Cycle B Inverloch Camp

Declan enjoying the environment on Cycle B Camp
A long Legacy

Colin, otherwise known by his skin name Japaljarri, has been inspiring students and teachers alike at MECS for 38 years; he started teaching at our school in 1978. He has already taught his final Senior School classes, and next week will be his last week at MECS. We have seized many opportunities in this final term to honour Colin and say farewell – at the Association EGM in October, the Year 12 Last Day assembly, the Year 12 Graduation Dinner, and at a special Senior School social evening. Next week, the MECS staff will have their opportunity to say goodbye to Colin.

Colin leaves a lasting legacy at MECS for students, parents and teachers. The following are just some of the words and phrases that have been used to describe him: gracious, a thinker, accepting, caring, enthusiastic, an inspirational teacher, an advocate for Aboriginal people, quirky, a keeper of the vision, master story-teller, a faithful follower of Jesus, genuine, a man of integrity, a cheerleader, and an encourager.

An inspirational teacher: Colin’s enthusiasm for his areas of interest is infectious. He has inspired students and colleagues alike with his passion for the Bible, especially the Gospel of John. He encourages others to study the Bible and ask the difficult and intriguing questions such as “What is the significance of the 153 fish in John 21?” (His book ‘153 Fish’ provides an excellent insight into his thinking about many Biblical concepts.) Yet, his interest in the Bible is not a matter of filling his brain with interesting ideas, but of getting to know God through his revelation in Jesus Christ. These passions extend to other areas such as History, English and Indigenous communities.

An advocate for Aboriginal people: Colin has been instrumental in introducing students to Warlpiri and connecting them with the Yuendumu community (300km north-west of Alice Springs). During his early years at MECS, Colin and his family spent four months living in Yuendumu getting a better grasp of the language and culture. Many students, past and present, have been given an insight into the lives of these Aboriginal people, especially on the Year 10 Centre Trip. While some of the Warlpiri words and phrases have been forgotten by students, I have heard many of them quickly remember the songs that were taught and sung on this trip. We frequently hear stories of past MECS students who have been profoundly influenced by their Centre Trip experience, often making career choices that involve serving in indigenous communities.

A collector of quirks: Colin is remembered for a whole range of unique interests, habits and sayings. These include: his in-depth knowledge of the local indigenous plants throughout the school (and Montrose in general); dressing up as Gandalf for the Year 12 last days; his hand-drawn cartoons on worksheets and the whiteboard; his whistling and singing; and his use of words like ‘absquatulate’ when dismissing students, followed by, “Go out and play on the freeway”. Senior School students of more recent years will all remember his famous parting line “Mr Youl loves you all”.

Colin’s family have also been a significant part of MECS - his wife Heather served the school as a Board member and a teacher for many years. Their 4 children, Aimie, Anna, Benjamin and John, have all come through the school, with John graduating Year 12 in 2012. Colin and Heather have been Association Members since 1980.

There is no doubt that Colin has left his impression on MECS in various ways. He has had a formative influence on students, teachers and the wider community. He has been steadfast and faithful in promoting the ‘sweet truths’ of MECS, and has been pivotal in walking alongside new staff and sharing the vision.

We pray for God’s provision, protection and blessing over Colin and Heather as they embark on this next phase of life in service to Christ. We will surely see Colin visiting MECS or assisting in some capacity over the coming years. Thank you, Colin, for your gracious and faithful service to our community for many, many years.

Jacqui
Director of Teaching,
Learning & Innovation
Orientation Day
On Tuesday we had a fabulous day as new 2016 students came to meet new teachers and friends, as well as all of our current Kinder-Year 9 students having the opportunity to ‘step-up’ into their new year levels. There was lots of activity and excitement throughout the day, with even parents getting the opportunity to meet new parents over tea and coffee. Transitions are exciting, but they can also be difficult for some. Let’s pray that the transition from this year to the next is a calm and positive one, particularly for those that are coming to join our MECS community.

Working Bees
Speaking of community, I’d like to thank all parents and students who have helped out at a working bee this year. Last Saturday was our last one for the year and we were here bright and early at 7am for an egg and bacon breakfast. As we’ve mentioned before, we could not keep our grounds and facilities as lovely as we do without the work done on our working bees. A recent visitor to our school commented on how beautiful our grounds and buildings were in comparison to many other schools he had visited. We were pleased to hear this feedback because we work hard to be good stewards of all that God has blessed us with. Our working bees are also a great opportunity for parents to meet one another. It’s always great to see parents (and students) working hard alongside each other, but also having a good chat as well!

Primary Christmas GT
We’re looking forward to seeing many of you at the Primary GT next Monday morning at 9.30am in the gym. It will be a great time of celebration as we bring the year to a close and our Preps will bring the Christmas story alive with their nativity play. This will be followed by a morning-tea for all our volunteers who have served us throughout the year. (more information on page 4).

Be Safe Over Christmas
We have received various reminders from the CFA and Yarra Ranges Council about our families remaining safe over the Christmas period. We want everyone in our MECS community to return next year safe and well so please make wise and sensible choices. In the New Year we will send out our annual reminders about our bushfire readiness, but in the meantime up-to-date information can be found on the CFA website – www.cfa.vic.gov.au.

Year 6 Graduation
Finally, the last of our significant occasions for students happens this Friday night. Our Year 6 students are graduating! Looking resplendent in their fancy clothes I’m sure, they will share a meal together before the graduation evening commences shared with family and friends. Each student will present a short speech and be presented with an award. This is always a lovely evening as we honour each young person and wish them well as they enter secondary schooling. Congratulations to our Year 6 students!

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 $7.50 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.

Nicolie
Community Relations Officer

FOCUS On... VCD

As a VCE study, Visual Communication and Design allows students to explore the impact of various fields of design such as environmental, industrial and communication, on our lives and learn how to critically engage with the design cycle. Design is in all aspects of our lives, from the shape of the spoon we eat breakfast with to Melbourne’s tallest building, the Eureka Tower. The ability to analyse and understand both the aesthetic and practical impact a design can have on its consumer is an excellent skill we can equip our students with.

Students are able to engage with various strategies of design-thinking to evaluate existing designs or their own ideas and decide on whether they best fulfil the design need that has been identified. They work through generating, developing and refining ideas according to these, then make them a reality through the production of mock-ups. Through this process students also learn how to present their work according to technical specifications relevant to their field.

Students discover that some areas of design are purely to be enjoyed for their aesthetic appeal, however, in addition to this they learn that effective design no longer only fulfils a need by functioning correctly and being visually appealing, it also needs to consider the social and environmental impact it has. Is it recyclable? Made from sustainable resources? Does it communicate a positive and responsible message to its consumers? Is it honest? Does it meet and fulfil a real need in someone’s life?

God, the original source of all creativity, has equipped our students with minds built for imagination and innovative thinking that can use the design cycle to develop and refine ideas that meet real needs in the world. Clever design can bring some of God’s redemptive power and healing into a community. This may be through a piece of communication design that presents an uplifting message or through the innovative design and engineering of medical equipment. The scope of possibilities in this field is vast.

Breana
SS Teacher
MECS Notes

Christmas Primary GT - Prep Nativity Play

You are warmly invited to the Prep GT on Monday December 14 at 9.30 am in the gym.

We hope to see parents, grandparents and special friends to celebrate the end of the year and the Christmas season with our Preps and the rest of the Primary School.

What a wonderful thing that at MECS we can declare that Jesus is the reason for the season!

Please note that the starting time is 9.30 am and the venue is the gym, rather than the usual 9am in the PUMP room.

Parent Helper Morning Tea 11am

We also warmly invite all our parent helpers to join with us for a ‘thank you’ morning tea after the GT on Monday 14 Dec at 11am in the main staffroom. We would love to acknowledge the way in which you have supported our classrooms and our school in so many ways this year.

Di
Assistant Principal - Primary

Friends of MECS

Stationery Helpers

Thank you to all the people who helped with the packing this week.

Helpers are still needed on the following days:

Thurs 28 Jan 8.30am - 12noon (sales)
Thurs 28 Jan 1pm -3pm (pack up)

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

Evelyn

Ranges TEC Grad

Last Friday the Ranges TEC Graduation was a wonderful celebration and send off for the 16 graduating students. Many of them are heading straight into apprenticeships with the employer they did their work placement with. Two of the students who graduated are past MECS students - Zac and Gemma. Congratulations to Zac and Gemma and all the other students. We wish you God’s richest blessings as you start this new stage of your life.

Nico
Community Relations

Last 2015 Working Bee

Early Saturday morning we met for our last working bee for the year. As people turned up, the chatter, along with the smell of bacon and eggs, gave the morning a great atmosphere. As always, we achieved lots of jobs including pulling apart sleeper garden boxes, spreading mulch, weeding the Senior School bush area, cleaning sinks, taps and cupboards, repairing a roof, blowing pathways, painting decks and picnic tables, pulling old desks and chairs apart, raking the playground and the fitness track, and general weeding and gardening. It was a great time and we achieved much more than I expected. All this hard work goes such a long way in helping keep the school so clean, tidy and cared for. Thank you to everyone who came to working bees this year - your time, effort and work is very much appreciated.

Happy Christmas to everyone.

Pete & Steve
Maintenance Team
Prep Big Night Out

Last Friday the Preps had a big exciting night both at school and the Montrose Adventure Park.

The weather was hot and sticky, but that made the icy poles and icy water even better! We found some shade on the oval for some parachute games, and made a tent that we could sit under.

We had story time in the nice cool Senior Primary rooms on all their comfy cushions, and enjoyed afternoon tea and dinner together in the big staffroom. The children had to take care of all their belongings including their pyjamas and teddies; considering there were only about 4 items left behind from 40 children, we think they were very responsible and independent!

We were especially grateful for the help of Mr Pete B, Mrs Di E and the wonderful Year 6 helpers who were a great example of Primary School leadership at MECS.

With pyjamas on and bedtime story read, it was straight home to bed for lots of tired but happy children.

Jan
Prep Coordinator / Teacher

Congratulations Asha

We are absolutely delighted to announce that Asha (Class of ‘15) has been selected to undertake officer training with the Australian Army. For the past three months she has been put through a demanding and challenging selection process. The first of this three-stage process involved aptitude, academic and lifestyle assessment. The second stage consisted of a job interview, a psychological and medical test. Having passed these two stages, Asha was then selected to be flown to Canberra as part of a group of potential officers to face the Officer Selection Board. The group was put through individual and team activities, psychological testing, a job interview and more fitness testing. This group of 9 had been selected from over 200 applicants.

After this exhausting and challenging day, Asha was informed that she had been selected, along with three males, to attend the University of New South Wales to study for a Bachelor of Arts while also doing military training. Following this 3 year course Asha will spend a year at the Duntroon military college completing her training. She will then be commissioned as Lieutenant at the end of 2019. To my knowledge, she will be the first MECS officer in the Australian Defence Forces. Interestingly, another of Asha’s classmates, Dillon, who is undergoing Army training at the moment, has told her that when she is an officer, he will have to salute her! Congratulations Asha!

Dr Roger F
VCE Coordinator

Music Notes

Now is a good time to start thinking about learning an instrument at school in 2016.

Pick up an Instrumental Enrolment form at the Main Office and check out which instruments we have on offer.

Here are some of the benefits of learning an instrument:
• It can assist with memory, learning, concentration, coordination, language and comprehension.
• It develops kids’ creative thinking and active listening and motor skills.
• It 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.

Annora
Instrumental Music Coordinator
It has been an amazing camp experience this year at Inverloch. For 5 days, the Cycle B students had the opportunity to bond in fellowship with one another and their teachers outside of a school setting. Students participated in daily activities which included environmental revegetation, investigating intertidal zones, tubing up the river and admiring coastal landscapes for all of their created beauty. Overall, the students made the most of the experience and remained positive despite some crazy weather!

**Duc**

*Middle School Teacher*

In November, Cycle B left on an adventure to Inverloch. Students were split up into groups and activities were planned for throughout the week. We looked deeper into the marine life and how our rubbish impacts the environment. To contribute to the environment, we walked along beaches picking up rubbish. We also searched rock pools for many species of animals and plants. Tubing down Screw Creek was another highlight for many of us, apart from the freezing water! Lots of memories were made including listening to 80s music on repeat, funny dancing, a laughing competition, jamming sessions, and of course, the beautiful scenery! This week we have had endless fun and we feel that Cycle B has grown stronger as a community.

**Alexia & Jenna**
Monday
It was a long trip. My group was on the MECS mini bus and everyone was close together so it was good for talking. We stopped about every two hours and played a few classic car trip games like Eye-Spy, 99 bottles and Heads-up. We got to the camp at about six-thirty.

Tuesday Haikus
Tuesday, our day one Water wonderland
The tower on the skyline Swimming in the dappled shade
Gorgeous city views GoPros in the pool
Total war, horror Wonders of Egypt
Memorial for the dead Young men filling the trenches
Sit in the silence Running to their deaths

Wednesday
We started our day by visiting Parliament House and some of us got to meet Malcolm Turnbull. We interviewed Tony Smith, the speaker of the House (and our Member for Casey) and he signed bills right in front of us! I really enjoyed listening to question time – a ‘robust’ meeting where all the politicians ‘robustly’ question each other on the ‘robustness’ of Australia’s present and future policies. Finally, we went bike riding around Canberra, which was very relaxing and exciting.

Thursday
We started out at the National Museum of Australia where we learnt about the Australian story by walking through the Garden of Australian Dreams and then racing around to look at as many exhibits as possible. We drove up Mount Ainslie to look at the parliamentary triangle and the surroundings of Canberra. We had tours of the National Gallery with major emphasis on artwork by Sidney Nolan and other Australian artists representing the Australian story. We then had three choices: to either go to the High Courts, the Australian War Memorial or the National Gallery. At the War Memorial it was an indescribable feeling to walk through the building knowing there were people our age who had sacrificed themselves for our nation. I came out of the experience admiring the bravery of those who fought.

Friday
We took a drive around the embassies looking at ones such as the American Embassy, the Polish Embassy and the South African Embassy. Then we ventured through the back streets of Canberra to the SIEV X Memorial, which was heartbreaking. Soon after that we went to the Governor General’s house where we had a tour. After a quick lunch some of us went into Old Parliament House to re-enact the dismissal of Gough Whitlam. Others visited Old Parliament. Some saw an Aboriginal ceremony at the Tent Embassy and were asked to join in. This sparked a very robust discussion on the drive home.

Saturday
We left camp on Saturday morning at eight o’clock. Everyone was excited to finally be heading home but also sad that we were leaving. We didn’t take as many stops on the way back and we didn’t talk as much either. We were too exhausted from our great time on camp!

Isabelle, Tiana, Micah, Ady & Beth
**Calendar**

**2015 Term 4 Week 9: 7 Dec - 13 Dec**

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

**Fri 11 December**
- MPB/SPD Indonesian Food Taster
- Year 6 Graduation

**2015 Term 4 Week 10: 14 Dec - 20 Dec**

**Mon 14 December**
- Year 11 Fit to Drive
- Primary Christmas GT 9.30am Gym
- Parent Helper Thankyou Morning Tea after GT in Staffroom 11am
- Performing Arts Talent Show 11.30am Gym

**Wed 16 December**
- Indoor Sports Day - Years 7-9
- Stationery Sales 9am-12noon

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

**Fri 18 December**
- School Closed from 12noon

**2015 Summer Holidays: 21 Dec - 31 Jan**

**Wed 23 Dec - Sun 3 Jan**
- School Office closed from 3pm Wed 23 Dec and will reopen on Monday 4 Jan

**Tues 26 January**
- Australia Day Public Holiday School Closed

**Thur 28 January**
- Stationery Sales 9am-12noon Rooms 1 & 2
- Senior School
- Schoolwear Sales 9am-12noon Main Office

**Thur 28 - Fri 29 January**
- Year 12 Camp

**2016 Term 1 Week 1: 1 Feb - 7 Feb**

**Mon 1 February**
- School Begins
- Welcome Back Morning Tea 9am Main Staffroom

**2016 Term 1 Week 1: 1 Feb - 7 Feb**

**Wed 10 February**
- Prep Information Evening 7.30pm

**2016 Term 1 Week 3: 15 Feb - 21 Feb**

**Tues 16 February**
- Year 11 & 12 Basketball

**Wed 17 February**
- VCE Music Excursion 4.30pm

**Fri 19 February**
- Pre Assembly Parent Morning Tea Staffroom 9am
- Whole School Assembly 10am Gym

**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.

**Remotes for Robotics**
We would appreciate the donation of any old TV remotes which will be used for our new robotics program. There will be a box in the Main Office where you can drop them off. Many thanks,
Paul
Senior School Teacher

**Recycling Old Mobile Phones**
Did you know that you can recycle your old mobile phones by dropping them into the Mobile Muster collection container located in the Main Office?

For every kilo of mobiles and accessories that are recycled in December or January, Mobile Muster will give $2 to the Salvos Christmas Appeal. By recycling your old mobile phones and accessories, you will not only be protecting the environment and conserving scarce natural resources, but will also be helping the Salvos provide thousands of families across Australia with food, toys and somewhere to sleep. Let’s start looking for those old mobile phones and see how much money we can raise for this great cause!

**JumpDeck**
JumpDeck trampoline centre, 123 Lewis Road, Knoxfield is offering $10 holiday sessions plus $3 for any additional hour.


**Gallipoli Ceremony**
You are invited to a graveside ceremony to commemorate the centenary of the evacuation of Gallipoli at the graveside of Major Scurry MC, DCM on Sun Dec 20, 2pm, Lilydale Lawn Cemetery, Cnr Victoria Rd and Nelson Rd, Lilydale. For more info Don Parsons 0418 588 360.

By November 1915 the situation was grim on the Dardanelles Front and those in charge began looking at ways of getting our forces off the Peninsula. All plans estimated a loss of life of up to 30% of our troops. In his trench Bill Scurry thought: ‘it occurred to me that if we could leave our rifles firing we might get away safely’. He then set about inventing a time release gun. What he created was simple yet effective and was set up all over the Gallipoli Peninsula. As a result the troops were secretly evacuated without the enemy knowing and without one loss of life, saving thousands.

**Apples & Pears**
The last delivery will be **Thursday December 17** (the last day of school).

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, Golden Delicious, Granny Smith, Pink Ladies and Green Pears. Bags are 5-6kg, $10 for apples and $8 for pears.

*Cassie, Receptionist*

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


- Year 6 Grad Reminders
- BYOD Evaluation Survey
- Year 9 End of Year Events Notice
- Notice to SPK Parents
- Prep Pipeline Dec 8
- Decorating the Theatrette Request for Assistance Year 6 Grad