Cross Country - Not a Walk in the Park!

Ben on his way to win his section of the Cross Country
Monday Christianity

Mr Business went to Church
He never missed a Sunday
Mr Business went to Hell
For what he did on Monday

This little piece of doggerel is an important reminder about one of the biggest threats to the progress of God’s Kingdom, the idea of ‘Sunday Christianity’. Obviously bringing together our Sunday and Monday is absolutely critical. However, there is a danger here. One into which Christians and Christian schools all too easily fall! In bringing Sunday and Monday together, some of us think that the ideal would be to impose some sort of Sunday Christianity onto the rest of the week. Reflect for a moment on what most of us do on Sunday – bible study, singing, prayer, listening to sermons, lunch, family and often mixing exclusively with people just like us. Sunday is the day when we are usually untouched by the problems of our society and world. This is Sunday Christianity for many of us and however vital it might be for recharging our batteries, Sunday Christianity is easy Christianity.

The Bible is mostly concerned with Monday Christianity. Monday involves struggling to see, in all the events of life, God’s perspective, purpose and meaning. Monday Christianity is about hearing God speak into the stories of our everyday life. The Psalms are full of Monday Christianity scenarios:

• What do we do when we have enemies?
• What if friends won’t speak to you and people oppose you?
• What if you’ve lost someone you love and your world seems unbearably bleak?
• How can we recover from failure?
• Why do people who are crooked and deceitful succeed?
• How do we respond to issues of poverty, suffering and corruption?
• How do I deal with a particular relationship problem?
• What if all the choices before me have unacceptable consequences?

The Bible is mostly concerned with Monday Christianity. Monday involves struggling to see, in all the events of life, God’s perspective, purpose and meaning.

On Monday we will want to give up, we will be depressed, we will fail a friend or they will fail us, we will experience great joy, happiness and success and we will also be rocked by great anger, bitterness and betrayal. This is Monday Christianity and it is worlds apart from the isolated, comfortable and protected Sunday Christianity which we are tempted to seek.

Monday is about asking questions and seeing that there are no easy answers to some of them! A Monday theology requires a humility which says, “I don’t know all the answers, but I know something of God and I want to be caught up in His purposes for the world.”

When our students leave this school, we hope they will not go with a sense of complacency, or a false sense of pride, or with a pharisaical criticism of the world into which they go. On the contrary, we want them to go with humility, compassion, faith and a willingness to struggle with the complex issues of the world through the lens of their Monday Christianity. In fact, at MECS, Monday Christianity is what we are on about most of the time!

Our school is not a place where we wish to hide and protect our students from the challenges of this world. It’s a place where we seek to equip our students with the skills, knowledge and worldview to be able to respond and bring renewal to the situations they find themselves in.

The writer of Ecclesiastes captures that vision after a lifetime of exploration. He is man who has seen it all. He has climbed the pinnacle of success – and become thoroughly disillusioned by the experience. He also realises there are no easy answers to complex questions. He has discovered that Monday theology is hard! After much questioning and attempts at gaining human wisdom, he concludes that the whole duty of man is to fear God and keep His commandments.

The apostle Paul implies precisely the same thing in 1 Corinthians 13:12 when he presents the image of us peering into a dark mirror, trying to make out the image it contains, trying to make sense of the things we only partially understand. It is an image of struggle, effort and frustration. But without that struggle, Paul implies, Christians are going to be rather ineffectual in the world!

The challenge is for us all. Do we yearn for the ease of our Sunday Christianity experience, or is it our Monday Christianity that really defines who we are as God’s people? The Bible makes it clear which one is going to have the biggest impact for the Kingdom of God!

Narelle
MECS Principal

Open Day

Our Open day on Saturday highlighted again the commitment of the MECS community: the staff, who did a great job in setting up displays and chatting to visitors and a wonderful group of parents, past parents and students who helped out in many various ways. We couldn’t run these days without all those volunteers, so a huge thank you to each of you!

Enrolments are strong at MECS, and we praise God for the abundance of blessings he continues to shower on MECS.

Amanda and Nicole
Community Relations Officers

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SKETCHER’S SCOOP

AGM

Next Thursday May 22, we will be holding our Association’s AGM. This year it will be held at Ranges TEC so that everyone has the opportunity to see first-hand this fabulous facility, and hear from Phil about some of the ‘transforming’ work that is being done there. Of course, all the other things you would expect of an AGM will also be included, but we try to make these things as fun and informative as we can! If you are an Association member, we look forward to seeing you there. If you aren’t, you are still very welcome to come along and see what happens, and perhaps consider membership. Nicole Nyhouse, our Community relations Officer, would love to chat with you about this possibility.

Cross Country

Last week, all our students enjoyed the opportunity to participate in our Cross Country events. It was great to see students try their best and to see so much community support, particularly for our Primary school students. Activities such as these all add to the patchwork of events that make our school such an energetic and busy place. They also provide an opportunity for each student to ‘shine’ – if cross country running doesn’t work for your child, than hopefully something else will! But to those students who did excel on the day – congratulations!

Open Day

Our Open Day last Saturday saw over 80 families come along to see whether MECS is the place for them. Our fantastic facilities, hospitality and classroom displays all gave a sense of what they could expect, but our staff and students really made this place shine! Visitors commented on the sense of community and fun that was evident as they chatted to our staff and students and we know this is our greatest asset. We invited prospective families to partner with us in the vision that MECS is committed to – seeking the Kingdom of God in education. Please join me in praying that God will open the way for those who enthusiastically wish to join us in the years to come!

PSG Meetings

Late last term and in the first few weeks of this one, the Education Support team were very busy as they met with parents and other staff in PSG (program support groups) meetings. PSG’s are established to support students who have specific and individualised programs to meet some of their particular learning needs. Parents, teachers and education support staff come together twice a year to review goals, celebrate successes and make sure everyone is on the ‘same page’ in regard to these programs. These meetings are longer than the regular parent-teacher interviews as there is much that needs to be discussed. The commitment to these meetings is just one of the ways we seek to partner with parents.

Mother’s Day Stall - Fair Trade

I’m hoping all our mothers were spoilt and pampered on Mother’s Day. I waited patiently in bed for the promised cup of tea, but in the end I had to get up and get on with the day! Our ‘Fair Trade’ stall on Friday was a huge success – not only were beautiful gifts on offer, but it provided the opportunity for our students to consider the ethical nature of their choices. They could make a choice knowing that it had been made without harm to another!

AGM

Thursday 22 May

7.00pm - Coffee & Supper
7.30pm - Meeting Start

We will be meeting at

Ranges TEC,
1/9 Hightech Place, Lilydale

with a delicious supper provided by the Ranges TEC Hospitality Students

All Welcome
### MECS Notes

#### Asthma and Complementary Therapies

Complementary or alternative therapies are becoming increasingly popular in Australia, and many people seek them to support their health. As with any health condition, if you or a family member have asthma and are considering using complementary therapies, we strongly advise that you communicate with your doctor about your asthma treatment. They may even be able to suggest safe therapies to try! It is equally important to communicate to any complementary therapists about your asthma so that they can avoid treatments that are known to potentially make asthma worse.

Complementary therapies considered safe for asthma are: exercise programs, vitamin D, low-salt diet, some Chinese herbal medicines, some Indian (ayurvedic) herbs, music therapy, tai chi and buteýko (breathing technique).

Complementary therapies considered potentially unsafe for asthma are: inhaled salt (small risk of a fungal respiratory infection), echinacea, bee pollen or royal jelly (propolis) and products containing aspirin.

Remember, response to treatments and medications differ between people. Make sure you or your children continue taking any prescribed asthma medications unless otherwise instructed by your doctor. Stopping asthma medications suddenly can result in worsening asthma symptoms and even an asthma attack. For more information regarding complementary therapies, please refer to The National Asthma Council (NAC) [here](http://www.nationalasthma.org.au) or contact The Asthma Foundation of Victoria for your free copy of the new NAC Asthma & Complementary Therapies brochure.


#### School Camps & Excursions: Asthma

If your child has asthma, attending school camps and excursions can introduce them to new asthma triggers especially if they are going into new environments. It is essential that your child can participate fully and safely in all school activities. The following is a list of considerations to make for your child before they go on a school camp or excursion:

- Is your child’s asthma currently well controlled (e.g. no symptoms at night, reliever use is less than 3 times per week)?
- Has your child had an asthma attack or asthma symptoms recently?

### Friends of MECS

#### Prayer Chain

Are you a praying parent who would like to support our school community in this vital way? E-mail and you will be added to our growing list of praying parents and receive regular e-mails with prayer needs for our community.

### Mother’s Day in the Kinder

Last week the Kinder children celebrated our Mums with style. The Bluebirds and Rosellas children sang some songs for their Mums and gave them a piece of art they had been working on for some time! Possum and Koala children did some activities together, including the painting of a tile that will decorate a flower pot at our front entrance. They then sang some songs for Mum. What a gift to hear them singing together! We hope all our Mums enjoyed their special day!

_Wendy_

_Early Years Coordinator_
The Active After-school Communities (AASC) program is a major component of the Australian Government’s package ‘Building a Healthy, Active Australia’ that aims to improve the health and well-being of Australian children.

MECS Primary is once again participating in the AASC program in Term 2, 2014.

**Monday 3:45pm – 4:45pm: Badminton**
There are 6 places left for Badminton.

**Thursday 3:45pm – 4:45pm: Lawn Bowls**
There are 6 places left for Lawn Bowls.

The program will run for 7 weeks **beginning 5 May, 2014**.

Children attending will be offered fruit for afternoon tea prior to the activities commencing. Please ensure that your child brings a refillable water bottle to each session.

The program will offer fun, safe and inclusive activities which will provide children with the opportunity to develop their motor skills. It also promotes a healthy lifestyle in a comfortable, non-competitive environment.

If you would like your child to participate in this program, please complete a parental form (available from the office) and return this to the office as soon as possible.

This is a free program for Primary students and places are limited.

For further information, contact the office.

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**MECS Notes**

**School Camps & Excursions: Asthma Cont.**

- Does the school have an Asthma Action Plan for your child?
- Has the school asked you to complete a School Camp and Excursion Medical Update Form?
- Does your child have their reliever medication and spacer on hand at all times?
- Are they attending with any other medications to be taken on the camp/excursion? If so, are there sufficient instructions for staff on use/dosage?
- Does your child self-administer their medication? If so, has their technique been checked recently?

For more information please contact The Asthma Foundation of Victoria [www.asthma.org.au](http://www.asthma.org.au).

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**MP Visit Healesville Sanctuary**

On Tuesday 6 May Middle Primary went on an excursion to Healesville Sanctuary. My highlight was seeing the birds. They were bright, colourful and outstanding! One of them jumped on Derek and started nibbling on his pen. It was very funny! I also liked the Birds of Prey show. My favourite bird was Kevin. He was very funny. Kevin could talk and he even knew his right and left. I think Healesville Sanctuary was the best excursion ever!

**Maddi**

At first it was great, there was so much to do but we all decided to go to the kangaroos. We all took turns in picking where to go. A few of my highlights were the Birds of Prey because a couple of them flew very low and one almost hit me, and the reptiles and animals of the night. Reptiles, well I loved them. In the reptile house there was a deadly section and there were my favourites Death Adder and Komodo dragon. Our leader wanted to see the Tasmanian Devils right from the start; it took us a while but eventually we got there. I loved Healesville Sanctuary.

**Rian**

We saw lots of animals; here is a list of some of the animals:

- Dingo  
- Birds of prey  
- Koalas  
- Tasmanian Devil  
- Snakes  
- Emu  
- Birds  
- Kangaroo

My favourite was the birds. I enjoyed going to Healesville Sanctuary.

**Azrielle**
The Cross Country was great! We had a number of parents and grandparents come to watch their kids and cheer them on, which really added to the fantastic atmosphere of community and togetherness. I was so proud of all the students for behaving really well, cheering on their peers and completing a fairly challenging cross country track. The primary staff were firing on all cylinders and worked together to make what resembled a well-oiled machine to help this event run as smoothly as it did. A big thank you to the parents who helped serve the fruit and cordial to the students as they finished. It was much appreciated!

It was a great day on all levels and we look forward to Cross Country 2015.

Jason
Primary Sports Coordinator
Thank you God for a beautiful sunny day for our Cross Country - the weather in the past has been notoriously bad! It was great to see all our students out and about, particularly those who raced and really pushed themselves to their limit. I had a keen group of helpers to set up and help run the day - thank you to those students and staff who did their duties.

Some people are asking why we have done this event at school instead of Lillydale Lake. It is not just to save money on buses, although this is sensible, but it is also to give the course a proper feel with some hills and different paths.

We had some excellent runners in each age group. Those that came 1st - 8th have qualified for Inter-school Cross Country next Friday, 23 May.

A big thank you to Sharon and her Year 9 Service class who ran a fundraiser sausage sizzle and raised about $250 for Jinga Christian School in Uganda.

Anne-Maree
Secondary Sports Coordinator

Cross Country Results by Age Group

Age 13 Boys
1. Tom - 2km Time 11.08
2. Joel
3. Brad
4. Josh
5. Pat
6. Zach
7. Ben
8. Jack

Age 13 Girls
1. Savannah - 2km Time 12.25
2. Bek
3. Beth
4. Breanna
5. Jenna
6. Jess
7. Clare
8. Sarah & Alecia

Age 14 Boys
1. Ben - 2km Time 9.29
2. Luke
3. Luke
4. Jake
5. Will
6. Josh
7. Jordan
8. Angus

Age 14 Girls
1. Annaleise - 2km Time 11.40
2. Jeneba
3. Erica
4. Emily & Indy equal
5. Bethany
6. Katie
7. Bethany
8. Isabel

Age 15 Boys
1. Josh - 2km Time 9.46
2. Adam
3. Daniel
4. Trent
5. Jacob
6. Tristan
7. Elliot
8. Jayden

Age 15 Girls
1. Chloe - 2km Time 14.39
2. Kate
3. Romina
4. Lena
5. Chloe
6. Jade
7. Jocelyn
8. Jess

Age 16 Boys
1. Jay - 3km Time 15.51
2. Lachlan
3. Sam
4. Jesse
5. Kristopher
6. Ethan

Age 16 Girls
1. Asha - 3km Time 16.24
2. Talitha
3. Kayla
4. Gemma
5. Sarah
6. Alex
7. Emily
8. Brooke

Age 17+ Boys
1. Daniel - 3km Time 14.25
2. Ryan
3. Josheph
4. Justin
5. Heath
6. Caillan
7. James
8. Daniel

Age 17+ Girls
1. Taylor & Lauren equal - 3km Time 21.19
2. Reona
3. Shanna
4. Charlotte
5. Lynda
6. Evie
7. Kendra
8. Jade
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.

Window for Sale

Dowell sliding window with aluminium flyscreen. Colour: primrose (cream). Brand new, never been used. Excellent condition. Size: 1029mm height x 1210mm width. $130

Contact Yvonne.

Coat Rack for Sale

Antique school coat rack. Hardwood. Solid but varnish needs restoration. Would be great for displaying quilts. Size: 146cm height x 183cm length. $40

Contact Yvonne.

Spinning Wheel for Sale

Traditional, Saxony style, spinning wheel. Double drive. Comes with 4 standard bobbins and 1 threading hook. Vintage. Excellent condition. $120

Contact Yvonne.

Banjo for Sale

5 string banjo, Australian leather strap, music stand, carry case, banjo stand, snark clip on all instrument tuner, Banjo for Dummies book includes CD, spare set of strings and finger picks. Very good condition. Price $370.

Phone Rosemary.

2014 Term 2 Week 3: 12 MAY - 18 MAY

Wed 14 - Fri 16 May
Year 6 Camp

Thur 15 May
Year 12 Mentor Supper 7.30pm

2014 Term 2 Week 4: 19 MAY - 25 MAY

Tues 20 May
Year 9 & 10 Soccer

Wed 21 May
SP/Yr 5 Connect Morning Tea 9am Staffroom
Preps Parent night 6.30pm Prep Rooms
VCE Drama Performance 7.30pm Theatre

Wed 21 - Fri 23 May
Year 5 Camp

Thur 22 May
Immunisations for Year 7 girls and boys & Year 9 boys
Association AGM at Ranges TEC
7pm Supper, 7.30pm Meeting

Fri 23 May
Interschool Cross Country

2014 Term 2 Week 5: 26 MAY - 1 June

Mon 26 - Fri 30 May
MS Special Week

Thur 29 May
MP Connect Morning Tea 9am Staffroom

Fri 30 May
K4 Connect Morning Tea 9am Staffroom

2014 Term 2 Week 6: 2 June - 8 June

Wed 4 June
Prep Connect Morning Tea 9am Staffroom

Thur 5 June
Prep Hospitals in Schools Incursion
VCE Music Recital SS Theatrette

Fri 6 June
SS VCE Units 1 & 3 End

2014 Term 2 Week 6: 9 June - 15 June

Mon 9 June
Queen's Birthday Public Holiday - School closed

Tues 10 - Fri 13 June
Year 11 Exams

Tues 10 June
SS VCE Unit 4 Begins
Year 10 Trans Ed Week

Wed 11 June
Montrose Fire Truck visit with Preps
VCE GAT Exam
Instrumental Recital 7pm

Thur 12 - Fri 13 June
Year 10 Trans Ed Week

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


- Tertiary Open Day List
- Secondary Interschool Cross Country
- Careers Newsletter No 6, 13 May
- 2014 Music Performance Recitals