Makedde & Will dressing up olden days style, on the Year 5 Goldfields Camp
The Sticking Point of Labels

One of the things that impresses me about airport logistics is how your luggage ends up at the same destination as you. This is an impressive feat when you think of how many pieces of luggage airports handle each day! Obviously the labelling is crucial. The long white label that goes around the handle of your luggage provides all the critical information – who you are, where you are going, and on what flight! Labels on luggage are important and critical to the success of your journey.

It’s also handy to label other things, such as containers in the pantry and tins of nails or bolts in the garage. These labels are necessary to keep different food or tools organised and separate. As a reasonably organised person, I like keeping things in an orderly manner where I can find what I need immediately. Labels help me to do that.

However, it’s not helpful to label people even though we fall into the trap of doing it all the time. We can give people the negative label of being fat, lazy, ugly, uneducated, racist or even an illegal refugee which reduces them to just one aspect of who they are. This is also true of seemingly positive labels, such as pretty, intelligent, strong or good. Just as labels separate luggage or food, they can separate people as well. Labels stop us from getting to know other people or encourage us to fear those we don’t really know, because we’re focusing our attention on just one aspect of who they are. Even words like ‘they’ or ‘them’ can group other people into categories that we can easily dismiss or stereotype, by making general statements about a particular group that may not be true.

Last week our Year 3, 5, 7 & 9 students participated in NAPLAN testing. Whilst these tests provide us with valuable information about their literacy and numeracy skills, we need to be careful that we don’t label students according to their results.

We need to remember that these tests do not assess all of what makes your child exceptionally unique. The scores you get from these tests will tell you how they did on that day, but they will not tell you everything. They can’t tell you that your child has improved on something that they once found difficult. They can’t tell you that they brightened up their friend’s day. They can’t tell you that your child speaks confidently in front of the class, or that they have skills in sport, drama and art. They don’t assess patience, kindness, courage or persistence. They can’t tell you how amazingly special they are to the MECS community, wonderfully made in the image of God. I’m sure you also agree that your child’s real value comes in being a child of God, not in a standardised testing score.

So, be encouraged that while we take such tests seriously, both in the way we conduct them and in the way we analyse what they tell us about the learning of each child and each cohort, they only make up part of the picture.

The bigger part is not only the way in which each teacher knows each child, but in the ongoing partnership we have with parents as we seek together to grow and nurture each child in knowledge, skills and maturity. We look forward to giving you a broader insight into how your child is progressing in the reports that are presently being prepared. As mentioned in Sketcher’s Scoop last week, teachers put a lot of effort into making sure that they communicate accurately about your child’s learning and how further improvements can be made.

Just as we wouldn’t think of physically sticking a label onto someone else, Jesus also reminds us to take care that we don’t label others with our words. We are warned in the New Testament to not judge others or speak evil against them. Instead, we are encouraged to speak words of love, affirmation and encouragement. Ephesians 4:20 says, “Don’t let even one rotten word seep out of your mouths. Instead, offer only fresh words that build others up when they need it most. That way your good words will communicate grace to those who hear them.” Similarly in Proverbs, we are reminded that “thoughtless words cut deeply like a thrusting sword, but the speech of the wise is a healing balm.”

So let’s keep labels in their right place, and build each other up rather than use them to wound and limit the potential of those around us. Let us be like healing balm to one another in all our interactions.

Narelle
MECS Principal

Library Book Fair May 26-31

We are excited to announce that Book Fair 2016 will be held in the Library next week. Traditionally, the MECS Library have used Book Fair as a fantastic way to raise funds for school communities less fortunate than ours, by donating either books or cash. This year we have decided to donate our commission to the Woolaning Christian School in the Northern Territory. Please consider supporting the Woolaning community by supporting the Book Fair. We will be open in the Library from 8.30am to 4.30pm on Friday May 27 and Monday May 30 and from 8.30am to 2pm on Tuesday May 31. Thursday May 26 will be viewing only. There are some great gift ideas with books, posters, diaries, pens, pencils and other items available with prices starting from $1. Come and have a look, we would love to see you.

Fiona
Library Manager
**SKETCHER’S SCOOP**

**Fun Times with the Bilbies and Geckos**

Last week I had a lovely opportunity to hang out with the Foundation students. I was invited to their classrooms to talk about my role in the school, as they are thinking about all the different sorts of people that help them and are part of their community. They asked all sorts of questions about the school, what I do, my favourite colour and they even told me a few jokes! Soon they head up to the Mount Evelyn shops to spend their few dollars and interact with the shop-keepers. It’s great to see our Foundation students immersed in this sort of learning.

**Planning and Enrolments for 2017 and Beyond**

Would you believe we have already started planning for next year? It’s always a bit of a jigsaw puzzle as we manage a complicated range of pieces! Staff will shortly be surveyed about their intentions and interests for next year, so likewise, if you have any changes on the horizon that might impact what happens at MECS, please let us know as soon as possible.

In particular, if you are considering Ranges TEC as the next step in the educational pathway of your child, you might like to attend their Open Day on **Saturday May 28 from 1-4pm**. The Ranges TEC staff will be there to answer all your questions and take you on a tour of the facilities. This is an exciting opportunity for a number of our Year 9 and 10 students.

Finally, Natasha, our Enrolment Manager has been busy confirming places for 3yo Kinder children who have been patiently waiting to hear whether we have places for them. Part of this planning is confirmation that we will be having 3 Foundation classes in 2019! We already have the 50 students needed to fill these groups in 2019.

If you’ve recently had a baby, and you’d like them to attend MECS, please make contact with Natasha to put their name on the list.

**Heading off to Canberra**

On Thursday of this week I head off to Canberra for six days to participate in some training for Principals, attend the Christian Education National (CEN) AGM, the Australian Association of Christian Schools (AACS) AGM and then the Policy Forum, which is a conference for all Christian schools across the country with a policy and political advocacy focus. The week after I will be attending the Independent School’s Victoria (ISV) AGM and dinner. It’s important to be part of the various networks and organisations that support and advocate the role of Christian schools in Australia and the choice of parents to choose the type of school and education that best suits them. We are grateful for the positive relationship our school enjoys with these bodies and invite you to uphold them in prayer as they seek to serve independent schools, and more specifically, Christian schools across Victoria and Australia.

**Keeping our Students Safe**

Schools have an important responsibility to keep children safe and MECS already has numerous policies and practices in place to protect children from coming to harm. However, over the coming months we will be doing more work in this area to make sure that we meet all the child safety requirements set out in Ministerial Order No. 870. This order comes into effect on the 1st August and is part of the State Government’s response to the recommendations of the inquiry into the handling of child abuse by religious and other non-government organisations. I’m sure you will agree that providing a safe environment for our students to learn and grow is our highest priority. Thanks for all you do to contribute to that.

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**FOCUS On... Year 7 Indonesian**

**Why do we learn Indonesian?**

At MECS, we know that it is our worldviews that ultimately control our actions, so it is important that in the Year 7 Indonesian program, the students understand and care why we learn another language, as much as they engage with the language itself. Here are three key reasons why we learn Indonesian:

1. **To empower us to make a difference**

   Indonesia is a developing nation, which means many Indonesian people do not share the same rights to clean water, shelter, food and employment that we do. God has commissioned us to love and serve our neighbours, and to bring the good news to people who have never heard about Jesus. Both practically and spiritually, learning Indonesian empowers people to provide the support that brings meaningful change. As students enter Middle School, language learning has a wider application to their future goals and opportunities, and connects them more deeply with their community.

2. **To build skills for problem solving**

   Language learning is like cracking a code; it requires critical thinking, analysis, teamwork, questioning, research and experimenting. Indonesian supports literacy and numeracy by bringing life skills into new applications. It encourages students to feel comfortable in any unknown or new circumstance, and to face challenges head-on with an arsenal of strategies in their minds.

3. **To empathise with others and to value difference**

   God has made a rich world and we value the differences. Learning another language gives us insight into this rich world. We get to try a little of what it means to be immersed in that difference through language experiences. Language lies at the heart of a people group, and valuing, understanding and empathising with others helps us learn and know more about the very generous and loving nature of God.

I encourage you to continue this conversation with your child at home. You can also contact me at

*Email me, if you’d like more information.*

**Rachel**

**Indonesian Teacher**
MECS Notes

Introductions...

This article on Brad continues Brit Bailey's interview series to help us get to know some of the teachers at MECS.

Introducing Brad

You only need to take one look in his classroom to start to get an understanding of him. I’m not really sure why MECS let a big kid be Middle School Coordinator, but it sure is fun. Don’t be afraid to prank him before he pranks you. He can be serious, I guess...

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

Anchovies. I am convinced they are just clumps of hairy dirt that someone picked up off the ground.

If you were stranded on a deserted island, what three items would you not be able to live without? You can’t say anything that can get you off the island.

1. iPod Classic - 120GB of songs and podcasts should keep me going for awhile.
2. Coffee pod machine - one needs to stay caffeinated, even on a deserted island.
3. Reading material - this is a tough one. I don’t own a Kindle, so I’m going to assume that prior to becoming stranded on a deserted island, I had time to stack a bookcase full of novels, comics, biographies and theology books. That sounds reasonable, doesn’t it?

How long have you been a Christian? Have you been tested in your faith?

My dad was a pastor, so I have grown up in the church and would consider that I’ve been a Christian most of my life. However, I have definitely had key moments throughout my life in which I can see God’s hand at work and that have affirmed me in my faith. More often than not, the times in which my faith has been most tested have become such key moments, and stand testament to God’s faithfulness and goodness.

What is the oldest thing that you’ve had in your fridge?

I have no idea, but if I put it in there, I most likely put it on the wrong shelf!

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

Yes, quite a bit. In fact, I really enjoy running into students outside of school. They are either really friendly and happy to say hi or super embarrassed and try to avoid eye contact. Either way, it’s a lot of fun!

By Brit, Year 9

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Friends of MECS

Entertainment Book

The 2016/2017 Entertainment Books are now available. Your current Entertainment Book will expire on Wednesday 1 June so don’t miss out on buying the new one.

There are many things you can save money on throughout the year:

- Woolworths Wish Cards - save 5% on your groceries/petrol all year
- Big W gift cards - save in-store 5% all year
- Hoyts and Village cinema - discounted tickets
- Dinner vouchers for many local and not so local restaurants
- Coffee vouchers and much more.

You can either purchase a book or a digital membership which you can have on your phone everywhere you go.

To order, please fill in the flyer that went home last week (or collect one from the office) or go online to: www.entbook.com.au/193f695

20% from every Entertainment Book sold contributes to supporting our school.

Evelyn

Interschool Cross Country

The day started off with a group of rather energetic students getting onto the bus full of anticipation for the day that lay ahead.

The bus ride went by oh-too-quickly and we arrived at the Frankston Interschool Cross Country track in what seemed no time at all.

With the harsh wind whipping at our jumpers and our stomachs grumbling, it seemed it was time to refuel before the races began.

As the day progressed, energy levels peaked as MECS students continued to get excellent results in each race. We became known as the upbeat students as we were all loud and motivating, cheering each other on.

All in all we came second when the scores were tallied, with great effort from those who placed first in the sixteen opens races (Saorise and Ben) as well as third in under fifties (Micah) and first in under thirteens (Caleb). We at MECS are courageous, and this was clearly shown when Emily tripped and hurt her foot but still continued on to finish the race, to later regret such a decision. (Emily is now recovering well, foot still intact.)

The participation within each age group was extraordinary – clapping, cheering and screaming seemed to be the norm at this event and well, we seemed to excel at such a thing! MECS did incredibly this year, our team spirit and participation was awesome. Everybody did so well in relishing the true sportsmanship that we as a school are so proud of!

Ady
Year 10 Student

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Interschool Cross Country getters

Our Placegetters

Our Team
Year 12 Mentor Supper

‘If we have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.’

As Year 12 can be a particularly stressful time, MECS invites students to choose a mentor to journey with and guide them. They are encouraged to select someone who is outside of their immediate family and who would bring a certain level of wisdom to the role.

Last week on Thursday May 12, MECS held its annual mentor – mentee supper. We heard from two past students, Ari (class of ’15) and Claire (class of ’15). They provided us with poignant tips and personal insights about navigating the challenges of the year. Time was also given for the mentors and mentees to review the year so far. Hannah’s culinary delights made the time spent together highly palatable.

I would like to personally thank the mentors for their dedicated approach to this important role, for I believe we see further by standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before us.

Sharon
Year 12 Coordinator

Year 11 and 12 Product Development Expo

Congratulations to all students for their amazing presentations at our first Product Development Expo. The building buzzed with conversations as parents, friends and staff visited each station to examine the products and hear about their features.

Near the end of the night, fake money was distributed and guests were given the opportunity to ‘invest’ in the enterprises that they were most impressed with.

The overall winner on the night with an ‘investment’ of $2310 was Brittany (Contemporary Chopping Boards). Lachlan D came second with his workbench, followed by Armand (The General Square Table), Elliott (Riverfall Tables) and Scott (Magic Mocktails).

Drama and Music

In a world of reality TV, social media and techno-mania, a new generation of live performers is rising to the challenge. See VCE actors and musicians join forces in a not-to-be-missed performance evening, coming to a theatre near you.

Yes, ladies and gentlemen, VCE Drama and Music students will be collaborating for the first time, in an evening of entertainment on Tuesday May 24.

Our two VCE Music students will be performing as soloists and as an ensemble, while the Drama class will be performing two ensembles on the subject of fairy-tales. But don’t be fooled! This is not a Disney show! It’s all about gender stereotypes, being lost, happy endings and gruesome beginnings!

So, come along and join the audience. It’s not a performance without you!

Tuesday May 24, 7.30pm in the Theatrette

Marlene & Tim
VCE Drama and Music Teachers

To K3 Bluebird Parents

As a result of last week’s tree incident, we have had to reschedule our Bluebirds Photo Day which will now take place on Tuesday May 24 from 9am-12pm.
Year 5 Goldfields Camp

It was cool to experience what life was like on the goldfields.

Makedde
I liked the bowling alley as I have never played old bowling before.

Isaac
I enjoyed the gold pour where we got to see gold ingots being made.

Ethan
“Eureka! I found gold!” My camp glow moment was gold panning. I had found gold with the help of my dad.

Imogen
As we explored the mine, I kept thinking about what it was like for the miners back then.

Hope
“Yes!” I screamed, as a speck of gold was glittering in my pan. I put that little speck on my finger as I ran to the shop to get a little jar. I put the little speck in the jar and searched for more.

Holly
I liked the darkness and the sudden movements and sounds of the tours and seeing all of the interesting things above ground that showed how they lived back in the 1800s.

Julia

I t l t i h tl i f

Year 5 Goldfields Camp

Thursday 19 May 2016   Page 6

Year 5s
Camp Highlights with ‘Sizzling Starts’

Last week, the Year 6s went to Sovereign Hill for three days and had a terrific time away! In our literacy lessons back at school, we have been learning about how to make our writing begin with a ‘sizzling start’ to capture the audiences’ attention. We thought we would share our camp highlights with this in mind.

“Yes!” I screamed, I had found a piece of gold! I quickly got my gold jar and dipped the tip of my finger in, watching the gold fall down to the bottom of the jar.

Emma

“Creeeak,” I shivered as we went down the mine in a cart. It was pitch black...

Brianna

We stood impatiently waiting for something to happen. Suddenly, flames exploded light across the field. Loud bangs and yelling filled our ears! The sound and light show became my highlight.

Leah

“Eureka! I found gold!” Not one piece, not two…but THREE pieces of gold in one pan! I couldn’t believe my eyes.

Hannah

The best thing would be holding a purified gold bar straight from the blacksmith! It was so cool holding a $170,000 brick!

Ezekiel

Pitch black and very scary, we sat at the front of the tram carriage in complete darkness. Half way down the mine, my friend started playing his harmonica and we all started groaning.

Samuel

We walked into the boiled lollies store and we were immediately surrounded by a variety of lovely scented lollies. It was like walking into Willy Wonka’s factory!

Caleb
## MECS COMMUNITY NOTICES

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**Ranges TEC Open Campus**
Saturday May 28, 1-4pm
1/9 Hightech Place Lilydale, 9738 7100

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### Ride-on Mower for Sale


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### Big Freeze Family Festival

Embrace the cold these school holidays with The Big Freeze Winter Family Festival July 2-10, Cranbourne Racecourse. Featuring 9 interactive kid zones including a snow pit, snow ball toss, snow village, superhero training, construction play, craft and kids’ workshops; the festival will provide winter fun for all ages.

Entry Prices:
- Adults (13+yrs) $16.50,
- Child (2-12yrs) $28 (includes entry to (1) The Big Freeze Festival, (2) Penguin Parade, (3) Antarctic Journey, (4) Churchill Island Heritage Farm and (5) Koala Conservation Centre) and Toddler (1-2yrs) $16.50. Infant (under 12mths) free.

Tickets are only available online at www.thebigfreezefestival.com.au - get in early to secure a spot in the fresh snow sessions!

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### White Card Training

Do you need to get a White Card (Construction Induction Training)? Ranges TEC offers short courses open to the public!

White Card training on Tuesday, May 31, 4pm - 8pm. Register now! 9738 7100.

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### Apple Man

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

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### Year 7 Immunisations

This is a reminder that the second round of Year 7 Immunisations will be taking place tomorrow - Friday May 20.