Tribal Fun at the Swimming Carnival

Astrid & Raylee adding some fun to the day in their tribal colours
According to the Bible, the city is not an evil, degenerate place to be avoided! In fact, through the prophet Jeremiah, God encourages those Israelites who had recently been exiled to Babylon to prosper and contribute to the life and shalom of the city.

“Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.” Jeremiah 29:5 – 7 (NIV)

God presents his future redeemed world, the coming Kingdom of God, as a “holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband” (Revelation 21:2). It would appear that God has a purpose and use for cities; indeed, they are a vital part of God’s amazing creation, not just some modern social phenomena.

Tim K, pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York, believes that the city has always been a place of refuge and safety. From earliest times, people came to the city for protection, and even today, people like the homeless, new immigrants and the poor come to cities to band together for mutual support. He also believes the city acts as a magnifying glass for God’s culture-making activities – music, the arts, manufacturing, trade, the advancement of technology – these and many other activities are magnified in the city.

Finally, he sees cities as ‘religious hotbeds’ where people are spiritually seeking and restless. The density and diversity of the city – the same dynamics that produce cultural development – also keep people spiritually restless.

However, as with all aspects of creation, these areas have been distorted by sin. As a result:

1. The diversity of the city becomes a place of racism, classism and violence. The city, instead of becoming a place of refuge, becomes a place where we can hide from God and his law.
2. The cultural-development of the city becomes a place of pride, arrogance, excess, over-work and exhaustion. The city, instead of being a place that glorifies God in all its richness, creates its own idols.
3. The spiritual restlessness of the city makes for a hotbed of false beliefs. The city, instead of pointing the way to belief in God, becomes the ‘church’ for capitalism and consumerism.

So what will our Year 9 students learn from their City Experience?... Hopefully they will be able to see first-hand that in every earthly city, there are two ‘kingdoms’ vying for control – the City of Satan and the City of God.

So what will our Year 9 students learn from their City Experience and how might it change them? Hopefully they will be able to see first-hand that in every earthly city, there are two ‘kingdoms’ vying for control – the City of Satan and the City of God. The city of Satan deifies power, wealth and human culture itself, whereas the City of God is marked by justice, compassion, stewardship, peace – the shalom of God.

The students will have opportunities to see examples of both ‘kingdoms’ as they participate in a range of activities, including visiting the Magistrates Court, being immersed in some practical exercises on consumerism, participating in activities that identify how people can be so easily pushed to the edges of our society or ‘marginalised’ and also a range of other experiences that will challenge them on a number of levels.

As Jeremiah urges, may our students see the need for seeking the welfare of the city – and the need to pray for it. We are to love the city as God does and transform it for His Kingdom by bringing shalom to all aspects of creation. We do this because of our Christ-won citizenship in the City-to-come!

Narelle
MECS Principal
Board and New Staff Dinner
Before the Board meeting this Tuesday, new staff and their spouses were invited to ‘meet the Board’ over dinner. This gave the Board the opportunity to explain something of what we mean by ‘parent governance’ to our new staff. We are so pleased with how all our staff have settled into their roles this year. It’s a busy time as teachers adjust to the demands of a new year, but particularly so for our graduate and new teachers, so we appreciate them coming along to meet our friendly Board.

Grandparents and Special Friends Day
As you read this we will have just enjoyed our Grandparents and Special Friends day in the Primary school. How lovely to have so many visitors to our school, all coming along to support one or more of our younger students. The Primary school was abuzz with friendly chatter and smiling faces. I don’t know who was more proud – the students showing off their great school, or the grandparents and friends expressing such pride in the special ones they had come to visit. Thanks to everybody who made this a great morning!

New Path to the Basketball Courts
You may have noticed some construction going on next to the main office car park. A new concrete path has just been completed to replace the old steep path which made deliveries difficult and was hard especially for the smaller students, to manage. Now it is much better and safer. It looks good too!

Heather
Newsletter Editor

Infrastructure Committee
Four times a year, our infrastructure committee meets and then reports back to the Board about projects completed around the school and new ideas on the drawing board for the future. A walk through our school recently would see the Middle School creek bed construction project all but finished. We just need to complete the landscaping and get the water flowing down the rock creek bed. You would also have noticed the completion of a small deck in the Primary Creation Garden that will help facilitate outdoor learning for our Junior Primaries. Finally, I’m sure many of you are enjoying the newly asphalted car-park down near the kinder and maintenance area. We thank God for the beautiful surrounds and facilities of this school, and the wise stewardship of Gerry Beimers and his team in making these new improvements to our grounds possible.

Middle School Camps
It’s a much quieter place when all our Middle School students are away on their camps and experiences! We look forward to hearing all about their adventures in next week’s newsletter.

School Happenings

New Path to the Basketball Courts

You may have noticed some construction going on next to the main office car park. A new concrete path has just been completed to replace the old steep path which made deliveries difficult and was hard especially for the smaller students, to manage. Now it is much better and safer. It looks good too!

Heather
Newsletter Editor

Parent Teacher Interviews March 25-28
Dear Parents/Guardians,

Please be advised of the upcoming dates for the Term 1 compulsory Parent Teacher Interviews. Within the coming weeks, you will receive specific instructions for our Parent

Teacher Online booking system with your unique family password, and you will be able to book in a time suitable to your family. Until this time, please make note of the following dates and times for your child/ren’s teacher/s:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Primary &amp; Middle School</th>
<th>Senior School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues 25 March</td>
<td>4-6pm</td>
<td>3:40-8:40pm (no appointments from 6-7pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 27 March</td>
<td>4-9pm (no appointments from 6-7pm)</td>
<td>3:40-8:40pm (no appointments from 6-7pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 28 March</td>
<td>9am-1pm (no appointments from 11-11:30am)</td>
<td>9am-1:10pm (no appointments from 11-11:30am)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You will notice Friday’s interview times fall within school hours, which means:

• There will be NO CLASSES for Prep-Year 10 students on Friday March 28.
• VCE students need to check with their specific teachers to confirm if Friday classes are being conducted as normal.
• Kinder sessions will run as normal.

We apologise if this causes any inconvenience for your family.

The teachers are really looking forward to the opportunity to meet with you.

Blessings,

Natasha
School Services Manager
MECS Notes

Future Enrolments at MECS
We are now processing enrolments for 2016, 2017 and future years. Currently our 2015 Prep and Kindergarten classes have waiting lists! Many of our other classes also have waiting lists. If you have a sibling of a currently enrolled student who you would like to be considered for a position at MECS, please ensure that you have completed an Application for Sibling Enrolment, available from the office and return it to the office as soon as possible.

If you are unsure as to whether you have already completed a form, please contact the Student Services Manager, Natasha nstaunton@mecs.vic.edu.au or via the office.

One of the great ways people come to know about MECS is by personal invitation and referral by our current families. We appreciate this greatly. If you have friends and family who are interested in Christian education, please encourage them to telephone the school to speak with either Nicole or Amanda regarding an information pack being sent to them and also the possibility of coming in for a personalised tour of the school.

We also have our annual Open Day on Saturday May 10 from 10am – 1pm - this is a great opportunity for family and friends to come along and see the school.

Nicole and Amanda
Community Relations Officers

Meals needed
We try to keep a supply of frozen meals in the office freezer to offer families who need support and that freezer is nearly empty! If you are able to make a meal, please place it in a disposable container and list the quantity and ingredients. We would really appreciate your contribution. You can drop meals in at the Main Office anytime. Thank you.

Nicole and Amanda
Community Relations Officers

Friends of MECS

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 her.

Prayer Chain

11 years ago, when I first came to the school I was delighted to hear kids, from Prep to VCE, call out across the school yard “I’ll be praying for you”. What a privilege and honour it is to pray for someone. So I was pretty excited to be part of a simple email prayer chain and have the opportunity to pray for global matters of the school as well as other needs requested by staff, students or parents. As a new school year begins, and as I take over coordinating the weekly emails that make up how the prayers are circulated, I’d like to invite others to join us in prayer. I’m not so much asking for your time, as I know we’re all very busy, but more your consciousness of bringing the needs of our school community to God in your prayer. If you would like to join us, or have something you would like us to pray for, please send us an email to prayer@mecs.vic.edu.au

Kerrie
Prayer Chain Coordinator

Mooroolbark Community Festival

How would you like to meet some of the Mooroolbark community at their Festival on Saturday March 22, 10am to 4pm?

We would love to have some volunteer students and parents come along and man our MECS stall.

If you are able to help out for an hour please contact Amanda.

Attention Years 5 & 6 School Banking

Special limited offer for our Senior Primary Bankers!

Upgrade your yellow Dollarmites’ bank book cover to the new ‘cool black wallet’

The next time you bank at school, your Dollarmites cover will be upgraded to the new black wallet.

There’s a limited supply, so bank soon so you don’t miss out!

It’s great to see our Senior Primary students understanding the importance of saving!

Congratulations everyone! Keep up your great saving habit!

Next Working Bee
Saturday 22 March
8.00am-1pm
Morning Tea Provided
Class of 2013 - Destinations

The Year 12 Class of 2013: Possible Destinations in 2014*

Since December 16, when many an anxious MECS Year 12 student awaited for the SMS bearing his or her results to arrive right at 7am, much has happened. These results, in particular the ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank) were used by VTAC (Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre) to place students in tertiary courses. Last year 41 Year 12 students studied for the VCE at MECS and all successfully achieved their certificates. Here is the list of all of their destinations this year.

*Please note that some students have deferred their tertiary course and are working as part of a gap year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Destination 2014</th>
<th>Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gemma</td>
<td>Nursing</td>
<td>Australian Catholic University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicha</td>
<td>Gap Year and Work</td>
<td>Gap Year and Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim</td>
<td>Associate Diploma of Engineering</td>
<td>Swinburne University of Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kristen</td>
<td>Liberal Arts</td>
<td>Swinburne University of Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel</td>
<td>Nutrition and Dietetics</td>
<td>Monash University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameron</td>
<td>Education (P-10)</td>
<td>Monash University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lauren</td>
<td>Building Design</td>
<td>Victoria University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>Geospatial Science</td>
<td>RMIT University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack</td>
<td>Gap Year and Work</td>
<td>Gap Year and Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniele</td>
<td>Psychology and Psychophysiology</td>
<td>Swinburne University of Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Callum</td>
<td>Work and Fitness training course</td>
<td>Work and Fitness training course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ph-ael</td>
<td>Arts</td>
<td>Monash University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camille</td>
<td>Arts/Business</td>
<td>Swinburne University of Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca</td>
<td>Health Sciences/Podiatric Practice</td>
<td>La Trobe University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lydia</td>
<td>Arts</td>
<td>University Of Melbourne (The)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chad</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Monash University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyle</td>
<td>Sport and Recreation Management</td>
<td>Victoria University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raymond</td>
<td>Science (Applied Sciences)</td>
<td>RMIT University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>University Of Melbourne (The)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan</td>
<td>Arts/Health Sciences</td>
<td>La Trobe University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaine</td>
<td>Commerce</td>
<td>Australian Catholic University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicholas</td>
<td>Health Sciences</td>
<td>Deakin University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose</td>
<td>Nursing/Public Health and Health Promotion</td>
<td>Deakin University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pamela</td>
<td>Arts</td>
<td>University Of Melbourne (The)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tert</td>
<td>Exercise and Sport Science</td>
<td>Deakin University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stephanie</td>
<td>Arts</td>
<td>University Of Melbourne (The)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christopher</td>
<td>Engineering-Biomedical</td>
<td>RMIT University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alison</td>
<td>Social Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ryan</td>
<td>Engineering (Honours)</td>
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<td>Joshua</td>
<td>Science</td>
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<td>Lauren</td>
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<tr>
<td>Josiah</td>
<td>Gap Year and Work</td>
<td>Gap Year and Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perin</td>
<td>Gap Year and Work</td>
<td>Gap Year and Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lanita</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>University Of Melbourne (The)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris</td>
<td>Study in the USA</td>
<td>Study in the USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ben</td>
<td>International Development Studies</td>
<td>Australian Catholic University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benjamin</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Swinburne University of Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter</td>
<td>Teacher Education-Primary</td>
<td>Australian Catholic University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We are grateful to God for His ongoing provision for the class of 2013. We encourage you to pray for these young people as they face the new challenges of work and tertiary study (this is the first week of many University courses).

Dr Roger F
VCE Coordinator

Gastro in Primary School

Parents of primary students need to be aware that we are currently in the midst of a gastro outbreak at school. Most cases have been among the Preps with a few other cases scattered through the other Primary levels. Please be mindful that if your child shows any symptoms such as vomiting or diarrhoea they need to be kept home from school until it has been at least 24 hours after the symptoms have stopped. This will help control the spread amongst students. Teachers have been emphasising hand washing and not sharing food or drink bottles. Please be extra vigilant with these measures at home and do not send your children to school if they are unwell.

Thanks for your cooperation and understanding

Melinda
First Aid Officer

Kidsafe Victoria Notice

Despite a recent drop in temperatures, parents are still urged to be aware of the dangers of leaving children alone in motor vehicles, so if you need to get out of the car, even for a moment, always take your child with you. No Exceptions. No Excuses.

A recent survey conducted by the Victorian Coalition Government found that despite sweltering through one of the hottest summers on record, one in three parents admit to leaving their children alone in a parked car. The research demonstrated most parents underestimate how quickly the temperature inside a parked car can rise and the devastating impact this has on a child.

A car’s temperature starts to rise from the moment the door is closed and can be double the outside temperature in minutes. Even when it’s 30 degrees outside, your child could be sweltering in up to 60 degree heat.

It is not worth the risk – if you are travelling with a child and you need to get out of the car, even for just one minute, make sure you take your child with you.

Young children are more sensitive to heat than adults and their body temperature can reach dangerous levels quicker than expected. A young child’s body temperature rises three to five times faster than an adult, placing them in extreme danger of life threatening heatstroke, dehydration and other health risks if left alone in a parked car.

Never leave a child alone in a car. No Exceptions. No Excuses.

For more information, see Kidsafe Victoria.
Thank you so much to all of the Junior Primary families who were able to attend this special night. It was so nice to meet you all and share a little bit of what is happening in JP. If you were unable to attend there will be some information to view on the JP Blog. Invitations to view the blog are coming soon!

Bec
JP Teacher

Student Recounts

Last night the Junior Primary families and staff got together at school. First we had dinner together. I had a sausage in bread with cheese and sauce. We ate outside the PUMP room.

Next the Junior Primary students showed their families their book boxes and Sam showed us how NOT to do 'Read to Self'. Kaitlyn did a beautiful job of doing it properly.

Finally the parents went back up to the PUMP room for information while the children did activities and ate icy poles and watermelon.

I had a fantastic time. I loved the art and craft the most.

Christy

First I came to school with my Mum and brother. Next I had dinner with my brother and mum. Finally we did activities and had icy poles in the classrooms.

Lucas

First we had some dinner together. We had a sausage. When we got our sausages we played. Next we got the parents and showed them what we do in Daily 5 and we showed them our book box. Finally we did activities and we got an icy pole. My favourite was making and the icy pole.

Taj

First we came to school at 5.30pm. We lined up for dinner. I had a sausage. Next we went to the classroom to show our parents how Daily 5 works. I had lots of fun. Finally Emma and I went to Susannahs classroom.

Jenson
Year 7-10 Tribal Swimming Carnival

Well done to all those who competed in an event at our recent Tribal swimming carnival. We had a cool start but the weather warmed up by the time the novelty events were on. Swimming is not everyone’s favourite activity, but it was excellent to see those who are gifted in this area able to display their skills. Our Year 7s and 8s were the stars as they had the majority of competitors. In the end it was Warlpa (white) who had the points and won. It was also great to see those who dressed up in their team colours to add extra fun to the day. Thanks to our Year 10s and staff who helped run the day.

Please note, those who won their events (not heats, novelty or relay events) will compete for MECS at the inter-school Swimming next Wed 12 March.

Anne-Maree
Secondary Sports Coordinator
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.

Op Shop Opening
New Christian Outreach Ministries Op Shop opening Sat 15 March 10 am, 208 Dorset Road, Boronia.
COM is opening a second Op Shop, this one in Boronia.
There is plenty of parking around the back and also an entry at the back. It will be called All Sorts Opportunity Shop.

Free Rabbits
3 female lop-eared rabbits, free to a good home. Contact Sarah.

Free Seminar
‘When Great Minds Don’t Think Alike’ providing valuable insights for parents and teachers of children with various learning difficulties.
ReMinds 90 minute seminar, Lilydale Library Tues 25 March 1.30pm

Healesville Autumnfest 2014
9am-3pm, Saturday 22 March.
Coronation Park, River St. Free Entry.
Wide range of stalls, displays and activities. Learn about heritage apples and other fruit trees, very edible weeds, options for solar power generation, laying out a productive garden and eating for maximum health.
There’ll be farm animals to pet with owners happy to answer any questions about keeping these very productive and friendly animals.

For Sale
One male guinea pig, approximately 6 months old. Lovely temperament, and easy to care for.
5 baby guinea pigs (gender to be verified), available in 6 weeks.
Contact Lynda.

Ringwood Jets Footy Club
Seeking under 10 players for Saturday mornings. Contact Susan.

School Photo Day Monday 17 March
This week you will have received order envelopes for the school photo day on 17 March. Payment for your choice of photos is due in by Friday 14 March to the office. The letter accompanying the envelope explains everything you need to know. If you have any questions please contact the office.
If you wish to have a family photo taken, family photo envelopes are available from the Main Office or Senior School Office.

Kinder Photo Days
This year, we have a great photography company called Max Amos Photography who will be taking the photos. If you have a child in kinder, please make a note of the relevant kinder photo day in your diary:
Possums: Monday 24 March 9am-12pm
Bluebirds: Tuesday 25 March 9am-12pm
Koalas: Wednesday 26 March 9am-12pm
Rosellas: Thursday 27 March 9am-12pm
Wendy Mason
Early Years Coordinator

Notices sent home this week and on Website

- Careers Newsletter No 2 (25 Feb)
- Parent Teacher Interview Notice
- School Photo Order Envelopes