Parade of the Animals

Lucas dressed as a Bear for the JP Animal Parade to celebrate their studies this term
We have been counting down for some time now, but we are finally ready for the official launch of our book entitled Transformational Education. This afternoon, at the same time as many MECS newsletters are being retrieved from school bags, MECS staff are gathering with special guests at Donvale Christian College to celebrate this achievement.

Our Transformational Education book began as a large Teaching and Learning framework document! It was designed to unpack the key distinctive of MECS vision and mission, and how these translate to teaching and learning. Our previous Principal, Martin H, was a key driver of this endeavor. He wished to articulate the various things that were precious for our school community. Throughout 2011 and 2012, the MECS Teaching and Learning Leadership (TALL) team worked closely with Harry Burggraaf in identifying and developing these ‘transformational’ characteristics.

In honour of Harry who passed away in early 2013, we decided to further develop this document into a book to share with Christian school communities. We are hopeful that in presenting our core understandings of biblically informed education at MECS, others may be encouraged to apply these to their own context. In the book's Foreword, Martin writes:

"Transformational Education seeks to capture the essential vision of Christian education and provide a directional guide for teachers. I commend those who are ‘seeking’, to let this book challenge thinking and provide guidance to the shaping of educational practice. My hope, like that of Harry Burggraaf’s, is that they are able to embrace the transformational vision of education."

Each of the sixteen chapters includes a detailed description of the key idea, illustrative scriptures, implications for teaching and learning, and further questions for discussion. They also include artwork and poetry from our very own MECS students. Our book's curator, Cameron, has been working with Diane over the last two years to creatively design the pages of this publication.

The acrostic of ‘transformational’ captures our 16 key characteristics:

**Transformative Christian Education** – At the heart of Christian education is responsive discipleship for the transformation of the whole of life.

**Rich Learning** – Learning in the Christian school is broad, deep, expansive, varied, reflective, playful and engaging, catering for the varied needs and interests of each student.

**Adventurous Methodologies** – To facilitate rich learning, teachers and students make discerning use of a wide range of methods with which to explore and appreciate God’s world and Word.

**Nurturing Diversity** – Students have different needs and interests, strengths and weaknesses, abilities and disabilities, so education is shaped to allow everyone to experience the rich joy of learning well.

**Scripturally Infused** – The Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are central to our understanding of life and the educational task and they inform every aspect of the Christian school.

**Formation – head, heart, hand** – Education is for the formation of the whole person: intellectual, emotional, physical, spiritual and for the development of character and the learning of wisdom.

"We are hopeful that in presenting our core understandings of biblically informed education at MECS, others may be encouraged to apply these to their own context."
SKETCHER’S SCOOP

School Holidays
It seems as if this term has just disappeared! A lot can happen in eight action-packed weeks! Thanks for all the ways you have supported your children and the activities of the school this term. We love this place and are excited to see students growing in their learning each day. We work hard to make sure this is a safe and fun place to be and we hope your children have enjoyed their first term. Hopefully you will enjoy the break with your children and have the opportunity to spend some time together, whether that is a quiet day at home or a special activity or holiday. We look forward to seeing all our students back on Monday 13 April.

Easter
As you enjoy the term break, hopefully you and your family will find time to reflect on the Easter message which is at the heart of the Christian story. At the centre of this community is the realisation that we are saved and redeemed by Christ’s death and resurrection. We do education differently at MECS because we want our students and families to know and experience something of this extraordinary act of grace that changes lives and gives hope and purpose to our daily activity. As transformed people, we seek to bring transformation to every endeavour, including what we do in school each day. We do this in loving obedience to his call on our lives. May this truth be at the centre of your life and family this Easter.

Open Day
As we look ahead to next term, Open Day will soon be upon us. Now is the time to think of family and friends that you think would love being part of the MECS community. Why not personally invite them to come along on Saturday 9 May and find out what all the fuss is about? Families need to be quick to ensure future enrolments in the primary school, but we do have more places available in the secondary school. We would certainly welcome enrolment enquiries for Year 7 in 2016 and 2017 even though places are filling as expected. A full program of Open Day activities will be available next term.

After school care
As Di mentioned in the newsletter last week, we are having an increasing number of issues after school with primary children unsupervised after 3.45pm. If you are having difficulty picking up your children before this time you might like to consider using our after school care program which is commencing next term. If you missed the Information Briefing on Monday night, you can still access all the information you need through the 3C Kidz website. We are keen to make sure that all our students are appropriately cared for after school so that everyone gets home safely each day.

FOCUS

On... Year 9 Cooking

Preparing food is one of the great joys in my life. I have been involved in cooking programs with Year 9 students for a number of years now and have enjoyed sharing this passion with them. The Open Village program, established in 2012, has afforded the Year 9 staff a greater flexibility in developing a curriculum that brings students into contact with food in a range of meaningful ways.

Central to the work that we do in this area is creating opportunities for the students to make food preparation and service a community-building experience. To this end, we have established a Community Lunch program, where students are rostered to prepare and serve lunch to the rest of the Year 9 cohort. In the process, students learn how to: handle food safely, work to a deadline in the kitchen, use equipment effectively and safely, prepare healthy and tasty meals using a range of cooking methods, etc.

Some of the questions and themes we seek to address in our curriculum and cooking program are:

- Where does food come from?
- Cultural Studies relating to food (CS Unit Term 2)
- Developing a vegetable patch
- Growing and eating seasonal food
- Understanding different farming methods in food production
- Exploring issues with different food production models/systems
- Why is food so important?
- Studying health and wellbeing (Year 9 Health)
- Understanding the cultural significance of food
- Food for enjoyment
- How does food bring people together?
- Celebrating with food
- Open Village Community Lunches
- Making food for sale during Industry Week
- How do I ensure my food is enjoyed?
- Serving others/being hospitable
- Learning about flavours and quality control
- Catering for dietary needs
- Challenging our palate with new eating experiences
- How do I survive in the kitchen?
- Learning how to work safely in the kitchen
- Learning basic skills, such as cleaning/hygiene, preventing cross-contamination, how to use equipment properly (measuring, knife skills, etc.)
- Learning the language of cooking and how to follow a recipe

In Open Village we hope that students will grow in their appreciation of good food and its importance to our lives, while at the same time developing skills and confidence in the kitchen that will prepare them for a lifetime of enjoyment in the culinary arts.

Tim
Year 9 Teacher
MECS Notes

Premier’s Active April encourages all Victorians to do 30 minutes of physical activity each day during April. It’s free, it’s fun and it’s part of the Victorian Government’s commitment to get more people active and healthy.

You can win awesome prizes as can the school and there are bonuses to registering.

To join one of our school teams go to the website activeapril.vic.gov.au and register as an individual, parent, student or whatever suits your situation and then if you wish, ask to join one of the five MECS teams: MECS Staff, MECS Parents, MECS Secondary Students, MECS Primary Students and Friends of MECS using the appropriate team ID:

- mecs-staff
- mecs-parents
- mecs-secondary-students
- primary-students
- friends-of-mecs

Please join up even if you only do a little bit. It is easy to log activities - there are lots of categories including ‘other’! Your activity doesn’t have to be 30 minutes all at once. All activity counts! A 10 minute brisk walk to the shops (or around the shops!), throwing the frisbee, walking the dog, playing in the park, organised sport, gym, bike rides, vigorous house work or gardening can all be put on your activity log.

Let’s increase our chances of winning some great stuff for the school and develop some healthy habits at the same time. Register for Active April today at activeapril.vic.gov.au

Anne-Maree
Secondary Sports Coordinator

After School Care at MECS

On Monday night a small group of parents attended a very informative presentation from the 3C Kidz Care team who will be running after school care at MECS starting in Term 2.

We heard a lot about the fun programs they run for the students, we met Casey who will be running the program, we heard about the procedures they have in place to keep the students safe and how to apply for positions in the program. If you would like a 3C Kidz Care Information pack please pick one up from the Office, or let the Office know you would like one and we will send it home via your child.

We are very excited to have 3C Kidz Care running their after school program at MECS – they are a professional accredited company and their biblical based program fits well with what we do here at MECS.

Nicolette
Community Relations Officer

Introducing Casey from 3C Kidz Care

Hi, I am Casey. I am 27 years old and have been working in childcare for 9 years. I have a Diploma of Children’s Services as well as Level 2 First Aid, Child Protection and Food Handling. I am really excited about the after school program at MECS and caring for your kids.

In our program we include a daily devotion, group games and activities, a varied healthy afternoon tea, planned crafts, games and activities and free play directed by the children’s interests. We aim to provide a safe and fun program that you will feel great about having your kids in.

Canteen News

Introducing On-line Ordering

From the beginning of Term 2, we will be launching an alternative ordering system for the canteen.

Flexischools is an online ordering system which makes it easy for you to order and pay for your child’s canteen order without the fuss of sending money to school. Flexischools is a simple four-step process:

- **Register**
  Logon to flexischools.com.au and register, then add your child’s details
- **Top-Up**
  Top up your account via Visa, Mastercard, PayPal or direct debit
- **Order and Pay**
  Select the ‘Canteen’ option and place your order
- **Review or Edit**
  Review and/or edit the order, then submit

There is no charge to set up your Flexischools account, however they do charge a 25c order processing fee and between 29c-35c to top up your account (direct debit top up is free). Access is available via your desktop or mobile device, so even if you have forgotten, you can log in from anywhere before the 8am cut-off time on Canteen day to place your order. Easy!

We would encourage you to give Flexischools a try, however order bags will still be available from the office for those families who wish to use them.

Sheryl
Canteen Manager

Despite our Volleyball teams not making the finals we should feel proud of the efforts of our students. Many students who initially began their first training session running away as the ball approached, developed in skill so they could successfully return the ball over the net. The words of encouragement that spurred on other members of the team and the opposition was delightful to hear. Cheers and applause acknowledging good play from either team was typical and helped to make the day a great success.

Sue
MS Teacher
Free Online Autism Course

Swinburne University of Technology's free autism MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) takes a practical approach to the study of autism. The course is designed for parents and carers of people with autism and those who work with people with autism. The course uses real scenarios, draws on students' experiences and aims to foster a supportive network of parents and carers.

The Autism MOOC is a completely online course for anyone. It will require approximately 2 hours of time per week. You can access the materials at whatever time suits you. The MOOC will require you to watch two short videos per week (approximately 5 minutes each) and ask you to respond to particular scenarios which you will share with other participants via online discussion boards. Content will be released on a weekly basis and there are no assessments. There are no costs involved in the course, all you will need is internet access.

There will be an introductory ‘Week 0’ commencing on April 2, which will cover etiquette, ethics and online navigation, and then the content of the MOOC will commence on April 13 for 6 weeks. On completion, participants will receive a certificate of participation.

If you would like to participate, you can register your interest by going to https://openeducation.blackboard.com/mooc-catalog/courseDetails/view?course_id=_192_1

If parents would like to do this program at school, as a group activity, please contact Jo. This could be a terrific opportunity for parents and friends to study/discuss together, and make new friends and contacts.

Jo
Secondary Education Support Coordinator

Prep & Puppets - Don’t Move!

Last Tuesday the Preps saw a puppet show put on by John from the ‘Don’t Move!’ puppet theatre. It was aptly named as the children were riveted by the show and thoroughly enjoyed the 3 animal stories.

Sammy the Seal and his friends, worked on their friendships, including how to respond to someone being grumpy like the crab. The fish proved to be very cheeky… sneezing all over the children!

The animals in ‘Uncle John’s Farm’ had a problem to solve: the sheep oinked, and the cow baaed. The children helped the cow get his moo back and stopped the sheep saying quack!

Silly Billy Dog had the children laughing and cheering and singing along in the chorus of his special song.

John later showed the children the workings of the puppets and the theatre, including the hidden water balloon in the fish puppet which James had a turn at operating!

The children were introduced to some stage craft vocabulary as he explained how the lighting, scenery and sound equipment all worked, and how the whole theatre folded up and rolled away!

He inspired the children to make their own puppet theatres and puppets – all from recycled materials found at home. Some children have already experimented with making their own puppets and theatres at home.

The session ended with time for questions, and the children were obviously very curious about the whole process.

The children had a wonderful time, and their imaginations have been fueled to create their own puppet shows. A great activity coming into the holidays.

Jan
Prep Coordinator/Teacher

Soup of the Day

In the last week of Term 1, Preps were learning about caring for the wonderful bodies that God gave us through healthy eating. The children brought in a vegetable from home or picked some veggies from our school veggie patch to make soup. They carefully chopped the veggies, putting the scraps into the compost bins. We added rice and some stock and by lunchtime our yummy soup was ready.

Many of the Preps commented on how delicious and yummy it was, coming back for seconds. Afterwards they responsibly rinsed out their cups and spoons. I wonder if a few budding chefs might be making veggie soup over the holidays?

Rebekah
Prep Teacher
The Parade of the Animals

There was loads of excitement, creativity and colour in Junior Primary on Wednesday as the students celebrated their term’s learning with an Amazing Animals Dress Up Day. Students dressed up as lions, tigers, rabbits, cats, monkeys, meerkats and a myriad of other animals. Parents enjoyed a fantastic animal parade as students showed off their costumes. The Junior Primary students then shared with the audience some of the interesting facts and knowledge that they have learned about animals this term. The parade finished with the whole of Junior Primary joining together to sing ‘The Old Black Crow.’ Thanks to all the families who came along to share with the Junior Primary students in this fun event.

Kaye
JP Teacher & Cluster Leader

JP Animal Descriptions

Tasmanian Devil
The Tasmanian Devil is very fierce. They live in Tasmania. They are hard to find because they camouflage. Tasmanian Devils can bite and they have very sharp fangs. They live in caves.

River

Red Panda
The red panda has fur and is a mammal. The red panda’s habitat is a golden bamboo forest and it is a herbivore. Herbivores eat plants.

Micah

Snow Tiger
A tiger is a mammal with soft fur. It can be found in the zoo, forest and jungle. It is a carnivore because it only eats meat. The tiger is also very fast. A tiger is striped all over. A tiger has black and white or black and red or black and orange stripes.

Bella

Grey-headed Flying Fox
The grey-headed flying fox is an endangered bat. It is also the largest bat. Length: 28cm. Wingspan: 1.3m. Its habitat is mangroves. It eats fruit and blossoms. It is small, cute and furry. It has a grey body and head and orange neck. It is the only flying mammal. It is a herbivore.

Jenson

My animal is a red panda. It is a mammal. It has a red and black tail and short reddy-brown fur.

Amelia

My animal is a crocodile. It is a reptile. It has scales, four legs, and sharp teeth. Crocodiles live in nearby creeks. Snap!

Kip

My animal is a lion. Its habitat is the wild African savannah. Some lions have hairy manes that are brown or orange.

Caleb

JP comments on JP Animal Dress Up Day
‘Awesome!’

Seth

‘The best day in the whole entire world!’

Caitlyn

‘Great!’

Melody

‘One of the best days of my life!’

Noah
Market Fun

When you combine 70ish students with the Queen Victoria Market, you may be worried about what might eventuate. When you add a term's worth of learning about food and $5 each to buy a balanced lunch to this mix, you end up with a thoroughly enjoyable and very educationally worthwhile excursion. In groups of four students and a parent helper or two, students were able to explore the Markets and purchase their own lunch. The market is an explosion of the senses. There are so many things to look at, hear, taste and smell (especially in the fresh meat and fish area!) that it is bound to cause a reaction!

Derek
MP Teacher

March Working Bee

What a great morning it was to come to a working bee. The morning was crisp with a beautiful sky. It is always great to meet new people at working bees and catch up with others.

We pulled a cupboard and piping out of the music room, painted a wall, then headed up to the theatrette for the major task of the day: pulling up the inside theatrette steps that had been affected by water over the years and had started to rot underneath the carpet.

We also washed and cleaned all the buses, mulched gardens and did lots of pruning around the school. Pits were cleaned and we unloaded a truck load of timber, cut wire up and soldered alligator clips onto them for an upcoming Senior Primary project and other little bits and pieces. It was a great day and everyone worked so hard to finish their jobs. Steve and I really appreciate the effort everyone puts in at working bees - it helps so much to keep the school looking great.

Thanks again for all your hard work.

Pete & Steve

Queen Victoria Market

Sight: The look of the meat section made me feel nauseous.

Smell: The cheese in the market made me feel like I was going to throw-up. The smell was awful.

Sound: The sound of the people was loud. You had to almost yell. It made me feel dizzy.

Hannah

I smelt meat so I put my hat over my nose. I smelt lots of smells that I liked. I smelt a lolly that smelt really good. If I could go on this excursion again I would bring some of my own money.

Noah

When I went to the market I saw wood carvings, belts, olives, bread, cheese, fruit and vegetables, and a whole lot of other types of food. Plus T-shirts, glass things, puppets and plants. It made me feel like I wanted to buy everything there. One thing about the excursion that I would like to do again was playing on the playground because it was really fun.

Jackson
### 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.

### Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2015 Term 1 Week 8: 23 Mar - 29 Mar</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 27 March</td>
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<td>Last Day Term 1</td>
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<td>2015 Term 2 Week 1: 13 April - 19 April</td>
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<td>Mon 13 April</td>
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<td>First Day Term 2</td>
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<td>Welcome back Morning Tea Staffroom 9am</td>
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<td>Thur 16 April</td>
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<td>SP Ancient Times Day</td>
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<td>2015 Term 2 Week 2: 20 April - 26 April</td>
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<td>Tues 21 April</td>
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<td>Whole School Assembly 10am preceded by Parent Morning Tea 9am</td>
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<td>Wed 22 April</td>
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<td>Year 5 Connect Morning Tea Staffroom 9am</td>
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<td>Wed 22 - Fri 24 April</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5 Camp</td>
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<td>Thur 23 April</td>
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<td>Year 12 Parent Supper 7.30pm</td>
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<td>Fri 24 April</td>
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<td>Immunisations Year 7 and Year 10</td>
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<td>2015 Term 2 Week 3: 27 April - 3 May</td>
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<td>Tues 28 April</td>
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<td>Year 7 Interschool Soccer</td>
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<td>Wed 29 April</td>
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<td>Year 6 Connect Morning Tea Staffroom 9am</td>
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<td>Wed 29 - Fri 1 May</td>
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<td>Year 6 Camp</td>
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<td>Thur 30 April</td>
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<td>Year 11 and 12 Soccer</td>
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<td>Sat 2 May</td>
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<td>Working Bee with Morning Tea 8am-1pm</td>
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<td>2015 Term 2 Week 3: 27 April - 3 May</td>
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<td>Wed 6 May</td>
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<td>Primary Cross Country</td>
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<td>JP Connect Morning Tea Staffroom 9am</td>
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<td>Thur 7 May</td>
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<td>Year 8 Interschool Soccer</td>
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<td>Fri 8 May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mother’s Day Stall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 9 May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open Day 10am–1pm</td>
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### LOST t-shirt

Missing: Katy Perry purple/blue tie dye t-shirt
Please hand to the Office if found

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#### The Big Sprout Fest and Community Market

| Adams Farms, 681 Maroondah Hwy Coldstream, Sunday 12 April, 10am-3pm. Free entry, $2 parking donated to CFA. Includes market stalls, tractor rides, farm tours, petting zoo, face painting, hot air balloon ride and the reveal of the ‘Big Sprout’. |

#### Adventure Kids Festival

| Falls Creek April 4–5. The Adventure Kids Festival offers children, and their parents, the opportunity to experience outdoor adventure activities in a controlled environment. Activities include: trail running, mountain biking, orienteering, bushcraft, geocaching, fly fishing, junior rangers program and more. $50 per child for 1 day entry or $80 per child for 2 days entry. Free taster event Friday April 3, 1-4pm. Bookings www.adventurekids.com.au/book-falls-creek |

#### April Holiday Program

| At Ferntree Gully Community Arts Centre and Library. Includes pottery, Easter craft and storytimes. Bookings 9758 9180, 9800 6455 or www.yourlibrary.com.au |

#### Easter Holiday Activities

| There are plenty of Easter holiday activities to be found at visityarraranges.com.au or ach.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Whats_On/School_Holiday_Program. These include activities at Hegend Maze, Yarra Valley Chocolaterie and Ice Creamery, Sky High Mount Dandenong, Puffing Billy and more. |

#### Family Fun Day

| Chirnside Park Country Club Family Fun Day, Friday April 3, 10am-4pm, free entry. For the Royal Children’s Hospital Good Friday Appeal. Market, Auction, Sausage Sizzle, Sporting Competitions, Jumping Castle, Face Painting, Live Entertainment and more. 68 Kingswood Drive, Chirnside Park |

#### Movie Days

| Discovery Church, 89 Monbulk Rd Mount Evelyn, will be running two movie days during the upcoming school holidays: ‘How To Train Your Dragon 2’ will be showing on Wednesday April 1, 10:30am. ‘Big Hero 6’ will be showing on Wednesday April 8, 10:30am. Entry is by a gold coin donation. Sausage sizzle and lollies for sale. Information 9736 2323. |

#### Dehydrator for Sale

| Ultimate Food Dehydrator. 10 trays, 3 additional sheets for fruit leathers, thermostat etc. Works well with fruits, fruit leather, herbs, vegies and beef jerky etc. $100. jmiller@mecs.vic.edu.au |

#### Car for Sale

| 2013 Mazda 3 Neo 7. 7500 kms (yes, only that many!), manual, excellent condition, under warranty, 12 months rego, $17 900 ono. Contact jmiller@mecs.vic.edu.au |

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### Notices sent home this week and on Website

- SP Hoodie Party
- Year 12 Hoodie Notice
- JP, MP, SP Indonesian Program Update

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**Newsletter deadline is 11am Tuesday on published week.**

Email articles (images attached as jpg) to the Newsletter Office