Riding Puffing Billy - JP Transport Camp

Noah enjoys the train ride on JP camp. Details page 6.
Being Faithful

Year 12 exams are nearly over and I suspect many students will give an enormous sigh of relief. During many years as a Middle School teacher I have watched students approach their studies in a variety of ways and I often wonder how best to prepare them for their final years of high school.

For much of my teaching, I took the approach of encouraging students to do their best; but a couple of years ago I was challenged to handle this differently. While undertaking a unit for my Masters, my lecturer mentioned that students with perfectionistic tendencies are frequently disheartened by the call to do their best. No matter how well these students have prepared and how hard they have worked they will always be aware of what more could have been done. They will never feel like they have given their best. When I asked my lecturer what wording he would use with students he replied that he encouraged his students to be faithful to their schooling. The more I have pondered this, the more I find this way of thinking helpful, for a number of reasons.

Education, while a wonderful privilege, is not the only facet of life that is important and to place undue priority on educational success is not healthy. Living a life of balance is essential. We are intellectual, physical, emotional and spiritual beings and to deny any of these aspects has potentially negative consequences. Ensuring that we remain faithful to all of these areas simultaneously requires a juggling act that seems almost impossible to grasp.

Life tends to throw curve balls at the most inconvenient of times. I remember my mother being so ill during my Year 12 year that she required multiple stays in hospital and surgeries. While attempting to regularly visit her in hospital and help out around the house, I struggled to keep on top of my school workload. Needless to say my circumstances prevented me from doing as well as I could have. My Year 12 results were somewhat disappointing and I clearly remember feeling that I had let myself down. Much of my disappointment was based on the fact that I hadn’t done my best. Looking back I can see that even though my results were not what I would have liked, I had been faithful. I had successfully balanced all the demands that were on me at that time.

I am reminded of the parable in Matthew 25 about the man who entrusted his wealth to his servants while he travelled. He distributed various amounts of money to three of them to invest as they saw fit during his absence. Two of the servants doubled their master’s money and were rewarded with praise for being ‘good and faithful’ servants. They were also entrusted with even greater responsibility in the future. They had both earned different amounts of money but it was in proportion to what they had been given. The servant who buried his master’s money rather than investing was rebuked and thrown out of the household. This parable can serve both as an encouragement and as a warning.

So what does it mean to be ‘faithful students’? God does not expect us to work miracles with what we have; miracles are His business. The student who finds solving complex mathematical equations fairly easy may not be so capable of creating works of art worthy of pride of place in the National Gallery. Expecting them to do so would be unreasonable. Each student should be faithful with the gifts God has entrusted to them and work hard to excel in those specific fields while not denying the other facets of their being. This is the challenge I would love all our students to embrace.

To the Year 12 students who are finishing this stage of their education, I pray you have been faithful with the talents and gifts God has given you. I say well done, not for your score, but for your commitment and attitude. Regardless of the grades you have earned, God will bless your diligence. Others may not be aware of the struggles and challenges you have encountered this year. Do not worry about what your ATAR means for your future. God has a miraculous way of ensuring we end up where we are meant to be regardless of the obstacles we have faced along the way. I could tell you the story about how I ended up studying Teaching at university but that’s a whole other editorial…!
SKETCHER’S SCOOP

Finding Jamie Ryan

Last Thursday night I enjoyed a delightful evening of drama in the theatrette as our Performing Arts students presented the play, ‘Finding Jamie Ryan’. They did a fabulous job in a witty and entertaining play written by our very own Marlene. Thanks to Marlene and Nicky for all the work that has gone into this elective and for bringing such a production together on the night!

Equal Opportunity Act

Last week we took the liberty of sending you a link where you could register your views about the impact of proposed changes by the Labor party to the Equal Opportunity Act. If you would like further information about this issue and how you could lobby your local politician or candidate in the upcoming State election, please feel free to contact our Executive Assistant, Melanie.

Board Meeting

On Tuesday night, the Board met to discuss a range of matters. One of the topics being reported on was the key relationships we develop with such organisations as Christian Education National (CEN). It was pleasing to note that we continue to provide support and expertise to a range of CEN initiatives.

Year 11 Biology Excursion

On October 30, the Year 11 Biology class embarked on a journey to the infamous Phillip Island, or better known as just The Island, to observe the migration of the mutton birds coming in to land. We arrived at around 3:30pm, and we got stuck into things straight away.

Our first hour and a half we spent exercising our Biological knowledge in the field. We carried out such things as constructing transect lines running up the shore line, creating and viewing quadrants in specific regions and scouring the coast for biotic and abiotic factors.

After we applied our knowledge, the rest of the excursion was quite jovial and relaxing. We spent the next portion of the afternoon/dusk eating dinner from nearby take-away stores on the beach at Cape Woolami along with a little beach soccer. The scenery made for some excellent photography and general viewing, which gave us all an incredible look at God’s art and masterfully made world.

At around sundown we trekked alongside the beach to make our way to the point of Cape Woolami. As we arrived at our destination, the main part of the excursion was about to occur. After the sun set, black objects began to seemingly appear off the top of the water, as if a portal had opened beneath them. Until about 8:30pm we lay on the cliff tops underneath the hundreds of thousands of mutton birds coming into land. The sight was incredible and for many, it was an unforgettable experience.

The night finished off on the best possible note. On the way back to the bus, we stopped on the beach under the stars and spent some time to ourselves reflecting and marvelling at God’s wonders and beautiful creations.

I can confidently speak for the entire class in saying that the ‘Mutton Bird Migration’ excursion was the best we’ve ever been on.

Ari

Year 11 Biology Student

Both Jacqui and I have served as adjunct lecturers to support the professional development of staff right across Australia. Gerry and Sue (MECS Board member) continue to serve on the CEN National Board. A number of staff have supported and attended conferences run by CEN. It is important to us that as a Christian school community we continue to share what we have with others, but also learn from others. Our relationship with CEN is just one way we seek to do this.

After-School Care

Thanks to those parents who recently responded to our survey in regard to the provision of after-school care. At this stage, the interest does not present a strong case in regard to the numbers needed to provide this service at no financial risk to the school. Our next step is to speak to interested parents again to get a clearer indication of the specifics of what they would require so that a clear decision can be made by the end of this year. However, due to the need to gather this further information, it is clear that any service that may be offered in the future will not be commencing at the beginning of 2015. We know this will be disappointing for some families, but be assured we are working hard to ascertain the need and viability of such a service in the future.
MECS Notes

New JP Teacher
We are very pleased to be welcoming back the Smith family to the MECS school community in 2015. The Smiths have been working and living on Thursday Island for the last three years. The children will be joining the Primary School and Kaye will be our new Junior Primary teacher and cluster leader.

Kaye is a highly experienced teacher and we are really looking forward to her return to our team in the Primary School. She has been a classroom teacher of Prep, Year 1 & 2 at 'Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School', Thursday Island, Queensland, during her time away. She brings a wealth of teaching and learning knowledge and a passion for seeing children nurtured and developed spiritually and educationally within a supportive environment. We are very thankful for God's provision of such a wonderful teacher.

Di
Assistant Principal - Primary

Medical and Emergency Update Form
Around this time of year, MECS office staff would usually send you a Medical Emergency Update form to ensure we have the correct information for your children in our database. We would also send you blank action plans for any medical conditions to update for the following school year. Due to a change in our database occurring throughout this term, we will not be doing this in 2014, instead we will send this out to you in the new year to ensure we have transitioned your data correctly to the new database. In the mean time, if you have any changes in contact information or medical conditions that we should know about, please advise the office staff as soon as possible. Thanks so much,

Corrie
Admin Support

Lost on JP Camp
Has anyone has found a lost navy blue blanket that was brought to Junior Primary Transport Camp. Contact Cassie if they know of its whereabouts.

Kinder Mosaic
Piazza and Entrance to the Kinder
Last term, the entrance to our Kindergarten was greatly enhanced by the addition of a beautiful welcoming mosaic by MECS Mum Adine. Thank you Adine, we are so thankful that you have shared your gifts and talents to add some 'sparkle' and warmth to our Kindergarten.

Nicole
Community Relations Officer

Stationery Helpers
Thank you to all those who have offered to help with the packing and sales days for stationery. The roster will be emailed out shortly. More help is urgently needed for:

Thurs Jan 29 - 8.30-12noon & 1-3pm.

Help is also needed on the following days as I set up the stationery room and unpack the new stock:

Thurs Nov 27 (am) – emptying storeroom and bringing up to Senior School.
Fri Nov 28 – unpacking and sorting new stock.
Mon Dec 1 – unpacking and sorting new stock.
Tues Dec 2 – unpacking and sorting new stock (if not finished from previous days).

If you can help out on any of those days, even if it’s only for a few hours, please phone or email me. Thanks.

Evelyn
Friends of MECS

Money Matters

From the Finance Department
Statements have been recently sent home.

Reminder: Fees are due and payable in full by November 30, 2014.

Thanks to all those families who have already finalised their accounts. It has made our job easier, and been a blessing to the school.

If you have any queries, don’t hesitate to contact us. Thanks,

Craig & Alison
Accounts Department

Centre Trip Presentation Night
Last Wednesday night all the members of the 2014 Centre Trip gathered for a presentation night. Each student presented a piece of work from the trip, which was greatly appreciated by the audience. A video of the trip was shown; thanks to Dorothy for all her work in making the video. Nicholas and Tammy were the MCs and kept the night rolling with well chosen commentary. A highlight was a song from the trip put together by Jade, Paige T and Paige R which gave a humorous insight into the camp. It was a great night and an opportunity to thank many people for their huge efforts in making Centre Trip happen, especially Roger and Peter.

Cliff
SS Coordinator
Another great day out with 50, enthusiastic and talented students! We competed at Knox Park Athletics ground against 5 other schools in our annual SEISS Interschool Athletics Competition. The first block of field events brought a lot of success with most students gaining a ribbon place. We continued the day with more successes, with many students gaining a place in their events. The only disappointment was that we didn’t fill all the events, which would have given us a chance at finishing higher than our place of 4th out of 6 schools overall. Thanks to all the students who came and made it an enjoyable day of competition and activity. Thanks to Tim for doing MECS’ duty all day and for Olivia for coming to supervise.

First Places:
Gemma - High Jump
Lachlan - High Jump
Cameron - Shot Put (*New School Record)
Bethany - Javelin
Ben - 100m B race, 400m, relay
Jake - Relay
Luke - Relay
Will - Relay
Beth - 400m
Saoirse - 400m
Bek - 800m

Anne-Maree
Secondary Sport Coordinator
I went on camp. I liked it. My favourite thing was Puffing Billy. I liked it when we got to the Log Cabin Ranch.

Emily

On camp we went on the bus. Then we went to Puffing Billy. It was fun and we did Observational Drawing and then we played parachute games and then we went on the playground. It was fun.

Lilly

On camp I did a low ropes course. First there was a wobbly ladder that I climbed. Then I walked across the tyres that were hung from one tree to the other. Then there were some wires. I walked across it with some rope attached to another piece of wire. It was hard and I fell off it right in the middle but I did not get hurt.

Sharni

I went on camp and I went on Puffing Billy. Did you know there are 3 Puffing Billies found there? I had fun!! We had ice cream. Yum!! We went to sleep on bunk beds.

Seth

We went on Puffing Billy. It is an old steam train. I got to ride on it. It was fun! I had a great time. We rode in a carriage.

Bram

When I was on camp I got to go on the billy carts and I won all of my races on the billy cart! I liked watching other people do it too. After we did billy carts we went off to parachute making and I made a person with 2 legs, shorts and a t-shirt, and the parachute was coloured with army colours. It actually worked! Then we went back to the cabins and we did a little performance to convince Spick ‘n’ Span that our cabin was the best. After that we got on the bus and drove back to MECS. It was fun!!

Toby

I had a very good time and I had a very good sleep on camp. The food was YUM! The class trip was good and Puffing Billy too.

Oliver

I went to Belgrave station. I caught Puffing Billy. We had to get off Puffing Billy half way because it needed a check up. So we got on another Puffing Billy. It took us to Lakeside.

Patrick

We went to Lakeside to do some activities. They were playground, observational drawing and parachute games.

Ryan

On Puffing Billy we looked at the natural and unnatural things along the way. We watched the people. I loved Camp.

Kaitlyn

We went on Puffing Billy and it was fun and pretty. Then we got to the park and played parachute games and we played in the playground and did observational drawing. We had afternoon tea. We had all sorts of fruit and muffins. Later we had dinner and went to get ready for bed. We got to have a story and then watch a movie and then we went to bed. In the morning we went to have breakfast and we got cereal and pancakes and then all the Grade 1s went back to school and the Grade 2s all stayed. When the Grade 1s got back to school all our mums and dads were there.

Charlotte

We went on Puffing Billy and it was fun and pretty. Then we got to the park and played parachute games and we played in the playground and did observational drawing. We had afternoon tea. We had all sorts of fruit and muffins. Later we had dinner and went to get ready for bed. We got to have a story and then watch a movie and then we went to bed. In the morning we went to have breakfast and we got cereal and pancakes and then all the Grade 1s went back to school and the Grade 2s all stayed. When the Grade 1s got back to school all our mums and dads were there.
Performing Arts Evening

Well done to the Performing Arts group! Last Thursday about 30 students from Year 8, 9 and 10 performed 'Finding Jamie Ryan' written by our own Marlene. Many of the parents and friends who came to see the show commented on the hilarious characters and how polished the performance was. It was a big day for the students: they had classes all day Thursday, then a last run through of the performance after school, a break for dinner, and then the performance! A few students even had to fill in roles last minute! One of my favourite scenes was the teacher staffroom scene, where the teachers have a disco party and dance all around the staffroom. It is very amusing to see students acting as teachers and how they imitate what they have experienced (although we don’t always have dancing parties...maybe we should!). I was also very pleased with the dance routines. Well done to the dancers for remembering all the moves and not being afraid to give it a go!

Performing Arts elective on Thursday afternoons is a great chance for Years 8-10 students to enjoy drama and movement with other passionate students and teachers. I would encourage students who love performance and would like to improve their skills in this area to choose Performing Arts next year. It has been lots of fun to work with all of the students and the very skillful director, Marlene!

Nicole
Middle School Teacher
Wednesday 12 - Friday 14 November
Year 11 Exams

Thursday 13 November
Step Into Prep Information Night 7.30pm
Year 9 Open Village Info Meeting 7.30pm

Thursday 13 - Friday 14 November
Year 10 Study Days

Saturday 15 November
Working Bee 8am-1pm

Monday 17 - Friday 21 November
Year 10/11 Exams

Tuesday 18 November
Tuning into Kids, Staffroom 7.30pm

Thursday 20 November
Instrumental Recital Families M-Z 7pm

Friday 21 November
VCE Exams Conclude
Year 12 Graduation
VCE Exams Conclude

Monday 24 - Saturday 29 November
Year 7 & 8 Cycle A Wilsons Prom Camp
Year 7 & 8 Cycle B Inverloch Camp
Year 10 Work Experience Week 2

Monday 24 - Saturday 29 November
Year 9 Canberra Camp

Monday 24 November
MS Connect Morning Tea
Primary GT 9am PUMP Room SPK Leading

Tuesday 25 November
Tuning into Kids, Staffroom 7.30pm

Thursday 27 November
2015 Kinder Info Meeting PUMP Room 7.30pm

Monday 1 - Friday 7 December
Year 11 & 12 Orientation Week 1

Monday 1 December
Year 9s Day off in Lieu of Canberra Camp

Friday 5 December
Prep Big Night Out

Saturday 6 December
Last Working Bee 7am-1pm, BBQ Breakfast

Monday 8 - Friday 12 December
Year 12 Orientation Week 2

Tuesday 9 December
Orientation Day

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**Calendar**

*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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**Car for Sale**

2003 Mazda Astina 5 door hatch. Only driven by elderly teacher to work each day. 116,000kms, alloy wheels, RWC, 10 months reg, 5 speed manual, central locking, black. In excellent condition inside and out, bargain at $5,990. Ring Cliff Blowers on 0430 496 913.

**School Crazy Hair Day**

On Friday November 21, the Middle School and Primary School will be having a crazy hair day! Please bring a gold coin donation to come to school with crazy hair. The money raised will pay for a water well from the Tear organisation catalogue.

**Alicia Strichow & Jessie Wardle**

Year 9 Service Elective

**Chicken Free to Good Home**

Lovely Isabrown chicken. Laying well. Quite tame, handled since day old baby chick. Please call 0402 552 235.

**Foster Care Information Session**

Become a foster carer and help brighten the lives of children in care. More foster carers are desperately needed to help fill the gaps for emergency, respite and long term care situations within our local community. Learn more about how you can make a difference by attending our next information session on Thursday 27 May, 7.30pm, Anglicare Victoria, 47-51 Castella St, Lilydale.

Carers come from all walks of life and can be single, married, older, younger, with or without kids. It doesn’t matter if you work full time, part time or not at all. For bookings and enquiries call 1300 889 335 or visit www.anglicarevic.org.au/events

**Fair’s Fair**

The third annual Fair’s Fair Community Market Day will be on **Saturday 22 November** from 11am-5.30pm at TLC Church, 265 Canterbury Road, Bayswater North. 30+ stalls, fairtrade cafe, world food, kids activities and live music. This Christmas buy gifts that create a fairer world.

For more details 9729 6555, fairsfair@tlcchurch.org.au or www.tlcchurch.org.au

**Boys Netball Opportunity**

Vic 17 & Under, Boys Development Squad.

The Victorian Men’s Netball League (VMNL) is seeking young male netballers to take up an opportunity to join the Victorian 17 & Under Boys Netball team with the possibility of representing Victoria in 2015.

The team will travel to Sydney in April 2015, departing Sat April 4 and returning Sun April 12, to contest the 17s division of the Australian Championships and will be a part of a much larger squad of 150 players, coaches, managers and trainers.

The team will train regularly in the lead up to the event, developing skills, strategies and building a great team culture.

Enthusiastic players should attend the following training sessions if interested in this great experience:

Sunday November 30, 9 - 11am and
Sunday December 7, 9 - 11am

At Banyule Netball Centre, Somers Ave, Macleod. www.mensnetballaust.com.au

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**Next Working Bee**

This Sat 15 Nov, 8am-1pm
Morning Tea Provided

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


- Careers Newsletter No 18, 6 Nov
- Year 6 Puberty Session
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*Newsletter deadline is 11am Tuesday on published week. Email articles (images attached as jpg) to the Newsletter Office*