EGM TONIGHT
7.30 Year 9 Rooms
All Welcome

A Trip to the Centre
Chandelle making a new friend at Yuendumu

Primary Celebration
Concert Tickets now available at the Office

135 York Road Mount Evelyn 3796 - office@mecs.vic.edu.au - www.mecs.vic.edu.au - 03 9738 6000 - 03 9738 6001 (fax) - Absent student: 03 9513 1561
Footprints in the Sand

I’m sure many of you are familiar with the ‘Footprints in the sand’ poem. There are many versions, but they go something like this....

One night a man had a dream.
He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord.
Across the sky flashed scenes from his life.
For each scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand:
one belonging to him, and the other to the Lord.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him,
he looked back at the footprints in the sand.
He noticed that many times along the path of his life there
was only one set of footprints.

He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest
and saddest times in his life.
This really bothered him and he questioned the Lord about it.

“Lord, You said that once I decided
to follow you,
You’d walk with me all the way.
But I have noticed that during the
most troublesome times in my life,
there is only one set of footprints.
I don’t understand why, when I
needed you most, you would
leave me.”

The Lord replied,
“My son, My precious child,
I love you and I would
never leave you.
During your times of trial and suffering,
when you see only one
set of footprints,
it was then that I carried you.”

This certainly carries an encouraging message, and one that
many in our community might need to hear. However, on the
Centre Trip, I had my own footprints experience. God used an
otherwise mundane moment to remind me of His great love and
the importance of keeping in step with Him.

Let me paint the picture. We
were camped at Tilmouth Well, which is
about 110kms from Yuendumu. The
more energetic members of our group
had headed off on a more challenging
hike up the bluff that overlooks this
spectacular country. The rest of us
headed up the sandy river bed to
explore the surrounds and have some
time for art and reflection. Walking the
sandy river bed was hard going! The
sun was beating down on us and the
soft sand was deep in parts. Without even
planning to, a number of us fell into formation
– each following in the footsteps of the person
in front. This made the going a little easier. Someone before us
had already compacted the sand making it a more solid and
reliable foundation. All we had to do was keep up!

I was following Peter. As I followed his slightly irregular gait,
and stepped into his large, firm footprints I felt more safe and
confident. I trusted this man! He has been a good friend
and colleague for over 20 years, he has been on the Centre Trip for
nearly as many years, he has walked this path before. I know
he had the safety of our group first and foremost in his mind so
each of his steps had been carefully taken. All I needed to do
was keep up and follow in his footprints.

You can see how God would use this
moment!
Whether we are being carried by Him,
or following in His
footprints – it is a
pretty good place to be!

Instead, the practice of following in
God’s footsteps brings comfort, confidence and direction.

When following in Pete’s footsteps, I know he wouldn’t have
let me fall too far behind. He kept looking over his shoulder,
checking up on us. It was comforting to know he was looking out
for me.

His deep footprints gave me confidence. He had tested the
ground and he was comfortable it was the most appropriate
route for those following.

He led the way. He had walked this river bed before. He was
familiar with the landscape and conditions. He knew how far we
could go before stopping for a rest. We could rest easy in the
direction he was taking us.

In the same way God provides comfort, confidence and
direction. Trust Him!

Narelle
MECS Principal

From the Board

The Board met during the school holidays
on October 6 for its regular monthly
meeting.

At each Board meeting, we review a
report from one of the 11 portfolios held
by the Board. This month we looked at
the Association and Board report. This
report covers the health of the Association
and the responsibilities of the Board. The
Association has had an increased focus
over this past year, with discussion at
the last AGM and the revitalisation of the
Association sub-committee. There is a
renewed commitment to communicating
with the Association and with the broader
school community so you should see
more of these reports in the newsletter.
Another outcome of the meeting is that the
policy documents will be updated to reflect
changes that have occurred over the last
little while. A full review of the governance
policies is due for next year.

The Board also looked at other issues such
as the report from the Growth Working
Party. This group has been meeting
for quite a few months to address the
blessing and responsibility of increasing
numbers of students wanting to enrol in
the school and how we should respond to
this issue. A briefing paper was presented
to the Board along with projections for the
future and potential plans. This will also
be brought before the Association at our
Extra General Meeting tonight for further
discussion (Thursday 15 October). Please
continue to pray for the Association and
the Board as we consider these issues.

Lisa, on behalf of the Board.
Welcome back to school

It was great to see all our students back at school this week, including ten new students! We warmly welcome these students and their families into the school and hope they settle in quickly. We were also pleased to welcome Di back from long service leave.

This term is an action-packed one as we head towards the end of the year. There are plenty of celebratory events along the way, camps to experience and everyday learning to enjoy. One particular event that I would like to bring your attention to is the Primary School Celebration Evening on Friday 6 November. This is a new event on our calendar and will be one of thanksgiving as all our Primary students perform and participate. Tickets now available from the office.

Staff Satisfaction Survey

At this time last year, we were able to report on the pleasing results of our Parent Satisfaction Survey. Late last term, our staff had their opportunity to participate in a similar survey. We are grateful to report that on the whole our staff are deeply satisfied and committed to the work they do here. Pleasingly there was a very strong correlation between the values and beliefs of our staff and the values and vision of the school. I believe this is one reason why we have such a settled and harmonious work environment. We were also pleased that the areas they did identify as requiring further attention or resourcing, were areas that we were already aware of. Early next year, there will be a number of processes available for our students to give us their important feedback!

Canteen

During this term we need to do further consultation and thinking about the future of our canteen. We were pleased with a number of opportunities last term for our students to purchase some special ‘treats’ through fundraising opportunities provided by Ranges TEC, however we need to decide on the way forward for 2016. Shortly, parents and staff will have the opportunity to respond to a survey that will provide us with some input. Students will also have their say through a number of student focus groups. Stay tuned for the details!

Association EGM

We are looking forward to seeing our Association members and parent community at our EGM tonight. It will be a great time of fellowship as we share a meal together and look closely at the proposal that has been put forward to the Board to address our need for the Primary School to expand if we are to accommodate the number of families who wish to partner with us here at MECS. Come and chat about some of the challenges and opportunities of this proposal. We are also pleased that Colin Youl will be leading us in devotions.

Workbreak

Last week our staff gathered for a range of professional development and community building activities. We had a great week, but the highlight for many was the Prayer Walk that we had on Wednesday morning. Staff moved around the school in small groups, praying for the students and activities that each space represented. It was a significant and moving time for all of our staff to visit all corners of the school and know that every aspect of our work is part of ‘seeking the Kingdom of God in education’ and that each part of our school has been covered in prayer!

FOCUS On... Art

You might be surprised to know that some of the most important skills to be taught in Art lessons at MECS are not how to draw, or paint or make something ‘look good’. In fact, the skills I hope to impart to my students are much less about art and much more about The Artist.

The first words of the Bible tell us that our world came into being as the result of the will and word of the Creator God. God was the original (and eternally incomparable) artist. He expressed his creativity by giving form to the world, and designing every cell and atom. The only reason we have a creative desire in us is because we are made in his image and have inherited his artistic passion!

This universe is an art gallery where God exhibits his artwork and we are so blessed to be able to wander around enjoying the show! Just look around where you are now. Can you see sun streaming through a cloud? How many shades of green can you see in a tree? Can you hear the melody in your child’s laugh? God created all these miraculous things from nothing! I think it’s extremely important that we can always feel wonder and amazement at His astonishing handiwork. When we take delight in God’s creation we are showing Him how much we appreciate and love the gifts He has made for us, rather than leaving them on the shelf!

Art is a wonderful opportunity to take a closer look at God’s creations. Whether it be drawing a self-portrait, a leaf study, a landscape or simply experimenting with colour, Art helps us to look closely and appreciate what we see. While we obviously do more in Art than count shades of green in the trees, it is this appreciation of creativity and a sense of wonder that we can then transfer to all of God’s creation that is so important to develop in ourselves and each other. Art gives us the opportunity to form a habit to appreciate God’s creation and respond in awe and praise.

Olivia
Middle School Art / Senior Primary Numeracy Teacher
**MECS Notes**

**Lost Property**

If your child has lost an article of clothing please come to the office and ask to check lost property. It is all bagged up to take to the Opp Shop in a couple of weeks.

*Sandra*

*Administration Assistant*

**Lessons from Empowering Girls**

All the Year 6 girls get together on Friday afternoons to talk about being a girl and all the hurdles that we might come across in our lives. This activity has really affected our lives, like our attitude towards most things and how we look at ourselves, also comparing others. We got to know each other more through this time and we became friends with people we would have never thought we would. Doing all the activities such as bracelet making and the mother daughter night really built up our self-esteem. We all really enjoyed the quotes that Miss D gave us each week like....

“*You can’t spell beautiful without B U I’m not beautiful like you, I’m beautiful like me.*”

*Skye*

In Term 3 all the Year 6 girls had Empowering Girls each week on a Friday afternoon with Miss D in the PUMP room. It was great getting to know all the girls and seeing them get along so well. Empowering Girls was a great chance for us to share our feelings, make new friends and learn what it means to be a girl. At the start we even got to make some little bags then decorate them for all the cards we got given with lots of different quotes. We also learned about the difference between beauty and inner beauty, different country’s perspective of what beauty is and what God thinks of beauty. Empowering Girls was by far the best experience I’ve had in SP!

*Anne*

On September 9 all the Year 6 girls and their mums got together to celebrate our lives with each other. We all met in the staffroom and we talked with our mums, we shared stories as a group and laughed with everyone! Then the highlight of the evening for everyone was the candle ceremony. How this worked was we sat in a circle with our mums and lit a candle for us both and said a short quote that went like this… “This candle is for (mother/daughter name), recognising the light she brings to my life and to the world. Then we prayed and had an AWESOME supper!!! So overall Empowering Girls Night was one of the best times of the Year 6 girl’s years!

*Emmerson*

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**Friends of MECS**

**GAWA Gifts**

GAWA Gifts - it is your last chance to donate Christmas gifts for the GAWA students. Please have all donations to the office by next week Tuesday at the very latest. **Last donation day - Tuesday October 20**

**GAWA Gift Packing Day - Wednesday October 21**

Donations are coming in and we are looking for some volunteers to help us pack up the gifts ready for shipping. Can you help out? Even a few hours would be 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.

Donations of the following items gratefully accepted: money to buy groceries as needed - even $5 is a help, jar garlic, red lentils, tinned tomatoes, jar pasta sauce, tinned corn, eggs, onions, carrots and zucchini.

*Nicole*

*Community Relations Officer*

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**Tonight**

**Association for Christian Education**

**EGM**

**Thursday 15 Oct**

6.30pm - **Dinner**

7.30pm - **Meeting Start**

If you wish to come for dinner before the meeting please RSVP to the Office on 9738 6000

**Topic** - How should MECS respond to our increasing waiting lists in the Primary section? Come and join in the discussion around recommendations from the Board’s Strategic Growth Working Group.

We will be meeting in the

Year 9 Open Village Rooms

**All Welcome**
For Term 3, the Year 6 boys had Positive Boys and to start with, we went to Oasis for a team building day. We did crate stacking and lots of other activities. Then we had a visit from a man to tell us about what a good man in society in today’s world is. After a couple of weeks we started our billy carts and it took 6 weeks to build and paint them as well. To finish off the term, we had our Blokes Night and our race. Overall it was a valuable learning experience and I really enjoyed the chance to build a cart at school with my friends.

Nathan

Last day of Term 3, the Year 6 Positive Boys had a billy cart race to finish off our program for the term. There were a range of billy carts with awesome designs! The team Caramel T-Rex won the race and also got the fastest time for the time trials. There were a few accidents along the way, with our team losing our wheel and another team having their rope come off due to some collisions on the race track. Some groups even tipped their carts from going too fast around the corners. Luckily, nobody got injured. Overall it was a great day.

Evan

On 17 September, all the Year 6 boys and their fathers gathered in the understorey to play a few rounds of Skittles. The fathers won 2-1. Then we headed up to the main staffroom to have a BBQ dinner together. After that we wrote some of our feelings on a sheet and got to share what we appreciate about each other. To end the night we auctioned off our billy carts. One billy cart went for $100. We raised over $400 for Jinga Christian School in Uganda! Overall it was a great night.

Noah

James, Elijah & Bailey

Lucas, Josiah & Oliver

Matthew, Evan & Nathan

Zak, Tom, Noah & Marcos

Matthew, Kailem & Jonathan

James

Jacques, Nathaniel, Nicholas & Caleb
Centre Trip

Centre Trip 2015 was different and yet wonderfully satisfying. Different because this was the first year of a shorter (16 days as opposed to 18 days) trip. While we missed out on a visit to Watarrka (King’s Canyon), we did get to spend an extra day at Yuendumu in which our students distinguished themselves by the quality of their time spent in the classrooms and out bush with the local students. The principal of Yuendumu School was enthusiastic in his comments about the value of our time spent there and is busy planning a reciprocal visit next year.

The trip was wonderfully satisfying because our students were simply delightful. I was deeply impressed by the manner in which students engaged in all of the challenges that were presented to them. They participated with gusto and worked well. There were many students who conquered their fears in a number of areas and have returned stronger and more resilient individuals. As always, the quality of their thinking as expressed by their written and artistic work was impressive.

Finally, I would like to express my wholehearted thanks to all of the group leaders, support staff and of course the cooks for their amazing and sustained contribution over the 16 days. Such a sacrificial gift of time is deeply, deeply appreciated. A special thank you to Colin and Heather who have willingly given of their time for over 30 Centre trips. This year was Colin’s last and the school made it possible for Heather to join him for the Yuendumu leg of the trip. We are profoundly grateful to Colin, in particular, for shaping the trip in the way that he has for so many years.

Dr Roger F
Trip Leader

MECS Wrestling

For the last bit of the 2015 Wrestling Season, our wrestlers have adapted to the rules of Olympic Greco Roman Wrestling. Unlike Freestyle Wrestling, which Australia has won many Commonwealth and Olympic medals in, Greco Roman is a super challenging Olympic event introduced in 1896 that Australia has yet to win a medal in, although they did earn 2 Greco Roman medals in the 2010 Delhi Commonwealth Games.

Because Greco Roman Wrestling prohibits grabbing legs, our MECS wrestlers displayed an entertaining set of techniques including some dramatic throws and lifts. The results of each of our 2 Greco Roman tournaments are as follows...

Adam
Wrestling Coach
Centre Trip

Running around Uluru

Keanu, Sophie & Emmi-Lee

Chloe & Tristan

Jordan

Daniel

Road Kill

Romina, Sophie & Emmi-Lee

Emily

Erica & Chandelle

Haley at Yuendumu School

Cailan & AJ

Jack & Chloe

Joshua

Rebecca

Bush Camp
### Calendar

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

**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

**Tues 20 October**  
VCE Polish Exam

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

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

**Thur 22 October**  
Year 12 Last Day Celebration  
Whole School Assembly 11.30am  
Staff and Parent Morning Tea 11am  
Step Into Prep Session 2pm

**Fri 23 October**  
Friends of MECS Cook Off Day  
Year 7 Basketball  
Year 11 Biology Excursion

**2015 Term 4 Week 3: 26 Oct - 1 Nov**

**Mon 26 October**  
JP Connect Morning Tea 9am Staffroom  
Prom Camp Practice Hike

**Mon 26 - Tues 27 October**  
JP Water Camp

**Wed 28 October**  
VCE English Exam  
Year 10 Target Sport Excursion

**Thur 29 October**  
2016 Year 7 Info Evening 6pm PUMP Room

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### MECS Matters

**Working Bee**  
This Saturday 17 October, 8am-1pm  
Morning Tea Provided

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**Notices sent home this week and on Website**

- MP Flight Camp Notice (last term)
- Assorted SS BYOD Notices (last term)
- BYOD update
- SP Rock Climbing Notice
- Year 12 Muckeron Day Notice
- Year 9 Open Village Term 4 Letter
- MP Connect Morning Tea Invite
- EGM Notification (last term)
- Year 9 Canberra Camp Letter
- SP Term 4 Letter
- Careers Newsletter 15, 12 Oct
- JPRH Term 4 Show & Tell Topics
- Year 12 Careers Notices x 4

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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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### Mango Fundraiser, Empart

$30 for a 10kg box. Profits go towards Empart's Children's Homes in India. Empart partners with local Christians to plant churches among unreached people in Asia. Details at www.empart.org/mangoes.

Orders must be placed and paid for by 2pm Thursday 22 October. Order forms available from the main office. Delivery will be early to mid-November, pick up from the school. You will be notified via email and/or phone of the exact delivery date. These mangoes may have some marks on the skin but the flesh is still juicy and sweet. You can also order online at www.empart.org/mangoes.

### ASK - Autism Spectrum Kids

A free social skills group for young people 10–18, who live in the Yarra Ranges. The 8 week program is run by trained counsellors at Youth Services in Lilydale (216-218 Main St Lilydale) on Tuesdays October 27 to December 15 from 4.30 - 6pm. Covers managing emotions, friendship skills, social problem solving, assertive communication and managing fear and anxiety. For more info please call Youth Services on 9294 6716. Bookings essential.

### Golf Competition

The Mount Evelyn Chamber of Commerce Annual Social Golf Competition is on Friday 23 October 2015 at the New Eastern Golf Club, 215 Victoria Road, Yerring. 11am registration for 12pm tee off.

Register team of 4 playing Ambrose rules. Pay via EFT (BSB 633 000/Account No 136 665 130). Account Name Mount Evelyn Chamber of Commerce, Reference your name/business) or at the Post Office or with Leanne at Mount Evelyn Bendigo Bank. Dinner and/or golf packages available with Guest speaker Australian Cricketer Rodney Hogg attending: $120/player (green fees and dinner). Dinner only - $60, Golf only - $70.

Any queries to Gary Freeman 0412 996 508 or email president@mecci.asn.au

### 35th Anniversary

Goodwin Estate Preschool Saturday 17 October, 12-3pm. Speeches 2pm. 28 Rome Beauty Avenue, The Basin. 9762 5239, goodwinpreschool@gmail.com.

### Retail Asbestos Alert

Workplace Safety Authorities Australia and New Zealand has issued an alert regarding trace amounts of asbestos being detected in some brands of crayons imported into Australia. Please see asbestosafety.gov.au for details.

### Benwerren Fundraising

Benwerren invites you to their Celebrate & Support Fundraising Event for 2015.

Saturday 31 October, 2015, 6pm-10pm, $50 per person, Seville Public Hall, 590 Warburton Highway, Seville. RSVP by Friday 23 October.

The evening will include a 3 course meal, silent and live auctions, Benwerren trivia and prizes, personal stories from the guest house, ‘Dawn’s Dream’. For more information call 5967 1021.

### Bubs and Kids Community Market

In support of the Royal Children’s Hospital Good Friday Appeal

24 October, 9am-1pm at the Jean Eales Pavilion at the Lilydale Show Grounds.

Second hand and new items, face painting, sausage sizzle, visit from Buzz Lightyear. Not for profit event. For enquiries Simone 0422 111 476 or visit us on Facebook.

### Celebrate Children’s Week


### Apples & Pears

The next delivery will be Friday October 23. 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.

### Cassie, Receptionist

- 1300 368 333.