Exploring Science

Emmerson & Tahlia exploring one of the displays at Scienceworks
The need to listen

I would like to share some thoughts that were triggered by last week’s whole school assembly, run by the Middle School students and teachers. As I move to the idea of retiring and ‘looking back’, I was reminded during the assembly of the times I enjoyed in the Middle School - but it connected for me in a strange way. As I sat and listened to what was happening in the Middle School, I was reminded of the need for balance in our lives. I remember the hurly burly of Middle School and how much I loved being involved in such activities and yet was reminded that there is also the need for the time to relax, think and contemplate. Life is a tight rope we walk: we need to be involved, and yet we also need to step back and take the time to reflect, simply talk with God and listen. This is a lost art.

We know that God is faithful and wants to communicate with us, and we know that he uses many ways to do this. What we need to do is learn to listen. In Mark 4:21-23 Jesus said, “Is a lamp brought in to be put under the bushel basket, or under the bed, and not on the lampstand? For there is nothing hidden, except to be disclosed, nor is anything secret, except to come to light. Let anyone with ears to hear listen”. In Ecclesiastes 5:1 we are reminded to listen carefully to God: “Guard your steps when you go up to the house of God. Go near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools, who do not know that they do wrong”. At the transfiguration a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!” God has spoken to us in Christ and we need to take the time to listen.

Maybe it is because I am finishing at the end of the year that this has become more important for me – I am not sure. But listening is an art and I know I need to do more of it.

I find listening, really listening – not only to God, but also to others - a tricky concept. Often I am in the mode of simply waiting for the other person to finish so that I can slip in what I want to say or am waiting for a pause in the conversation so that I can contribute what I think is important. I’m also guilty of the ‘debate’ discussion: I am only interested in putting my point across and am confident that my idea is the best. Maybe some of you can’t relate to that – but I’m pretty sure there’s a few who can! **We need to choose to listen** and give others the chance to express and say their opinion, their thoughts and what is on their heart.

When we listen – what happens? We are reminded of the disciples on the road to Emmaus who said “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the scriptures to us?” Luke 24:31. They listened and heard Jesus speak to them and their ‘hearts burned’.

Listening to God leads to discovery and response. We can discover what God is asking of us or we can simply relax and know God’s presence. When we discover things through listening to God we then know what is required of us - the response. I am finding it is only as I give time to contemplate and listen that I am learning a lot more about myself and the God that I know.

The art of listening to God takes time and practise. Like most people, I tend to be an action person and am always on the move, but more and more I recognise the need to slow down and listen. Pride and arrogance sometimes mean we like to hear the sound of our own voices, but we are called to listen carefully to our God. What we discover and how we respond will come directly from the act of listening and not just from our ‘good ideas’.

Let’s remember that God longs to communicate and connect with us. In Isaiah 49:14-16, we read:

“But Zion said, The Lord has forsaken me. The Lord has forgotten me. Can a mother forget the baby at her breast And have no compassion on the child she has born? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palm of my hand.”

I love that last line. We are so important to God that we are engraved on the palm of his hand. The image evokes a feeling of closeness and intimacy – that’s what God wants with us.

I pray that this is not the ramblings of ‘an old man’ but that you too can see the need for this balance in life: the need to be involved, and the need to step back, reflect and listen; the need to listen to those around us to learn from others; the need to let God communicate with us by stopping and listening.

May you find times to contemplate and listen to the God that loves us and wants the best for us.

A prayer to dwell on as we listen.

Lord, we are so used to hearing what we want to hear and remaining deaf to what it would be well for us to hear that it is hard for us to break the habit. Lord, help us to keep our hearts and minds open as well as our ears, that we might remember to listen with patience and hope, and if we remember at all deeply and honestly, then we will come to recognize, beyond all doubt, that, however faintly we may hear you, that you are indeed speaking to us, and that, however little we may understand it, your word to each of us is both recoverable and precious beyond telling.

Cliff
SS Coordinator
Information Nights in the Senior School

Last Thursday night and again tonight, the Senior School has been hosting important Information Nights for parents and students as they transition into, and through the Senior School. Crucial information about subject selection and tertiary courses was presented to our Year 10’s and 11’s last week, whilst tonight our Year 9 students and their parents will have the opportunity to hear about all the exciting things that await them in Year 10. If you have not been able to attend, please contact Cliff (Senior School Coordinator) or Roger (VCE Coordinator) if you have any questions or concerns.

Chaplaincy Funding

You may recall from the media a month or so ago that the High Court of Australia has ruled that the present 'chaplaincy' funding that we receive has been deemed unconstitutional. The Government has waived its right to have this money returned and has 'gifted' the amount we received at the beginning of the year. Over the past couple of years this money has been used to support our Student Welfare program here at MECS. Despite this funding no longer being available, we are committed to continuing our support of such services for our students.

2015 Planning

Planning is well underway for 2015. There are many variables to consider as we contemplate changes to curriculum, staffing and programming each year. However, it's good to get these things underway as early as we can. Conversations have already started with staff about their intentions for 2015, interviews have already commenced for new positions and timetabling considerations are already on the table. We value the prayers of the community as this process continues.

First Aid Review

Throughout this year we have been reviewing our first aid provision and facilities. As part of this process, Melinda has now moved into larger and better equipped first aid facility just across the small courtyard from the main staffroom. This will enable her to better manage the first aid needs of our students. We have also made the decision that as of 2017 all our teaching staff will need to be first aid trained. At present, teachers decide whether this additional training is something they would like to undertake.

Kindergarten Bathtime

Last week Grace's little brother Caleb came to kinder and had a bath! We watched with great interest as Alison gently washed his face and lowered him into the warm water. Once he was settled he started smiling at everyone, curious that all these faces were watching him! We talked about what babies can, and can not do for themselves, such as little babies cannot sit up by themselves and need their parent to hold them. As our parents care for us, we grow and learn. The children discussed their own siblings or known younger children's abilities, and how their parents help them.

Our Lord gives us families to live in, to care for each other. Having a new member of the family causes change, and as children grow and learn our parents help us, as is our Lord's intention for people. Later the children washed and dressed some baby dolls, taking care to hold them upright! Thank you Alison, Grace and Caleb!

Wendy
Early Years Coordinator
First Aid Update

As mentioned in Sketcher’s Scoop, we are blessed to have a wonderful new First Aid room which is warm and spacious. We even have a proper bed for kids who need to lie down and rest while waiting to be picked up. Thanks to all who made this happen over the holiday break; especially Steve for all his hard work.

The children have well and truly discovered the new and improved facilities and First Aid is already proving to be a little too popular on some days. On one day last week I had a record 37 students come through with various complaints – some really needing help, but many others not!

This is a good time to ask parents to talk to your children about what constitutes a good reason to go to First Aid and what doesn’t. The teachers often remind the frequent visitors, but some reinforcing from home is essential. This will help me to keep First Aid for those who really need it. Here are a few good reasons and not so good reasons to come to First Aid.

Good Reasons to Visit First Aid (from your child’s perspective)

- I have fallen over and scraped my knees (or other body part) and it is bleeding/swollen/bruised
- I have a bleeding nose
- I think I have broken my arm/leg, etc.
- I have vomited at school/have diarrhoea/have a very sore tummy
- I have a bad headache

- I have a fever or feel sick with bad cold/sore throat/flu symptoms and need to go home
- I got stung by a bee/wasp/ant at school
- I have something in my eye
- I have hit my head hard and have a lump/haematoma/feel dizzy
- I fell playing basketball (you name the sport) and twisted my ankle
- I am having an asthma attack
- I have a chronic illness that needs checking
- My tooth got knocked out/broken off just now

Not So Good Reasons for Visiting First Aid

- My tooth is wobbly
- I hurt my leg 2 weeks ago and it is still sore
- I wanted to show you my bruise/scab which has been there for days
- I have tiny scratch on my finger
- My fingernail is broken
- I just broke up with my boyfriend
- I have just remembered I have sore leg (and the bell has just rung or I have Maths test next period!)
- I have growing pains
- I have a mossie bite that is a bit itchy
- Mum told me to see you because she didn’t want to take me to the doctor (yes it has happened and it’s really not appropriate)
- No one could look after me at home so I came to school sick

- I love band aids and I need one for my microscopic sore!
- I am cold/hot and First Aid is so nice and warm/cool
- I am hiding from my friends or other kids
- I want to practise my faking illness skills

Time for a chat

I hope you all get the picture! I love seeing and treating your children and enjoy a chat when I am not busy, but I really need to give priority to those children who genuinely need to see me. If I have to spend my time on non-first aid issues then those really in need will miss out, or worse yet, when a child in the habit of coming unnecessarily to First Aid really needs help they may not be believed. Please chat with your children about this at home (especially if you know your child is a regular visitor). Thanks so much.

And for you Mums and Dads: it’s tough when your child is sick and there isn’t an easy solution to care for them. Sending them to school when they are sick or injured is not a good option. Your child’s ability to learn is diminished, we don’t have resources to care for them, they may deteriorate, and their illness could spread. Remember too that we provide first aid, not nursing and we are certainly not a medical clinic. We do our best to care for your children but there are significant limits to what we can and should do. Thank you for taking your partnership in this seriously.
On Tuesday the Year 9s and 10s went to Dandenong to play interschool footy and netball.

Netball went so well! Our Year 10 team worked very well together and we ended up winning every game and the GRAND FINAL!! This year was by far the best we’ve ever played and so much fun.

Our Year 9 netball team was up against some tough competition and didn’t manage to pull a win; however our Year 9 MECS-ican girls consistently made the teams they played against feel great about themselves by winning. Our girls smiled all the way in the full spirit of a game well played with good friends.

Our Year 10 football team didn’t do so well. We had tough competition and came up against some older boys. Everyone put in a really strong effort! A big thank you to Beth who came along as our official photographer.

Lance
Middle School Teacher
On Tuesday July 29, the Senior Primaries went to Science Works to learn about Space. First we went to the sports section. We looked around and did some activities there. Our favourite activity was trying to beat Cathy Freeman. Secondly, we went to the Planetarium after recess. We watched a movie called ‘A Space Odyssey’ and the second part was looking at the constellations in the northern and southern hemispheres. After lunch we went to ‘Think Ahead’ and ‘Science fiction’ displays then headed back to school on the bus.

**Emmerson & Tahlia**

Last week, the Senior Primary students went to Science Works. First, one of their staff told us the rules, then we ate recess outside on the steps. Then, we went to the sports section and looked around for 30 minutes, then had a ten minute play in the playground while we were waiting for the Planetarium to open. We went in to the Planetarium and we watched a video, then we looked at the constellations. We went back out to the eating area for lunch. After lunch we went into the ‘Futures’ section. It was really cool because we got to create our future selves. Something else that was cool was looking at what people and scientists thought things were going to look like in the future. After 40 minutes of looking in that section, we got our bags and went back on the bus. It was a bit of a ride, but it was worth it.

**Josiah & James**
Friday August 1 was Grandparents and Special Friends day for the 4 year old Kinder Children. This special day was timely in our program as we have been talking about how people and families are different. We saw Grandmothers and Grandfathers on the floor peering at books, setting up the train set, and manipulating play dough. The children enthusiastically sang some songs for them and Grandparents helped the children draw family members and place them on a family tree. They had some lovely discussions about all their family members including aunties, uncles and cousins. This was a very special event for us in the kindergarten, and we thank all our families for participating so enthusiastically. We’re not sure who was having more fun!

Wendy & Cherie
Kindergarten Teachers
### Calendar

**2014 Term 3 Week 3: 4 - 10 August**

**Thur 7 August**
2015 Yr 10 Info Meeting Theatrette, 7.30pm

**Fri 8 August**
Kinder Excursion Montrose Park and Shops

**2014 Term 3 Week 4: 11 - 17 August**

**Tues 12 August**
K3 Bluebirds Connect Morning Tea 9am Staffroom

**Wed 13 August**
K4 Connect Morning Tea 9am Staffroom
Year 6 Positive Boys Oasis Day
Year 9 Performance Excursion

**Thur 14 August**
K3 Rosellas Connect Morning Tea 9am Staffroom
Year 11/12 AFL/Netball
Wilson’s Prom Camp Meeting 7.30pm Staffroom

**2014 Term 3 Week 5: 18 - 24 August**

**Mon 18 August**
Kinder Excursion Kew Traffic School

**Wed 20 August**
Prep Chesterfield Farm Excursion

**Thur 21 August**
Prep Connect Morning Tea 9am Staffroom
Instrumental Recital Families E-M 7pm

**2014 Term 3 Week 6: 25 - 31 August**

**Mon 25 - Fri 29 August**
MS Special Week

**Mon 25 August**
Year 7/8 AFL/Netball
Bookings open for PT Interviews
Possums bring your bike to Kinder day
Kinder Parents - Tuning into kids 7.30pm information session PUMP Room

**Tues 26 August**
PS Dr Seuss Dress Up Day
Parent Seminar (B) 7pm Staffroom

**Wed 27 August**
Koalas bring your bike to Kinder day

**Thur 28 August**
SS Connect Morning Tea 9am Staffroom
VCE Music Recital 7pm Theatrette

**2014 Term 3 Week 7: 1 - 7 September**

**Tues 2 September**
Student Leadership Board Dinner 6pm

**Wed 3 September**
Parent Teacher Interviews

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### 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.

#### Music Event Invitation

You and your friends and family are invited to attend a live event recording of 14 of my original songs. I have gathered a fine band of musical friends to perform with me, along with three special guests:

* The Bean Project
* Bethany Peele
* Suzanne and Paul Frisk

It promises to be a night to remember!

Lance Peele Live - Born to Be
At TLC, 265 Canterbury Road
Bayswater, Saturday August 23
Door opens 7pm, $5 entry

Find the event on Facebook on the page of Bethany Peele and register to attend, or text me on 0402 024 144 with your name and number of people attending. Hope to see you there!

**Lance Peele**

#### The Rescue Movement Concert

Invite your friends & family along to this exciting event!


The Rescue Movement concert will be raising funds to help Destiny Rescue build a rescue house in India for children who have been trafficked & exploited.

Saturday September 6

Pre-show entertainment & market stalls 4.30pm with the show starting at 6.30pm, at George Wood Performing Arts Centre, Yarra Valley Grammar School, Kalinda Rd, Ringwood

Tickets - Standard - $35 if purchased by Aug 7, otherwise $40. 12 yrs & under - $25 if purchased by Aug 7, otherwise $30. At the door $50.

For more info & ticket sales visit www.therescuemovement.org

**Cassie**

**Receptionist**

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### Newsletter deadline is 11am Tuesday on published week.

Email articles (images attached as jpg) to the Newsletter Office

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### There is an urgent need for CRT Teachers for the Primary School

We are currently seeking urgent applications for Casual Relief Teachers in our Primary Section at MECS.

If you are interested in applying please download the Application Pack and Application Form from the MECS website, employment opportunities section at www.mecs.vic.edu.au.

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### Notices sent home this week and on Website

- Help with SS subject selection powerpoint
- PS Dr Seuss dress up day notice
- Year 11/12 AFL Netball Notice
- Term 3 Music Recital Notice
- Year 9 Performance Excursion Notice