directed education, then please contact Michelle (PA to the Administration Manager) at Mount Evelyn Christian School for further information and an application pack.

Applications close at Midday on 17 September 2012.

Jayco Caravan for Sale
Jayco expanda 2005 Pop Top. As new. 1 Qb, 1 DB and Bunks. AC and Heating. $28,000. Call Andrew.

Full-time Receptionist Position
This position is for a full-time Receptionist commencing on 3 December 2012 for a 3 week training period, followed by a break, then officially starting on 7 January 2013. Applicants should be willing to wholeheartedly join a team implementing a distinctively biblical approach to education.

The Receptionist’s primary task is to facilitate communication through the school office, enable the smooth functioning of the office and support the administrative and educational staff in their roles.

All enquiries to Chris (Office Manager) for an Application Pack.

Applications close 5pm, 10 Sept, 2012.

Need Garden Help?
Spring is coming, Does your garden need some attention? Your vegie patch need to be prepared? Some general clean up and removal of weeds? Maybe some drainage or small concreting work?

Pa (the man who maintains and helps the children with the vegies and plants in the MECS Creation Garden) is available to make it happen.

The fee? A donation to a building or small concreting work?

Call John (Pa).

Cybersmart Seminar
Internet Safety Awareness Seminar, presented by Montrose Primary School. Monday 10 Sept, 7-8pm. Prompt Start. Trainer Lesley Harrison, ACMA. Seminar will be held at Montrose Primary School Early Learning Centre, Trevallyn Rd, Montrose.

Presentation includes: The ways children use the internet, potential risks for children online, and tips to help children stay safe online.

NOTICES SENT HOME THIS WEEK
(can also be downloaded from website)

• Positive Boys Blokes Night
• SP Space Curriculum Change
• Parent Teacher Interview Booking On-line

Download:
The powerpoint from his seminar is on our website on the home page and also under downloads.

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.

Trade Training Centre Director
Ranges TEC, our Christian Trade Training Centre, founded by Mount Evelyn Christian School (MECS), Donvale Christian College and Mountain District Christian School under the Commonwealth's Trade Training Centres in Schools program. MECS is the lead school of this venture and Ranges TEC is currently a second campus of MECS. MECS is seeking a Director for Ranges TEC. The Director will have an ongoing educational and administrative leadership role at Ranges TEC and will report to the Principal of MECS.

Ranges TEC is designed for Year 10 to 12 students. It offers training in seven trade areas and the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning. A key partner for the delivery of Aeroskills mechanical training is the Australian Centre for Mission Aviation. The main campus is located in a newly constructed facility in an industrial area in Lilydale; there is also a small farm site in Monbulk.

The commencement of this position is mid December 2012 when the current Director concludes her service. The successful applicant should be able to understand and articulate a Christian approach to education, be familiar with trade and vocational training, and be able to continue developing a new educational community.

If you can wholeheartedly join a team implementing a distinctively biblical approach to trade and vocationally directed education, then please contact Michelle (PA to the Administration Manager) at Mount Evelyn Christian School for further information and an application pack.

Applications close at Midday on 17 September 2012.

Jayco Caravan for Sale
Jayco expanda 2005 Pop Top. As new. 1 Qb, 1 DB and Bunks. AC and Heating. $28,000. Call Andrew.

Full-time Receptionist Position
This position is for a full-time Receptionist commencing on 3 December 2012 for a 3 week training period, followed by a break, then officially starting on 7 January 2013. Applicants should be willing to wholeheartedly join a team implementing a distinctively biblical approach to education.

The Receptionist’s primary task is to facilitate communication through the school office, enable the smooth functioning of the office and support the administrative and educational staff in their roles.

All enquiries to Chris (Office Manager) for an Application Pack.

Applications close 5pm, 10 Sept, 2012.

Need Garden Help?
Spring is coming, Does your garden need some attention? Your vegie patch need to be prepared? Some general clean up and removal of weeds? Maybe some drainage or small concreting work?

Pa (the man who maintains and helps the children with the vegies and plants in the MECS Creation Garden) is available to make it happen.

The fee? A donation to a building or small concreting work?

Call John (Pa).

Cybersmart Seminar
Internet Safety Awareness Seminar, presented by Montrose Primary School. Monday 10 Sept, 7-8pm. Prompt Start. Trainer Lesley Harrison, ACMA. Seminar will be held at Montrose Primary School Early Learning Centre, Trevallyn Rd, Montrose.

Presentation includes: The ways children use the internet, potential risks for children online, and tips to help children stay safe online.