Investigating Canberra

Parliament roleplay - Winter is the sergeant-at-arms, carrying the ceremonial mace.
Things Political

Last Wednesday along with a bunch of CEN Principals and Victoria CEN State Coordinator Michelle, I had a Parliament House dinner with State Treasurer Kim W and Education Minister Martin D. It’s a rare chance to catch the ear of such key politicians and we used the opportunity to put our case on a range of matters. Here’s the hit list of what we went into the discussion.

Appreciation
We thanked them for their hard work and their steady-hand and non-sectorial approach. That means that they don’t just see their role as running state schools but they are supportive and actively interested in what happens in our sector. We appreciate this willingness to listen and find good policy mechanisms through the maze of everyone wanting them to solve issues by throwing money their way. We were quite conscious of not just going in with our hands out. Political leaders must get sick of that.

Kindergartens
We’ve been very pleased that Kindergartens are now under the responsibility of the Education Department – a single government place to check with. We’d like to see sector-blind funding of Kindergartens. At the present time Independent Kindergartens receive around $1000 less per student than do Community-based Kindergartens. However our costs are about the same and if we’d charge to cover the difference we’d price ourselves out. Equity would be nice. The rest of the school community has to carry this cost.

Gonski
The major federal government review into education funding was headed up by David Gonski. The report was significant because it undergirded a whole new way of looking at funding with clear principles and guidelines. We wanted to express our strong support for the simplification and predictability of a singular approach to all funding.

Whilst we are very pleased with the broad proposals in Gonski, we recognise that the ‘devil is in the detail’ about disadvantage funding and a lot of work needs to go into fair mechanisms for determining this (is it socio-economic demographics … testing results … parent’s education … postcodes … race?). The federal government easily asserts it will address poor educational outcomes and inequity by funding disadvantage, but ‘what portion of the overall pie?’ and how will this be determined, are yet to be answered. We are glad that the message is saying ‘disability funding’ will be sector-blind. This is quite different presently where a state school child on ‘special needs’ funding receives 10x what an equivalent MECS child would receive. Unfair! We also argued for an independent review body to ascertain true educational costs and not individual state bureaucracies.

Teacher Wages
We seek to pay wages that are broadly compatible with the state and Catholic sectors. However the continued lack of resolution of an agreement between the government and the union presents us with budget planning difficulties. We’ve planned on a 3.5% increase and hope this is close to the eventual mark that is reached. We’d like good longer-term planning tools and a steady hand approach. With wages taking up around 70% of the school budget spikes in wages cost are just not helpful or steady. Further, we do not support performance based pay whilst there is no reasonable or accepted model to discuss. We outlined to the Minister a number of ‘non-wage’ ways in which excellence could be rewarded.

State Funding
One of the advantages of the Gonski approach is that it proposes a singular governmental approach to funding, rather than two different tiers of government with its two compliance regimes and systems shifted around by political masters. At present, state funding is complex, impossible to understand and not predictable, unlike federal funding. As an example MECS received $80K less this year than what was based on last year’s funding. This makes for a big Finance Committee headache. We shared that we were after simplicity, predictability and steadiness.

Conveyance Allowance
As a cost-cutting mechanism the state government decided to peg back the conveyance allowance which offers transport subsidies for parents in outer lying districts. The government’s decision to review the metropolitan boundaries after two decades of this being set, is fair enough. After quite some confusion and lobbying the Minister has made some adjustments and the effect for MECS parents is ‘no change’. Being a school that is heavily reliant on transporting students in, we’re quite grateful for the tweaks the Minister has made.

My School
Even though the MySchool website is a federal issue, we appreciated recent comments by Shadow Education Minister, Christopher P that Coalition policy would see MySchool only report on improvements in NAPLAN scores, thereby taking off the raw score data which tends to create league tables. Minister Martin D is the COAG Chair of the State Education Ministers and we wanted him to be aware of our displeasure with using good diagnostic tools for teachers and parents (ie NAPLAN results) as a blunt and aggressive means of measuring school performance. We keep putting up the argument that improvement is much fairer than raw scores (which is largely determined by how you control your enrolment).

I’m not sure if these matters are of interest to you. They certainly affect the running of a school and it’s our job as leadership, to ensure that the voice of small independent Christian schools is heard in the ‘corridors of power’.
School Notes

Orientation Day

On Monday the new students for next year joined us for Orientation. It’s lovely to see all these new faces and families. Great to see the school buzzing with excitement.

Ranges TEC

This week the Ranges Board expressed its heartfelt thanks to Ellen for the wonderful job she has done over the past 18 months as the pioneering Director of Ranges TEC. Phil takes over next week as Director and has been introduced to the student and parent body. On Friday the Ranges community will hold their first annual Thanksgiving Service.

Year 12 Graduation

Last Friday we held the Year 12 Graduation Night over at the York on Lilydale. I love the way each and every Year 12 student is celebrated and spoken about with flair and insight. Thanks to the team who organised, and all the families who attended, this terrific night.

Finishing Families

One of the lovely things that occurs on this evening is that we acknowledge the families that are finishing their relationship with MECS because their youngest child is leaving. This year there were 20 families in this category for a total of 198 years with MECS because their youngest child is leaving. This year I’ll just mention 5 of those who are in the 15+ years club. We are so thankful for healthy long term relationships.

Parents & Friends

In last week’s newsletter it was announced that the P&F group is retiring as an organisation. This means that the school will be looking at fresh ways in which parents and volunteers can contribute into the community. The school is deeply grateful for the tremendous job that the P&F have done over many, many years. Even though the type of events and activities have changed over the years, the more recent key ones have been: running of the canteen; organising school wear and stationery orders (a huge job each year); undertaking multiple fundraising activities; volunteering at key events; mothers day and fathers day stalls; hosting ‘first day back’ morning teas; making large financial contributions to specific projects and so on. A key example of the extent of P&F’s fundraising is their contribution of $26,000+ to the new primary school climbing tower which will be installed over the coming Christmas break.

The 2012 P&F team have been Evelyn, Julie, Dale, Jen, Liz, Martina, Narelle, Heidi and Anita. To these ladies and the many others who have faithfully served over the years, we say a huge thanks. Your school community is most appreciative of many jobs well done.

Last Working Bee of the Year!

Last Saturday was the last working bee for 2012. Can you believe it? Where has the year gone?

We had a great time on Saturday morning starting with a yummy breakfast of eggs, bacon, sausages, toast, fruit juice and coffee cooked by Dale and Jenny. Many thanks to these ladies who have done a great job this year helping out with the Working Bees.

We have done lots during the year to make our school look so good and a great place for all the students to come. A special thanks goes to so many of the students who came with their mums and dads to help out at Working Bees – your contribution was great!

On Saturday we had 2 special guests for breakfast, Phil the new Director at Ranges TEC and Rick who looks after the Ranges TEC farm. MECS sent a group of parents up to the Ranges TEC farm to help out with some farm work, so a special thanks to those parents who were willing to go. It was also good to have Gerry come and have breakfast and mingle with us.

We cleaned buses, mowed lawns, whippersnipped, cleaned drainage pits, pruned plants, wrote out electrical test tags, dug trenches and put in an agi pipe and blower vaced the paved areas. A big job was cleaning up 2 garden beds by moving concrete and building materials, then shifting soil and mulch to make 2 great looking garden beds (pictured).

It was a great day and lots was achieved.

Thanks again to everyone who came. If you are free in a couple of weeks and have time to spare there will be some jobs to do around the new Early Learning Centre. Give me a ring and I shall find you a job.

Peter and Steve

MECS Maintenance
Canteen Menu Changes

The Canteen has suffered a significant loss of a large amount of stock due to a power cut so for the remaining few weeks of the year, lunch orders will be limited.

**Things that will be available:**

- **Chicken twist**, as usual  $4.50
- **Pizzas**, commercial brand  $3.50
- **Hamburgers** from butchers made with beef (not the sausage meat ones)  $4.50
- **Sausage Rolls**, commercially made  $3.00
- **Steamed dim sims**  80c
- **Hot Potatoes**, as usual  $4.50
- **Corn cobs**  $1
- **Sushi - tuna only**  $2.50
- **Toasted sandwiches**, as per the menu
- **Just Yummy sausage rolls & pizza slice** as usual.

**Weekly specials** = hot dogs for the rest of the year + Sauce 20c + cheese 50c  $2.80

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Volunteering at MECS

Pauline has had no connection with MECS other than being Dutch and knowing a number of people in the school from her Church - Careforce. She has spent the last few months volunteering at MECS with 2 boys, Jonathan and Daniel, in their Middle Primary class. They came to Australia with very little English, so Pauline has been helping in the class to assist them settle in. The boys are making great improvements with their English skills and it has made a huge difference to them, and their teachers. As a community we would like to thank Pauline so much for volunteering at MECS.

**Real Learning Assistant**

**Connie**

**Ed Support SS Coordinator**

“**You are so busy teaching - where do you find the time to offer pastoral care?**”

"Has anyone noticed a change in Eddie’s attitude to his work lately? His marks have also taken a dive in my subject.”

“I am concerned about Tani. I often see her standing all by herself near the lockers at recess. Is she okay?”

“Lona isn’t coping well at recess. She is getting very angry when she loses a game, and regularly runs off in a huff. This isn’t the Lona I have come to know. Has anyone else noticed a change in her behaviour?”

These and similar questions are regularly shared and discussed at weekly staff section meetings in our Primary, Middle and Secondary Schools. Concerns such as these arise from hearts that beat warmly for the wellbeing of our students.

But what does pastoral care look like even before the concerns become a matter for staff consideration?

Class teachers in the Primary and Middle School play an important role in setting a supportive tone in their classrooms and developing a relationship of trust with their students. They intentionally promote a positive classroom culture where students feel they are valued and supported by their teachers and peers. This in turn provides pastoral benefits to the students as they feel a sense of belonging and community, preventing and forestalling feelings of isolation. Furthermore, in the Primary School, the daily interactions with parents allow pastoral care to unfold naturally, enabling wider discussions with parents and partnering with them. In the Senior School pastoral care takes on a different ‘shape’ as multi-aged groups of students are firstly cared for in devotion groups and subsequently by their subject teachers. The principles for care across the school remain the same, however.

As we interact with our students in all the school settings, teachers, learning assistants and other support staff have their antennas out constantly and notice when Tani or Lona behave in a way that wouldn’t be normal for them. In the daily class setting we develop a close relationship with the students, observe them and notice when there are changes in their behaviour, their interactions with their friends in the classroom or on the playground, their standard of work, etc. Depending on the student’s age and the level of concern, responses will vary, from giving a few words of encouragement when a child has had a difficult time in the playground to taking them aside to find out what is troubling them, giving them some words of guidance or praying with them. We may email or call a parent, or have a word aside with them when they drop off or pick up their child. Such interactions raise awareness, help solve matters, or may lead to follow-up as parents and teachers recognise the need.

At MECS, teachers, staff, students and parents are privileged to have further support and advice available from our Welfare Officer, Natasha, our Education Support Coordinator, Jo and staff in the Education Support section. An exciting development in 2013 is that pastoral care in our Senior School section will be further aided by our own Debra as she embarks on her welfare training.

Pastoral care is an area where the positive strength of the partnership between the school and the home is shown to be significant and effective. One could argue that the busyness of teaching is warmly enveloped by the care of our students, and their families as well as our care for one another.

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**Pizza!**

Groups of MP literacy students have worked hard throughout the last six months of this year. Now they get to enjoy an end of year cooking session. Pizza making was the choice of many and they had fun making and tossing their own dough. It smelt good too.

**Sandy**

**Learning Assistant**
Parents & Friends

Stationery Thank You

A HUGE thank you to all the wonderful people who helped pack all the stationery last week and to all those who helped this week with Sales Day. I couldn't have done it without you all. Great days filled with fun and laughter and getting to know more people. Thanks once again.

Evelyn
Stationery Coordinator

Middle School Second-Hand Book Sale

Attention all Middle-School students and parents!

Second-hand books are offered for sale each year on the two Stationery pick-up days. This year we will be selling the English books from Yr 9. The Maths books from Years 8 & 9 will be sold to the school to make class sets (a letter has gone home explaining this).

If you want your child’s text books (see list below) to be sold through the school, here’s what you need to do:

• Write your child’s name clearly on the inside front cover (this allows us to refund the monies to the correct people).
• By Friday December 7 either leave the books in a specially marked box (Year 9 only) which will be located in the Year 9 classroom. (We realise school does not finish until a week later so if students still need them – books can be handed into the office after this date).

Alternatively books may be handed in at the Main office in a clearly marked bag.

If your stationery pick up day is Jan and you want books and let us know your name will be placed on a list so that one can be put aside for you to collect on the second sales day on January 31 or in the first week of school next year.

Books are priced according to their condition (approximately half of their new price.) Any books that came with a CD included in the back, need to have the CD with the book or else the price will be reduced. Parents and Friends retain 15% of the sale price.

If your books are sold, there will be two options for reimbursement:

1. Sale price can be deducted from your School Fees in the New Year.
2. Cash reimbursement will be available early in Term 1 (dates to be announced).

The first option is our preferred option so if you would rather a cash payment please ring me on the number below to let me know.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Evelyn Dubbeld
Stationery Coordinator

Books accepted for Sale

Heinemann Atlas (3rd or 4th Edition only please)
Macquarie School Dictionary
Guidelines For Referencing and Bibliographies
NIV Bibles (as sold by school)
Maths Zone 8*
Maths Zone 9*
Move into English 3 (Yr 9)

*Please make sure all CD’s are in the back of the book if it was supplied with the book.

MECS Notes

Student Medical Emergency Update Forms

All parents should have received the annual Student Medical Emergency Update forms in their mailbox last week. Please ensure these are completed and returned to the Main Office by the last day of school this term. Thank you.

Corrie
Admin Assistant

Drama for Everyday Life Presentation

To all parents whose children do Drama for Everyday Life - there will be a presentation on Thursday 13 December, 9 – 11am, in the Primary PUMP Room.

Jo
Ed Support Coordinator

Immunisation Update for 2013

The Department of Health Immunisation website has a new fact sheet available titled, ‘Immunisation information for parents of school aged children’.

As there are several changes to the routine vaccination schedule for next year, we would encourage parents to download this and read it carefully. Further information will be sent to parents of Years 7, 9 and 10 children next year.

The link is as follows:

Melinda
First Aid Officer

Lost Property

This is a plea to children and parents to please come and check the Lost Property (located in the walkway opposite the First Aid Office) before the school year ends. There are a good number of nice and no doubt expensive jackets and windcheaters as well as assorted lunchboxes and other odds and ends which will be given to charity if not claimed by the end of the school year.

Please, please make an effort to name all your children’s tops, hats and lunch boxes - they are easy to return if they are named and we would be very happy to have an empty lost property rack next year! Thanks.

Melinda
First Aid Officer
Canberra Camp

Canberra may be known for being the centre of political attention, but for MECS Year 9 students, it was the centre of our attention.

Our study and purpose for the camp focused on 3 key issues we had been discussing over the course of Term 4 in CS: ‘Australian Identity’, ‘Australian Politics’ and ‘Me the Citizen’.

For ‘Australian Identity’, we visited places such as the Australian War Memorial and the National Museum of Australia, which had a specific section we looked at on the many components that make up what it means to be ‘Australian’.

When it came to the issue of ‘Australian Politics’, we looked at places such as Parliament House (both old and present) drove through Embassy Drive and visited Government House. These places helped us process and further understand all the political terms we often hear through the media, though never quite could comprehend. It also helped us appreciate our Australian history more and the reason why rules are put in place to help govern our nation.

‘Me the Citizen’ helped us all to distinguish ourselves as individuals, and our significance as citizens of Australia. Are we destined to serve something beyond us, be a functioning part of a machinery? Or are we meant to be independent beings, not labelled by our heritage and culture that surrounds us? Or is it possible to achieve both? To help determine our own views on this, we visited places such as Australian National Gallery, which showed expressions of Australian citizens who wanted to display their thoughts and views on our culture and global issues. I felt that this really tied in with the idea of us as citizens as the Australian National Gallery is a way for everyday Australians to have a voice, and to show independent thinking.

Above all, Canberra Camp 2012 was a fantastic experience for us to grow greater relationships with our peers and teachers, as well as gaining an insight into what is ahead for us when we will no longer just be teenagers, and will have to be responsible for our own decisions and actions.

Faith

Alyssa, Charlotte & Norma

Amanda, Georgia, Hannah, Esther & Norma

Dillon

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Music for Young Children

This is a music awareness program for young children, aiming to present flexible, weekly hands-on sessions to develop music concepts and general life skills by using a combination of the following activities: speech rhymes and songs including action songs, games, finger plays, drama and stories; playing a variety of non-tuned and tuned percussion instruments; moving, including creative movement and dance; listening games and improvisation using creative imagination and free expression.

The program was written by Prep teacher Wendy and will be led by Music teacher Rachel on Tuesday mornings, 9-9.30am.

In 2013, Term 1 will cost $80. Equals 8 sessions at $10 /week (with an additional $5 per sibling over 2 years, siblings under 2 Free).

For a brochure with more information see the MECS website or contact the office 9738 6000

Amanda
Community Relations Officer

Community Meals Needed

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 almost EMPTY. We would appreciate meals, in disposable containers, either bought frozen or freshly made and we can freeze them. 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 & Nicole
Community Relations Officers

Donation Thanks

At our Orientation Day on Monday, new students starting at MECS in 2013 each received a show bag of goodies.

We would like to publicly thank these companies for their donations: Kuranga Nursery, Subway Mount Evelyn, Yarra Valley Water, Bendigo Bank, Bunning’s Warehouse, Light FM, Kilsyth Pool, Chirnside Park Bowling Alley, McDonald’s, Metro Cinemas Boronia, IGA Mount Evelyn, Maroondah Mini Golf, Word Bookstore, Beyond Blue, Boost Juice and TEAR Fund.

Amanda
Community Relations Officer
MECS Notes

Bridges to Literacy (Early Years) Training

There are a couple of places available for parent volunteers to participate in this training at MECS.

You would be required to make a commitment to MECS to 4 x 30 mins sessions per week with a student.

Date: Thursday 31 January, 2013

If you are interested, please contact Diane, Primary School Coordinator.

Calling all Dutch speakers

I am putting out a call to all the Dutch speakers in our community. I am hoping to organise a roster of Dutch speaking people to help next year in our Prep class for a little boy who has moved from Holland. We are unfortunately unable to get funding for ESL support from the Government, so thus the call for help. I would be grateful for volunteers willing to come into the Prep classroom for an hour or two once per week (or for as long and as many times per week as you can manage). Please email Chris if you are able to help out with this urgent need. Please note that you will need to have or obtain a Working With Children Card before you would be able to help out in the classroom. Many thanks.

Chris
Registrar
Cycle B Inverloch Camp

Cycle B went to an Ecology Camp at Inverloch, right near the beach.

Every day in our groups we did lots of different activities at the beaches, at rock pools, sand dunes and a river. We also got to go in a bat-cave in the cliff off a beach. We also helped clean up the rubbish and weed the paths leading down to the beaches.

Every afternoon we got free time to hang around with friends in our tents. We could play ball games, sit in the marquee or on the grass, also we were allowed to go down to the beach and wade in the water. Occasionally we would be able to go for a walk to see the sunset or go down to the docks. Each night we slept in tents with a group of friends.

My highlight of the camp was the bat cave we got to go in. It was really dark and all these flies would swarm you as you went in or out. Right in front of this cave were small waves coming up close to the cave.

Joslyn

Inverloch camp was amazing. I had a great time getting to know more people in Cycle B over the week. We played on the beach, went around to different locations, played volleyball at base camp and loads more. On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday we went to different sites in a group of about 11 to see rock pools, litter on the beaches, animals habitats, native and non native plants, the desalination plant and wind turbines, and some people got to float down to Screw Creek to look at other water life creatures and habitats.

My favourite activity was going to the beaches with Alison. We looked at coast lines, different parts of the beach and we even went to the bakery just before lunch. Another high from my camp experience was the bus trip there and home from camp. We were in a van with our group and Anne-Maree as our group leader/driver. We stopped a couple times at McDonalds and 7/11 to get food and the other groups would drive past and be really jealous! We also listened to music really loud and it was really fun! We had the best group for activities with heaps of my friends in it and overall I had an amazing time on camp.

Katie

In week 6 of Term 4, the Cycle B students went to Inverloch to learn more about ecology. We were there for 5 days. Our campsite was near a beach, so we got to go there during free time. On the first day we had a sandcastle building competition. We didn’t win, but it was good fun. At night we did a night walk through the forest then on to the beach. We did ‘Beaches’ with Alison. We did an ‘Environmental Rescue’ with Peter and ‘Floating down Screw Creek’ with Brad. Floating down a river was my favourite. We had blow-up tyres (and oars if we needed them) and floated down the creek.

Toby
Excitement and energy were the main words to describe the Big Night Out.

We had a wonderful play on the Montrose Adventure Playground doing lots of spinning, climbing and swinging.

Being such a warm and sticky day, everyone thoroughly enjoyed an icypole to cool down.

We were dropped by the bus at the Senior School and played on the big oval.

We enjoyed afternoon tea and dinner in the teacher’s staffroom and the children did a great job of washing their dishes in the sink.

You could sense the feeling of independence as they dried up and put away their belongings.

When they played on the primary playground and oval our preps had it all to themselves along with our wonderful Year 6 helpers, Zoe, Elfie, Beth, Jesse, Jordan and Will. They made it especially fun to have a big game of soccer while some children simply enjoyed just rolling along on the grass.

We were very blessed to have the rain hold off throughout the whole evening although it had been looking most likely all day.

We had songs, games and torch play before having a bedtime story and prayer and saying “goodnight” to each other instead of “good afternoon”!

It was lovely to have parents stay and chat while the children enjoyed a little extra time together before bed.

A big thanks to fabulous Peter for organizing and cooking food and bus driving, and to wonderful Cheryl and our Year 6 helpers.

**Jan**

Prep Teacher
Graduation Thankyou

I wanted to let you know how much we enjoyed the Graduation dinner on Friday evening.

The teachers’ speeches were very special, (though of course Adam’s for Anna was the best) but seriously, Adam, you brought tears to my eyes, thank you for your kindness to Anna. You will be remembered fondly always. I can say this about all of Anna’s teachers with particular thanks to Connie and Nicola.

Heather’s speech was very much how I felt. Her words were so appropriate, eloquently put and meant a lot to me - being also a finishing family with MECS.

Amanda, we have planted our parting gift from MECS in a prominent part of our garden so we may watch it grow, and as we pass its pretty foliage we will be reminded of our girls’ wonderful years at MECS.

We feel privileged to have been part of the school for the past 9 years. As a family we feel content and blessed.

Martin’s finishing song was heartfelt and the end to a very special evening.

So thank you all so much. We wish the school and the staff all the very best for the future and our most sincere and warm thanks for everything the school has been and done for us.

Love and blessings from The Young Family
Friday night 30 November saw the graduation of the class of 2012. Teachers, parents, family and friends were all there to see each student welcomed into the room and were then able to witness a speech by the staff for each individual student. This has the effect of making the process quite personal and special. Combine this with good food and some great musical entertainment by Izzy and Taylor and we knew we were in for a good night.

Heather and John spoke on behalf of the parents with Heather summarising what so many years with MECS meant to her and John giving a heartfelt thanks to the process that his children have experienced. Michael Henderson and Izzy as the Year 12 school leaders responded on behalf of the students with a well thought out speech and a good sense of humour. The class of 2012 has been a great year and we are going to miss them greatly but we wish God’s blessing on all as they take on the challenges of the future.

Cliff
SS Coordinator
**Caravan For Sale**

Future System 1998, tandem independent suspension, 2 sets of bunks, small gas oven, hot plates etc, 3 way fridge, roll out awning and full size annexe, bike rack on back plus lots of extras. Very clean, kept under cover when not being used. $18,500.
Bruce 0403 010 692.

**Garage Sale**

This Sat, 8 Dec, 29 Irvine St, Mount Evelyn, 8am - 2pm. Moving Sale - lots of bargains.

**Careforce Community Christmas Carols**

5pm and 7pm Sunday 23 Dec, 89 Monbulk Rd, Mount Evelyn.

**Upright family piano**

Piano available Free to a MECS Family, pick up early January. Contact Tim.

**Year 11 Text Books Wanted**

MECS Student seeking the following Year 11 Textbooks:

- *Maestro* - Peter Goldsworthy, Publisher Harper Perrennial.
- *MacBeth* - Margaret Kortes (Ed)/Harcourt Brace Jovanovich (HBJ Shakespeare).
- *English in Year 11 Insight*. Beardwood, Sherman, Tulloh.
- *Religion & Society Unit 2* - Beyond Bumper Sticket Ethics; The Good, The Bad and The Ethical (Student Handbook).

If you have any of these books to sell, please contact Karen.

**Housemate Wanted**

My housemate and I are looking for a third Christian housemate to live in the Croydon area. We are both past MECS students in our 20s.
Call Mel.

**Primary Christmas GT**

The final Primary Christmas GT will be on Monday 10 December at 9.15am in the MECS gym. All parents and friends are warmly invited to come along and see our Preps do the nativity play and hear the Primary choir sing some very special Christmas Carol items.

Please note the location is the gym due to the large numbers of parents and friends who usually love to see the delightful Prep play.

**Di**

**PS Coordinator**

**Chicken Minders Needed!**

The Primary School needs families to volunteer to feed the chickens over the school break. Each week requires 3 visits to check the food (supplied) and water, change the hay if needed and as a thank you, you get to keep the eggs you collect!

The weeks are:

- December 17 to 23
- December 24 to 30
- December 31 to January 6
- January 7 to 13
- January 14 to 20
- January 21 to 27
- January 28 to February 4

If you are able to help, please email Wendy Mason and nominate a preferred week. (wmason@mecs.vic.edu.au)