Primary Cross Country

Captain Caring aka Caleb with Prep Judah. Captain Caring helped the Preps by leading them around the course.
**Contemporary or Traditional?**

Stereotypes are dangerous things. While they can make it easier to talk about certain issues, they tend to make us forget that life is more complicated than the stereotypes suggest. In this editorial I’m going to enter dangerous territory because I’m going to use stereotypes to draw attention to the nature of families. I am indebted to Tim Caughey from Endeavour Consulting for these stereotypes and the associated ideas as he presented them to the Board earlier this year.

The table below captures some ideas about two different family types (stereotypes).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contemporary Families</th>
<th>Traditional Families</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First child started school from say 2000 onward</td>
<td>First child started at school before 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dual income</td>
<td>Often single income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single and blended families</td>
<td>Nuclear family unit intact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Question authority</td>
<td>Accepts and supports authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consumers of services</td>
<td>Committed and involved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-cultural</td>
<td>Supports school discipline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children dictate what they want</td>
<td>Mum involved in daily school activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>Mum and Dad attend special school events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well-informed</td>
<td>Mum in contact with other mums and teachers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participate in things of personal interest</td>
<td>Family life worked around school life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scarcity of time</td>
<td>Teachers held in high regard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disengage quickly from topics that do not interest</td>
<td>Mum brings kids to school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefer images to words</td>
<td>Mum reads all school literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live with high stress levels</td>
<td>Follows school calendar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expect instant solutions</td>
<td>Commits time and finances to school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expect value for money</td>
<td>If Christian, committed to church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If Christian, may be involved in non-traditional forms of church</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note that the items in the two columns do not necessarily line up in contrasting pairs.

As both we and you understand family dynamics we will have a more effective relationship.

Dr Gerry B
Administration Manager

The table below captures some ideas about two different family types (stereotypes).

Why talk about this? It isn’t because I want to tell you that one family type is better than the other. And it isn’t because I want you to change your family style. Though it could be true to say that both traditional and contemporary families need to be transformed by the gospel of the Kingdom of God.

This is worth delving into because by thinking about these stereotypes the school may be able to better partner with you. As both we and you understand family dynamics we will have a more effective relationship.

For the school, we need to realise that contemporary families usually volunteer less, don’t like to attend evening meetings, tend not to read written notes that are sent home, prefer to get information over the phone, may expect the school to do more disciplining, could value academics over other aspects of learning, and are more willing to pay for service rather than give. If these things are true then we must take account of them in our partnership with you.

I’m also writing about this because it is relevant to our school Association – the Association for Christian Education Mount Evelyn Inc. On 28 May we have our AGM for the Association (I hope we’ve made it clear that parents in the school community who are not members are very welcome to come along to the AGM.) Apart from reporting on business at the AGM, there will be an interactive session in which the Board will be engaging us to think and talk about how the Association can remain healthy. The characteristics of contemporary and traditional families are of great significance to this discussion.

Association health is critical to the wellbeing of the school; after all, the Association is the legal and moral owner of the school and the guardian of the vision. In fact the nature of families today in our society must be factored in to the way we expect you as members of the school community to participate in the Association. Come along on 28 May and join the discussion.

In the meantime, take a moment to reflect on your family style and how it affects your part in our wonderful MECS community. As you reflect remember this from Romans 12:2

*The Message, “… Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.”*

Dr Gerry B
Administration Manager
SKETCHER’S

AGM

You will see in this newsletter that we are already starting to advertise our AGM which is coming up on Thursday 28 May. This is a great opportunity for Association members to gather together to hear what is happening in our school. The 2014 Annual Report will be presented which gives a great overview of not only our financial situation, but also other significant highlights and challenges of the past year. If you are not an Association member, this evening is a great introduction to why our Association is so important to the life and governance of the school. Why not come along and find out more?

Year 12 Mentor Supper

Tonight our Year 12s will come together to share supper with their mentors. This evening provides an opportunity to touch-base about how they are going, what’s working and what’s not in regard to their studies and what can be put in place for our Year 12s to continue on with the demands of this year. Our mentoring program provides another ‘voice’, apart from teachers and parents, that can speak into the lives of our young people and so we are grateful to those friends and family members who take on this role. It’s good for our Year 12s to know that they are surrounded by the love, prayers and support of so many people. Thanks to Sharon, our Year 12 Coordinator, for her faithful service and co-ordination of this program.

Year 8 Camps

This week our Year 8 students have braved the cold conditions to have their own gender-specific camps. The boys have been doing it really tough on their ‘Man Camp’, sleeping in tents and keeping warm by the side of a camp fire. The girls have had a bit more luxury on their Inspiring Girls camp. Both experiences are designed to speak into the lives of young people about specific issues and challenges around having a healthy self-esteem, making positive choices and ‘growing-up’ well.

Community Notices

On the back of our newsletter each week, we include a range of notices about events, services and products for sale! Many schools don’t bother with this sort of information as it doesn’t directly impact them. I’d like to think this is just another way that we encourage community life to flourish here at MECS. In all sorts of ways we have links with our broader community and are concerned about issues beyond our school gates. It’s good to know how we can be further involved in such initiatives and access a range of helpful services. You might also pick yourself up a bargain!

FOCUS On... Competition

Why is competition important?

Romans 5:3b-4

“...because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.”

Competition provides a space for students to grow in areas of perseverance, resilience and their ability to work with others.

We all know that life goes through cycles of good times and hard times. In order to work through and survive the hard times of life we need to have some level of resilience and perseverance.

For our students, being involved in competition can bring up feelings of anxiety, stress and frustration, but also achievement and completion.

What a great opportunity to help our students learn some strategies to deal with these feelings and emotions in a safe and controlled environment. Hopefully by learning how to handle these emotions in the area of sporting competition, they will carry those tools and life lessons with them into adulthood.

Ultimately, competition grows character and shows character. It’s when we are put into a tense environment that we show who we really are and I use these times to help teach the students appropriate ways to handle their emotions, thoughts and actions in this environment.

At MECS, students are involved in competition during PE classes, tribal sports afternoons and interschool sporting events, as well as cross country and athletics days.

My overall focus in teaching PE is sportsmanship. This is an excellent way to reflect Christ in the way we compete with and against others by showing that people matter more than winning. I already see a lot of sportsmanship being displayed every week at MECS and I hope to see more and more of it as time goes on.

Competition is an excellent and necessary training ground for some essential life skills to be learned and hopefully passed on to others.

Jason

Primary PE Teacher

May Board Report

At the May board meeting, the Board received the regular annual report on Students which provided a comprehensive update across all areas of the school in relation to this portfolio. An important part of any portfolio report is the documentation that the school’s operations are compliant with the board’s policies. Both of the Assistant Principals attended the meeting to provide the Board with an update from both the Primary and Secondary school. Notes from the Ranges TEC Strategic Review Day held in April were reviewed. An additional meeting has been scheduled in June to provide sufficient time to discuss the recommendations and determine the strategic direction to be taken. Other items covered at this month’s meeting included, an updated financial snapshot that provided an important view of the schools finances. It was noted that income is expected to be slightly down on budget due to reduced government funding and student numbers marginally below expected. An update on ICT Teaching and Learning was provided. An ICT master plan will be produced in the future to cover this area.

Ian

Board Chair
**MUSIC Notes**

**Vocal Lesson Vacancies**

Jodie Piper is back from maternity leave & has vocal lesson vacancies available. You can pick up an information booklet at the office if you wish to enrol.

**Jodie**  
**Music Teacher**

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**MECS Notes**

**A fond farewell to Bec and a warm welcome to Alison**

This week we farewell Bec who is leaving us for Maternity Leave. Bec has been a much loved Prep teacher at MECS and will be greatly missed. We wish Bec all the best for the birth of her baby. Staff and students look forward to meeting the baby in the near future. The Primary team met for a beautiful high tea baby shower on Monday afternoon in honour of Bec and Ben. We gave them our favourite picture story books as an introduction for bubs to the world of books and reading.

![Image of a group of children and teachers at a high tea baby shower]

As we farewell Bec we also welcome Alison. Alison has joined us after a couple of years teaching nursery (Early Years) and travelling in the UK. Alison brings a wealth of experience as a Prep teacher both in Australia locally and overseas. We are very blessed to have Alison join the Primary team. We pray God’s blessing on Alison as she starts her journey at MECS.

**Diane**  
**Assistant Principal - Primary**

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**Friends of MECS**

**Cook Off day**

Our Community freezer is bare, and, at this time of year we all know how wonderful it feels to receive a meal if we are not well.

How can I help you might be asking? Here are a few ways:

- Volunteer on the day to chop, prepare and cook
- Donate groceries
- Donate money to help cover the costs of the fresh ingredients that need to be purchased. This can be cash in an envelope given at the office marked for ‘cook-off day’ or it can be deposited directly into the school account - please put ‘cook-off day’ in the description.


Please contact me if you can help in any of these ways.

If you can donate groceries we need the following items by **Tuesday 19 May** -

- 30 onions
- 1kg sultanas
- 20 x zucchini
- curry powder
- 8kg carrots
- 6 litres milk
- 5kg sweet potato
- 2kg butter
- parsley
- 10 x pineapple
- 10kg mince
- 10 x tuna can large
- 1kg bacon pieces
- 3pkts x breadcrumbs
- 2 x minced garlic
- salt/pepper
- 5 dozen eggs
- 2 litres oil
- 5 x pasta sauce
- 5 x tomato paste
- Italian herbs
- 4kg grated cheese
- 4kg SR flour
- 5 x cannellini beans
- dijon mustard
- 2kg green beans
- 2kg frozen peas
- 2kg frozen corn
- chicken stock
- 3kg plain flour

Please leave donations at the main office.

Thank you!

**Nicole**  
**Community Relations Officer**

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**Entertainment Book**

The Entertainment Books have arrived! There is a sample book in the main office for you to look through. Some of the things you could save money on include:

- Woolworths Wish Cards – save 5% on your groceries/petrol all year
- Big W gift cards – save instore 5% all year
- Reading Cinema tickets – $11 all year
- Dinner vouchers for many local and not so local restaurants
- Coffee vouchers and much more.

You can either purchase a book or a digital membership which you can have on your phone everywhere you go.

To order please fill in the flyer (available in the office) or go online to: [www.entbook.com.au](http://www.entbook.com.au/193f695).

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**Mother’s Day Stall**

Last Friday we held our second Fair Trade Mother’s Day stall, and once again it proved to be very popular! We hope all our Mums had a wonderful day, whatever it looked like, and were spoilt by your kids and enjoyed the fair trade gifts. We raised $2184, it is good to know that this money is all invested back into communities overseas and local companies.

We also had a stall at the Open Day and sold more stock.

Thank you to you - our parents for supporting this and also to our volunteers who helped run the stalls on the day.

**Nicole**  
**Community Relations Officer**
MECS Open Day

Last Saturday we hosted our annual Open Day and showed MECS to over 80 families. Visitors were taken on tours to see the wonderful displays, and were able to spend time talking to the staff and hearing from Narelle on how we do Christian education at MECS. There were a number of activities set up to give the visitors a feel for what the MECS community is all about including science experiments, cup cake decorating, a jumping castle, face painting, rock climbing, devonshire tea, a sausage sizzle and musicians playing around the school. The day had a lovely warm atmosphere and a real community vibe. A huge thank you to the staff for all their hard work; to the students who came along to perform a musical item, conduct tours or help out with devonshire tea and face painting and to the amazing team of volunteers who helped in many different ways! Thankyou to the families that came and helped out and enjoyed the day as well. Each of you had a positive impact on the day and contributed to its success. We couldn’t run these days without you.

Please pray for the families that came as they consider whether MECS is the right school for their family.

Nicole
Community Relations Officer

Schooling for a trade future

Full time education

Year 10
unique program for hands on learners

Year 11 & 12
Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning

Including Certificate II programs:
- Building & Construction
- Electrotechnology
- Engineering
- Furniture Making
- Horticulture
- Hospitality

Open Campus
Sat 30th May, 2015
1—4pm

AGM
Thursday 28 May
7.00pm - Coffee & Supper
7.30pm - Meeting Start

Association for Christian Education

We will be meeting in the
MECS Main Staffroom
All Welcome

Ann & Craig
Jess & Jaz
Jeremy & Luke
Kasey, Ali & Jade
Katie
Leah
Brianna
Charlotte
Caleb with Rachel
Pete & Steve

9 Hightech Place
Lilydale 3140
Ph. (03) 9738 7100
www.rangestec.vic.edu.au
**Interschool Soccer**

**Year 7**

Year 7 interschool soccer was held on a textbook clear and windy autumn day at Sweeney Reserve in Narre Warren. Our students faced four other teams in a round robin of 12 minute games. MECS students participated enthusiastically and strategised carefully using skills practiced during Wednesday afternoon sport. The draw meant that for the most part our boys and girls were not playing at the same time. This left each team available to cheer for the other, which they did. It was a great day out!

The girls made it to a draw in two of their games, won the third and lost the fourth. This didn’t get them into the finals, though you would not have known it. The girls were positive about their effort, played hard and fair and left the field after their final game with big smiles, ready to cheer on the boys team in the finals.

The boys team won three games and drew one putting them into the finals as the underdogs. Great team work and determination kept the boys in the running and at full-time with scores level the game went into five minute golden goal overtime. With no score the game was decided with a penalty shoot out, five each. Jack, a new student to MECS this year cemented his status by defending all but one goal to give the Year 7 MECS interschool soccer team a very close win.

*Lance*
*Middle School Teacher*

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**Prep Parent Night**

One of the many highlights of being a Prep teacher at MECS is being able to be a part of the Prep and Parents Night. I am sure many parents who have had Prep children go through MECS would agree. It is a lovely time for parents to have one on one time with their Prep child, celebrating their learning so far in Prep, but more importantly, what makes their child unique and special. The Preps opened with some songs for their parents and were excited to sign in Auslan the song ‘Awesome God’ which they did so beautifully. Each Prep child made a book all about themselves that also had a focus on families. As we are learning about communities this term with our topic ‘God gives us people who help us’, we have been focusing on our initial support being our families. The parents and children were engaged in various discussion questions about what makes us special to the person we are with and even looking at the harder questions such as times when we have had to say sorry. We concluded the evening with some yummy supper that the Prep children made and served to their parents before we had a bedtime story. We are looking forward to learning more about the wider communities around us.

*Bec*
*Prep Teacher*

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**Year 8**

What a wonderful day! The Year 8 Soccer teams went on a long, difficult journey (to Mooroolbark) and were the first to arrive at the soccer ground. Our excited team of 13 girls and 14 boys had a chance to warm up before playing their first game. The boys won their first game (1-0) but lost the next (0-1). They improved their play significantly for their third game (3-0) and the pressure was on to win the last game, which they did (1-0). The final was a nail-biting game in which the defence worked beautifully together, and Ethan scored the winning goal.

The girls were also very successful, not just in their 2 wins and 2 draws, but the amazing spirit which led them to the final. The rain came down, and we had a few falls, but Eliza’s goal prevailed. In the end it was a very proud moment to see both of our teams win their finals 1-0. But the scores were not the most impressive thing for Jonny and I; it was the way the students bonded and worked together which was most admirable. Well done, MECS!

*Nicky*
*Middle School Teacher*
The cross country was a great day! God blessed us with great weather and all the students participated so well. I was super proud of how every student ran and encouraged each other. Thanks to the parent helpers and to all the staff for being such a great team!

Tied for first place were Blue (Wirri) tribe and Red (Walya) tribe on 104 points

In second place was White (Warlpa) tribe on 81 points

In third place was Gold (Warlu) tribe on 76 points

Jason
Primary Sports Coordinator

Last week the kinder children celebrated with their Mums for Mother’s Day. The 3 year old children treated their Mums to some beautiful songs and hand made treasures, while the 4 year old children had some tasks to complete together, such as serving them afternoon tea (home made scones yum!), painting a flag to decorate our kinder and making a handprint! The children then heartily sang for their Mums, after which they gave their Mums some home made pressies. The children’s responses to an interview about their Mums was a highlight! Some children guessed their Mum’s age…which ranged from 4 to 100 years old!! We wish all Mums a Happy Mother’s Day, we thank God for you and all you do for us!

Wendy
Early Years Coordinator
## 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.

### Football Training Camp

**The Eastern Ranges School Holiday Training Camp** will give all junior players aged 12 to 15 a taste of AFL style training. The program will include:

- AFL Draft Combine style testing including AFL agility, 20m sprints, vertical leap and more
- Skill development session with Eastern Ranges coaches
- Individualised detailed fitness testing report
- Certificate of completion
- High performance nutrition advice
- Injury prevention & recovery session with Eastern Ranges High Performance team member
- Talent pathways to the AFL discussed with Eastern Ranges Talent Manager, Len Villani
  - Lunch, snacks and drinks provided
  - Registrations are now open [http://bit.ly/1P0ZMPP](http://bit.ly/1P0ZMPP)

**Friday 3 July**, 9.30am-3pm, Rowville Secondary College, Eastern Campus, Humphreys Way, Rowville. Cost $100 per player. More information Marc D’Cruze 9724 9499 marc.d’cruze@aflvic.com.au

### Car for Sale


Price: $3,900 ONO.

Phone Jim on 0417 163 366

### RoyRak Open House

You are invited to an open house at our Dandenong show room!

This is an opportunity to see all current stock of our Upcycled Wares and RoyRak jewellery range.

By buying these unique products created by women from one of the largest slums in Bangkok, you will be supporting these women in receiving fair wages and employment opportunities.

2/6-12 Airlie Ave, Dandenong, Wednesday 20 May from 10am-2pm and 7-9pm. For more information please contact Eva MacCartney on 0423 575 506 or email handicrafts@unoh.org

### Pasture Hay for Sale

Weed free pasture hay, this season. Small square bales. $8/bale. Phone Tim on 0490 464 852.

### Cross Country Day

Yarra Ranges Athletics Cross Country Open Day will be held on Saturday May 23, at Wandin Park, 305 Victoria Rd Gruyere (10 mins from Mount Evelyn). First event 10am.

Medals will be awarded to the first three placegetters in each age group and gender from under 6 to under 15, as well as the male and female open 3000m and 5000m events.

Registration is available online or on the day. More information and online entry at www.yarrarangesathletics.org.au. Juniors $8 ($10 on race day), Seniors $12 ($15 on race day). BBQ canteen with EFTPOS available.

### Weed Blitz

Free Environmental Weed Tipping Day - Sat May 16, 9am–3pm. Skips will be available at Kallista Community House and Mount Evelyn Rec Reserve, York Rd, Mount Evelyn. **Weeds that will be accepted:** Agapanthus, Arum Lily, Asparagus Fern, Banana Passionfruit, Cotoneaster, English Holly, English Ivy, Japanese Honeysuckle, Karamu, Mirror bush, Montbretia, Red Cestrum, Sweet Pittosporum, Wandering Trad, Wild Tobacco Tree.

For information on weed removal techniques call Yarra Ranges Council on 9294 6215 or visit www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au.

### Apples & Pears

Next delivery is, Friday May 22. Varieties available include Fuji, Granny Smith, Pink Ladies, Golden Delicious and Green Pears. Bags are 5-6kg and the cost is $10 for apples and $8 for Pears. Please submit your order to the main office by 10.30am on the day of delivery and ensure you have your name and order written on the front of the envelope, with the correct money enclosed.

Cassie Nation
Receptionist