Whole School Assembly - Celebrating Creativity

Jonathan & Joshua play at the Whole School Assembly as part of the SS worship team
**Story, Identity and Gospel Shaped - Big Ideas for Little Children**

*I love how little children view complex ideas! I see them simplify and grasp concepts which many adults would wrestle with and claim to be too difficult for young children. This teaches me that children, even when very young, should never be underestimated!*

Narelle and Gerry have reflected on the recent ITEC15 conference in these last two editorials, and I can’t help but include a perspective in relation to teaching and learning in the Early Years, on which I presented a workshop at the conference. Throughout the conference I was struck by the common themes that echoed through the amazing ideas shared by the presenters, and to my surprise a few of these themes were also reflected in my workshop. One that particularly resonated with me was ‘Story, Identity, and Gospel shaped’.

My primary aim for the Early Years workshop was to unpack some of the ideas in the Transformational Education booklet - recently published by the Teaching and Learning team at MECS, as all delegates attending the conference received a copy. Together in the workshop we spent time exploring themes from the Transformational Education framework, together with the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) to bring together ideas on how to develop a biblical perspective on learning in early childhood education. Teachers in the workshop shared their own stories and contexts and spent valuable time together networking and sharing ideas.

**Story**

Don’t we all love a good story? When Jesus was teaching he often used a story to convey meaning. As described in the Transformational Education book, the Biblical narrative of redemption and the coming of God’s kingdom is the story that informs and shapes every aspect of the life of the school. God’s story is the over-arching narrative that informs and shapes all that we do. It provides the framework by which we understand our life and the world. Our story (how we understand life in community) and My Story (our individual gifts and talents, needs and interests) are ideally shaped by God’s story. Beware: the happily ever after is found in the restorative work of Jesus, and not all of our life experience is Gospel shaped! (See last two editorials - Narelle’s about story and Gerry’s on false gods.)

The magnitude of the Fall was highlighted at the conference. Throughout the conference I was struck by the common themes that echoed through the amazing ideas shared by the presenters, and to my surprise a few of these themes were also reflected in my workshop. One that particularly resonated with me was ‘Story, Identity, and Gospel shaped’.

We believe children are:
- Wonderfully created
- Powerful and strong
- Capable
- Natural explorers
- Curious
- Image bearers
- Loved by God

We all know young children like to play, explore and experiment, but have we thought about young children as being able to hypothesize, predict, or use scientific thinking?

**Gospel shaped**

During the conference I shared with the Early Years teachers a story about Mae, one of our 4-year-old kindergarten children. This year Mae decided she wanted to help people who were poor, and after conferring with her parents and looking through a Compassion catalogue, realised she didn’t have enough money in her money-box. She decided that she would sell her artwork, and after an invitation to her kinder friends and families, she set up a shop on her verandah, selling her artwork! She raised enough to buy a cow and clean water! We recognise that all is not well with the world, and opportunities to discuss and learn about problems provide springboards for ‘hand’ responses at an appropriate developmental level. Mae’s story is an inspiring ‘hand and heart’ response. I was so encouraged by Mae’s simple and practical solution to a very complex situation in the world!

Ultimately, through participating and presenting at the ITEC15 conference, I was encouraged to ‘listen in the quiet’. Our world is filled with visual images, through many media sources. Our ability to be ‘present’ is being eroded through social media and IT devices. Listening is a part of our practise in the Early Years, and as we allow this practise to filter through to listening to Jesus and to spending time in the quiet spaces, we can continue to absorb scripture and reflect on our part to play, no matter what our age, in God’s story.

**Wendy**

*Early Years Coordinator*
Changes to the Senior School Leadership team

We were pleased to announce at our VCE Information Night last week that Emma will be stepping into the Senior School Coordinator role in 2016. Amelia will then ably step into the Year 10 Coordinator role to supplement and give focus to the work she already does as our Careers and VET Coordinator. We are really looking forward to the way in which both these appointments will further strengthen our Senior School leadership team.

Critical Incident Planning

For over 12 months now we have been working on a detailed Critical Incident Response Plan that would guide us if we were faced with a critical situation involving staff, students or property. We look forward to sharing the details of this with you in the future so that you too, would know what to expect if such an event was to occur. However, be assured that we already have excellent processes, resources and guidelines in place. More importantly, we continue to pray for God’s ongoing protection for all members of our community so that we never have to use them!

Changes to the Secondary Timetable

We have now completed our process of consultation in regard to changes to the secondary timetable for 2016. Thanks to the many parents who responded to our email with specific feedback and comments. In the next week I will be emailing all Year 6 and secondary families clearly outlining the changes to the structure of the school day. These changes will come into effect at the beginning of next year. We thank you in advance for your support.

So much happening!

As I looked through last week’s newsletter, I was so excited and proud of all the activities and opportunities that our students are part of. It was great to read of the Year 6 Positive Boys program and the Year 10 Worldviews excursion - both unique programs designed to foster wisdom and maturity in our young people in different ways. Then there were the invitations to various performing arts evenings and the next instrumental music recital showcase! Can I encourage you to support these events as we encourage our students to use the gifts and talents God has given them? They will be fabulous evenings. And then there was the JP classes raising money for their World Vision project. What a variety of activities celebrated in one newsletter! Let’s give thanks to God for the amazing array of ways in which our students learn about God’s world and then respond in heart and hand.

MECS Notes

Financial Assistance

Information for Parents

CSEF (Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund) will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance will be paid to the school and will be credited to your account.

How to apply

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef.

Closing Date

Applications close 18 September 2015.

For more information about the CSEF visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef.
**Music Notes**

**Would you like to learn a musical instrument?**

We have several vacancies available for instruments such as voice and piano. If you would like to enrol, please pick up a form from the office or email Jodie.

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**MECS Notes**

**Term 3 Parent Teacher Meetings**

The Parent Teacher Meetings are being conducted on the following dates and times in September for all Prep to Year 11 students:

- Wed 2 Sept: 3:45-6pm (PS & MS only)
- Mon 7 Sept: 3:45-6pm (PS & MS)
  - 3:45-9pm (SS)
- Thurs 10 Sept: 3:45-9pm (Prep-11)

Please keep these nights aside for the opportunity to meet with your child’s teachers and discuss their progress. More details will come closer to the dates with log in information for our booking database, PTO.

**Corrie**

Admin Support

**Electronic Correspondence Return Slips**

If you currently receive MECS correspondence via hard copy, you should have received a letter late last week with a response slip to let us know if you would consider moving to receiving your news via email. Please return your preference slip to the main office by August 14. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me on 9738 6000.

Thank you,

**Corrie**

Admin Support

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**Friends of MECS**

**Woolworths Earn and Learn**

Please remember to collect these stickers if you shop at Woolworths. The program allows us to redeem stickers for educational materials for the school. Stickers need to be placed onto the ‘Earn & Learn sticker sheets’ - available from Woolworths, online or from the school office. Only 60 stickers can be placed on each sheet. The sheets can be dropped into the collection box in the Main Office. Many thanks.

**Ann**

Community Relations Assistant

**Entertainment Book**

Don’t miss out on purchasing your book. I will finish selling them in the next couple of weeks. Order through the office or go online at: www.entbook.com.au/193f695.

**Evelyn**

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**Find Your Voice**

Year 7/8 Performing Arts Presents...

An Original Production written by Jemimah Rankcom and Britney Bailey

(Edited by Mrs Annora Hummerston 2015)

**Wednesday August 12, 7.30pm**

Senior School Theatrette - Gold Coin Donation

Bookings are encouraged to ensure we have adequate seating. Please use the Booking Forms in the Main Office and in your CS Classroom.
Legal Excursion

Last Friday, our Legal Studies class was privileged enough to attend an excursion involving the courts in Melbourne city. Throughout the day we got to visit the Supreme Court and County Court. We got to walk through the exclusive Supreme Court Library, where all the precedents ever made are bound in countless books. We had a fake court hearing where we got to experience all the different roles of individuals during a trial, and hear about the different cases that are heard in the Supreme Court. After the Supreme Court, we got to look through the County Court and briefly hear a case. To end the day we had a guided tour into a set up replica court and experienced the jury system of the courts. We had the opportunity to go into the jury room and encounter what being part of a real jury would feel like. Overall, the legal excursion was an eye opening experience that helped all of us encounter what the court system looks like and what it feels like to be a part of it.

Charlotte, Year 12 Student

MP Yarra Valley Excursion

On Monday this week, Middle Primary went on an excursion for our Core Studies unit 'Celebrate Our Community'.

The purpose of this excursion was to explore and learn more about our local history including some influential people in the past such as Simon Wonga, Dame Nellie Melba, David Mitchell and many more.

We were also investigating the impact of the old railway in Healesville and how its purpose changed as people's needs changed over time. It was so insightful to walk through the old carriages and learn about who and what they transported. It was so pleasing to see that when one of the train rides was stopped because of a fallen branch and power line, the children on board were able to still have fun and were very gracious to the train conductor and guard. They even sang them a lovely song that imitated the sound the train would have made if it could have kept going!

Our picnic lunch at Badger's Creek was also a great highlight as the beautiful wild parrots boldly perched on the students arms if they held them out long enough!

Overall, it was a wonderful day and despite the cold and rain, we all had an insightful and informative excursion, with lots of fun in between!

Justine
MP Teacher
Whole School Assembly

Last Wednesday, the student body, staff, and parents gathered together for this year’s third Whole School Assembly. Organised by the Middle School, the assembly celebrated the importance of creativity in learning. Outstanding puppets, lovingly crafted woodwork pieces, amazing machines, perfectly painted story poles and niftily knitted beards were among the dazzling array of student work showcased. The Senior School band led and encouraged the assembly in worshipping God through music, and the outstanding service of 14 student volunteers who represented the school with distinction at the recent ITEC conference was acknowledged. Overall, it was a wonderful expression of community and a highly successful Whole School Assembly.

Bradley
Middle School Coordinator
Last Friday the 4 year old children invited their Grandparents or special friend to see their Kinder. It was a busy but relaxed, lovely time, where Grandparents were seen to be either perched on very small chairs, or lying on the carpet either playing with blocks, telling stories with puppets or painting at the easel. We asked for grandparents to help their kinder child make a family tree, as we have been talking about how all families look different, and to help children understand their family structure. Thank you to all of the Grandparents who participated, we value the important role you play in the kinder children’s lives.

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.

### Cat needs a home

Ollie, our black and white, British shorthair, 8 year old cat is in need of a loving home. Sadly we can’t take him with us on our move overseas, so are looking to find him a new family. He has a very gentle nature and loves both indoors and out. Phone Cathy on 9737 0678 or 0400 173 798.

### Mount Evelyn Netball Club

Spring Registration 2015, Tues 11 August, 4-5.30pm and Wed 12 August 4-5pm at Mount Evelyn Netball Courts, Morrison Reserve. Contact Sheelagh 0438 088 122.

### Wandin Seville Community Bank 2015 Photographic Competition


### Apples & Pears

The next delivery will be on Friday 14 August. Please hand your order in to the office in an envelope by 10.30am that morning and ensure you have your name and order written on the front of the envelope, with the correct money enclosed. 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.

### Calendar

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thru 6 August</td>
<td>2016 Year 10 Information Evening</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 7 August</td>
<td>K4 Excursion to Montrose Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 10 August</td>
<td>Primary GT 9am PUMP Room run by MPA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 11 August</td>
<td>Year 11 &amp; 12 AFL &amp; Netball SP Futsal Clinic Excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 12 August</td>
<td>SP Futsal Clinic Excursion Food Handling Course Week 2, 6pm Staffroom Find Your Voice, Year 7/8 Production, 7.30pm Theatrette</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 13 August</td>
<td>Myuna Animal Ark Incursion K3 &amp; Busybees Wilsons Prom Camp Meeting Staffroom 7.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 17 August</td>
<td>Primary GT 9am PUMP Room run by JPS Year 7 &amp; 8 AFL &amp; Netball</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 18 August</td>
<td>SP Futsal Clinic Excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 19 August</td>
<td>SP Connect Morning Tea 9am Staffroom Prep Chesterfield Farm Excursion K4 Kew Traffic School Excursion SP Futsal Clinic Excursion Music Recital 7pm Theatrette</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 20 August</td>
<td>SS Connect Morning Tea 8.45am Staffroom Year 9/10 Performing Arts Production 7.30pm Theatrette</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 24 August</td>
<td>Possums Bring your Bike to Kinder Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 25 August</td>
<td>MP Connect Morning Tea 9am Staffroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 26 August</td>
<td>Koalas Bring your Bike to Kinder Day Prep Connect Morning Tea 9am Staffroom Parent Seminar B, 7.30pm Staffroom</td>
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### Lost Jacket

Lost: Cotton On size 12 sleeveless puffer jacket in black with a fur trimmed hood. Left in the PUMP Room after a GT last term. If you see it please return to Emmerson Heaphy or drop into the Main Office. Thankyou.

### Cycle A Wilsons Prom Parent Info Night

Please note, next Thursday, August 13 at 7:30, all parents of Cycle A students are asked to attend an information night in the Main Staffroom to learn more about this important school program in Term 4.

### Ranges TEC Darwin Trade Mission

Sausage sizzle Fundraiser for Ranges TEC’s trade mission trip to Woolaning, Darwin

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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tr>
<td>2.00 for a Sausage</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.50 for a Can</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.00 for two Sausages and a Can</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
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When and Where is it? Outside the understory Tuesday 11 August for Middle School Pre order forms must be returned by tomorrow - Fri 7 August

### Notices sent home this week and on Website

- Yr 12 VTAC Application Briefing Sessions
- Year 7 & 8 Performing Arts Extra Rehearsal
- Year 9 Service Elective Notice
- Careers Newsletter No 11 August 3
- JPRH Term 3 Show and Tell
- Prep Pipeline 6
- Social Night for Prep Mums Notice
- Cycle A Wilsons Prom Parent Info Night

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