Paige making a necklace with paper beads made from recycled paper for her Special Week - World Issues Project

Remember Stationary Lists due back next Thur, 20 Sept

Please Note
No Canteen Wed 19 & Fri 21 Sept

Remember to RSVP 40th Anniversary Dinner
The New Year 9 Program
A Journey towards an Open Village

I recently heard a poem by a spoken-word poet and English teacher named Taylor M that really captured my attention. In the poem, Mali plays with how, as a teacher, he might respond to the question: What do you make? The question is asked by a lawyer who is clearly interested in comparing salaries, however, Mali replies with examples of how he makes an impact on the lives of students. When thinking about education and how we educate, I believe that we must start with an understanding of how we would hope to respond to the same question. We need to ask ourselves how we desire to impact and shape students’ lives – what skills, attitudes, responses, beliefs, values and knowledge we wish them to develop.

I remember the first planning meeting for the new Year 9 program, we (the Year 9 team) had no idea where to start or even how to start, all we had was a tremendous desire to create something that would capture the hearts, minds and hands of those involved – students, teachers and parents. It was when we began to ask the big questions about what we desired to see developing within students that we started to find direction. Emerging from these conversations were four key areas of impact. We titled these key areas:

1. The way I think
2. The way I communicate
3. The way I work
4. The way I behave.

Also, coming out of our conversations was the feeling that we really desired to see authentic educational community grow within the Year 9 program. It was this that led to coining the name, Open Village.

As we started to develop a clearer picture of what we were hoping to achieve through Open Village, we found ourselves wondering how best we could do this. We had recently come across some really interesting educational ideas about how everything we do communicates a message – from the arrangement of desks within a classroom to the manner in which a lesson is structured. Thinking about this in the light of how we desired to impact students sparked many more interesting discussions. We found ourselves questioning delivery methods, student/teacher roles and responsibilities, architectural designs of educational spaces, furniture arrangements and needs, daily structures and routines, etc. These conversations helped us conceptualise how Open Village would look and run.

How does Open Village look and run?

Open Village is a vibrant and flexible environment for Year 9 students. The physical space is conceptualised in terms of ‘zones’ rather than classrooms. We have tried to create these to meet work and learning needs. There is an open-plan ‘Collaborative Zone’ where desks and chairs are movable and where there is a variety of other furniture options (e.g. ottomans). This space is designed for group work or for students who prefer working in a noisier environment. Within the Collaborative Zone is a cinema! Moving some of the furniture around creates our very own ‘Village Cinema’. Adjacent to the Collaborative Zone is the ‘Quiet Zone’. This space is designed for independent or quiet work. Another zone is the ‘Seminar Room’. This is a compact space that is used for delivering lectures or running workshops. Lastly, we have access to the Manual Arts Centre, a zone for more practical projects.

Within Open Village there is a strong emphasis on experiential-learning and inquiry-learning. Where possible, we try to create what we term ‘Immersion Experiences’ (e.g. simulations, films, camps, excursions, role-plays etc.) which function as ways of engaging students in curriculum topics. We debrief these in order to generate rich conversations and understanding about topics. Where Immersion Experiences are not possible or when the best method of communication is a lecture or workshop, we run small-group seminars. These are repeated throughout a day and students sign up to one which fits their work schedule. Through Immersion Experiences and seminars, students encounter curriculum topics and ideas. Out of these arise ‘individual points-of-interest’. These points-of-interest form topics and ideas for projects. Projects are generally designed by students in consultation with teachers. These projects are what occupy much of the time at Open Village.

Over the course of the year it has been incredible to see how students have matured and grown in how they think, communicate, behave and work.

Over the course of the year it has been incredible to see how students have matured and grown in how they think, communicate, behave and work. We have witnessed the tremendous excitement and creativity that can accompany a project where there is high motivation and often a lot of passion. The standard of work throughout the year has been steadily increasing as students seem to have become more effective learners and enquirers.

What do the students think?

Year 9 students’ comments

“The students are treated with way more respect - as in I feel that towards the teachers there is a way better relationship and we can talk with them rather than being told what to do.”

“Instead of being restricted to certain people you can go around from group to group… it’s a better environment to work in.”

“Since the beginning of the year ‘till now, I have grown so much…”

“You learn to be a lot more mature because you learn to focus more and chose to do your work rather than talk to friends.”

“It gives you the opportunity to be a lot more creative.”

“With Open Village they (students who often struggle with writing tasks) can go to what their natural ability is.”

“I think it is really a big stepping stone to Senior School because they’re training us to make decisions for ourselves without telling us what to do, so that when we get into the big world and make our own choices, we are prepared for it.”
School Notes from Martin, Principal

2013 Calendar

The 2013 Calendar will be coming home today with the newsletter ready to place on your fridge. We have decided to minimise the number of dates on the back of the calendar to those that are not likely to change. You may note that the Parent Teacher Interviews are not indicated on the calendar. This is because we are in the process of reviewing how and when we conduct these interviews. You will be notified of the dates early in the new year. Also peculiar to 2013 is the April school holidays. You will note that students return for Term 2 on Thursday 18 April. This is because the teachers will be attending a three day conference on 15 – 17 April at Donvale Christian School.

Centre Trip Leaves This Sunday

Our Year 10 travellers are off again this week to the Centre. As you’d be aware Yuendumu has been in the news a fair bit over the last few years because of some big family disputes. Despite this, our staff and students are still most welcome and safe. We’ll be praying for the whole Year 10 crew and staff: Nicola, Roger, Cliff Blowers, Pete & Sheryl, Sharon, Gerry & Melinda and Colin. Plus our other intrepid adult helpers: Rhonda & Gavin, Millie, Chris & Sarah & Frank.

Congratulations Rachel

Last Saturday our very own Primary teacher, and more recently PE specialist, Rachel, got married to her beloved Rohan. Despite the chilly weather, the Cadillacs still looked terrific. Congratulations.

MS Special Week

A big congratulations to the whole MS on an extra special last week. Whether it was Factory, World Expo or a Medieval Carnival, the efforts, creativity, products and productions were fantastic to see. A special mention goes to the students who presented at the World Expo. And thanks to all those parents who made the special effort to come and participate.

40th Ball RSVP Deadline

We are wanting to know the numbers for the October 20th Anniversary Ball. Have you sent in your reply? Last week’s newsletter editorial attempted to answer any questions people had. Please excuse the tasteless humour. Just a reminder that even if you’re not a ‘formal’ sort of person or not into dance, there’s still lots to enjoy and celebrate with us as a community. I hope you can make it along.

Board Report

At our September meeting, the Board was pleased to meet Jacqui who will be joining MECS next year as the Interim Deputy Principal. We are looking forward to Jacqui sharing her gifts with our school community.

In the Principal’s report we heard about progress with new staff appointments for 2013 as well as enrolments and other preparations for the opening of the Kinder, while Gerry presented the Financial Snapshot and advised that a company has been sourced to provide an Environmental Audit of the school.

Under consideration for this meeting was the Teaching and Learning portfolio report. The report was presented by Martin who noted two particular highlights of the past year: the production of the Transformational Education document and progress on the new curriculum template system. Also discussed were two issues for the future: long-term leadership curriculum development and the impact on MECS of the introduction of the Australian Curriculum.

Board Chair, Sue, outlined plans for a Board Strategic Planning Day to be held in November and lastly Board member, Ian, who is also a member of the Ranges TEC Advisory Panel, reported on the most recent meeting at Ranges TEC.

Louise
on behalf of the Board

Q&A

“Why in the world would you take 7 & 8 year olds on camp?”

What a great question! I think that Junior Primary teachers are brave individuals.

At MECS we have a fantastic, structured camp program, starting in Year 1, that’s an important and unique part of the MECS experience. The Junior Primary camp is a significant stepping stone in developing independence for the students - a happy and special experience in a safe environment, with their teachers that they have been with all year.

My favourite part of camp is on Friday morning, sitting around a table with the students eating breakfast and seeing the smiles on their faces. It is wonderful when you can acknowledge students who were nervous about sleeping over at camp but are now full of pride, as they realise they have accomplished their very first camp.

Even though the Junior Primary camp is only one night, a lot of preparation goes into organising and preparing students for camp. The teachers talk to students for weeks leading up to the event and make it very clear what they can expect from the experience, and what is expected of them. Students thrive on knowing about the adventure they are about to embark on.

For parents of Junior Primary students, it’s valuable to think about the camp experience for your child: Is your child ready for camp? What benefits do you see for your child in participating in this camp? Is your anxiety causing your child to be unsettled about camp? What else can you do at home to prepare your child for this experience?

We are heading off on our Junior Primary camp early in Term 4 and will value your prayers for the staff and students as they prepare for this very fun adventure. We hope to see all the students smiling at the end of camp, saying “We did it!”

Ange
JP Teacher

40th Ball RSVP Deadline

Thursday 13 September 2012
Mount Evelyn Christian School News

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Parents & Friends

The King is Coming to Visit

Cycle A Special Week

Students in Cycle A spent the week preparing for our re-enactment of a Medieval feast. Every student was given a role to play of people in feudal society. They prepared a scene to act out for the King and Queen of our field of Cycle-a-lot. There was an opening ceremony, a knighting, a trial and a variety of entertainment from troubadours to jesters.

Decorations of heraldry banners were prepared along with headgear to represent their character. A sumptuous banquet of hot seasoned chicken drumsticks and rustic bread rolls was served for lunch. A medieval dance followed our feast. It was a rich week of fun and learning for all. The King and Queen were definitely amused!

Alison
MS Teacher

Parents & Friends

Father’s Day Stall

A great day was had with all the children buying presents for their dad. Thank you to all those who supported the stall by either helping with the preparations or purchasing items on the day. This is not a huge fundraiser, it is more of a service to the school and the children love it. We hope the dads all had a good day and enjoyed their presents.

Shopping Tour – with a difference

Don’t forget tickets are now available from the office. Saturday 10 Nov, $20.
Bandfest

Last Thursday night we had the pleasure of being entertained by our Middle and Senior School students in our Bandfest Concert. It was great to see students working together in ensembles and bands and performing sets of music, ranging from 5-15 minutes in a variety of genres. Three of our groups are directed by staff at the school but the rest were student formed, which is a great sign of a thriving Music Program.

Thank you to our directors for 2012, Peter, Brett and Annora. Thank you also to Mitchell and John for your great assistance with Sound and Lighting! We have recently started a new Ensemble for our orchestral instruments and look forward to hearing them perform in our PS Recital next term. Thank you to all groups for your wonderful performances and the hard work that went in behind the scenes.

Annora
Music Performance Coordinator

MECS Notes

Thankyou from Uganda

The budget for a classroom in Uganda is $6000, so the money raised from the Olympics Day will nearly build half a classroom for Wairaka Christian School. Thankeyou to everyone who contributed.

Anne
MS Maths, SS Careers Teacher

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 14) is Meat Pie Lite - $3.50

Congratulations Michael

Michael (Class of 2011), has recently accepted a college basketball scholarship and has travelled to Iowa, USA, where he will spend four years studying and playing for St Ambrose University.

He was honoured on Monday night at the Kilsyth Basketball Awards night, where he was presented with the Under 20’s Coaches Award, the Development League Coaches Award and the Swinburne University Community Engagement Award. It was stated at the event that the awards were granted for his commitment and attitude displayed while training and playing basketball and particularly his willingness to serve in the greater community. Special mention was made of Mount Evelyn Christian School and the Schoolies Revolution trip to Uganda, of which Michael was a part last year, and the work that they achieved there. Congratulations Michael.

Year 8 Muppet Puppets

Sox N Stories Puppetry Festival

OPENING NIGHT - Friday 21st
6.30pm - 9.00pm

Fridays opening night performance by Curious Legends Theatre Company. Puppeters and performance artists will feature throughout the evening. Enjoy a range of local produce and carnival inspired treats for the children.

WORKSHOPS - Saturday 22nd
9.00am - 5.30pm

Saturday’s workshops feature offers something for everyone. All workshops are highly creative and provide an opportunity for fun and performance skills. Get creative with Soz, Glov, Dots and Jack Puppets. Open your imagination & see your stories come to life through the world of puppets.

To book your tickets:
- Online: www.soxnstories.com
- Morisson, Old Horfield Rd Mt Evelyn (Mon - Fri 1:00pm-5:00pm)
- Community Hall, Vic St, Mount Evelyn (Mon-Thu 1:00pm-4:00pm, Fri & Sat 1:00pm-3:00pm, Located inside Library)
- Cash or Credit Card for online bookings. For further Info: 979736, 1457

PUPPETY WORKSHOPS
(WORKSHOPS MUST BE BOOKED WHEN BOOKING)

9.00am - 10.00am & 10.00am - 11.00 am
5-10 year olds (with parents)

9.00am - 10.00am & 10.00am - 11.00 am
4-5 year olds

11.15-12.15 LUNCH - puppeteers, face-painters, hula-hoop artists, performance poet, story corner, music, street characters. Wide range of vendors selling local food and refreshments.

1.00 - 3.00 10-13 year olds

3.00 - 5.30 13+ adults

puppetry and story-telling workshop

Our Bandfest Performers

Kate, Nick & Alex

James

by Lavina

by Dorothy

Remember to register your performance for the Schoolies Revolution Trip to Uganda, Friday 21st Sept.
Year 9 - Re-Mix

During Special Week the Open Village was transformed into ‘The RE-MIX Market’ – a manufacturing business with a focus on recycled materials. As many of the Year 9 students have entered that time of life where they are eligible to find employment, it is a fantastic opportunity for them to engage in a simulation of gaining real-life employment and running a successful business. The teachers made an effort wherever possible, to step back from the running of the business and allow the students to experience some of the responsibilities of managing the enterprise. We had students filling roles as General Manager, Department Managers, Quality Control Officers, Apprentices, Documentary Director, Sales Executives and Personal Assistants, to name a few. It was fantastic to see how seriously the students took their jobs and the effort they put in when it came to the production of their goods.

The Year 9 teachers are thrilled at the products and impressed with the dedication and attention to detail of our students. As a result, we’ve been able to put a range of high quality products up for sale at our stall. We also have to thank Anne-Marie and Ron for the time and knowledge they were able to give to our student group.

Tim
Year 9 Teacher

Cycle B - World Issues

During Special Week for Cycle B this term, students were given the task of developing an aid organization to target a specific world issue e.g. water sanitation, maternal & child health, food & nutrition, human trafficking, etc. My group created an organization called Global Equality that tackled the ‘Insufficient Incomes’. On Friday, we represented our organization at a World Issues Expo, and were visited by our parents and Senior Primary students.

My time with Global Equality has really opened my eyes. Even though I already had experienced things like this (on a trip to Uganda last holidays), it made me realize that what is happening to stop ‘Insufficient Incomes’ at the moment really isn’t enough. People need to be willing to help. So what I did during Special Week was really good, even though it was not a real situation. We were able to open the eyes of a lot of people who really didn’t know the extent of these issues.

My group worked well as a team and we had a good work ethic. We were able to set up a successful charity to ‘stop the insufficiency plague.’ It’s also been good to learn about other issues, as well as mine. I was able to talk to some other groups about their issues as well, issues that I did not know much about. The other groups, I thought, did a really good job also.

The Expo was a big success and I think we made the Senior Primary students, and the parents, realise what was going on. I also think we hosted a really interesting, enjoyable and successful expo.

Mission trips have changed my life greatly. As well as being extremely enjoyable, you are actually able to see up front what the issues look like. If I had not been to Uganda, my future plans would be very different. All I want to do is go back and keep helping.

Sam, 7/8 BT
Central Australia Trip Year 10

Day 1  Sunday 16 September  Melbourne to Adelaide (790 kms)
Day 2  Monday 17 September  Adelaide to Glendambo (588 kms)
Day 3  Tuesday 18 September  Glendambo to Victory Downs Bush Camp (644 kms)
Day 4  Wednesday 19 September  Victory Downs to Alice Springs (295 kms)
Day 5  Thursday 20 September  Alice Springs to Tilmouth Well (187 kms)
Day 6  Friday 21 September  Tilmouth Well to Yuendumu (111 kms)
Day 7  Saturday 22 September  Yuendumu
Day 8  Sunday 23 September  Yuendumu
Day 9  Monday 24 September  Yuendumu to Alice Springs (298 kms)
Day 10  Tuesday 25 September  Alice Springs to Bush Camp (420 kms)
Day 11  Wednesday 26 September  Bush Camp to Kings Creek (30 kms)
Day 12  Thursday 27 September  Kings Creek to Uluru (297 km)
Day 13  Friday 28 September  Uluru
Day 14  Saturday 29 September  Uluru to Bush Camp (448 kms)
Day 15  Sunday 30 September  Bush Camp to Coober Pedy (304 kms)
Day 16  Monday 1 October  Coober Pedy to Bush Camp past Woomera (480km)
Day 17  Tuesday 2 October  Bush Camp to Murray Bridge (441 kms)
Day 18  Wednesday 3 October  Murray Bridge to Melbourne (790 kms)

Postman Pat awaits...

Make sure you write to your loved one in Central Australia. We strongly recommend that all parents write (early in the trip) to their son or daughter, as this will really help to stave off any homesickness they might be experiencing. It is also very hard to be one of the few not to receive any mail. The last days that we will be collecting mail are Tuesday 25 September in Alice Springs or Friday 28 September at Yulara (Uluru). Letters may be sent to the addresses as shown on this page, with MECS TOURS written very prominently (write it in a box), to ensure that mail is not misdirected. Allow a week for delivery to be sure your child receives their mail.
### 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.

#### Assorted Things for Sale

- Point of lay Bantam hens, white or black available, $15 each.
- Thomas the Tank Engine bulk pack, $40 the lot - 7 x DVDs plus 33 x small paperback storybooks.
- Dora the Explorer bulk pack, $40 the lot - 8 x DVDs; 9 x books; porcelain tea set; stable & Princess Dora mini figure.
- Dora the Explorer hooded, velvet pink/red coat, size 5. $15, VGC.

Or make an offer! Call Elissa.

#### Chook Minders Needed

We would love 3 volunteer families to look after our chooks in the holidays. One week commitment each. Jobs include checking and topping up food and water, mucking out at the end of the week, bringing along some garden and kitchen scraps for them, and collecting the eggs of course! You get to keep the lovely eggs! Please email Wendy if you can help. Thank you.

#### Schoolies Revolution Trivia Night

Sat 15 Sept, 7pm at Truth and Liberation Concern, 265 Canterbury Rd, Bayswater North, $20 per person.

BYO drinks and nibbles. Tea & Coffee provided. Alcohol free event.

Aim: To raise funds to support the 2012 team and their work in Uganda. Schoolies Revolution is a project of Hope Builders International

See Mandy for tickets or Call.

For more information visit www.schooliesrevolution.com or Call.

#### Trade Training Centre Director Position

See Website for more details. Applications close at Midday on 17 September 2012.

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### Proposed Timetable for a second 4 year old group

Due to the wonderful response to our 4 year old Kindergarten program for 2013 we are closing off enrolments for the first group. We are excited about the possibility of having a second 4 year old group, but we would need a few more Kindergarten children to make this possible. The Proposed timetable for 2 groups is on the website.

Amanda and Nicole
Community Relations Officers

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### Notices sent home this week (can also be downloaded from website)

- MS Recital (sent home last week)
- Cycle A Wilsons Prom Camp Info
- MECS Ball for Year 11 Students Note
- Year 5 Imax Excursion
- Year 7 ARW PT Interview Note
- Centre Trip Final Notice
- Year 4 Kids with Courage note