Remember
Term 2 ends
on Friday
June 17

Oh wow - a frog!

Evelyn experiences the excitement of getting up close to live creatures in the K3 Minibeast Incursion
Making the Most of the Time

"Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time..." (Ephesians 5:15, NRSV)

"Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.” (Colossians 4:5, NIV)

"So let’s not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don’t give up, or quit. Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all, starting with the people closest to us in the community of faith.” (Galatians 6:10, The Message)

It’s been a really busy time at school. There have been camps, excursions and special events; visits from politicians, visits from our friends and colleagues at Yuendumu; work to complete, reports to write, exams to sit. Lots of meetings, conversations and even planning for next year. Generally schools are busy places, but some weeks seem busier than others!

Biblical scholars make the distinction between two sorts of ‘time’ referred to in the Bible. One is ‘chronos’ (i.e. chronology, chronicle.) It is measured in minutes, hours, days and weeks. It is a point in time and is sequential. Period 1 is followed by Period 2; a time of holidays follows a term of study; one month follows the next. The other is ‘kairos’. This is ‘season time’. It is time with potential; the appropriate moment; the time to act and make decisions; the moment of which you make the most.

God operates in ‘kairos’ time. He intervenes in human affairs to save, to challenge, to fulfill. The world is called into being; people are commissioned to a task; miracles happen; grace makes faith possible, the Word became flesh; Jesus will return in majesty and power. These are events and seasons of potential and significance, they are not limited to ‘chronos’ time.

The Bible speaks frequently of using opportunities, of acting with effective urgency, of ‘redeeming the time’. Sometimes these ideas can be used to urge us to busy-ness, to challenge us to greater commitment, to stress the importance of not wasting time… all in the service of God, of course!

However, what is urged when the Bible speaks of ‘opportunity’ is not busyness, or frenetic effort for the Kingdom, or an obsession with maximising time use, but a freedom to engage in genuinely profitable activities, to do things that have eternal value, to move out of superficiality and into significance.

What is needed is alertness and wisdom to do those things that will build character, enrich relationship, bring people closer to God...

“A simple act of kindness in the school yard, an appropriate word of encouragement, covering for someone’s mistake rather than highlighting it, a readiness to serve without reward, standing by someone in troubled times, grace-filled conversation, demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit in the daily grind of life – this is the stuff of ’redeeming the time’.

Some witty person has suggested that the reason we don’t hear ‘opportunity knock’ is that we’re over at the neighbours having a whinge. And if we did hear the knock, we would complain about the noise! To make the most of every opportunity that God provides does take a degree of self-denial, of being ‘other-centred’, of viewing the world through Jesus’ eyes.

In a community like a Christian school, we hopefully have others to help us do that; to keep us on track for the things that matter and not keep us busy with the things that don’t. Sometimes it’s really hard as there are a lot of things that just have to happen in a busy school. However, as we continue to seek God’s Kingdom in and through education, we pray that God will give us wisdom to not only make the most of the ‘chronos’ time that he has given us, but more importantly, to see the potential of the ‘kairos’ time that we find ourselves in.

Narelle
MECS Principal

Ranges TEC Plant Sale

The following plants have been grown at Ranges TEC farm. Please contact Ranges TEC office for more details and to place orders 9738 7100.

**Westringia Fruiticosia Wynyabbie gem.**
Native. Blue to mauve flowers. Well established
Plants 500-750cm high in 20cm pots. Single pots $8, or 4 for $30, or 10 for $70. 81 plants available.

**Rosemary (Rosmarinus officinalis)**
Well established bushes 500-750cm high in 20cm pots. Single pots $6, or 4 for $30, or 10 for $70. 200 pots available.

**Lonicera Nitida**
Commonly known as the Dwarf Honeysuckle. Small plants in 12cm pots. $4 per pot. 28 pots available.

**English Box**
Great traditional small hedging plant. $7 each or 5 for $30. 25 x 20cm pots available of mixed heights.
Kinder News
This week our 4 year old Kindergarten parents had the opportunity to meet with Wendy and Cherie, our fabulous Early Years educators, to discuss the progress of their children. It also gave Di and myself a chance to meet some of our youngest families as we provided some ‘baby-sitting’ out in the piazza. This enabled parents to focus on the conversation knowing that their little ones were being well looked after just outside the door. We are thrilled that our Kindergarten continues to flourish, always looking for new ways to provide an exciting introduction to the routines and attitudes for good learning throughout our school.

Connect Morning teas
Our Connect morning teas are just one of the ways we seek to grow and nurture community here at MECS. Nicole does a great job in making sure that each cluster and section of the school has the opportunity to meet with other parents and staff to grow friendship and partnership. We know that not all parents are able to attend these morning teas due to work commitments, but it’s great to see those who can make it. We are always looking for new ways in which parents and families can connect, so please let us know if you have any suggestions that would work better for you!

Long Weekend
It has been a long term and the winter weather is staring to bite, particularly first thing in the morning! So make sure you enjoy the long weekend as a pre-taster for the holidays to come. It might be the ‘rest day’ we all need to finish the term well!

Staff Leave
A number of our staff are off on exciting adventures over the next few weeks. Connie and Adam will be enjoying some long service leave. Connie will be heading off to Central Australia and then off overseas, and Adam and his son Jacob will be heading home to family in the USA. Nathan is off to visit a number of significant historical sites around Germany as well as attend the 12th International Bonhoeffer Congress in Basel, and Jacqui is visiting her sister in Switzerland as well as doing a bit of church history exploration while she’s there. Mel is already enjoying some of her well-earned long service leave and is presently in Europe. We wish all of these staff safe travels.

Our Newest Grandma!
It was with great excitement that Di, Assistant Principal Primary, welcomed her first grandchild into the world! Welcome little Daisy Mae. Congratulations to Bek and Tom!

Book Fair News
Thank you to all students and parents who came along to support the Book Fair last week. Thanks to you, we were able to purchase $770 worth of new books for Woolaning Christian School in the Northern Territory. The school is in desperate need of good books for their library. The staff of Woolaning have emailed, expressing their appreciation of the support from the MECS community. We had two lucky winners of the ‘Guess the Smarties in the jar’ competition; MPB - both correctly guessed 643 smarties. Thanks again, we look forward to seeing you next year for Book Fair 2017.

Fiona
Library Manager

FOCUS On... Literature

Reading Themes in Literature

“In every bit of honest writing in the world, there is a base theme. Try to understand men: if you understand each other you will be kind to each other. Knowing a man well never leads to hate and nearly always leads to love.” John Steinbeck

Reading themes in texts is a common activity in English classrooms. Students learn how to identify and write about key themes or ideas explored in a text, and analyse the various ways that authors construct and present these. How are plot, characterisation, setting, narrative voice, and structure, used to convey big ideas about life, relationships, and the world? Why are there recurrent ‘themes’ commonly found in literature? How do we ‘read’ and learn from them?

One of the joys of being an English teacher, is that each text studied takes you and your students on a new journey of discovery. Good writing draws you in to live and breathe the world of the characters as they undergo crises, face joys and hardships, and are shaped by and grow from their experiences. ‘Reading’ is both a passive and active process. As you passively read, the story unfolds and is revealed to you. Active reading calls for deeper engagement, for questioning, for self-reflection, and perhaps even a better understanding of the complex nature of life and humanity. One facet of the Transformational Education approach is Rich Learning. Reading themes in literature causes students to grapple with some of the big questions in life, and delve deeper beyond the simple mechanics of writing.

As seen in the quote by John Steinbeck, ultimately, reading themes in literature has the potential to open our eyes to truly see and appreciate one another more. Hopefully, through teaching our students to read themes, we might actually be teaching them one of the most important lessons of all, to love.

Emma
Senior School Coordinator
MECS Notes

Social Skills Drama Program
Semester 2, 2016

Social Skills Drama is a program that uses drama games and role play to teach social skills and self-confidence in a safe and creative small group environment (4 or 5 students), and has been offered at MECS for the past 13 years. Choice Learning and Social Lights provide the program to MECS. Parents, teachers and students themselves anecdotally report a significant improvement in social skills, behaviour management and confidence.

Each session consists of three main components: conversation skills, non-verbal cues and role plays which provides students with skills to successfully manage a number of everyday situations, including:

- conflict
- meeting new people
- friendly conversations
- anxiety
- losing at games
- sharing and taking turns
- appropriate skills for the workplace (for senior students)
- identifying and expressing emotions

Students are invited to join the program for Semester 2. We are now enrolling students for a semester (2 terms) as we find this to be more beneficial to their progress. Parents will be charged for the semester rather than each term, however the price is the same per lesson.

Students who have previously participated benefit from the ongoing nature of the program. In Semester 2, a 12 - week program will be offered to Primary students and an 8-week (Term 3 only) program will be offered to Secondary students.

Term 3 PS will commence on Thursday July 28, then on August 4, 11 and 25 and September 1 and 8.

MS/SS - will commence on Thursday July 14, then on 21, 28 July, August 4, 11 and 25, and Sept 1 and 8.

Term 4 (PS only) on Thursday October 13 and 27, November 10, 17 and 24, and December 1.

Primary - $230 and Secondary - $155.

MECS recognises the positive impact of the Social Skills Drama program, and has subsidised the program for a number of years. If you would like your child to attend in Semester 2, please indicate this on the form (sent to current Drama Skills students or available from the office) and return by Wednesday June 15.

Please contact Shirley (PS) or Jo (MS/ SS) for more information.

Shirley
Education Support Coordinator - Kinder/Primary

Friends of MECS

Entertainment Book

Don't forget to purchase your new Entertainment Book. The previous one has now expired so don't miss out on your new book today.

Order online at www.entbook.com.au/193f695 or through the main office.

Evelyn

Introductions...

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

Introducing Tim

This giant of a man is really a teddy bear. He is a talented, educated lad who isn't afraid to be cheeky.

What are your hobbies?

Singing in the MSO Chorus, playing piano, cooking (doing a lot of experimentation at the moment with American BBQ), eating, art, etc.

What is one thing you are embarrassed to admit you have never done?

I have never watched: The Sound of Music, Mary Poppins or The Wizard of Oz.

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

Yes, many times. Reactions range from studiously avoiding my gaze to having long, impromptu conversations about life (I prefer this reaction). Two students also once stalked me for 45 minutes while I was doing the shopping.

What is your favourite season? Why?

Autumn. Why? See the following two poems:

A tree blushed as a zephyr billowed in her delicate veil and carried it languidly to the ground before dissolving into the decaying light.

In the glade a mist settled, bearing on the crisp air a perfume of ripe apples, hazelnuts and mossed birch.

I breathed deeply, filling my lungs with that chilled tonic.

Burrowing my nose into my warm scarf, I thrust my hands deep into the pockets of my heavy coat and padded quietly through a soft carpet of gold and amber.

A bird twittered in the thicket.

Tim

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;
To bend with apples the moss’d cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For Summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find
Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,
Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;
Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,
Drows'd with the fume of poppies, while thy hook
Sparres the next swath and all its twined flowers.
And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep
Steady thy laden head across a brook;
Or by a cyder-press, with patient look,
Thou watchest the last oozings hours by hours.

Excerpt from poem by John Keats

By Brit Bailey, Year 9
Child Labour In Agriculture

Article by Hope and Emily, Year 9 Students

Child labour is a very serious issue. You'd be surprised at how many companies use products that originate from illegal child labour and trafficking. To start, approximately 100 million children are involved in some sort of illegal agricultural work around the world. Some people don’t understand what's so bad about this issue, but here's the biggest thing: children involved in agricultural labour don't get to be children! They don’t get the opportunity to attend school, play and act like they should. Instead, they're stuck in a boat, factory, field or forest. It's not right. What we're trying to do is make people aware of what's happening in the world. It's a big issue that so many people are unaware of. We're going to change that. Here are two of the biggest issues within agricultural labour:

Chocolate:
This might be hard for some of you to read, but we promise it will be worth it. 42% of the world’s cocoa production comes from a place called the Ivory Coast (located in Africa). Within the Ivory Coast, that cocoa is harvested by children. Yes, you read that right. Often what happens is the cocoa harvesting plantation pays a couple of motorbike riders and bus riders to go and tell these children that if they come with them, they'll work for a little bit, get an education and get paid. Because the children are so desperate, they believe them, thinking that they'll be able to send money back to their families and that their parents will be proud of them. But no. This is not so. The children get to the plantations after being illegally smuggled across borders and long bus rides, only to find out that they have to work hours upon hours a day, barely getting enough food and not getting paid at all. So, please consider more carefully before you go and buy chocolate.

Fishing:
Do you know where your fish comes from? Do you know who harvests your fish? Who cleans and cooks some of your fish? No? Well let us share. Children are stuck in the fish industry with life-threatening jobs that range from being out on boats, to cleaning the fish at plantations.

If a child is at a fish plantation, they are made to clean, salt, smoke, dry and boil fish. They are also made to lift heavy loads by using hand cranes, peel and shell different types of seafood, load and unload fish, guard fish vessels and shovel ice. Child labourers on boats are forced to dive for fish, free snagged nets, handle and repair nets and herd fish into nets. These jobs are often very dangerous and and can hurt the children.

How Can I Help?
Lots of people think that the only thing that they can do to help child labour is just to donate to a bunch of different organisations and pray for the best. We're not saying to stop donating and praying, we're saying that you can do more. By purchasing foods with a Fairtrade logo on it, you know that it comes from a good background with no child labourers.

You can also try and make people aware of what's happening by either bringing up the topic in conversations, writing an article, making a poster and hanging it up in a public place, holding a fundraiser, or even writing to a company and telling them why you won't buy their products but if they used ethical produce from the beginning, then you would. There are so many things that you can do to help!

Sites that you can donate to:
AOG World Relief: http://aogwr.org/childadvocacy/educationtraining


MECS Notes

JP Bakesale
Wednesday June 15 Recess!
Sales open to all Primary Students. All proceeds will go to Hohidai School, Indonesia.

Singing Opportunity
Wednesday lunchtime!
During each Wednesday lunchtime of Term 2 and 3, Lance Peele will be directing a choir for anyone keen for a fun and high quality singing session.

We will build a small repertoire of pieces to be sung in four parts and performed at opportunities that arise.

Sessions will include warm ups, singing technique hints, and of course rehearsals.

All students Years 7-12 welcome.
See you in the MS music room.

Lance
MS Teacher

Legal Studies - Mock Trial

Silence in the court. All rise for Judge Wright!

Last Tuesday, May 31, the Year 11 Legal Studies class underwent the mock court trial, based on the real life case surrounding the South African Para Olympian, Oscar Pistorious.

The prosecution and defence barristers (Brenton and Sam) presented their side of the case, witnesses (Emmi-lee, Jordan and Sophie) were examined, and the accused (Chloe) was, after much deliberation by the jury, found guilty. Many thanks to Mr Tim W for giving up his spare time to be the judge, the Year 12 Legal Studies class for playing the jury, and everyone else who came and spectated. It was an enjoyable experience had by all.

Sophie
Legal Studies Student
**PE Enhancement Program**

On Monday June 6, the Year 12 Physical Education class attended an excursion to RMIT University to participate in the VCE PE Enhancement Program. The students participated in a range of activities such as light-gate timed sprints, the vertical jump test, agility testing, a force-plate jump test, and the Wingate cycle test. They also monitored physical activity with the Time Motion iPad app, and used GPS vests to record heart rate, movement patterns and speed. Talitha Boone completed a laboratory VO2 max test and achieved an excellent result of 49.5 ml/kg/min. This result came very close to setting a new record for the highest female VO2max recorded by RMIT in the two weeks of running the program with Year 12 students. During the day, the students participated in all the activities with enthusiasm and displayed a strong knowledge of the theoretical concepts involved in the testing. Overall, it was a fantastic opportunity for the students to access the most up to date technologies in exercise science and consolidate their learning with practical experiences.

*Emma Tresidder*
VCE PE Teacher
K3 and the Minibeasts

Throughout this term, the K3s have been learning about the diverse animals God created. Starting from the big animals such as dinosaurs, jungle animals, sea creatures and Australian animals, to the smallest and fascinating creatures like mini beasts.

With the expertise of Mr Andrew and his scaly and furry pets, the children were able to marvel and wonder about these amazing creatures. They closely observed the turtles’ patterns on their shells and they felt the cold, bumpy skin of the blue tongue and frilled neck lizards. The children listened attentively as Mr Andrew talked about the habitats of snakes and spiders and our safety towards them. He mentioned that these animals help us and are not there to harm us. The children sat beautifully in a circle while the carpet python slithered towards them.

Lee
3 Year Old Kindergarten Teacher

MECS Notes

Congratulations to Peter

We were delighted to hear that Peter (Class of ‘09) was named winner of the Canon Australia Light Awards (April) chosen by Guy Sebastian. Since leaving school, Peter has been captured by the twin callings of photography and a desire to serve God’s people in a pastoral capacity. I should also mention that he is an outstanding soccer player! Here is his winning image.

The theme for Canon’s competition was about showing stillness in a chaotic world. He named this image ‘Waiting on the world for change’ and here is an excerpt from his image description:

"I have been challenged the last couple of years on how we perceive and interact with the homeless, those in need, and by the stereotypes we create by thinking we are too busy, pretending to look the other way (ignorance is bliss), or judging what they might do with any money we give. I would be lying if I said I had not done all of these things. However I have taken on the personal challenge of breaking down these stereotypes and lies that prevent us from loving all those around us, not just those who are easy to love and love us back. I was inspired by a quote that says “If you judge people you have no time to love them” (usually attributed to Mother Teresa). I decided to begin treating people with the bene

Dr Roger F
VCE Coordinator
2016 Term 2 Week 9: 6 June - 12 June

Mon 6 - Fri 10 June
Year 10 Trans Ed Week
Year 11 Exams

Fri 10 June
Year 10 BBQ Lunch

Mon 13 June
Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday School Closed

Tues 14 June
Semester 2 Begins for Year 11
Year 10 Soccer Day
VCE Legal Studies Lodden Prison Excursion

Wed 15 June
Unit 1 Psychology Excursion
JP Bake Sale
Empowering Girls Mother & Daughter night
7.30pm Main Staffroom

Thur 16 June
Middle School Connect Morning Tea 8.45am Staffroom
Year 7 Soccer Day
MP Bush Day
Positive Boys Blokes Night 6.30pm

Fri 17 June
Positive Boys Billy Cart Races
Reports Distributed

Last Day Term 2
Sat 17 June
Victorian Cross Country Championships

2016 Term 2 Holidays: 20 June - 10 July

Mon 20- Fri 24 June
Year 10 & some Year 11 Work Experience

Mon 20- Wed 22 June
VCE Practice Exams

Thur 23- Fri 24 June
VCE Intensives

2016 Term 3 Week 1: 11 July - 17 July

Mon 11 July
First Day Term 3
Welcome back Morning Tea 9am Staffroom

Fri 15 July
Middle Primary Connect Morning Tea 8.45am Staffroom

2016 Term 3 Week 2: 18 July - 24 July

Tues 19 July
K3 Bluebirds Connect Morning Tea 8.45am Staffroom

Thur 21 July
K3 Rosellas Connect Morning Tea 8.45am Staffroom

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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.

Wanted to Rent
In the general area around Mount Evelyn, Lilydale or out to Ringwood – a 4 bedroom home for a young family.
Please call Jayde on 0402 260 541.

Movie Days
Alvin and the Chipmunks, The Road Chip, Wed June 29 at 10.30am
Zootopia, Wed July 6 at 10.30am
At Discovery Churuch, 89 Monbulk Road, Mount Evelyn, 9736 2323. Gold Coin Donation. Sausage Sizzle and lollies for sale.

Days for Girls
This is a non-profit organisation called that provides girls and women in disadvantaged communities around the world with reusable feminine hygiene kits, reproductive health education and community enterprise development.
To help us get more kits to more girls we have launched a Crowdfunding campaign with the goal of raising $35,000 in 29 days! These funds will enable Days for Girls Australia to purchase 6000 metres of organic Fairtrade flannelette that all our teams will be able to buy from on an ongoing basis. It is important to us to know that we are not contributing to child or forced labour or unfair work practices with the making of our kits.
You can donate at http://startsomegood.com/daysforgirls or ‘like’ our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/DaysForGirlsAustralia/

Lost Property
Just a reminder to please check the racks of lost property for your children’s belongings. We have accumulated plenty of clothes, hats, lunch boxes etc and it would be good if they went back to their owners. Those that are not collected by the end of term will go to the local Op shop. Please clearly label your children’s clothing. It makes our job so much easier!

Melinda Beimers
Lost Property Merchant!

Mower & Weed Spray Tank for Sale
Ride on Mower, Cox Stockman, 13hp, 32 inch cut, just serviced, new battery, VGC, $1200.
Weed spray tank, 100l, Silvan Selecta, 12V electric pump, 15m hose, EC, $320.
Ph Tim 0490 464 852.

iPhone and iPod for Sale
iPhone 5, black, 16gb, $250.
Ipod 5, 32gb, white and blue, $150.
Both in very good condition. If interested call Sarah on 0423 429 565.

MECS Mums’ Community with a Cause
Due to unsterile conditions and lack of support there are over 30,000 deaths each year during childbirth in countries such as Uganda. “MECS Mums Community with a Cause” have joined Vision Sisters to help raise awareness, funds and clean birthing kits for Ugandan mums-to-be.
We need your help: our aim is to raise $1000 so that we can provide clean birthing kits and increase birth support services in Uganda. We are looking for 200 people to donate $5 or more to help us get to our $1000. Here is the link to our web page to donate. https://visionsisters.everydayhero.com/au/mt-evelyn-christian-school.
You can also help by sharing this via social media. The more we raise the more we can do.
We also invite all of our MECS mums to get involved on our packing day. There will be further information about this soon. Any questions, please speak to Ali Maultby (Parent JP Badicoot & MP Green) or Simone Fraser (Parent JP Badicoot & MP Green).
Thanks to all those families who supported our fundraising BBQ today - it was a huge success! Next week we will let you know how much money was raised. All proceeds will be donated to Vision Sisters.

Apple Man
The Apple Man is coming tomorrow - Friday June 10 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 June 10.