A Night to Remember

Year 11 Formal MCs Lauren & Ari provide the direction for the night
The MECS Centre trip has been running for over 30 years and it would be fair to say that the modern trip is markedly different from the original. The focus of the modern trip has to do with the calling of students to participate in the white Australia/black Australia reconciliation process. Preparation for the trip begins with Warlpiri, World Views and Science classes each of which helps students to understand and cope with the challenges presented by the trip: Warlpiri language and the associated cultural study specifically help students to understand the Warlpiri people and the daily burdens that they bear; World Views prepares students to understand the religious character of human beings and science helps students understand the special challenges that living creatures face as they live in the harsh, dry desert environment.

Of these three, the teaching of the Warlpiri language is probably the most critical. When our students visit Yuendumu, the fact that they have studied and learned Warlpiri, is of enormous encouragement to the local community. We begin our visit to Yuendumu by singing a Warlpiri song to the school assembly and this simple performance sets apart our school from the myriad of other groups that visit Yuendumu. The teaching of Warlpiri takes MECS’ visit away from a tourist or cultural experience and places it firmly in the realms of an empathetic experience. Our four day visit is short and without this language key, our trip could degenerate into a hit and run short-term cultural awareness episode with no long term impact on the participants. The language helps enormously with our interactions with the school community and the local Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation (WYDAC) organisation.

This latter organisation offers our students the opportunity to interact with indigenous youth closer to their age as opposed to the ‘cute’ primary age students that they so readily spend time with. There is some evidence that this fleeting short term interaction with these primary age students does more harm than good. On the other hand, interacting with students of their own age can be enormously valuable and helpful. Following our visit last year, we established a series of Skype sessions that enabled one of our students to continue his relationship with a young Warlpiri man. This interaction was significant in encouraging school attendance for that young man. It is a sobering thought for our young people to understand that the life path for an indigenous person of similar age is one that typically leads to unemployment, chronic health problems (diabetes, kidney, liver and heart), possible substance abuse and early death. It is therefore vital that the Centre Trip experience continues to confront and challenge our young people so that by God’s Spirit they may be disturbed to the point of action.

The trip also offers significant outdoor education challenges in the form of long hikes and bush camping. The trip has always provided the bush camp experience, however, with the typical Year 10 student being somewhat less resilient than in the past, the bush camp experience has been ‘softened/diluted’ over the past few years. We now have toilets dug for the girls, a generator is run to provide electricity and if conditions are considered at all ‘risky’ (wind and rain), the outdoor camping may be abandoned. It is my hope that future Centre Trips will still provide bush camps. They not only offer opportunities for silence, solitude and reflection but they help build community and individual resilience. Sleeping on a tarpaulin with the night sky above is for most students, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Spending 18 days away from the technology (including mobile phones, iPods, Facebook) of home and the comforts of family can be truly challenging for all concerned, but it does enable students to grow spiritually and emotionally. It has been wonderful to witness the way so many students mature by going on the Centre trip, as they learn to work in community, consider each other’s needs as well as their own, and to become more independent at the same time.

It has been wonderful to witness the way so many students mature by going on the Centre trip, as they learn to work in community, consider each other’s needs as well as their own, and to become more independent at the same time.

Finally, it is important to acknowledge the selfless giving of all the Centre trip staff in making this journey possible - the teachers who give up their September holidays and are on duty from before the sun rises until well into the night for the entirety of the trip, and the cooks and helpers who provide amazing meals for us. This team is capably led by Peter Beams who does a remarkable job in providing for all our needs. For all of these staff members we give thanks.

Dr Roger F
Centre Trip Leader
SKETCHER’S SCOOP

Primary School Athletics
On Monday it was a warm, sunny day as the Primary School enjoyed its Athletics Day at Morrisons Reserve. It was fantastic to see so many mums and dads there supporting their children. The day started off with the Preps running their 60m dash with their buddies cheering them on. The rest of the program followed smoothly with the entire Primary School participating enthusiastically. Thanks to Jason for organising such a great day.

Working Bee
We are back into working-bee season – it was encouraging to see such a large number here last Saturday morning as we washed, pruned, shovelled, cleaned and sorted! It is always a lovely time of fellowship as we work together, and also have the time for a chat over morning-tea. I’m sure you’ll agree that our grounds and facilities always look well-cared for – thanks for your part in this!

Year 11 Formal
Last Friday we enjoyed a fabulous night at the Year 11 Formal. We were very proud of the way our Year 11s presented themselves – not only were they all dressed beautifully and appropriately for the occasion, but each one gave a short speech about their hopes and dreams for the future or a highlight of their time here at MECS. It was great to hear how highly they spoke of the support of their family, friends and school as they prepare for adulthood. The organising committee did a fabulous job bringing together a delightful evening.

School Camps
There is no easing back of the program as we head into Term 4 – our Middle Primary students are off on camp this week and our Junior Primaries have their two day camp next week. The Middle School have their next cycle of camps in late November! What an exciting way to finish the year. Camps are an integral part of the way we ‘do’ education here at MECS – an opportunity to get out into God’s amazing world and discover first-hand the diversity and order that exists, but also to learn about living in community and building resiliency. We look forward to hearing about the camps throughout the term.

Election Issue
Did you know that the Victorian Government gives more money per child to a profit-making early learning centre than to the MECS Kinder – part of a not-for-profit Independent school?

As I mentioned at the Association General Meeting last week, Independent schools with an Early Learning Centre receive between $503 and $1633 per child annually from the Victorian Government (there are approx. 6000 children in such centres). But in 2013, the government provided $3091 per child annually to profit-making commercial organisations managing kindergartens and early learning programs, government kindergartens and Catholic school kindergartens.

How can you help?
Write to the candidates for your electorate in the forthcoming election. In your letter remind them that it is unfair that families have to pay more because they choose an Independent school’s early learning centre because: the four-year-old’s siblings are going to the associated Independent school; the kindergarten has cultural, social and religious values that meet the family’s requirements; and the Independent school kindergarten is the best-available option for the family.

Then ask them if they will make a commitment to ensuring that early learning centre funding for Independent schools matches funding for all other Victorian kindergartens and early learning centres, including profit-making, commercially-run kindergartens.

Thanks for playing your part.

Gerry
Administration Manager

Our Notice Board
We have a community notice board outside the main office which has notices about news and various happenings at MECS and the broader community. This includes when the apple man is visiting!

Do take the time to cast your eyes over the noticeboard as you pass the office!

Cassie
Receptionist

Unit 4 Studio Art
Claire, Year 11 Unit 4 Studio Art
MECS Notes

Farewell Rosalie

After more than 20 years of faithful service to MECS in a variety of administration roles both in the main office and the Senior School office, Rosalie is leaving us at the end of this year. MECS won’t be the same. We wish Rosalie and Geoff all the very best as they enjoy retirement together!

Natasha
School Services Manager

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
Friends of MECS

Association EGM

Last Thursday evening we shared a lovely dinner and dessert followed by our Association’s Extra General Meeting.

Karissa was introduced by Ian, the Board Chair, as our new Assistant Principal for Secondary commencing in 2015 and then she led us in devotions. We then looked at the draft budget for 2015 and saw some results from the recent Parent Satisfaction survey.

Daniel was our guest speaker looking at the value of teaching Indonesian in schools. We welcomed some new Association members: Tim and Amy, Stephen and Michelle, Andrew and Sherrin (Andrew is a MECS past parent and past teacher) and Tiffany. Tiffany is a past student of MECS and holds the honour of being the third generation of the Dubbeld family on the Association. We re-instated Lorensz and Sandra as Associate members - they are past parents and past board members of the school. We are delighted to welcome all of these people into membership.

We also acknowledged Alice - a long standing member of the Association. She joined in 1969!

If you would like to know more about Association membership please see me.

Nicole
Community Relations Officer
EXO Day

‘Exo Day’ is a fun filled lunch time/afternoon festival for the students, by the students. It is to the idea promote that life doesn't have to be endured but it can be enjoyed by living in relationship with God.

During lunchtime on September 19, Middle School students were able to enjoy, entertainment on a jumping castle, as well as treats like popcorn and snow cones.

After lunch the event really kicked off! We gave away prizes for people who participated in our games, watched some moving videos about two campaigns called The String Movement (an anti-bullying movement) and A21 (an organisation that rescues girls from the sex slave industry), enjoyed entertainment from Allen and heard an inspiring message from Liam.

I would like to thank the following organisations for helping make this day a reality:
Discovery Church, Hillsong Church, Yarra Valley Vineyard Church, Over The Moon Jumping Castles, Allen and Liam.

I would also like to thank the following sponsors.
Churchbiz, Pancake Parlour, Croydon Cinemas, Balloons With A Twist and Eastland Chemart Pharmacy.

And last but not least, thank you to the incredible organising team - Ellie, Brenton, Josh, Kwame, Daniel and Cameron. You guys worked very hard for this day and it paid off. I am super proud!

Sophie Wyatt, Year 9 Student

Cycle A Hike

Cycle A had a fantastic day last Wednesday when they went on their first practice hike. In preparation for Wilsons Prom Camp, we will hike twice to Silvan Reservoir Park with our packs and practice cooking our lunch. This is very important practice for our Middle School Cycle A students, as when they go out on their Wilsons Prom hikes, they will be responsible for themselves, their food and their shelter.

The Cycle A teachers were really impressed with the organisation of the students as well as their ability to stick close together in a group. Some students really pushed themselves and worked very hard to keep up the pace!

A quick note to Cycle A parents: thank you for helping your students to get organised over the holidays!! We have informed students of their groups, so the shared items such as stoves and tents can be finalised.

Nicole
Middle School Teacher
Year 6 Positive Boys Billy Cart Race

On October 17, the Year 6 boys finally had their billy cart race after having it postponed 2 times! The race started at 2pm and all the boys were very excited. The course was one lap around the bottom car park and the oval, going around four times with each group having 3 or 4 people in their team. The race was very tiring for everyone but very fun! Blue ignition won the race with Wild Waves coming in a close second. In the time trials, The Hunters were up first getting a time that did not get beaten of 19:22 once again Blue Ignition did really well getting a time of 20:21. Overall it was an extremely enjoyable afternoon!

By Flynn and Tom

Addy, Ben, Flynn with Isaac steering

Oscar & Daniel with Daniel steering

Adam & Josh with Jackson steering

Miles Loten

Alexander & Harry Zito with Joel steering

Jacob & Cam with TJ steering

Alexander, Josh, Harry & Joel Winning Team
Wrestling Nationals

Wrestling was never really a sport I got my head around. Let's face it, what one sees in the media with somewhat overweight Neanderthals prancing around in super tight lycra doesn't present the kind of sport I'd wish to encourage my kids to participate in. So I was more than a bit apprehensive when I discovered my youngest's enthusiasm at the opportunity to take part in the National Youth Wrestling Championships in September. But I figured the least I could do was let her try it out once and make up my mind based on more empirical experience.

It started out as a beautiful Spring Sunday morning. We all met at Victoria Uni in Footscray. The officials like everyone else, were obviously not too keen to get out of bed early on a Sunday so the start was postponed by approx half an hour as the hall was set up ready for the events. Slowly the groups from around the country began to assemble. Even WA was represented. The Canberra contingent were eager to get going as they had a bus trip home later that day – it was going to be a long one. Victoria was represented by 4 of MECS' finest.

To my pleasant surprise these tournaments were nothing like the media representation. While the finer points of scoring remain a bit vague to me, it was obvious there was much more to this sport than simply trying to throw one's opponent face up on to the mat and jump on them until they screamed for mercy. What also became apparent was that simply because one is taller or larger than one's opponent, success was not always guaranteed as several participants discovered throughout the day. Each tournament was watched closely not only by the spectators from each team, but also the coaches who sat supporting their wrestler from the corner. The more eager coaches would attempt to shout instructions in the vain belief that their wrestler could hear and take note amongst all the other noise in the hall.

There were some exhibition events that included boys against girls. I was a bit nervous wondering if the girls had adequate health insurance. As it turns out I didn't need to worry as these girls could more than take care of themselves. In fact it may have been the boys who needed to be careful.

All in all, the day turned out to be quite entertaining even if we (MECS) didn't win all the events. Thanks to Adam for organising the MECS contingent and ensuring that Victoria was adequately represented on the day.

Sandro
Dad

Here is Jasmine's impression of her battle...

I had been challenged to a wrestling match by the dragon queen herself. I've had a few experiences with wrestling (having 2 older sisters) but never in my wildest dreams could I have imagined something like this. The hall was prepared but still had the smell of dragons and sweat. Could I really do it? Then it was time. I walked onto the mat to face her. She was much bigger than me. I was a bit scared. This could really hurt. What's more, everyone's watching. I heard the whistle and it was on. Next I knew it was already over and the whistle blew again. Then I was up against the dragon's daughter. She was a bit smaller but somehow I still felt nervous. I soon found out why. She obviously had much more experience than me – possibly more older siblings to fight. Again I lost. So I guess I'll train some more and try again next year.

Jasmine
Year 4 Wrestler

Four MECS wrestlers went to the wrestling nationals at Victoria University. Two of us had only been wrestling for ten weeks! Every one but myself got a medal. Hayden and Jacob got silver medals and Jasmine got a gold medal. It was played with great sportsmanship, no fits just good wrestling, a lot of intimidation from the wrestlers too. Awesomely everybody got a bout (a wrestling match) so no one came for nothing. All together everybody had lots of fun and we all left happy with our effort.

Isaac
The Primary Tribal Athletics day was great. All the students participated really well, encouraging one another and congratulating one another throughout the day. The students were well behaved, cooperative and all round great kids!

We had 20 Middle School students come and help out, they did an amazing job. They showed initiative and were willing to do whatever they were asked.

We had some excellent achievements in track times and field distances and a number of our students will now go on to represent MECS in the inter-school athletics day coming up in a couple of weeks.

I’m very proud of all the staff who worked together so well to make the day run as smoothly as it did.

Thanks also to all the family and friends who came along to cheer the students on.

Jason
Primary Sports Coordinator
PS Tribal Athletics Day

Lili
Alexander
Kalina

JP
Patience
Riley
Imogen

Dylan
Ella

Jess
Emma
Josh
MPs
The 2014 Year 11 Formal was a night to remember. With our MCs for the night, Lauren and Ari, leading us through numerous speeches and telling us when we had to dance, we all had a fantastic night. The first two dances went off rather well, but when it came to the third progressive dance, limbs were flying everywhere; it looked like a pride of lions hunting zebras - just a complete and utter mess.

At the end of the night we all left with a smile on our face talking about who’s speech we liked most and of course how beautiful everyone looked. The food was amazing, the speeches were great and overall we couldn’t have hoped for a better night to start the end of our year.

*Michael, Lauren, Matt & Jesse*
Year 11 Formal

Cameron, Joshua, Simon, Nelson & Nicholas

Rosalie

Mia & Dillon

Faith, Asha, Mikaela, Sam, Hannah & Kaity

Josh

Bev & Joel

Sophie

Justin & Evie

Madalaine
Calendar

2014 Term 4 Week 2: 20 - 26 October

Wed 22 - Fri 24 October
MP Camp

Fri 24 October
Year 9 Basketball
Year 11 PE Icehouse Excursion

2014 Term 4 Week 3: 27 Oct - 2 Nov

Mon 27 October
Cycle A Practice Hike
Primary GT run by JPT, 9am PUMP room

Tues 28 October
VCE Exam Prayer Meeting
Year 6 Hardrock Rock Climbing
Step Into Prep Orientation
Tuning into Kids, Staffroom 7.30pm

Wed 29 October
VCE Exams begin to 21 Nov
SP Hooptime Regional Finals

Thur 30 October
JP Connect Morning Tea 9am Staffroom

Thur 30 - Fri 31 October
Prep Pet Program Incursion

Mon 3 November
Teacher Day, Pupil Free Day, Office Closed

Tues 4 November
Cup Day Public Holiday, School Closed

Wed 5 November
Centre Trip Presentation Night, 7.30pm

Thur 6 November
Secondary Interschool Athletics
Prep Incursion - Responsible Pet Ownership
Performing Arts Evening Years 8-10, 7pm

Fri 7 November
Year 11 Last Classes

2014 Term 4 Week 4: 3 Nov - 9 Nov

Mon 10 November
Primary GT 9am PUMP Room

Mon 10 - Tues 11 November
Year 11 Study Days

Tues 11 November
Year 5 IMAX Excursion
Tuning into Kids, Staffroom 7.30pm

Wed 12 November
PS Years 3-6 Interschool Athletics
Year 10 Last Classes

Apple Man
The Apple man is coming again on Friday Oct 24 and the following varieties will be available: Pink Ladies, Granny Smiths, Golden Delicious and Green Pears. Apples $10 a bag and Pears $8. Please drop into the office if you would like to place an order.

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 Wynn 0425 275 013.

Reading helps
A recent study has found that children who read for pleasure made more progress in maths, vocabulary and spelling between the ages of 10 and 16 than those who rarely read.

Children who were read to regularly by their parents at age 5 performed better in all three tests at age 16 than those who were not helped in this way.

http://tinyurl.com/no7yvgz
Carole
Librarian Teacher

Primary Term 4 GT Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Subject</th>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>27 Oct</td>
<td>JPT</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>10 Nov</td>
<td>MUSIC</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>24 Nov</td>
<td>Gratitude</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>15 Dec</td>
<td>Christmas</td>
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Primary Get Togethers happen at 9am in the PUMP room on the day specified, except the Christmas GT which will be in the Gym. Parents are very welcome to attend.

Mel
SP Teacher

Working Bee October 18

It was a beautiful spring morning as people started arriving for the Working Bee. Steve went one way to organise the truck load of mulch that had just arrived and I went the other way to organise a big bin to put all the green waste in.

During the morning we spread mulch in the primary play area and rounded and cleaned up a big mound of dirt ready for some instant turf. A couple of regular families cleaned out all the drains and pits and planted some plants. A couple of men blew the blinds and curtains.

During the morning we spread mulch in the primary play area and rounded and cleaned up a big mound of dirt ready for some instant turf. A couple of regular families cleaned out all the drains and pits and planted some plants. A couple of men blew the blinds and curtains.

Thank you to everyone who came and helped make it a great morning. Glad to see some new families and sad to say goodbye to four or five families for whom this was the last Working Bee. Thank you for your help and commitment over the years.

Peter and Steve
Maintenance

Notices sent home this week and on Website

- Year 11 PE Excursion Notice (last week)
- SP Project ‘All about Me’ notice
- Prep Pipeline 5
- Careers Newsletter No 17, Oct 21
- Year 12 Student Notice
- Year 12 Transitioning to Uni Booklet

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