Primary Celebration Concert Tickets now available at the Office

Round the World - Year 12 Last Day

Lauren with Prep Buddy Mia and the card Mia made for her at the Year 12 last day Assembly. Story page 7.

MS Sausage Sizzle tomorrow - details on back page
Two weeks ago, I was lucky enough to attend the Association EGM to discuss ongoing growth in the Primary School. During the meeting, I took a moment to cast my eyes around the room at the people gathered: parents, grandparents, staff, new Association members, past principals and board members, founding families. Despite the diversity in the attendees’ ages and stages of life, a common cause united each and every one of us: Christian education, specifically at Mount Evelyn Christian School.

For over forty years, MECS has been seeking the Kingdom of God in education. Over this time there has been many changes - in staff, facilities, educational trends, culture and government regulations, but the core values and guiding vision have remained consistent.

As I looked around the room again, I was struck by the staggering sum of hours, days and years that the gathered assembly had committed to furthering the cause of Christian education.

I couldn’t help but also be struck by the faith with which the school’s founding families had acted. Before there were finances or property or buildings or staff, there was a desire for a uniquely Christian approach to education, and a drive from a group of pioneers committed to establishing a school founded on biblical principles. These pioneers were the original torchbearers of the school’s vision and values, and laid the foundation for all that MECS has achieved.

I was so encouraged by the presence of founding family members at the EGM. Although their own children have long since finished school, their commitment to Christian education is still strong. Although they may not be involved in the day to day running of the school, they have faithfully and graciously passed on their vision and values to new generations of torchbearers to run with, cheering them on in the process.

The event served to remind me that we are part of something much larger than ourselves. I am but one character, in one chapter, of a much grander story.

The example of our school’s pioneers looms large. Their example calls us to act in faith, much as they did over forty years ago – an act of faith that still bears fruit today.

I believe that teaching is such an act of faith. Like the sower in Jesus’ parable, teachers cast seeds of education. This occurs in a variety of ways, including, but not limited to, thought-provoking content, diverse teaching strategies, and relationship with students and colleagues. However, we do not always know into what kind of soil these seeds will fall. Sometimes we will be blessed to see the fruit of these teaching ‘seeds’ in our classrooms and in the schoolyard. Others, however, we will not see germinate and come to fruition.

And that’s OK.

I know from my own experience that many seeds lay dormant until God’s good timing requires that they take root. And until that time, I am content to act in faith and seek to sow seeds that God may use in His good way and His good time.

Bradley
Middle School Coordinator

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**Primary Celebration Evening Tickets**

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 this week will be available from next Monday to be taken on top of allocation on a first come, first serve, basis.

Melissa
Assistant Primary Coordinator & Senior Primary Cluster Leader

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**Book Fair Nov 5-10**

It’s Book Fair time again!

It’s also less than two months until Christmas. Come along to our Book Fair in the Library and you are bound to find some great Christmas gifts. Prices start from as little as $1 and there are some terrific gift ideas, with books, posters, diaries and other stationery items available. This year, all proceeds will go towards supporting Gawa Christian School in the Northern Territory.

Book Fair will run from next Thursday until the following Tuesday. Come along, we would love to see you.

**Times**

Thurs Nov 5, viewing only.
Fri Nov 6 & Mon Nov 9, 8.15-4pm.
Tue Nov 10, 8.15-2pm.

Fiona
Librarian
Gawa Christian School Christmas Gifts

Thanks to all those students and families who contributed to our Gawa Christian School Christmas Gift project. We were blown away by your generosity and are thrilled to be sharing not only individualised gift bags to each student, but also a box of other goodies that can be shared by the community. We have also included gift bags for all the teachers as well! We would like this relationship between our two schools to grow and flourish over time, and we hope this is a great way to start. What a blessing for us to give generously, but also for the Gawa community to know that they are being thought of at this time of year.

School Camps

Term 4 sees a flurry of camps as we head towards the end of the year. Our Middle Primary students were off on camp last week and our Junior Primaries enjoyed their camp experience on Monday and Tuesday of this week. In Week 7, our Middle School students head off in various directions: the Year 9s to Canberra and the Year 7 and 8s to either Inverloch or Wilsons Prom. Our camping program is an integral part of the way we ‘do’ education here at MECS, but we could not do what we do without the amazing support of our parent helpers who are out there hiking, cooking and running activities! Many of our parents use their holiday leave to be part of these experiences and we are truly grateful and blessed to have the support of our parent community.

Year 12s Celebration Day

Can I congratulate the Year 12s on the success of their ‘Muckeration Day’ last Thursday? Many other schools find this a difficult day to navigate, whereas at MECS we are so proud of the way our students choose to celebrate the end of their schooling. The activities of the day not only provide opportunity for reflection and celebration, but also some fun and organised mischief! The respect that students show to other students, staff and our facilities means everyone can have a great day! Our prayers are with them as they sit their exams over the next few weeks and then we look forward to a final celebration on Friday November 20 at their Graduation evening.

VCE Solo Drama Performances

I never fail to be amazed at the diverse range of talents our students have and the myriad ways in which they are used and developed within the life of the school. Last Thursday night, I enjoyed the VCE Solo Drama performances, performed by our Unit 2 and Unit 4 VCE students. The Unit 2 students (Year 10 and 11s) responded in non-naturalistic style to the stimulus of an Australian painting. We had everything from surviving the aftermath of an apocalyptic disaster to a poignant reflection on the issue of homelessness. The Unit 4 performers (Year 12s) performed their pieces for assessment in early October, so this was their final encore performance for family and friends. They also provided an entertaining and eclectic range of pieces to a prescribed theme and structure. Marlene, our VCE Drama teacher, and her senior students are to be congratulated for the outstanding quality of the work that was performed. See Page 4 for some photos.

FOCUS On... Camps

Camps and other ‘out-of-classroom’ experiences are an important part of the educational program at MECS. They are an integral part of the students’ curriculum and link in directly with the Cultural Studies unit being studied at the time. Each camp is an extension of the work done in class and is not regarded as an ‘optional extra’. Consequently, students at MECS are required to attend camps just like they are required to attend school each day.

Camps are a priority because of the way they enhance the learning of our students. We feel it is valuable for students to not only learn about various aspects of God’s creation but also to experience it first hand and get involved. This ‘hands on’ approach means that students can more easily apply their new knowledge in real life situations. Learning is greatly enriched by such experiences and it has greater relevance. The whole range of senses is engaged in this kind of learning.

Camps allow staff and students to respond more creatively to learning situations and to think ‘outside the box’. They cater for a broader range of learning styles. Camps often provide opportunities for students to ‘shine’ and demonstrate their God-given gifts in ways that aren’t always appropriate or don’t readily occur within the confines of the four walls of a classroom.

Camps are also important for:

- Developing important life skills such as independence, perseverance and resilience;
- Developing interpersonal skills;
- Developing problem-solving skills;
- Fostering community;
- Encouraging students to take on new responsibilities and
- Leading them to pursue appropriate behaviour in new situations be it public places, meeting other adults, taking on duty group responsibilities or sharing a tent/cabin.

Primary School students attend one camp per year. In Middle School, Year 7 and Year 9 students attend two camps per year, whereas at Year 8s attend three camps per year. Year 10 students attend a 16 day Central Australia Trip that includes visiting Yuendumu, an aboriginal community.

Yvonne
Camp Coordinator
Friends of MECS Cook Off Day

Last Friday a wonderful group of hard working volunteers spent the day chopping, preparing and cooking 64 meals to fill our Community Freezer.

A huge thank you to those of you who donated groceries and money, to the volunteers on the day and to Amy and Brooke who do an enormous amount of work beforehand with the planning and the shopping.

It is great to have the freezer full again so we can bless people in our community in this way.

Nicole
Community Relations Officer

Going Solo

Last Thursday evening VCE Drama students from three schools combined forces to present their Unit 2 and Unit 4 Solo Performances in the Theatrette. The MECS class, which includes two students from Mountain District Christian School, was joined by students from Yarra Hills Secondary College, creating an entertaining range of original solo performances.

Riley (Year 11) and Nelson Weeks (Year 12) recently completed their Solo Performance examination, so for them the night was a chance to share their work with a larger audience without the pressure of being assessed. Riley’s character, which she performed with great energy and skill, was Tally Youngblood from the novel Uglies, while Nelson’s performance of the Panto-Dame, involved slapstick humour and lots of laughs. Nelson was a sight to see in his blond wig, dress, blue eye shadow and high-heeled boots!

Unit 2 students from MECS created characters from an Australian painting of their own choice as part of their unit on Australian Drama. It was great to see all of the students creating and performing their own work on stage and meeting the challenges of performing solo. Congratulations to all the performers and thank you to those who came along to be in the audience. It’s not a performance without you!

Marlene
SS Drama Teacher

Gawa Christmas Project

A huge thank you to all of you who supported our Gawa Christmas project! Last week we prepared some wonderful gift bags with purchased and hand made gifts from the Primary School students ready to be sent to arrive in Elcho Island by Christmas. The enthusiasm from the Primary students and the response from the general MECS community via donations has been wonderful. Thanks for being a part of blessing this little school and their community. Special thanks to Margi and Caz for their generous help on the bagging day.

Melissa
Assistant Primary Coordinator & Senior Primary Cluster Leader
Last Friday, the Year 11 Biology class went on a 15 hour excursion to Phillip Island - from 9am-12midnight! After arriving on the beach we spent the next 4 hours measuring out transect lines and accounting for all the different sea life in quadrants. Later after spending an hour and a half observing closed ecosystems such as rockpools, some of us chose to do a ‘deeper exploration’ of the rockpools. After a quick change of clothes, we found some fish and chips and made our way to Cape Woolamai to play on the beach and have a good feed.

We then made our way to the top of a cliff all rugged up, ready for a cold night. After making it to the top and taking many great photos of the sunset, we lay down and watched hundreds of mutton birds swoop to their nests, flying within a metre of us!

It was a great excursion overall.

Abby
Year 11 Biology Student

In Legal Studies, we were learning about marriage, and the laws behind marriage and divorce. So as a learning outcome, the Year 11s created a mock wedding. This included the legality that goes into a wedding and how couples can legally marry in Australia. We drove to Wandin North and had a lovely garden wedding in front of a leafy arbour, all dolled up in neat casual wedding attire, as we watched the bride and groom unofficially wed. It was a great day – even though the weather was very warm – and I can say for the whole of my legal class, it was definitely an experience we won’t forget.

Jade
Legal Studies Student
MP camp was heaps of fun! The theme of the camp was ‘Flight’ which is the current Cultural Studies unit for the Middle Primaries.

Day 1 was full of activities based around flight such as making kites and propellers as well as soaring through the air on the flying fox. Well done to Justine and Emily for standing out in the rain the whole day supervising the flying fox.

Day 2 we visited Moorabbin Airport where the students had a tour of the Air Museum, which included climbing aboard some old aeroplanes and learning a bit about what it takes to fly one. We also played real life Angry Birds with a giant sling shot and a cardboard box castle. This was a purely educational exercise with the intention of teaching the students about thrust and trajectory... absolutely no fun was had at this activity....

Day 3 involved a drive out to Tullamarine Airport to watch the planes land and take off before heading back to school.

We enjoyed great food, great community and a lot of laughs. Well done to Ali, Viv, Justine, and Yvonne for organising the camp. Thanks also to the parents who came along and did an excellent job supporting the teachers and adding to our camp community.

Jason
Primary Sports Coordinator
Finishing Well

Muckeration Day 2015

For Year 12s the last week of school is really a strange time, for it comprises a whole variety of emotions, from a sense of relief to one of sadness. Many students have been at MECS right from the beginning of their schooling, so for them in particular this time of transition is a whole new adventure.

Over the years we have established a number of special traditions for the Year 12s in order to honour and celebrate with them and this year was a great example of those traditions. On their last day of classes, a special morning tea was held where teachers from the Primary and Middle School had a chance to reflect on special times and events. From the speeches it was obvious that a special bond was formed, especially during Year 9. At the conclusion of the day the Year 12s transformed the SS in accordance with their theme - ‘Around the World’, where a number of classrooms were set up accordingly.

The following day, a cooked breakfast was provided by the SS staff, a visit to the SS from the rest of the school, followed by a visit down to the Middle and Primary school by the 12s where balloon making occurred, then a yummy morning tea. The Year 12s then led the whole school assembly complete with a music clip, an audio/visual book and a live rap performance. This was followed by the traditional staff/student volleyball game that somehow always results in a water fight. A special lunch in the main staffroom in keeping with our ‘Around the World’ theme topped the day off, where the SS staff and students reflected on their final years of schooling at MECS.

We sincerely thank all the Year 12s on making their last school day so memorable and for all the right reasons. The Senior School really felt like a mini carnival had come to town. We want to wish them all the best with the final days leading up to their exams. We pray that God might grant them peace, and insight into his infinite love for them both now and always.

Sharon
Year 12 Coordinator
**Calendar**

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

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

**Fri 30 October**
VCE Biology Exam
VCE Further Maths Exam 1
Ranges TEC Sausage Sizzle

**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

**Fri 6 November**
Last Day Year 11 Classes
VCE Literature Exam
VET Interactive Digital Media Exam
Primary Celebration Concert Gym 6:30pm

**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

**Fri 6 November**
Last Day Year 11 Classes
VCE Literature Exam
VET Interactive Digital Media Exam
Primary Celebration Concert Gym 6:30pm

**Mon 9 November**
VCE Revolutions Exam

**Tues 10 November**
VCE Chemistry Exam
VCE Legal Studies Exam

**Wed 11 November**
Last Day Year 10 Classes
PS Athletics Day
VCE VCD Exam
VCE Physics Exam
Music Recital 7pm Theatrette

**Ranges TEC Sausage Sizzle - Friday (tomorrow) at the Understory**

Tomorrow Ranges TEC students are running a sausage sizzle for MS students to fundraise money for Melba Support Services, who assist adults and children with disabilities.

No Preordering required.

Sausages: $2.00  Drinks $1.50

**MECS COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**‘Dare to Serve’ Expo**
This Expo will be a wonderful opportunity for people in Victoria to learn how service to God and others helps to shape their understanding of their purpose in God’s kingdom. Supported by Christian Schools Australia (CSA) and Christian Education National (CEN), it will be attended by many varied organisations/missions/churches, as well as students, staff and leaders from schools throughout Victoria.

St Andrews Christian College, Wantirna South. Tuesday November 17, 2015, 10am – 4pm. Cost $30 per participant (includes lunch). Registrations close November 9.

Go to the DARE TO SERVE website www.daretoserve.net.au for information & registration.

**Christmas Activities for Kids**
Advent Workshops are open to all children in 4 year old Kinder to Year 6. Come and join the fun with Christmas songs and craft as the Christian Christmas story unfolds over 4 Mondays, Nov 23 to Dec 14, 3:45-5pm; Montrose Uniting Church, Cnr Gratten & Canterbury Rds, Montrose.

$12 per child for 4 weeks pre-registered (by Nov 16) or $4 per child per week.

For more information, call Robyn on 9728 3739 or Ann on 9725 3548.

**Autism Study**
We are seeking to interview (or ask to complete a survey) young people living in Melbourne, aged between 10 and 18 years old, and their parents, about their experience and understanding of living with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). This research will contribute to further understanding and deeper insight into experiences of people with ASD and their families as well as to educate professionals and services on how best to support individuals and families.

If you would like to contribute to our research and have time to participate in an interview, please contact Elizabeth Sulikowski at ewal10@student.monash.edu or 0401 958 750 for more information. Monash University Ethics Approval CF-15/622-2015000283.

**Trivia Night**
Yarra Ranges Athletics 1980’s theme Trivia Night. Saturday Nov 7, 7pm, Yarra Hills Secondary School, Burlap Drive, Mount Evelyn. Tickets $20 (or $15 with a prize donation). Fundraising for a PA system for the track. BYO drinks and nibbles.

Includes ‘Schools Only’ competition: The highest finishing table registered as representing a school (having at least 2 people employed by the school or on the school council on a table of 8-12 people), will win a ‘no charge’ venue hire of the Morrison Reserve Athletics Track valued at $700.

If you would like more information or to reserve your table, please email Jamie or Michael at events@yarrayrangesathletics.org.au or call Jamie on 03 8804 8090 (Work) or 0402 233 677.

**Mango Fundraiser, Empart**

Orders must be placed and paid for by Friday October 30, 2pm. 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.

**Apples & Pears**
The next delivery will be Friday November 6. 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**