Primary Tribal Athletics

Brianna helping out by measuring discus throws at the Athletics
In the Senior School at MECS, we use the motto ‘Faithful Learning, Faithful Living’ to try and succinctly encapsulate the educational approach we strive for. Stepping into the role this year as Senior School Coordinator has led me to ponder what this statement really means, how it is seen in action in the Senior School, and whether there are ways we can actively celebrate and acknowledge students in these behaviours.

What does Faithful Learning, Faithful Living mean?

The joy of any catchphrase, motto or vision statement is that depending on how you look at it, it can be meaningfully interpreted in a wide variety of ways.

To me, there are a number of layers to this statement. Faithfulness can be considered in terms of a commitment, dedication, or constancy in something. It also has a sense of being an ongoing action, not simply a characteristic that once achieved can be set aside for the next thing. Additionally, there is an implication of responding out of faith or belief.

Stating that we are aiming for faithful learning, suggests that we invite students to take seriously their commitment to the educational task before them. This isn’t something to be measured merely in the attainment of pleasing marks. It even goes deeper than the common encouragement to “do your best”. It speaks of an ongoing, deep commitment to take up the mantle of learning with responsible and thoughtful application of the resources available to us, be they academic capability, artistic flair, sporting prowess, mental discipline, or social discernment. For those of a Christian faith it is also an encouragement to ground this as an outworking of belief in God. As it says in Colossians 3:17, ‘whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.’

Dr Fernando often shares on the Year 12 Study camp a story of a student he had who wrote on all pieces of work ‘D4G’, as a visual reminder that they wanted to ‘do it for God’. I think this is an example of a student framing their call as a student of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through him.

Faithful living is deeply intertwined with the notion of faithful learning, but it seeks to encourage the broader outworking of faith in the day-to-day experience of schooling (and beyond). We hope to teach students that God is Lord over all parts of life, and as such, in all areas we need to try to respond to that. In the school context faithful living could involve behaviours such as: consistent use of the study centre, choosing the assignment topic that is a stretch rather than the easiest one, persistence in overcoming a challenging subject or assignment, or applying a growth mindset when faced with disappointing outcomes.

How can we celebrate and acknowledge Faithful Learning, Faithful Living?

We have been exploring this question in our secondary staff meetings. Most acknowledgement happens in the small everyday interactions in the classroom and around the school yard. It may be as simple as a quick word of encouragement from a teacher or peer, or more formal comments made in a school report or parent teacher meeting. In the Senior School we are trialling the introduction of ‘Faithful Learning’ and ‘Faithful Living’ awards presented once a term in the section assembly. These awards seek to publically celebrate actions or behaviours that represent these respective ideals. It is not intended that these awards go to students that achieve the highest grades or that the students awarded are necessarily exemplary in all areas of their schooling. Rather, it is the opportunity to take a moment to celebrate a behaviour, action or approach that demonstrates faithful learning or faithful living, and in doing so hopes to ‘spur one another on toward love and good deeds.’ (Hebrews 10:24)

The first round of awards were presented in the Senior School Assembly on Monday April 18 by Narelle to the following students:

**Faithful Learning awards**

**Natalie** - For her excellent use of the study centre, consistent hard work, and proactive approach to her learning.

**Cailan** - For his attention to detail, willingness to attempt all tasks, and consistently high effort towards his school work.

**Astrid** - For her persistent and dedicated approach to her studies, proactivity in seeking out teachers, and desire to help others in their learning.

**Faithful Living awards**

**Caitlyn** - For her contribution to the development of a positive Senior School community by displaying care and concern for her classmates and frequently looking for ways to assist their learning.

**Jordan, Daniel, Cameron, Luke, Ethan, Aaron, Kayla, Jessica** - ‘For giving up personal free time to restore the frog bog.’

**Emma**
Senior School Coordinator
ReConnect

In place of our normal newsletter last week you would have received ReConnect. This publication happens twice a year and is an opportunity for us to ‘reconnect’ with our history and also ‘reconnect’ with many past students and staff who receive this special newsletter. Thanks to Nicole, our Community Relations Officer, who gathers all the news and brings this together. It is another example of the richness and diversity of this school community which extends beyond our current families.

Open Days

Our Open Days are coming up in a few weeks. What can you do to help? Whilst we appreciate the efforts of volunteers on the day, the most important job that our present families do is telling their family and friends about what a great place MECS is. By far the most important ingredient in future enrolments is personal recommendation! It is through your personal networks that MECS is promoted and endorsed. So, please let ‘your’ people know about our Open Day on Saturday 7 May.

Ranges TEC will be having their Open Day on Saturday 28 May. This is a great opportunity for some of our present secondary students to see what a VCAL and trade pathway may look like at Ranges in the future, as well as bringing this campus to the attention of other family and friends who are not really suited to a traditional VCE pathway.

Please help us in doing your bit to promote both of these upcoming Open Days!

VIP Morning-teas

Every Friday, the Primary VIPs for the week are invited to have morning-tea with me. Last week it was great to have students from right across the year levels. Not only do we chat about a range of topics that our students are interested in, from unicorns to AFL, but they also make a few suggestions on things that need fixing! As a result, Mr Bouma will be adjusting one of our netball rings to regulations height, and a group of Year 6 students will be chatting to Mr Brown and Mrs Emery about the state of the lunchtime borrowing equipment. I love this opportunity to get to know the students and hear what they have to say. They always take such pride and ownership in our school and it is important from them to have their say and for us to respond where possible! Of course, listening to the Preps and JPs sharing about what they love about school is just as important. VIP morning-tea is one of the highlights of my week!

Student Satisfaction Survey

Over the last two years, parents and staff have had the opportunity to participate in a satisfaction survey facilitated by our national body, Christian Education National. Over the next couple of weeks, all secondary students will have their opportunity to complete a similar survey. Please encourage your son or daughter to complete this honestly so that we can celebrate the things that are going well and work on those areas that need improving. A selected group of primary students will also have the opportunity to provide feedback. We look forward to sharing the results of this survey with you later on in the term.

At MECS one of the areas we want to continue to develop is ‘nurturing diversity’ as outlined in the book ‘Transformational Education: A Framework for Christian Education’. The Biblical perspective for Education Support states “As Christian educators, we are called to meet the needs of ALL students, regardless of abilities...Diversity in abilities brings a richness and blessing to our school community and provides opportunities for us to serve each other. We are to learn to accept each other, understand and experience how we all fit in and belong to God’s family. This is one of the most important features of community, living as and living in the body of Christ.”

Autism Spectrum Disorder is complex and difficult to understand. It is really important to remember that everyone with ASD is different. ASD generally affects three areas of development -

• Social relationships
• Communication
• Imaginative thought

Each of these areas is depicted along a continuum and the affected person may have characteristics or behaviours from any point on each continuum.

Those on the Autism Spectrum may experience high levels of stress. They are constantly striving to make sense of their environment, and the people and rules that govern it.

People with autism:

• are single channelled
• take things literally
• are not good at predicting consequences
• struggle with change
• need time to acclimatise to change

8 Useful tips for Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder

1. ASD students don't have to look at you all the time.
Reason: They find looking and listening at the same time hard to do.

2. Give them time to answer any of your questions.
Reason: They have slower processing time. Sometimes it can take them up to a minute to formulate the answer in the correct sequence.

3. If they feel pressured they will answer with stock standard answers.
Reason: They know it will get them out of trouble quickly. This may include: ‘I don’t know’, ‘yes’, ‘maybe’ and often this is not their true answer!!

4. Limit their choices and be very specific with choices.
Reason: They find choices overwhelming and are often concerned about making a wrong choice due to their difficulty with problem solving.

5. Be as clear, concise and concrete as possible.
Reason: People with ASD have difficulty with abstract thinking.

6. Avoid verbal arguments by redirecting them to what they should be doing e.g. ‘Start your work’.
Reason: They often enjoy verbal arguments.

7. They need positive feedback to know they are on the right track.
Reason: They often fear failure and want to be perfect.

8. Prepare them well in advance for any changes to their regular routine.
Reason: Being predictable helps reduce anxiety.

For more information visit: Autism Spectrum Australia https://www.autismspectrum.org.au/


Shirley
Primary Ed Support Coordinator
MECS Notes

Term 2 Primary School GTs
Mondays 9am PUMP room on the following dates
Week 5, Monday 9 May
JP Wallabies (Viv)
Week 8, Monday 30 May
SP Green (Michelle)
Parents and friends welcome.

Introductions...
Brit, a Year 9 student is doing a series of interviews to help us get to know some of the teachers at MECS. This next article is on Nicky, Cycle A and Transition Coordinator and teacher...

Introducing Nicky
If you haven't met her - don't worry because she isn't hard to find! She is a funky, funny teacher. She has a range of talents from sport to knitting. This lovely lady is lots of fun and will always inspire you!

How long have you been a Christian? Have you been tested in your faith?
I have been a Christian ever since I can remember. I have spent most of my years in the AOG church but recently I've become an Anglican! I've definitely had some challenges to my faith, particularly when I had many intellectual questions during my Uni years. I am quite interested in apologetics and encourage people to address their questions and not ignore them!

What is your secret indulgence?
I LOVE the Malteaster bunnies with a cup of tea!

What is the oldest thing you’ve had in your fridge?
Probably pizza sauce in a bottle that’s about a year old. I really should just throw it out!

Have you ever met/seen anyone famous?
We once saw Akmal the comedian when we were dining at a restaurant!

What is one thing you regret having done/not done in your life?
In my first year out of uni it was really hard to find a humanities teaching job, so I got one which was part of a science/humanities role in a Year 9 Inquiry Centre (not at MECS). It was a really bad fit for me and the students were very challenging. If I had my time again, I would probably have waited and done CRT for a while instead of taking a full time position. Me and science are not the best combination! I ended up at MECS the year after, which made my passion for teaching come alive again!

By Brit

Friends of MECS

We appreciate our volunteers so much and rely on your help a number of times throughout the year. Right now we are coming up to a busy time in the life of the school, and are in need of some help with upcoming events. Helping out is a great way to meet other parents and contribute to community at MECS - no experience necessary! We would love you to please consider helping out at one of the following events.

Mothers Day Stall - Friday May 6
We are looking for some volunteers to help run the stall between 8.50am and 1.30 pm.

Open Day - Saturday May 7, 10am - 1pm
We are looking forward to a fun day of showcasing our school, and need some volunteers to help out in various ways - manning the jumping castle, serving morning tea, helping Pete and Steve on the sausage sizzle and face painting.

Cook Off Day - Monday May 8, 9am - 1pm
We're after some willing helpers to prepare and cook, package and freeze meals to fill our Community Freezer. Even an hour or two is a great help!

If you can help at any of these events, even for a few hours, please let me know through the school office or via email. Thank you.

Nicole
Community Relations

Situated at its best!
Paving in Year 10 Land Taster provides a variety of learning outcomes:
• numeracy: area, volume & angles
• communication
• team work
• following instructions
and much more.

A Christian Trade Skills Centre
Year 7 Basketball

On Wednesday March 23 a wonderful group of Year 7 girls and boys headed down to Cranbourne for interschool basketball. Accompanying us were Josh, Lachie, Ashlin and Monique, Year 8 students who came along as coaches. All MECS students represented our school admirably, displaying great teamwork, strong sportsmanship and a preparedness to give of their best.

The boys’ team had their first game delayed as they waited for their opposition to arrive, and when they did it appeared that Edinburgh College had recruited a giant. They had a player taller than me (I’m 6ft 2in) who dominated all the rebounds and shot baskets with little resistance – which saw us lose our first game. However, the boys, under excellent coaching, regrouped and managed to win their next two games. The final game was against Bayside who managed to win the entire tournament, so they gave us something of a lesson on how to play great basketball. Not to be deterred, our boys fought back and won the play-off for 3rd – well done!!

The girls had a more dominant run through the group games. They won their first three games, with the third game being 25-0, an outstanding example of wonderful team play and the slick skills of Parker. Their final group game was against Bayside, who had also won all their games. After getting behind early in the game, the girls consolidated their play and fought back, eventually going down in a nail biting final score of 12-11. After a brief break the girls were back up against Bayside, playing for the title. Unfortunately three of our team picked up injuries and Parker was unable to finish the game. This made it extremely difficult for our two coaches, Ash and Monique, to structure the team and keep us competitive. They did a most admirable job; the girls played hard to the very end and should be highly congratulated for finishing a superb second!

Tim

MS Teacher

African Drumming Incursion

Last Thursday, middle and senior primary students enjoyed a taste of West African culture with a workshop run by two African drumming specialists. As part of their studies in rhythm and dance, students were shown the basics of two essential West African drumming instruments: the djembe and dunun. In small groups, students were able to create their own rhythmic compositions and were given the opportunity to perform in front of two masters of this powerful music. All four sessions proved to be a great success, complete with a high standard of percussive prowess from both specialists and students!

Scott

PS Music Teacher

MUSIC Notes

Instrumental Music Lessons

Now’s the time to start learning an Instrument...

We are currently taking enrolments in piano, keyboard, guitar, bass guitar, singing, violin and drums.

Did you know...?

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

and...it’s fun!!

So, what are you waiting for? Pick up an Instrumental Enrolment form at the Main Office!

Questions or queries? Contact Penny Mentiplay pmentiplay@mecs.vic.edu.au.
Primary Athletics

The primary athletics day was such a fun and encouraging day. It was great to have a number of family and friends come out to cheer on the students throughout the day. I was so pleased with the encouraging and supportive nature of all the students. A big thanks to all the students who helped out with the measuring at different events throughout the day – this was much appreciated by all the teachers. The teachers once again were like a well oiled machine and helped make the day run really smoothly.

Well done to all the students who competed and earned points for their tribe.

Results:
1st: Walya Red Tribe - 467 points
2nd: Wirri Blue Tribe - 365 points
3rd: Warlpa White Tribe - 269 points
4th: Warlu Gold Tribe - 243 points.

Jason
Primary Sports Coordinator

JP Students Report...

We had Athletics day. We went on the bus. We waited a little while and then we got in line. Mr Ali said, “On your marks, get set, go!!” Then we went. I came 4th in running and then gave my ribbon to my friend who didn’t get one.

Alannah

We got on the bus and went to the athletics track and all the mums and dads were there. First was the running race and then we did long jump and then we had brain food and went back to school.

Grace

Updated Athletics News

Good morning MECS School I hope you had a fabulous Athletics.

Some people came 1st place and some people did not. I hope you did gigantic jumps in the Long jump. I had a great time at Athletics day - did you?

Mr Noah

Great Race

Good afternoon MECS primary. Here is the updated news about Athletics day. I came third in the great race. Some people in my Year came first. I loved Athletics day, it was the best!

Miss Amelia
Studio Art Units 3 and 4 students ventured into the city on Tuesday April 12 to view the Andy Warhol and Ai Weiwei exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria. The exhibition is perfectly timed, enabling our students to view first hand the work of two internationally acclaimed artists from different cultural and historical backgrounds. They were met by an exhibition curator who shared, with great enthusiasm, her insight into each artist and gave the group a deeper understanding of what is being communicated to the public through their work. Students were then able to wander through the exhibition to view and interact with the artworks. Being able to see the artworks up close is not always possible so being able to do so created a more meaningful connection with the artists and their work for the students.

‘Confronting, exciting and thought provoking! The Andy Warhol and Ai Weiwei exhibition was eye opening and unforgettable. I never wanted to leave…’

Cassie

In the afternoon we headed over to see the Start Up: Top Arts exhibition at the Ian Potter Centre. This exhibition celebrates a small group of VCE Art and Studio Art students from across the state who created artworks that demonstrate innovative and original ideas alongside well skilled execution in their chosen art forms. After viewing the exhibition, MECS students were given the opportunity to listen to an assessor from VCAA giving tips on producing a strong folio of work and also to look through past student folios. Through this students can see how initial ideas can be explored and developed into highly refined works of art.

‘The Top Arts exhibition was inspiring and creates a sense of excitement and anticipation for the difficult, but creative year ahead!’

Riley

Bre

VCE Studio Art Teacher

MECS Notes

The case for research...

Consider all the amazing and wonderful outcomes of research, from medicine to technology… research unfolds and reveals God’s creation and design in all realms. One of our daughters was born with a rare condition. There was no test to confirm the diagnosis until she was 12 years old. We ‘trialed and errored’ our way through many years of her life and, with her permission, participated in every available research project in order to learn more and share that information with other families. Today, a blood test can determine this!

There is a current study I would like to encourage your participation in. Please read below for a summary of this research. I, for one, look forward to the results!

Jo

Secondary Ed Support Coordinator

Study views happiness through the lens of autism

“An Australian first study is exploring what happiness looks like through the lens of autism. The study will focus on adolescents (aged 13 to 18 years) with ASD and the things that they consider important to their wellbeing, such as relationships, health and safety. An important feature of the study is hearing directly from the adolescents as to their levels of happiness.

The limited research there is on autism and happiness reports that parents view their children with ASD as less happy than typically developing children. Therefore, the only way to get a true picture of the happiness of adolescents with autism is to ask them.” The researchers are looking for parents/caregivers and their adolescents with ASD along with parents/caregivers and their typically developing adolescents to take part in the study by completing a survey available online at www.wellbeingindex.net.au.

Secondary Athletics

Final Results

We were unable to give the results of the Secondary Athletics at the time the story was run in the newsletter but now we have them so here they are!

Wirri Blue Tribe - 557 points
Warlu Gold Tribe - 538 points
Warlpa White Tribe - 464 points
Walya Red Tribe - 430 points
**Calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016 Term 2 Week 2: 18 Apr - 24 Apr</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 22 April</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 6 Empowering Girls Oasis Day</td>
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<th>2016 Term 2 Week 3: 25 Apr - 1 May</th>
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<td>Mon 25 April</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANZAC Day Public Holiday School Closed</td>
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| Tues 26 April                     |
| SP Connect Morning Tea 8.45am Staffroom |

| Wed 27 April                     |
| Primary Cross Country            |

| Fri 29 April                     |
| Years 7-12 Cross Country         |

| Fri 30 April                     |
| Working Bee 8am-1pm, with Morning Tea |

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<th>2016 Term 2 Week 4: 2 May - 8 May</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 3 - Thur 5 May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5 Log Cabin Camp Creswick</td>
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| Thur 5 May                        |
| Foundation Parent/Child Night 6.30pm |

| Fri 6 May                         |
| Mother’s Day Stall                |

| Sat 7 May                         |
| MECS Open Day 10am-1pm            |

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<th>2016 Term 2 Week 5: 9 May - 15 May</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 9 May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Years 11 &amp; 12 Soccer Day</td>
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| Tues 10- Thur 12 May              |
| NAPLAN                            |

| Tues 10- Fri 13 May               |
| Year 8 Inspiring Girls Camp       |
| Year 8 Man Camp                   |

| Wed 11- Fri 13 May                |
| Year 6 Log Cabin Camp Creswick    |

| Thur 12 May                       |
| Junior Primary Connect Morning Tea 8.45am in the Main Staffroom |
| Year 12 Mentor Supper 7.30pm      |

**LOST**

| 2015 Year 6 Hoodie Missing        |
| A 2015 Year 6 Hoodie has gone missing. It has Lij on the internal tag. If you find it please hand in to the MECS office. The 2015 version of the Year 6 Hoodie is black with green writing. |

**Next Working Bee**

Sat 30 April, 8am-1pm with Morning Tea

**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.

**Montrose Auskick**

2016 registrations are still open. Register online at www.aflauskick.com.au or contact Montrose Auskick at montroseauskick@hotmail.com. Come and see us on Saturday mornings at 9am at the Montrose Reserve Junior Oval (behind the clubrooms).

**Fridge Freezer for Sale**

Fisher Pykel fridge/freezer, 160 cms high, 75 cms deep (includes the handle to open it), and 64 cms wide. Approx 5 years old. Excellent Condition. Pick up Kilsyth.

Phone John on 9728 8470 or 0409 208 885. Price $350.

**Southern Cross Cultural Exchange**

Families needed to host students arriving in mid-July from France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Norway. S.C.C.E takes care of all arrangements including school.


**World Education Program (WEP)**

WEP student exchange is looking for volunteer host families for our Italian and French speaking exchange students arriving in July 2016 for a term, semester or year. Host families choose their student and are only responsible for providing the exchange student with a room (can be shared with sibling of same sex and similar age), meals and a welcoming family environment. In return, they will gain a new family member and friend for life. All WEP students come with their own spending money and insurance. Contact Sylvia Kelly at WEP today to receive a free information pack in the mail. Call: 1300 884 733, email: info@wep.org.au, www.wep.org.au.

**Guinea Pigs for Sale**

Two gorgeous guinea pigs for sale. $20 each. Call 0425 445 333 for more info.

**Apple Man**

The Apple Man is coming next on April 27 and the following varieties will be available: Granny Smiths, Fujis, Royal Galas and Pink Ladies. Apples $10 a bag. 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 27.

**Cutters Collective**

We have some May specials suitable for Mother’s Day gifts, great packages tailored especially for you and your budget. They come with an awesome gift card, which makes it nice and easy!

Visit us at www.cutterscollective.co/news/ for more info. Call Renee on 9739 5851 to order.

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


- Primary Building Project
- Year 6 Empowering Girls Reminder Dates
- Year 11 Biology Excursion
- Careers Newsletter April 18
- Year 12 Hoodie Notice
- Secondary Tribal Crosscountry
- VCE History French Revolution Excursion
- Student Satisfaction Survey Notice