Visiting Yuendumu


EGM
TONIGHT
Oct 16
Come along!
Dangerous Wonder

In a few short weeks, we say goodbye to our Year 12 students – no doubt they will exit with style! They have survived thirteen years of schooling and are hopefully ready for the big wide world of work or tertiary studies. Most of them have worked hard and we trust that they all achieve the results they hope for.

This is a very significant time for these students, and one way that we can be part of that is through prayer. There will be formal and informal opportunities for prayer over this period, and I invite you to join me in praying for the following:

- That God might be real in their lives
- That they may form positive and valuable relationships
- For their study preparation and exams
- For their career, job and course choices
- That they might make an impact on the world and make a difference, using their gifts and abilities in the service of others
- For an adventurous life of faith

The last petition might be a prayer that we all pray for each other. It is an important reminder that the Christian life is not necessarily comfortable or safe.

In a stimulating and provocative little book, ‘Dangerous Wonder’, Michael Yaconelli reminds us that faith is about risk and adventure; faith was never meant to be dull. He writes, “We are in a war between dullness and astonishment. The most critical issue facing Christians is not abortion, pornography, the disintegration of the family and moral absolutes, MTV, drugs, racism, sexuality or television. The critical issue today is dullness. We have lost our astonishment. The Good News is no longer good news, it is okay news. Christianity is no longer life changing, it is life enhancing. Jesus doesn’t change people into wild-eyed radicals anymore; he changes them into ‘nice people’.”

Yaconelli suggests that we need to recapture a ‘dangerous wonder’. ‘If we have lost the gleam in our eye; if Jesus no longer chases us in the ragged terrain of our souls; if we have forgotten what it is like to stand speechless in the presence of Jesus, hearts beating wildly, staggered and stunned by what God is doing in the world; then we need to rediscover the astonishment and terror, awe and risk, passion and anticipation, daring and enchantment of faith.

C.S. Lewis captures this dangerous aspect of faith when the children in ‘The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe’ meet Aslan, the Lion, after he has come back from death. Many see in Aslan an allegorical reference to Jesus and the awesome, yet playful relationship into which he invites us.

“And now –”

“Oh yes. Now?” said Lucy jumping up and clapping her hands.

“Oh, children,” said the Lion, ‘I feel my strength coming back to me. Oh, children, catch me if you can!”

He stood for a second, his eyes very bright, his limbs quivering, lashing himself with his tail. Then he made a leap high over their heads and landed on the other side of the table. Laughing, though she didn’t know why, Lucy scrambled over to reach him. Aslan leapt again. A mad chase began. Round and round the hilltop he led them, now hopelessly out of their reach, now almost letting them catch his tail, now diving between them, now tossing them in the air with his huge and beautifully velveted paws and catching them again, and now stopping unexpectedly so that all three of them rolled over together in a happy laughing heap of fur and arms and legs. It was such a romp as no one has ever had except in Narnia, and whether it was more like playing with a thunderstorm or playing with a kitten Lucy could never make up her mind. And the funny thing was that when all three finally lay down together panting in the sun the girls no longer felt in the least tired or hungry or thirsty.”

We pray that our Year 12 students might indeed develop this type of adventurous faith; but let us all be reminded that we also need to find places where the dangerous wonder of faith can be discovered or rediscovered.

Narelle
MECS Principal

Assistant Principal Secondary

The Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Karissa to the position of Assistant Principal, Secondary.

Karissa has been in our community for 10 years and brings to the role a passion for Christian education and a clear vision for the future.

Karissa will continue in her current role of Secondary Education Support Coordinator, commencing the new position in 2015.

The appointment of Karissa completes our new four-person executive leadership structure of Principal, Assistant Principal Primary, Assistant Principal Secondary and Administration Manager.

We are delighted to welcome Karissa to the executive team and look forward to working more closely with her.

We trust you will embrace and support her in her new role.

Faithfully
Ian
Board Chair

Next Working Bee!

This Saturday 18 Oct
8am-1pm
Morning Tea Provided

Learning Assistant Positions Available

See MECS website employment section for details.
SKETCHER’S SCOOP

Back at School

It was great to see all our students back at school this week eager to see their friends and get into their learning for the term. It’s amazing to think we only have one more term before the year comes to an end. The students have been encouraged to give it their best as they work towards the completion of the planned learning activities for this year. We still have lots of exciting camps to come for both Primary and Middle school students and we look forward to these over the coming weeks.

Final Weeks for our Year 12 students

Our Year 12s are entering the final weeks of their classes and their time here at school. As you will see from my editorial, we encourage you to join us in prayer as our students prepare for their final exams and for their life choices ahead. May their lives be characterised by ‘dangerous wonder’ as they use their gifts and talents in service to God and His Kingdom purposes.

Parent Satisfaction Survey

Thank you to the many families who recently completed our Parent Satisfaction Survey. We had a wonderful response rate and the results were extremely encouraging. I look forward to sharing more of the details of this with you over the next few weeks.

Positive Boys Night

The final Tuesday of Term 3 was one of the highlights of our Positive Boys program with ‘Blokes Night’. While the Year 6 boys have been a big part of our program, the night was as much about celebrating the kids’ achievements throughout the term as it was honouring their dads and special friends and recognising the roles these people have played within their lives. The night started with a dads vs kids game of skittles. The kids were quite confiden going in, claiming a lot of their dads were ‘finished’ or ‘past it’. While the dads put up a good fight, they were comprehensively beaten this year across three rounds. Following the competitive side to the evening, the boys and their dads or special friends sat down and shared different things they loved about either being a boy or man, as well as what they admired about each other. Some of the boys said that they liked that their dads cook and help them build different things. Some of the men shared how they loved their boy’s positive attitude in tough situations as well as having an attitude of perseverance and seeing things through.

We were then blessed to have a BBQ dinner together provided by our wonderful catering staff in Karen and Jay. The night concluded with an auction of the billy carts that they boys had made throughout the term. We raised well over $300 dollars with all proceeds going towards Jinga Christian School in Uganda. Unfortunately rain stopped the boys from racing their carts on the Thursday, however I look forward to capping off our Positive Boys unit with the billy cart race, tomorrow (Friday).

Ben
Positive Boys Coordinator

Parliamentary Dinner

On Tuesday night I had the privilege of representing MECS at a Parliamentary dinner hosted by Education Minister, Martin Dixon and Police Minister, Kim Wells. It was an opportunity for me and a handful of other Christian school leaders to discuss key issues affecting Christian schools leading up to the state election at the end of November. Some of these issues have been discussed in this newsletter over recent weeks. They were extremely generous with their time and hospitality and we felt they have an increasing appreciation for the role that Christian schools play in the educational landscape.

Association EGM

We are looking forward to seeing as many of our Association members as possible at our EGM tonight. It will be a great time of fellowship as we share a meal together and hear from Daniel Bradbury and his passion for learning languages as a means of offering hospitality to our nearest neighbours. You will be inspired by what Daniel has to share. Our draft budget for 2015 will also be presented. If you are not an Association member and want to know more, feel free to come along! There will be plenty of food for everyone.

All the Year 6 boys and their dads met at the understorey. When everyone was there, we played a game of skittles and it was dads versus the boys. The first game was a clear win for the boys. The 2nd round was a bit harder because Mr Clark kept on letting the dads back in. It was a close game but otherwise unfair for the dads. The 3rd game we were struggling with the loss of Flynn and Alex and Mr Clark made it next skittle wins. But we kept our game up and fought back and won!

After that we had a nice BBQ and a refreshing drink and ice cream for dessert. We chatted with our dads about the things we appreciate about each other. Then we auctioned off our billy carts. The highest one sold was Wild Waves for $70. All of the money raised was for Jinga Christian School in Uganda.

Oscar & Daniel

社团 EG

议会晚宴

周二晚上我有幸代表MECS在议会晚宴上发言，由教育部长Martin Dixon和警察部长Kim Wells主持。这是一个机会，我们可以与几位其他基督教学校的领导一起讨论与即将到来的州选有关的关键问题。他们非常慷慨地抽出他们的宝贵时间，我们感到他们对基督教学校的角色有越来越高的认识。

协会EGM

我们期待着看到尽可能多的协会成员参加今晚的EGM。这将是一个很好的时间来聚会，分享一顿饭，聆听Daniel Bradbury的热情，他关于学习语言的激情，以及为我们附近的邻居提供款待。你将被Daniel分享的内容所启发。我们2015年的预算草案也将被提出。如果你不是一位协会成员并且想知道更多，快来参加吧！这里将有很多食物适合大家。

所有六年男学生和他们的父亲们在地下室集合。当大家都在场时，我们玩了一场投保龄球的的游戏，这是爸爸与男孩的对决。第一场是男孩的明显胜利。第二轮稍微艰难一些，因为Mr Clark总是让爸爸们再回到比赛中。这是一场接近的比赛，但对爸爸们来说显然不公平。第三轮我们正在努力，Flynn和Alex和Mr Clark让他们再次赢得skittle。但我们坚持了下来，努力地战斗并获胜！

之后我们享用了一顿美味的BBQ晚餐和清爽的饮品以及冰淇淋作甜点。我们和我们的爸爸们聊了聊我们各自欣赏对方的事情。然后我们对我们的billy carts进行拍卖。最高的一个卖了Wild Waves，为$70。所有筹集的资金都用于Jinga Christian School in Uganda。

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Oscar & Daniel
A Sad Loss

On the 2014 Centre Trip recently completed we met Shorty Jangala Robertson* at Juka-Juka, a site west of Yuendumu. It is associated with Frog Dreaming (yes, the frog who drank all the water) as well as Rain Dreaming. Jangala sat in the shade of a bush and sang the songs of that place. He was taken back to his youth, and casually pushed a piece of grass or twig through his pierced nasal septum as he remembered. It was this Jangala who painted two of the panels on the gymnasium wall which stand for two of our school’s tribal names, Wirri and Warlpa.

I was saddened to hear that Jangala had died just last week, the week after the Trip’s return. Jangala was the last of the well-known old artists of Yuendumu, and will be sadly missed in his home town.

(*because we are far from Yuendumu and no Warlpiri is likely to read this, I have used Jangala’s name.)

Colin
SS School Teacher

Friends of MECS

Stationery Helpers

Thank you to all those who have offered to help with the packing and sales days for stationery. There are still some times that need more people:

Wed Dec 3, 12.30-3pm
Thurs Dec 4, 9-12noon
Thurs Jan 29, 8.30-12noon & 1-3pm

If you can help at any of these times please let me know by either emailing or messaging. Thanks.

Evelyn

Holiday Skating

Last Thursday we had around 25 skaters enjoy a fun and social morning at Victorian Roller Skating Centre in Lilydale. Our youngest skater was 4 years old and we had quite a few teens and parents on the rink as well! It was great to see so many families there after a nice long break.

Thanks to those who came along, we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

Amanda and Nicole
Community Relations Officers

Empowering Girls Night

On the night of September 17, the Year 6 girls had a mother/daughter night in the main staff room.

As we waited for everyone to arrive we chatted amongst ourselves. When everyone was there, Miss Dyer talked about what we had been doing in Empowering Girls throughout the term.

We then had a circle time where we all chose a card to describe our mums and daughters.

We were given a piece of paper and wrote on it 5 things that we loved about each other.

Next we went back to the floor and lit a candle each and we had to say “this candle is for my mum/daughter representing the light she brings to my life and to the world.”

Finally, we all gathered around and enjoyed a yummy supper.

Overall we had an awesome night!

Olivia & Kasey
Community Service

As part of Year 11 Text and Traditions, we had to complete a community service or fundraiser about an ethical or social issue that we are passionate about. We had two guest speakers from Destiny Rescue, Chris and Cassie, come and speak to us about child slavery and sexual exploitation in third world countries. After listening to this presentation a group of us decided we wanted to help in this ethical issue. We decided to be a part of a fundraiser called ‘Make a Stand’, which involved standing up for a certain amount of hours, to raise money to save these children.

Destiny Rescue rescues children from red-light districts, brothels and sexually abusive situations. They provide rescued children the intensive care and love they need to recover from the traumatic effects of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation, as well as medical help, counselling, schooling, vocational training and all daily needs required to be integrated back into society successfully. In addition, they provide a safe and protective place for them to live, grow and experience unconditional love – a place where they can feel valued and esteemed; a place where they can be kids again.

Seven of us stood at Lilydale Lake for six hours. Two other boys decided they would challenge themselves even further and stood for an even longer amount of time. Jay stood for an awesome 16 hours and Justin stood for an amazing 24 hours. Together as a team we raised over $3000, which will now go to Destiny Rescue to help save and recover children from sex slavery.

Jordan

For one of our Text & Traditions outcomes, we were required to do community service or a fundraiser. The experience was far more rewarding than I could’ve guessed. Reona, Shannan, Evie and I chose to do our volunteering at Matt’s Café and Foodstop, both held at The Chapel in Lilydale. We worked along with other volunteers to help produce a free home-style meal, served to whoever came along. After preparing the meal we had the opportunity to interact with the people who were there, many who were disadvantaged due to sickness, lack of employment and housing. All of the girls had the realisation of how lucky we are, to be living the lives we do. It was also astonishing how such a small action by us, 5 hours of our time, meant so much to them. The people receiving the meals were able to feel appreciated and important. We all have loved being involved, and after being back a few times, are considering volunteering our time regularly.

Lauren

MECS Notes

How to have a wedding

Year 11 Legal Studies class held a mock wedding as part of studies on September 18 last term. From a contrived bridal party, to a contrived signing of the registry, it was truly the fake wedding that one can only dream of having! The wedding was conducted so professionally and the food was catered to a 5 Hat standard (thanks to chefs John Haartsen and Jordan Dykstra, respectively). And although not able to confirm or deny, there may have been romantic tears in more than a couple of eyes.... And one may or may not be writing this column for you now... All aside, it was an enjoyable and tangible way for the Legal class to grasp the nature of conducting a marriage ceremony. For those seeking to organise a fake wedding themselves, see Legal Studies and Sharon Payze for a competitive quote.

MECS Notes

A Farewell

It is with sadness that we will be farewelling Bec from MECS at the end of this school year.

Bec will be taking up an appointment at Carey Grammar, Donvale in 2015.

We wish her all the best in her new role.

Diane
Assistant Principal, Primary
Year 10 Centre Trip Adventure

Centre Trip 2014 was extremely challenging but immensely satisfying. It was lovely to see all of our Year 10 students stretched, inspired and excited by the various facets of the trip. To hear students express pride in completing difficult hikes, eating road kill, interacting with indigenous young people, running around Uluru, performing on the talent night, sleeping under the stars, camping ‘bush’ and participating in the myriad activities that make up the trip, was most heartening. As a group, the students got along magnificently. They enjoyed each other’s company and supported one another so well during the tough times. The quality of this group’s written work was outstanding. A massive thank you to all the teachers and parents who came along to help care for our students. They did an amazing job. Finally, we thank God for safe travel and the privilege of being able to visit the Northern Territory.

Dr Roger F
Trip Leader

In the Silence

Starry night above
Bindi Earth below
Surrounded by many
Yet somehow... alone
If you were here with me
To shield me from the cold
To watch the stars with me
To give me someone to hold
Shooting stars above
So beautiful in the sky
Their twinkling reminds me of
Your sparkling eyes
I’ll come back one day
With you in my arms
We’ll come back together
Just you and me
and we’ll sit
and watch
and listen
and we will be.

Ethan

Beauty

Kings Canyon, smooth, sheer cliff faces coloured with deep rich oranges that sparkle in the sunlight. Hidden crevasses, deep caves and glistening water holes whose reflections dance and play on the rippled walls that encase them. Ghost gums sprout from the rocky surface of the ground, reaching tall to the top of the canyon, their leaves swaying in the gentle breeze and their tips basking in the sunlight. A finch hops from tree to shrub calling sweetly for others to join him and a small lizard is lounging on a smooth rock, eyes closed, soaking up the warmth of the day. The absence of human disturbance and disruption is startling in the pure beauty it leaves behind. The air is clean and pure and the smell of the earth from this untouched land carries in the breeze. The peace and the serenity is something indescribable and when I gaze out onto the crisp, clear horizon I lose myself in this simple beauty.

Alex
Year 10 Centre Trip Adventure

A Hopeless Dreamer
I am a slab of bronze, dumped by a careless miner
I am an ancient creature, burned gently under the fiery sun
I am a trusted witness – to the rain, wind and drought
I am a tomb for the richest and grandest and most powerful of kings
I am the shelter of many, and the sacred home of wise dreams
I am the dust of another world, from a more careful and simple time
Yet you walk on me
Claire

Going Solo

On Wednesday October 8, while many of you were still enjoying your holidays, Unit 4 Drama students were doing their solo performance examination at the Karralyka Centre, performing for three assessors. Next week, however, they’ll be performing for family and friends, and you’re invited!

On Wednesday October 22 at 7.30 pm, both Unit 4 and Unit 2 Drama students will be presenting a range of solos including The Aspiring Artist, the Worker, a World War I female volunteer and a host of nominees for Australian of the Year.

Hope to see you there!

Marlene
VCE Drama & English Teacher, Middle School Drama Teacher

Association For Christian Education
Extra General Meeting

Tonight!

6.30pm Dinner (RSVP to the office 9718 6000)
In the Main Staffroom

7.30pm Meeting starts in the Main Staffroom
The meeting will include:
• Feedback from the Parent Satisfaction Survey
• A presentation of the draft Budget for 2015,
• Daniel Bradbury, guest speaker on the value of Indonesian language studies

All MECS community members welcome

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**Calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2014 Term 4 Week 1: 13 - 19 October</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mon 13 October</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 4 Begins</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thur 16 October</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Association EGM 7.30pm Staffroom</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fri 17 October</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 7 (all) &amp; Year 9 (boys)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Immunisations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 6 Billy Cart Races</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 11 Formal</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sat 18 October</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Working Bee 8am-1pm</td>
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<tr>
<th>2014 Term 4 Week 2: 20 - 26 October</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mon 20 October</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>PS Athletics Day</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tues 21 October</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Step into Prep Orientation 2pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 2 Drama Excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuning into Kids 7.30pm Staffroom</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wed 22 October</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>MP Connect Morning Tea 9am Staffroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 12 Morning Tea with Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wed 22-24 October</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>MP Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thur 23 October</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 12 Last Day Activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>including a Whole School Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.30am-12.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fri 24 October</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 9 Basketball</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 11 PE Icehouse Excursion</td>
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<tr>
<th>2014 Term 4 Week 3: 27 Oct - 2 Nov</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mon 27 October</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cycle A Practice Hike</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tues 28 October</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>VCE Exam Prayer Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 6 Hardrock Rock Climbing</td>
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**Lost Property**

Here is some of the lost property from last term. It includes a Dora bag, some very well loved teddies, fairy beanie kid, a bag of little pet shop toys, keys, teething necklace, wooden ant toy and earrings. If anybody owns them or knows who might own them, please let them know to come to the Main Office.

**Cassie Nation**

**Receptionist**

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

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

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**MECS Community Notices**

**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. Please contact Wynsome 0425 275 013.

**Burrinja Open Day**

*Sund 19 Oct, 11am-3pm.*

A day of visual, theatrical and experiential activities to inspire the artist in you.


**Japara House Program**

Japara Neighbourhood House (13 Leith Road Montrose), offers lots of classes including French, Computer Skills and craft, as well as playgroups. See website for details of the Term 4 activities.

Activities are held at Japara, Montrose Public Hall or The Bridge Community Garden Centre Kilnthy.

9728 3587, www.japarahouse.com.au or email japarahouse@netspace.net.au

**Community Fun Fair**

Foothills Conference Centre is proud to present their Community Fun fair, *Sunday 9 November 10am-4pm*, raising funds to support ‘Beyond Blue’ and ‘The Compassionate Friends’.

Plenty of parking on site, gold coin entry, Fox FM Street Team 11am-1pm, fashion parade, entertainment, BBQ, rides for kids, food, petting zoo, face painting, market stalls and more. Enjoy a picnic on our grounds. 48 Edinburgh Rd, Mooroolbark, 1300 341 630.

**Taekwondo**

Taekwondo and self defence classes are held at Lilydale West Primary School every Monday night from 7 - 8.30pm.

Contact Stuart Passmore 0425 857 955.

**Bubs & Kids Market**

The Bubs and Kids Community Market in support of the Royal Children’s Hospital, will be held in Lilydale at the *October 18, 9am-1pm* at the Jean Eales Pavilion at the Lilydale Show Grounds. Free show bag for first 200. Special guests Anna and Elsa appearing between 10-12. This a not for profit event. Gold coin entry.

Enquires Simone 0422 111 476.

**Yarra Ranges Childrens Week**

Sat 18 - Sunday 26 October. Free activities for children ages 0-12 years across the Yarra Ranges. For more information call 1300 368 333 or www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au

**Advent Workshop**

Montrose Uniting Church, Cnr Gratten & Canterbury Roads, Montrose

*Mon 24 Nov and 1, 8, 15 Dec, 3.45-5pm.*

For children 4 year old Kindergarteners - Year 6. 3 year old group capped at 10 and parents need to stay. $12 per child for 4 weeks, pay in full on registration by 13 November. For forms contact Robyn 9728 3739 or Ann 9725 3548.

**Transitions Disability Forum**

For parents carers and students. Come and explore post-school options for young people with a disability. Participating organisations include Centrelink, TAFEs, National Disability Coordination Officer and Disability Employment Services.

Wednesday 29 October 2014, Karralyka Centre - Mines Rd, Ringwood, 7-9pm.

**House to Rent Wanted**

3 plus bedroom house to rent wanted within about 20 mins travel from MECS. If you can help please contact the Main Office 9738 6000.

**Mango Fundraiser, Empart**

Only $30 for a 10kg box. The profits from every box sold goes towards Empart’s Children’s Homes in India.

Orders must be placed and paid for by 2pm Thursday 23 October 2014. Order forms available from the main office. Delivery will be in early to mid-November, pick up from the school. You will be notified via email and/or phone of the exact delivery date closer to the time. Also, unlike mangoes you buy in the shops, these mangoes may have some marks on the skin but the flesh is still juicy and sweet. You can also order online at www.empart.org/mangoes

Empart exists to ignite church planting movements among unreached people in Asia. Details about Empart’s work partnering with local Christians in Asia can be found at www.empart.org

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

[Website Link]

- AASC Term 4 Newsletter
- Kinder Connections No 7 Oct 2014
- JP Term 4 Newsletter
- MP Term 4 Newsletter
- SP Term 4 Newsletter
- Year 6 Grad and Rock Climbing Info
- Year 9 Open Village Letter