Kinder meet the Mini Beasts

Jonah hugged by a snake in the 3yo Kinder Mini Beast Incursion. Story page 7.
Do you recall that age-old question, ‘What do you want to be when you grow up?’ Perhaps you arrived at some very endearing 5 year old answer: a princess, a superhero, a dinosaur. Or perhaps you still have strong aspirations to be a superhero? Or perhaps you are a superhero, and it’s the world’s definition of ‘superhero’ that gets in the way... you just never could quite pull off the undies-over-your-tights look.

Last week, during Transitional Education week, the Year 10s were again wrestling with the question of future direction...

The students were treated to an engaging week-long program assisting them to consider decisions for their futures. The week, put together by Amelia Koole our Careers Coordinator, provided meaningful talks, active discussions with businesses in the local community, further education planning and tours of a number of options for VCE, VCAL and post-secondary education.

I had the privilege of accompanying the Year 10 students on Thursday at ACU (Australian Catholic University), TRACTOR design school, Australian College of Sports Therapy and Box Hill Tafe.

The purpose of this day was to begin to open up students’ minds to where they might like to go with further study (if they choose further study), and in turn, get them thinking about which subjects they may need to consider for the remainder of their schooling.

I had the opportunity to rub shoulders and see this experience through the eyes of the ‘newcomers’; those Year 10s with so many choices ahead of them, who like those kindergarten students, are being asked ‘What do you want to be when you grow up?’

For these students, however, the pressure seems a little more real; there is no contemplation of Superheroes, and they are being asked to decide very soon. The reality is however, that many of them are still unsure. And that is okay. In fact, the pressure to conform and to decide seems almost cruel. Yet, through the advice of many professionals and tour guides over the course of the excursion day, the message was clear: it is okay if you haven’t got it figured out just yet, and it is okay if you change your mind. In fact, it is quite normal.

Throughout the day, I could see eyes opening to the possibilities that the students had never heard about or considered. From Law at ACU, to Sports Therapy at ACST, to Design at TRACTOR or Dog Grooming at Box Hill (yes, you actually get trained to turn poodles into rainbows!) What was most encouraging was that no course, and no career, was ‘more important’ than another in the eyes of the students. Each one provided unique potential for unique individuals.

As I basked in the sunshine of the rooftop deck at ACU, and contemplated a return to the university lifestyle (or perhaps how we might integrate a similar deck into the MECS building plan), I reflected on the importance of these experiences, but even more so, the importance of the messages that we are sending to students about how and when they need to decide ‘what they will be when they grow up’.

What is clear to me, is the importance of keeping the ‘What do you want to be?’ question in balance with the questions ‘Who do you want to be?’ and ‘Who do you want to serve?’

It is not what job you choose, career path you take or university study with that really matters. What matters is the process that you go through and how you ask God to lead you. What matters is the person that you become and how your faith and experiences shape you.

What values are important to you and shape the way you live? How can you use the gifts God has given you to serve God and serve others in whatever career you choose? And if those questions are not quite on your radar just yet, if you’re worried about what might be in store for you in the years ahead, remember that God already knows the plans he has for you.

But how can you know what ‘God’s plans’ are for you? How will you know that you are making the ‘right choice’? One way you can begin to figure out those plans is to consider the gifts God has given you. What are you good at? What brings you joy? What are you passionate about? What do you like doing? What do other people say you are good at? Because the answers to these questions may just lead you on the path to discovering what God’s ultimate purpose for you might be.

And if you are yet to discover what you truly enjoy, or recognise the things that you are good at, that is okay. God will continue to help you to discover your gifts, you just need to be willing to learn and give things a go.

So who do you want to be when you ‘grow up’?

Karissa
Assistant Principal - Secondary

Playgroup at MECS

Did you know MECS runs a wonderful playgroup we call Busy Bees?

Our Busy Bees gather each Thursday during the school term in the Kindergarten room. There are two sessions:
- 9am to 11am
- 11.30am to 1.30pm

The groups are run by our very experienced Playgroup Leader Lynda who does a wonderful job encouraging social play and preparing the children for a more structured setting.

Both groups currently have limited vacancies so if you are interested in joining please contact me at the school office.

Paula
Administration Support
Canteen Closure

We mentioned in last week’s Scoop that Sheryl is finishing up her canteen duties at the end of the term. As a result, we have made the decision to not operate the canteen for the rest of this year. This will give us the opportunity to explore the next step for our canteen and other hospitality services in the school. We apologise for the inconvenience that this will cause some families. Thanks to the many parents who have volunteered in the canteen over many years; we appreciate your service and partnership with us.

Connect Morning Teas

Our Connect morning teas are just one of the ways we seek to grow community here at MECS. Nicole, and more recently, Ann, do a great job in making sure each year level, cluster or section have the opportunity to meet with other parents and staff in order to grow friendship and partnership throughout our community. We know not all our parents are able to attend these morning teas due to work commitments, but it’s great to see those who can make it. We are always looking for new ways in which parents and families can connect, so let us know if you have any fresh ideas!

Kinder News

Last night, and again next Wednesday, our Kindergarten parents have had the opportunity to meet with our fabulous Kinder staff to discuss the progress of their children. We are so pleased that right from the beginning of their educational journey, our youngest students are in an environment that honours God and seeks to set the right foundations for all aspects of their learning and nurture. To do so in partnership with parents is an added blessing.

On top of this our Kindergarten team have been preparing for an important inspection and assessment from the Department of Early Education & Childhood Development’s Quality Assurance Division. This is a process that all kindergartens are required to participate in regularly as part of their ongoing registration. We look forward to this process next Monday and know that the DEECD will be impressed with what they see!

Two potential impacts of timetable changes for the Secondary School

Last week we mentioned possible changes to the secondary timetable. Two areas that will be impacted by this change are lunch time and bus arrangements. We are proposing that all secondary students will have a 40 minute lunch break commencing at 1.30pm. For our Middle School students this is 40 minutes later than what happens now. For some, this will mean a grumbling tummy as they adjust to the slightly later lunch. We are looking to promote a more substantial snack at recess and allowing Middle School students to nibble on healthy brain food between recess and lunch as ways to combat this. Some may also be wondering whether these proposed changes will affect the bus departures at the end of the day. We don’t think so to any great measure. A 5 minute later departure should see all students at the bus stop ready to be collected. Of course, for our Middle School students this means not much socialising time at the kiss’n’drop zone as they need to move from their classes straight on to buses as our Senior School students presently do! As per the invitation last week, please email myself or Karissa Esselbrugge if you would like to contribute any comments in regard to these changes.

FOCUS On... Philosophy of Ideas

Why do we expect a student to undertake a non-VCE subject at Year 12?

“The world will ask you who you are, and if you do not know, the world will tell you.”

Carl Jung

A key part of being human is to search for significance and identity. Questions like, “What is my purpose?” and ‘Am I lovable?’ are all too common in the adolescent stage of life. In the times we live, with social media in particular and popular culture in general, there are plenty of voices telling our students who they should be, and contrary to Jung, without their permission.

Philosophy of Ideas (POI) is a compulsory Year 12 subject which aims to help our students recognise the messages that society ‘tells’ us, analyse where these messages have come from and evaluate their impact in shaping our view of ourselves, others and the world, especially from a biblical perspective...all within two periods a week. In order to achieve this, POI, unlike mainstream subjects, is vital for equipping students with skills for how to think rather than what to think. This requires an investigation into ‘ideas’, some of which were hammered out centuries ago but still shape us today.

Though POI is beyond the VCE requirements, it’s MECS’ way of acknowledging that there is much more to our identities than gaining a high ATAR, obtaining a highly paid job, and other such messages that our world ‘tells’ us are vital for life. Thus POI is one way of addressing some of the deficiencies of the VCE in preparing students for life beyond Year 12.

POI uses films and other media, as a way of highlighting the messages our world preaches to us. This acknowledges that the dominant thinking of our times is not being conveyed through the traditional modes of parents, church and school but through popular culture. Aussie filmmaker George Miller (Mad Max, Babe) made a similar point: “The cinema story-tellers have become the new priests. They are doing a lot of the work of our religious institutions…I don’t think we fully understand yet the need of people to gather together to listen to a story, and the power of that act.”

I have been teaching POI for a number of years now. It is always wonderful to receive feedback from past students about its value, in terms of providing a firm faith foundation from which to navigate the plethora of worldviews they are bombarded with in our secular universities and also in providing a comprehensive view of life, where playing a game of basketball is considered just as ‘Christian’ as praying.

Sharon

Year 12 Coordinator
MECS Notes

Lost Property

Please check lost property (near First Aid) for your child’s missing clothing. The racks are overflowing with un-named clothing (mostly jackets/jumpers). There are over 80 items on the racks!!

Sandra
Administration Assistant

Congratulations Asha

Asha has been chosen as a member of the Victorian Schools Orienteering Team to compete in September/October of this year in the annual School Sport Australia Orienteering Championship. This will be held in Ballarat, Victoria from Friday 25 September through to Sunday 4 October. It is expected that teams from each state and territory will be represented as well as a team from New Zealand.

This is a great achievement for Asha’s final year at school. Well done!

Anne-Maree
Secondary Sports Coordinator

Can you help our Cycle B Students?

Next term the Year 7 & 8 Cycle B students will be looking at major issues that affect our world. Groups of students will work together to research one issue, and together create a mock aid agency to respond to the issue.

We would greatly appreciate some expert input from people who are working, or have recently worked, for an aid agency, to have some discussions with the students and challenge them to think more deeply about the complexity of the issue and how it can be addressed.

The issues we are discussing are:

- Aboriginal Health
- Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Child Slavery
- Food and Nutrition
- Water and Sanitation

The issues we are discussing are:

- • written communication
- • mathematics, science and technology
- • humanities, the arts and social sciences.

Because it is a general test, no special study is required for the GAT. Students will already have done preparation for the GAT in past study of subjects like English, Mathematics, Science and History, where they have built up general knowledge and skills in writing, numeracy and reasoning.

The GAT is an essential part of the VCE assessment procedures. All students enrolled in one or more VCE or scored VCE VET Unit 3 and 4 sequences must sit the GAT.

Although GAT results do not count directly towards a student’s VCE results, they play an important role in checking that school-based and external assessments have been accurately assessed, and in calculating Derived Examination Score.

To achieve hosting the GAT onsite, we relocated 64 tables from the Senior School classrooms. Our aim was to provide the best possible exam arrangement for our students. Although nervous, students were upbeat and comfortable.

The GAT was a great opportunity for students to get into the mindset of sitting exams. The process prepared them for the length of time they may be required to sit an exam for, how to pace themselves and leave enough time to answer all questions. Hosting the GAT in the gym provided opportunity for students to be guided through this process in a professional manner, but also for the school to trial hosting all our VCE exams on-site in the future. And after last weeks’ success, we are hoping to begin this process of implementation in 2016.


Karissa
Assistant Principal -Secondary

Basketball Clinic

Over the past three weeks our Primary School students have been learning new skills through Basketball Clinics in the gymnasium. The clinics have been run by the Kilsyth Cobras, and their instructor is former MECS student Michael (Class of ‘11). Michael plays for the Kilsyth Cobras and is currently completing an internship with Kilsyth Basketball during his (US) Summer break from college. Michael gained a basketball scholarship with St. Ambrose University in Iowa studying Human Performance and Fitness and will return to the US in August to complete his fourth and final year of study.

Playing college basketball has been a great experience for Michael, who is in the starting five on his college team. He has gained honours for being the league’s Conference Player of the Week, and as part of his experience in America, has represented his college in basketball trips throughout the Mid Western states as well as California and Puerto Rico. He will travel with his team to Ireland this coming season.

Michael began his basketball career in Year 7 as part of the MECS Panthers, which went on to win two grand finals, before trying out and joining the Kilsyth Cobras in the under 18’s team. Michael plans to play professional basketball when he returns next year. He has been enjoying being back at MECS in a coaching capacity.

Some students saw Michael play when they took advantage of the free tickets he gave Middle Primary to watch the Cobras’ men’s senior team in action last Saturday.

Thursday 18 June 2015   Page 4
Social Skills Drama  
Program Semester 2

Social Skills Drama is a program that uses drama games and role play to teach social skills and self-confidence in a safe and creative small group environment (4 or 5 students), and has been offered at MECS for the past 12 years. Choice Learning and Social Lights provide the program to MECS. Parents, teachers and students themselves anecdotally report a significant improvement in social skills, behaviour management and confidence. A research partnership with Latrobe University has recently confirmed these reports.

Each session consists of three main components to assist students in these areas including: conversation skills, non-verbal cues and role plays. Through the program, students are provided with skills to successfully manage a number of everyday situations, including:

- conflict
- meeting new people
- friendly conversations
- anxiety
- losing at games
- sharing and taking turns
- appropriate skills for the workplace (for senior students)
- identifying and expressing emotions

Students are invited to join the program in Semester 2, 2015 (2 terms) when a 12 week program will be offered.

Term 3 will commence on Thursday 30 July, Thursday 6, 13, 20 August and Thursday 10 and 17 September.

Term 4 will run on Thursday 15, 29 October, 5, 12 and 19 November, and Thursday 3 December.

MECS recognises the positive impact of the Social Skills Drama program, and has subsidised the program for a number of years. Students who have previously participated benefit from the ongoing nature of the program. We are now enrolling students for this drama program at a cost of $230.

If you would like your child to attend in Semester 2, please ask for a form from the front office and return by Monday 23 June. If you have any questions, requests or suggestions, please contact Jo or Shirley at school 9738 6000 or email.

Shirley  
Primary Education Support Coordinator
Last Tuesday, our Year 10 students arrived at school to find themselves being directed into the Theatrette, given a lanyard with attached name tag and a conference bag. They were then ushered onto waiting buses for the long trip to Montrose Town Centre!

Here in the main auditorium there were tables set up with jugs of water and mints. Students selected a seat and Narelle kicked off Transition Education Conference 2015 with an introduction, highlighting that in God’s eyes it doesn’t matter what you do for a job, it’s how you approach it and how your life can fit into the bigger picture of His plan for humanity. The idea of service to others being important for a sense of purpose in life was a theme that continued throughout the week.

In the afternoon students ventured into the Montrose township armed with a question for the small business owners (with their prior permission!). Students were asked to find out what personal qualities or general employability skills the employers would look for in a potential employee. The range of answers was excellent and larger than expected. Students identified the most popular responses and talked about ways in which they could improve on those areas.

The rest of the conference was jam packed full of inspiring guest speakers sharing their career-life journeys, job seeking tips and information about study options for Year 11 and 12. Many spoke about how they made their choices and reassured our students that while these decisions may seem overwhelming, it’s the small steps that create the bigger picture (and that they don’t need to have it all worked out now).

We visited a range of tertiary providers (with students given some choice in where they went) and enjoyed great food courtesy of the school (thanks to our catering lady, Hannah).

All of this was planned to provide our students with the opportunity to learn more about the options available to them after Year 10 in a celebratory way, acknowledging the significance of this time in their lives.

Feedback from the students was extremely positive with many appreciating the change from the normal classroom environment and the more relaxed style of learning.

**Some of the comments included:**

**Paige**

Trans Ed Week was really enjoyable. It was really motivational and got the ball rolling for job hunting for me. I found the resume and interview technique sessions to be most helpful. This week has led me to think twice about my future and I’m happy about that. More doors have been opened and that gives me more opportunities to discover my dreams.

**Emmi-Lee**

Trans Ed Week was very helpful. We got to experience a taste of Uni – a personal highlight of mine. Looking forward to the future!

**Sophie**

Trans Ed Week has opened my mind to a career. I have a more clear idea on what I want to be.

**Anonymous**

**Amelia**

Careers Coordinator
Throughout this term, the 3 year old kinder children have been learning about all the diverse animals God created, from the big animals such as the dinosaurs, the wild animals and the Australian animals to the smallest and fascinating creatures like the mini beasts.

With the expertise of Andrew and his pets, the children were able to marvel and wonder about some of these amazing creatures. They observed closely the turtles patterns on their shells and they felt the cold, bumpy skin of the various reptiles. The children listened attentively as Andrew talked about the habitats of snakes and spiders and our safety towards them. The children sat beautifully in a circle while the snakes slithered towards them and the turtles and blue tongue lizards had a race before their very eyes.

Our 3 year olds were indeed very, very brave.

Lee & Karen
Kindergarten Educators
## Calendar

### 2015 Term 2 Week 10: 15 June - 21 June

**Fri 19 June**  
Year 7 & 9 Immunisations

**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 Week 11: 22 June - 28 June

**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

### 2015 Term 2 Holidays: 29 June - 19 July

**Mon 20 July**  
Term 3 Begins  
Welcome back Morning Tea 9am Staffroom

**Fri 24 July**  
Year 6 Positive Boys Day

**Sat 25 - Sun 26 July**  
Year 8 & 10 Performing Arts students performing at Dandenong Ranges Youth One Play festival

### 2015 Term 2 Week 2: 27 July - 2 August

**Tues 28 July**  
Parent Seminar B, Main Staffroom, 7.30pm

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## 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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## Found

Three pairs of glasses  
Please collect from the main office.

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## Pasture Hay for Sale

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

## Teacups Needed!

If you have any unwanted tea cups (new or old, but preferably not chipped) that you would like to donate for a charity fundraiser event, please drop them in to the Main Office.

*Cassie Nation*  
Receptionist

## Apples & Pears

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

## Movie Days

Discovery Church Kids will again be hosting Movie Days over the upcoming school holidays. We will be running ‘Night at the Museum: Secrets of the Tomb’ on Wednesday, July 1 and ‘Paper Planes’ on Wednesday July 8.

89 Monbulk Road, Mount Evelyn. Gold coin donation. Sausage sizzle and lollies for sale. Information 9736 2323.

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## Donvale Christian College

**Celebrating 40 Years**

Past Student High Tea Sat 29 August 2015. 3-5pm.

Past Staff High Tea Sun 30 August 2015. 3-5pm.

RSVP by 17 August to Lee Giliam on 9844 2471 ext 301 or memories@donvale.vic.edu.au

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## Dressmaking Model for Sale

$120. Adjustoform Action A 8 to 14. Used only once to make a wedding dress.

Fully adjustable neck, body, waist, height. Includes hem leveler. In excellent condition and still in box. Asking half the retail price.

Call or text Robyn on 9876 8404 or 0437 247 903.

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## Cyber Safety Info Session

Wed July 22, 7-8.30pm, Mount Lilydale Mercy College, 120 Anderson Street, Lilydale.

RSVP Monday July 20 on 9735 4022

Join in a discussion with an ACMA Cybersmart expert. Arm yourself with the knowledge of what is trending and how to assist your child navigate safely online.

Free event, tea and coffee provided.

www.cybersmart.gov.au

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## 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

### Cost

Call or text Robyn on 9876 8404 or 0490 464 852.

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## Found

Three pairs of glasses  
Please collect from the main office.

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## Newsletter Deadline

11am Tuesday on published week.  
Email articles (images attached as jpg) to newsletter@mecs.vic.edu.au

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Notices sent home this week and on Website  

- Year 11 and 12 Legal Studies Excursion
- JP Core Studies Letter