Racing to victory for Warlpa (white)
Tom participating vigorously in the Middle School Tribal Swimming Carnival
Building Character

A lovely part of holidays is taking time out to catch up with friends and find out what they have been up to. My husband and I visited one of our close friends over the summer and during that time he shared an article that he had written and consequently had published in The Age last year.

Wow!

I was struck by the relevance of this article to our school community, and so I asked him and The Age (Thursday February 5, 2015), if I could share it with you.

Please take the time to read this wonderful affirmation of parenting and education. It really helped me to refocus on the privileges and responsibilities we have in working together to raise children of character.

Published with permission from Brian

Di
Assistant Principal - Primary

Build your kid’s character, don’t just give them stuff

I wasn’t quite sure why 2015 had a bit of a “ring” to it, and then the penny dropped: my father was born 100 years ago. Dad was a quiet man, and sometimes hard, though never unfair.

His mum died giving birth to his younger brother, and his father withdrew him from Scotch College at age 15 to work on a farm in 1930, the Great Depression.

Dad reported he had no refrigeration, only a cool safe, and had to flick the maggots off his meat before he ate it, reluctantly taking whatever protein was available.

He flew in the Second World War for three years and, unlike his best friend, survived to begin a new life back home.

Dad gave a short speech at my 21st birthday, recounting how he went in to town for his twenty first in a horse and buggy. Of course there were cars around in those days, but that was for rich people. He described how remarkably life had changed from when he was 21. Man had landed on the moon, successfully transplanted a man’s heart, and now pretty much everyone had a fridge. He was amazed and excited at the changes he had seen in 40 years, and asked the question of what life would be like when I gave a speech at my son’s 21st.

Did Dad have a special hunch? Rosemary, my wife, and I are blessed with three children, two girls, then a boy. At Andrew’s 21st I echoed dad’s theme, and listed some of the ways modern life had changed since I was his age: computers, mobile phones, the internet, air bags, ABS, and so it goes on. Life today is hardly recognizable from life back then.

I am not sure the important things ever change. Being kind, considerate, thoughtful, generous, knowing how to make a sacrifice, listening, exercising noble virtues of honesty and integrity... said than done. There is enormous societal pressure to learn for some gain, to get into this course or that, to earn a higher income, to rise above others in status or power. For me, one of the greatest gifts we can give youngsters is the love of learning in and of itself.

When we impart that special gift, we open up possibilities for lifelong adventure.

Some schools don’t teach a love of learning, believe it or not. But every parent can, by taking an interest from an early age, by asking open questions, by listening, by modelling an attitude of enquiry, by freely giving time, by being a genuine seeker, by pursuing understanding and not just facts.

We are saturated by a world preoccupied with things and stuff. But kids don’t care if there is a stain on the carpet, or a dent in the panel work. They want, and need love, expressed in many ways; unconditional acceptance and forgiveness, despite their shortcomings. We can invest in antiques, or shares, or property or image or whatever. But there are other forms of investment, in character, in relationships, and in what does not change.

What can any parent give their child? Lots of good things. Funnily enough, when we give, life has a way of giving back, in full measure, pressed down and running over. (Luke 6:38)

Brian
30/1/15
Teaching your child to resolve conflict

Disagreements and difference in opinion will always be a part of relationships with family and friends, from childhood to adulthood. In fact, it is often healthy to experience some conflict to build confidence in resolving issues with others. (Please note: in this article, I am talking about coaching your child through everyday social dilemmas. If conflict at school keeps happening, escalates, gets too intense or leads to physical aggression, your child will need you to speak to a school staff member.)

“Muuuummm, Jane wouldn’t play with me on the playground today…”

“Douglas pushed me when we lined up for music…”

Children bring their social dilemmas home to you, their parents. When your distressed child presents a dilemma to you, what can you do to help?

You might notice your own reaction to your child’s distress. This can be immediate and powerful… and often not very helpful! Conflict brings an emotional intensity that can trick you into responding reactively. It takes practice to remain calm under pressure, but the benefits outweigh the effort.

When you can be calm and present to your child, you can offer empathy. Reflect that you understand their feelings and that their feelings are a normal response to the situation at hand. This kind of support and ‘TLC’ can be very reassuring for your child.

An understood and reassured child is more likely to explore the wider story with you. Ask questions that will promote higher emotional/relational thinking and insight (i.e. “How do you think Jane was feeling today? Why do you imagine Douglas may have responded that way?”)

With a wider picture, it is easier to find practical skills to teach your child. Role play some alternative scenarios. Show your child that sometimes how something is said matters more than what was said. Teach your child about appropriate boundaries with peers.

Finally, bear in mind that children will learn a great deal from the ways you work through conflict in your own relationships.

Natasha
Student Welfare

New Staff Dinner

Welcome New Parents!

Last Friday at Chirnside Park Country Club over 80 new parents, board members and staff enjoyed a wonderful night of getting to know each other, enjoying good food and better conversation.

We are really glad that so many of our new parents came. Welcome to the MECS community.

Nicole
Community Relations
MECS Notes

Term 1 Parent Teacher Meetings & SSGs

All parents of students in Years 1-12 will soon be able to book Parent Teacher Meetings via PTO, our online booking portal. You will have received an email regarding the booking details and changes for this round of meetings.

Please keep the following dates in mind for your preferred meeting time, remembering that students in Years 10-12 are expected to attend with their parent/s.

Tues 15 March
(PS: 3:45-6pm/ Secondary: 4-5pm)

Thurs 17 March
(PS: 3:45-6pm/ Secondary: 4-9pm)

Mon 21 March
(PS: 3:45-9pm/ Secondary: 4-9pm)

If you require a Primary School SSG (Student Support Group) meeting, you will also book via the portal, with alternative time slots available to you.

If you require a Middle School SSG meeting, you will book via the portal in the above time slots.

If you require a Senior School SSG meeting, Connie will contact you to make a time. Other SS Ed Support students will have the opportunity to book an appointment with Connie via PTO.

If you have any immediate questions, please contact Corrie.

Corrie
Admin Support
Friends of MECS

Cook Off Day - Tomorrow - Friday March 4

Cooking will start at 9am in the Home Tech room.

We still need volunteers - if you can help (even for a few hours) please come along. (Please note: hair must be tied back, closed shoes must be worn and please bring your apron and favourite knives.)

Facebook

Did you know that MECS has 3 facebook pages? Check them out and ‘Like’ the pages for updates.

https://www.facebook.com/Mount-Evelyn-Christian-School-MECS/
https://www.facebook.com/MecsKindergarten/
https://www.facebook.com/MecsPastStudents/

Nicole
Community Relations

Shave for Cancer

Ruby and Rachel (both MECS Year 12 students) pledged to shave off their hair to raise money for the Cancer Council Victoria this month. Thanks to the overwhelming support they have received from family, friends and the MECS community, Ruby and Rachel have far exceeded their original goal of raising $500 and to date have raised $1442.65! Thank you to everyone who has donated to this cause! Ruby and Rachel’s webpage for this project is open until March 5, so if anyone would still like to contribute, please go to https://shave-for-cancer.everydayhero.com/au/RNR

Narelle

MECS Notes

Transition Week Planning

Each year we run Transition Week – a week aimed at giving Year 10 students opportunities to explore their study and career options. I am currently in the process of putting together a plan for our 2016 Transition Week, and would be very interested in hearing from any members of the school community who are employed in an industry/occupation that appears to have a strong future. If this sounds like you, and you are willing to give a short talk about your job to a group of Year 10 students, sometime around the beginning of June, I would love to hear from you. Please email Amelia.

Amelia
Year 10, Careers & VET in Schools Coordinator

MECS Canteen

In 2016, students from Ranges TEC will be running our canteen services every Friday starting 11 March. To find out what will be on offer, the Ranges TEC students are offering another free-of-charge Taste Tester session for Years 7-9 at recess (11am) - tomorrow Friday, Mar 4, outside the Understorey.

The canteen is looking at offering salads, a hot food, sandwiches, rolls/ wraps, smoothies/juice and a bakery item. The Taste Tester sessions will offer a few samples of the menu in a mini version for our students to try.

We look forward to your feedback.

Vicky
MECS Canteen

2017 Term Dates

Planning a holiday? Want to know next year’s term dates? Here they are:

Term 1: January 30 - March 31
Term 2: April 18 -  June 23
Term 3: July 17 - September 22
Term 4: October 16 - December 13

(* School finishes at 2pm on Dec 13)

Buses

Our trial relocation of bus departures has been very successful, and so will now become a permanent arrangement.

Students will board their MECS bus near the gym in the Senior School, where the buses currently park, rather than at the Kiss n Drop.

An email has been sent home this week to parents of students who use these buses confirming the permanent change to arrangements.

If you have any questions or feedback relating to this change, please contact the office.

Dr Gerry B
Administration Manager

Year 9 Basketball

On February 23, we attended the interschool basketball competition at Casey Basketball Stadium. At 10am all participants were ready to go. The boys played first and played well although they were defeated. They played 3 more games in a row, with some close games. The girls also started with a loss but bounced back to make it to the 3rd vs 4th playoff. The girls came 3rd. All were sweaty but satisfied they had played their best. Well done!!

Year 9 Basketballers

Christine

Friends of MECS

Cook Off Day - Tomorrow - Friday March 4

Cooking will start at 9am in the Home Tech room.

We still need volunteers - if you can help (even for a few hours) please come along. (Please note: hair must be tied back, closed shoes must be worn and please bring your apron and favourite knives.)

Facebook

Did you know that MECS has 3 facebook pages? Check them out and ‘Like’ the pages for updates.

https://www.facebook.com/Mount-Evelyn-Christian-School-MECS/
https://www.facebook.com/MecsKindergarten/
https://www.facebook.com/MecsPastStudents/

Nicole
Community Relations

Shave for Cancer

Ruby and Rachel (both MECS Year 12 students) pledged to shave off their hair to raise money for the Cancer Council Victoria this month. Thanks to the overwhelming support they have received from family, friends and the MECS community, Ruby and Rachel have far exceeded their original goal of raising $500 and to date have raised $1442.65! Thank you to everyone who has donated to this cause! Ruby and Rachel’s webpage for this project is open until March 5, so if anyone would still like to contribute, please go to https://shave-for-cancer.everydayhero.com/au/RNR

Narelle

MECS Notes

Transition Week Planning

Each year we run Transition Week – a week aimed at giving Year 10 students opportunities to explore their study and career options. I am currently in the process of putting together a plan for our 2016 Transition Week, and would be very interested in hearing from any members of the school community who are employed in an industry/occupation that appears to have a strong future. If this sounds like you, and you are willing to give a short talk about your job to a group of Year 10 students, sometime around the beginning of June, I would love to hear from you. Please email Amelia.

Amelia
Year 10, Careers & VET in Schools Coordinator

MECS Canteen

In 2016, students from Ranges TEC will be running our canteen services every Friday starting 11 March. To find out what will be on offer, the Ranges TEC students are offering another free-of-charge Taste Tester session for Years 7-9 at recess (11am) - tomorrow Friday, Mar 4, outside the Understorey.

The canteen is looking at offering salads, a hot food, sandwiches, rolls/ wraps, smoothies/juice and a bakery item. The Taste Tester sessions will offer a few samples of the menu in a mini version for our students to try.

We look forward to your feedback.

Vicky
MECS Canteen

2017 Term Dates

Planning a holiday? Want to know next year’s term dates? Here they are:

Term 1: January 30 - March 31
Term 2: April 18 -  June 23
Term 3: July 17 - September 22
Term 4: October 16 - December 13

(* School finishes at 2pm on Dec 13)

Buses

Our trial relocation of bus departures has been very successful, and so will now become a permanent arrangement.

Students will board their MECS bus near the gym in the Senior School, where the buses currently park, rather than at the Kiss n Drop.

An email has been sent home this week to parents of students who use these buses confirming the permanent change to arrangements.

If you have any questions or feedback relating to this change, please contact the office.

Dr Gerry B
Administration Manager

Year 9 Basketball

On February 23, we attended the interschool basketball competition at Casey Basketball Stadium. At 10am all participants were ready to go. The boys played first and played well although they were defeated. They played 3 more games in a row, with some close games. The girls also started with a loss but bounced back to make it to the 3rd vs 4th playoff. The girls came 3rd. All were sweaty but satisfied they had played their best. Well done!!

Year 9 Basketballers

Christine
The Middle School Tribal Swimming Carnival was held on a beautiful, warm day and as usual it was great to see the students participating, dressing up in their tribal colours or cheering their fellow students on. Some enthusiastic students even went in extra events to gain points for their team. This year there were organised activities in the pool at lunch time which proved very popular, including water aerobics!

Special thanks to our Year 10 student helpers.

Here are the results:

1st Warlpa (white)  240 points
2nd Walya (red)  210 points
3rd Wirri (Blue)  142 points
4th Warlu (Yellow)  83 points

Congratulations to the following students who were the top contributors to their tribes in their age categories with 20 points or over.

13yr Thomas  50 points
13yr Jas  30 points
14yr Joshua  36 points
14yr Emily  32 points
15yr Asher  20 points
15yr Jenna  26 points
16yr Benjamin  20 points
16yr Raylee  26 points

Heather
Newsletter Editor
The city was so different from the suburbs. Instead of the tall gum trees that would hang over us, suddenly the skies were replaced with skyscrapers. Instead of asking directions to the local pub we were frantically asking around for someone to explain to us the confusing tram system. Instead of dodging kangaroos as we swerved around the roads we were dodging scary business people and their bad driving. Okay so we might be exaggerating a little... but the point was that for some of us it was a really big change, and at times, a scary one.

Early in the morn, when the sun was just on the horizon, all of us from different homes and places caught a train from the local train station and journeyed into the unknown... or just the city for some. We arrived and gathered at Flinders Street Station and collected our first clue to the treasure. The clues were secreted all around the city and we had to have a plan to get to all of them. We were sent all over the CBD (central business district) searching for famous places and teachers hiding in cafes waiting for us.

I think we found it amusing that most of us had lived in Melbourne our whole lives, yet out of all the people we saw that day, we were the ones who looked most like very confused tourists. After a lot of turning maps around, confusion about how trams worked, bickering over the difference between trams and buses and way too many coffee breaks, we made it. Well sort of, for us at least, after we got lost in the rain looking for the jail, called in a rescue team only to discover the jail was 20 metres around the corner, we made it. We learnt a lot from this and I think we can all say we have a bit more confidence to tackle City Camp and make the best of every moment.

Jemimah

On Wednesday of Week 3, music enthusiasts from Years 9-12 attended our annual music excursion to the MSO’s first performance in the Sidney Myer Music Bowl free concert series. The young American conductor Joshua Weilerstein was at the helm for an exciting program of the music of his compatriots John Adams and George Gershwin, plus the ever-popular Czech composer Antonín Dvořák.

Adams’ 1986 work, Short Ride in a Fast Machine, is a fast paced fanfare to get the pulse racing. The composer explains the work’s title with a question, “You know how it is when someone asks you to ride in a terrific sports car, and then you wish you hadn’t?” Except that we were all glad to be along for the ride. Adams’ repetition of rapid and rhythmically complex cells against simple harmonic shifts is inherently exciting and energetic. Weilerstein’s interpretation was a pleasing blend of precision, vigour and restraint, and the orchestra’s response was lithe and brisk in equal measure.

Australian pianist Stefan Cassomenos was soloist in George Gershwin’s Piano Concerto in F, a classically structured, jazz-infused romp through the iconic sounds of New York’s Tin Pan Alley. Cassomenos’ command of his instrument was evident from the outset and increasingly assured as the concerto progressed to its rollicking climax. Popping with humour and vitality, the first and last movements are as much fun as you could want in a piece of music. It was the slower middle movement, however, that provided one of the highlights of the night. The delicious interplay between soulful piano and the smoky, velvet sound of Geoffrey Payne’s blues trumpet solo was an introspective and indulgent exchange that kept the audience spellbound throughout the movement.

The final item was Antonín Dvořák’s seventh Symphony. This is a work that tends to lose attention to the better known and more widely loved eighth and ninth symphonies, but which holds a charm and elegance of its own that is worthy of broader acclaim. Led by concertmaster Dale Baltrop, the string section’s generous and unfaltering sound provided the scope for the entire ensemble to luxuriate within the symphony’s superb warmth and humour. The sounds of the Czech countryside are never far from the heart of Dvořák’s music and lend it a nostalgic and exotic quality, which has captured the imagination of audiences now for well over a century.

Congratulations to the MSO, Weilerstein and Cassamenos on what must be one of the finest Sidney Myer concerts in recent years.

Tim
VCE Music Performance Teacher
### 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>URGENT: House needed</strong></td>
<td>A large family with six children urgently needs a house to rent ASAP. Preferably located in surrounding suburbs to MECS. Please contact the office if you can help.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Car for Sale</strong></td>
<td>Holden Astra, manual, approximately 120,000 kms, one owner, always driven locally and in excellent condition. The car has always run perfectly and never been in an accident. Only selling due to upgrading our car. 11 months registration and RWC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Apple Man Tomorrow</strong></td>
<td>The Apple man is coming again on Friday March 4 and the following varieties will be available: Granny Smiths, Fujis, Royal Galas and Green Pears. Apples $10 a bag and pears $8. Please put the correct money in an envelope with your order written on the front, and hand it into the office before 10.30am on Friday March 4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Montrose Junior Football Club</strong></td>
<td>2016 Registration Day for boys - U8 through to U17 and girls - U12, U15 and U18 on Sunday March 6 from 10am to 12 noon at the Montrose Recreation Reserve, Mount Dandenong Tourist Road, Montrose. Come and meet your coaches, the committee and your team players. Come to the registration day to secure your place on the team or go to <a href="http://www.montrosefc.org.au">www.montrosefc.org.au</a> for more information or email <a href="mailto:montrose.juniors@gmail.com">montrose.juniors@gmail.com</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SCYC Scorpions Basketball Club</strong></td>
<td>The club is now taking registrations for the winter season. Come and play a sport that won’t be washed out due to weather and that you can enjoy all year long, at a family friendly club. For all new registrations you will receive a 50% discount for your second season. Email Glenn at <a href="mailto:scycscorpions@gmail.com">scycscorpions@gmail.com</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>French Exchange Students</strong></td>
<td>Southern Cross Cultural Exchange is seeking volunteer host families to host carefully selected students from France with excellent English language skills arriving in mid May 2016 for a stay of one term. They will attend a local Secondary High School, arrive, with their own spending money and comprehensive health insurance cover. You’ll have fun learning about cultural differences and language. To enquire about becoming a volunteer host family visit us at <a href="http://www.scce.com.au">www.scce.com.au</a>, email <a href="mailto:scceaust@scce.com.au">scceaust@scce.com.au</a> or call us toll free on 1800 500 501 for more information.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fri 4 March</strong></td>
<td>K4 Connect Morning Tea from 8.45am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mon 7 - Fri 11 March</strong></td>
<td>Year 9 City Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mon 7 - Wed 9 March</strong></td>
<td>Year 8 Clifford Park Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mon 7 March</strong></td>
<td>Primary GT 9am PUMP Room MP Red (Mrs Justine Brooks)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parent Seminar A 7.30pm</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tues 8 March</strong></td>
<td>VCE Drama Excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wed 9 - Fri 11 March</strong></td>
<td>Year 7 Clifford Park Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wed 9 March</strong></td>
<td>MP Swimming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thur 10 March</strong></td>
<td>Grandparents and Special Friends Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fri 11 March</strong></td>
<td>SS Connect Morning Tea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fri 14 March</strong></td>
<td>Labour Day Holiday School Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tues 15 March</strong></td>
<td>Parent Teacher Meetings (PS: 3.45-6pm/ Secondary: 4-5pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thur 17 March</strong></td>
<td>K3 Rosellas Connect Morning Tea 8.45am Staffroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parent Teacher Meetings (PS: 3.45-6pm/ Secondary: 4-9pm) Senior Primary Space Expo 6.30pm</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fri 18 March</strong></td>
<td>JP Mini Beast Dress Up Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sat 19 March</strong></td>
<td>Working Bee with Morning Tea 8am-1pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mon 21 March</strong></td>
<td>School Photo Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Primary GT 9am PUMP Room JP Echidnas (Kaye Smith)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parent Teacher Meetings (PS: 3.45-6pm/ Secondary: 4-9pm)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tues 22 March</strong></td>
<td>Year 7-12 MECS Athletics Carnival</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Next Working Bee**

**Sat 19 Mar, 8am-1pm**

with Morning Tea

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

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

**Next Working Bee**

**Sat 19 Mar, 8am-1pm**

with Morning Tea

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