MECS Has Talent!

Bec sings ‘Tomorrow’ in the MS Recital - a message of hope.
It’s time to breathe

I’ve never been partial to Term 3 that much. Terms 1 & 2 consolidate new beginnings and many of our students are starting to spread their wings and explore new aspects of learning. Term 4 promises new things as students look forward to an extended break and Preps become big Junior Primaries. Year 12s look forward to new horizons beyond their 13 years of schooling; it all sits as an exciting reminder that change is imminent. But Term 3 just seems to sit there.

Out of Winter comes the potential of Spring, but cold days are endured and students, teachers and parents look forward to the coming of warmer, perhaps even calmer waters. Term 3 is the moving term, a time for Middle School students to finish big projects, a time for Senior Primary to build the ultimate billy-cart/road machine. It’s parent/teacher interview time, the time where student’s progress is laid bare and perhaps for the first time, cracks may start to appear. It can all be a bit exhausting, that Term 3. But that’s not really the end of the picture.

‘Roll the Highlights Reel’

Despite its challenges, Term 3 has rolled out some of the best highlights of 2012 to date.

• The whole school Olympics day, with its focus on countries that, due to their economic and social difficulty, do not figure prominently on the main stage (remember the London Olympics?). Messages of hope and huge amounts of money were raised and reminded us all that we live in a generous community. The sight of eight teachers bravely negotiating through the ‘Tough Mudder’ course allowed us, for one brief moment, to believe that real heroes had come to the MECS oval for a combative contest of strength and will.

• The Athletics Day, under the blue skies conspicuously absent from the cross country day, showcased the spirit of competition and sportsmanship. The encouragement from students of all year levels again highlighted the desire to combine good results with fun and enjoyment.

• The absence of Di in the Primary school, has seen Mel do a tremendous job of juggling a full teaching load and attending to the challenging task of managing a dynamic and diverse team. A highlight for many was the Empowering Girls evening, not to mention a fantastic Positive Boys night last Friday.

• Throughout the year, many of the staff and parents have been treading the boards of the gym and have been investing in dance lessons that will be on display at the 40th ball.

‘It’s not always easy’

The term has not been without its challenges. There have been hard decisions to be made in the life of the school and this has been difficult. There have been challenges surrounding culture and how we deal with others who, through no fault of their own, are faced with ongoing pressures to conform to structures that simply don’t work for them. This will be a continuing challenge and ongoing focus for MECS as a community, as we seek to embrace tolerance and mercy for all who seek peace in this community. It is this shalom that Jesus desires in our lives through submitting ourselves to the spirit of God. May we seek his peace, wisdom and rest in this holiday break and beyond.

It’s time to breathe

I struggle to stop. There always seems to be ‘something else to do’. While I love work, there is a time for rest, a time for family and a time for peace.

Rest brings time for families to take space and to enjoy the time that holidays can bring. The potential for reconnecting, fun and relaxation is a gift so often needed in lives today. For families with the chance to travel and create long lasting family experiences, I commend your time and trust that you can rediscover the simple joys of spending precious time together as you recharge for the next term.

For students, rest brings a new opportunity. For those who have struggled to maintain work commitments and for those who simply need to have a break from it all, holidays can be a new start. Holidays brings a reality that there is life outside of school and a sense of perspective that school is only one component to life. To our Year 12s, my prayer is that you enjoy your last time preparing for exams. Remember to breathe as you bring together the culmination of a good year’s work.

For the staff, rest comes at the end of a job well done. Despite the exhaustion, frustration and demands that are placed on them in an ‘all encompassing’ job, the ability to reconnect with friends, family, wives and husbands allows there to be balance between service and life outside of work. The opportunity to relax allows teachers to refuel and to gain perspective. Without this time, there are real chances of burnout and this is detrimental to the long term goals the school sets for its staff.

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As the school clears out Thursday and Friday afternoon, may we allow ourselves to relax, reload and look forward to the next exciting chapter that the school will present. May God’s peace be real to us all.
School Notes from Martin, Principal

Parent/Teacher Interviews
By all accounts the introduction of the new online booking system for interviews is great. We’ve had very positive feedback from parents. Parent interviews are a really important time of connection between parents and the school. For secondary parents, please bring along your student profile. This is provided to assist parents with a summarised understanding of where their child is at. I hope that the interview time is most valuable.

Holidays
It’s the end of another term, and I hope you all have a restful and safe break. Staff will start back a week earlier than the students (except Year 12s who start back a bit earlier) to undertake their workbreak week. This workbreak, we will meet together as a whole staff for a 2012 Review Day. It’s always great to have everyone together to reflect.

Year 12 Study Camp
Some of our Year 12s will attend a MECS run study camp on 26-28 September. This is an opportunity to have some very focussed study preparation. This is followed by a week of practice exams and then a week of ‘Intensives’. It’s getting to the serious end of the year for them; please remember them in your prayers.

Dance Lessons in the Workbreak
Due to interest and demand, we’ll be conducting dance lessons on Monday Oct 8 and Thursday Oct 11 leading up to the Oct 20 Ball. This wasn’t specified in the original ‘Dance Package’ dates but is open to all. Come along and join in the fun.

Farewell Tony
As has been previously mentioned our Accountant Tony is taking up the job of Business Manager at Mountain District CS. This week is Tony’s last normal week with us, though he’ll be back in January as we prepare for the school auditor’s visit. Craig has been working alongside Tony for many weeks already as he takes over the role. We thank Tony for his three years of faithful and diligent service here and wish him well in his new role over at our delightful sister school, MDCS.

Centre Trip
After a few days of solid travelling, our Year 10 brigade will be at Alice Springs and leaving for Tilmouth Well up the Tanami Track, two hours short of Yuendumu (if it’s not raining – 3 years back, this is where we got bogged and had to return). They’ll be at Yuendumu over the weekend until Monday. Pray for a great time.

Apology
Sorry for the car bank-up on Hawkins Road early Sunday morning as parents dropped off Year 10 students for the Centre Trip departure. The gates should have been opened earlier to keep our cars off a residential street. We’ll seek to do better next time.

Year 6 Mother & Daughter Evening
This term, Year 6 girls had Empowering girls with Miss Dyer! It was really interesting and changed my perspective on things (and other girls too). All together it was great fun and I want to do it again and again!

Mother daughter night was an awesomely awesome night! First we all sat together in a circle and Olivia and Mel explained what the girls did this term in Empowering Girls. It was fun. We had a candle ceremony, supper, certificates and heaps of other stuff!

Brianna

Empowering Girls is a Year 6 program that is run every year at MECS. The program explores issues such as real beauty, real friendship and many other issues associated with being a Year 6 girl. The girls learn about their inner beauty and the beauty that comes from being a child of God. Issues such as popularity, cliques, social positions and roles are discussed. The girls learn a powerful strategy called DRA (Describe, Request, Affirm) that they can use when they are facing social issues and they also talk about real apologising and the importance of forgiveness and new starts.

The Mother and Daughter night is designed for some special one on one time for the mums and their daughters. There is lots of affirming and celebrating each other and joint celebration of the fantastic thing that it is to be a girl – young or not so young!

Mel
SP Teacher
MECS Notes

Hopebuilders Presentation

John and Natasha, along with their children and other members of the Hopebuilders team, will be holding an afternoon information session on their recent trip to Uganda – showing some photos and sharing some of their experience. You're invited to come along if you're considering undertaking this kind of trip, if you'd like to know more about being involved with Hopebuilders, or if you're interested in hearing about their trip.

Sunday October 14, 2pm, MECS Staffroom. Please contact Natasha if you have any questions.

Schoolies Revolution Movie Fundraiser

Friday 28 September at PAC - Waverley Christian College, 1248 High Street Rd, Wantirna South.

Why: to help raise funds to support the 2012 team and their work in Uganda

Tickets for movie: $7 per person, 25 for family of 4.

Tickets available at www.ticketbooth.com.au

5:30pm to 7:00pm - Sausage Sizzle ($1 for sausages, $1 cans), Live music, Jumping Castles, Face Painting, Popcorn and more

7:00pm to 9:00pm - Movie ‘The Lorax’

For more information visit schooliesrevolution.com

Thanks

Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to the MECS School community for all the support and good wishes on the arrival of our twins Will & Jesse.

We would also like to thank the Prep Families for all the meals. Your thoughtful generosity has made a massive impact on our family.

Kind regards,

Dean & Allie

“Are reports worth the effort?”

Before I address this important question of whether reports are worth the effort, I would like to take you for a little tour behind the scenes of report writing.

Here at MECS we use a report writing package called Accelerus to create and produce the finished report that comes home to you for your child. Firstly, there is the data gathering. Every student’s class information is compiled into a database which is then imported into the report writing program. This is followed by the production of report templates for each teacher and each class, which amounts to some 220 different templates which are created, checked by teachers and updated as necessary. Following this process, the teachers receive remote access to the Accelerus program whereby they spend many long hours entering the important information about each child in their class. Next comes the compiling of the reports for the teachers to proof read which can take many hours, then a correction of reports which can take many hours, then the reports are printed (hopefully the printer doesn’t misbehave) which takes many hours, then the reports are packaged up ready to be distributed and yes you guessed it, this takes many hours.

Why do we do it? Why do the teachers and admin staff spend an inordinate number of hours producing a report for your child? One word - Partnership. We believe that this special and dynamic relationship between MECS and its parents is worth every ounce of effort. We know that the effort your child’s teacher puts in as they enter in the specific information about your child is worth it. The process can be painstaking, because your child’s teacher endeavours to give you an accurate picture of “how he/she is progressing at school” and then adds specific goals for your child so that he/she can continue to develop and grow in who they are as the Lord’s creation. Your child is thought about carefully, and I suspect that they are prayed for, in the process of writing the report, which is an awesome thought.

I just want to ‘plug’ our wonderful Corrie, who so ably administers the Accelerus Reporting Package and produces the striking reports that you receive twice per year. So when you receive your child’s report at the end of the year, please take a moment to think about the energy and effort that has gone into producing this for you. We do it because your child matters to us so your child is worth the effort!

Parents & Friends

Shopping Tour – with a difference - more shopping, less touring!

Don’t forget tickets are now available from the Main Office.

Saturday 10 Nov, $20.

EGM October 25

On Thursday October 25 we will be holding a community meal and Association General Meeting.

Dinner starts at 6.30pm, meeting start 7.30pm.

Please RSVP to the office if you would like to join us for the meal.

More details coming soon.

Nicole

Community Relations Officer
MECS Notes

Congratulations Monique

The weekend before last, Monique received fantastic awards for her netball this season. She won the LYVNA (Lilydale Yarra Valley Netball Association) – which is the whole district ‘Fairest & Best’ for Under 11’s – her section.

She also won her individual netball teams ‘Fairest & Best’

And, she also won the SPJ perpetual Trophy for the season – which is for the girl with the most votes (she is the youngest player ever to win this award).

Well done Monique!

Janene
MECS Parent

Well Done Alexander

MS Readathon 2012

Over the past five years Alexander has participated in the MS Readathon to help raise money for people who suffer from multiple sclerosis (MS). Multiple sclerosis is a chronic disease that attacks the central nervous system. Last month Alexander was once again busy reading books for the MS Readathon. This year he has raised $613.00 and managed to read 22 books; a total of 3,772 pages in 30 days! Congratulations Alexander on an outstanding effort.

Yvonne

Extra Dancing Lessons!

Some exciting news from our wonderful Ball committee:

- Two extra Dance Lessons are now Scheduled for 8 and 11 October which is in the last week of the holidays (Staff Work Break).

Teddy Bears Picnic

Last Saturday, 29 of next years Prep students (and their families!) gathered in the Pump room for our Teddy Bears Picnic. We started by having our picnic, we went and visited the chooks, iced and decorated teddy bear biscuits, had a treasure hunt in the playground and enjoyed getting to know each other better. Thanks to all the parents, aunts and grandparents who came and joined in the fun.

Nicole and Amanda
Community Relations Officers

More From Cycle B World Issues

The week before last, Cycle B learnt about some of the large issues happening all over the world. I felt that it was remarkably important for Cycle B students to go in-depth and learn about these global issues, because as much as we’ve had some knowledge about these predicaments, it’s important that we’re reminded that there are people around the world going through horrendous struggles.

We had the privilege of having Mr G come in during the week to give us some extremely helpful tips on how to ask questions in an interviewing situation. This was to prepare us to interview Steve, missionary with World Vision, and Anne, a missionary in Africa, to help us prepare for our ‘global issues expo’ that some of you may have attended.

During the week, we focused on such issues as insufficient income, food and nutrition, maternal and child health, water, sanitation and hygiene, and the issue I have been focussing on, human trafficking and slavery.

When I first started learning about my issue, I honestly had no idea of the magnitude of the controversy. Two of the things that shocked me the most were that a) it affects more than 2.7 million people around the world and b) it happens not just in ‘developing countries’, but in our own country, Australia!

All in all, this was a great productive week. Thankyou to the teachers and visitors for sharing with us you’re knowledge on these global issues.

Tamarra, Year 8
MECS has Talent

We had a wonderful night of quality entertainment, encouragement and inspiring performances from our Middle School students. As Middle School is our largest group of performers it was a jam-packed evening of solo and small group items from our pianists, guitarists, drummers, flutists and singers. We also had the pleasure of hearing 2 pieces from Penny (our guest artist). Listening to Beethoven and Debussy was a lovely way to end our evening.

Thank you to all students who performed for their hard work and willingness to share their gift of music with us; to all instrumental teachers for their dedication and commitment to developing the skills of our students and to our parent and friend community for their support of Music at MECS.

Annora
Music Performance Coordinator.
On Friday 14 September, all the Year 6 boys and their Dads came to school in the evening for a blokes night. We got to the school and went into the understory and played Skittles. Unfortunately, the dads somehow beat us. After skittles, we played a game where you had a stocking filled with a handful of flour on your head and you had to hit each other on the torso. We also had an awesome BBQ that Peter made for us. We watched a movie from the races in the day. It was a great night! Thanks Mr Beams and Mr Coffey.

Ryan SPB

On Friday the Year 6 boys had their Billy Cart Race. We had spent time building our Billy Carts on Fridays after lunch. Eventually they were ready to race! The race was a time trial, so as soon as one team member had a chance to steer the cart the next person would hop in, kind of like a relay. Unfortunately my team came in last but after such a great day no one cared about coming first or last but just focussed on having fun.

Jordan SPD

On Friday the Year 6 boys had the finale to their seven weeks of hard work making Billy Carts. Everyone put heaps of effort in and did a great paint job. My group had Ryan and Noah and our billy cart was very stable and was decorated nicely. There were 6 other groups along with the Coffey Beam and that was Ali and Peter. In week 8 we had the race on Friday. We raced down from the Senior School and Nic, Matt, Luke and Zac won. Our group was the runner up.

Luke SPB

ZOOM!!!! went the Billy Carts. 5 Billy Carts racing down the hill (1 at a time, of course). Each getting under 1 minute and 30 seconds.

On Friday 14 of September, all of the Year 6 boys, except Brent who had the flu, carried the Billy Carts they made in the Positive Boys program up to the Senior School to race the Billy Carts. We had to do a figure 8 then go down a hill. It was extremely fun, but Mr Beams fell out of his Billy Cart.

Noah SPC

On Friday the Year 6 boys had a Billy Cart Race. In the previous weeks we had been building our Billy Carts and we finally got them after all the effort we put in. It was a great day and we had lots of fun. It wasn’t all about winning, it was about having fun.

Sam SPD

The Billy Cart Races were fun. It was a high impact stunt course. We had a good time making, painting and testing them out. We auctioned them off. We had a great night and we played skittles and a stocking game.

Will SPD

On Friday 14 September the Year 6 boys had their Billy Cart Race, it was so cool. My team came third. We returned to school at 6:30 for a night of games and fun. First we had a few games of skittles. Next we had a game where you had a stocking with a hand full of flour in it, it was so funny. After that we had a BBQ dinner and watched a video of the race.

Luke SPC
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**CALENDAR**

**Wed 19 - Thur 20 September**

- PS/MS Parent Teacher Interviews from 4pm
- Th 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
- Office Closed from 1.30pm
- End Term 3

**Sat 22 Sept - Sun 14 Oct**

- Term Holidays

**Wed 26 - Friday 28 September**

- Year 12 Study Camp Belgrave Lodge

**Wed 3 - Friday 5 October**

- VCE Practice Exams
- Mon 8 October

- Dance Lessons for 40th Anniversary Ball 7.30pm Gym

**Mon 8 - Friday 12 October**

- VCE Performance Exams
- Mon 8 - Tues 9 October

- VCE Intensives
- Thur 11 October

- Dance Lessons for 40th Anniversary Ball 7.30pm Gym

**Thur 11 - Fri 12 October**

- VCE Intensives

**Fri 12 October**

- VCE Drama Performance

**Mon 15 October**

- Term 4 Begins
- P&C Coffee Morning
- Dance Lessons for 40th Anniversary Ball 7.30pm Gym

**Mon 15 - Friday 19 October**

- VCE Performance Exams

**Tues 16 October**

- Schoolwear in Canteen 2.45-3.45pm

**Wed 17 October**

- Kids with Courage Parent Info Evening 7.30pm

**Thur 18 October**

- Yr 9/10 Super 8s Cricket
- Step into Prep (2013) Orientation
- Dance Lessons for 40th Anniversary Ball 7.30pm Gym

**Fri 19 October**

- Year 11 Formal 6pm

**Sat 20 October**

- MECS 40th Anniversary Ball 7pm

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**Toyota RAV4 For Sale**


**For Sale**

Dingo k93 kohler 22hp 2008 – 600+ hours (good as new), with attachments: bucket 4-in-1, mount plate & 3 ripper tyes, post hole digger drive head, auger 250mm & 350mm double cut dingo style, post hole mate, trencher 6+ cup style with 900mm bare skinny wheels mega durax 5.00-8 solid (allows 850mm site access), trailer single 1.9t 600 series with ramps made by dingo registration till Feb 2013.


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**Holiday Movies**

‘Spykids 4’ Wed 25 Sept, 10.30am & ‘Alvin and the Chipminks Chipwrecked’ Wed 3 Oct, 10.30am.

Gold coin donation. Lollies and Sausage Sizzle for Sale.

Careforce Church, 89 Monbulk Road, Mount Evelyn.

**Chook Minders Really 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 Mason if you can help. Thank you.

**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 project by Hopebuilders in Uganda, to the amount you consider is the value of the work completed.

Call John (Pa).

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**Jayco Caravan for Sale**

Jayco expanda 2005 Pop Top. As new. 1Qb, 1 DB and Bunks. AC and Heating. $27,000, ONO. Urgent Sale.

Call Andrew.

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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)

- Year 4 Kids with Courage Amendment
- Year 6 Rock Climbing Excursion
- MP Plants Camp

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**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

11am Tuesday on published week. Email articles (images attached as jpg) to NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

**Call Andrew.**

$27,000, ONO. Urgent Sale.

Jayco Caravan for Sale

Please call James.

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**SURVEY**

- Would you like to stay in your current group or would you like to stay in your current group?

- If you would like to stay in your current group, please indicate which group.

- If you would like to stay in your current group, please indicate which group.

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