Wishing our school community a Blessed Christmas

Term 1, 2015 Begins on Monday Feb 2

Zachary & Tandia as Joseph and Mary in the Prep Nativity GT. Story page 6.
I can’t see the cross because of all the stupid angels!

As we have time to reflect and celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour may we be united in the things that matter, put aside the things that don’t and make clear the path to the Cross for ourselves and others!

I am rather amused and challenged by that complaint! The important things of Christianity are so often swamped by religious paraphernalia, by dogma, by legalism, by trivial difference, even, by off-putting piety. The central message of good news, of forgiveness, of salvation, of a new beginning, is obscured or discredited. We have to admit that far too often people haven’t been able to see the cross because of all the stupid angels...

Does this concern or problem or activity that I’m spending much of my time, thoughts and energy on, matter to God in the same way as it matters to me?

When we answer those questions honestly and humbly, and take steps to change, we allow the message of the cross to nish this year and have time to fi nish this year and have time to reflect and celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour may we be united in the things that matter, put aside the things that don’t and make clear the path to the Cross for ourselves and others!

A feature of Jesus’ ministry was his ability not to be diverted by trivia but to concentrate on the central themes that are woven right through the Scriptures, from Genesis to Revelation.

In the varied and often stressful situations in which we find ourselves we need to ask some basic questions:

Is this matter central to the gospel?

What gospel values or truths apply to this situation?

Could I be overlooking an important gospel value in the way I am responding here?

As part of the Middle Primary unit on ‘Plants’ this term, the Year 3s have been looking and learning about the school environment. On Friday afternoons, we have been busy learning about the habitat in our school, especially in the Primary playground. Through our work we were able to identify native plants, indigenous plants, exotic plants and weeds that were growing in our playground. We have also planted some tomatoes, strawberries and herbs outside our classrooms. It has been a really enjoyable way to finish each week. To bring the term to a close, last Friday with the always-helpful Peter, the Year 3s helped plant 60 or so grasses and native trees on the bank of the upgraded teacher’s carpark. We had some interesting ‘mountain goat’ experiences as the bank is very steep! Trying to dig holes for a plant while balancing on a slope was quite tricky. Getting water to the plants was another challenge; one or two students ended up watering themselves trying to get the watering can up the hill! These grasses and trees will not only make the bank look nice but will also help in keeping it from eroding. Thanks Year 3s and Peter.

Derek
MP Teacher
SKETCHER’S SCOOP

That’s it for 2014!

Today is the last day for students – it’s been a week of special assemblies and celebrations, farewells, class parties, cleaning out the rubbish and sharing holiday plans. Tomorrow the staff will join together for lunch after spending the morning doing all those last minute jobs! We are a blessed community with so much to be thankful for. As you have time with your family and friends over the coming break, we hope you all have a safe and wonderful holiday, and also an opportunity to reflect on God’s goodness to your family and this school community.

VCE Results

Our VCE students received their results this week. Once again we want to congratulate them on all their hard work. We wish you all the best as you work out your plans for next year. We look forward to sharing more on this next year including some of the exceptional results.

Staff Farewells

The end of the year inevitably brings a number of farewells. To Bec, Kathy, Sarah, and Cheryl – thank you for all that you have done as members of the Primary staff. Whether it has been for a short time or a long time we value the skills and gifts you have brought to your task. You will be missed by your students and colleagues and we wish you well in your new endeavours.

Karen has finished up as the school’s catering officer. Many of you will have been the beneficiaries of Karen’s gifts of hospitality with scrumptious morning-teas and other fabulous food! We wish her all the best as well.

To those who are retiring – Cliff, Rosalie and Carole, we honour over fifty years of combined service that you have given to MECS. You are all well-loved staff members and we wish you well as you begin a new phase of life. May it be filled with great joy and new adventures. In numerous ways you have impacted the life and learning of 1000’s of students - we know the seeds you have planted will continue to grow!

Family Farewells

We also want to say farewell to the students and families who are also moving on to new adventures! May God continue to go with you wherever that may be! We thank you for the opportunity we have had to partner with you as we work together in Christian education.

Volunteers Morning-tea

It was great to be able to share morning tea with many of our volunteers on Monday morning. We thank all our volunteers for the way they contribute in really practical ways to the life of this community so that we can offer the range of activities and services that we do. It also gave us an opportunity to thank others like Glenys and Jo, our crossing ladies, and Peter, the Martyrs bus driver, for the way they also care and look after our students. It was good to be reminded of the extended circle of people who serve and support this community.

School Magazine

Congratulations to Heather for the tremendous job she has done in compiling such a great tribute to the year we have had! We hope you enjoy all the fabulous pictures, art-work and written contributions within it. It really does showcase the sense of joy and community that is at the heart of this place.

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Social Skills Drama

End of Year Performance

During the course of 2014, a group of students have been learning important skills each week in our social skills program. Alan (Choice Learning) and Elizabeth (Social Lights) have taught skills through games and role plays to enable students to develop skills to successfully manage a number of everyday situations including dealing with conflict, bullying, meeting new people, joining in with others, being friendly, how to be a good sport and taking turns.

Last Thursday, each group gave a short performance in front of their parents, grandparents and peers to demonstrate some of the skills that they have learnt. Simple games demonstrating what a good sport/bad sport looks like were played by JP boys. JP girls demonstrated how to apologise when things go wrong, MP boys demonstrated how words can hurt and words can build others up, and Tori danced to speak out against bullying. It was pleasing to see students learning to identify different emotions and make positive choices when faced with difficult situations in their friendships or in the playground.

I would like to thank all those who came and showed their support to the students; I would especially like to thank Alan and Elizabeth for the enthusiastic and significant role they have played in the lives of many students.

Shirley
Primary Ed Support Coordinator

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Shirley
Primary Ed Support Coordinator
New JP Teacher

We look forward to welcoming Angela to the Primary team in 2015. Angela will be sharing the JPR class with Daniela. Angela is an experienced teacher who has a great love for science and exploring God’s world.

Angela taught at Donvale Christian College and has a wide range of experience across the Primary school. Most recently she has been raising her family and doing CRT work. We look forward to Angela’s many gifts and talents and her bright and delightful smile. She will be a wonderful asset to the JP team.

Di
Assistant Principal - Primary

New Ed Support Staff

Education Support have 3 new Learning Assistants starting in 2015. Amelia, Roslyn and Narelle will be working in JP classes.

The new Secondary Education Support teacher will be Ileana.

Canberra Camp Rebate

MECS would like to acknowledge the contribution that the Australian Government makes to our annual Canberra Camp through the PACER program. This program contributes funding for each student based on the distance travelled to Canberra. This year our Year 9 students undertook an educational tour of the national capital, participating in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australian Identity, including history, culture, heritage and democracy.

Year 6 Graduation

Last Friday night teachers, staff, friends and family gathered to celebrate the graduation of our Year 6s from Primary School. The students enjoyed a delicious meal in the beautifully decorated theatrette with their teachers and then made their way to the gym where the audience was treated to a very confident, polished and entertaining presentation of the Year 6’s speeches. At MECS Primary we believe all of our students are ‘wonderfully created’ and each child was presented an award from their teacher acknowledging one of their gifts that had been a positive contribution to the Senior Primary community this year. The students all looked wonderful in their finery, marking this significant milestone with the formality and celebration it deserves. It was a wonderful night, full of proud moments for teachers and parents (and the students themselves) and lots of fun. Year 6 2014 has been a wonderful year and we wish the students God’s richest blessings as they embark on their ‘Next Step’.

Melissa
SP Teacher

The Stationery Sales Day is on Jan 29, from 9am-12noon

Friends of MECS

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Missing from First Aid

I am missing a pair of small metal crutches from First Aid, lent out in 3rd term and not returned. If you have these at home could they please be returned to the school office ASAP. I am also missing many blue cold packs and assorted wheat packs which may have ended up in school bags or at home during the year. If you find any of these please return to school office so I can use them next year. Thanks,

Mellinda
First Aid Officer

Lost Property

Just a reminder to please check the racks at lost property for your children’s belongings, today or tomorrow. We have accumulated plenty of clothes, hats, lunch boxes etc and it would be good if they went back to their owners. Those that aren’t collected will go to the local op shop. Again, can I please remind parents to clearly label their children’s clothing. It makes our job so much easier!

Melinda
Lost Property merchant!
Christmas GT

What an exciting final GT we had as a Primary School. The Preps did a wonderful performance of the story of ‘The Crippled Lamb’ by Max Lucado. It reminded us of what Christmas is really about and how much God loves and cares for each individual person. The Preps looked very cute in their costumes and we are very thankful to Karen Cross for taking the time to make so many of them. It was certainly wonderful to see their confidence grow throughout each rehearsal, and as they performed their best in front of a large audience.

It was also a time of thanksgiving and farewells to those primary staff that are leaving. The children formally thanked so many people that help around the school including our crossing ladies, bus drivers, Pa who assists in the garden, office staff, the parents that help in the canteen and all the parents that help in other ways. The choir led us in some Christmas carols and the teachers had a bit of fun singing to the children as well. What a great way to finish another successful year in MECS Primary.

Rebekah
Prep Teacher
Christmas GT

Amelia, Aurora & Kiera

Tandia, Thomaz, Zachary, James & River

Bethany & Tess

Primary Staff Choir

Cheryl

Hannah & Crystelle

Azi, Stefanie & Lanii

Noah

Hannah

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.

Unit for Rent
2 bedroom unit for rent in Monbulk, beneath existing house. Suit a couple, close to shops. Available from mid-January 2015. For more information contact Martin on 0419 568 179.

House for Rent
Our family home around the corner from MECS on Inverness Rd, Mount Evelyn, will be available for rent around the middle of January 2015.
It features 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, study, rumpus room and large garage. Normal rent.
For more details, contact Connie on 0458 632 416.

Chicken Minders Needed
We still need 2 more families willing to look after our Primary School chickens for a week or so during the school holidays. It would mean popping into school every couple of days to make sure they had enough food and water. The food will be provided for them and any eggs collected can be kept by the family. Please contact Derek Warren if you can help (dwarren@mecs.vic.edu.au). Thanks.

Derek Warren
MP Teacher

Hope in the Hills BALL – March 21
Do you remember the MECS 40th Ball? A similar event is being hosted by the Tecoma CRC church community on Saturday March 21 in the Upwey Community Hall. Tickets are $40 and 6 dance lessons beforehand are available for $20. It’s a fundraising event for SWIM work in the Solomons. For all those MECS dancers, come along to another dance celebration. Please visit www.hopeinthehills.org.au/ball
Martin Hanscamp

MECS Tops Needed
Do you have any MECS green polo or tribal tops lying around that your children have grown out of? If you don’t need them anymore, we would love for you to donate them to MECS by dropping them in to the Main Office. We are particularly in need of smaller sizes for Primary School students, but all sizes are welcome.

Yarra and Dandenong Ranges Holiday Activities
Summer is HERE and HOT! We’re ‘Cooling Off’ here in Melbourne’s Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges with:
- Water play at Seville Water Park
- Picnics by the river at Badger Weir and Donnellys Weir
- Enjoy the crystal clear water of the river in Warburton
- Feed the birds at Grants in the Dandenong Ranges
- Yarra Ranges Museum in Lilydale
Fun for the whole family! Stay healthy - stay cool - stay happy. Register for your free touring map.
For more information go to experienceyarravalley.com.au

Cheap Quality Bike Servicing
For the past nine months I have been servicing bikes after going through comprehensive training. During a service your bike will be fully inspected, repaired and cleaned. The cost for an adult geared bike service is $40, the cost for kid’s and non-geared bikes is only $20. If you think your bike is due for a service please contact Jake Vandenberg on 0413 561 398, jakescycleworx@gmail.com or www.facebook.com/jakescycleworx

MECS Mag 2014
We have discovered a handful of magazines are missing the first and last 8 pages. If you have one of these - please bring it to the Main Office for a replacement copy.