Living Community

Year 9s celebrate their last ‘Open Village Community Lunch’ with a spit roast. Story page 6.
Who do you think you are?

One of the most interesting shows on TV in recent years has been SBS’ ‘Who do you think you are?’ It profiles the family history of a ‘minor-celebrity’ as they seek to uncover the truth of their family’s history. The participants are often in tears as they learn some horrible or sometimes noble truth about their ancestors. It’s as if the present day person’s identity is somehow wrapped up in the past and what they learn about their ancestor has a real impact on the understanding of who they are in the 21st century.

This is only one of a number of shows, documentaries and books that are on the market at the moment that seek to address some of the ‘big’ questions of life – Who am I? Where am I? What is the problem? What is significant about this time in history? What is the solution? In fact, these questions are the classic ‘worldview’ questions. These questions can be asked of any religion or philosophy in an attempt to understand what the ‘big story’ or meta-narrative of that religion is.

Christianity can be explained and explored in this way as well. In fact, one of the great privileges of serving in a Christian school is that we seek to reveal with our students how the Christian story makes sense of all these big questions in life. Our identity, our purpose, the nature of good and evil, how the story will end, what we do in the meantime – can all be found in the Christian story as revealed in the Bible.

Without this story, or indeed living life with a different worldview – can lead to uncertainty, confusion, pessimism and a rationalism that sees no place for God. Recently I came across this poem which I found really challenging as a critique of our times; an age that seems intent on denying the place of God as the one who holds all things and all knowledge together.

Upon this gifted age, in its dark hour
Rains from the sky a meteoric shower
Of facts...they lie unquestioned, uncombined.
Wisdom enough to leech us of our ill
Is daily spun, but there exists no loom
To weave it into fabric.

Our identity, our purpose, the nature of good and evil, how the story will end, what we do in the meantime – can all be found in the Christian story as revealed in the Bible.

I really like the idea or metaphor of God’s story being the loom on which we weave the fabric of life. Without this loom, all things lose their purpose and meaning and lie ‘unquestioned and uncombined’. As we further develop this metaphor we see that the quality of the loom is vital. In a book that I read recently about the medieval silk industry in Britain and Europe, it was the loom that was most treasured. The ‘master’ weavers had the best looms and these were passed from one generation to the next. It was the quality of the loom that enabled the finest of silks to be made.

I am enormously proud of the fact that MECS seeks to place the ‘loom’ of God’s story at the centre of all that we do. I trust that as you hear week by week the activities and experiences that your child enjoys here at MECS that you too will be excited that the grand story of God and his redeeming work is alive and well in this school and in the way that we seek to educate your children.

Narelle
MECS Principal

Book Fair
107 is the answer...!!

...to the question of how many lollies were in the jar at our Book Fair this year and Skye Coppin from SPK was the lucky winner of the jar and all its contents. This year at the Book Fair, students had a great time browsing the shelves, looking at all the fun stationery items and posters and guessing the amount of lollies in the jar. We raised $750 towards getting some new comfortable seating in our Primary section of the Library, so thank you to all the students and parents who came along and supported Book Fair 2014.

Fiona
Librarian
Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars Program

Congratulations to Georgia-Rose (present Year 10 student) on being selected to participate in this young scholars program hosted by The University of Melbourne. Georgia will have the opportunity in 2015 to participate in a program of events and activities that will support her VCE studies, inspire her future career plans and provide an opportunity to interact with the University community. Over 1900 applications were received for this program, so indeed we congratulate Georgia-Rose on this honour.

Year 12 Graduation

This week culminates with the Year 12 Graduation on Friday night at the York on Lilydale. This will be a great opportunity to celebrate with our Year 12s and their families the completion of their schooling here at MECS. Please continue to pray for our Year 12s as they head off on various service and recreational activities over the coming weeks that they will be kept safe and enjoy the opportunities that life now presents them!

Indonesian in 2015

It’s so exciting to begin the journey of another language at MECS. As Narelle has mentioned we have appointed Rachel as our Indonesian teacher, and we invited Rachel to share a bit of her background and journey with the school community. She has had some wonderful experiences that will bring real richness to her Indonesian program.

Diane
Assistant Principal - Primary

Introducing Rachel Jaraba

I became passionate about the Indonesian language and culture when I was in Year 12, thanks to an excellent Indonesian teacher. This teacher showed me the value of learning a language; to understand my own mother-tongue better, to empower me to travel with curiosity, confidence, and respect, and to learn from many people with an incredible and fascinating culture.

After completing my Indonesian studies in VCE, I travelled around South-east Asia, then went on to major in Indonesian (and International studies) in my undergraduate degree. As part of this course I had the great opportunity to study at a university in Malang (in the northeast of one of Indonesia’s main Islands, Java). This full immersion was a wonderful way to step outside my comfort zone and see the world from a different perspective. After graduating I spent time as an Intern at the Indonesian Consulate in Melbourne, and more recently at the Church Missionary Society. I’ve since been back to Indonesia and surrounding South-east Asian neighbours, and am still blown away by the rich history, language and culture Indonesia has to share.

And now, I have a great desire to share my experiences, and to teach with the same passion that my Indonesian teacher taught me. I want to encourage students to seek to understand another worldview, that we might praise God for this wonderful world he has created, and have the opportunity to reach more people for His kingdom.

I am so excited to be introducing the Indonesian language program to MECS in 2015, and greatly look forward to partnering with parents and staff to support the curriculum with the benefits language learning has to offer.

Tuhan memberkati (God bless),

Rachel
Indonesian Teacher

Our new Indonesian teacher

We are so pleased to welcome Rachel into the MECS community. Rachel will be establishing our Indonesian program within the school and has commenced working this week to get things ready for 2015! We are really excited to see the ‘first steps’ of this new initiative at MECS and we look forward with excitement to our Primary students commencing their language classes next year. See below for a more detailed introduction to Rachel.

Instrumental Music

Tonight is the last of our Instrumental Music Recitals for the year. These nights have provided the opportunity for our students who are learning an instrument at school to perform in front of a real audience. They have been great evenings with some fabulous performances – I’m sure tonight will be no different! Thanks to Brett (Instrumental Music Coordinator) and his group of instrumental teachers who so faithfully teach our students each week. There are many benefits of learning a musical instrument, besides the gift of being able to play beautiful music. Brett would be more than happy to chat with you about opportunities next year if you would like your child to commence lessons.
**MECS Notes**

**Employment Opportunity**

We are currently looking for a Catering Officer to provide catering for MECS events on a casual basis. The role includes planning, purchasing, setting up, preparing and serving food and clean-up afterwards, for events held during the day and on evenings. Some weeks will have no events; others may have a few, totalling approximately 350-400 hours per year.

Applicants need to have a food handling certificate (or be prepared to obtain one), hospitality gifts and a high level of flexibility.

Please see the MECS website for further information, job description and application.

*Natasha*
School Services Manager

**Please Help!**

**LOST** – A very special ruby stone.

Came out of the setting of a beloved Grandma's ring 20/11/2014.

Lost somewhere in the region of the Prep playground and the basketball court.

If found please hand in to the Main School Office.

**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 meantime, 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

**Secondary Interschool Sport Update**

The following students were also winners in the Secondary Interschool Sports last week. Apologies for the omission last week.

**Simone** 16 girls Shot Put, Discus

**Luke** 15 boys Long Jump

**Saoirse** 14 girls 1500m

**Cooper** 13 boys Triple Jump

**Anne-Marie**
Secondary Sport Coordinator

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**Friends of MECS**

**Stationery Helpers**

Thank you to all those who have offered to help with the packing and sales days for stationery. The roster was emailed this week. If you haven’t received it, please let me know and I will send a copy home with your child.

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 contact me by phone or email. Thanks.

*Evelyn*
Friends of MECS

**Volunteer Required - School Wear**

We are looking for a volunteer to take over the running of the School Wear facility, starting as soon as possible. This involves maintaining stocks of school wear items, fulfilling orders once a week (approximately 1 hour per school week) and selling items on the 2 stationery pick up days (one in Dec [9am-3pm] and one late January [9am-12pm]), as well as the first week of Term 1, 2015.

Please contact me via the office if you are able to help out the MECS community in this way!

Thank you very much

*Natasha*
School Services Manager

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**Money Matters**

**From the Finance Department**

Statements have recently been 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

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**MP Art**

**Thursday 20 November 2014   Page 4**
We had a great day at the Primary interschool Athletics day. All the students competed and behaved excellently, encouraging and mixing with students from other Christian schools. The staff and parent helpers were also super amazing and willing to help out with whatever needed to be done.

MECS ended up coming 4th out of 6 schools and we had a number of students come first in their event. All in all it was a great day and we are looking forward to athletics next year.

Jason
Primary Sports Coordinator

First Place Getters
Julia – 200m, 800m, Long Jump
Jed – High Jump
Marina – Long Jump
Patience – 100m, 200m
April – Shotput, Discus
Leah – Shotput
Dylan – Discus
Holly – 200m
Caleb – 200m
Harry - Discus
Rian - Discus
Julia, Lani, Emma, Holly - 9 year old girls relay team
SP Imax Excursion

Last Tuesday, November 11, we went to an IMAX excursion in Melbourne. When we got to the Melbourne Museum, we went straight into the museum to explore. We got to wander around the dinosaur and animal exhibition with our small groups, while stopping and looking at the amazing artifacts. We also got to look at the marine and aboriginal exhibition. After we enjoyed our lunch, we went to the IMAX theatre to watch the Antarctica documentry. The screen was 7 STORIES HIGH and it was amazing to watch. After the film, we got on the bus and went back to school.

Jacques

On Tuesday Year 5s went to IMAX for the day. When we got there we looked around for a while. My favourite part was looking at the dinosaurs.

At IMAX the movie we watched was about Antarctica. My favourite part was the penguins and the other animals. It was interesting to learn about the people who raced to Antarctica.

At the end of the movie we played in the playground a bit and then went back to school.

Tahli

Year 9 Village Community Lunch

Every fortnight, on a Monday, Year 9s have been holding a Community Lunch. This involves a group of Year 9s helping create a delicious lunch for the rest. With Tim guiding us through the recipes, we have been able to make tasty and diverse lunches. On Monday, we had our final Community Lunch. We all arrived at school to find a BBQ spit rotisserie outside our class, with Lance wearing a boyish grin on his face. In his hands, he clutched a blow torch, which he was using to light the coals. Tim appeared a few minutes later, with a slab of pork and beef slung over his shoulder, his deadpan face greeting us. And so, the spit roasting began. As the bell rang, the last of the year 9s wandered over to the spit, watching with fascination, mesmerised by the glistening meat. For the rest of the day, a group of us prepared the last lunch in the kitchen, while the others tried to work, (although most students couldn’t stop watching the spit roast!)

As lunch drew nearer, the smell of the fragrance of the meat started drawing the attention of other classes and teachers. They all stared longingly at our meal, wishing they could join us. When the dishes started filing into the Year 9 rooms, everyone scrambled to their seats. Laid before us was roast vegetables, pork, beef, chicken, salad and mouth-watering gravy. It was a meal loved by all (including Brad and Duc, who snuck in) and a great way to finish our community lunches for the year. Thanks so to Tim for all his hard work in making our community lunches such memorable experiences.

Cameron, Josh & Brenton
‘Romeo and Juliet’ is currently being studied by the Year 10s as a textual response. Alongside the ‘pain’ of putting together an essay the students were responsible for presenting the play before the rest of their peers. The object was to emulate the film version of Romeo and Juliet by taking some modern or humorous theme and acting the play out with the chosen theme. Each small group was able to come up with their own ideas and when this was all put together in the one play it made for a funny and eclectic version of the story. A great time was had by all – well done Year 10.

Cliff
Senior School Coordinator

Saturday was a great day for a working bee. The weather couldn’t have been better and with lots of mums, dads and children there, it was great.

We did lots of jobs to beautify the school grounds, which continues to give MECS its lovely setting. This year I have been really impressed by the number of children coming along with their parents to our working bees. It been great to see how eager they have been to get in and be involved with any of the jobs we do.

I think it is fantastic that these young people want to be involved in helping to make the grounds look so good. I think it is great that parents encourage their children to come to working bees and help do the work. This creates a real sense of ownership and pride in their school. I believe it also helps create a good work ethic in children of all ages - when you work hard, you have something good to show from it. So a big thank you to all the parents who bring along their children and work with them at our working bees. You are both really appreciated.

Peter & Steve
Maintenance
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

Apple Man Tomorrow
The Apple man is coming again on Friday Nov 21 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.

The Drama for Life
Choice Learning & Social Lights Groups
...would like to invite all parents/guardians, siblings and grandparents to our end of year live performance to see the fantastic work the children have achieved throughout their time in drama classes.

Our aim has been to empower all students - giving them options and enabling them to choose an alternate path leading to positive results.

Using a drama-based program we have focused on different styles of communication and the importance of positive relationships between different ages, genders, peers, siblings, parents, adults and teachers to students, in order for them to receive the abundance of benefits and rewards that each has to offer.

Performance details:
Date: Thursday December 11
Time: 10 – 11am
Youngest children will perform first, followed by the older children.
Venue: MECS PUMP room

We look forward to seeing you there!

Last Working Bee
Sat 6 Dec, 7am-1pm
BBQ Breakfast

Notices sent home this week and on Website

- Canberra Camp Notice (last week)
- Kinder Connections No 8 (last week)
- MS Connect Morning Tea Invitation
- Drama for Everyday Life performance invite (last week)