The Edge Experience at Year 9 City Camp

Nicodemus, Zarah, Sarah, Britney, Jemimah, Josh & Hamish
Transformational Icons

This time last year we launched our new book, *Transformational Education*. This book explores 16 key characteristics of Christian education at MECS. It turns out that we are not the only ones who have found the focus of this book important; the book has been snapped up by schools both nationally and internationally. It has been exciting to see how other communities have resonated with our articulation of teaching and learning from a Christian perspective.

Throughout the book there are a number of icons that represent each one of the 16 understandings. These icons were created by Claire, a talented graphic designer who is also one of our school parents. In this editorial, I will focus on the first four facets and their icons: Transformative Christian Education, Rich Learning, Adventurous Methodologies, and Nurturing Diversity.

**Transformative Christian Education**

Learning at MECS has a clear purpose; the transformation of students and teachers so that they might have the mind, heart and life of Christ and to be his disciples. The Easter story is central to our story at MECS. The death and resurrection of the God-man, Jesus Christ, at a real time in human history, saw the beginning of the total renewal of creation. We are part of this renewal. As disciples, students and teachers will understand themselves to be participants in God’s redeeming work, which will be completed when Jesus returns in power.

The icon for Transformative Christian Education depicts the growth of a plant from a little bud to a flourishing tree. It highlights the transformation of our heart, mind, spirit and life through the work of the Holy Spirit. Our aim at MECS is to provide educational experiences and settings in openness to the direction and guidance of the Spirit who “guides us in all truth” (John 16:13).

**Rich Learning**

At MECS, we aim to nurture students as lifelong learners who are able to explore the world with the full depth and sophistication of their gifts and abilities.

The icon for Rich Learning features a treasure chest overflowing with the symbols and pictures that represent a diversity of learning experiences. It is our goal to provide authentic experiences of adventure, appreciation, celebration, challenge, community, curiosity, service and stewardship.

**Adventurous Methodologies**

Authentic learning can be great fun. To facilitate rich learning at MECS, we investigate a wide range of methods of exploring God’s diverse creation. There is no shortage of educational endeavours and new ideas. We engage with many of these ideas with enthusiasm and discernment. No methodology is neutral; each reflects understandings of human nature and knowledge. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and the truth of the Bible, we carefully choose and reflect on these innovative ideas and practices.

The icon for Adventurous Methodologies portrays a climber making his/her way up a mountain. It characterises the careful, determined, and guided approach to reaching new heights and views of education. MECS has long held a reputation for nurturing innovation and creativity. As a community of joyful learners, we continue to pursue new ideas while ensuring they are consistent with a Christian worldview.

**Nurturing Diversity**

Every day we are made aware of the diversity of creation. This is often most evident in the uniqueness of people. We are diverse in abilities, giftings, backgrounds, and interests, yet we are all loved and valued by our Creator God. This was especially shown on the cross when Christ came to restore all people to God through his death and resurrection. There is great unity in diversity. A biblical metaphor often used to describe this is ‘one body, many parts’. Each of us has a unique and important role to play in the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12).

The icon for Nurturing Diversity includes puzzle pieces fitting together to represent a whole. It highlights how, as individuals, we connect with others in community. We encourage the flourishing of diversity, while also providing opportunities for students to use their gifts to serve and be a blessing to others.

In my next editorial, I will explore the next four facets: Scripturally Infused, Form - Head, Heart & Hand, Overarching Story, and Relational Community. A reminder that if you would like your own copy of *Transformational Education*, they are available from the school office for $20.

Jacqui
Director of Teaching, Learning, and Innovation
SKETCHER’S SCOOP

School Holidays
It seems as if this term has just disappeared! A lot can happen in eight action-packed weeks! Thanks for all the ways you have supported your children and the activities of the school this term. We love this place and are excited to see students growing in their learning each day. We work hard to make sure this is a safe and fun place to be and we hope your children have enjoyed their first term. Hopefully you will enjoy the break with your children and have the opportunity to spend some time together, whether that is a quiet day at home or a special activity or holiday. We look forward to seeing all our students back on Monday 11 April.

School Photos
On Monday school photos were taken! I’m a bit nostalgic about photos. More than just capturing an image, they capture a moment in history which can remind us of important relationships and events. I’m sure you have looked at your old school photos and been prompted to ask questions like, ‘I wonder what so and so is doing now? Remember when we did…?’ Hopefully when our students look back on the photos taken this week, they will be reminded of great friends, enthusiastic teachers and a school that cared deeply about their learning and who they were becoming as young people of God. Thanks to Helen for making the day run so smoothly.

Open Day
As we look ahead to next term, Open Day will soon be upon us. Now is the time to think of family and friends that you think would love being part of the MECS community. Why not personally invite them to come along on Saturday 7 May and find out what all the fuss is about? We would certainly welcome enrolment enquiries for 2017 even though places are filling as expected. A full program of Open Day activities will be available next term.

Easter
As you enjoy the term break, hopefully you and your family will find time to reflect on the Easter message which is at the heart of the Christian story. At the centre of this community is the realisation that we are saved and redeemed by Christ’s death and resurrection. We do education differently at MECS because we want our students and families to know and experience something of this extraordinary act of grace that changes lives and gives hope and purpose to our daily activity. As transformed people, we seek to bring transformation to every endeavour, including what we do in school each day. We do this in loving obedience to his call on our lives. May this truth be at the centre of your life and family this Easter.

FOCUS On... How we read the Bible
At MECS we don't read the bible as a history textbook. Rather, every page details the unfolding of His story, the one true history of all that is from the beginning of time until its culmination. Nor do we read the bible as a “How-to” manual, taking random verses as a list of do's and don'ts. However, there is contained within the covers of our bibles incredibly valuable insights into how to live, given by the maker Himself. At MECS we see the key to unlocking the riches of the bible is to see it as a narrative of one big story, The Story. We read it to discover not only how the world is but also, more importantly, why it is the way it is – to connect with our Creator and Redeemer.

This amazing story we read unfolds in six acts: Creation, Fall, Redemption, Jesus, The Church, and The New Heaven & The New Earth. We exist within the sixth Act; God has called us to be actors within His story. It is from within the sixth act that we engage with life. It is from within this sixth act that we at MECS dive into our bibles, be that in devotions, Scripture lessons, subjects such as Text & Traditions and integrally across all subject areas. For we believe that it is The Story and therefore seek to let it inform all that we do, say and think as we operate as actors within that very story.

Tim Middle School Teacher

Work Placement Week
Schooling for a trade future
Open Campus
Saturday 28 May 2016, 1pm - 4pm
9 Hightech Place Lilydale
9738 7100
www.rangestec.vic.edu.au

A Christian Trade Skills Centre
MECS Notes

Canteen

The Canteen being run by Ranges TEC will reopen in Week 3 of Term 2.

Introductions...

Brit, a Year 9 student is doing a series of interviews to help us get to know some of the teachers at MECS.

Introducing Olivia

This quirky, young teacher is a joy to be around! She loves to converse with you on a number of things. She will happily help you if you are struggling and don't forget to give her a big hug when you see her!

How long have you been a Christian?

I became a Christian when I was five, with a friend of mine who took me to their church. It was this big kid’s night thing. And all I remember was that there where puppets and it was exciting. I became a Christian that night.

It's kind of been interesting because I might not have stayed a Christian, but lots of things ended up happening that it became part of my life. So even though I was really young when I became a Christian, it was really real. I ended up going to CYC which is a holiday camp, and that’s pretty much where I learnt most things about God.

If you were a cake what would you be?

I’d probably be one of those layered rainbow cakes, because I like pretty, bright things and I really like colours.

What embarrasses you the most in front of other people?

I don’t like attention - like when people sing 'Happy Birthday'. Probably that. I would do anything to get out of that.

What is the best way to comfort you when you are having a bad day?

A hug. Definitely hugs and then presents.

What is your favourite thing to do?

My favourite thing to do, although it sounds kind of boring, is crochet. I love to sit on the couch with my cat next to me listening to an audiobook. That's like heaven to me.

By Brit

A message from Yuli

A few weeks ago you would have read an article in the newsletter about a visit to the Royal Children's Hospital by Ali and Di.

Yuli is a student in MP Blue class and has been in the Royal Children's Hospital for much of this term. Yuli and her Mum Lynda have written this letter to let you know a bit more about Yuli's condition. We hope that you and your family will remember to pray for Yuli, Lynda and the family. If you have had a sick child you will know how tough it is to have a child in hospital. As a school community we want to surround the Moris with love and prayers. Perhaps as you gather around your family meal each night your children can say a prayer for Yuli. Yuli knows that God is walking with her in this journey. Our prayer is that the family will continually know God's presence, his peace and his everlasting love.

Diane
Assistant Principal - Primary

Hello Parents,

My name is Yuli. I have been coming to MECS since Prep. A lot of my friends and classmates know that I have been very sick but this letter is for my whole school community.

Half of my life I have lived in the Royal Children’s Hospital and the rest of the time I am hospitalised at home by my Mum and Dad. This year I have been in hospital for most of Term 1.

I really enjoy coming to school when I am well, and love playing with my friends but I have to be really careful because of my medical condition. I have a bowel and tummy that the doctors say doesn’t work very well so I am fed with a drip. Most days I vomit too, it’s one of the symptoms.

Because I need the drip every night for 12 hours, the doctors put a special tube into my veins via the chest (central line). When my drip tube is not connected to my machine I have to make sure it is tucked up and taped onto my chest so it doesn’t get pulled or knocked. Sometimes I have to go back to hospital because it comes out and I need to have an operation to put a new one back in. I have had around 40 trips to theatre so I really would like my central-line to stay in for a long time. Every morning and after every recess I have to get a medical check done when I am at school. I go into another room and one of my carers or teachers check my central-line. At home my Mum checks it.

I don’t like putting things in my mouth so I have another tube in my tummy (PEG) where I put medications. I can drink water now, it was very scary at first but I’m not afraid any more. I can’t eat gelatine though, I’m allergic to it.

One of my medications called Warfarin stops my blood clotting too quickly. If I get knocked or have a fall it can be very dangerous for me. I bruise easily and my blood takes a long time to clot.

Sometimes my friends say things to me that hurt my feelings but it’s ok because they have never been told that my tummy is a bit bigger because I am sick or my teeth are not nice and white because my medication damaged them, even though I brush my teeth every morning and night. I have to wear hearing aids too because the medication damaged the nerves in my ears. Sometimes I feel a bit shy because I am different but most of the time my friends are very caring and say nice things to me.

When I come to school please tell all my new friends, kids in the Primary school and class mates to play very gently with me, to walk around me and not run. I have to be careful when people are throwing balls too, in case one hits my chest.

Thank you to everyone for caring for me and praying for me. I loved it when Mr Coffey and Mrs Emery came to visit me and they brought me some presents from the school. Thank you to everyone in my class for sending cards to me.

Yuli
It was so nice to see the rain on the weekend! It’s marvellous how a bit of cool weather and some rain can give us a new lease on life. And we had a great working bee despite the rain. By the time we finished our 8am coffee, the rain had eased a bit and those moving the mulch worked so hard and fast they didn’t have time to get wet. By the end of the morning the rain had stopped and it became a great morning for working. We spread mulch over the playgrounds, cleaned up the kinder grounds and the MECS Community Garden, put sand in the long jump sand pit, cleaned pits and drains, replaced blown globes in classrooms, cleaned up the manual arts room and did lots of other small jobs helping MECS look and stay beautiful.

Thanks to everyone who came on Saturday, and for making it such a productive and great day. It’s always good to welcome new parents to their first working bee, and sad to say goodbye to those parents that are doing their last. Thank you for your hard work and commitment to the school.

And thank you to Sheryl for the great morning tea.

Pete and Steve
Maintenance Team

Cartooning Workshop

This week, JPs and SPs had the privilege of attending a cartooning workshop with Richard Galbraith author of a number of cartoon drawing books and past parent at MECS. Our students had a great time as Richard walked them through the process of drawing a cartoon, which included adding expression and action to the drawing. They did some excellent cartoons!

Heather
Newsletter Editor
Out came the rain and the creepy, crawly mini beasts! The scorpions scuttled, the lady bugs fluttered, and the caterpillars crept near the Creation Garden.

On Friday, March 18, Junior Primaries had a dress up parade and gallery viewing with parents and special friends, to celebrate all their hard work in researching different Mini Beasts this term. Students proudly showed their very own research book and artwork before sharing a snack with their parents.

My favourite part of the Mini Beast Day was:

When we were doing the parade, because I got to see my mum.

Emma

Playing the mini beast guessing game and showing my mum my cool book.

Noah

Chalk drawing outside with my mum and my brother.

Myka
Last Thursday night the PUMP room transformed into the Senior Primary Space Expo. As part of our study on Space, students were divided into small groups and given a planet to research. They were then given table and wall space at the expo to present their information. Displays included models, powerpoint presentations, created computer games, posters, mobiles, quizzes and even a basketball challenge. Each of the stalls were colourfully and creatively decorated. All of the tables had facts about their planet displayed in various ways. Many of the stalls had planet give-aways such as bookmarks, brochures, and lots of samples of different space food (ie lollies and cupcakes!)

The parents were blown away by the talent of the children and the level of creativity and information displayed, and I think it is fair to say that the students surpassed everyone’s expectations. Well done Senior Primaries – VERY impressive work! A big thankyou to the parents for coming along to support us, especially on such a warm evening.

Mel
SP Teacher & PS Assistant Coordinator
Breaking Barriers Project

In Open Village we studied a lot to do with the city and homelessness. We also designed our own project and things that we want to work on. Lwendyl, Mikayla and I decided that for our project we wanted to find ways to reach out to the homeless, to give them a helping hand, to find ways that we could connect with these people and inspire others to stop treating homelessness like the norm and homeless people like another species.

We decided we wanted to show some love to them by giving them some care packs with food, water and sanitary items and as we did so hear some stories. There were however some faults to our plan, mostly where we were going to get enough money to pay for what we had planned. We decided on a bake sale here at school in the hope to raise enough to put together our care packs. We put signs around the school for publicity and spent a whole day cooking in the Home Tech room.

I can honestly say that our outcome was unexpected. Our goal was $100 but we only expected to make around $50, but by the end of recess we had made $166. Over all at the end of the day we had made $285 plus some money from donations, $345. We were in absolute shock and some of us were even brought to tears.

With our spirits high after this success we went to camp ready to begin our next part of the project. We stopped at Melbourne Central. Each of our packs included the following: some fresh fruit, toothbrush, soap, wet wipes, tissues, two water bottles, a razor for our men, some monthly supplies for our women, some left over cookies from the bake sale in an air tight bag and some Easter eggs. On the way back to our hotel, we were able to give one to a homeless lady before having a small chat with her.

The next day we divided the care packs up between the three of us and set off to reach the people. The first person I went to talk to might have been one of my favourites as I met him first off at the train station selling ‘The Big Issue Magazine’. As I chatted to him he told me all about his life before he came to live on the streets. He was part of a rich family and was even attending law school at the time. While he was there he had found the other students stuck up and difficult. He eventually dropped out, realising that life wasn’t for him. Things happened and he ended up living on the streets. Eventually he got a job at ‘The Big Issue’ and had made many friends now where he was working, spending his free time with them at the pub which they nicknamed ‘The Office’. He shared with me that he is happier now than he has ever been in his whole life, happy even if his health is the only thing he has left. That chat really made me question; does having money really make you rich?

As we delivered our care packages we met some incredible people and learnt a lot about living it rough.

By the end of it we realized, even though the packs did mean a lot to people, our time meant so much more. Instead of our care packages becoming a nice thing to do for people it became a conversation starter and an opening to new friendships and opportunities. The experience opened my eyes to see that you didn’t need baking skills or gifts to give (although those things can be helpful all the same), just your time, ears and willingness to open your heart can be the thing that truly makes a difference. I challenge you reading this to feel your calling to make a small difference, even if it may be in your own community, to offer these things and see where it takes you.

Jemimah
City Camp Poem

The Year 9 students selected a word that represented an experience of City Camp for them. These words have then been organised to create this piece of poetry.

SKYSCRAPER. Hot, Crown, extravagant, theatres, colourful, Yarra, cool, table, interesting, EB Games, beautiful, tiring, MYKI.

FOOD. Delicious, Starbucks, mouldy, donuts, moist, juicy, ham, ate, memorable coffee.

BUSKING. Hahaha, collaboration, idiocy, boring, exciting, fun, good, supercalifragilisticexpialidocious, stingy hat.

HUMAN. Weaboo, non-existent, minotaur, dashing, cat, inspirational, friends, tessellation, Batman, Superman, disrespect, disappointment, understanding homeless.

Year 9 students.

Mermaid, Emily, Mikayla, Riley, Christine, Ethan, Riley, Aiden & Jordan

Britney

Cooper

Ethan, Asher, Riley & Aiden

Emily Josh & Hamish

Aiden & Riley

Alecia

Asher, Daniel, Brooke, Rebecca, Erin, Chenei, Clare, Cooper, Alecia & Lilly
Secondary Tribal Athletics

As Year 12s it was our last Athletics day. It was a great way to spend the day, getting dressed up and seeing everybody participate in events they might not normally do.

Chelsea

We really loved Athletics day. The community feel was fantastic and we have both enjoyed being in our events. It was really cool in the morning and started to heat up a little bit later in the day, but it was lovely to have a sunny day.

Kate & Ady - Year 10

I like Athletics day because we get to spend the whole day hanging out with friends and participating in lots of events. My favourite event is the triple jump.

Ashley Year 9

At Athletics day we are all supportive and encouraging of each other. It was a lovely day for sport and we enjoyed the sunshine and the cool breeze.

Chenei & Clare Year 9

What a beautiful day we had for Athletics day! It was sunny, breezy, and everyone was in fantastic spirits. Secondary students of all ages enjoyed being part of track and field events. We finished off with the relays, which is always a highlight of the day. Luke Knoll’s omnipresent voice boomed around the arena, as he MC’d the day. It was great to see lots of colour and life on and off the field. For the Year 12s it was their last athletics carnival so they went all out with excellent costumes. Well done for a fantastic day everybody!

Middle/Senior teachers
Secondary Tribal Athletics

Oliver, Josiah & Matthew
Claire, Georgia, Skye & Talitha
Juliette & Jess
Johanna
Bec
Emily
Mermaid & Bec
Megan
Ellie
Emily
Sam
Gabby
Kwame
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### Apple Man

The Apple Man is coming next on the first Friday of Term 2 - April 15 and the following varieties will be available: Granny Smiths, Fijis, Royal Galas, Green Pears and maybe Pink Ladies. 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 April 15.

### Car for Sale

**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.

$5000

See Sharon Witt or phone Andrew: 0438 349 355 or email: switt@mecs.vic.edu.au

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### Movie Days

**Shaun The Sheep Movie**, Wed March 30 at 10.30am

**The Peanuts Movie**, Wed April 6 at 10.30am

At Discovery Church, 89 Hereford Rd, Mount Evelyn 9736 2323. Gold Coin Donation. Sausage Sizzle and Lollies for Sale.

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### AFL Yarra Ranges Holiday Program

Wednesday April 6, Futsal Oz, 19-23 Hereford Rd, Mount Evelyn 9am – 3pm, for boys and girls aged 5 – 12.

The Day will be packed with AFL games, Jumping Castles, and draft camp testing for the kids. Cost $60.


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### House Share

Single Christian female looking for two Christian females to share 3 bedroom house in Mooroolbark. Non smokers and community oriented women preferred. $127 per week plus bills. Available as of March 24. Contact Esther - 0400 589 458 or esther.mccallum@hotmail.com

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### Good Friday Appeal.

Every year thousands of Victorians support this worthwhile cause.

This year we have had one of our Year 4 students spend a significant amount of time as a patient at the hospital and been a recipient of their professional care and state of the art facilities. If you are able to do this year please support the Good Friday Appeal.

www.goodfridayappeal.com.au

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### Yarra Ranges Umpires

Football Umpiring is a great part time job with excellent hourly rate. The Yarra Ranges Umpiring Association service both AFL Yarra Ranges Senior and Junior Leagues and will provide training and coaching in field, boundary area at goal umpiring. Males and Females welcome. Contacts: Trevor McGary, AFL Yarra Ranges Senior, 0488 287 676, tmcgary@micador.com.au; Patrick Van Dyk, AFL Yarra Ranges Juniors, 0408 536 420, Patrickvandyk@gmail.com; John Edwards, Umpires Administrator AFL Yarra Ranges, 0430 018 072, Johnyvmdfl@live.com.

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### Free Driving Learn to Prepared Workshop

A free community service workshop from Hyundai Australia in partnership with Nunawading Hyundai will be held on Wed April 27 from 6-9pm, 434 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading. Limited to 50 participants, the night includes a five station hands on workshop including wheel changing/ jump starting and more. A representative from Victoria Police will be present, explaining key facts and helpful information with an open forum to discuss road safety amongst new drivers and parents.

RSVP to Gracie: 9210 3030, gracie@tayserauto.com.au by April 14.

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### Family Fun Day

Chirnside Park Country Club Family Fun Day, Good Friday March 25, 10am-3pm, free entry. For the Royal Children’s Hospital Good Friday Appeal.

Market, Auction, Sausage Sizzle, Jumping Castle, Face Painting, Live Entertainment and more. 68 Kingswood Drive, Chirnside Park

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


- SP Camp Helpers request Notice
- SP Empowering Girls Notice
- Primary Reminders

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**Calendar**

2016 Term 1 Week 8: 21 Mar - 24 Mar

**Thur 24 March**

Last Day Term 1

2016 Term 1 Holidays: 25 Mar - 10 Apr

**Fri 25 March**

Good Friday School Closed

**Sun 27 March**

Easter Sunday

**Mon 28 March**

Easter Monday School Closed

**Sun 3 April**

Daylight Savings Time Ends

**2016 Term 2 Week 1: 11 Apr - 17 Apr**

**Mon 11 April**

Term 2 Begins

Welcome Back Morning Tea 9am Staffroom

**Tues 12 April**

Studio Arts Excursion Units 3 & 4 NGV

**Wed 13 April**

VCE Drama Excursion 6.30pm

**Fri 15 April**

Year 6 Positive Boys Oasis Day

Year 12 VCD Excursion

**2016 Term 2 Week 2: 18 Apr - 24 Apr**

**Tues 19 April**

Parent Seminar A, 7.30pm Staffroom

**Wed 20 April**

Board Information Evening, 7.30pm Staffroom

**Fri 22 April**

Year 6 Empowering Girls Oasis Day

**2016 Term 2 Week 3: 25 Apr - 1 May**

**Mon 25 April**

ANZAC Day Public Holiday School Closed

**Wed 27 April**

Primary Cross Country

**Fri 29 April**

Years 7-12 Cross Country

**Fri 30 April**

Working Bee 8am-1pm, with Morning Tea

Next Working Bee

Sat 30 April, 8am-1pm

with Morning Tea

Newsletter deadline is 11am Tuesday on published week.

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

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**Thursday 24 March 2016   Page 12**