Cycle A Polynesian Expo

Bek, Jemma & Emily in front of their display for the expo
Shine Like Stars

Last week I had the opportunity to spend two days with over fifty young leaders from Victorian Christian schools at the annual CEJ/CSA Student Leadership Conference. These students came from far and (very) near to meet together at the Oasis Christian Camp in Mount Evelyn. MECS was admirably represented by five of our Year 10 students - Nick, Alex, Khosie, Tammy and Katie.

The theme of the conference was ‘Shine’. I had the honour of leading the students in devotions on the first morning. We were looking at a section of Paul’s letter to the Philippians, including the following verses:

Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life.

As I reflected on these verses I was reminded of an odd experience that happened to me when I was about 20 years old. I was waiting on a platform at Spencer Street Station for a train to Geelong. It was raining heavily and our train was well over an hour late. An elderly man tapped me on the shoulder and said in a way that was more of a statement than a question, “You’re a Christian, aren’t you”. I stood there doing my best impersonation of a stunned mullet but managed to respond, “I am. How can you tell?” He was beaming at me. “You’re glowing” he replied excitedly, “I can see the light of Jesus shining through you”. I was very surprised by his words, and the only response I could give to him was “Okay”. He then went on to explain that he had been standing on the opposite platform (across the tracks) and noticed that most of the waiting passengers were grumbling and angry, but I seemed to have a God-given glow of contentment.

This memory seems to beautifully illustrate what Paul is getting at in these verses. Simply by holding back on our complaining and arguing, we can allow the Spirit of God to shine through us. That moment on the train station platform is not indicative of my usual response to situations that I find annoying. I can complain as well as the next person. If you take time to listen to what we typically complain about, you may find a list which includes such things as: not having enough time for this and that, the weather (too hot, too cold, too windy, too wet), wireless internet being too slow, getting up on Monday mornings, the toilet seat being left up, having to wait in queues, grammatical and typing errors, other people’s Facebook statuses, and we are really good at complaining about other people complaining. To be honest, I am a fan of the concept of ‘first world problems’. This idea pokes fun at the inane problems that we choose to complain about in wealthy areas of the world. A meme I saw had this ‘tweet’ someone had written: “I just had soy milk in my tea. It was one of the worst decisions of my life.”

Throughout the Bible we get the message that the root of complaining is the heart of unbelief. The complainer has lost sight of the power of God in their lives.

Throughout the Bible we get the message that the root of complaining is the heart of unbelief. The complainer has lost sight of the power of God in their lives. We see this demonstrated in the story of the Israelites and their forty year walk through the desert. God was not happy with the unbelief of his people, and the generation that began the journey never made it to the Promised Land. It raises the question as to why we complain at all. I imagine it is because we think we deserve better. However, because of who Jesus is and what he did on the cross, we get so much more than we deserve. We receive forgiveness of sins, everlasting life, and we are adopted as sons and daughters of the God of the universe. Through the Spirit of Jesus who lives in all who believe, we have the power to conquer complaining and shine like stars.

It was a privilege to spend time listening to and working alongside the many young leaders I met last week. It is probably no surprise that I didn’t hear any complaining during the camp! These students participated enthusiastically in the various activities, and prayed sincerely for their new friends. They learnt about the ‘upside-down Kingdom’ where a leader has humility and values others above themselves, and where we have the example of Christ as the ultimate leader. Please join with me in praying for our younger leaders as they seek to be shining examples of Jesus’ love in what can be a challenging culture.

Jacqui
Director of Teaching and Learning
**Parent Satisfaction Survey**

So far this year I have been busy catching up with teachers and students about what makes MECS ‘tick’. We have been chatting about what are the things we do really well here and what areas still need further improvement! As parents, your turn is coming! Effective feedback is critical as we continue to plan for the future and we would like to have your input. Information will come over the next few weeks about the opportunity to participate in a Parent Satisfaction Survey. This will be administered by Christian Educational National (CEN), the national body that our school is a member of. The survey will be conducted online to assure you of anonymity and confidentiality. We hope to conduct the survey in the last couple of weeks of this term. Stay tuned!

**Student Leadership**

Last Thursday five of our Year 10 students attended the CEN Student Leadership Camp at Oasis. This was an opportunity for potential leaders from across our Christian schools to come together and learn about biblical leadership, some of the challenges and opportunities of this office, and what God might be calling them to in the future. Similarly, all of our student leaders across the school have been invited to join with the Board on Tuesday September 2 at 6pm. They will chat to our Board members over dinner and then observe and participate in the first section of the monthly Board meeting.

Both of these activities are just some of the ways we hope to develop and encourage the leadership gifts that God has blessed some of our students with.

**VCE Netball**

Thrilled by the opportunity to set aside their studies for a day of physical activity, 15 keen VCE netballers boarded the bus and headed to Gloria Pyke Netball Complex in Dandenong. We had a Year 12 and Year 11 team which both put in fantastic efforts and saw some positive results. The girls displayed great skill, strategy and teamwork throughout the day, cheering each other on and showing good sportsmanship to the other teams and umpires. The Year 12 team had a win, two losses, and two 3-all draws, while the Year 11 team were undefeated in all 5 games they played. The Year 11 team capped their day with Jordan scoring in the dying seconds to seal a gripping 1 goal victory in the Grand Final against Balcombe. Congratulations to the girls on an excellent day of positive competition and great fun.

*Emma*

*Senior School Sports Teacher*

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MECS Notes

Year 9 Needs Textiles
Year 9 need collections of material in good condition to make recycled goods to sell in Industry week (which is next week in MS Special Week). Things like buttons, ribbon and lace, even if it is attached to clothing. Also clothing if the material is in good condition. We would appreciate any donations - which can be left at the office - preferably by tomorrow or first thing Monday, many thanks

Yvonne & Anne-Maree
MS Teachers

Cycle B Needs Magazines
During Special Week (25-29 Aug), Cycle B are making beads out of magazines and would appreciate magazine donations. They can be left at the Office by tomorrow.

Duc
CS Teacher

Enrolment Update
As you may already know the MECS kindergarten has been extremely popular, and as a result we are experiencing exceptionally high demand for enrolment positions over the next few years. The current situation is:
2015: 3yo, 4yo and Prep all full
2016: 4yo and Prep both full; a few places in 3yo
2017: Prep full; a few places in 3yo and 4yo
If you have a baby or toddler that you have not yet enrolled, please complete a sibling application form as soon as possible (available from the Office). We do not want any of our existing families to miss out on a place!

Natasha
Registrar

When you finish - they start
This is the motto of PVBS (short for Proverbs). Each year the Year 12 class order a custom made hoodie/jacket as a memento of their Year 12 year. This year the hoodie was sourced from PVBS - a group that launched in 2013 with the idea of supplying local schools with their Year 12 clothing item and for each one sold, ‘change the world’ by providing a starter pack for a child starting school in a developing country.
PVBS, working with 17 schools and 1308 students in Australia were able to provide 1308 starter packs (backpack, school uniform and stationery) to children in Cambodia plus 2 classrooms in Ghana.

Sharon
Year 12 Coordinator

Friends of MECS
Cook Off day
Monday September 1, 9am-1pm
We have 5 different meals we will be cooking: Pasta Sauce, Zucchini Slice, Apricot Chicken, Curried Sausages and Chicken Soup. We are aiming to cook 50 meals to fill our Community Freezer. If you are unable to come on the day but would like to contribute we are asking for donations of groceries. We will have a donation box in the Kinder, Prep rooms, Main Office and Senior School Office.

We need the following items:

Tins/Jars/Containers of:
- Tomatoes
- Tomato Paste
- Apricot Nectar
- Apricots
- Chicken Stock
- Corn
- Curry Powder
- Beans

Packets of:
- Red Lentils
- French Onion Soup
- Rice Noodles
- Self Raising Flour
- UHT Milk
- Plain Flour
- Sultanas
- Mixed Herbs

Also needed are takeaway or foil containers (to freeze meals in).

Thank you so much for the donations so far - but we still need more.
We hope you can either help out on the day, or donate some of the items listed above and support this so we can have a freezer full of meals to bless our families with.

Please contact Amanda or Nicole through the office or by email.

Nicole
Community Relations Officer

VCE AFL
The sun was shining as the MECS Senior School boys headed out to battle Balcombe Grammar and Bayside Christian College on the footy field. With 3 weeks training under their belts, the MECS boys were ready to have a red hot go at bringing home the flag. Game 1 saw MECS quickly run away to a 2 goal lead to Bayside. The Bayside centres struggled to keep up with the likes of Bayley, Alex, Lachlan, Liam and the rest of the team. The boys carried a one goal lead into half time but quickly pulled away with Mike dominating across half forward and Sam Baker kicking a goal. The last 10 minutes of the game saw Bayside surge forward, their big men in the forward line proving too strong for our defenders. They kicked three unanswered goals, winning by 2 points.

In game 2, the MECS boys played Balcombe; Ryan in the ruck, then dropping back to take big defensive marks and then going forward to kick a quality goal. Sam (sniper) sent opposition players flying as he won contested position after contested position with good tough play. The opposition responded and MECS was a goal down at half time. The second half was a wrestle. Just when it looked like Bayside were going to win with a huge lead, Lachlan came on for 2 minutes kicking a goal and setting up another. The final score MECS 6.6 to Bayside 9.6. A great effort by all our boys who played like champions.

Luke
Senior School Sports Teacher
Cycle A Polynesian Expo

Last week on Wednesday, Cycle A (Years 7 and 8) had a Polynesian Expo! We have been studying the migration and culture of Polynesians, focusing on the years between 800-1600AD. Students chose out of 3 countries to research: Samoa, Tonga or the Cook Islands. Within these groups, they then chose a particular topic in the area of culture, history or environment. The idea behind having this choice was to tap into students’ passions as this can lead to students taking more responsibility for their learning. When we enjoy what we are learning about it is memorable, engaging and fun!

It took a few weeks for students to prepare, from researching their topics to finally presenting their information in creative ways. Some groups taught Cycle A some traditional Polynesian dancing, whilst others brought in delicious Polynesian food to help us experience first-hand what Polynesians ate many years ago. There were lots of knowledgeable students as well as posters, flags, pictures and quizzes. A huge amount of effort was put into the stalls and it was very informative. Each Cycle A class had a chance to go and visit other classes’ presentations which resulted in having a real live ‘audience’. Well done to all the Cycle A students for their efforts!

Nicole
Middle School Teacher

MECS Notes

Year 9 Performance Excursion

Year 9s travelled to the Karralyka theatre in Ringwood to watch a live performance of ‘Buyology’ written by Shaz Mullens. The play opens up issues of consumerism and the side effects we experience living in a consumption driven society. These themes fit in with the Year 9 curriculum this term, where we are exploring ‘the making of the modern world’. The play was followed by a workshop using drama to further explore the themes raised in the play.

Lance
Year 9 Teacher

Dr Seuss PS Dress-up Day

Tuesday, August 26, 9am

The Primary School is having a dress-up day to celebrate Literacy and Numeracy week. No need for fancy dress-ups, just some bright colours…fun and imagination! Please make sure your child comes in some kind of costume, no matter how basic, as dress-up days are always a lot of fun and really add to the atmosphere of the day. Hunt up your Dr Seuss books and get your child well and truly ‘into the spirit of things’!

The day begins at 9am with a special GT led by SPUDs - parents welcome!
On August 13, the Year 6 (positive) boys went to camp Oasis, which is about 1km down the road.

We started out by sitting around a dead campfire while the camp directors gave us a few rules to follow and then they sent us on an orienteering course. After that, my group went to the low ropes course and had heaps of fun on it. My group then took part in initiatives, where we disassembled our boat to cross a ‘river of lava’ (although not literally of course). Later on we did some archery, where we all had a go at getting a bull’s eye. We then we had a go on the flying fox, which we could go on upside down and not fall off. The last thing we did was the milk-crate stacking, where we tried to climb up the most milk crates that we could without falling off. Mr Clark also gave a week off homework to the people who could beat his previous record of 13 milk crates. The stacking ended with Joshua setting a new MECS record of 17 milk crates. GO JOSH!!

Jackson

The Year 6 boys had an exhilarating day. First thing we did was orienteering to discover a few places around the camp. Then, we split into groups. My group took part in initiatives, where we had to work as a team to solve problems. We then swapped with the other group and did a low ropes course, which was really hard. We then tried out the flying fox. It was massively high. After that, we did archery. It was fairly easy. Finally, we did milk crate stacking.

Adam

Oasis camp was a memorable experience, as well as lots of fun! The activities included orienteering, ropes course (this was my favourite), initiatives, archery (not one of my strengths) and the flying fox. We then completed the crate stacking activities. I broke the MECS record of 17 crates! Over all, it was the time of my life.

Joshua

At Oasis we all did five activities. The first was like a treasure hunt, but we had to find out where and what some things are around the camp. After that, we all got split into two groups and my group went to the low ropes course. I really enjoyed this one as it was challenging and fun. We then did archery, this was amazing as we got to fire a bow and arrow! After lunch, we went on the flying fox. We all had two turns and this gave us double the fun! The best was left to last - the crate stacking! The camp’s record was 21 crates high and our school’s record (made last year) was 12. We now have a new MECS record of 17.

Myles
Monday morning excitement filled the Kindergarten as the K4 children prepared to ride the bus down to the Kew Traffic School. It was hard to determine what was more exciting - the bus trip or the chance to ride bikes around the Traffic School.

After arrival the children had a snack and a play on the playground equipment, after which we were ready to listen to the road safety talk. In the teaching room we looked at some different signs, the traffic lights and watched a clip with 'Thingy Toodle' - a mascot for the Road Traffic Authority (you can see him on you-tube). He has large ears to listen with, holds an adult's hand when crossing the road and looks both ways before crossing the road. We also talked about thinking before you cross, so that children are not just going through the motions - “Stop, Look, Listen, Think!” Once we had walked across the road practising what we had learnt, the children were allotted a bike and off they went! It was quite a challenge for the children to negotiate their bike and obey all of the traffic signals, but they did a great job!

Wendy
Early Years Coordinator
**Calendar**

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

**Thur 21 August**
Instrumental Recital Farnes 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 P/T Interviews (Afternoon) Possums - Bring your bike to Kinder day Kinder Parents - Bring into kids 7.30pm information session PUMP Room

**Tues 26 August**
PS GT Dr Seuss Dress-Up Day - 9am 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

**Thur 4 September**
4 Year Old Kinder Dad's night 5.30-6.30pm

**Fri 5 September**
Fathers Day Stall

**2014 Term 3 Week 8: 8 - 14 September**

**Mon 8 September**
PS & MS Parent Teacher Interviews

**Tues 9 September**
Year 7-12 Tribal Athletics SP Connect Morning Tea 9am Staffroom

**Wed 10 September**
MP Hootime

**Thur 11 September**
MS Social Media Seminar PT Interviews

**Fri 12 September**
SP Hootime Postive Boys Billy Cart Races 2-3pm

**Sun 14 September**
Centre Trip Departs

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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.

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**Oven for Sale**

This 6 month old oven is still installed and in excellent working order. Width 595mm, Height 595mm, Depth 565mm. Size 60cm with 80 Litre capacity. 3 Cooking functions - bake, fan bake and grill. 2 year Manufacturer’s warranty. Stainless steel finish. Fuel type - LPG gas. This model is currently available new online from the Good Guys for $998. My Price $550. Having used an electric oven all my baking life, I am changing to an electric model. I have had a quote of $80 - $100 by a plumber to disconnect - I will pay this cost. Purchaser to pay cash on removal of oven from Hastings or pickup from MECS.

Contact Rosalie 9738 6060.

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**Apple Man**

Next visit of the apple man will be Friday 29 August. 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**

**Bar Fridge Needed**

I am looking for a reasonably priced bar fridge to use for maturing home made cheese. If anyone has one in good condition that they don’t need anymore please contact Heather, 9738 6006, or Fridays and after hours, 0419 935 312.

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**Hope for Creation**

Family Afternoon hosted by TEAR Outer East Support Group.

Sunday 7 September 2014, 3.30-5.30pm at the Hall of Holy Trinity Anglican Church Upwey, corner Birdwood Ave and Morris Rd, Upwey.

Hope for Creation is a movement of Australian Christians committed to prayer and action on climate change.


This will be an interactive event, with stations for learning, prayer and action. Everyone welcome! If you are able please bring something to share for afternoon tea.

For more information please contact Becca. becca@bcsmallbiz.com

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**The Rescue Movement Concert**

Featuring Stan Walker, local artists & African music group Soukous ba Congo.

The concert will raise 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. Show starts 6.30pm. at George Wood Performing Arts Centre, Yarra Valley Grammar School, Kalinda Rd, Ringwood.

Tickets - $40. 12 yrs & under - $30. At the door $50. For more info & ticket sales visit www.therescuemovement.org

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**Music Event Invitation**

You and your friends and family are invited to attend a live event recording of 14 of my original songs.

Lance Peele Live - Born to Be at TLC, 265 Canterbury Road Bayswater, Sat Aug 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.

**Lance Peele**
MS Teacher

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