A Night to Remember

Aaron Escorts Lavina & Danielle into the dining room at the start of the Year 11 Formal
Celebrating the Creator and His Creation

Burnt, deep red and orange cliffs suggestive of a Mars landscape, jut upwards to form ancient cliffs revered by local Bardi people. The azure sea meets white sands that stretch along the coastline of Cape Leveque in the Kimberley, 200 km above Broome on the Dampier Peninsula.

Down below the cliff face about 100 meters off shore, we watch a pod of humpback whales frolicking & circling with their calves. We join the admirers on the cliff top with our binoculars, taking in the sheer joy of these sea giants as they surface, roll, lift their flippers and dive. For over 40 minutes they circle around enjoying their admirers before one last lap of the solitary yacht in the water - as if to say farewell - before heading down the coast. The giant disk of the orange sun dips below the horizon and the glow of a gentle Kimberley sunset rises up to meet the darkening sky.

The humpback whales make their journey annually from Antarctica to the warm tropical waters of both the east and west coast of Australia to breed. The Western Australian pod is numbered around 30,000. The females feed their calves on milk, which amazingly contains all 28 amino acids required for muscle growth. The calves can put on up to 80 kilograms a day! During their time in the tropics, the adults live on their blubber which has resulted from feeding on the krill of the Antarctic during the Southern Hemisphere summer. The bull males’ song is unique and the WA pod’s tunes are picked up and recognized by pods as far away as Northern Canada. This cycle reveals deeper things about the order of creation and the creator.

As we marvelled at the whales we partook in the joy of their display. Scientists don’t really know the purpose of their displays. We can recognize tail flukes, body rolls, nose ups and full breaches all of which may have a purpose for cleaning barnacles, or possibly displaying mating behaviors, or perhaps showing sheer joy, delight and playfulness. Whatever the reason the people watching from the shore were engrossed in this joyful display. Everyone cried out with excitement at a breach or when the pod circled and swished through the water.

Why do we love to see these magnificent displays of creation? Is it just because it is unique? Or does it point us further to the creator? The psalms continually remind us that when we observe the creation we are set to praise the God of heaven who made it and sustains it by his hand.

Psalm 95

1 Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
2 Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.
3 For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods.
4 In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him.
5 The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.
6 Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;
7 for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

As teachers and parents, let’s be excited to open up God’s world to our children - to have them see, delight, enjoy and frolic in the creation.

As we travelled these last few months to some of Australia’s treasured places, we have been reminded over and over that it is our sovereign God who sustains this world and invites us to enjoy and revel in his handiwork. Being away from the city and close to nature we were able to reflect on the joys of seeing stars at night that go on and on, revealing vast unknown galaxies.

Swimming alongside turtles and a glorious array of fish and vibrant corals, observing whales playing, discovering hidden gorges and waterfalls in vast and inhospitable landscapes, we were invited to participate in God’s wonder; our world.

What a privilege to enjoy the delights of God’s creation and to acknowledge and praise him. What a privilege to have God’s whisper in my ear that he too delighted in our enjoyment of the works of his hand.

A great book called ‘A Vision with a Task’ reminds us that we are to be surprised by joy in this life. “Wherever we look, we see the miracle-working hand of our Father; whomever we see, we see the image of God. We live our lives in gratitude to him for what he has done in Christ.” (Strooks & Blomberg, 1993, p.202)

In this classic Christian Education book we are encouraged to see that a true understanding of God’s world requires playful engagement.

“This is the joy we wish to share with children… The curriculum should first and foremost reflect joy and celebration, this wonder and amazement at being alive in such a rich and vibrant world, fashioned for us as our home.”

As teachers and parents, let’s be excited to open up God’s world to our children - to have them see, delight, enjoy and frolic in the creation, that they might learn to question, wonder, curiously observe and to praise and thank the creator and sustainer.

Let’s switch off screens and open up opportunities for exploring, playing and noticing, and open up opportunities for wondering, reflecting, praising and thanking.

Dear God,

How awesome are your ways.
You have made the world.
They are the works of your hand. They display beauty and give joy to our wearied souls.
We are reminded of your greatness and your unending grace.
We worship you, We love you, We thank you.
Open up our hearts, and our eyes, to see you more and more and know you deep within our beings.

Amen

Di
Assistant Principal - Primary
Working Bee

We are back into Working Bee season and it was encouraging to see so many here last Saturday as we attended to a number of jobs. Every plate, bowl, utensil, pot and table from the Centre Trip was washed and cleaned thoroughly; new plants were planted; a start on ‘makeovers’ for the Middle School Drama room and Senior School Computer room were made; as well as the normal sweeping, fixing and cleaning of drains! We could not maintain our grounds and facilities without the support of our community, so once again, thanks for putting in your bit!

New look for Senior School classrooms

Over the recent school holidays, we were also able to make a start on the refurbishment of a number of Senior School classrooms. A fresh coat of paint, new carpet and fixtures, and all new furniture have brought a modern, clean look to some tired, old classrooms! We will continue to work through the Senior School to refresh the classrooms that are well over-due for a makeover. As mentioned above, the computer room is also undergoing some renovations in order to make available a new, large classroom for next year. Computers will continue to be available in the study centre. This is part of our ongoing commitment to maintain, and improve, all of our teaching and learning facilities.

Year 11 Formal

Last Friday we enjoyed a fabulous night at the Year 11 Formal. We were very proud of the way our Year 11s presented themselves – not only were they dressed beautifully and appropriately for the event, but each gave a short speech about their aspirations for the future, or their reflections on their time spent at MECS. There was also some fancy footwork as they displayed with enthusiasm the dancing skills they have been working on. It was great to see the venue filled with family and friends, all there to support them as they move towards adulthood. Congratulations to our Year 11 Coordinator, Adam, and the organising committee for bringing together a delightful evening. Check out all the photos on page 7.

Farewell Year 12s

This week is the last week of classes for our Year 12s. We look forward to times of celebration as the week goes on, but most importantly, we want to wish them well in the future. We thank the graduating class of 2015 for all they contributed to our community here at MECS and pray that they might find great joy and purpose as they serve others and continue to seek God in the days ahead. May the seeds that have been planted in this place, bear much fruit!

Growth Working Party

We are excited to let you know that the proposal for growth in the Primary School put forward by the Growth Working Party at the recent October Board meeting and last week’s Association meeting was overwhelmingly supported. We now look forward to bringing our plans and ideas to the community over the next few months. As always, we look to the future asking for God’s wisdom and gracious provision for all that is needed to bring this project to fruition.

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FOCUS On... Starting School

Starting School and the benefits of transitioning from Kinder to Prep at MECS

Recently, Prep and Kinder teachers were reaffirming the benefits of children beginning their education right from the early years. Here are some of the advantages that we discussed.

- Children already have a sense of belonging in being at MECS
- Children are familiar with the school grounds and buildings
- Children have met teachers on many occasions including an ongoing connection with previous teachers
- Children have the opportunity to explore the school grounds and meet teachers within the safety of the known environment
- Children have established friendships
- Common language and visual displays are used in the kindergarten and in Prep to help children transition more easily

- Children know the routines of pick up and drop offs
- Children and families have a well developed sense of identity in the community and get to maintain this throughout transition
- Communication styles that have already been established are continued
- While children are re-establishing themselves in a new environment, they have had many opportunities for familiarisation

This smooth transition gives children the opportunity to step out of their comfort zone in a safe supportive environment that facilitates learning, development and the building of resilience. We know that this is not an exhaustive list - are there other benefits that we have not thought of?

Wendy

Year 5 Aznielle and Kinder Buddies Jade & Leni

Narelle
MECS Principal
Get yours now or risk missing out!

As we are only having one performance of the Primary Celebration, tickets to the event will be limited. Each family will be allocated 4 tickets (not including the student/s performing). There will be no charge for tickets, but these must be picked up from the office before the concert.

Tickets are available now! If your child catches a bus to school, please send along a signed note stating how many tickets you require so that your child can collect your tickets on your behalf. Any left over tickets by the end of Week 3 will be available in Week 4 to be taken on top of allocation on a first come, first serve, basis.

Melissa
Assistant Primary Coordinator & Senior Primary Cluster Leader

Friends of MECS

Gawa Gifts
Thank you for the generous donations of Christmas gifts for the students at GAWA Christian School. Today some wonderful volunteers came and helped pack the gifts ready to be sent up to GAWA. If you would like to see where the gifts are going you can check out the school’s website http://www.gcs.nt.edu.au/.

Cook Off Day - Tomorrow!
We still need volunteers and donations! If you can come and help, even for a few hours please sign in at the office and head up to the Home Tec room. If you are able to donate either cash or groceries, that would be a huge help. Please drop these at the office tomorrow morning.

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

Nicole
Community Relations Officer

Primary Celebration Evening Tickets

Final Musical Recital
For our final Recital we would like to invite other MECS musicians and singers who may learn outside of our school Instrumental Program. If you would like to perform a solo or ensemble item at the upcoming Recital on November 11 please let me know by email asap.

I look forward to celebrating our student’s musical talents with you!

Annora
Instrumental Music Coordinator

Primary GT (Get Together) Dates
9am in the PUMP Room
Parents Welcome
Term 4
Week 6 Monday November 16 JPRH
Week 8 Monday November 30 SPD
Week 10 Monday December 14
Prep Christmas GT

MECS INSTRUMENTAL RECITAL 2015

Wednesday November 11th 7-9pm
Theatrette

Delicious Supper Provided
Last Thursday evening around 60 people gathered in the Year 9 courtyard for a lovely alfresco dinner and dessert. It was great to see a diverse cross section of Association members - new parents, staff, some of our founders - Keith and Helen, some long serving Board members - Jerry and Richard, some long serving staff members - Jane and a past principal - Stewart! We are truly blessed to have such a diverse, dedicated community of Association members and a long history of commitment to Christian education.

We had the pleasure of having Colin lead us in the opening devotion – his last as a staff member as he retires at the end of the year. Board member Steve thanked and acknowledged Colin for his long and influential service to the MECS community and presented him with a certificate and a painting from Yuendemu. Steve also acknowledged Colin’s wife Heather who has served the MECS community as a parent, teacher and on the MECS Board.

We welcomed Darren and Samantha onto the Association and heard an update of what the Association sub committee has been doing this year.

Narelle and Gerry then presented us with the report from the Growth Working Party outlining the recommendation to expand the Primary School over the next few years. Time was spent in discussion and clarification, culminating in an Association vote, which overwhelmingly supported the recommendation. More information about how this expansion will look will be available soon.

If you would like to know more about Association Membership please come and see me or contact me via the school office.

Nicole
Community Relations Officer

Prom Camp Practice Hike

As amusing as this meme is, it might ring true for some of us, including the Year 7s and 8s! But at MECS, camping is an integral part of our curriculum. Term 4 is a big term for Middle School, with one of our key features being 3 different camps in Week 7. Cycle A will be heading to Wilsons Prom, where 6 groups of students along with teachers and helpers will be experiencing overnight hikes. A significant element of these hikes is that students are required to carry their own gear including food and water, while facing the challenge of walking up to 17 kilometres a day. With this end goal in mind, last Thursday was one of two practice hikes where students walked 14 kilometres to Silvan Dam and back again. Each of us can sometimes be anxious about new things, and one of the reasons we do these practice hikes is to give students a taste of what it’s like to hike a long distance with gear. In addition to this, students were also asked to practice cooking an [edible] meal safely so they could feel comfortable taking responsibility for this element of the hike. We were impressed by how many students came very well prepared to both hike and cook. It was also great to see some students really pushing themselves and discovering they were more capable than they thought they were! It has built up positive anticipation for our second practice hike next Monday 26 October. We hope all the Cycle A families are looking forward to the camp as much as we are!

Nicky
Middle School Teacher

Kinder and Year 5 Buddies

On Monday the Year 5 buddies came to visit our 4 year old Kinder children. We read a story together then went out into the Primary playground and oval. It was so lovely watching the Year 5s step up to this role, being so responsible and good role models. These children will connect again next year with the Buddy program between Year 6 and Prep children. The 4 year old children spoke afterwards and agreed it was lots of fun. Thank you Year 5s for playing with and teaching the younger children all about playing well in the playground. This is a fantastic benefit as our kinder children prepare to transition to school.

Wendy
Early Years Coordinator
Year 6 Rock Climbing

Moving on to Middle School is a big step... you have to scale the heights of the unknown, step carefully and know what’s ahead and how to negotiate the path safely. For some the steps are more scary than for others; some do it more easily than others. There’s things in place to help us on the journey... a bit like rock climbing actually. That’s why the Year 6s went to Hard Rock Indoor Climbing centre on Monday. They scaled the walls - using the right equipment, confidence and courage to help them. Later in the term we will reflect on their rock-climbing experience and how moving up a rock climbing wall might be like moving up to the Middle School. This is part of the Year 6 Core Studies unit ‘The Next Step’, where students prepare for the transition to Middle School and for their Year 6 Graduation. Apart from being a useful analogy, we had a lot of fun and many students were very proud (and very tired!) at the end of the day. Thank you to all the parents who came and belayed and made it possible for students to have so many climbs.

Melissa
Assistant Primary Coordinator &
Senior Primary Cluster Leader

SP Enrichment - Art Project

Each term a small group of students have the opportunity to participate in the JP, MP or SP Enrichment Program. Some of the SP Enrichment Programs this year have included Awesome Animation Adventures, Robotic Racers and Magnificent Murals: The Design Process. The aim of these programs is to provide an opportunity for students with a talent in a particular area, to be nurtured in an environment where they can further develop their skills and reach their God given potential.

During Term 3, nine students had the opportunity to take part in a Public Art Project as part of the SP Enrichment Program. The focus of the program was to develop and enrich each student’s understanding of the design process and the techniques used for creating a public artwork. Students worked in groups of 3 to design and paint a mural for the MECS Primary Playpod Shed.

It was wonderful to see the group’s enthusiasm come to the fore as they worked together to collaborate, plan and create their mural. Tom, Jackson and Ezekiel worked together to design and paint a title sign for the Playpod Shed. Holly, Skye and Elise created a stunning mural using words to describe MECS students: wonderfully created, respectful, powerful and strong, capable, natural explorers, image bearers, curious and loved by God. Jasmine, Aubrey and Ella sketched and painted a striking design with the words they associate with the Playpod space: imagine, share, play, create, reflect.

It was a privilege to work with a group who were so passionate about art and design. The murals will be displayed on the Playpod Shed soon. The Playpod Shed is at the back of the Creation Garden. Please take the time to come down and have a look.

Gen
Primary Ed Support Teacher
Year 11 Formal

Last Friday night students, teachers, staff, family and friends gathered to celebrate the second last year of school for the Year 11s. It was a fantastic opportunity for everyone to dress up and dance the night away. Everyone put so much time and effort into making the night an amazing one. It was filled with heart-warming, funny and surprising speeches, lots of very entertaining dance moves and dances, delicious food and plenty of photos to remember the night. At the end of the night everyone left with a smile on their face talking about how beautiful and handsome everyone looked. It was definitively a night to remember!

Zachary & Savannah
Year 11 Students
2015 Term 4 Week 2: 19 Oct - 25 Oct

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

**Thur 22 October**
- VCE Solo Drama Performance

**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
  - Cycle B Year 7 & 8 Cricket Carnival

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

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

**Thur 29 October**
- Year 8 Basketball
- VCE Psychology Exam
- Step Into Prep Session 2pm
- 2016 Year 7 Info Evening 6pm

**Fri 30 October**
- VCE Biology Exam
- VCE Further Maths Exam 1

**2015 Term 4 Week 4: 2 Nov - 8 Nov**

**Mon 2 - Tues 3 November**
- School Closed

**Mon 2 November**
- VCE Further Maths Exam 2
- VCE Business management Exam

**Wed 4 November**
- Year 10 PE Excursion
- VCE Maths Methods Exam 1
- VCE Equine Exam
- VCE Health & Human Dev Exam

**Thur 5 November**
- Year 7-10 Interschool Athletics
- VET Hospitality Exam
- VET PE Exam
- VCE Drama Exam
- VCE Maths Methods Exam 2
- Centre Trip Presentation Night 7.30pm

**Home for Cat Needed**

Urgently seeking a loving family for Kitty, our 3 year old, grey, British Shorthair, as we are moving overseas. He is a beautiful, gentle, shy cat who prefers to be indoors.

Please call Cathy on 9737 0678 or 0400 173 798 if interested.

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.

**Weed Blitz**

Free environmental weed tipping day.

Skips at Kallista Community House,
Kallista and Mount Evelyn Rec Reserve,
York Rd, Mount Evelyn on Saturday 21
November 2015, 9am – 3pm. Weeds
accepted - Agapanthus, Arum Lily,
Asparagus Fern, Banana Passionfruit,
Cotoneaster, English Holly, English Ivy,
Japanese Honeysuckle, Karamu, Mirror
bush, Montbretia, Red Cestrum, Sweet
Pittosporum, Wandering Trad, Wild
Toothc Tree. No noxious weeds due to
legal limitations on transportation. For
information on weed removal techniques
call Yarra Ranges Council on 9234 6215
or www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au. Weed
information and advice available on the
day. When removing weeds please be
aware that native animals may be
sheltering in them.

**Coldstream Junior Football Club**

Registration and Family Fun Night,
Friday November 6 at 6pm, Coldstream
Sporting Clubrooms, Hailey Supple
Reserve – South Gateway, off
Maroonahdy Hwy, Coldstream.

U9, U10, U11, U12, U13, U14 + boys
only; U15 & U17 & Girls only U12, U15
& U18 teams. All new players receive
half price registration – U9 & U10 $150,
U11-youth $160 or half price if you sign
up a friend! Includes EFL insurance,
team photo, year book, jumper & helmet,
accredited & supportive coaches & a
free bag for all new players.

Contact: Secretary Nicole Cantle-Arthur
0412 571 422.

**Mount Evelyn Street Party**

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.


**Bubs and Kids Community Market**

In support of the Royal Children’s
Hospital Good Friday Appeal.
October 24, 9am-1pm at the Jean
Eales Pavilion at the Lilydale Show
Grounds. Second hand and new items,
face painting, sausage sizzle, visit from
Buzz Lightning. Not for profit event. For
enquiries Simone 0422 111 476 or visit
us on Facebook.

**That Sugar Film**

An Olinda man’s journey in exposing
the added sugars in our food. See
how to reduce your sugar intake. ‘That
Sugar Film’ will forever change the way
you think about ‘healthy’ food. www.
thatsugarfilm.com

Community screening in Mt Evelyn,
Tuesday October 27, 10.45 am – 12.25
pm, Mount Evelyn Christian Reformed
Church (next door to RSL Hall), 45-
47 Birmingham Road, Mount Evelyn.
Gold coin donation. Please be seated
by 10.35 am. Parking: rear of RSL Hall
& Church. Sponsored by Rosemont
T.O.W.N. (Take Off Weight Naturally)
Club, Mount Evelyn.

**Mango Fundraiser, Empart**

S$30 for a 10kg box. Profits go towards
Empart Children’s Homes in India. Empart
partners with local Christians to plant
churches among unreached people in

Orders must be placed and paid for by
2pm Friday 30 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
e-mail 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.

**Days for Girls**

We are Launching the new Yarra Valley
Days for Girls Team. All welcome to
come and learn more about the Days
for Girls Feminine Hygiene Program
that gives back Days of Dignity, Days
of Education and Days of Opportunity
to girls and women around the world.

Presentation and training session to
be held at Lilydale Baptist Church 305
Swansea Rd Lilydale from 1pm - 4pm on
Saturday October 24. Sewing skills not
essential.

**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**

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

- MP Term 4 Newsletter (last week)
- Kinder Connections Oct 8 (last week)
- Year 7 Interschool Basketball (last week)
- Prep Pipeline 7 (last week)
- Cycle A Term 4 Newsletter (last week)
- JP Connect Morning Tea Invitation
- Year 11 Biology Excursion notice (last week)
- JP Term 4 newsletter (last week)
- Year 8 Interschool Basketball (last week)
- Cycle B Ecology Camp Letter (last week)
- Cycle B Term 4 Newsletter (last week)
- 2015 VCE Timetable