JP Minibeast Parade

Back row - Christy, Jenson & Alistair, Front row - Lilly & Emily. Story page 6.
What goes on in the Senior School?

The Senior School staff have thought long and hard about what we want for our students as they journey through the last few years of school.

We want to encourage each of them as much as possible and see them grow and mature. We do not want to shy away from the academic responsibilities we have, and yet we know there is more to the schooling enterprise. A lot of this is summed up in a phrase we have been looking at lately - ‘Faithful Learning, Faithful Living’. We want to see each student as a unique person fashioned and shaped by God. As Isaiah stated “But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand”. (Isaiah 64:8). This is not easy in the hurly burly of daily life but the approach is to see students not only faithful in their learning but in their living. We aim to prepare students for their daily responsive discipleship and want to see students develop a base from which to live as the years extend beyond school. Our devotions this term have been looking at the figure of Abraham and the phrase ‘Faithful Learning, Faithful Living’ has been evident all term as we have looked at the faith that Abraham had in the harsh reality of life.

So with these words in mind, 2014 is shaping up to be another great year in the Senior School. It’s been great to see the incoming Year 10 students become more relaxed in the sunny courtyard during this first term, as they transition from the different approach of the Middle School and orientate themselves to the Senior School.

Highlights of 2014

A highlight for the Year 10s will be ‘Trans Ed Week’ which is in the middle of the year. A little like Special Week in the Middle School, we take a week off normal classes and look at career options and different pathways available to students in their futures. This also includes the chance to take up a work experience placement.

A second highlight for the Year 10s is of course the Centre Trip. A favourite for many students, this trip involves 55+ students, two buses, thousands of kilometers and eighteen days of adventure together and provides an amazing opportunity to understand and relate more to the problems and issues faced by our indigenous friends. For many students, the ‘student sharing’ sessions during the trip, and then later, an evening in Term 4 to share with parents, are highlights of the trip. The learning and maturing that takes place is huge and we often see a significant change in students after the trip.

Some highlights for the Year 11s will be the Formal and the running of the SS café. The Formal is always a great night and looked forward to by many students. The students take dancing lessons all term and the results speak for themselves. Each Year 11 student gives a speech, and it is always great to hear them reflect on the diversity of the group and how in many cases their faith has been strengthened by their learning at MECS.

We pray that the partnership between teachers, parents and the students themselves enable them to be people of compassion and integrity as they seek to give God the glory in their lives.

The running of the Senior School Café by the Year 11 Business Management class is another highlight. This is a practical way to understand small business and the class, encouraged by Adam, does a great job running, promoting and organizing the café. The rest of the Senior School students get to enjoy the food!

Our Year 12 students are of course in their last year. The year began for them with a 2 day VCE camp to set the feel and pace for the year, followed back at school with getting paired up with a buddy in Prep - a great symbol of the passage of time through their schooling years. The last term will be very busy as they prepare both for their exams, and to celebrate the end of their schooling. Their last day of school in October will be a celebration of all that has gone before. They’ll share this with the rest of the school through lots of fun activities and a whole school assembly which is organised and run by the Year 12 students. Following the exams we meet officially for the last time at the Year 12 graduation where each student is recognized individually with a speech from a staff member. The evening is a great finish for the students, especially for those who have been at MECS for the whole 13 years.

It is a busy world in the Senior School, but we know God has his hand on us, guiding and directing our path. Our aim is to encourage and help shape each student as they take on being a disciple in the world they are about to enter. This will be a test of character for many of our students and we pray that the partnership between teachers, parents and the students themselves enable them to be people of compassion and integrity as they seek to give God the glory in their lives.

Cliff
SS Coordinator
Open Day

Before we know it, the aforementioned holidays will be over and Open Day will be upon us! Hopefully you have Saturday 10 May in your diaries. It is always a great opportunity to come together as a community and promote what our school is about. If you have friends and family who you think might be interested in Christian education, invite them along. There will be plenty of activities and information on hand to explain the MECS difference!

Easter

Can I encourage you as a family not to lose sight of the Easter celebrations? When Easter falls in our term break it is easy for the holidays to all blur together. However, Easter is at the heart of what this community is about. As a saved and redeemed people, we enjoy Christian community together and partner with God in the on-going redemption of His world. As we contemplate Christ’s death on the cross and celebrate His resurrection, may it be a personal opportunity for all of us to deepen and grow our personal relationship with God.

Christian Education National (CEN) Executives Conference

Gerry and I had a great time at the CEN Executives Conference last week in Geelong. It is always encouraging to catch up with other colleagues from around Australia and hear their stories. I am always so moved by the common vision we share to seek God’s Kingdom in education. Some schools have a much tougher challenge than we do! To hear from Karen Fletcher, the Principal of Gawa Christian School, was a sobering reminder of the costs of serving in such a remote location. Russell (a past MECS teacher!) sends his greetings as the new Principal at Nhulunbuy Christian School, but likewise faces a struggle as this mining community starts to shut down after the recent mine closures. We pray for him and Suzanne as they lead this community through a difficult time.

School Holidays

A lot happens in a busy term, and it’s been wonderful to be part of so many varied and enjoyable events. However, hopefully you will have time over the next three weeks to enjoy some ‘down’ time with your family and re-charge your batteries for the term ahead. Whether it is a few well-deserved sleep-ins, a break from making school lunches or time to catch up on some reading and movies – keep safe as a family and enjoy the break!

Easter display in the Kindergarten

and Kinder fun this week
Friends of MECS

Mother’s Day and Father’s Day stalls

We are seriously considering doing Fair Trade gifts for the stalls this year. Are you interested in being involved? Do you have any contacts for Fair Trade gifts?

Please contact Nicole through the office or email.

Nicole and Amanda
Community Relations Officers

Entertainment Books

The 2014/2015 entertainment book was launched this week. In the main office is a sample book for you to look through. Last week an order form went home to each family so remember to order your book before they run out. Ask all your family and friends as 20% of all sales goes to the schools fundraising.

Evelyn

MECS Open Day Help Needed

Saturday May 10, 10am - 1pm

Our annual Open Day is coming up fast! We would love to have your help on the day - even for an hour or two.

Please mark your diaries and contact Amanda if you are able to help.

MUSIC Notes

Please Note - Recital Date Moved

Our Term 2 recital date for all instrumental music students has been moved back one day to Wednesday, June 11. All other details remain the same. Please mark it in your diaries.

Jodie
Instrumental Music Coordinator

MECS Notes

Kindergarten Tee Shirts

Available now from the main office in sizes 2, 4 & 6. $10 each. Each child will receive one on enrolment to MECS Kindergarten, but parents are welcome to purchase more at anytime.

Free Positive Behaviour Support Workshop

Aspect Victoria is pleased to offer our highly successful, contemporary, evidence-based three day Autism specific Positive Behaviour Support Workshop in the Eastern Region of Victoria. This is a free workshop for parents and carers of children and young people aged 6 - 25 years with Autism Spectrum Disorder (the individual with ASD must be living at home).

Those participating in the workshop will:

- Develop an understanding of autism and how ASD impacts upon learning and behaviour.
- Learn how to be proactive by creating an autism friendly environment at home.
- Learn how to write an autism specific behaviour support plan for one of their child’s behaviours
- Lean how to write a plan to respond confidently when challenging behaviour occurs.
- Learn how to teach new skills to promote their child’s independence and quality of life.

Enquiries Amber.

Please note workshops require a minimum of 16 participants. If the minimum number of participants has not been reached one week prior, the workshop will be cancelled.

Wed 7, Thur 8 & Fri 9 May 2014, 9.30am - 2:30pm each day.
(Registration 9.15am).
Maroondah Federation Estate, 32 Greenwood Ave, Ringwood.
BYO Lunch.
Register online at www.autismspectrum.org.au/registration

MECS
Mount Evelyn Christian School

Open Day
Sat 10 May
10am-1pm

Enquire for 2016 & beyond

Kindergarten
to VCE
As first term comes to an end, the lost property has heaped up again. Could you please check the racks and claim anything that belongs to your children? This is also a reminder to parents to PLEASE name your children's clothing. It makes our job so much easier if we can return lost items to the owners straight away, and saves you money in replacing lost clothing.

Melinda
First Aid and Lost Property Officer

Kiss Safely (comment: this is a deliberate pun!)

At our recent Parent Seminar one of the participants commented on the way the Kiss-n-Drop works so smoothly, and that everyone seems to be quite patient. This made me very happy – good job everyone! Knowing that you all want the Kiss-n-Drop process to be as safe as possible is great, and something we want to strengthen.

Over the term we have noticed a few habits creeping in that threaten the safety of kids in the Kiss-n-Drop zone. These habits are things like ball games happening (a no-no), kids hanging outside the bollards, kids waiting along the path where there are no bollards, our buses arriving way too early, vehicles not moving as far forward as possible and students chatting to their buddies who are in their car already – delaying its departure. The teachers on duty are alert for these things, but as they can only be in one spot at a time, everyone using Kiss-n-Drop needs to work together. For our part, we have reminded our bus drivers not to arrive at Kiss-n-Drop before 3.35pm. This will keep the zone clear for you if you get there before then. For your part, please drive slowly, be hyper vigilant, move as far down the pickup zone as you can (and if a teacher beckons you forward remember it’s to enable everyone to fit in behind you) and don’t pick up your kids where there are no bollards. For your kid’s part, remind them not to attempt to play with balls while waiting, and remind them to wait only behind the bollards.

Kiss-n-Drop safely!

Gerry
Administration Manager
Many thanks from all the Junior Primary Teachers to all of the parents and grandparents who helped to make our Mini Beast Dress Up Day such a special day. We were amazed by all the beautiful Mini Beasts in our classes and are thankful for the opportunity for students to be able to share their learning with you.

Rebecca, Daniela & Susannah
JP Teachers

Today I dressed up as a ladybird. Ladybirds like to eat aphids.
Isabelle

Today I dressed up as a grasshopper. Grasshoppers love to jump!
Sam

Today I am a butterfly. I like to fly around getting nectar.
Josephine

Today I dressed up as a cicada. Cicada’s like to make lots of noise!
Patrick

Today I am a huntsman. I like to hunt for prey - flies and butterflies.
Seth

Morgan & Yuli

Wyatt & Christopher

Maisie, Asher & Taj

Isobella & Nia

Mia & Hannah

Hayley

Toby & Seth

Eve

JPT
Munchy, Crunchy for my Lunchy, Veggie Soup!

No wombats in this soup... just nice fresh vegetables to help keep us healthy.

We have been learning that God gave us wonderfully created bodies, and that we need to look after them by choosing healthy foods, drinking lots of water, and getting exercise and plenty of sleep.

We wrote up the recipe together and planned how we would make the soup.

The children carefully chopped up the veggies with help from Mrs Gray, Mrs Baker and one of our lovely year 12 buddies.

Mr Brown got to taste it first and told the children it was delicious!

Some children even asked for seconds.

Yum!

Jan
Prep Coordinator / Teacher
### 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.

#### Accommodation Needed
Young single mum and 6 month old daughter looking for a granny flat or small apartment. Please contact Skye.

#### Desk for Sale
Solid timber desk with one draw and keyboard tray. Good condition. Measures 1220w x 660d x 740h. $50 Contact Rosalie.

#### Trailer for Sale
White box trailer, good condition. Size 1900 long, 1500 wide & 1200 high. $1500 ONO. See MECS Office.

#### Montrose & Mount Evelyn Scouts
You can join Scouts if you are a boy or a girl, aged between 5 and 26 years old. At Scouts we learn new skills, make new friends, play games, challenge ourselves, go camping and have fun! We are offering 3 FREE try out sessions. Register your interest and be part of one of the most ‘awarded’ Scout Groups in Victoria. For more information contact Lisa or Jodie. www.MtEvelynScouts.org.au.

#### Free Family Fun Day
National Rhododendron Gardens, The Georgian Road, Olinda, Tuesday April 15, 10am-3pm.
Enjoy this magnificent garden and join in the fun activities including Stax the Didgeman workshops, Blacksnake Productions wildlife shows, The Dreaming Space Circus, Outdoor Play Centre, CFA Fire Tanker & activities etc. Food available. Information www.parks.vic.gov.au.

#### ANZAC Day Dawn Service
Mount Evelyn
Friday April 25 @ 6.00am, Mount Evelyn War Memorial Park, Cnr Wray Cres & Birmingham Rd.

**Program**
- Dawn Service
- March from War Memorial Park to RSL Hall
- Free community breakfast at the RSL Hall
- Unveiling of new names on Mount Evelyn Honour Board & RSL Tribute Wall
This year those who were recently awarded the ‘National Emergency Medal’ for the work they performed during the Black Saturday Bushfires will be heading the march.
Groups wanting to lay a floral tribute at the Dawn Service please contact RSL secretary (Anthony).

#### Holiday Movie Days
Discovery Church, Mount Evelyn, will be running two movie days.

**‘Turbo’ Wednesday**
- April 9, 10.30am
- ‘The Croods’
- Wed April 16, 10.30am
Entry is by a gold coin donation. Sausage sizzle and lollies for sale. 89 Monbulk Rd Mount Evelyn.

#### Carers Event
For carers who support a person with a mental illness, Saturday April 12, 10-2pm at Discovery Church.

#### Ranges TEC Open Campus
Christian Education for Practical Applied Learners in Years 10, 11 & 12.
Find out more about our Year 10 program, VCAL program, Structured workplace learning program and Certificate programs. **Saturday 10 May, 1pm-4pm.**
www.rangestec.vic.edu.au, 1/9 Hightech Place, Lilydale 3140.