Getting ready for an African wedding

Zarah dressed as the bride for an African Wedding at the JP excursion to CERES. Story pg 6.
We are eagerly awaiting the birth of two babies in the Primary school! Ali’s wife is due any day, while Rebekah and Ben are also waiting patiently for the birth of their baby in the next week or so. I wonder what they will call them. I wonder if they have already chosen names.

When I was born I didn’t have a name for two weeks! My parents were stuck on the spelling of Jillian, mum thought it should be spelt with a ‘J’, dad wanted it spelt with a ‘G’. During the stalemate, they were reading the birth notices and saw the name Narelle and so that was it. This also fits with my theory that all the Narelles that exist in the world were born between about 1967 and 1975! The name has never made a comeback, so we are one group of women that can actually be dated by our name!

My son, Darcy, was born shortly after the popular series of Pride and Prejudice so most people want to know whether he was named after Mr Darcy. Not really, we just liked the name! My daughter’s middle name, Daisy-Anne, brings together the names of her maternal grandmother and paternal great-grandmother. My new step-children call me Nazz – I’m not sure about that one yet!

Our names are intricately involved with who we are. They are often carefully chosen and have important significance in the family. Our names tell a story! The choice of a name can have a profound impact, or be a huge burden.

It can even be used to predict your career! Did you know that the most common names for racing car drivers are Bobby, Johnny, Jimmy and Luigi? Firefighters are most commonly called Martin, Ryan or Matthew. If you would like a graphic designer in the family, why not try calling them Vanessa, Jessica or Diana? There are also times when names can make us laugh! Like the cardiologist Dr Hart, lawyer Soo Yu, financial investor Rich Widows, orthodontist Dr Chu and the founder of a Graduate School of Oceanography, Dr Fish.

We know from the Bible how seriously God took names. He intentionally changed the names of Abram to Abraham, Sarai to Sarah, Jacob to Israel and Simon to Peter. He commanded Zechariah to name his son John, and Joseph to name Mary’s son, Jesus, to incarnate God’s plan of salvation. In order to help Adam grow into the image and likeness of the Creator, God allowed Adam to name the beasts, the birds, the cattle, then Eve, then their sons. To give someone a name, as we see from the beginning, is a sacred act, an act that participates in God’s creative plan, a solemn responsibility.

And as we delve into God’s Word, we discover the many names by which Jesus is known. He is the cornerstone, the Lamb of God, the Lord of Lords, the Light of the Word and the Son of God. Jesus is our strength in times of trouble, our keeper who watches over us, our example along life’s journey, our deliverer from evil and anchor and refuge for our souls. Through acts of service and demonstrations of love we declare to the world that Jesus is the good shepherd, the comforter, the reconciler, the suffering servant and the resurrection. It is through these names, and many others, that we are reminded of the myriad ways in which God, through the person of Jesus, demonstrates His character and love for us.

And most importantly, God’s Word tells us that we are also known by name. Our name is written on His heart. God not only knows our name, but every aspect of our lives. Psalm 139 reminds us of the following:

You know me inside and out;  
you know every bone in my body;  
you know exactly how I was made, bit by bit,  
how I was sculpted from nothing into something.  
Like an open book, you watched me grow from conception to birth;  
all the stages of my life were spread out before you,  
The days of my life all prepared  
before I’d even lived one day.

I’m sure that it is encouraging to know that as a staff, corporately and individually, we regularly pray for our students by name, recognising each of them as precious in God’s sight. We do so in the knowledge that they are known by God, loved and created by Him who holds all things together in His mighty name!

Narelle
MECS Principal

AGM

Last Thursday evening more than 70 people gathered together in an overflowing staffroom for our Association AGM.

After starting off with a lovely dessert, Ian Bushel opened the meeting and devotions were led by Association members Tim and Amy. We welcomed some new staff into Association membership and also parents Jay and Beth. Steve was ratified by the Association and welcomed as a new board member.

Narelle thanked and acknowledged the hard work of Sue and Eric. Sue has served on the board for 9 years, in various capacities including Board Chair. Sue continues to serve on the CEN National Board. Eric has been on the board for 5 years, and has capably looked after the Association portfolio. We thank both Sue and Eric for their tireless work on the board and passion and commitment to MECS and the wider Christian schools community.

Following the Principal’s report and Finance report (most of which can be read in the Annual Report available on the MECS website) we had the opportunity to hear from Tim, (Endeavour Community Relations and Development consultant) on the differences between traditional and contemporary families. We had interactive discussions about how these differences affect Association membership and ways to adapt our approach in light of these. If you would like to know more about Association membership please let me know, I would love to chat to you about what it involves and send you some information.

Nicole
Community Relations Officer
Staff News

Staff are in the process of letting us know about their intentions for 2016. As we already know, Derek Warren will finish up at the end of this term to pursue a career change. We look forward to a number of opportunities over the next couple of weeks to wish him well and thank him for his many years of service. We welcomed Viv into our community last week to replace him for the rest of the year.

Recently, we received news that Janine, our Primary School music teacher, will not be returning in 2016. Janine has been on extended leave for the last 12 months, but has decided that it is time to pursue new opportunities. We also wish her well and pray that God will open the right doors as her health continues to improve.

Colin, who has worked at MECS for 36 years will retire at the end of this year. Colin’s lasting legacy will be celebrated and commented on in the second half of this year. It will certainly be a time of sadness, yet deep gratitude when we finally say farewell to him.

Finally, you may also have heard a whisper that Laura, our Student Services Officer, is expecting her first baby towards the end of the year. We celebrate this lovely news with her and her husband, Nathan.

Long Weekend

It’s a long term, and the winter weather is starting to bite! So make sure you enjoy the long weekend with your families. I will rug up and brave the weather at the footy on Monday at the MCG, but whether it’s going to the movies, enjoying a weekend escape or just having some down-time at home, take it easy so that we can sail through the last few weeks of term!

FOCUS On... Hands on Learning

‘Hands on Learning’ is a concept that has been around education for some time. To some this may sound like a ‘buzzword’ describing some latest fad that will soon be replaced by the next education fad; but I don’t believe this is the case.

Hands-on-learning is learning by doing, learning by being immersed in an experience. It is not watching something happen, not reading or hearing about it happening, but rather being instrumental in something happening.

Think about how you learned to tie your shoes. It is the same way a driver learns to drive, a pilot learns to fly, a carpenter learns to build, and a player learns to play.

Hands on learning is the best way for some students to learn at school. More importantly, in the world beyond school (most of life), hands on learning is the only way many things are learned.

This form of learning often goes unrecognised, and the reality that hands on learning happens almost constantly both at school and elsewhere is often unaccounted for.

At times, it also happens unexpectedly: while I am in class trying to learn how something or other works, and I do not understand, I am also learning other things, like what confusion feels like, when and how to ask a question, how to use what I already know to find out what I don’t know, who to trust, what other people really think of me or how to be brave and risk looking like a fool as I put up my hand.

Working as a member of the Year 9 Open Village teaching team, I often find that having my eyes peeled for hands on learning opportunities is rewarding for both students and me. Just this week I demonstrated, watched and celebrated as two girls learnt to weld. The girls needed to learn arc welding in order to complete their garden sculpture. I needed to demonstrate a skill at which I am a beginner, in a way that facilitated the girls learning. Each of us learned in the process of action, reflection and adjustment; these enriching processes are the rhythm makers of hands on learning.

Each experience like this reminds me that learning is a movement, a dance, and a risk, and that failure is frequently more instructive than success. As I reflect on my learning so far, hands on learning has frequently been the mode of learning skills and awareness that are the most enduring. It is via hands on learning that I have learned to climb trees, drive a truck and cut aluminium with a drop saw; it is how I have learned to raise children, dig post holes and play guitar.

In short, hands on learning is a seriously effective way to learn and if you look for it, it’s everywhere. Now, how do I attach this article to an email and send it to the newsletter lady again??

Lance
Middle School Teacher

Our AGM

We were thrilled with the turnout to our AGM last week. It was a great night of fellowship and discussion as we looked at some of the highlights and challenges of the last year. It was also an opportunity to thank Sue and Eric for their faithful service as members of the MECS Board, as both have stepped down over the last 12 months. As always, if you are interested in finding out more about the Association, please contact Nicole, our Community Relations Officer and she would love to chat to you.

Inter-school Cross Country

Last Friday, a group of our primary and secondary students represented MECS at Inter-School Cross Country events. It was great to hear how well they competed against tough competition. We love to hear about the great sportsmanship and behaviour of our students. Our secondary students also brought home the trophy for the best competing school. Congratulations to all those students who were part of this great effort.

In fact, we had a member of the community call up to say how well behaved and impressive our Primary students were when they competed at Lillydale Lake.

LONG WEEKEND

It’s a long term, and the winter weather is starting to bite! So make sure you enjoy the long weekend with your families. I will rug up and brave the weather at the footy on Monday at the MCG, but whether it’s going to the movies, enjoying a weekend escape or just having some down-time at home, take it easy so that we can sail through the last few weeks of term!
MECS Notes

Apples & Pears

Next delivery is tomorrow, 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
Receptionist

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 will be able to assist you.

Dr Gerry B
Administration Manager

Friends of MECS

Entertainment Book

Your current Entertainment Book expired 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.

Firefighters Visit Preps

Last Wednesday the Preps shrieked with excitement as a big red fire truck drove into MECS:

It was so hard to do their work; the children took turns looking through the windows until the Firefighters came through the door!

As part of our unit “God Gives Us People Who Help Us”, we learn about what the men and women of the fire brigade do.

The firefighters talked to the children about fire safety, including what the smoke alarm sounds like, to “Stop, Drop and Roll” if an ember or a flame is on you, and “Get down low and go go go!” if there is smoke around. They explained what to say if triple zero is called, and to stand at the letter box and wave down the fire brigade, if you have had to leave your home due to fire.

The children got a close up look at the protective gear worn by the CFA members, and at the fire truck!

Preps had turns at gong onto the truck, into the cabin, and squirting the hose! Then the fire truck sounded its horn, flashed its lights, and squirted lots of water from the hose on the front of the bonnet!

We thank God for the firefighters who help us, sacrificing so much, to serve our community.

Jan
Prep Coordinator/Teacher
Music Recital

Last Wednesday night we had our Term 2 Music Recital. We have 3 recitals per year and this one was for students with surnames starting “A to D”.

Students had been working hard preparing for the evening and the standard of the performances was amazing! We had cello, violin, piano, guitar, drums and vocal performances. A big thank you to all the students, staff and volunteers that made it a fantastic night. Six members of the Anderson family performed. They are such a talented family! Recital nights are a great time for our music students to share their gifts and for us to be able to support them in their musical journey.

Brett
Instrumental Music Coordinator

Year 10 Interschool Soccer Day

Last Tuesday, the MECS students were excited to hit the pitch for a fun-filled day of soccer, and were ready to win. After numerous weeks of training and preparation the day had finally come.

The boys played out the team strategies and fought hard on the pitch. They ended up drawing the first two games 0-0 all, but had created great game play throughout the matches, and were hungry enough to win the two following games 1-0. After these intense games, the last match to qualify for the grand final, ended downhill with a 4-3 loss which left the boys out of the finals. Never the less the boys had a really great time and got to know one another better by having some good laughs.

The girls started off well, winning their first game 3-1. We fought hard for the next game; the opposition scored their first goal quickly, but the girls refused to let that one goal get to them. We had shots but unfortunately weren’t able to get that ball in the back of the net. After then losing their next game 1-0, we thought that our chance for playing in the grand final was gone. We thought wrong. We played a tough game against Mountain District but sadly we lost 1-0. Overall the girls had a great time playing and getting to know each other better.

MECS did really well and came so close to taking out the flag. The effort was really awesome to see from everyone. Thanks Year 9s and 10s for making it as fun as it was.

Joshua & Mikayla
Sports coaches
We strapped on our boots and fastened our seat belts – Junior Primary was off to CERES! Braving the urban jungle, avoiding buzzing cars and low flying insects, JPs arrived at CERES, a conservation and sustainability centre. Here the children adventured in class groups, travelling from Indonesia to India and then the long trek to Africa! You will never believe the amazing things we saw and did along the way…

Daniela
Junior Primary Class Teacher

JPs got on the bus to go to CERES. First we went to a pretend African wedding and Thomaz and Zarah got married. Then we went to a funny Indonesian shadow puppet show. After that we learned Asian Indian dancing. Last we got back on the bus to MECS. I loved CERES!

Caitlyn

I went on the bus with my friend Melody. It was fun on the big bus. Zarah got married to Thomaz. My favourite was the Indian dancing.

Amelia

JPs went to visit CERES. I sat next to Sophie and me and Thomaz got married in the African wedding. We saw a funny shadow puppet show and I thought it was very entertaining.

Zarah

JPs went to CERES. First we went to a room and saw a show. After that we got to dance to some music and also we got to dress up. Finally we went and had lunch.

After lunch we went to our next activity and had fun. Then we got on the bus back to MECS and then we went into the classroom.

That was one of the very best days in my life.

Zachary

JPs went to the city to visit CERES. First we saw a puppet show, we had 5 people play the puppet show. After that we did an Indian dance. Finally we travelled to Africa to a wedding and Summer and Wyatt got married!

Alistair

JPs went to CERES. First we went to the puppets. Then we dressed up in Indian clothes and we danced. I felt happy.

Andrew

Worawa Reconciliation Carnival

On Tuesday 26 May a group of Year 9 and 10 girls got the privilege to take part in the Worawa Reconciliation Carnival. We meet some really unique people who came from everywhere around Australia, and it was great to play sport together to support reconciliation week. Even though we weren’t able to win any of our games, the team spirit was strong, cheerful, confident and supportive. Our goal for the day was to have fun and have a go. At the end of the day we were rewarded with a medal, hot food, temporary tattoos and face painting. Overall, I just want to thank Emma for tagging along with the team and congrats to the girls performance throughout the day. Fantastic effort!!

Hayley
Year 10 Student
Secondary Interschool Cross Country

We brought home the trophy! We had an excellent start to the day with Bree in the girls 13s winning gold, Hadassah coming 4th and Tom getting the bronze in the boys 13s. We kept things going in the girls 14s, with Bek and Beth bringing home a silver and bronze respectively. Our 14 boys didn't disappoint, with Micah getting silver. The points were already adding up for MECS when Saoirse Boone got the gold for 15 girls and Ady the bronze for open girls. Josh came a very respectable 4th in the open boys age group. Many other students pushed themselves and achieved personal goals. Well done to those students who trained during lunchtimes and out of school. Keep it up! Imagine how fit you'll be next time around. Thanks to Nicky for supporting the team and getting some great photos.

Anne-Maree
Secondary Sport Coordinator

Primary Interschool Cross Country

We had a great day at the Primary Inter-School District Cross Country. I was so proud of all our runners who put in a stellar effort and gave it their best shot. We had a number of students place in the top 10 which will see them go through to the division competition: Caleb, Pierre, Rian, Matt, Caleb and Tahlia.

Thanks to all the parents who came out and supported the students. We look forward to the division competition in 2 weeks.

Jason
Primary Sport Coordinator
Calendar

2015 Term 2 Week 9: 8 June - 14 June

- Mon 8 June
  Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday
  School Closed

- Tues 9 - Fri 12 June
  Year 10 Trans Ed Week

- Tues 9 June
  3 yo Kinder Wegs Wildlife Mini Beast Incursion

- Wed 10 June
  VCE GAT Exam

- Thur 11 June
  M3 Connect Morning Tea 9am Staffroom

- Thur 11 - Fri 12 June
  Year 11 Exams

- Fri 12 June
  Year 12 PE Excursion to RMIT

2015 Term 2 Week 10: 15 June - 21 June

- Wed 17 June
  Year 10 PE Excursion
  Preps Mount Evelyn Vet Incursion

- Fri 19 June
  Year 7 & 9 Immunisations

2015 Term 2 Week 11: 22 June - 28 June

- Wed 24 June
  JP ‘Children of the World’ Dress up Day

- Thur 25 June
  Reports Issued

- Fri 26 June
  Last Day Term 2

2015 Term 2 Holidays: 29 June - 19 July

- Mon 13 - Fri 17 July
  Year 10 Work Experience Week 1

- Mon 13 - Wed 15 July
  Year 12 Practice Exams

- Mon 13 - Tues 14 July
  Year 11 Work Experience

- Wed 15 - Fri 17 July
  Year 12 Intensives

- Thur 16 - Fri 17 July
  Year 11 Work Experience

Lost

Men’s grey hoodie. (Darker grey on hoodie & sleeves.) Round crimson Quicksilver logo on the front. Size M. Verhagen on inside tag. Lost outside the front of the gym on 22 April. Please return to office if found.

Notices sent home this week and on Website

- Yr 10 Health Assignment Letter to Parents
- VCE PE RMIT letter
- MS Connect Morning Tea Invitation
- Newsletter deadline is 11am Tuesday on published week.
  Email articles (images attached as jpg) to the Newsletter Office

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.

All Sorts Op Shop

All Sorts Opportunity Shop at 208 Dorset Rd Boronia, supports ‘Two Hands International - Bringing Hope to India’. Donations are received in store including electrical.

Yarra Ranges School Holiday Program

A range of activities are available including archery, bowling, laser tag, paint balling, a poetry workshop and a snow trip for ages 12-25. See www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Community/Youth-services/School-holiday-programs-Freeza for details about all activities, costs, booking and permission forms or phone 9294 6716.

Mount Evelyn Girl Guides

We currently have vacancies for girls aged 7-17 years and adult supporters or leaders and are keen to welcome new girls and leaders. You can try us out for three weeks before joining.

We meet on Monday or Tuesday evening and participate in fun activities based around a program of service, outdoors, traditions, promise and law, world guiding, and leadership.

To find out more about Guiding in Mount Evelyn, call Margaret Brooks on 9756 7098 or email mbrooks@guidesvic.org.au

CALM Girls’ Group

CALM stands for confident, assertive, level-headed minds.

This is a free group program for girls aged 8-11 years who appear to worry excessively, fear separation, constantly seek reassurance, and who avoid situations that worry them. The group aims to provide the girls with a space to discuss their difficulties and practice challenging themselves and their fears and worries in a supportive environment.

The 7 week program commences in Term 3, from Tuesday July 28 to Tuesday September 9, from 3-5pm for children, and 3-4.30pm for the parent session.

It is essential at least one parent can participate in each parent session. Parents will also be asked to attend the last 15 minutes of the girls’ group.

The parent group will assist parents in understanding and responding to their girls’ experience of anxiety and problem-solve with other parents.

Held at Connections UnitingCare, 185 Mount Dandenong Rd, Croydon

For further information or to book contact Connections Clinical Services on 03 9724 2222 or email ics@connections.org.au

Mindfulness Relaxation

A 5 week relaxation program in Term 3 designed for upper-primary aged children. Running on Tuesday 21 and 28 July, and 4, 11 and 18 August from 4pm - 4.45pm.

Cost of program: $300 for 5 sessions (or Sign up before end of term 2 to receive early bird price of $250).

Our program is designed to teach your child a range of relaxation techniques that can be practiced at home to assist them to regulate their emotions and approach difficult situations in a calm manner.

Relaxation techniques can also improve sleep, concentration and reduce stress. Learning relaxation and mindfulness in a small group setting creates a fun, interactive environment to learn a new skill which can be applied to many facets of life.

Enquires: 9893 4537 or info@stepbysteppsychology.com.au

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.

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.

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.