Exploring Simple Machines

Amberiah demonstrates her simple machine in Science class. Story Page 7.
Help me, I’m an ‘Expert’

I’m worried my dog is going prematurely grey. His coat has always been so thick and lustrous, and so black in colour that he is almost impossible to see when it’s dark.

In the last six months or so strands of grey hair have appeared in his coat and have seemed to multiply at an alarming rate. I honestly don’t know if this is normal for a dog of his age – he is only about three years old. I am wondering if it might be stress. My other dog doesn’t have a single grey hair even though he is thirteen. Sure, his coat is thinner now but I have checked carefully and not a single grey. I’m wondering if I should begin dyeing my young dog’s coat, or just let him go grey gracefully. It is actually beginning to concern me so much I am fearful I may begin to turn grey myself.

Another concern I have is that this dog licks everything. He licks the carpet, the couch, I even found him licking the door the other day. Seriously, what dog does this? Does this mean he has some kind of deficiency? Should I take him to the vet to get this checked out or maybe go to the pet shop to buy some dog multivitamins? Do dog vitamins even exist?

There are lots of things I know about, and I may even be considered an “expert” in some fields, but there are huge holes in my knowledge and lots of areas where I need help (clearly Veterinary Science is not my forte). Sometimes, when we have lots of questions and very few answers it is important to seek advice from someone who knows better than us. When I have questions relating to specific matters I have various friends I am fortunate enough to be able to ask. One problem I have encountered though, when in such situations, is that time can sometimes slip by without me noticing and a “quick coffee and chat” can end up taking six hours.

While it is a wonderful blessing to have people who are prepared to invest in me by share their wisdom, it can also be exciting to have answers to questions others may be asking. I love giving my students the opportunity to become an expert in a particular field so they can enjoy this feeling. Seeing them confidently answer questions others direct at them is exhilarating.

Recently the Year 9 students completed a compulsory project where they became the “experts” on a particular type of farming. After they had completed their research they had to design a lesson they would present to a group of students to teach them about their farming technique.

This project was designed specifically to:

• guide the students to develop a sound understanding of their given farming practice
• develop effective teaching strategies in order to deliver their research in a way that would enable their peers to learn.

The students worked, in groups, through a booklet that guided each step of the process with detailed instructions similar to the ones seen below.

Understand the topic – Research

• What do we know about this topic already?
• What questions will help guide our research?
• Where can we source reliable information?

Share with each other what you learned through your research.

• What is the most important information?
• Do you need to do any further research?

Brainstorm how best to teach others.

• What things have teachers done that have helped you learn in the past?
• What about these helped you learn?
• How could you teach to best help students learn and achieve your lesson objectives?

Divide up the tasks.

• Who is going to do what? Is this division fair?
• Rehearse the lesson.

• What are we doing well?
• What needs improvement?
• What do we need to remember for the lesson?
• What still needs to be organised?

Review our lesson.

• How well did we respond to the feedback from our rehearsal?
• Did our lesson live up to our expectations?
• Did we meet our lesson objectives?

It is refreshing to know that we do live in community so do not have to be a source of wisdom in all domains.

It interests me greatly to see which students find this type of task deeply challenging and which ones shine brightly. There are so many students for whom this is an opportunity to move to centre stage from hiding in the background. Imagine how much richer the world would be if each person was free to be an expert in their field and was equipped to share that expertise with the people they journeyed through life with. The pressure we sometimes feel to have all the answers would be removed and we would learn to value others far more. Each of us has a rich combination of gifts we can draw upon for use in our own lives and to assist others. In many ways we are each ‘experts’ even though I am using this term fairly loosely. It is refreshing to know that we do live in community so do not have to be a source of wisdom in all domains. Plus, any excuse to catch up with a friend for coffee is a good one, even if it does take six hours!

Sue
Middle School Teacher

It is refreshing to know that we do live in community so do not have to be a source of wisdom in all domains.
Sketcher’s Scoop

Annual General Meeting

Tonight will see members of the school Association come together for our AGM. It's always great to see familiar faces as well as welcome new members, but more importantly it's an opportunity to celebrate God's faithfulness to our community over the last 12 months by reflecting on various aspects of the school's operation. The 2014 Annual School Report will be presented. I have included below three extracts from my Principal's Report to give you an insight into some of the highlights of 2014 and goals and challenges moving forward.

Transformational Education

2014 saw the completion of a publishing project started a number of years ago; that being a book that captures the MECS approach to teaching in a distinctly Christian way. ‘Transformational Education: A Framework for Christian Teaching’ was finally published and launched in early 2015, after the final editing, proof-reading and design work had been completed in 2014. A foundation stone for Christian education is the sentiment expressed in Romans 12:1-2 that all things - our everyday, ordinary life – our eating, sleeping, going to work and walking around life – all needs to be placed before God as an offering. This book seeks to encapsulate what this means by exploring sixteen core understandings about Christian teaching and learning. We especially recommend that our Association members read this book.

Establishment of Indonesian Program

It is with excitement that we launched Indonesian into our Primary school in 2015. Rachel, our Indonesian teacher, was appointed in Term 4, 2014 to prepare the resources and curriculum for implementation this year. We are pleased to report how positively this new initiative has been embraced by all our students and we are looking forward to extending Indonesian into Year 7 in 2016. Our students have not only begun to grasp the rudimentary skills of a new language, but most importantly have been introduced to the rich cultural heritage of our nearest neighbour.

Growth Challenges & Revision of the Infrastructure Plan

Continuing on from 2013, the success of the Kinder has resulted in exciting enrolment growth in our Kinder and Prep programs, with significant numbers of interested families now on waiting lists for junior year levels. This has seen the Board establish a Growth Working Group to strategically plan our response to this challenge. This Working Group will report back to the Board later in the year. As an interim measure we are reviewing the timing of some of the planned infrastructure developments so that we can respond in the most flexible way once a growth strategy has been determined. It is predicted that a more thorough revision of the Infrastructure Master Plan will be required in the future.

Focus on... Bullying Prevention

FOCUS on... Bullying Prevention

It's time to review the MECS Bullying Prevention policy, which is one of those unpleasant but necessary tasks. Like going to the dentist. The finished policy will then be available for parents to read on the MECS website.

Any discussion on bullying prevention needs to be balanced, so I’m going to start by getting out the chocolate... just to keep yucky balanced with yummy. Feel free to pause here to find your own chocolate before continuing (just don’t tell your dentist).

One aim of reviewing the policy is to give more clarity to the definition of bullying – both what it is and what it isn’t. Bullying is ongoing, unwanted, aggressive behaviour that involves a real or perceived power imbalance used to control or harm others.

There is a trickier side though... what is not bullying? Many conflicts between young people (and adults) are simply one aspect of learning about being in relationship with others. Conflict can be upsetting, and young people may need support in learning to resolve differences, but that isn’t the same as bullying.

Every year, the Primary School conducts a survey to discover any patterns of behaviour or locations on school grounds that may need additional support or supervision. The survey usually uncovers conflict arising from immature social skills. Staff are then able to be more informed and can target specific social skills to assist students struggling in this area.

The policy will also cover different types of bullying behaviour, both face-to-face and online. There have been many changes to the digital landscape, and a whole new section will be needed to cover cyber bullying.

There will also be a procedure for students, staff and parents to report bullying to the school, a list of responsibilities for staff and parents and students, and websites for further information.

It can be a boring and tedious task to review or develop ‘policy’. But it’s also a great opportunity to identify and understand the roles we can each play in the essential goal of preventing bullying and making MECS a place of safe and respectful relationships.

Natasha
Student Welfare Officer
MECS Notes

CSEF

Who doesn’t love a good acronym? Well we have a new one for you – CSEF. It stands for Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund. If you have a Health Care Card, other government concession card, or you are a foster carer, keep reading.

The CSEF is a State Government grant program whose aim is to ensure that school students can participate in camps, sports events and excursions. It doesn’t apply to Kindergarten children.

Families holding a valid means-tested concession card will be eligible to apply. That means:

Centrelink pensioner concession, Health Care Card, foster parent with a DHHS temporary care order, or a Veterans Affairs pensioner.

Eligible families will need to apply for the CSEF via the appropriate form, which can be downloaded from the Department of Education and Training (DET) website. I could give you a long web address, but it’s easier if you just google CSEF. Or you can ask the office for a copy.

You fill out the form and return it to school with a copy of your concession card. Then we enter the details in the DET system.

A payment of $125 for Primary School students and $225 for Secondary School students will then be paid directly to MECS to be used towards camps, sports and excursion costs for the benefit of the student. If you are eligible, the grant will be credited to your school fee account since the costs of excursions and camps are included in your fees.

You should lodge a CSEF application form at the school by 25 June 2015. That’s before the end of Term 2.

If you have any questions please ask at the office and Alison Mellords will be able to assist you.

Dr Gerry B
Administration Manager

Hi I am Mel,

I am the After School Care Assistant at MECS.

Casey and I have worked together at a previous After School Care program and I am glad for the opportunity to get to do it again and meet all your lovely kids.

I have many years of experience working in children’s ministry and camps. I have my Senior First Aid, Anaphylaxis and Epi-pen training.

Friends of MECS

Cook Off Day

Last Thursday we had a team of keen volunteers peeling and chopping and cooking in our Home-tech room. The freezer was filled to overflowing with an impressive 120 meals cooked! A huge thank you to Amy and Brooke who did the menu planning and shopping, and pulled together such a wonderful day. Also special thanks to the team of helpers who worked hard, talked a lot, laughed and made new connections with other parents. Thank you to those who donated ingredients and money to help cover the costs of the day (it’s not too late! If you would like to make a cash donation please hand it in to the office). If you are the recipient of one of these delicious meals over the coming months we hope you enjoy it and that it is a blessing to you and your family. We run our cook off days once a term so if you are keen to be involved in the future please let me know or watch the newsletter for dates and details.

Nicole
Community Relations Officer

Entertainment Book

Your current Entertainment Book will expire on Monday 1 June. Don’t miss out on buying the new one. You can order through the office or online at: www.entbook.com.au/193f695.

We are very much enjoying settling in as a new program at MECS and are excited to see how the program will grow as part of the school community.

We have such a lovely group of children, all of different ages, that we’ve found work really well together as a group. We often do group projects and the kids have had great ideas about what we could incorporate into the program.

Mel and I have loved seeing the kids in our care get to know each other and build strong friendships across year levels and school friendship groups.

A few highlights for us have been baking projects, dance offs with lots of laughs, group games, meal times, reading through the narrative story bible with the children and the amazing discussion that has come from it, and simply getting to know the great kids we have in our care.

We look forward to the rest of the year at MECS. We are in the PUMP room each afternoon if you want to come down and meet us and ask any questions about the program.

Bookings are available.

Casey
At the recent Year 9 soccer day, the MECS students came determined to take out the flag. Having been coached by some of the Year 10 students who play at state (or very close to it) level, the students were well poised to give it a crack.

The boys - many of whom play local sport - had the fitness to run all day, and pushed other teams all the way to the final whistle. Unfortunately they dropped their first game 3-4 in the dying minutes, but won their second 7-1; lost the third 3-6 and fourth by a similar margin, just missing out on a spot in the finals.

The girls who had been rather lax in the lead up, came out ready to play with an intensity unseen on the training track. They won their first game 6-3, followed by wins of 4-2, 2-0, before taking a loss of 3-6 to a very strong Mountain District girls team. Their efforts qualified them for the final, where they had 2 quick goals scored against them in the first half, before holding the opposition goal less in the second half. The girls had plenty of shots but couldn't get the ball passed the very skillful goalie, losing 0-2.

All round, MECS students played brilliantly and showed great sportsmanship, and represented MECS and themselves exceptionally. I'm very proud of the effort they all put in on the day.

A big thank you to Josh, Jacob, Mikayla and Ellie for the amazing time and effort they have put into training and coaching the Year 9 and 10 sports students over the last 8 weeks and on the soccer days. They have shown excellence in leadership, great sporting and coaching ability, and have served their peers with great passion and dedication.

Luke
Secondary Sport Teacher

Ben’s ‘Dad Pack’ Surprise

This week the SPC students presented Ben with a surprise ‘Dad Pack’ to celebrate his pending Fatherhood status.

The ‘Dad Pack’ included some serious items such as a Willow Tree family figurine and some less serious items such as a Sleepless Night Kit (complete with ear plugs and a Red Bull); Nappy Change Kit (complete with gloves and a peg), and lolly dummy!

The card, which the SPC students secretly signed during their music lesson (thanks Helen), was hand made by Hannah M’s dad; the pack was secretly created with the SPC students and their parents by Elijah’s Mum, Elissa, and was presented in a rustic, hand crafted box made by Elijah’s Dad, Tim.

Ben was thrilled and got quite a laugh out of the Dad Pack contents. He was most relieved it included a peg for his super sensitive nose!

Congratulations Ben - SPC think you’ll be an awesome Dad!

Elissa
MECS Parent
Year 8 Inspiring Girls Camp

Year 8 girls are at an age where many of them experience concerns regarding their body image, how they fit in and how to best take care of themselves. While we recognise that parents are crucial in guiding their daughters through this time, we also realise that as teachers, we have a role to play in providing input, guidance and support. The Inspiring Girls Camp is designed to reinforce, work with and build on what is already occurring at school, in the home and within their church environment.

During the camp some of the issues we explored included:

- Who society tells us we are/should be and how that impacts areas of our life e.g. the way we behave, look, talk and what we have/own
- Who the Bible/God tells us we are/should be and how that impacts areas of our life e.g. the way we behave, look, talk and what we have/own.

Karissa
Assistant Principal - Secondary

It was a cold and rainy day when we set off for Candlebark Farm in Healesville, for Inspiring Girls Camp 2015. The weather was dreary but we kept nice and warm rugged up in our doonas participating in multiple girly activities. One of the outdoor activities was the Super Swooper, a 550-metre flying fox. It was a thrilling experience flying swiftly down the hill and over the dam with the chilly wind blowing softly on our faces. We all feel a lot closer now as a group of good friends, we even feel a lot closer to the teachers that were with us. There were many eye-opening talks about body image and other topics. It really was an inspiring time. We are all very thankful for this experience that we will cherish as an important memory for the rest of our lives. Also, a big thank you to all the teachers that made this camp even more enjoyable.

Emma & Kasey

Inspiring Girls Camp was honestly one of the most amazing camps I’ve ever been on. I was so inspired and I felt that I could be my true self. Everyone supported each other when things got emotional. We had a lot of talks and faced challenges. Most of the Year 8 girls feel more confident and a little more comfortable in their own skin. We learnt about body image and how the things you see in magazines are fake.

Amara

Science - Simple Machines

In Term 2 Science, Year 7 and 8 students have been learning about machines, forces and motion. Students particularly learned about types of simple machines, such as wheels, levers and pulleys. As part of this they were given the task of designing and constructing their own machine, that needed to contain at least two simple machines; the rest was up to their creativity and imagination.

With the supervision and assistance of their parents, they were able to create a variety of machines including a hydraulic crane, model siege weapons, a gumball machine, a model train washer, and arcade games.

Ella
MS Science Teacher

Although I can’t say much about the things we did, I can say that it was an amazing experience. One of the things that we did that I can write about is the flying fox. It was so fun. So many people enjoyed this. We also had a talent show. This was a chance to step out and show some talents that we may have kept hidden. There were a few silly acts (like mine), but there were some great talents revealed, that many of us didn’t know about each other. Altogether this camp helped us all put aside our differences, and come together to have a great time.

Rebekah

There were lots of memorable and funny moments (some that are secret) but the most astonishing was the 500m flying fox! Sharon and Natasha talked to us about positive body image where we talked about being comfortable with ourselves and that God loves us and created us perfectly. We also saw how much Photoshop is used in magazine covers – can you believe there are 40-45 changes made before the photo is published?! We had a talent show where some of the girls performed a skit or a song/dance for us.

Jenna

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Ella
MS Science Teacher
Our Tribal Cross Country event had a great fun, community feel this year. The Middle School raced after recess and had a shared lunchtime with the Senior School. Duc’s Year 9 Service class did a fantastic job making burgers to order and raising money for the Alannah and Madeleine Foundation. Some of the students will save their burgers for after the race next year! Luke came a respectable 3rd place after eating a triple burger just before the senior boys’ race. A very relaxing and enjoyable day. Thanks to all who participated and helped out.

Overall Tribal Results
1st Wirri (Blue)  
2nd Warlu (Gold)  
3rd Walya (Red)  
4th Warlpa (White)

Our Tribal Cross Country Results 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age/Distance</th>
<th>1st Place</th>
<th>2nd Place</th>
<th>3rd Place</th>
<th>4th Place</th>
<th>5th Place</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13yrs boys 2km</td>
<td>Tom, New Record</td>
<td>Addy</td>
<td>Tim</td>
<td>Flynn</td>
<td>Daniel</td>
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<tr>
<td>13yrs girls 2km</td>
<td>Bree New Record</td>
<td>Hadassah</td>
<td>Tereasa</td>
<td>Jodie</td>
<td>Steph</td>
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<td>14yrs boys 2km</td>
<td>Micah</td>
<td>Zac</td>
<td>Joel</td>
<td>Ben</td>
<td>Ethan</td>
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<td>14yrs girls 2km</td>
<td>Beth</td>
<td>Lily</td>
<td>Jenna</td>
<td>Jess</td>
<td>Bree</td>
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<td>15yrs boys 2km</td>
<td>Ben New Record</td>
<td>Luke</td>
<td>Jake</td>
<td>Josh</td>
<td>Jordan</td>
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<td>Saoirse</td>
<td>Annaliese</td>
<td>Erica</td>
<td>Emily</td>
<td>Isobel</td>
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<td>Mikayla</td>
<td>Ady</td>
<td>Lena</td>
<td>Skye</td>
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<tr>
<td>16yrs girls 2km</td>
<td>Josh New Record</td>
<td>Adam</td>
<td>Brenton</td>
<td>Cameron</td>
<td>Kiame</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17+ yrs boys 3km</td>
<td>Daniel</td>
<td>Bayley</td>
<td>Jay</td>
<td>Cailian</td>
<td>Ryan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17+ yrs girls 3km</td>
<td>Talitha</td>
<td>Bec</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>Kayla</td>
<td>Shannon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Secondary Interschool Cross Country is on Friday 29 May. Students who placed 1st - 8th are in the school team (emergencies – 9th place). An email was sent home to the parents of the selected students this week.

Anne-Maree  
Secondary Sports 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.

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### Empart Fundraiser

**The Importance of Being Earnest**, a trivial comedy for serious people, performed by Synchronicity at 1330 Conference Centre, 1330 Ferntree Gully Road Scoresby on Saturday June 13 at 7:30pm. Supper provided. Cost $25/head for adults, $20/head for students. Seating is unallocated. All proceeds go to Empart – a Christian Missions organisation.

**Christian TV for Kids**

15+ channels for the Family. Quote ‘LIFEMECS’ for special package. 100% profits go to missions. Call Instal-life 1300 543 388

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### Need a Painter?

Indoor/Outdoor. Large or small jobs. Callum Farman (dad of Hamish in Prep) qualified painter/decorator. SMS 0430 147 074 to arrange for a quote.

### Apples & Pears

Next delivery is Friday June 5. 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

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### Schooling for a trade future

**Full time education**

**Year 10**

A 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

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### This Saturday

**Open Campus**

Sat 30th May, 2015

1—4pm

9 Hightech Place
Lilydale 3140
Ph. (03) 9738 7100

www.rangestec.vic.edu.au

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**Lost**

Silver/Grey Parker with a hood, lined with purple. Small size 7/8.

If found please return to the school office.

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**Calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Mon 25 - Fri 29 May</td>
<td>Year 9 Special Week</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thur 28 May</td>
<td>Association AGM 7pm Supper, 7.30pm Start, Main Staffroom</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fri 29 May</td>
<td>Year 7-10 Interschool Cross Country, Primary Interschool Cross Country, Year 9 Hike</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Sat 30 May</td>
<td>Ranges TEC Open Campus 1-4pm</td>
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<td>Tues 2 June</td>
<td>VCE Music Rectial 7.30pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Wed 3 June</td>
<td>Prep visit to Mount Evelyn shops</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mon 8 June</td>
<td>Queen's Birthday Public Holiday</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tues 9 - Fri 12 June</td>
<td>Year 10 Trans Ed Week</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tues 9 June</td>
<td>3 yo Kinder Wegs Wildlife Mini Beast Incursion</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Wed 10 June</td>
<td>VCE GAT Exam</td>
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<td>Thur 11 June</td>
<td>MS Connect Morning Tea 9am Staffroom</td>
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<td>Thur 11 - Fri 12 June</td>
<td>Year 11 Exams</td>
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<td>Fri 12 June</td>
<td>Year 12 PE Excursion to RMIT</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Wed 17 June</td>
<td>Year 10 PE Excursion, Preps Mount Evelyn Vet Incursion</td>
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<td>Fri 19 June</td>
<td>Year 7 &amp; 9 Immunisations</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Fri 19 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Wed 24 June</td>
<td>JP ‘Children of the World’ Dress up Day</td>
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**Lost**

Silver/Grey Parker with a hood, lined with purple. Small size 7/8.

If found please return to the school office.

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Newsletter deadline is 11am Tuesday on published week.
Email articles (images attached as jpg) to the Newsletter Office