Our SS Leaders for 2014

Isaac & Laura (Year 12), Ryan & Jordy (Year 11) & Nick & Tammy (Year 10)
Our first whole school assembly was held this week in the gym and I was interested to see that when this facility was opened in 2012, the dedication plaque included these words. They are some of my favourite verses in the Bible because the message so clearly speaks to Christians of any time or any place. The meaning is unambiguous; the challenge is in actually doing it! In fact, I would suggest that what these verses are on about is more what being a Christian is about than some of the other things that we often associate with Christianity like going to church.

It speaks into our everyday and ordinary lives and encourages us not to become so well-adjusted to our culture that we fit in without even thinking. What does this mean? Perhaps it means we need to be thinking about how we do things differently from those around us in society who don’t share our Christian beliefs. We certainly need to be thinking how this school might do things differently from other schools.

One of the big issues in society or the culture around us at the moment is the focus on ‘me’ or the individual. Society tells us that we are the most important thing going around and that all of our choices and decisions should be about what is best for us as individuals.

How does society or culture do this?? In lots of tricky and subtle ways... at the assembly this week, I showed the students some t-shirts for toddlers that had logos like, ‘I love me, myself and I’ and ‘It’s all about me!’ printed on the front. If you dress your children in clothes with these messages or choose these things for yourself... then over time you might just start believing this story!! And then we watch tv shows and movies that celebrate a self-centred approach to life; or continuously hear advertisers tell us we are the most important people in the world and we deserve to have everything we want; we listen to music with lyrics that enforce the same sort of message. Before we know it we fit in with our culture without even thinking!

The story of the Bible tells a very different tale. It encourages us to be looking out for one another – not ourselves; we are to live in community not as individuals. That’s the way God made us to be.

So what can we do in our everyday, ordinary lives to live this out here at MECS? It’s so encouraging for me to come into a community that already does this so well. Here are a few examples:

- A buddy system between the Year 6 and Prep students that encourages a spirit of co-operation and support
- Tribal team structure that presents opportunities to engage in healthy competition, but more importantly provides a platform for skills and talents to shine that we don’t always see
- Well-considered playground guidelines so that everyone has the opportunity to play safely
- Good learning routines that respect the learning of other students
- A restorative discipline approach that seeks to restore community, not simply punish the wrong-doer
- Well attended working bees where parents and students see it as their responsibility to look after and care for our resources.

As a learning community wanting to be disciples of Jesus we need to be aware of and analysing the messages and ideas that we are bombardeed with every day. To do this we need to fix our attention on God! That’s what this passage is encouraging us to do. It’s not saying we should separate ourselves from society, but we should at least be thinking about the way God’s story provides a better way for us to live and not be so well-adjusted to the world that we just fit in with everyone else.

Narelle
MECS Principal
Whole School Assembly

It was great that so many of you were able to join us for our first whole school assembly on Tuesday morning. It was an opportunity for all of our students to be together and for us to commit the year to God in prayer. These ‘rituals’ are important for our students to be part of; they realise that they are not just a bunch of individuals going to school, but part of a vibrant learning community that seeks to honour God in all that we do. Thanks to Cliff Blowers and the Senior School for leading the Assembly.

Student Leaders for 2014

In our assembly we were also able to present our new Senior School leaders. We thank these students for their willingness to lead and serve their peers in this way. Leaders for the rest of the school will be appointed shortly. On Tuesday 18 March we will be having a training day for all our student leaders so that they can begin to develop some of the skills and qualities that we desire our leaders to have. Crucial to this training is looking at the way Jesus sought to engage and serve the people of his time, and learn from his example.

Primary Swimming Program

Our Middle and Senior Primary students have commenced their swimming program. Being safe in the water is an important life skill and so we appreciate the opportunity for our students to be involved in this program. It is also a fun, alternative way for our students to develop their ‘self-management skills’ as they make sure they are changed ready to go and then the reverse coming back to school! Thanks to the primary teachers and learning assistants who make the varied program and curriculum in the primary school tick over from day to day.

New Babies

Brad and Anna welcomed a new addition to their family this week. Josephine May arrived safely last Friday. We pray for a blessing on their family as they bring Josephine home and settle into life with 3 daughters!

We also said farewell to Annora this week as she heads off on maternity leave. We wish her all the best for the birth of her baby.

Swimming Carnival

Next Thursday our Year 7-10 students will participate in their annual swimming carnival. This is a fun way for our students to show and develop some of their other skills. Even if you are not a great swimmer, there is plenty to get involved in as each student supports their tribal team. Parents please feel free to come along to Croydon pool and support the students!

Flinders Christian College Community

We were saddened and deeply shocked at the tragic death of Luke last week at his weekly cricket training. Luke was a Year 6 student at Flinders Christian College. On behalf of our school community we have sent a message of condolence, but more importantly, please join me in praying for the staff, students and families of this school. May they know the comforting presence of the Holy Spirit over the weeks and months to come. I’m sure you were also amazed at the dignity and grace of Luke’s mother. May her strength and faith be used as a witness of the hope and peace we find in Christ, amidst the most horrific of circumstances.

Last Wednesday the VCE Drama class set off for the city on a Ned Kelly research excursion. Our first stop was the Old Melbourne Gaol where we were taken on a guided tour focusing on Kelly’s incarceration and last hours. Some free time at the end of the tour allowed students to investigate the cells, try on the replica of Ned Kelly’s armour and imagine what it would have been like to be a prisoner there in the 1800s. Then it was off to the State Library. We were led through the beautiful historic reading room up to a small gallery where we were shown Ned Kelly’s actual armour and pages from the Jerilderie Letter, among other things. The students are now using that and other research to develop their Unit 1/3 ensemble performances, exploring themes such as justice, freedom, rebellion and heroism.

The exciting process of creating an original performance has now begun!

Marlene
Senior School Drama Teacher

MUSIC Notes

Music Update for 2014

As some of you may know my husband Ben and I are expecting our first baby in early April this year! In light of this, I will be finishing up at MECS for the year at the end of this week and God-willing returning in 2015. I am pleased to inform you that our new Instrumental Coordinator and singing teacher, Jodie will be coordinating all Music Performance related events for the remainder of 2014. This will include our Instrumental Recitals and other musical events throughout the year. If you have any queries related to these events, please email her.

I have loved my role as coordinator for the past 6 years and will miss being part of the music leadership and getting to encourage and support our growing musicians and singers here at MECS. I look forward to visiting with Baby Hummer in Term 2 and hopefully getting to a recital or two.

Change of Rehearsal Day for MS Vocal Group

For those students who have been invited to join our MS vocal group this year, rehearsals will be every Tuesday lunchtime (1-1.45pm) in the PS music room, starting next week (Week 4), not Wednesdays as your original letter stated. Look forward to seeing you there!

Annora
Music Performance Coordinator
**MECS Notes**

### National Youth Science Science Forum

Over the summer holidays I attended the National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) and, at the risk of sounding clichéd, it was a truly life changing experience. I was lucky enough, with ample financial help from MECS and the Lilydale Rotary, to attend a 2 week camp in Canberra on the beautiful ANU campus where the only objective was to immerse one’s self in science. While there, I got to visit top research laboratories, attended debates, meet some of the top scientists in the world and socialise with 150 students, who like me, are passionate about science. Some of the most notable features of the camp were: talking to a scientist at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), making ice cream from liquid nitrogen, observing or making multiple explosions, carrying out experiments and experiencing life in science beyond high school. I saw sides of science that I did not know existed, and have taken away a new perspective for my career and personal life.

This short synopsis does not do the NYSF justice, but I urge all students who have a curiosity about the world to apply to the NYSF as it is so much more than science beyond high school. I saw sides of science that I did not know existed, and have taken away a new perspective for my career and personal life.

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Ryan  
VCE Year 12  
**WANTED for Open Village**

The Year 9 students will be undertaking a number of projects that require knitting, crochet and sewing. We would love some parent helpers who have skills in these areas. If you have a current Working With Children check and would be prepared to work with some of our lovely Year 9 students please email me. These projects take place during period 1 on Thursday and Friday (9-9:40am) and during period 4 on Monday (11:30am-12:10pm). If you are unable to help but have any wool, material, knitting needles or crochet hooks that you are prepared to donate we would be very grateful.

Sue  
Middle School Coordinator

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**Friends of MECS**

‘Friends of MECS’ is in its 2nd year of operation at MECS, replacing the previous group ‘Parents and Friends’ which was run by a wonderful group of volunteer parents for many years.

Friends of MECS is headed up by the Community Relations Team, Nicole and Amanda and its aim is to provide opportunities for parents to be involved in various ways in school life. Some examples are:

- providing meals to be given to families who are going through a difficult time
- helping out on stationery days
- helping out with the Mother’s Day and Father’s Day stalls
- being on the prayer chain
- being part of the catering team and helping coordinate fundraising events.

This is just the beginning! We would love to hear any new ideas and suggestions you may have for ways of getting people involved, building community and fundraising. Please call Nicole in the office or email nnyhouse@mecs.vic.edu.au.

**Volunteers Needed**

From time to time we have events at MECS that need catering and our wonderful caterer Karen needs some extra assistance. If this is an area you think you would enjoy helping out in please e-mail me. I would love to hear from you!

Nicole  
Community Relations Officer

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**Year 9 & 10 Volleyball**

We had such a fun day! Our teams did a great job and noticeably improved from the first game to the last. The Year 10s had a head start as they had done a semester of volleyball in Year 9 P.E, but it was great to see our Year 9 teams enthusiastically work at their skills and improve. Some games were very close. Our Year 9 girls came 6th overall. Year 9 boys had at least one win. Year 10 boys won 3 games but missed finals on percentage. Our Year 10 girls had the greatest success on the day, reaching the finals. Thanks Meredith for accompanying us and helping umpire. It was great to see students enjoy the opportunity to display skills they had worked on in P.E.

Anne-Maree  
Secondary Sports Coordinator

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**Admin position available at MECS**

Executive Assistant position available to meet the administrative and support needs of the Principal and Administration Manager. This position is 0.5 FTE (spread over 5 days per week, times to be negotiated). The successful applicant will wholeheartedly join the busy and passionate admin team implementing a distinctively biblical approach to education.


**Looking after our children at MECS**

When picking up children from Kinder or from school please remember that other children/toddlers or babies must never be left in a car unattended. Even though it may sometimes be inconvenient, it is possible to be prosecuted if a child/toddler or baby is left unattended in a car, even for a short amount of time, as this can be highly dangerous.

We ask that you be patient with us in regard to car parking. A sign for ‘Prep and Kinder parents parking only’ is currently underway and will be erected shortly.


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**MECS Matters**

Thursday 20 February 2014  Page 4
School Bags
Parents please remind your children to zip up their bags while they are hanging up on the hooks, so that they can prevent things falling out and stop the magpies from stealing their lunch!

JP Family Night Reminder
Remember the JP Family night on 26 Feb, 5.30pm. Please RSVP to your child’s class teacher if you are coming.

Primary School GTs (assemblies) this term:
- Week 4: Monday, 23 February  MPA
- Week 5: Monday, 3 March  SPD
- Week 8: Monday, 24 March  SPC
GT begins at 9am in the PUMP room. Parents are welcome to attend.

Voice and Movement, Drama for Everyday Life
Information Evening
Confidence in the social world, Handling Teasing and Bullying
Some of our students on the autism spectrum have difficulty in identifying the difference between friendly teasing and bullying. It is possible to learn skills to manage this. You are invited to attend an information evening on this subject.

Speaker Angelica, Founder and Principal of Voice and Movement, will provide you with:
- ways to assist your client/child identify the difference between friendly teasing and bullying;
- strategies to handle bullying behaviour;
- the chance to ask questions and find out how our program could assist your clients/children in developing social skills and making friends.

Tuesday 18 March, 7.30-8.30 pm, Meeting Room 1, Box Hill Library 1040 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill. (There is plenty of off-street parking behind the library, enter via Bank St).
The evening is free but please register your attendance by contacting us.
The evenings fill fast so don’t delay registering.
Tuesday morning was a special time for MECS as we met together for the first time this year. We opened with the national anthem led by Annora with the aid of Elfi and Brianna. The assembly was directed by our Senior School coordinator, Cliff with presentations from our Year 12 students including Ryan sharing photos from his trip to the National Youth Science Forum (described on Page 4) and an entertaining video of the Year 12 study camp put together by Sam. Next came a word from Principal Narelle with the help of a couple of our Prep students, the presentation of the Year 12 and Prep buddies, the introduction of new staff and Senior School leaders for this year and a brief speech from our Year 12 leaders, Issac and Laura. We closed the assembly with payers for the different areas of the school. It was wonderful to all come together in community.

Heather
Newsletter Editor
Our Senior School Tribal Leaders for 2014
Joel, Grayson, Jay, Asha, Sam, Georgia, Ryan & Neesa
Calendar

2014 Term 1 Week 3: 17 FEB - 23 FEB

Fri 21 February
SP Swimming

Sat 22 February
Working Bee 7am-1pm BBQ Breakfast

2014 Term 1 Week 4: 24 FEB - 2 MAR

Wed 26 February
MP Swimming
JP Meet and Greet family night.
5.30pm

Thur 27 February
Years 7-10 Tribal Swimming Carnival
Prep Connect Morning Tea Staffroom 9am

Fri 28 February
SP Swimming

2014 Term 1 Week 5: 3 MAR - 9 MAR

Mon 3 - Fri 7 March
MS Camps

Wed 5 March
MP Swimming

Thur 6 March
Grandparents & Special Friends Day 9am

Fri 7 March
SP Swimming

2014 Term 1 Week 6: 10 MAR - 16 MAR

Mon 10 March
Labour Day Public Holiday

Wed 12 March
MP Swimming
Interschool Swimming
JP Mini beast Incursion

Thur 13 March
SS Connect Morning Tea Staffroom 9am

Fri 14 March
SP Swimming

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.

Missing cat
Missing cat from York Road. If you have seen him please contact Janet.

Unit for Rent
A furnished two-bedroom unit 10 minutes walk from the centre of Lilydale, has a garage and air-conditioning. Ideal for a young couple just starting out. $270/week.

Drum Kit for Sale
Remo/Pearl Drum Kit. Burgundy in colour. Full kit plus double kick, stool and sticks included. Good condition. $400. Contact Damien.

Education Support Course at Morrisons
Morrison's is running a 31 week accredited Certificate IV course in Education support at Level 2/12A Station St, Mount Evelyn, on Fridays from 9am-4pm. A Working with Children Check is required. Please contact Morrisons.

Help Needed!
We have a student who needs transport from MECS to Mountain District Christian School (Monbulk) every Wednesday morning during school terms. Pick up time from MECS would be 11am for an 11.20am arrival at MDCS. MECS will reimburse the cost of travel.
If you are able to help out please contact Gerry.

Lilydale Eagles Soccer Club
Lilydale Eagles Soccer Club is looking for players from Under 9s through to seniors. All junior teams and four senior teams play in the Victorian Churches Football Association. This year we are excited to announce that we will also be fielding two senior teams in the Football Federation Victoria State League.
Junior Registration is on Tues 25 Feb from 6 - 8pm Morrison Reserve, Mount Evelyn. Contact Les.

Zoo Holiday program
Melbourne Zoos run holiday programs including ‘Vet for a day’ (Healesville) and Keeper for a day. Cost between $103 and $125. For years 7-12 students. 9.30am -3.30pm. Various Dates. Call to reserve your place. Payment is required at time of booking. Strictly limited numbers. Bookings are not refundable. For more information see www.zoo.org.au/whats-on.

Keep Children Safe Online Seminar
Thursday 6 March, 7 - 9pm at Camberwell Girls Grammar School, 2 Torrington St, Canterbury. $15 per person (at the door) NO EFTPOS, includes free tea/coffee from 6.30pm.
Presented by Brett, former QLD Police Officer and Detective predominantly in the field of Child Exploitation, covering:
- Simple measures to create a positive and SAFE online experience
- Understanding the real life dangers and responsibilities
- The importance of caregivers in keeping children safe online
- The grey area between school and home
Email, including your name and the number of tickets required (no obligation). Collect and pay for tickets on the night. Enquiries, freecall.

Remember the first Working Bee
this Sat 22 Feb, 7am -1pm.
Includes BBQ Breakfast

Grandparents day invitations went out this week. If you would like another copy please see the office or the website.

The Canteen is now open on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Like us on Face Book!
Mount Evelyn Christian School - MECS
MECS - Kindergarten
MECS - Past Students

Newsletter Deadline is 11am Tuesday on published week.
Email articles (images attached as jpg) to the Newsletter Office

Notices sent home this week and on Website

- SS SAC and SAT Dates
- 4 Y old Kinder Connect Morning Tea Invite
- Prep Connect Morning Tea Invite
- Tribal Swimming Notice
- 3 Y old Kinder Connect Morning Tea Invite
- Grandparents & Special Friends Day Invite
- MP Headlice Letter
- Kindergarten Connections Letter 1