Footy Day in the Primary School

Maisie all dressed up for celebrating Footy Day in the Primary School
All you need is love...

Pulitzer prize-winning poet, William Carlos Williams, once described love as a “curious, soft-winged thing”.

What a lovely, gentle, yet vulnerable image of something that we all seem to crave. Love is spoken of endlessly – in song and music everywhere, in literature, in sermons, in drama, in art... Jesus spoke about it on a number of significant occasions. So did Paul. Love is what we aspire to. Love is particularly what Christians aspire to. We are to love God. We are to love our neighbours. We are to love our enemies. To love well is our great goal and mission in life.

Most of us though, our very aware of the obstacles to that ideal, the things that destroy that soft-winged thing. The poisons that creep into our soul: envy, jealousy, narcissism. Some of us carry burdens of confusing love from the past. Some of us have been hurt by love. Some of us feel disconnected by love. We have found out the hard way that this soft-winged thing is just too fragile and difficult.

Many Christians have similar problems in the realm of faith. Some have a sense of spiritual failure when it comes to love. Love of God and neighbour seem so easy for everyone else, but not for us. We listen to others speaking of how much they love God. They pray and sing of that love with great passion and we wonder what’s wrong with us because we don’t feel anything much at all. And yet here we are in a Christian school, as teachers, parents, role models. What do we say to our students and children about the great commandment – to love God and our neighbours as ourselves? And even more confronting – the commandment to love our enemies!

Can I make two simple observations about this great ideal of love...particularly if we have become disconnected, fearful, disappointed or just a little puzzled?

Firstly, we believe in a God of restoration. Even after significant hurt or injury, relationships can be restored. We can expect to find love again, even if it has been lost. One of the first steps along the way to restoring love in our lives has to do with the way we see other people in general, to realise again that we have an extraordinary connectedness with other human beings. To experience friendship, camaraderie, to share a common interest or goal, to laugh at the same joke...humans have been created for community and to experience the joy of living and working in community has a great restoring effect on our souls.

Secondly, when love is difficult or challenging, it is important to divest ourselves from ‘religiosity’. Sometimes I think we speak too much of a loving God. We throw the concept around like confetti, but we just don’t show it in the way we live! We are deceived into thinking that love is a feeling. It isn’t. It is behaviour. Love is an ethic; it’s something we do. It’s not always something we feel.

What is significant for love, says Jesus, is simply being kind and generous. Not just to the easy ones - like your friends and family, genial colleagues and pollie, affirming students – but to the ones we find difficult, the ones who have ‘sharp corners’! And even more difficult are those who work against you, who throw your kindness right back in your face, who make you feel furious, bitter, diminished. Kindness and generosity to them! The sort of love that this requires has nothing to do with feeling. It is very difficult to feel love in those situations. But we are not asked to feel love, we are asked to act upon it with generosity, kindness, compassion and even sacrifice.

The following rendition of 1 Corinthians 13 might encourage us in our quest to love, as Christ first loved us.

There are times when I can talk with great eloquence, and times when I can talk with great authority, but if I don’t appreciate people, I am just a blatherer.

I may think I have grasped what life is all about, I may believe that I have access to the high places of power, but if I have no real connections to people, I missed the point.

I might like to flaunt my generosity on several charities, I might work until I am burnt out, but if I have missed out on liking people, then I have missed out!

You start to see what loving and liking people are about when they test your patience, when you find you have to be silent, when doing small kindness makes a demand on your time.

You can’t say you know what love is if you are jealous and rude and selfish and resentful. You have given up on love if you get to have a gloat when something goes wrong with someone you don’t like.

When you love people, you are glad to hear their good news. You are not into spreading rumours. You like to believe the best, knowing that goodness and love are qualities that stand our above all the rest.

The doomsday people and those who want to make everyone anxious – they come and go. There are those who go after this fad or that fashion. But you need to look for something that has lasting value.

When I was a child, I did as a child would do – I thought like a child. I talked like a child – but now I am well into adulthood, I need to embrace what that really means.

We know that life comes in bits and pieces, but with God we work for the day when all the bits and pieces will come together into a satisfying whole.

That’s the faith I hold onto. I have this hope that things will get better. But on top of that I know that loving and liking people will change everything. There are these three things that show our religion at its best –

Living with a faith that puts passion into the possible. Having a hope that is as real as the breath I breathe. And knowing that love is my greatest achievement.

Yes, faith hope and love, but above all I know that I must pursue and practise the ways of love.

(adapted from Dr Francis Macnab, Hungry for Love, 2003, pp.136-137)

Narelle
MECS Principal
Whole School Assembly

Last Friday was a great time of celebration and worship as our Middle School teachers and students led our whole school assembly. The highlight for me was the five students who led us in singing. This group has been practising hard and to see their willingness to take on this responsibility and lead the whole school in this way was so encouraging. However, there was something for everyone – an inspiring message about community from Sue, a segment that focused on the different learning programs in the Middle School presented as a very entertaining play by the students, and some great personal items, such as Hope Irons sharing her recently published poem. Our whole school assembly (which will happen every term) is fast becoming an occasion not to miss! We look forward to seeing you at the next one!

Parent Seminar

On Tuesday night, Jacqui and I were privileged to spend a couple of hours with some of our newer parents as we shared about some of the important things that underpin the vision and mission of our school. The recognition that we are all shaped by some sort of story that informs our worldview and the challenge, therefore, of living out of a biblical worldview was presented. As parents and teachers, we want to ‘claim back’ and celebrate our role as the main ‘story-tellers’ of our children’s lives. Thanks to those who attended and your willingness to engage in discussion around these ideas.

Senior Primary Excursion to Scienceworks

Also on Tuesday, our Senior Primary students enjoyed a day at the Scienceworks museum. Their excursion was part of their learning this term on God’s amazing universe. We are thankful for the opportunities that come every day for our students to engage in interesting and varied experiences that broaden their understanding and appreciation of God’s good creation.

Leadership Re-structure

As mentioned in previous newsletters, we are looking to re-structure our executive leadership team. I am pleased to let you know that the Board approved these changes at the last Board meeting. The Board is now in the process of appointing our Assistant Principal - Primary and we expect them to make an announcement in the coming weeks. The second step in this process will be the appointment of the Assistant Principal - Secondary. The Board is seeking both external and internal applications for this executive position which is now being advertised. Please support the existing Executive and Board in prayer as we seek to appoint the right people to these important positions within our school.

Parent Seminar

On Tuesday night, Jacqui and I were privileged to spend a couple of hours with some of our newer parents as we shared about some of the important things that underpin the vision and mission of our school. The recognition that we are all shaped by some sort of story that informs our worldview and the challenge, therefore, of living out of a biblical worldview was presented. As parents and teachers, we want to ‘claim back’ and celebrate our role as the main ‘story-tellers’ of our children’s lives. Thanks to those who attended and your willingness to engage in discussion around these ideas.

Senior Primary Excursion to Scienceworks

Also on Tuesday, our Senior Primary students enjoyed a day at the Scienceworks museum. Their excursion was part of their learning this term on God’s amazing universe. We are thankful for the opportunities that come every day for our students to engage in interesting and varied experiences that broaden their understanding and appreciation of God’s good creation.

Leadership Re-structure

As mentioned in previous newsletters, we are looking to re-structure our executive leadership team. I am pleased to let you know that the Board approved these changes at the last Board meeting. The Board is now in the process of appointing our Assistant Principal - Primary and we expect them to make an announcement in the coming weeks. The second step in this process will be the appointment of the Assistant Principal - Secondary. The Board is seeking both external and internal applications for this executive position which is now being advertised. Please support the existing Executive and Board in prayer as we seek to appoint the right people to these important positions within our school.

Whole School Assembly

Last Friday was a great time of celebration and worship as our Middle School teachers and students led our whole school assembly. The highlight for me was the five students who led us in singing. This group has been practising hard and to see their willingness to take on this responsibility and lead the whole school in this way was so encouraging. However, there was something for everyone – an inspiring message about community from Sue, a segment that focused on the different learning programs in the Middle School presented as a very entertaining play by the students, and some great personal items, such as Hope Irons sharing her recently published poem. Our whole school assembly (which will happen every term) is fast becoming an occasion not to miss! We look forward to seeing you at the next one!

Parent Seminar

On Tuesday night, Jacqui and I were privileged to spend a couple of hours with some of our newer parents as we shared about some of the important things that underpin the vision and mission of our school. The recognition that we are all shaped by some sort of story that informs our worldview and the challenge, therefore, of living out of a biblical worldview was presented. As parents and teachers, we want to ‘claim back’ and celebrate our role as the main ‘story-tellers’ of our children’s lives. Thanks to those who attended and your willingness to engage in discussion around these ideas.

Senior Primary Excursion to Scienceworks

Also on Tuesday, our Senior Primary students enjoyed a day at the Scienceworks museum. Their excursion was part of their learning this term on God’s amazing universe. We are thankful for the opportunities that come every day for our students to engage in interesting and varied experiences that broaden their understanding and appreciation of God’s good creation.

Leadership Re-structure

As mentioned in previous newsletters, we are looking to re-structure our executive leadership team. I am pleased to let you know that the Board approved these changes at the last Board meeting. The Board is now in the process of appointing our Assistant Principal - Primary and we expect them to make an announcement in the coming weeks. The second step in this process will be the appointment of the Assistant Principal - Secondary. The Board is seeking both external and internal applications for this executive position which is now being advertised. Please support the existing Executive and Board in prayer as we seek to appoint the right people to these important positions within our school.

2014 FUTURE OPTIONS CAREER EXPO

5 August 2014 6pm - 8.30pm
Eastland Shopping Centre
Maroondah Highway Ringwood

Over 60 university, TAFE and industry organisations provide information about employment, apprenticeships, traineeships, diploma or degree studies.
Ideal for Year 10, 11 and 12 students and adults seeking career pathways.
For more information, contact your local school careers teacher.
### MECS Notes

#### Term 3 Parent Teacher Interview Times

Please note the corrected time for the Wednesday Senior School Parent Teacher interview session.

**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, 3.40-9pm
- Thur 11 Sept, 3.40-9pm

More information will be available closer to these dates.

### 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.

### Friends of MECS

#### Monday August 18 - Cook Off day

On Monday August 18, we will be having a cook off day to fill the Friends of MECS freezer with meals that will be passed on to MECS families who are going through difficult times. If you are interested in helping out, please keep the day free. A separate notice will be coming home soon with more details and a slip to fill in and return to express your interest.

*Nicole*
Community Relations Officer

### Entertainment Book

This is the FINAL week to purchase your entertainment book. Don’t miss out! You can order through the office or online at: www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/193f695.

*Evelyn*

### Active After-school Communities

The Active After-school Communities (AASC) program is an Australian Government initiative that provides primary school children with a positive and fun introduction to sport and other structured physical activities and motivates children to be active for life. Each session is designed to give children the opportunity to develop their motor skills, self-confidence and self-esteem to a level where they can make the transition into community sport. It promotes a healthy lifestyle in a comfortable, non-competitive environment. It also promotes a healthy lifestyle with a nutritious snack provided each session.

MECS Primary is once again participating in the AASC program in Term 3, 2014.

- **Monday** 3:45pm – 4:45pm: **Cricket**
  - There are 7 places left for Cricket.
- **Thursday** 3:45pm – 4:45pm: **Netball**
  - There are 3 places left for 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.

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 ASAP.

To ensure children have the opportunity to fully benefit from these free sport and structured physical activity sessions, we ask that parents wait until the completion of sessions to pick up their children. Their full attendance assists in the smooth running of the program for other participants and the program coaches and ensure children get the most out of every session.

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

For further information, contact the office.

### Year 12 Parent Supper

Last Thursday evening a group of Year 12 parents met in the staffroom for supper to share some of the journey of having a child in Year 12. We had the opportunity to chat with other parents, share how the year had gone so far, discuss ways we are supporting our Year 12 student and what our students ambitions were for the future.

We heard from two parents, Marlene and Eric who have already travelled this journey and gained some insight and great practical tips from them. We received a lovely little survival guide and gift bag to help us on our way. It was wonderful to feel part of such a strong community and share the journey together.

*Nicole*
Year 12 Parent & Community Relations Officer
Last Friday the Primary School enjoyed a Footy Dress Up Day. As we reflected on the things we love to do in winter, we proudly wore our team colours and celebrated this great winter game. Children were challenged to think about how they can support the people around them just like they support their footy team! Thank you to all those involved in the day.

Bec
JP Teacher

Preps enjoyed Footy Day and art activities as we began our term celebrating the seasons that God has put in place and the wonders of Winter. We marvelled at the uniqueness of snowflakes and beauty to be found in Winter, and thought about the activities and foods we enjoy at this cold time of year. Best of all we enjoyed hot chocolate with marshmallows! Yum!

Jan
Prep Coordinator/Teacher
It’s not every day we have a guest dragon at our Whole School Assembly but those who made it up to the gym last Friday saw Snappy visiting the school again, having first arrived for the Middle School production last term. While he was with us this time, Snappy showed us what a typical day for a Middle School student might entail.

He visited a number of classes with his new found Middle School friends and learnt lots of interesting things such as how to make really big bubbles in Science and how working together on a film project or Drama production builds numerous important skills. He also found out about a couple of projects students had been working on in Open Village. I wonder when Snappy will visit us again in the future? He did mention after assembly that he liked the look of the library.

The Middle School band led our worship through song very well, especially considering one of the band members was too sick to perform and they had to modify their plans in order to cover for this. All of the lunchtimes and time at home they sacrificed to practice really paid off.

It is such a privilege to work with an amazing team of students and staff in the Middle School. I hope this gave all who attended the opportunity to see some of the exciting learning activities that take place during students’ time in this section of our school community.

Sue
MS Coordinator
Bringing Toys to Help Boys and Girls

At the end of last term, as a response to our unit ‘God Gives Us People Who Help Us’, Prep children ran a fundraiser to help children in our global community.

A ‘Swap Shop’ was run, where Preps and Junior Primaries brought toys from home they no longer used and swapped them for a different toy someone else had donated. In order to get a ticket to go to the Toy Shop, the children brought along a gold coin donation. The shop was run with the help of parents and the Year 6 MELT team (MECS Educational Leadership Team).

We just over $250 for Jinja Christian School. Anne, a former MECS teacher, runs the school in Uganda. She said the contribution is much appreciated, and that the funds will be used for balls for the children to play with, art materials for a project they are completing, and the remainder will go towards new furniture needed for a classroom. Incidentally, the artwork is being coordinated by another former MECS teacher, Kara.

The Christian Outreach Mission Op Shop also received a donation of the leftover toys, which will have raised further funds for children in India.

How exciting for the children to not only learn with their heads, but to develop attitudes of gratitude and generosity, and respond with their hands in a practical way to help others.

Jan
Prep Coordinator/Teacher
**Calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2014 Term 3 Week 2: 28 July - 3 August</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thur 31 July</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 Year 11/12 Info Meeting 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theatrette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fri 1 August</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6 Positive Boys Oasis Camp Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 year old Kinder Grandparents and Special</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends Day 11.15 Koalas, 12noon Possums</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2014 Term 3 Week 3: 4 - 10 August</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tues 5 August</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 9 &amp; 10 Football/Netball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thur 7 August</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SP Incursion with Cameron Semmens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 Yr 10 Info Meeting Theatrette, 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fri 8 August</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SS VTAC Meeting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2014 Term 3 Week 4: 11 - 17 August</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tues 12 August</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K3 Bluebirds Connect Morning Tea 9am Staffroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wed 13 August</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K4 Connect Morning Tea 9am Staffroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thur 14 August</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K3 Rosellas Connect Morning Tea 9am Staffroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 11/12 AFL/Netball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilson’s Prom Camp Meeting 7.30pm Staffroom</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2014 Term 3 Week 5: 18 - 24 August</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mon 18 August</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinder Excursion Kew Traffic School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wed 20 August</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep Chesterfield Farm Excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thur 21 August</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep Connect Morning Tea 9am Staffroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instrumental Recital Families E-L 7pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2014 Term 4 Week 6: 25 - 31 August</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mon 25 - Fri 29 August</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS Special Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mon 25 August</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7/8 AFL/Netball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTO open to parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possums bring your bike to Kinder day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinder Parents - Tuning into kids 7.30pm information session Pump Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tues 26 August</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PS Dr Seuss Dress Up Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent Seminar (B) 7pm Staffroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wed 27 August</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koalas bring your bike to Kinder day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Free TV Unit**

Free TV unit in good condition. Shelves are removable. Please contact Nicky on 0425 774 133 to arrange pickup.

---

**Mount Evelyn Toy Library**

Mount Evelyn Public Hall, 44 Birmingham Rd. Opening Hours Monday 9.30-11am (fortnightly) and Thursday 6.30-7.30pm (fortnightly) and Saturday 9.30-11am. Memberships start from just $50 per year. [www.mtevelnytoylibrary.com](http://www.mtevelnytoylibrary.com).

**Taekwondo**

Taekwondo and self defence classes are held at Lilydale West Primary School each Monday night from 7 - 8.30pm.
Contact Stuart 0425 857 955.

**Apple Man**

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

**Cassie**

**Receptionist**

---

**Debunking ADHD Myths Seminar**

The hype and mixed media messaging surrounding this condition can leave parents confused and frustrated, something MECS parent Stuart Passmore witnesses daily in his practice.

As a result, Stuart, author of The ADHD Handbook, will run a 2 hour seminar aimed at providing strategies, advice and behavioural management techniques to families struggling to come to terms with ADHD.

Stuart offers a no-nonsense approach that helps families when negotiating the maze of debunking some of the common myths surrounding ADHD. The seminar will include discussions on the causes of ADHD, the issue of medication, behaviour management, parenting strategies and give parents to the opportunity to ask questions.

Cost $75 including a copy of The ADHD Handbook and handouts.

Bookings essential, seats limited to 100. Registrations close August 16.

Held at the Karralyka Centre, Mines Road, Ringwood East, 10am-12noon, Saturday August 23.


**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.

---

**Congratulations to all**

Mobile Muster has sent us a certificate of congratulations for our contribution to a better environment. The school community has collected 9,45kg of mobile phones for recycling. Well done.

The estimated amount of precious metals recovered from circuit boards by Mobile Musters overall effort is the equivalent of mining 2,649 tonnes of precious metal ores and prevented 85kg of Cadmium and 284kg of lead from ending up in landfill where they might have leached harmful elements into the environment.

---

**Notices sent home this week and on Website**

- Year 9 Service Elective Notice
- Empowering Girls Parent Letter
- Empowering Girls Program Information
- Cycle A Term 3 Newsletter
- Year 9 Open Village Term 3 Newsletter
- Year 10 Centre Trip Letter
- SS Important dates Semester 2
- Careers Newsletter No. 11, 29 July
- Year 12 Celebration Day Guidelines

---

**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.

---

**MECS parent Stuart Passmore**

• MS Special Week
• Year 7/8 AFL/Netball
• PTO open to parents
• Possums bring your bike to Kinder day
• Kinder Parents - Tuning into kids 7.30pm information session Pump Room
• Kinder Excursion Kew Traffic School
• Prep Chesterfield Farm Excursion
• Prep Connect Morning Tea 9am Staffroom
• Instrumental Recital Families E-L 7pm

---

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