Whole School Assembly - tomorrow 10am

Senior School Work Experience

Isaak enjoys work experience in tennis coaching
Measuring what Matters

‘God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end. You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting.’ (Daniel 5:25-26)

‘I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance...you have persevered and endured hardship for my name and have not grown weary. Yet I hold this against you; you have forsaken your first love.’ (Revelation 2:4)

The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’ (Matthew 25:40)

Evaluation and assessment are an integral part of modern life. People, places, products and process have to meet up to performance goals and expectations. Our Year 12’s are nearly on the home straight as they finish off their schooling. Thirteen years of learning is under scrutiny. Will it measure up for a job? For a university placement? Will their results be a true reflection of their hard work?

At the end of last term you would have received formative reports for your children. How did your children perform?

Education uses ever more sophisticated tools to measure its successes and weaknesses. NAPLAN compares the achievement of students across the nation. Schools can be compared on their performance. Students can be ranked. Value can attributed to an endless array of criteria. Schools can use a range of tools to measure cognitive (thinking) ability, affective (feeling) ability, social and emotional intelligence and host of other characteristics.

Belshazzar, of the Daniel passage quoted above, was by most standards a successful leader; immensely powerful; rich beyond measure; in charge of a huge empire. Yet by God’s standards he failed miserably. God looked for humility and he found arrogance; he looked for obedience and he found rebellion...‘you have been weighed and found wanting.’

The church at Ephesus in the Revelation passage would have measured up well on any taxonomy for a ‘successful church’ – hard working, patient, persevering, discerning of evil, resilient. Yet they had missed the mark. They had lost their first love.

Jesus’ disciples quizzed him on what made a successful kingdom follower. Perhaps it was piety, or biblical knowledge or attendance to religious duties. However, Jesus gave an ‘H’ (Highly confident and competent – see MECS Reports) to the person who offers hospitality, who helps the homeless, who gives company and friendship to a shut-in, who advocates for someone who has a ruined reputation, who has compassion for the refugee.

In our flurry of end-of-term assessment and reporting, are we consciously aware of the things we don’t measure and on which we don’t give a report card. How do we measure spiritual growth? How do we report on formation of character? How do we acknowledge the person who quietly goes about helping other people without fanfare or fuss? Does our testing give enough weight to creativity, curiosity, imagination, perseverance, loyalty and gentleness? How do we reward the ability to handle disappointment? How do you set up an instrument to measure wisdom?

As a community of students, parents and teachers we can give thanks for all the wonderful insights contemporary educational practice gives us and we can celebrate our achievements by many of its benchmarks. However, at the same time we are careful in our conversations on the things for which we affirm people, in the rewards that we give, so that the things that we identify as important and of worth actually reflect the values of Jesus and His kingdom.

Narelle
MECS Principal

Gapuwiyak Girri Op Shop

I thank you everyone for the wonderful contributions to this little Op shop. You would be amazed at how your generosity blesses this remote community. The Op Shop is run by students at Gapuwiyak School. All the money goes to student excursions.

If you wish to donate more items please note that the community currently needs donations of ONLY kids clothes, baby clothes, sheets and runners. Please do not send anything else, as they already have many other items to sell.

Please drop your contribution at the office marked Gapuwiyak Op shop. The Primary MELT team will pack and post it.

If you wish to post items yourself, you can use the remote educational postage to send items at $6.15 for 5kg. Post to: Gapuwiyak Girri Op Shop, PMB 900 via Winnelle, Gapuwiyak 0822 N.T.

Thank you for your support
Di
PS Coordinator
Welcome back to school

It was a bit hot and humid in Hong Kong, but nevertheless, my daughter and I had a fantastic time as we toured the sights together and did some shopping in the markets. I hope your family also had the opportunity to spend some time together, whether it was on a holiday away from home, or simply enjoying a less frantic pace of life for a few weeks.

However, it is always good to welcome a new term! To look forward to all the exciting activities coming up, to see our friends again and to know that God is using every day and every learning opportunity to grow us into His likeness and to develop the skills and gifts He has given us.

In the light of recent international events, what a blessing to welcome every staff member and student safely back to school.

Staff Workbreak

As usual our staff were back last week working together in their Sections and teaching teams on developing our integral curriculum programs, embracing new skills and processes and most importantly, sharing together our vision and mission for Christian education. This is always time well spent, and an important investment of time and energy into making sure that what we do here at MECS has not only a distinctively Christian flavour, but also is best practice from an educational viewpoint.

A special welcome to MECS!

Whilst it is great to see all our students back this term, it is most exciting to welcome ten new students this term! We hope they and their families will settle in quickly and soon feel part of the MECS community.

Primary Footy Day

This Friday

The whole primary school will be participating in a ‘Footy Day’ tomorrow (Friday July 25). All students are invited to dress in the colours of their footy team & the canteen will provide pies for lunch.

Rebecca
Junior Primary Class Teacher & Cluster Leader

New Buddies

Late last term the Year 5 students visited the 4 year old children in Kindergarten. The Possum and Koala children enjoyed having the older children visit them. They showed the Year 5s around the yard and played with them. It looked like the Year 5s also had a fantastic time, investigating, exploring and remembering what it was like to be 4 years old! What fun!

Wendy
Early Years Coordinator

Parents are warmly invited to attend the Whole School Assembly

Tomorrow - Friday July 25, 10am

in the MECS Gym

Coffee in staffroom 8.45-10am
MECS Notes

Cliff

It is with mixed emotions that we received the news that Cliff is retiring at the end of the year; while we will be very sad to see Cliff go, we are excited for him and Judi as they embark on this new chapter of their lives. Cliff has faithfully served MECS for more than 15 years in the Middle School and most recently as the Senior School coordinator and has blessed many students and fellow staff members with his warm heartedness and sense of humour. Luckily he has given us the rest of the year to prepare ourselves for a MECS without him!

Natasha
School Services Manager

Music in the Primary school

We are pleased to announce that we have not one, but two music teachers for this next semester, Carolyn and Sarah.

Carolyn brings a wealth of experience as an accomplished musician, instrumental and classroom music teacher. She has a passion to see children develop a love of music and ability to express themselves in music. Carolyn will be teaching Prep, Senior Primary and MPW music on Monday and Wednesdays. Carolyn will also be overseeing the choir/ensemble and the band/ensemble.

Sarah is an enthusiastic, talented and creative teacher who has many years of teaching experience. Sarah has a love for teaching the Arts.

Sarah will be teaching Prep, Junior Primary, MPC and MPA classes. Sarah and Carolyn will be collaborating on curriculum to ensure that a quality music program is delivered. We are very excited to have our music program taught by such able teachers.

Diane
Primary School Coordinator

Lost Property

Do any of these things belong to your children? We would especially like to find the owner of the retainer.

Friends of MECS

Community Meals Cook Off

We are investigating ways to bless our community with meals in a more generous way. We have increased our freezer space and are planning a Cook Off day this term to help fill it.

Next week there will be details on how you can contribute eg. donate staple groceries, put your name on a roster to provide a frozen meal, attend a cook off day etc.

We look forward to partnering together in this way!

Nicolette
Community Relations Officer

Dollarmite Banking

Every Wednesday is banking day. Remember to place your bankbooks in the grey satchels in the classrooms. If you have collected 10 tokens don’t forget to bring them in to claim your reward.

Entertainment Book

There are only 2 weeks left to buy your book before I send the leftovers back to the company, so don’t miss out and order yours today. You can order through the office or online at: www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/193695. If you would like to know more about the digital membership just call me.

Evelyn

LEM Phonics Course

Last week the Primary staff and Educational Support team participated in a LEM Phonic training course on Thursday, Friday and Saturday morning, presented by Greg of Ark Educational Consultancy.

We managed to condense a 3 day course into two very long days and one shorter day. There were over 40 participants including MECS staff, parents and representatives from Bayside Christian School, Chairo Christian School and Donvale Christian College.

We are now amazingly skilled in how our language works and are busy analysing spelling as we read and write. We even had to sit a test with an 80% pass rate required.

Did you know that although we only have 26 letters (graphemes), there are 44 phonemes (sounds) that we use and 75 phonograms (letter combinations)?

We learnt about the phonemes and which letter/s and letter combinations represent these different sounds.

We also learnt 30 essential spelling rules, how to break a word into syllables and the rules governing adding endings to base words.

Did you know that when you see the letter ‘a’ preceded by a ‘w’, it makes its 5th sound? For example ‘want’ and ‘was’.

Did you know you use the 3rd sound of ‘a’ when it is followed by 2 consonants? For example ‘hill’, ‘full’, ‘buzz’ and ‘stiff’.

The course will deepen our understanding of how we teach and how students learn. It will ensure that we are all working together.

MECS Primary staff are now able to start putting what we learnt into practise as we teach spelling, reading and writing.

A big thank you to Shirley Gillie for organising this event and to Karen for keeping us on track with great morning teas and lunch on Friday.

Diane
Primary School Coordinator

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Diane
Primary School Coordinator
**Tuning in to Kids**

‘Tuning in to Kids’ is a 6 week program equipping parents with the skills of emotional coaching, listening and responding to the emotional experience of their child or a child in their care. The material is based on research from Melbourne University.

The program covers:

- Setting out to raise emotionally intelligent children
- Naming Emotions
- Understanding your child’s emotional experience
- Self-care, problem solving and coaching fears and worries
- Emotion coaching your child’s anger
- Emotionally intelligent parenting: now and in the future

Starting August 5 at 7:30pm for 6 consecutive weeks at Croydon Hills Counselling Centre in conjunction with Croydon Hills Baptist Church

Facilitator: Coleen

Cost: $100 for the six weeks

9876 1323 for further details and booking.

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**MECS Notes**

**Active After-school Communities**

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 3, 2014.

**Monday** 3:45pm – 4:45pm: Cricket

**Thursday** 3:45pm – 4:45pm: Netball

The program will run for 7 weeks beginning July 28, 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 by Friday 25 July.

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

For further information, contact the office.

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**Term 3 Parent Teacher Interview Times**

**Primary**
- Wed 3 Sept, 4-6pm
- Mon 8 Sept, 4-6pm
- Thur 11 Sept, 4-9pm

**Middle School**
- Wed 3 Sept, 3.45-6pm
- Mon 8 Sept, 3.45-6pm
- Thur 11 Sept, 3.45-9pm

**Senior School**
- Wed 3 Sept, 3.45-6pm
- Thur 11 Sept, 3.40-9pm

More information will be available closer to these dates
SS Work Experience

During the third week of holidays our Year 10 students and some Year 11 students undertook Work Experience. This is always a tremendous challenge for them, beginning with the task of finding the work experience placement and arranging the formal paperwork.

Overwhelmingly the feedback from employers was how impressed they were with our students’ willingness to take initiative, ask questions and conduct themselves in a pleasing, friendly manner. All students came away with a new understanding of themselves and a clearer idea of their future career direction. It was also very exciting to hear that some students were offered ongoing part time employment.

The next round of work experience is from November 24 to November 28, so it is important for those involved to start planning now.

Amelia
Careers Co-ordinator

Student Reports

For my Work Experience I got the opportunity to work with very strong and brave kids in a major Melbourne hospital. I was based in the Children’s Cancer Centre. During the week I did lots of different things. I worked on a ward, in the day treatment room and did some office work. I did lots of art and craft with the kids and loved seeing a smile on their face! You can’t complain about much when you’ve seen what those kids go through!

Beth

In the third week of holidays we (Year 10 students) had Work Experience. I went to an office and did all the jobs that nobody wanted to do such as updating files and sending off mail. Overall I did not really enjoy it but it was good to know what I don’t want to do.

Brooke

I did Work Experience at a theatre and I really enjoyed it. On three of the five days I mostly did office work which was surprisingly interesting. One of the other days I did some event planning which was really fun. However, my highlight was on the Tuesday – we had two productions on and for both those shows I had the job of spot lighting which was new and extremely fun!

Riley

For Work Experience I worked at a Preschool. I really enjoyed it. All of the kids were great. I can see myself having something to do with this kind of stuff. Really all I did was clean and play. The only thing I didn’t really enjoy was all the mess – I just wanted to clean all the time!

Jess
Year 10 Islamic School Excursion

On Thursday June 19, the year 10s embarked on a bus ride to AIA, an Islamic school in Coburg. We arrived there late morning and the day started with Mr K shaking a female teacher’s hand, which is a big no-no. After that little kerfuffle we played a few ice-breakers with the AIA students and our group had some great laughs, they were lovely people. Cliff gave a presentation on the main points of Christianity then Bilal (one of the schools teachers) presented his presentation on Islam and what being a Muslim means to him. Following these presentations we had the opportunity to play some sport and enjoy some lunch with the students. While that was happening some students (including myself) stayed back to have an in-depth chat with Bilal about religion, particularly Christianity and Islam. It was a really interesting (and sometimes a bit heated) conversation, the opinions and perspectives shared were really thought provoking. It was a great experience to talk about our faiths so openly.

By Nick

Note: Apologies for the quality of these photos. Unfortunately we had camera issues on the day but the photos do show something of the experience at the school.

Year 12 Prep Buddies meet

Did you know that sometimes the library is the noisiest place in the whole school? Just invite all the Preps and all their Year 12 buddies to meet up in the library for a story-telling session. That means they ALL read books aloud at the same time! After a bit of confusion and shyness, the Preps settled down to a cosy experience of choosing and reading their favourite books, while making some happy connections with the biggest kids in the school. They might not always admit it, but the big kids seemed to enjoy reading their old favourites too. We never really outgrow our picture books, do we?

Carole
Senior Teacher Librarian
Accommodation sought
Single Christian lady in her 50s is seeking quiet accommodation for herself and her indoor cat. She is returning to Melbourne from interstate. Wynnmore 0425 275 013.

Apple Man
The Apple man will be coming Friday August 1, in week 2. The following varieties will be available:
- Pink Ladies, Fuji, Granny Smith, Golden Delicious. Pears; green and brown. All apples are $10 a bag and pears are $8. Bags are 5-6kg.

Cassie Nation
Receptionist

Painter Available
Callum Farman, master painter & decorator, commercial & residential. Obligation free quotes.
Mobile: 0430 147 074 (SMS only)
Email: callumfarman23@gmail.com
I am hearing impaired, I have cochlear implant and can lipread but for phone SMS is the easiest.

Search for Life Program
Careforce Lifekeys International is running a ‘Search for Life’ program at Stairway Church starting 30 July for 8 weeks. This is a useful follow on from the Alpha Program. Concession for Health Care card holders is available. More information www.careforcelifekeys.org/pages.asp?id=63 Stairway Church 171 Rooks Road, Vermont. 9837 2900. $80.
8 Sessions:
- Wed July 30, 7.30 - 10pm
- Sat Aug 2, 9 - 11am
- Wed Aug 13, 20, 27 & Sep 3, 10, 17 7.30 - 10pm.

Kalorama Tennis Club
Tennis coaching is now available at the Kalorama tennis club on Tuesdays and Wednesdays after school for students age 4 and up. Also cardio tennis for any adults wanting an exciting fitness session on Tuesday nights from 6-7pm.
Call Lee on 0412 402 265.