Inverloch Ecology Camp

Jemimah admiring the beach during the Cycle B Ecology Camp. Details Page 7.

Stationery Sales Day
Tues 9 Dec
9am-3pm
The Point of Learning

“The point of the resurrection...is that the present bodily life is not valueless just because it will die...What you do with your body in the present matters because God has a great future in store for it...What you do in the present—by painting, preaching, singing, sewing, praying, teaching, building hospitals, digging wells, campaigning for justice, writing poems, caring for the needy, loving your neighbour as yourself—will last into God’s future. These activities are not simply ways of making the present life a little less beastly, a little more bearable, until the day when we leave it behind altogether (as the hymn so mistakenly puts it...). They are part of what we may call building for God’s kingdom.”

N.T. Wright, Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church

As we approach the end of another year of hard work by staff and students, it sometimes makes me wonder what the purpose of all this education is! Does the knowledge gained really change anything, are the skills learnt really that useful, does the service offered really make a difference? How do we judge the value of a ‘good’ education and what are we to use it for? Our Year 12s have finished their exams which will define their choices about what they might ‘do’ in the future. But what is the purpose of all this ‘doing’ by people every day?

It seems to me that what we actually ‘do’ in the end doesn’t really matter. It’s more a question of ‘why’ and ‘for whom’. Colossians 3:17 says, “Whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus”. The Message translation puts it this way: “Let every detail in your lives – words, actions, whatever – be done in the name of the Master...”

The choice to live for ourselves – to pursue an education and vocation – to please ourselves and build up earthly reward whether it is in reputation or income, can be quietly alluring. This is what ‘the world’ tells us all the time.

You deserve it! Don’t miss out! Get ahead! You need this! Everybody else has one! Look out for yourself!

Yet, God’s calling is for us to be Kingdom builders. To do ‘whatever’ in His name and in the service of others. The daily motivation is in using whatever skills and talents given to us by Him (and certainly honed and developed by education) to build God’s Kingdom of peace, love, justice, compassion, humility and wisdom here on earth. As C. Plantinga writes in his book Engaging God’s World: A Christian Vision of Faith, Learning and Living (2002), “The point of all this learning is to prepare to add one’s own contribution to the supreme reformation project, which is God’s restoration of all the things that have been corrupted by evil.”

N.T. Wright suggests that the purpose of all our earthly ‘doing’ is not just to make this life more bearable, but to use our “…sewing… teaching… campaigning for justice (etc.)” to build the Kingdom that God calls us to be part of. That what we do now actually makes a difference in the life to come. For me, that’s a reason to get up in the morning! It’s the reason that staff at Mount Evelyn Christian School year after year ‘dow seeds’ of Kingdom life into their students! It’s also the reason that we equip all our students with the knowledge, skills and opportunities for service that they will need to bring glory to God in ‘whatever’ they choose to do now and in the future.

Narelle Sketcher
MECS Principal

The point of all this learning is to prepare to add one’s own contribution to the supreme reformation project, which is God’s restoration of all the things that have been corrupted by evil

Year 10 & 11 Work Experience Round 2

Last week many of our Senior School students took up the opportunity to participate in Work Experience. Students found Work Experience placements in a wide range of occupational areas, including Café hospitality, Early Childhood Education, Surveying, Engineering Design, Aged Care, Music Therapy, Software Development, Graphic Design and Advertising, Veterinary practice and Medical Research.

For many students, approaching an employer to ask for a week’s Work Experience is a significant challenge, but I think all would agree that by the end of the week they learnt many valuable things about the world of work and themselves. These include communicating with adults, managing time, persistence, patience and conducting themselves in a professional manner. Many students were able to form clearer ideas about what occupations they may or may not want to pursue in the future, some discovering what was really involved in their “dream job”! They also had the opportunity to further explore their strengths and limitations, perhaps discovering a talent that they never knew they had.

For some, doors may have been opened as students networked and demonstrated to employers the unique personal qualities and skills they could bring to a particular business.

At the Year 12 Graduation last Friday evening, I was approached by a graduating student. With great satisfaction he said, “I just wanted to let you know that I have two fantastic jobs lined up for next year and both came out of Work Experience placements”. We both agreed how important it was to stress the value of Work Experience to future students.

Earlier this year Year 9 students and parents received information about Work Experience expectations for Year 10. Students are reminded that it is not too early to start looking for placements for the two Work Experience weeks in 2015 (July 13-17 and November 23-27).

Amelia
Work Experience Coordinator, Careers Coordinator, VET in Schools Coordinator
SKETCHER’S SCOOP

Prep’s Big Night Out
Our Preps have nearly completed their first year of school, and to celebrate they are having a ‘Big Night Out’ on Friday evening at school. They will get to stay up a little bit later and enjoy a range of activities and fun games at school. We hope they have a great night!

Gratitude to the Board
Whilst the Preps are having a fun time, I am looking forward to hosting the Board end-of-year dinner. The members of our Board work tirelessly throughout the year. As a governance Board, their main job is to make sure the running and direction of the school is aligned with the core vision and mission of the Association. This means that at our monthly Board meetings, a particular area of the school comes under discussion and we check that the governance policies are being adhered to. On behalf of the whole MECS community, we want to thank and acknowledge Ian, Sue, Louise, Eric, James, Bretlyn, Petra and Lisa for their service to the school in 2015.

Equal Opportunity Act
With the election of the ALP in Victoria the issue of the ‘bona fide occupational requirements’ in the Equal Opportunity Act will eventually be acted upon. Even though the ALP position is fixed, Christian school leaders will remain in consultation with the government seeking to influence the shape of the legislation. We are in a good position to speak into this matter since our local member, James M, is the new Minister for Education. It is important that we continue to be clear and articulate about the necessity of Christian faith as a bona fide requirement for every single employee of MECS.

Changes in the Library
If you have visited the library recently, you will have noticed that new carpet installed last holidays has made this important resource centre look a lot more modern. Further improvements will be made to other furnishings next year. However, more important than the physical space is what happens inside! Carole has worked alongside our staff and students for 12 years and will retire at the end of this year. Her passion and enthusiasm for information literacy and her desire to see young people have the skills to be life-long learners will be what she is remembered for. We are excited that Fiona will be taking over as the Library Manager. Fiona is a trained librarian, and has worked as our library technician for many years. It is great that she now has the opportunity to bring her own ideas to the fore and we look forward to her bringing her own approach to how we use the resources of the library to further the learning of all our students.

Staffing for 2015
Our staff deployment is nearly finalised for next year. In next week’s Scoop, a full overview of who is joining us, who is leaving us and who is doing what will be provided! We thank God for blessing our community once again with the provision of all that we need in regard to our staff each year.

Year 10 & 11 Work Experience Round 2
For my Year 10 work experience placement I worked in a public library, doing jobs such as checking books in, shelving, fixing damaged items, labelling magazines and setting up children’s activities. I learnt about the different duties of a librarian and by the end of the week knew a lot more about how the new technologies in a library work and how the day to day running of a library involves many small and important jobs. There was the odd duty of assembling and decorating a Christmas tree which was quite enjoyable as well. I don’t think I actually want to work in a library but it was definitely a pleasant and very community based environment, and all the staff were welcoming and patient. I enjoyed it when it was busy and there were lots of things to do and it was a good experience to see what happens behind the scenes in a place I often visit.

Georgia
MECS Notes

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

Friends of MECS

Stationery

Urgent: more help is needed for Thursday 29 Jan, both in the morning for sales and especially in the afternoon for pack up. Kids are welcome to come with you to help in the afternoon and it should only take about 1 ½ hours. Please contact me, if you can help.

Thanks,
Evelyn

Middle School Second Hand Book Sale

Attention all Middle School Parents & Students

Second-hand books are offered for sale each year on the two stationery pick-up days. This year we will be selling the Year 7, 8 & 9 Pearson Mathematics book and the English book from Year 9.

If you would like your child’s text books (as detailed on the list below) to be sold through the school, here’s what you need to do:

1. Please write your child’s name clearly on the inside front cover (this allows us to refund the monies to the correct people).
2. For Year 7, 8 & 9 Maths and Year 9 English please leave in specially marked boxes on the morning of Friday 12 December. These boxes will be located in the classroom.
3. Alternatively books may be handed in at the Main office in a clearly marked bag.

We will have some books for sale at the first stationery sales day on 9 December otherwise your name will be placed on a list so that one can be put aside for you to collect on the second sales day on January 29 or in the first week of school next year.

Books are priced according to their condition (approximately half of their new price). Any books that came with a CD included in the back, need to have the CD with the book otherwise the price will be reduced. Friends of MECS retain 15% of the sale price.

If your books are sold there will be two Options for payment:

- The first option is our preferred option. Sale price is deducted from your school fees in the New Year.
- If you would rather a cash payment, please ring me on the number below to let me know. If I don’t hear from you then any proceeds of sales will automatically be credited to your school fees.

Please be advised we will no longer be sending cheque payments, and books that are not sold are held over to be sold the following year.

Cash payment will be available early in Term 1 (dates to be announced). If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Evelyn
Stationery Coordinator

Books accepted for Sale

- Macquarie School Dictionary
- Guidelines for Referencing and Bibliographies
- NIV Bibles (as sold by school)
- Pearson Mathematics Yr 7, Yr 8, Yr 9
- Move into English 3 (Yr 9)
- Jacaranda Atlas (from Yr 7 & 8)

MECS Notes

Congratulations to Melinda

Melinda (VCE 2010) has won the 2014 Australian Apprentice of the Year at a presentation held at the Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide, South Australia.

Melinda, who is employed by Hargo Engineering Pty Ltd has a Certificate III in Engineering - Mechanical Trade. I first met Melinda when she was in Year 6 when she sought my help with building a volcano. She has always had a fascination with how things work and has a natural skill and passion for hands-on work, but felt obliged to pursue a tertiary pathway. After spending a week doing work experience at Hargo Engineering, she decided that an Australian Apprenticeship in Fitting and Machining was a good balance between theoretical and practical learning. She enrolled in a Certificate III in Engineering – Mechanical Trade at Swinburne University of Technology and commenced her apprenticeship at Hargo Engineering the day after completing her school exams.

As a qualified fitter and turner, Melinda has already won the Gold medal for Fitting and Machining at the WorldSkills Australia - Melbourne Region competition in 2013, and also competed at the 2014 WorldSkills Australia National Competition. She received Swinburne’s Best in First Year and Best in Third Year awards over the course of her studies.

Passionate about promoting maths education and manufacturing career development, Melinda tutors primary and secondary students, as well as refugees from Burma.

Well done Melinda!

Heather
Newsletter Editor

Employment Opportunities

We are currently advertising for the positions of:

- Secondary Education Support Teacher (part time)
- Primary Learning Assistant (part time)

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

Natasha
School Services Manager
Year 9 Canberra Camp

Last week we as a Year 9 group enjoyed an eventful camp in Canberra. The schedule was a busy one and we went to many important places. While visiting Parliament House we experienced Question Time. It proved to be a great learning experience along with providing quite a few laughs. I can’t speak for everyone but I believe going to the War Memorial was one of the best activities of the week. It was a real eye opener for a lot of people. You can never really understand something until you experience it. Although most of our time in Canberra was spent on concentrated learning, we also had a bit of fun. Paddle boating and bike riding were a nice break from the seriousness of Parliament House. Everyone has a different opinion on Canberra, but I think there was something for everyone on the camp.

Erica

Around the World we go...

In the Kinder this term, we have ‘travelled around the world’, to explore the diversity of God’s world. We’ve talked about differences in people, communities, cultures and countries, and how Australia is made up of many cultures. Our aim is to help the children understand the importance of accepting and respecting differences and how God loves us all, loves diversity and differences, and wants us to unwrap our own differences and gifts to use them for each other, building the body of Christ.

We looked at the fruits of the spirit, (Galatians 5:22-26) and how to show them to each other. We (as the branches) looks at how we are attached to the Vine (Jesus), who is attached to the Gardener, God the Father (John 15: 1-17).

To expand our learning about some of the cultures represented in our MECS community, Duc (Middle School teacher) came to share some of his knowledge and experience of China. We looked at some pictures of the great wall of China and loved watching and learning about the lion dancing. Stephanie (Learning Assistant in the Primary School) came to teach us about Ireland where she was born. The children were intrigued with the use of different words for vegetables, such as corgette for zucchini! Thanks to these teachers and parents who so willingly contributed to our rich learning experiences on diversity!

Wendy
Early Years Coordinator
Wilson's Prom Camp is one of the most beautiful, incredible places that I have ever experienced. Base camp was not as exciting as the hikes, but it was still really nice spending time with the others not on my hike. I loved going down to Tidal River and Norman Beach and watching the sunsets, but the best thing about base camp was the food! Krista is such an incredible cook and I could eat the food she gives me every day. The hike was really hard and sometimes I felt I could’ve given up, but after some complaining, I snapped out of it and powered on. Singing along the way takes your mind off it and entertains the whole group and passing people.

**Jemma**

I went on the second hike from Telegraph car park to Halfway Hut. As it was pouring down with rain we had to stop. Tuesday we left our packs in tents that we had set up the night before and headed off to Roaring Meg which took about 50 minutes. Our group then went from Roaring Meg to the most South Easterly point, where there was a stunning lighthouse and beautiful views. We stayed there for lunch. We then went back to Roaring Meg and had a snack, then set off for Oberon Bay which took a solid 2 ½ hrs. We set up camp and I went down to a small river with some of my group. We crossed it and went over to a hoard of sand dunes which we had a bunch of fun running down and up them.

I faced a couple of challenges over the 3 days we hiked. One of them was the rain but all of our packs were mostly dry as we covered them with garbage bags, thanks to Luke Knoll. The other was blisters, which got extremely painful over 3 days.

My highlight was definitely the beaches. The views were magnificent and the sand felt so nice on our feet as we had been hiking for 2 days. My lowlight was the rain. It stopped us from hiking more on Monday which lead to us doing 28km on Tuesday and we were drenched.

I fulfilled all of my goals as I had packed my bag on Sunday, I got to know others, and I had worn in my hiking shoes.

I have learnt that it doesn’t matter about being fit, it matters if you think you can do it.

**Luke**

I was on group 1 which was a two night hike. We left on Tuesday and got back on Thursday. We went to Little Waterloo Bay (13km) for the first night and Sealers Cove (16km) for the second night. The last day we did 9km. We walked through really beautiful bush and on beautiful beaches. There were also some amazing views. We had two nights at basecamp which was also fun and we went down to Tidal River a few times which I enjoyed.

**Bek**

When we got to Wilson’s Prom we set straight off for Oberon Bay. On the way it was pouring with rain and there were a couple of dead animals.

Once we reached our camping spot, we set up our tents. The next day we went off for our second journey to Halfway Hut. It was an easier hike than the other one. Once we reached it, we all set up our tents and ate. I had a delicious hot chocolate.

When we finally reached base camp at the end of the hike, our whole group was so happy and it was amazing to eat real food (hot dogs).

I think I have accomplished my goals from camp. I was positive all camp, I just kept going, and packed my bag and made sure everything fit. On this camp experience I have learnt that I have a growth mindset on many things.

**Riley**

On the hike I faced a lot challenges. The first was that we got lost because we were directed the wrong way and the other was trying to be positive. I applied a growth mindset when we got lost. Everyone was upset that we went the wrong way and went to Oberon instead of Sealers but I just began to laugh.

My highlight would have to be when I went to a look out and ate lunch on a big magnificent rock overlooking the ocean.

I have learnt that I am stronger than I ever expected I was, and when I put my mind to do something, I can do it.

**Ruth**

This camp was AMAZING!!!! I had so many highlights. The views were amazing, looking out on our beautiful country. When we were hiking you would see the fierce oceans stretch out further than the eye can see. I made lot of new friends and had the best bonding time.

**Saoirse**
Once upon a time—about last week, in fact—the secret undercover government detected something in the water at Inverloch. The beaches were eroding away! If someone didn’t do something the world would never be the same! The environment needed heroes. So the secret undercover government called upon the Avengers, the X-Men and the Justice League. Unfortunately, they were all unavailable, so instead they called upon Cycle B. In response to the call, a bus load of Years 7 and 8 students set off on an adventure to save the world as we know it. They were taught the magical skills of weeding to rid the world of the evil and poisonous plants governed by Loki that were killing the beach! Hour by hour, they risked their lives for the greater good of the world pulling out the poisonous plants, exploring the dangerous caves and rock pools. They battled scary Jordans, and dug for treasure at the beach, but sailed down Screw Creek in victory when they finally won the battle against the poisonous plants and learnt the wonders of the beach world. But, if their services are ever required again, Cycle B is always ready and waiting for the call!

Until next time, Loki.

Jemimah & Lwendyl

Week 6 we went on Inverloch Ecology Camp, a two and a half hour trip. We had to set up our tents in the rain and our tents got soaked and flooded, it was so bad that everyone had to dry their tents or even move tents.

The activities we did on camp were exploring rock pools, floating down a river, writing poetry on a beach and learning about beaches.

We had great fun when we went to the beach, chilling, listening to music, walking, digging to find treasure, building gigantic sandcastles, swimming, singing, and, of course, dancing.

Overall, Inverloch Camp is an experience that we’ll never forget, and we thank everyone for giving us a great experience.

Kira & Madi

Inverloch camp was a pretty good camp, though we could have done without the thunderstorms and rain for the first two days. My favourite part of camp was definitely when we went to Caves Beach to look at all of the rock pools. We found heaps of different creatures, even a puffer fish. We even went into a cave that was formed by erosion and explored the beach. We ended the day by floating down Screw Creek on tubes in the very ‘refreshing’ rain.

Sarah

Last week Cycle B went to Inverloch for an ecology camp. We camped near the beach; in fact, we were so close we could walk around 50 metres and we’d be standing on the beach. When we arrived, we set up tents in the rain and most of our stuff got wet. One of the highlights of camp was going down Screw Creek in the inner tubes of tyres and looking at the ecosystem around it. There were mangroves growing in the mud that surrounded the rivers and crabs walking around on the river bank. Another activity was rockpools with Duc; we had a look at different creatures living in the water. Some of the things we found included eels, crabs, sea slugs, and lots of sea snails.

Josh & Hamish

Inverloch was a pretty good camp, though we could have done without the thunderstorms and rain for the first two days. My favourite part of camp was definitely when we went to Caves Beach to look at all of the rock pools. We found heaps of different creatures, even a puffer fish. We even went into a cave that was formed by erosion and explored the beach. We ended the day by floating down Screw Creek on tubes in the very ‘refreshing’ rain.

Sarah
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.

3 Pet Ducks Need Home Urgently
They are happy living with chickens! But need a pond or access to some water. We need to find a home by Dec 20 but sooner would be better!

Please call Sarah 0415 317 878.

Carols by Candlelight
8pm Sunday Dec 14 at Woori Yallock Presbyterian Church, 1363 Healesville-Koo-Wee-Rup Road, Woori Yallock.
Bring your picnic rug. Free supper after.

Thermomix TM31 For Sale
Excellent condition. Includes all accessories (Veroma, Thermoserve, steam basket, butterfly & spatula). Also included are 6 TM cook books, 2 mini TM cook books and instruction manual.
A fantastic kitchen appliance making healthy eating easy for busy families!
$1,300 (negotiable). Inspections welcome.
Please call Bree on 0432 509 758.

CD by MECS Parent for Sale
Pre-release sale $15
Solo piano CD written and composed by Aki Mori.
Great for soaking or simply just to relax. Perfect Christmas gift.
Please contact MECS office for a copy.

New Nurture Magazine
Coming Soon

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