Christmas Primary GT

Prep students Grace & Finley performing in the Prep Nativity Play
And yet some things are worth waiting for! The necessary things. The lasting things. The transformative things. The things that bring us hope and new life.

The old life is gone; a new life burgeons! Look at it! All this comes from the God who settled the relationship between us and him, and then called us to settle our relationships with each other. God put the world square with himself through the Messiah, giving the world a fresh start by offering forgiveness of sins. God has given us the task of telling everyone what he is doing. We’re Christ’s representatives. God uses us to persuade men and women to drop their differences and enter into God’s work of making things right between them. (2 Corinthians 5)

My prayer for all of us is that as we prepare to celebrate this Christmas season, we would not only welcome this Messiah with great joy, but also commit ourselves afresh to the new thing that God is doing – in our own life, in the life of the MECS community and in the whole of his world.

Narelle
MECS Principal
Wrap Up for 2015!
Well that’s it for another year! It’s been a week of special assemblies and celebrations, class parties and sad farewells, cleaning and sorting and sharing excitement about the holidays ahead. As students finish today, we wish every student and family a safe and happy break. We look forward to seeing you all back at school on Monday February 1.

VCE Results
Our VCE students received their results this week. Once again we want to congratulate them on all their hard work this year and wish them well as they now finalise their plans for 2016 and beyond.

Staff Farewells
The end of year inevitably brings a number of farewells. Much has been said over recent weeks in regard to Colin’s retirement after 37 years of service to MECS. In particular, there was a terrific tribute in last week’s newsletter and a lovely afternoon tea on Tuesday where Colin’s family and some past colleagues were also able to share in the celebrations. We know that the legacy that Colin leaves is deep and wide, and it will continue to bear much fruit in the years to come. On behalf of the whole MECS community, we wish Colin a long and happy retirement.

To Suse, Carolyn, Angela, Robyn, Robyn and Ros – thank you for all that you have done as members of staff. We have appreciated the passion and gifts you have brought to your roles. You will be greatly missed by students and colleagues alike, and we wish you well in your future endeavours.

Annora has also resigned from her role as a secondary teacher, but we are glad that she will continue in her capacity as a Vocal teacher and the Instrumental Music Coordinator.

Finally, Laura and Ella will commence maternity leave at the beginning of next year. We wish them all the best over the coming months as they await the birth of their babies.

Family Farewells
We also want to say farewell to the students and families who are moving on to new adventures! We thank you for the opportunity to partner with you as we work together in Christian education and pray God’s blessing on the next part of your journey wherever that may be.

Volunteers Morning Tea
It was great to share morning tea with many of our volunteers on Monday morning after the Primary GT and thank them for all they do to contribute to this school. We could not do all the things we do at school each year, without the generous and practical support of our families and other friends. It was also great that Toni and Glensy, our School Crossing ladies, were able to come along and be thanked for their service this year.

School Magazine
Congratulations to Heather for the fabulous school magazine that has been produced. You will receive your copy with the reports today. Through pictures, artwork and written contributions, it really captures the sense of community at the heart of MECS. Hopefully you will enjoy looking at it over the summer break.

A Tribute to Japaljarri
Andrew* Japaljarri Spencer passed to be with his Lord on Monday December 7. Japaljarri gave me my ‘skin’ name in about 1982, took me to a ‘men-making’ ceremony and to many exciting places. His family has become my family, and we share joys and sorrows. He visited MECS many years ago and with his wife Nakamarra painted the huge ‘Mala’ painting which hangs in our main staffroom. He was miraculously converted many years ago through a Damascus Road experience of the risen Lord, and was a pillar of the Church at Yuendumu. Japaljarri and family welcomed many Centre Trips to Yuendumu. Our community has been greatly enriched by his generous contribution of his time and talents.

Japaljarri had been living in his grandfather’s country at Kintore for some years, where he worked as a Police Aid. His daughter, Christine, lives in Alice Springs with her family, and is a dear friend. His sister Tess remains a driving force within the Yuendumu church, and there are other siblings and many grandchildren around Central Australia. Our entire Aboriginal Studies Walpiri program is a monument to Japaljarri. He changed my life, and through that program has changed the lives of hundreds of our students. Rest in peace Japaljarri.

*According to Warlpiri custom we shouldn’t mention his first name, but because we are not Warlpiri people and it is unlikely any will see this notice, I use it here so that people who remember him will know who it is of whom I write.

Colin Japaljarri

After School Care - 2016
Have you thought about utilising our After School Care program? It’s great for working parents or even getting your groceries done in peace! With the government rebate a session can cost as little as $7.50 per child (depending on your personal assessment).

Are you planning on using this service next year? Please let us know asap. Email Nicole or call the office. Thanks.

Nicole
Community Relations

MECS Principal
Narelle
MECS Notes

Follow up on Sarah

A few weeks ago I wrote that Sarah (current Year 10 student) had been selected as the Australian Navy Cadet - RSL Victorian Branch ‘Cadet of the Year’. This award meant that she got to participate in 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’. To our great delight we have just been informed that Sarah has now won this competition! So as well as getting a position on the RSL Youth Committee for 2016, she will also be setting sail on the Royal Australian Navy’s sail training ship the Young Endeavour on March 7 for a 10 day trip to Sydney. Our heartiest congratulations Sarah!

Dr Roger F
VCE Coordinator

Lost Property

Just a reminder to please check the racks of lost property for your children’s belongings, today or tomorrow morning. We have accumulated plenty of clothes, hats, lunch boxes etc and it would be good if they went back to their owners. Those that aren’t collected will go to the local op shop. Again, can I please remind parents to clearly label their children’s clothing. It makes our job so much easier!

Melinda
Lost Property Merchant!

Friends of MECS

Our school community is richly blessed to have parents who help out in many areas of the school - going on camps and excursions, helping in the classrooms, stationery packing, cook off days, Mother’s and Father’s Day stalls - just to name a few! On Tuesday, after the GT, we had a morning tea to acknowledge those who help out in the Primary School. Thank you to those who came along! I would like to make special mention of our Primary Class Representative team. This year was our first year running this program and was made a lot easier by having a committed group of ladies keen to see this program strengthen and build the community we enjoy at MECS. To all of our families I say ‘thank you’ for the way you have contributed to the MECS community this year, I wish you and your family a blessed Christmas time and refreshing break. See you in 2016!

Nicole
Community Relations

Class Reps 2015

Indonesian Food Tasting

This week Senior Primary and Middle Primary students got the chance to try some Indonesian food! This term they have been discovering how food is grown, bought and sold in Indonesia, as well as exploring the different dishes and fruits that are common to Indonesia. In the tasting sessions, students got to try a range of authentic dishes like Nasi Goreng and Rendang. They also got to try some Indonesian fruits like manggis, nangka, sirosak and rambutan. Some students were adventurous enough to try the famously smelly durian!

I was incredibly proud of every students’ attitude towards this experience. They were excited and willing to step outside their comfort zone by trying something new, and were honest about what they liked and disliked about each dish in a culturally sensitive way. It was such an enriching experience for both myself and the students, and we thank our amazing caterer Hannah Rowse for her incredible effort in cooking and serving such authentic Indonesian food.

Rachel
Indonesian Teacher
Last Friday night teachers, staff, friends and family gathered to celebrate the graduation of our Year 6s from Primary School. The students enjoyed a delicious meal in the beautifully decorated theatre with their teachers and then made their way to the gym, where the audience was treated to a very confident, polished and entertaining presentation of the Year 6s’ speeches. At MECS Primary we believe all of our students are ‘wonderfully created’ and each child was presented an award from their teacher acknowledging one of their gifts that had been a positive contribution to the Senior Primary community this year. The students all looked wonderful in their finery, marking this significant milestone with the formality and celebration it deserves. It was a wonderful night, full of proud moments for teachers and parents (and the students themselves) and lots of fun. Year 6 2015 has been a wonderful year and we wish the students God’s richest blessings as they embark on their next step into Middle School.

Melissa
Senior Primary Coordinator
The last Primary School GT for 2015 was a lovely celebration of the year that has been, the people who have made it special, and our Saviour who makes it all worth while.

The Prep children performed their play – complete with a host of singing angels, busy sheep and cattle, and the rest of the Nativity characters. The narrators told the story with great expression, and the lead singers sang confidently in tune. The actors did a fabulous job, and reminded us of the reason not just for this season, but the reason to be joyful all year round: God chose to come to us in human form, not as a powerful monarch, but as a fragile baby, in a lowly stable, to connect with those He loves.

Mrs showed us some slides of the children at Gawa opening their Christmas present bags which were sent from our school. Thanks to all of you who gave gifts or did artwork to add to the love sent in these parcels. The smiles and excitement shown in the photos told it all!

The GT was also a chance to say big thank yous to people who work so hard in support roles in our school, and to say sad farewells to people moving on to new pastures.

We asked a special blessing on Suse, and the two MECS families, who are leaving to serve God as missionaries.

The choir and band did a marvellous job sharing some lovely Christmas songs, including sending us out with the favourite ‘Aussie Jingle Bells’. The school, and especially the children in band and choir, have very much appreciated the dedication, time and care from Mrs Brydon to make these musical celebrations happen so beautifully.

Performance poets from SPuDs had us thoroughly enthralled with a reggae flavoured presentation of ‘Be nice to your turkey this Christmas’.

At great expense and with equal pizzazz, we had guest appearances from….. you guessed it….. Mecsican and Captain Caring! Together they tore up the dance floor behind the choir and showed they were in fine form, despite all the marathon running and sun-baking that had kept them busy throughout the year.

The morning was topped off with a morning tea to thank all of our many wonderful volunteer helpers, while the students participated in multi-aged activity rotations. In these groups the children focussed on thinking about others, and made some lovely decorations to go into hampers to share God’s love with refugee families this Christmas.

As the song says, we wish you a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year with God’s richest blessings.

Jan
Prep Coordinator / Teacher
Kinder Nativity Play

On Monday, the 4 year old Kindergarten groups celebrated the end of the year with a Nativity play and a concert of the children’s favourite songs! Parents and Grandparents, Auntyes and Uncles arrived in droves, with cows, sheep, shepherds, Mary and Joseph and plenty of angels in tow. The children sang beautifully, ‘moo-ed’ and ‘baa-ed’ in the right places and photo opportunities were a highlight. What a delightful way to finish the year!

Wendy
Early Years Coordinator

Year 9 Service Elective

Last Wednesday some of our Year 9 students spent the day serving our local community. 12 students visited the Narre Warren Transit Soup Kitchen and 4 students visited the Benwerren Time Out for Women Retreat in Yarra Junction.

It was wonderful to see the students interacting with the guests and having a practical experience of helping others and hearing their stories and struggles. Some of the students reflected on the fact that difficulties can happen to anyone, of any age, from any background, at any time. They were inspired that there was such an abundance of food and resources available to those who need it and what a privilege it was to be part of it.

As their teachers, it was wonderful to see our students inspired to serve others with generosity, love and compassion.

Annora & Duc
Year 9 Service Teachers
**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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### Lost Property (Shovel)

At the last Working Bee (Dec 5), a shovel went missing. It was labelled with the owner’s name ‘James Wilson’. If anyone has accidently taken it home or knows of its whereabouts, can they please contact the school office or return it to the office so that it can be given back to its owner? Many thanks.

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### 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

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### 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!

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**Calendar**

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

- **Thur 17 December**
  - Reports Issued
  - Last Day Term 4

- **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 2: 8 Feb - 14 Feb**

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

- **Fri 12 February**
  - SP Swimming

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

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

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

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

- **Sat 20 February**
  - Working Bee including Breakfast 7am-1pm

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


- Reports (individual hard copy only)
- Reminders for the week
- School Magazine (hard copy only)
- BYOD Pack of Notices for Year 9s

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**Newsletter deadline is 11am Tuesday on published week.**

Email articles (images attached as jpg) to the Newsletter Office