Celebrating Ancient Times

Jayden & Isaac getting into the spirit of the past
Lest we Forget

I love the pageantry and ritual of Anzac Day. As a child, my siblings and I were glued to the television as we watched the Anzac Day March from start to finish. This was probably due to the fact that my father was a musician in one of the military bands and if we watched closely enough we would catch glimpses of him as the band accompanied marchers along the parade route. However, as I got older, my interest in ‘war history’ has seen me visit the D-Day beaches of France, the concentration camps of Poland and Germany and the WWI battle fields of Verdun and Ypres. I have a deep interest and respect for the men and women who have experienced and lived through the horrors of war.

So I have watched with interest, the resurgence in our civic pride when it comes to Anzac Day. The 100th celebrations of the Gallipoli landings this year has brought an even greater sense of occasion and solemnity to the whole day. It has become the nation’s religion. The Webster Dictionary defines religion as “a cause, principle, system of tenets held with ardour, devotion, conscientiousness and faith, a value to be held of supreme importance.” In many ways, Anzac Day embodies values of courage, sacrifice and mateship that are supremely important to Australians and conscientiously held and protected in the civic rituals now associated with Anzac Day. The laying of wreaths, the religious liturgies, the early-morning breakfasts, the emblems and banners and even the ‘pilgrimage’ to Anzac Cove in Turkey, all echo or mirror the rituals and practices of religious groups.

In our staff devotions over the last two weeks we have been reflecting on the idea of ‘shaping and transforming culture’. The verses from Romans 12, as paraphrased in The Message have been thought-provoking: “Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God.”

So as Christians, what are we to make of Anzac Day? I think there are three possible options.

Reject

Some Christians would see Anzac Day as verging on idolatry. They would see the renewed interest in the quasi-religious nature of Anzac Day as a sad reflection on the decline of Christian faith in Australia. Some would even argue that it is the sinful glorification of war that needs to be resisted.

Receive

On the other hand, some Christians would see it as a celebration of human virtue over adversity; courage, community and sacrifice all come to the fore and remind us that Godly virtues overcome evil. The prevalence of hymns, scripture readings and prayers offer an opportunity for this civic ritual to take on religious meaning.

Redeem

However, I believe we can ‘redeem’ Anzac Day and use it for God’s purposes. As we fix our attention on God, perhaps we can see how Anzac Day can be used to point to the truths of the Kingdom and how Christ is the complete answer to our culture’s need for a sacrificing hero.

The acts of courage and sacrifice of thousands of people is not mere mythology, but a true fact. As a result we should show respect, honour and gratitude. But perhaps in recognising and celebrating that “greater love has no one than this: that he lay down his life for his friends”, we can point to the ultimate sacrifice in Christ. Anzac Day provides the opportunity to not only say ‘lest we forget’ to our fallen soldiers, but more importantly, let’s not forget the one who, through His ultimate sacrifice, will bring lasting peace and harmony to this world.

As with all cultural practices, it is the job of Christians to applaud what is true, identify the limitations of what is, and see how all things come to completion and redemption in Christ.

It is not in lauding the sacrifice of others that we will find our identity as individuals, or as a nation. It will only be in acknowledging the ultimate sacrifice of Christ, the stumbling block of the ‘wise’, that we will discover our true identity as citizens of God’s Kingdom.

Lest we forget!

Narelle

MECS Principal
**SKETCHER’S SCOOP**

**After School Care**
We are now pleased to offer this service to MECS families. We started last week with a handful of primary students and we are confident that this number will grow as more families avail themselves of the opportunity to have their children well cared for after school. Afternoon tea, activities and space to complete homework is all part of the routine. If you want to make a booking, please do so through the link on our website.

**Open Day**
What can you do to help with Open Day? Whilst we appreciate the efforts of volunteers on the day, the most important job that our present families do is tell their family and friends what a great place MECS is. By far the most important ingredient in future enrolments is personal recommendation! It is through your personal networks that MECS is promoted and endorsed. So, please let ‘your’ people know about our Open Day on May 9. You may even like to personally bring them along and show them around the school yourself!

**Whole School Assembly**
Our whole school assemblies are now becoming quite an event! A great number of parents and grandparents come along as together we celebrate the exciting learning that goes on here every day. On Tuesday the Primary section led us in praise and celebration. How exciting to be greeted in Indonesian and have the JPs lead us in singing? Think 1 and Think 2, along with the SP students got us thinking about our thinking! It was also important to stop and reflect on the significance of Anzac Day. Thanks to our Senior School musicians who led us in a time of community singing and Di and her team for organising a great assembly. You can see some pictures on page 5. We look forward to next term when the Middle School will lead us!

**ReConnect**
In place of our normal newsletter last week you would have received ReConnect. This publication happens twice a year and is an opportunity for us to ‘reconnect’ with our history and also ‘reconnect’ with many past students and staff who receive this special newsletter. Thanks to Nicole, our Community Relations Officer, who gathers all the news and brings this together. It is another example of the richness and diversity of this school community which extends beyond our current families.

**SP Camps**
This week we have the first of our camps for the term. The Senior Primary students are heading off in different groups over two weeks to learn more about trees and forests. They will be based at Camp Jungai in Thornton. We are thankful that we have the opportunity to support the learning of our classrooms, by getting out into God’s world and seeing things first-hand. Thanks to all the teachers and parents who make this experience possible.

**FOCUS On... Learning Assistants**
Integration aides, support staff, teacher’s aides... no doubt you have come across a plethora of titles before today, and may even be able to include a few more! Just to add another perspective, here at MECS, staff undertaking this supportive role are called Learning Assistants, or LAs. There are 15 Learning Assistants working throughout the Primary, Middle and Senior sections of the school. Some of the roles that LAs undertake are:

- Assisting students on a 1 on 1 basis in a specific area of their learning
- Assisting teachers and students within a whole class setting, particularly in the implementation of numeracy and literacy programs
- Providing practical support for students during exam or assessment times
- Facilitating the Bridges to Literacy program which follows a structured format while focussing on addressing the unique literacy learning needs of individual students
- Group drumming
- Providing opportunities for a designated group of students to engage in quiet play activities and/or active games during lunchtime
- Facilitating small recreational groups during lunchtime including board games, arts and crafts and chess
- Cookery with individual or small groups of students
- Yard duties, school camps and excursion help

Learning Assistants are an integral part of the staff team who are committed to fulfilling the MECS vision of ‘Seeking the Kingdom of God in education.’ What does that mean and what does it look like in action? As Learning Assistants undertake their roles and responsibilities as part of a wider staff group, this –

**Feels like:** Hopefully, students feel nurtured, supported, empowered and valued in their academic and social learning. An important aspect of working as a Learning Assistant within MECS is the feeling of being part of a community of educators working together. I am thankful for the sense of community, belonging and purpose that I can experience in my role as a Learning Assistant.

**Steph**
Learning Assistant
Music Notes

Instrumental Music News

This term we will be starting our series of recitals for musicians. The first will be for students with surnames A-D, on Wednesday May 27 at 7pm in the Theatrette. We will also be seeing some ensembles perform along with a Senior School band and a classical guitar duet.

Music theory classes for instrumental students have continued this year. Classes are on Wednesdays during recess in the Middle School music room.

If you would like to join or rejoin us, please talk to your instrumental teacher or email me on bhook@mecs.vic.edu.au.

We currently have vacancies for flute, vocal, piano, guitar, drums and violin lessons. Enrolment forms are available from the office. If you would like further information please email me or call me.

Brett
Instrumental Music Coordinator

MECS Notes

ANZAC Day Local Services
Saturday April 25

Croydon RSL: 5.45am Dawn service at the Croydon War Memorial, Kent Avenue/Croydon Road (please assemble at 5.30am). Breakfast at RSL clubrooms afterwards.

Lilydale RSL: 5.45am Dawn service at the Lilydale Cenotaph (please assemble at 5.30am). Refreshments at Lilydale RSL in Anderson Street afterwards.

Mount Evelyn RSL: 5.45am Dawn service at Mount Evelyn War Memorial Park, corner Wray Crescent and Birmingham Road, followed by a march to the RSL clubrooms.

Mooroolbark Lions Club: 12 noon
Commemorative Service at Hookey Park on Charles Street.

Healesville RSL: 5.45am Dawn service at Healesville RSL. 10am Commemorative March assembling at Church Street from 9.30am, followed by a Service at the Healesville Memorial Hall.

Upper Yarra RSL: 5.45am Dawn service at the Yarra Junction Cenotaph, followed by breakfast at Upper Yarra RSL. 10am Commemorative March, assembling at the Commonwealth Bank building in Main Street, Yarra Junction.

Wandin Rotary Club: 8.30am
Commemorative Service at Wandin Cenotaph, Corner Hunter and Beenak Roads, Wandin Yallock.

Warburton RSL: 10am
Commemorative Parade, assembling at the Warburton RSL. 10.45 service at the Cenotaph on Main Street.

Friends of MECS

Open Day – Saturday 9 May 10am-1pm

If you have family or friends who are interested in Christian education, you are most welcome to take them on a personal tour on Open Day or encourage them to come along. We have quite a few activities happening around the school on the day.

We would appreciate some parents to help with:

• Face painting
• Making balloon animals
• Serving Devonshire Tea
• Supervising jumping castles or cup cake decorating
• Assisting with classroom activities
• Assisting with the Sausage Sizzle
• Setting up between 8am-10am
• Packing up between 12.30-1.30pm

If you are available to help us (even for an hour), we would really appreciate it. Please phone Nicole, or email.

Nicole
Entertainment Book

The new Entertainment Book will be launched this week. Next week a book will be on display in the main office for you to look through. Either drop your order form (sent home last term) into the office or order online at: www.entbook.com.au/193f695 and ask for pick up and it will be sent home with your child. If you would like another order form for family or friends collect one from the office. Contact Evelyn.

Dollarmite Banking

Just a reminder that banking day is Wednesday. Place your bank books in the grey satchels in the classroom. If your child has 10 tokens remember to get them to put them in for their reward.

Canteen News

Introducing Online Ordering

Our alternative ordering system for the canteen is now up and running.

This online ordering system is the preferred method for ordering at MECS.

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: Log on 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

After School Care at MECS

After school care at MECS has now started. The program includes a daily devotion, group games and activities, a varied healthy afternoon tea, planned crafts, games and activities and free playtime 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.

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.
MECS Notes

Congratulations Josh

It has just come to my attention that Joshua (class of '09) has been accepted into a PhD program at La Trobe University in Bundoora. He completed his Honours degree in Statistics at La Trobe University in 2014, and his honours dissertation was titled "An Exploration of Problems with Missing Data in Randomised Controlled Trials". The title of his doctoral project is: "Robust dimension reduction methods" and will be undertaken in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics under the supervision of Dr Luke P. Joshua, who married fellow MECS student Beth in 2010 will be the first MECS student to undertake doctoral studies in mathematics. He joins Jared also from the class of '09 in undertaking doctoral studies. We are thrilled with this news and offer Joshua our warmest congratulations.

Dr Roger F
VCE Coordinator

Whole School Assembly

The Whole School Assembly on Tuesday was led by the Primary section, who did an excellent job. It was a time of praise and celebration as well as a chance to see some of what has been happening in the Primary School. We learned a bit about the Indonesian classes and were greeted in Indonesian. The JPs led us in singing after an excellent drum performance by our Primary Students. Think 1 and Think 2 (aka Ben and Ali) with the help of some of our SP students explained what the Primary students have been learning about growth mindsets and the importance of being willing to try new or hard things, knowing you will improve with practice, rather than thinking it is all too hard and you can’t do it. To quote the posters they displayed, ‘Mindset is about how you think about things when you’re faced with a challenge’. We also stopped to consider the importance of ANZAC day and to pray for peace in the world. Our Senior School students did an excellent job of leading us in a time of community singing.

Thank you to all involved for leading us in an informative, well-run and uplifting event.

Heather
Newsletter Editor
SP Ancient Times Day

If you were around MECS last Thursday you may have noticed a few visitors from the past: Roman soldiers, Cleopatra, some mummies, pharaohs, slaves and even Poseidon – Greek god of the sea. There were some beautiful goddesses, a few Caesars, other emperors, women and girls, and men and boys from Ancient Rome, Ancient Greece and also some tomb robbers from Ancient Egypt and even the first female actor in Ancient Greece.

Senior primary Ancient Times day is always a highlight. The students ‘become’ a character (real or imagined) from Ancient Rome, Ancient Egypt or Ancient Greece. They give their character an appropriate name and research what everyday life would have been like for their character, then create a story around them that would lead to them being invited onto a BCE TV chat show (yes, we know there was no TV then, but it’s a bit of fun and imagination) and then write an interview script for their character’s appearance on the chat show. The script needs to be realistic and reflect what the student has learnt about their chosen character’s life and civilisation.

The class teacher plays the host of the show and, one by one, the students act out their character and read from their script in front of the rest of the class.

Ancient Times day was a day of fun, imagination and a great chance for the students to show what they have learnt in a different and creative way. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all and showed that we have very creative and clever students.

Thanks to the parents for supporting us through helping your child organise their costumes – they looked fantastic and we very much appreciate your support.

Mel
SP Teacher
SP Ancient Times Day

Emma with Michelle

Matthew & Caleb

Mel with Kai

Caleb & Evan

Isaiah

Ben with James

Samuel & Daniel

Isaac, Nathaniel, Rian, Kai, Jayden, Thomas & Matt

Kailem & Matthew

Emma with Michelle
Calendar

2015 Term 2 Week 2: 20 April - 26 April

**Wed 22 - Fri 24 April**
- Year 5 Camp
- Year 6 Connect Morning Tea 9am Staffroom

**Thur 23 April**
- Year 12 Parent Supper 7.30pm
- Immunisations Year 7 and Year 10

**Fri 24 April**
- Year 6 Camp
- Year 6 Connect Morning Tea 9am Staffroom

**Sat 25 April**
- Tharle 0487 647 619, or email tharle@student.unimelb.edu.au

2015 Term 2 Week 3: 27 April - 3 May

**Tues 28 April**
- Prep Parent Night 6.30pm
- Year 7 Interschool Soccer

**Wed 29 April**
- Primary Cross Country
- Year 6 Camp

**Thur 30 April**
- Prep Connect Morning Tea 9am Staffroom
- Year 6 Interschool Soccer

**Sat 2 May**
- Working Bee including Morning Tea 8am-1pm

2015 Term 2 Week 4: 4 May - 10 May

**Wed 6 May**
- Year 8 Inspiring Girls Camp
- Year 8 Man Camp

**Thur 7 May**
- Year 8 Interschool Soccer

**Fri 8 May**
- Year 9 Interschool Soccer
- Mother's Day Stall

**Sat 9 May**
- Open Day 10am-1pm

2015 Term 2 Week 5: 11 May - 17 May

**Tues 12 - Thur 14 May**
- NAPLAN

**Tues 12 - Fri 15 May**
- Year 8 Interschool Soccer

**Wed 13 May**
- Prep Connect Morning Tea 9am Staffroom
- Year 11 and 12 Interschool Soccer

**Thu 14 May**
- Year 12 Mentor Supper

**Fri 15 May**
- Koalas & Possums Photo Day

**Sat 16 May**
- Prep Connect Morning Tea 9am Staffroom
- Year 8 Man Camp

**Sun 17 May**
- Year 8 Inspiring Girls Camp

Lost Property

Jessica in Year 9 has lost her Maths textbook and Maths binder books. They have been missing since late in Term 1. If anyone finds them can they please return them to Jess or the School Office. Thank you.

MECS COMMUNITY NOTICES

**‘Days for Girls’ Fundraiser**
Join us for a wander around market stalls for Mother’s Day gifts, followed by a fun tea-blending afternoon complete with Devonshire Tea and at the same time raise money to support ‘Days For Girls’ in Timor-Leste.

- Sunday May 3, 2pm, Maroondah Federation Estate, 32 Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood 9876 0222.

**Watch What Matters**
Instal-Life is a local provider of family friendly, quality Christian TV content delivered via Satellite. We are celebrating 10 years of service to Australia and New Zealand and are offering the MECS community a high definition set top box and satellite dish installation at a special rate. You will also receive a collection of Christ-centred resources valued at over $1000 for free! Call 1300 543 388 and quote the code MECS to receive this offer. Derek Fong, MECS parent.

**Apple Man**
The next apple delivery will be on Friday April 24. We have Golden Delicious, Pink Ladies, Granny Smith and Fujis available. Each 5-6kg bag costs $10, and will be delivered to the office at around lunch time. Please hand your orders to the office by 12pm Thursday April 23, and ensure you have your name and order written on the front of the envelope, with the correct money enclosed.

**VCE Biology & PE Tutoring**
It’s not too late to maximise your chances of VCE success! Affordable and reliable tutoring may give you that extra edge required to achieve your goals. As a passionate and enthusiastic 2014 MECS graduate I can assist you in all things Biology and Physical Education, with 46 and 50 study scores in each respectively.

For more information contact Lauren Tharle 0487 647 619, or email ltharle@student.unimelb.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

**Unit in Lilydale**
Fully furnished two bedroom unit available to rent in Lilydale from 16 May 2015 onwards. Air-con, lockable garage, gas stove, gas heating, recently painted. $280 pw. Contact Stuart 0409 511 388 or stuart.little@bigpond.com.

**Tuning in to Teens**
*Tuning in to Teens* is a six-week program to equip parents with the skills of emotional coaching, listening and responding to the emotional experience of their child. Material based on research by Melbourne University. The program will cover:
- Setting out to raise emotionally intelligent children
- Naming emotions
- Understanding your child’s emotional experience
- Self-care, problem solving and coaching fears and worries
- Emotion coaching your child’s anger
- Emotionally intelligent parenting now and in the future.

Tuesday 28 April at 7.15pm for 6 weeks, including Tuesday 12 May, at Croydon Hills Counselling Centre, 2-4 Bemboka Rd Croydon Hills. Cost $120.

Contact Coleen 0412 129 842 or email: engaginglifeconsulting@gmail.com www.livinglife.net.au. In conjunction with Croydon Hills Baptist Church.

**Players Wanted**
Montrose Vikings Basketball Club is recruiting. Games for boys are held on Saturdays, and girls play on Tuesday or Wednesday afternoons. Teams train once a week.

Please contact Hayley on 0410 001 982 or hayleysiegersma@gmail.com.

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**Open Day**

**Sat May 9**
10am to 1pm

**11 York Rd Mount Evelyn**
Entry Gate 1, 14 Hawkins Road
Melbourne 3130
mecs.vic.edu.au

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