SP celebrate with Japan Day

Finding the opportunity for moodling, dawdling and puttering

It may not come as a surprise to many of you that I am a list-maker and that most of my life happily passes completing jobs on a list! Most things that I do, most purchases I make, most conversations I have and most activities that I complete – are all prompted by a list. In fact, I have been known to add something to a list even after I have completed that task, just so I have the satisfaction of crossing it off!

Now while there are many benefits of living in this manner – there are also some drawbacks. One of the biggest that I have been contemplating recently is that by being quite task-orientated, I can actually miss things – I’m not as observant as I should be of the creation around me and the opportunities to explore. I’m so busy doing the things on my list that I don’t stop to smell the roses.

Annie Dillard, an American philosopher and naturalist, writes, “It’s all a matter of keeping my eyes open... beauty and grace are performed whether or not we see them. The least we can do is try to be there... so that creation need not play to an empty house.”

A favourite teaching resource that I often used was a quirky collection of activities entitled, ‘How to be an Explorer of the World’. It invited discovery and exploration of colours and patterns, sounds and sights, and similarities and differences in the things around us. It suggested that the “imagination needs moodling – long, inefficient happy idling, dawdling and puttering.” For a list-maker like me, this way of interacting with God’s creation is challenging – it can even seem like a waste of time. And yet it seems appealing...

We are reminded in Colossians that “For by Him all things were created, things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible... all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things and in Him all things hold together.”

As we head into the holidays, the invitation is for you and your family to find opportunities to moodle, dawdle and putter! To see, explore and play in God’s creation so that it doesn’t play to an empty house. To see how all things hold together in Him. The change of routine and pace that a holiday season brings will hopefully give you that opportunity.

As this last week of term unfolds, I will be enjoying the spectacular scenery of Central Australia. Being part of this 16 day trip will also give me the opportunity to leave my lists at school and home, and do the same. I am looking forward to having more time to see the beauty and grace around me – in creation, in community and in His Word. I hope there is lots of time for inefficient happy idling! I look forward to dawdling and puttering in God’s backyard.

May this be our experience over the coming weeks, but more importantly, may it continue when we return to the routines and lists of Term 4 that would seek to overwhelm us. Enjoy the holidays!

Narelle
MECS Principal

FOCUS On... Warlpiri Language

Several teachers were sitting around a campfire at Yuendumu one night long, long ago. We were recapping a busy, exhausting, exciting day on what seemed like an altogether different planet from the one we lived on. It was our first ever weekend on an Aboriginal settlement. Suddenly a woman came out of the shadows to ask who we were, and to suggest that if we were serious about Aboriginal Studies, we should undertake a language study at MECS, the target language being Warlpiri of course, the language of that town. So began a new chapter in our school history, a new departure in my teaching career...

That we decided to launch out into language study says something about the MECS philosophy in those days. Learning should be ‘hands on’, not purely academic. Culture cannot be understood without at least a glimpse of language, language which shapes and is shaped by the culture. Wendy, the woman mentioned above, came to MECS during her long-service leave to give me my first Warlpiri lessons, and the rest is history, as they say.

My life has been so enriched by the chance to visit Warlpiri culture. The welcoming love and tolerance of those people and the patient, kind grace of MECS has allowed teaching and learning about the people of this land to take place over 30 years. I am completely humbled that I have been privileged to take part in the adventure.

Recently the ‘letters’ pages of the Age have contained more than one contribution from people bemoaning the fact that they learned ‘nothing’ of the Aboriginal story of this wonderful country. Any student who has completed Year 10 at MECS since that Yuendumu night cannot have that complaint.

Colin
SS Teacher
Immersing in ‘To Kill a Mockingbird’

As part of Year 10 English the students read Harper Lee’s classic novel ‘To Kill a Mockingbird’. To develop a sense of empathy and appreciation for others, the students were required to devise an immersion experience, where they ‘climb(ed) into (another person’s) skin and walk(ed) around in it’.

It was encouraging to see the way the students embraced this activity for they had to create a whole class simulation, such as being on board a slave trader’s ship/ being subjected to racial discrimination laws, as well as design a personal challenge, such as praying for someone they don’t get along with for the duration of a week.

The class discussions that occurred as a result of this activity were most fruitful, with students gaining a better appreciation of themselves e.g. the many expectations they had of their parents, or how technology can be a form of enslavement rather than a helpful tool, as well as an appreciation of others’ situations e.g. the conditions of those who are forced to work in sweat shops.

To the left is an example of a student’s personal response.

Sharon
SS Teacher & Year 12 Coordinator

“Through the week I felt myself becoming more aware of my actions and my thoughts. On Wednesday night I cooked dinner for the family and had it waiting for mum when she got home, because I felt that it was an expectation of Mum and it made me realise it shouldn’t be. This was the start of my week, but more things started to come out. I started to realise that I had expectations of what my Mum should do that wasn’t fair. My expectations included: working, cooking, cleaning, transporting, always being there, look after everyone and being strong. When I wrote these down looking at it seems like a lot and very unrealistic for one person to do. And yet that’s what I expected.

Over the weekend I had work and a party, when all this came up my first thought was that my Mum could take me. I was starting to see a habit any time I needed something or wanted something I would always think of Mum. And that’s when it dawned on me. My Mum doesn’t ask me to do anything she wouldn’t, and yet in the past I used to complain. But I still expected my Mum to do it.”

Sarah, Year 10 Student
MECS Notes

Keep the date free!!
Coming up during Term 4 is the MECS Primary Celebration Concert on Friday, November 6 at 6:30pm.
More details regarding tickets and times will be sent home via email this week.

Ben
SP Teacher

Costume help needed
Term 4’s Primary School Celebration Evening is fast approaching, and in preparation for this event I would love the help of a few hands to cut some fabric for costumes. No sewing experience required! Please email me to let me know you’re available, and we’ll organise a time in the first few weeks of Term 4. Many thanks and kind regards,

Rachel
Indonesian Teacher

Student Absences
During this term we have had a lot of parents calling the office to inform us that their child is away. Please remember that parents are required to notify us of absences by calling the Absent Student Line 03 9513 1561 and leaving a message, not by calling the office. Please store this number in your phone for future reference. This will ensure that all information relating to absences can be reported efficiently and accurately to the correct teachers and staff. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Laura
Student Services Officer

IT News

ZooWhiz Online Learning
A reminder to Primary School parents that the ZooWhiz discounted subscription offer expires at the end of the school holidays. A discount card and information was sent home with students 2 weeks ago. If you didn’t receive this and would like one, please contact the office or myself.

Senior School BYOD Trial
Senior School parents will have received an email this week with further information about the BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) trial for Senior School students in Term 4. If you think you haven’t received it, please remember to check your Junk or Spam email folders. Further questions can be directed to byod@mecs.vic.edu.au.

Thanks

Mic
ICT Coordinator

Friends of MECS

Woolies Earn and Learn
Please return all stickers and sheets as soon as possible. The promotion is finished and we are excited about getting some new equipment for the Kinder.
Thank you for supporting the Earn and Learn promotion this year!

GAWA Gift Packing Day - Wednesday October 21
Donations are coming in and we are looking for some wonderful volunteers to help us pack up the gifts ready for shipping. Can you help out? Even a few hours is great. Please let Nicole know.

Cook Off Day - Friday October 23
Our freezer is nearly empty and we would love to keep blessing people in our community with delicious meals. If you are able to help out, even for a few hours - please let us know. It is a fun day and a great way to meet other parents. Please let Ann know if you can help out.

Nicole
Community Relations Officer

Thank you from Ranges TEC
Dear MECS families and staff,
We would like to thank you for supporting the Ranges TEC Trade Mission team throughout these last few weeks. The 3 fundraisers that we did raised over $1200! This will help us out a lot while we are in Darwin. Thank you!

From the Ranges TEC Darwin Trade Mission team.

Good-bye Children
The fifth and final performance of the Year 9 & 10 Performing Arts production, Only Children, took place last Thursday for an audience of Year 8, 9 and 10 students, as well as some special guests. As many of you know, the play is based on a true story about a beach picnic tragedy, as told through the eyes of one of the leaders, Eileen.
After last week’s performance Erica (Year 10), who played ‘old Eileen’, and Beth (Year 9), who played ‘Young Eileen’, got to meet the real Eileen, who just happens to be Marlene’s mother.
It was a fitting way to close the season after a successful ‘tour’ to Edinburgh College, Donvale Christian College and the Dandenong Ranges One Act Play Festival. Special thanks to all those who came to see the show, to our bus drivers, to Ms T (student teacher) and to Sandra who did a beautiful job of altering costumes (including a dress that was once worn by the real Eileen!).

Marlene
Drama Teacher
Primary Hooptime

This week we had 3 teams from Middle Primary and 3 teams from Senior Primary compete in the McDonalds Hooptime Competition.

All 6 teams did an excellent job. Some of our teams won all their games and we had two teams make it to the finals with our Senior Primary all star team making it to the grand final but unfortunately losing by just 6 points.

All the students represented MECS really well and displayed excellent sportsmanship throughout the day.

Thanks to all the family members who came out to support the students. Both Hooptime days were a lot of fun!

Jason
Primary Sports Coordinator

MECS Notes

Lost Property

Please check lost property (near First Aid). The racks are currently overflowing with un-named clothing, mostly 60-70 jackets waiting to be claimed. Unclaimed items are given to a local Op-shop during the holidays.

Melinda
First Aid Officer & Lost Property Manager

Accidentally Speaking...

Our family has been associated with MECS for many years and we have appreciated the many wonderful relationships we have built with people of this lovely community. So it came as quite a shock to me when on Friday afternoon (11 Sept), after teaching at the school for the day, I noticed that my blue Hyundai i30 wagon had a fresh dent and scrapes in the front, right hand side fender. The car was reverse parked below the kinder in the lower primary carpark, next to the fire hydrant (the first park on the left after entering through the school gates). Gerry Beimers was notified and photos taken.

What distressed me was the fact that no note was left by the driver of the vehicle that caused this damage. The car is currently being advertised for sale so the damage now creates a very awkward situation as it has devalued a vehicle that was in excellent condition. I would like to appeal to the good conscience of the person who damaged my car to make contact with the school office so that appropriate arrangements may be made to repair the vehicle.

Contact details supplied to the office
VCE Music Performance

Last Wednesday evening the VCE Music class took a trip over to Belgrave Heights Christian School (BHSC) for the Semester 2 Performance Recital. We are partnering with BHCS again this year for VCE Music and took the opportunity to provide our students with an unfamiliar performance venue in preparation for their end of year performance examinations. Our students for this year are Nicholas, Katherine & Sophia (Units 3&4) and Kristoffer, Natalie, Skye & Naomi (Units 1&2). Congratulations go to all of them for the dedication and effort they put into their rehearsals and the outstanding quality of their performances. We would like to wish our Year 12 Musicians in particular all the very best for their examinations coming up in the next couple of months.

Tim
VCE Music Coordinator

Empowering Girls Night

Last week the Year 6 girls brought their mums to school for the annual Empowering Girls Mother/Daughter evening. This is a special night to share the learning the girls have been doing during the Empowering Girls program with their mums as well as take some time out to encourage and nurture our mother/daughter relationships. A big thank you to all the mums and daughters for braving a cold wintry night to come and be a part of the program.

Olivia
Middle School Art / Senior Primary Numeracy Teacher
Throughout the term students have been working hard on their Japan projects where they have planned a two week holiday over to this diverse country. Whilst there, they have visited many attractions and caught different forms of transport to get themselves around Japan. To finish off our Core Studies unit this term, Senior Primary students took part in ‘Japan Day’ which was a great way to draw our unit to a close.

Japan day saw some students dress up in traditional Japanese attire and we were all very fortunate to have Miss Timmins come and speak to us about her time living in Japan some years ago. The day also involved some Japanese food tasting, which included Wasabi Peas, Rice Snacks as well as numerous flavours of Japanese Sushi, which were delicious. For the last part of the day, students invited their families to come visit and check out their fabulous projects and show off all of the hard work that they have put in across the term.

It has been a fabulous term, learning all about a different culture and experiencing the many facets that make up life in Japan.

Ben
Senior Primary Teacher & Coordinator
### Calendar

**2015 Term 3 Week 9: 14 Sept - 20 Sept**

**Thur 17 September**
SP Positive Boys Blokes Night 6.30pm Main Staffroom

**Fri 18 September**
SP Positive Boys Billy Cart Races 2pm Last Day Term 3

**2015 Term 3 Holidays: 21 Sept - 11 Oct**

**Sun 27 September**
Centre Trip Returns

**Fri 2 October**
Public Holiday - School Closed

**Mon 5 - Tues 6 October**
Year 12 Practice Exams

**Wed 7 October**
VCE Drama Solo Performance All Staff Review Day - School Closed

**Thur 8 - Fri 9 October**
Year 12 Intensives

**Fri 9 October**
Working Bee including Morning Tea 9am-1pm

**Sat 10 October**
Family reception on 9871 1802.

**Sun 11 October**
SP Positive Boys Billy Cart Races 2pm

**Mon 12 October**
Term 4 Begins Welcome Back Morning Tea 9am Staffroom

**Thur 15 October**
Association EGM 6.30pm Dinner, 7.30pm Meeting start, Year 9 Rooms

**Fri 16 October**
Immunisations Year 7 & 8 Year 11 Formal

**Sat 17 October**
Working Bee including Morning Tea 8am-1pm

**2015 Term 4 Week 1: 12 Oct - 18 Oct**

**Mon 12 October**
Term 4 Begins Welcome Back Morning Tea 9am Staffroom

**Thur 15 October**
Association EGM 6.30pm Dinner, 7.30pm Meeting start, Year 9 Rooms

**Fri 16 October**
Immunisations Year 7 & 8 Year 11 Formal

**Sat 17 October**
Working Bee including Morning Tea 8am-1pm

**2015 Term 4 Week 2: 19 Oct - 25 Oct**

**Mon 19 October**
Year 6 Rock Climbing Excursion

**Wed 21 October**
MP Conect Morning Tea 9am Staffroom Gawa Gift Packing Day 9am PUMP Room Year 9 Basketball Year 10 Sport Excursion VCE Drama Solo Performance

**Wed 21 - Fri 23 October**
MP Camp

**Lost Walkie Talkies**
Two red digitech walkie talkies, possibly left in the MECS creation garden, or primary school area, up to two months ago. If found please hand in to office.

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

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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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flat for Rent</td>
<td>To rent in Monbulk: 2 bedroom, open plan flat, approx. 90sq., brick, gas heating, cool in Summer, tiled throughout, a walk to Main Street, shops, transport &amp; schools. Phone: 9752 1335, 0421 247 987.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Evelyn Street Party</td>
<td>Free community event, Wray Crescent, Mount Evelyn, Saturday October 24, 10am-3pm. Live music all day, activities for all ages, community information, food and drinks, donkey rides, market stalls, classic cars and more. <a href="http://www.mtevelynstreetparty.com">www.mtevelynstreetparty.com</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holiday Movie Days</td>
<td>‘Rio 2’ Wednesday 23 Sept at 10.30am. ‘Home’ Wednesday 30 Sept at 10.30am. Gold coin donation. Sausage sizzle and lollies for sale. For more info call 9736 2323. Discovery Church, 89 Monbulk Road Mount Evelyn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House Cleaning Services</td>
<td>Currently seeking an additional one or two clients for house cleaning services. Tasks include vacuuming, mopping, dusting, kitchen/bathroom/toilet cleaning, etc., but job can be tailored to suit your requirements. $30/hour. Call Heidi Geluk on 0403 573 792 if you’d like a little help.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apples &amp; Pears</td>
<td>The next delivery will be Friday October 9, which is the last Friday of the holidays. 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cassie</td>
<td>Receptionist</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Central Australia Trip Year 10

**Day 7/8**
Fri/Sat 18-19 September Yuendumu (Last day to write to your child at Uluru today - Thursday 17 Sept)

**Day 9**
Sunday 20 September Yuendumu to Alice Springs (298 kms)

**Day 10**
Monday 21 September Alice Springs to Yulara (Uluru) (446 kms)

**Day 11**
Tuesday 22 September Uluru

**Day 12**
Wednesday 23 September Uluru to Bush Camp - Last Day pick up letters at Uluru (485 kms)

**Day 13**
Thursday 24 September Bush Camp to Coober Pedy (270 kms)

**Day 14**
Friday 25 September Coober Pedy to Bush Camp past Woomera (480km)

**Day 15**
Saturday 26 September Bush Camp to Murray Bridge (441 kms)

**Day 16**
Sunday 27 September Murray Bridge to Melbourne (700 kms) Arrive 7pm

**Postman Pat awaits...**
Letters may be sent to the address as shown on this page, with MECS TOURS written very prominently (write it in a box), to ensure that mail is not misdirected. **Allow a week for delivery** to be sure your child receives their mail.

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### Notices sent home this week and on Website

- Student Music Leadership Letter
- SPC Headlice Alert Letter
- Primary Celebration Concert
- Instrumental Forms Missing Letter
- Kinder Conjunctivitis Alert Letter
- VCE U2 Drama Excursion Oct Notice

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**www.mtevelynstreetparty.com**

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**MECS TOURS**

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**Post by**

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**Thur 17 Sept**

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**Mount Evelyn Street Party**

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**Lost Walkie Talkies**

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**Central Australia Trip Year 10**

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**MECS COMMUNITY NOTICES**

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**Free Bookcase**
Free to a good home. Bookcase with 5 shelves. Height: 1.77 metres, depth: 28cm, width: 59cm. Contact Barb in Mount Evelyn on 9736 1104.

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**Riot Gold Coin Donation**
Gold coin donation. Sausage sizzle and lollies for sale. For more info call 9736 2323. Discovery Church, 89 Monbulk Road Mount Evelyn.

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**Holiday Movie Days**
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