Primary Celebration Concert Tomorrow 6.30pm

JP Water Camp

You might be familiar with the catchy jingle from the superannuation ads, “from little things, big things grow”. I’m sure many of you would recognise the egg-shaped hand gesture that often accompanies this jingle. Strong advertising can certainly stick in our minds.

However, it was on the recent Centre Trip that I was introduced to the Paul Kelly and Kev Carmody song that this catchy tune belongs to. The lyrics tell the story of events that led up to the handing back of Uluru to the traditional owners – the 60th anniversary of which was celebrated last week.

Gather round people I’ll tell you a story
An eight year long story of power and pride
’Bout British Lord Vestey and Vincent Lingiari
They were opposite men on opposite sides
Vestey was fat with money and muscle
Beef was his business, broad was his door
Vincent was lean and spoke very little
He had no bank balance, hard dirt was his floor

From little things big things grow
From little things big things grow
Gurindji were working for nothing but rations
Where once they had gathered the wealth of the land
Daily the oppression got tighter and tighter
Gurindji decided they must make a stand

They picked up their swags and started off walking
At Wattie Creek they sat themselves down
Now it don’t sound like much but it sure got tongues talking
Back at the homestead and then in the town

From little things big things grow
From little things big things grow
Vestey man said I’ll double your wages
Seven quid a week you’ll have in your hand
Vincent said uhuh we’re not talking about wages
We’re sitting right here till we get our land
Vestey man roared and Vestey man thundered
You don’t stand the chance of a cinder in snow
Vince said if we fall others are rising

From little things big things grow
From little things big things grow
Then Vincent Lingiari boarded an aeroplane
Landed in Sydney, big city of lights
Then Vincent Lingiari boarded an aeroplane

From little things big things grow
From little things big things grow

As you can see from the lyrics, Vincent Lingiari was eventually rewarded for his patience and dignified diplomacy as he stood up to the powerful interests of pastoralists and politicians. His ‘little thing’ of patient waiting, led to ‘big things’ in the way that Aboriginal people were able to manage and sustain this iconic landscape.

This song was a regular on the Centre Trip play-list, with everyone singing along heartily to the well-known refrain. On many occasions it made me reflect on the ‘little things’ we are planting in our students at MECS, and what we hope and pray will grow from these small seeds.

Certainly, we hope our Year 10 students have a greater appreciation and awareness of the issues facing indigenous people across Australia. Their first-hand experience on the Centre Trip is a ‘little thing’ that we hope will grow and mature so that they will become young people of compassion, less likely to fall into the trap of easy answers and simplistic stereotypes.

For the small group of Ranges TEC students who also recently returned from a service project in Darwin, we know similar ‘little things’ were planted as they worked hard to serve others with their practical skills.

As our Year 12s complete their exams and finish off their schooling at MECS, we reflect on the numerous ‘little things’ that have been planted in their lives over time. Truth, integrity, respect, perserverance, friendship, service, knowledge, wisdom, faith. These and many more, are just some of the small things that we believe will grow into big things as they step into adulthood and trust God with their futures.

And for all our students, planting little things is the task of every staff member and every parent! This is what we do! The Parable of the Sower as recorded in Matthew Chapter 13, reminds us that not all the seeds that are planted will fall on fertile ground, but that is God’s work and not ours. Our task is to be faithful in planting the ‘little things’ of God, the gospel of Jesus Christ and the values of God’s Kingdom. We trust Him with confidence for the ‘big’ things that will follow.

Narelle
MECS Principal
SKETCHER’S SCOOP

Prep and Year 7 Orientation

It’s been great to see so many excited young people around the school lately! Our Preps for 2016 have already met a couple of times to get a taste of what school is all about, and last Thursday all our 2016 Year 7s had an energetic night of activity with their parents as they found out about the challenges and opportunities of Middle School! We hope these have been valuable experiences in making sure the transition into these important years go smoothly. We are looking forward to our official ‘Orientation Day’ on Tuesday December 8.

Buddies

Hopefully you saw the brief article in the newsletter a couple of weeks ago about our Kindergarten children meeting their soon-to-be Year 6 buddies for next year! There were also pictures last week with our graduating Year 12 students being presented with a card from their Prep buddy. This is one aspect of the school that I love. As a K-12 learning community, we are always looking for ways for our students across the year levels to interact and be-friend one another. It’s great to see our older students always so willing to support and show an interest in our very youngest students. We often talk about the relationship between parents and the school as being one of partnership. I think partnership is also beautifully represented in our buddy programs across the school.

Primary Celebration Evening

Tomorrow night sees our inaugural Primary Celebration Evening. If the ‘sneak peeks’ are anything to go by, we are looking forward to a great night of singing, performance poetry and fabulous costumes as every young person in our Primary School participates and entertains us. Thanks to all our primary staff who have got behind this initiative – particularly Carolyn and Rachel for their extraordinary efforts in bringing this evening together. I look forward to seeing all our primary parents there!

Instrumental Night and Tuition in 2016

Finally, if you can’t make it to the Primary evening, or you just want more entertainment – our final Instrumental Recital for 2015 is coming up next week. This is a great evening to see some of our students showcase their instrumental talents. It’s also that time of year when you might want to consider whether your child wants to take up instrumental lessons next year. We have a wide range of instrumental offerings including keyboard, guitar, drums, violin and vocal. All lessons are conducted by professional music tutors. If you would like more information about this program, please email Annora, our Instrumental Music Coordinator.

FOCUS On... Indonesian

Any language actually reveals a lot about the speaker’s values. That’s because our thoughts and ideas are shaped by the way we are able to express them; with words and structures we have access to. When we can compare the way we express thoughts to the way they are conveyed in other languages, different values appear.

Let me offer a few examples.

In Indonesian, there is no word for ‘sister’ or ‘brother’. There are only words for ‘older sibling’ and ‘younger sibling’. Practically, this means that the Indonesian language forces it’s speakers to think about a child’s age, and not at all about gender. The cultural value that is expressed here is that status is intrinsically connected to age.

Here’s a broader example: in English, the structure we are taught places value on the person completing an action, eg “She broke the vase” or “I cooked the chicken”. The language reflects a value on accrediting and blaming.

In the Indonesian language the focus is distinctly NOT on the person. The sentence revolves around the person or thing that is affected by the action, eg “the vase was broken” or “the chicken was cooked”. The language reflects a value on the problem at hand, or accomplishment.

Learning a language shows students how to recognise that a) they have values that not everyone shares and b) their own values are a product of their environment and their own experiences. c) It also hopefully stimulates a desire to develop their values by understanding others.

Rachel
Indonesian Teacher

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 Today through till next Tuesday. Come along, we would love to see you.

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

Fiona
Librarian
MECS Notes

Final Musical Recital

Wednesday November 11, 7-9pm in the Theatrette. Supper provided.

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 this Recital, please let me know by email asap.

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

Annora
Instrumental Music Coordinator

Two Shining Year 10 Students

We would like to congratulate two of our Year 10 girls who have recently been the recipients of awards.

Sarah has been selected as the Australian Navy Cadet - RSL Victorian Branch ‘Cadet of the Year’. She will be receiving her award from the Governor of Victoria at ANZAC house this week. Sarah, who is passionate about serving her country as a Naval Officer, will then go into a three-way competition with the Army and Air Force Cadets of the Year for the title of ‘Australian Defence Force - RSL Victorian Branch Cadet of the Year’. This will entail an interview with the president of the Victorian RSL, Major General David McLachlan AO (Retd). If she wins this title she will get a position on the RSL Youth Committee for 2016 and a sponsored trip on the Royal Australian Navy’s sail training ship Young Endeavour.

Lena has been awarded the ‘Best Effort Award’ for a student studying Accelerated 2 German in 2015. This award will be presented to Lena on Saturday December 5 at the Victorian School of Languages in Thornbury.

To both Lena and Sarah we offer our heartiest congratulations. Well done girls!

Dr Roger F
VCE Coordinator

Interschool Basketball

Recently the MECS Year 8 basketball teams played against a number of other schools. Even though we had some close matches we didn’t end up winning the tournament. Our girls’ team made it to the final for third place and had to fight hard right to the end to earn their two point win. Unfortunately the boys’ team placed last. Some injuries on the day hampered our performance but credit must go to our opponents who all played very well. The saddest part of the day for the students was not the absence of our name on the first place pennant but that we didn’t stop at Maccas on the trip home.

Sue
MS Teacher

Interschool Cricket

Years 7 & 8 Cricket

On Monday October 26, 18 Year 7 & 8 students braved the cold weather to play cricket in the annual T20 Blast Schools Cup. The event - hosted by Cricket Victoria and held at Lewis Park, Boronia - saw a girls’ team and a boys’ team representing MECS against three government schools from around the Knox District. Students from both teams demonstrated a fantastic attitude throughout the day, encouraging one another and participating in matches fairly and competitively. Both teams won their way through the Final of their respective divisions, and while the boys were ultimately defeated, the girls were victorious, winning the Final by 19 runs. For many students, this was their first taste of competitive cricket and they performed very well, enjoying themselves along the way.

Bradley
Middle School Coordinator

Year 9 Cyber Safety

On Wednesday October 28, our 3 Year 9 Health classes combined for a seminar from Leading Senior Constable Lisa from Mount Evelyn Police Station.

This was an integral part of this term’s Health curriculum where we are looking at choices we make, with a specific focus on being responsible cyber citizens.

As well as discussing the importance of making good choices when it comes to using social media, Senior Constable Lisa also discussed making positive choices with regards to alcohol use, drugs, parties and driving. It was both an informative and highly engaging seminar, leading many students to ask valuable questions.

Sharon
Year 9 Health Teacher
Prom Practice Hike 2

We had another successful day of hiking last Monday October 26! This time we broke off into 2 groups: the two groups of most advanced hikers went on a more difficult hike, and the remainder completed the regular Silvan Dam hike. Groups 1 & 2 went with Luke up towards Olinda in order to give them a better idea of what it would be like on their hike. It was a good opportunity to have some time with a smaller group and to make sure they were up to the challenge (which they were!). Luke was impressed by the pace set by these students and their preparedness with their equipment. Groups 3-6 enjoyed the walk up to Silvan Dam and we even improved our time from our first practice hike! It was certainly easier the second time, as we had a better idea of how long the hike would be, and that we could do it! Well done to the students who set up their tents and cooked their tasty lunches. It’s only a few more weeks now until we set off for Wilsons Promontory, so it’s getting very exciting! Please chat to the teachers of Cycle A if you are still looking for equipment and needing some help in this area.

Lucas
Year 10 Student

Gawa Fundraiser

Last week three enterprising young ladies from Middle Primary ran a fundraiser for Gawa Christian School. The girls came up with the idea themselves, organised everything, including purchasing the lolly guessing jars and successfully ran their fundraiser over the course of the week. Makedde, Isobelle and Angel raised $118.60. The money will be forwarded to Gawa so they can purchase balls or other play equipment. Well done girls on a great effort.

Di
Assistant Principal Primary

Year 10 Clay Target Excursion

For the past two weeks the Target Sports elective group has gone down to the Melbourne Gun Club north of Lilydale.

From my personal experience, it was great fun, and by the things my classmates have said they enjoyed it too.

The first week we started off by lining up to sign our names in a book, along with our addresses and the date. We grabbed some ear plugs and walked down to the shooting range where two friendly blokes taught us how to shoot and the safety procedures. We needed to make sure that the barrels of the rifles we were shooting with were open when we weren’t shooting, as a closed barrel usually meant that the gun was ready. We lined up in two groups and all had a go at shooting clay pigeons that were shot straight into the air. Cailan was an exceptional shooter, and was told by one of the members at the MGC that he could become a junior champion, no joke. In the second week we went through the same process, but instead of shooting clay pigeons being launched straight into the air we shot skeets flying from the side and oscillating outwards.

We all had a great time, with some people realising that they had a latent natural talent.

Lucas
Year 10 Student
Junior Primary students, staff and some wonderful parents headed off on Monday October 26 for a very exciting overnight adventure at Oasis Camp in Mount Evelyn. We all had a great day joining in activities such as candle making, visiting the reptile house and competing in the Water Olympics. The water balloon races were very tricky and there were lots of screams and splashes and many very happy and wet competitors! On Tuesday morning, our Year 1 students headed home for a much needed day of rest and the Year 2 students stayed for a special day of fun and challenges. They all enjoyed the challenge of the low ropes course and building their teamwork skills through the initiative games. A huge thank you to the parents who came and gave their time and energy to making this a wonderful experience.

We are thankful to God for a very happy and safe camp and for the joy of seeing our students meeting and overcoming challenges. A huge thank you to the parents who came and gave their time and energy to making this a wonderful experience.

Kaye
JP Teacher & Cluster Leader

Dear Preps,
We went on an awesome Water Camp! Water Olympics was challenging because we had to carry water on our head at the same time as running through an obstacle course. We also made colourful candles. We all had a good sleep with our teddies and the Year 1s went home after breakfast. The Year 2s said, “good bye” to the Year 1s and then super tidied our cabins. Then we went on a high and fast flying fox. It was the best! Water Camp was INCREDIBLE!! Next year you will go to Transport Camp. It will be FUN!

Love from JPT

Water Camp
Amazing activities
Teddies
Exciting
Real reptiles
Colourful candles
Awesome
My cabin was cool!!
Pyjamas

Josephine
Water Camp
Awesome camp
Teamwork at initiative games
Epic time
Reptiles were INCREDIBLE!
Candle making was fun
Activities were fun
Movie at night
Put on our pyjamas in our cabin

Ben-Noah
Camp was fun
water and running
dancing and singing
running and water
fun was camp!

Amelia
My favourite was the flying fox. Before I felt nervous. When I was on it I felt excited. After I felt like I had just achieved something I was scared about.

Jenson
My favourite thing was the low ropes course. Before we started I felt happy. During the activities I felt a bit scared. After I felt happy.

Nia
When we went on the low ropes course I felt worried. When I had finished I felt excited to do it again.

Charlotte
My favourite thing at Oasis Camp was the flying fox. When I got on the flying fox I felt scared. When my turn was up I wanted to go on it again because if was so fun.

Kayla
The best activity was the flying fox. I had to wear a harness and a helmet and it was really fun!

**Andrew**

I got to hold a snake and a lizard and I got to feel a turtle shell. It felt hard.

**Isabella**

We did the low ropes course. I fell off 5 times! There was a lot of hard stuff. Camp was so fun.

**Mason**

On the first day of camp we did candle-making. I made the fattest and most colourful candle by dipping the wick in wax and water.

We watched Veggie Tales in the evening and stayed up late.

**Manu**

Junior Primary enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of Water Investigations during core studies in Week 2. Making bubbles, finding water theme words in a word search, painting with water on the hot concrete, washing teddies in soapy and fresh water, creating underwater creatures or water transport then seeing if predictions of sinking, floating or swimming worked in salty water, researching information in books, and finally discovering objects that sink or float... or both... made for a rich, engaging, and fun learning time for all. We are very excited to learn more about water which is such a precious gift and resource.

**Susannah**

**JP Teacher**

I learnt lots of new water words when I chose the word search activity, and detergent makes bubbles!

**Ben-Noah**

When we washed the teddies they went all fuzzy!

**Amelia**

The water was soapy and the bubbles floated. I also learnt a trick - when you put a plastic container with a rock in it, it floats!

**Melody**
**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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Parking will be available on the school site and parking attendants will direct traffic. Parking is available in the lower parking area, office area, oval and Senior School.

The gym entry is via Hawkins Road, Gate 2.

Just a few reminders to help us have a smooth running evening.

- Students should arrive in their costume or outfit ready for the concert start at 6.30 pm.
- Students can arrive between 6.15 and 6.20.
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- At the end of the evening students will need to signed out from their class teacher by a parent/guardian. If your child is being taken home by someone other than yourself then please communicate this to the teacher via email, note or phone call as your permission is necessary.

**Twilight Christmas Market**

Friday November 13, 4 - 9pm, Overbeek Lodge, 736 Mt. Dandenong Road, Kilsyth.

There will be crafts, gifts, flowers & plants, a huge range of foods to consume and take home, kids activities, oliebollen, poffertjes, sausage sizzle, croquettes, coffee and a special visit from Santa and Sinterklaas.

Start your Christmas shopping!

**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.

**Apples & Pears**

The next delivery will be tomorrow 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

**Boots for Sale**

Red Back slip on black safety boots, used as part of the hospitality uniform. Size 9, as new condition. Cost $159 new, but I’m selling them for $70 ONO.

I can bring them to school if you would like to try them.

If interested phone Sandy 0408 919 396.

**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). 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@yarrarangesathletics.org.au or call Jamie on 03 8804 8090 (Work) or 0402 233 677.

**‘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).

St Andrews Christian College, Wantirna South. Tuesday November 17, 2015, 10am – 4pm. Cost $30 per participant (includes lunch). Registrations close November 9. www.daretoserve.net.au for information & registration.

**Working Bee**

Saturday 14 November, 8am-1pm

Morning Tea Provided

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

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

- 2016 Year 9 Open Village Information Night
- Year 6 Puberty Information Session
- Primary Celebration Night Reminder

**Yarrarangesathletics.org.au**

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