The Fun Run

Riley, Jason, Josiah, Nathan, Patrick & Owen compete in the Primary Tribal Cross Country
Honouring Mothers

This Sunday we celebrate Mother’s Day. I remember with great fondness a number of my children’s homemade or carefully selected gifts from the school Mother’s Day stall. Many of us keep them as treasures, lovingly tucked away, instantly reminding us of the extraordinary bond between parent and child.

Celebration of motherhood over the centuries has appeared in varying forms and traditions. In the 1600’s the Church of England instigated Mothering Sunday in recognition of Mary the Mother of Jesus. Later this religious celebration changed focus to include honouring all mothers. The Mother’s Day we celebrate today is largely the legacy of an American Christian woman Anna Jarvis. In response to her mother’s outstanding efforts to elevate the important role of women in health care, hygiene and sanitation during the Civil War, Anna decided to dedicate her life to establishing her mother’s ultimate dream: a Mother’s Day to honour mothers around the world. As a Sunday school teacher for twenty years, she had long held the conviction that children should ‘Honour their father and mother’ by being faithful to the fifth of the Ten Commandments.

People initially started to observe Mother’s Day by attending church and writing letters to their mothers. Sadly, like other Christian celebrations, it was not long before rapid commercialisation and exploitation ensued. Ironically this sacred and joyous celebration she created, caused Anna much grief. Envisioned as a day of sentiment, not profit, she went on to spend her inheritance fighting against the abuse of this Christian based celebration. In one press release criticizing the floral industry, Jarvis referred to those who profited from Mother’s Day as ‘charlatans, bandits, pirates, racketeers, kidnappers and termites that would undermine with their greed one of the finest, noblest and truest movements and celebrations.’ Anna Jarvis died in 1948, blind, poor and not having children of her own. She would never know that it was ‘The Florist’s Exchange’ that had anonymously paid for her care before her passing.

Despite Anna’s misgivings, Mother’s Day has flourished all around the world. In Australia our own Mrs Janet Heyden emulated the original intention in Sydney. Observing the many lonely older women and mothers in hospital who had no regular visitors, she pioneered a campaign in 1923 to raise money and donate gifts to them.

Today, as gift suggestions flood our inbox and mailbox, how do we maintain the original vision set out by God to honour mothers and mother figures in our families, churches and communities? How do we collectively reinstate a celebration that champions the Christian values of justice, mercy, kindness and love? Here are a few suggestions.

• Be inclusive in your celebrations. The vast majority of images you’ll see this Mother’s Day will picture an idealised version. Honour women for whom the blessing of motherhood has not been realised. Who could be included at your lunch or dinner table? I have been the blessed recipient of the interest and care of many women over my life. It is good to acknowledge their influence on my life at Mother’s Day, particularly those who never had a child of their own.

• Turn your sorrow into action. Mother’s Day can bring great sadness for those who have experienced loss. If you’re going to be spending Mother’s Day thinking about a Mum you’ve lost or never known, is there an organisation or individual you can help support?

• Get active! Raise awareness about an issue that affects mothers and children. Sign up next year with family and friends and participate in the annual Melbourne Mother’s Day Classic on May 8 that raises funds towards breast cancer research.

• Clean a Mum’s house. Go and do dishes, make dinner for a stressed out friend with kids, or offer to babysit so she can take a break. Let your mums and girlfriends know how much you love and care for them in whatever way that works.

Let’s join in this prayer –

How do we collectively reinstate a celebration that champions the Christian values of justice, mercy, kindness and love?

And for those who have reason to celebrate that their mothers are still with them; for those who can be thankful for what their mothers have done; and for those where the bonds of love are strong and good - let us show our gratitude not only this Sunday, but every day. Bless all mothers with your love.

Loving God, we pray for those for whom Mother’s Day is a time of heartache rather than celebration. We pray for those who have never known their mother or whose mothers have died. Bless them with your love. We pray for those who long to be mothers but as yet have not had their own children. Bless them with your love. We pray for those who struggle with the day their children have chosen to live their lives. Bless them with your love. We pray for those who have a difficult relationship with their mother. Bless them with your love.

Amen

Narelle
MECS Principal

Celebrate Learning

We love to celebrate learning at MECS. This year we have a special spot in the school to see our foundation and JP students showcased. Each week a new set of photos will appear on the notice board opposite the Foundation Bilbies room. Keep an eye out to see the great work that is happening across JP & Foundation.

Di
Assistant Principal - Primary
SKETCHER’S SCOOP

Working Bee

To coincide with our Open Day coming up this week, we had a fabulous Working Bee last Saturday morning. There was a great group of parents and students who came to help with a variety of jobs, even though the ground was a bit wet! Hundreds of volunteer man-hours make it possible to plant, clean, paint, stain, tidy, repair and build new things around our school each year! We value your commitment to the good stewardship of the resources that God has blessed us with.

Open Day

We look forward to our Open Day this Saturday from 10am-1pm. It’s a great opportunity to bring family and friends along who are not already part of this community. Whilst the main focus of Open Day is introducing new families to MECS, it’s also an ideal time for our current families to come and enjoy being part of the community and see what is ‘up ahead’ in the coming years. We’d love to see as many people here as possible enjoying the hospitality of the day!

School Cross Country

Last week, both our Primary and Secondary students enjoyed the chance to participate in their Cross Country running events. It was great to see so many enthusiastic faces run by as they tried their best on the school track, as well as so many parents and friends there to support them, particularly for the Primary carnival. Thanks to Jason and Luke, our Tribal Sports Coordinators, who had everything well organised for these days! Not everyone is talented in this area, but it’s important to have a go! Congratulations, however, to those students who were able to complete the course in impressive times. We look forward to you representing MECS at the interschool level.

AGM

You will see in this newsletter that we are already starting to advertise our AGM which is coming up on Thursday May 26. This is a great opportunity for Association members to gather together to hear what is happening in our school. The 2015 Annual Report will be presented which gives a great overview of not only our financial situation, but also other significant highlights and challenges of the past year. We will also be sharing in a number of stories, as various Association members from across the years share what is important to them about MECS. If you are not an Association member, this evening is a great introduction to why our Association is so important to the life and governance of the school. Why not come along and ask more questions?

Mother’s Day Stall

Remember to send along some money with your children tomorrow so they can buy something nice for their mums at the Mother’s Day Stall. We look forward to this being a huge success and by only selling fair-trade and locally made items, we also hope to bring attention to the need for all of us to think about who makes the things we buy! Mums – enjoy your special day on Sunday!

FOCUS On... NAPLAN

It’s almost that time of the year again. Next week our Years 3, 5, 7 & 9 students will be completing the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests on reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. These tests are completed by students in both government and non-government schools across Australia.

So why do our students have to complete these tests? According to the Australian Government “NAPLAN is the measure through which governments, education authorities, schools, teachers and parents can determine whether or not young Australians have the literacy and numeracy skills that provide the critical foundation for other learning and for their productive and rewarding participation in the community.”

So what do NAPLAN results tell us? At MECS we carefully look for trends in individual, class and section results. We can determine whether there are areas of strength that we can celebrate, or areas of weakness that need our attention. We are also able to track growth of students in particular areas as they progress through the school. We recognise that this method of testing is a limited snapshot of a child’s understanding on a particular day; it caters particularly for students who perform better on written tests. However, we also glean insights from the results so that we can improve our teaching practices, and ultimately, the learning of our students.

More information can be found at http://www.nap.edu.au/information/faqs/naplan-general.html

Jacqui

Working Bee

Last Saturday we held our April Working Bee. We braced ourselves for bad weather after Friday’s day of rain, but we were greeted with a perfect day to do our work. There were seventy mums, dads and students who turned up to help us clean up the school ready for our Open Day on Saturday.

We cleaned the playgrounds in the Kindergarten and Primary School areas and also cleaned up the Home Tech room. We planted and mulched in the Year 9 garden and cleaned up the bush around the Frog Bog.

The morning finished off with a great morning tea and we were able to get home in time to watch the footy!

A big thank you to all those who made the day such a success.

Steve & Peter

Maintenance Team
Introducing Duc

This adventurous, dancing, teacher is prepared for anything, including witty comments. I warn you, don’t try to fight him, he’s had professional training. This smart man can easily outwit you.

What food will you absolutely not, under any circumstances, eat?

I’m a fairly adventurous eater (I’ve eaten anything from pig intestines to deep fried scorpions) but I really can’t stand dutch liquorice... Absolutely can’t stand it.

If you were stranded on a deserted island, what are the three things you could not live without? (You can’t say anything that can get you off the island.)

1. Friends and family (yes I put them together for more space for other stuff) - at least give me one other person I can interact with... even if it means they go down with me.
2. The Bible - a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
3. A guitar - then I can be like Jason Mraz, singing ‘I’m Yours’ on the beach during sunset. If I get desperate I can break the neck to make a spear...

What is your favourite genre?

I’m assuming you mean music genre - Gospel or Acoustic... or better yet, Acoustic Gospel!

What is your favourite season? Why?

Summer - because it’s snapper season!

Have you ever seen a student outside of school? What was their reaction?

Yes! I was fishing and bumped into one of my students fishing at Lillydale Lake during the holidays. I joined him for about 30 mins. I saw a student at Hillsong once... ignored them, and was seen by another student at Hillsong on another occasion... who ignored me.

By Brit, Year 9
Tribute to Bill Dubbeld

Last week we said farewell to a long term member of the MECS community - Bill. Bill and Henny are founding members of MECS, have been Association Members since 1964 and later became Life Members. They were very involved in the early days of getting MECS established and 4 of their 5 children came through MECS, as well as many of their grandchildren.

Last week’s Thanksgiving Service at the Mount Evelyn Christian Reformed Church was a celebration of a Godly man who lived his life well. In his own quiet and wise way he impacted many; the full church attested to that.

Our condolences go to the family - to Henny; Rob and Carol and their children; Ian and Evelyn and their children; Steve and Yvonne and their children; Ed and his daughter Imogen and to Mick and Evonne and their children.

Nicole
Community Relations

NAPLAN Testing

NAPLAN testing for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 students will be held between 10-12 May. NAPLAN tests are used to gather data on literacy and numeracy levels in Australia. They are a snapshot in time of a student’s performance and contribute to the school’s reporting and assessment processes. We use the results to evaluate teaching programs and identify specific student needs in literacy and numeracy.

The tests should not be feared or cause any anxiety. Please reassure your child that there is no ‘pass’ or ‘fail’. MECS teachers ensure that the tests are a normal part of school. Students are prepared for the tests and provided with appropriate support and guidance.

NAPLAN will occur as follows:

- Tues May 10: Language Conventions Test, Writing Test
- Wed May 11: Reading Test
- Thurs May 12: Numeracy Test

Some students may be eligible for an exemption from, or additional support during, NAPLAN. There is more information in the brochure sent home about this, or you can speak to your child’s teacher.

Students may be withdrawn from NAPLAN by their parent or carer. You need to discuss this with your child’s teacher or the principal. If you decide to withdraw your child, you must sign a Student Withdrawal Form (available from the office) by Friday May 6.

Later in the year you will receive your child’s personal NAPLAN report. The report will describe your child’s particular skills in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy. The report will also show how your child performed in relation to national minimum standards.

If you have any questions about your child’s involvement in NAPLAN, please speak to your child’s teacher.

Helen
NAPLAN Coordinator

Term Dates for 2017

Here are the changes to term dates for 2017 once again (printed last week), for your forward planning:

- Term 1: Monday January 30 - March 31 (no change)
- Term 2: Wednesday April 19 - June 30 (was previously going to finish on June 23)
- Term 3: Monday July 24 - Sept 22 (was previously going to begin on July 17)
- Term 4: Monday Oct 16-Dec 13 (no change)

Building a Deck

Here are some photos of the Year 10 students actively involved in the Building & Construction taster program. Since the beginning of Term 1 students have been working in small teams to create a decked area. Activities have included set out, construction, related numeracy and the understanding of simple plans.
Primary Cross Country

The Primary Cross Country was such a great morning. We were blessed with great weather and a supportive host of parents and friends who came along to cheer the students on. As always all the runners did an awesome job completing the track and encouraging one another throughout the race. What made me most proud was the display of sportsmanship displayed throughout the different year levels. This culture we have at MECS is a big part of why it’s such a great place to be.

Thanks to Captain Caring for leading the Foundation students round the track and congratulations to those students who made it through to the District Cross Country event coming up in a few weeks.

Thanks for a great day!

Results
1st: Wirri (Blue) tribe – 487 points
2nd: Walya (Red) tribe – 460 points
3rd: Warlpa (White) tribe – 436 points
4th: Warlu (Gold) tribe – 412 points

Jason
Primary Sports Coordinator

Secondary Cross Country

After a week of perfect sunny weather, Friday decided to give us a few showers of rain. But it did not deter the wonderful Middleschool from running in the cross country. With teachers to guide them on the right path, the students ran with gusto and determination towards the finish line. Many ran the whole way without even taking a break for a walk, which is quite impressive due to the very hilly, undulating track. It was lovely to see friends running together and enjoying the community spirit of the day.

Nicky
Cycle A & Transition Coordinator & Teacher

Try as it may, the rain didn’t dampen our spirits. Perhaps one might say it whet our appetites because the Senior School students were on fire. In fact, it was something of a medalling matter as students lit up the track to place in no less than the position they finished. Yes, passion was pouring down as runners took things off road and crossed a very large percentage of MECS country. Fair to say, however, that one or two runners were seen spitting the dummy. As a sideshow to the main events, was the music and many a tune was enjoyed by those brave enough to let the rain wash them of their inhibitions and move their feet in a different kind of way.

In terms of results, it was no blue affair as students crossed the line red-faced and at white-lightening pace to grab gold.

1st: Wirri (Blue) tribe – 224 points
2nd: Warlpa (White) tribe – 214 points
3rd: Walya (Red) tribe – 126 points
4th: Warlu (Gold) tribe – 118 points

In all seriousness, it was good to see that despite the less than ideal weather, students still got involved and ran as fast as the muddy terrain allowed. Also, those who cheered the other runners on were much appreciated and made the day worth its weight in water.

Jonny
Secondary Teacher
Secondary Cross Country

First Place Results
13 Girls: Hadassah
13 Boys: Caleb
14 Girls: Bree
14 Boys: Matt
15 Girls: Jess
15 Boys: Micah
16 Girls: Saoirse
16 Boys: Ben
17 Girls: Talitha
17 Boys: Jordan

Empowering Girls at Oasis

The Empowering Girls day at Oasis Camp was a day to remember, filled with lots of teamwork activities.

One of the most thrilling activities that we all enjoyed was the flying fox. We got harnessed up and had a choice to fall backwards or to jump off.

After the flying fox we got to do some archery; we put on our safety glasses and picked up our bows some of us even got bullseyes!

After lunch we visited the Reptile House and got to do some fun challenges called Initiatives. We had to use our minds and teamwork to complete challenges.

We came upon our last activity: crate stacking! That was by far the scariest activity.

We did all of these jaw-dropping activities because we are participating in the Year 6 Empowering Girls program, which is all about building up our confidence and making positive friendships.

Thanks to Olivia and Kate for taking their time to set an example for all the girls.

Kiara & Emma
## 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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### Calendar

**2016 Term 2 Week 4: 2 May - 8 May**

- **Thur 5 May**
  - Foundation Parent/Child Night 6.30pm
- **Fri 6 May**
  - Mother's Day Stall
- **Sat 7 May**
  - MECS Open Day 10am-1pm

**Ranges TEC Open Campus**

Saturday May 28, 1-4pm
1/9 Hightech Place Lilydale, 9738 7100

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**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 $300.

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**Apple Man**

The Apple Man is coming next on Friday May 13 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 May 13.

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### Research Project

I’m involved in a research project about children’s thinking styles, exploring if thinking styles and personality are related. It’s new and exciting, not been done before, and it would be fabulous to get as many families and children between ages of 9 – 12 years old involved. Please follow the link and complete the survey, if you are interested, and also feel free to pass this on to your friends!

http://tinyurl.com/CWOT2016

Jo
Secondary Education Support Coordinator

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### Notice Calendar

**2016 Term 2 Week 5: 9 May - 15 May**

- **Mon 9 May**
  - Primary GT 9am PUMP room. JP Wallabies (Viv Theunissen)
  - Years 11 & 12 Soccer Day
  - Community Cook off 9am-1pm, Home Tech Room
- **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
- **Fri 13 May**
  - Years 7-11 Interschool Cross Country
  - Year 12 History Revolutions Excursion

**2016 Term 2 Week 6: 16 May - 22 May**

- **Mon 16 - Fri 20 May**
  - Year 9 Special Week
- **Tues 17 May**
  - Foundation Connect Morning Tea 8.45am in the Main Staffroom
  - Year 9 Soccer Day
- **Wed 18 May**
  - Music Recital 7pm Theatrette
- **Thur 19 May**
  - Year 8 Soccer Day
  - Middle School Connect Morning Tea 8.45am in the Main Staffroom
- **Fri 20 May**
  - Primary Interschool Cross Country
  - Year 7 Immunisations

**2016 Term 2 Week 7: 23 May - 29 May**

- **Tues 24 May**
  - Year 10 Netball Worawa Carnival
  - VCE Performance Evening (Drama & Music)
- **Wed 25 May**
  - Pre Assembly Parent Morning Tea 9am
  - Staffroom
  - Whole School Assembly
- **Thur 26 May**
  - AGM 7pm Supper 7.30pm Meeting Start

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**Notice Calendar**

- GT Notice to JPW
- VCE Interschool Futsal Notice
- SP Goldfields Notice Amended Time
- Year 9 Special Week Notice

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**Open Day**

Sat May 7
10am to 1pm

You are invited to join us for our Open Day
Sat May 7
10am to 1pm

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**Association**

Association for Christian Education

All Welcome

Notice Calendar

- GT Notice to JPW
- VCE Interschool Futsal Notice
- SP Goldfields Notice Amended Time
- Year 9 Special Week Notice

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**Volunteer**

All our families are welcome to join us for our Open Day Sat May 7 10am to 1pm

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**MECS Matters**

Thursday 5 May 2016

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**AGM**

Thursday 26 May
7.00pm - Coffee & Supper
7.30pm - Meeting Start

We will be meeting in the MECS Main Staffroom
All Welcome