Year 12 Graduation

Ian, Board Chair congratulates Georgia at the Year 12 Graduation
MECS’ Graduation does not fit this image at all. Friday’s event had a wonderful, intentional, community feel, created through people seated together around tables, the students seated together in the middle of the room, surrounded by table upon table of their biggest fans, strongest supporters and firmest advocates.

There was no valedictory speech, or students speaking to encourage their peers. Rather, in keeping with the MECS tradition and philosophy, every student was acknowledged and celebrated in a speech prepared by his or her devotions teacher. As I listened to each speech, a number of things were apparent: our teachers know their students, love their students, and have a passionate desire to see their students come to know God. The teachers honoured each student by acknowledging their contribution to the community over the past one to thirteen years of schooling, and presented each student with an intentionally selected book. Effort and consideration was put into ensuring that the unique ‘flavour’ of each student was brought through: have you ever previously heard a speech made up of One Direction song titles for the 1D fan? Or a speech made up almost entirely of puns? It was clear that these teachers have had authentic relationships with, and understanding of, each student.

The message that was clearly conveyed throughout all the speeches was that these Year 12 students are a wonderful bunch of young people. They are a selfless, passionate, giving and faithful group, many of whom are keen to find ways to have a positive impact on the world - evident in their career choices and/or the fact that some were leaving the following morning on their ‘Schoolies Revolution’ mission trips. What a joy it is to know that students have learnt so much more than ‘head knowledge’, but that they have been convicted by ‘heart knowledge’ also.

The students had the opportunity to speak of Mr Colin Youl, last Friday night was the MECS Year 12 Graduation. I don’t know about you, but when I think of a Year 12 Graduation, the mental image that appears is based on my own experience as a student, or by a very ‘Hollywood’ view of what it might look like: a group of graduands sitting in the front rows of an auditorium and as each one is called to accept their certificate, there is the customary handing over of the degree and the moving of the tassel. The student’s name is called, they walk on the stage, shake hands with a dignitary and then walk off stage. Done. Little recognition of the student, beyond their name, is given.

23 families whose youngest child has now finished at MECS were given a plant as a symbol of their journey at MECS.

I had the privilege of being able to close the night with a blessing for our students:

May you stand up for what you believe in and speak up for those who can’t speak for themselves.

May you be earth-shapers and kingdom-builders.

May you be stretched and challenged beyond what you perceive is possible, and in that place of vulnerability, may you grow in strength and resilience to face life’s journeys ahead.

And in the words of Paul in Ephesians 3

“When I think of the wisdom and scope of God’s plan, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. I pray that from His glorious, unlimited resources He will give you mighty inner strength through His Holy Spirit. And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts as you trust in Him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God’s marvellous love. And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high and how deep His love really is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is so great you will never fully understand it. Then you will be filled with the fullness of life and power that comes from God.”

So thankfully, the MECS Graduation did not quite fit with the ‘Hollywood’ mental picture. Instead it was abundant in love, joy and authentic Christian community. Our students were honoured, and God was honoured. What a joy to be part of this community that sows the seeds of Christ’s love right to the very end of our time together.

Karissa
Assistant Principal - Secondary
Canberra Camp
As I write, I'm on my way to Canberra! Every year the Year 9s head up to the nation’s capital to understand more about some of the key questions they have been exploring this term: What does it mean to be an Australian? What has shaped, and continues to shape, Australian identity? What’s Australian politics all about and does the Bible have anything to say about governments, power and authority? What’s the place of a Year 9 student in the Australian nation and do young Christians have a voice? These are all great questions for our students to be thinking about.

Visits to the Australian War Memorial, the National Museum and Parliament House are just some of the activities on our itinerary. We are also looking forward to meeting our local federal member, Tony Smith, who is now the Speaker of the House of Representatives. We will probe into some of the more complex issues around immigration and indigenous rights. I’m looking forward to a great week away, with a fabulous group of staff and students.

Canteen in 2016
We are always looking for authentic ways to support our Ranges TEC campus. We are excited to let you know that in 2016, students from Ranges TEC will be running our canteen services two days a week. The VET Hospitality students will be conducting this as a proper business and it will provide first-hand experience of running a small business, much like our VCE Business Management students and our Senior School Cafe. Further details will follow about what will be on the menu and how you will be able to order.

End-of-year Celebrations and Changes
There is a lot happening in the final few weeks of school and I’m sure you are across all the details that are relevant to your children! We have put out in the newsletter information about some changes from our past practice, such as our 2pm finish for students on 17 December, so please check if you are not sure of anything or make contact with our friendly office staff.

We are looking forward to finishing the year well and being able to celebrate God’s goodness as we look back on 2015!

Science
One of the things that I absolutely love hearing from my students in Science is the ‘Wow that’s so cool!’ expression. Of course they are not referring to a drop in temperature but rather a sense of awe. Their eyes widen with a fullness of excitement as they are drawn in by the fascinating sight of the beating heart of a glass shrimp under a microscope, or flames from a test tube of boiling wax, or expanding columns of green foam from a chemical reaction. In those moments of wonder, science is so much more than knowledge: it becomes an expression of worship to a God who has weaved beauty into the fabric of His creation. The endeavour to understand our world ought to lead us to a place of deep appreciation of God as we uncover His fingerprints all over this earth. It puts God in His rightful place as Lord, and it puts us in our rightful place as His children and custodian over His creation. That is the goal of Science here at MECS. We teach our students to become learners, informed in their exploration of the ‘how’ of creation so that they can admire the ‘why’.

Duc
Middle School Teacher

After School Care - 2016
Have you thought about using this service next year? Did you know that with government rebates a session is costing the average MECS family between $8.50 and $11? (Depending on your assessment and rebate amount).

We have been running this service since Term 2 this year. The families that use it are very happy and the kids love going! We are conducting a review of the future viability of this service, and it would really help us to know if you are planning on using the After School Care program next year. Could you please let me know your intentions asap via email or calling the office. Thanks.

Nicole
Community Relations Officer
Music Notes

Now is a good time to start thinking about learning an instrument at school in 2016. We are very blessed to have a strong team of Instrumental teachers who coach, encourage and model a love for God and a love of music.

In these last weeks of school, I encourage you to pick up an Instrumental Enrolment form at the Main Office and check out which instruments we have on offer to explore, create, perform and enjoy.

If you want to learn an instrument but need some added incentives - here are some of the benefits of learning an instrument.

• Learning an instrument can assist with improving your memory, increase concentration, coordination, learning, language and comprehension.
• Students who study music from an early age do better at a range of subjects.
• Playing an instrument helps develop kids’ creative thinking and motor skills.
• Music helps kids become more active listeners.
• Learning an instrument fosters patience, perseverance, self-discipline and confidence.
• Music is beneficial to your overall well-being and can relieve stress.

If you still need more… It’s FUN!

For further information, please contact Annora Hummerston at ahummerston@mecs.vic.edu.au.

Annora
Instrumental Music Coordinator

Stationery Helpers

The roster was emailed out this week. If you have not received it please let me know.

Helpers are still needed on the following days:

- Thurs 3 Dec 9am -12noon (packing)
- Tues 8 Dec 12noon - 3pm (sales)
- Thurs 28 Jan 8.30am - 12noon (sales)
- Thurs 28 Jan 1pm -3pm (pack up)

Help is also needed to unpack all the new stock on Fri 27 Nov and Mon 30 Nov anytime from 9am -3pm in the study centre in the Senior School.

If you can help on any of the above days, even if it’s only for a few hours, please contact me on 0425 821 947. Thanks.

Evelyn

Farewell Ange

Last Wednesday afternoon, Kaye & the JPS students farewelled Ange as she goes on maternity leave.

The JPS students shared some of their hand written, farewell & appreciation ‘scroll’ writing. Micah & his Mum then presented Ange with her ‘Mum Pack’ - a handmade, wooden, box Micah’s Dad had created, filled with the students’ ‘scrolls’ & treats galore for Ange, her husband, son Levi & baby number 2.

Ange seemed very surprised and blessed to receive her box of goodies which included a teddy, baby toys and books, a photo album and frame, chocolates, pamper items, sleepless night and nappy change kits.

May God bless you Ange as you await the arrival of your baby. We will miss you!

Elissa, JP Parent

Friends of MECS

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If you can help on any of the above days, even if it’s only for a few hours, please contact me on 0425 821 947. Thanks.

Evelyn

Primary Tribal Athletics

MP Girls
SP Boys
Emma
Elimelech & Kyan
Emma
Calvin, Alex, Will & Toby
Tandia & Bailey
Ambrie & Emily
Micah

Friends of MECS

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If you can help on any of the above days, even if it’s only for a few hours, please contact me on 0425 821 947. Thanks.

Evelyn
The Primary Tribal Athletics day was such a great day. We were blessed with lovely sun and a great venue to use. It was fantastic to see the students competing hard, encouraging one another and cooperating with the teachers to help make the day such a success.

The Athletics club representative was there for a while and she commented on how enthusiastic and positive all the students were which was wonderful to hear.

A huge thank you to the Middle School helpers, who came and helped all the events run smoothly, as well as all the family and friends who came to show their support.

Results:
1st Blue/Wirri 322
2nd Red/Walya 285
3rd White/Warlpa 238
4th Gold/Warlu 168

Thanks for a great day.

Jason
PS Sport Coordinator

MECS Notes
Some Admin Changes
We wanted to let you know about a few changes to the way we have previously done things at MECS:

- **School finish time:** on the last day of the year, Thursday December 17, school will finish at 2pm. From now on, the last day of the year will always finish at 2pm. This applies only to Term 4.

- **Distribution of reports:** reports for all Prep-Year 9 students will be distributed on the last day of term this year, rather than the second last day. The reports for students in Years 10 and 11 will be sent home with a younger sibling, or posted home. Reports for any students absent on the last day of school will be posted home.

- **Distribution of class lists:** class lists for 2016 will go home via email in January, (January 18-22). The exception will be Preps (current K4s) who will receive theirs at the end of this year.

- **Changes to class names:** in 2016, our class names will no longer include the surname initial of the teacher but will be changing to a more consistent format. Preps will be changing to ‘Foundations’ and will be known as ‘Bilbys’ and ‘Geckos’. Other class names for the Primary and Middle Classes will be decided in the near future.

If you have any questions about any of these changes, please contact me via the office or by email.

Natasha
Office Manager

Primary GT Dates
Term 4
Week 8 Monday November 30 SPD
9am in the PUMP room
Week 10 Monday December 14
Prep Christmas GT
9am in the Gym
Parents Welcome

continued page 6
Year 12 Graduation

After 13 years of schooling it is finally here...

Graduation

Last week we commissioned and farewelld the Year 12 class of 2015. Although there is the excitement of seeing where God will lead the students there is also the inevitable sadness of letting go of the close bonds we have formed over the many years.

It is a long held tradition at MECS that the teachers give a speech about each student, acknowledging and celebrating their diverse range of gifts. It is clearly evident from these speeches that the staff not only know their students’ academic abilities, but also their character and are desirous for students to use their gifts as a response to God’s great love for His world.

This year we also said farewell to Colin Youl, recognising his 37 years of faithful service to the MECS community. The 230 people present honored him with a standing ovation.

Given the uncertainty of the future paths we all travel on, it is of great comfort to know that, “If I rise on wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there Your hand will guide me, Your right hand will hold me fast”. Psalm 139: 9-10. We wish the class of 2015 God’s blessing in their future endeavors and that they might know God’s guidance and love as they look to Him in all they do.

Sharon
Year 12 Coordinator
Year 12 Graduation continued...
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.

**MECS Kindergarten Job Opportunity**
We have a 3 Year Old Kindergarten Program Assistant position available. For details please check out the employment section of the MECS website.

*Michelle*
HR Administrator/VASS Coordinator

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

**Calendar**

2015 Term 4 Week 7: 23 Nov - 29 Nov

**Mon 23 - Fri 27 November**
MS Camp Week
Year 10 Work Experience Week 2

**Thur 26 November**
Kinder Information Night 7.30pm

**Sat 28 November**
Canberra Camp Returns

2015 Term 4 Week 8: 30 Nov - 6 Dec

**Mon 30 Nov - Fri 4 Dec**
Year 11/12 2016 Orientation

**Mon 30 November**
Year 9 Day Off
Primary GT (SPD)

**Fri 4 December**
Prep Big Night Out

**Sat 5 December**
Working Bee Including Breakfast 7am-1pm

2015 Term 4 Week 9: 7 Dec - 13 Dec

**Mon 7 - Fri 11 December**
Year 12 2016 Orientation

**Mon 7 December**
SP Indonesian Cook Off

**Tues 8 December**
Orientation Day (Prep - Year 10)
Prep 2016 Orientation Session Parents’ Morning Tea in the Staffroom

**Thur 10 December**
MP Indonesian Cook Off

**Fri 11 December**
MPB/SPD Indonesian Cook Off
Year 6 Graduation

2015 Term 4 Week 10: 14 Dec - 20 Dec

**Mon 14 December**
Year 11 Fit to Drive
Primary Christmas GT 9am Gym

**Wed 16 December**
Indoor Sports Day

**Thur 17 December**
Reports Issued
Last Day Term 4, Finish at 2pm

**Working Bee**
Saturday 5 December
7am-1pm - Breakfast Provided

**MECS COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**Calendar**

**Unit for Rent**
2 bedroom unit to rent in Monbulk (unit is beneath existing house). Suit couple - prefer Christians. Close to shops. Available from early to mid December 2015. For more information contact Martin on 0419 568 179.

**Lilydale Baptist Church**
Family Carols Night, Sunday December 13, 5:30 - 7:30pm, 305 Swansea Road, Lilydale, Corner of Swansea and Hull Roads.
5:30 - 6:30pm - Fun for families including jumping castle, face painting and free sausage sizzle.
6:30 - 7:30pm - Carols on the lawns. (BYO rug or chair, inside if inclement weather)
The carols will be followed by a light supper with a Christmas theme. For more information phone 9735 2233.

**Skylark Circus Camp**
January 11-16, 2016 at the Summit Adventure Camp, Trafalgar East. Experience Australia’s only sleep away circus camp, just an hour and a half from Melbourne. For boys and girls aged 8-18 years. Flying trapeze, aerials, juggling, tight-wire, clowning, tumbling, waterslides, camp games and more. Enrol today to secure your place www.skylarksports.com.au, 9544 8008.

**Library Books Needed**
Woolaning Homeland Christian College, an Indigenous Boarding School located 2 hours from Darwin, has a wonderful library building, but very few library books. If you have books at home in good condition which you would like to donate to their library please bring them to the office. The students at Woolaning are aged between 12 and 18 with varying literacy levels. Non fiction books are always popular. If you have any questions please call Caz Nyhouse 0409 793 951.

**TMG Careers Expo**
TMG Training and Consulting group are holding a Careers Expo, Dec 9, 4.30-7pm, 24 Main Street Lilydale. Arrive at 4.30pm for afternoon tea and speak to industry experts on your career options. For more information call 9006 4592, tmg.edu.au.

**Donvale Christian College Thanksgiving Service**
Thursday 10 December 2015
Donvale Christian College invite all past families to attend their end of year Thanksgiving Service to celebrate their 40th year. Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, Southwharf.
Foyer activities will commence at 6:15pm, followed by the service at 7:30pm. Tickets for this event are free but you will need to reserve your seat online. Please follow this link to reserve your seats (at no cost): http://www.trybooking.com/JENF
We look forward to you joining us for this significant celebration.
Ross Grace, Principal.

**Apples & Pears**
The next delivery will be Friday December 4. 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 and Green Pears. Bags are 5-6kg, $10 for apples and $8 for pears.

*Cassie, Receptionist*

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**Working Bee**
Saturday 5 December
7am-1pm - Breakfast Provided

Notices sent home this week and on Website


- Prep & JP Family Fun Night Notice (last week)
- Year 11 Fit to Drive Notices
- SS Orientation Week Timetable
- Kinder Connections 9
- Music Re-enrolment form for 2016