Putting hands to work

JPs Emmett and Jesse prepare for their fundraising bake sale
To ‘conform’ or be ‘transformed’...

Throughout the course of this year, one task of the MECS Leadership Team is to actively engage with our current policies; ensuring that they are assisting to guide our current practice. One such policy is our Guided Exposure Policy.

In summary, “The Guided Exposure Policy outlines the guidelines that the school uses to select and use reading and non-print media resources and in the choice of topics and issues selected within the curriculum.”

Throughout Term 3, teaching staff and various Association members will look in greater detail at the newly revised Guided Exposure policy. Whilst the policy has existed for some time, MECS Leadership recognised the need for greater clarity and active engagement of a broader selection of the school community.

Our role as Christian educators is to not only ‘open up’ the world to students, but more importantly, support them to be responsive disciples of Christ in the world; to equip them to be ‘in the world but not of it’. We aim to build in them the tools necessary for safe negotiation and exploration. In order to do this, students may need to be challenged in their worldview, and to be taught to question what goes on around them, in order that they may be able to effectively discern what God’s will is.

As Paul writes in his letter to the church in Rome…“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:1–2)

We would have a very difficult task shielding our students from all that is ‘not right with the world’. We live in a world that is ever-increasingly anti-God; our students are bombarded with messages that go against the very nature of who God is. What are we to do with this reality? Do we bunker down, lock the doors and block out all that is not right? And for how long will we succeed? Or do we give up and resign ourselves to thinking; ‘this is just the way the world is… deal with it’? We do neither. Rather, we actively seek to respond to God’s call on our lives; to be salt and light in a dark world. And we actively seek to ensure our students are equipped to do the same.

The notion of ‘guided exposure’ means that rather than shielding students from contentious issues/materials, teachers will introduce them to students in a manner appropriate to their age, with biblical perspective and with appropriate critique. The notion of ‘guided exposure’ means that rather than shielding students from contentious issues/materials, teachers will introduce them to students in a manner appropriate to their age, with biblical perspective and with appropriate critique.

But perhaps you are still wondering… How do we decide which materials to study or use in our curriculum?

A series of guidelines are used in order for staff to make informed decisions about which materials are ‘appropriate’ for study. Staff source materials that are age and educationally appropriate, provide a range of literary experiences, evoke imaginative involvement and sympathy, open up opportunities for critical appreciation of material types and provide a realistic understanding of good and evil. There also needs to be consideration for the limitations imposed by VCAA with regards to the VCE; where text lists are prescribed and restrict freedom of choice.

Teachers are always seeking to ensure that learning is engaging and relevant; therefore also sourcing materials that have a good balance of cultural relevance and positive active engagement for all students.

As a community, we need to continue to uphold the staff and students at MECS as we seek to discern God’s will and direction through the aid of our Guided Exposure Policy, as the staff actively engage with the document, and as we equip our students not to ‘conform’ but to be ‘transformed’.

Karissa
Assistant Principal - Secondary

* MECS Guided Exposure Policy

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 Fruticosa Wynyabbe gem.**
Native. Blue to mauve flowers. Well established plants 500-750cm high in 20cm pots. $7 each or 5 for $30. 25 plants in 20cm pots available.

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

**Rosemary (Rosmarinus officinalis)**
Well established bushes 500-750cm high in 20cm pots. Single pots $8, or 4 for $30, or 10 for $70. 81 pots available.

**Honeysuckle**
Great traditional small hedging plant. $7 each or 5 for $30. 25 plants in 20cm pots available of mixed heights.

**English Box**
Great traditional small hedging plant. $7 each or 5 for $30. 25 plants in 20cm pots available of mixed heights.
Workbreak

Normally teachers would be back a week earlier than the students in order to spend a week preparing for the term ahead and working on their curriculum units together. However, next week we are trying something different with teachers still at school. Whilst students are enjoying the first week of their holidays, teachers will be having their workbreak. That means on Monday July 11, we all start back together, teachers and students! Hopefully it won’t be complete chaos! We have done this to avoid those nasty 11 week terms!

A Safer Crossing

It was announced last Friday afternoon that traffic lights will finally be installed on York Road to make it safer for pedestrians crossing this busy stretch of road. After many years of lobbying for this to happen we are grateful that Vic Roads has responded to the many community voices about this issue. It will not only mean greater safety for our students crossing this road, but it may ease traffic congestion and make the turn into Hawkins Road that little bit easier.

A New Oval

More exciting announcements… this week the Board approved the go-ahead of a complete overhaul of the Secondary Oval. This project is likely to be completed in Term 4. Gerry, our Administration Manager, will provide all the details early next term!

Holidays

I’d like to take the opportunity to wish you all a safe and relaxing break. It’s been a busy and long term, and I’m sure you are all looking forward to having some ‘down time’ with your children without the relentless routine of getting them to school each day! Enjoy whatever it is you have planned.

A Timely Reminder

Finally, on a less positive note, we have had a number of small thefts in the Primary and Middle School over recent weeks. Whilst these matters are being followed up appropriately, it is a timely reminder to chat with your child/ren about making sure their possessions are safely stored in their closed bags and that they are not bringing expensive items or too much money to school. It is unusual that such behaviour occurs at MECS so we are encouraging all students to be vigilant, to make good choices and to ensure that this sort of behaviour does not continue.

FOCUS On... Ranges TEC Canteen

At the beginning of the year a close knit group of Ranges TEC VCAL students and I embarked on a huge project to re-open the MECS canteen. Using as much information as possible from the survey that we sent out to the MECS community we aimed to design a well-balanced, healthy and exciting menu. To keep in line with the school’s healthy eating philosophy the ‘canteeners’ crafted a menu that included fun, interesting options that the children love with a healthy twist, incorporating hearty main meals such as Beef Lasagne and delicious bakery items like double chocolate brownies and choc-chip cookies. In Term 2 the students have progressed to offering bakery and hot drink items at recess, which was one of the requests in the survey responses. This has been a huge success. This term the team have also been offering cheaper snack/sweet items to cater for everyone’s budget; these have become so popular that we will continue to include more of these items in next term’s menu.

In Term 3, we will be removing two of our food categories from the menu; these are being replaced with small snack and toasted items. We are very excited about the new additions and are working hard to make the new menu a mix of old items returning and interesting new items, making the range of choices as wide as possible. We thank you for your ongoing support - as long as we have customers we’ll keep providing food! This has been an amazing experience for the students so far. We are looking forward to meeting more MECS students at the canteen in the near future.

Vicky - Ranges TEC Teacher & Paige McKenner - Student
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.

Three main components provide: conversation skills, non-verbal cues and role plays which provide 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 September 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 this week.

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

MP Maths

This term, in our Middle Primary Maths workshop, we used the multiplication skills we were learning to create scaled classroom designs. The class accurately measured and created a simple scaled classroom outline that was one 100th of the actual size. They were then given the challenge of making their design 9 times or 23 times larger. That meant they had to measure, multiply and create a scaled classroom drawing as well as any furniture they wanted to include. The students had heaps of fun and created such diverse and careful designs.

Alistair
Middle Primary Cluster Leader

Maisie, Mia & Hannah

Luke

Noah & Jet

Wyatt & Jenson

Acacia & Latasha

Kip, Kai & Kyan

Josh & Jason

Entertainment Book

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Alistair
Middle Primary Cluster Leader

Maisie, Mia & Hannah

Luke

Noah & Jet

Wyatt & Jenson

Acacia & Latasha

Kip, Kai & Kyan

Josh & Jason
What an amazing Bake Sale! The cupcakes were beautifully decorated, the chocolate balls were scrumptious and delicious and the chocolate crackles were sensational. Junior Primary students baked and created lots of yummy treats to sell to raise money for Hohidiai School in Indonesia to support the building of some new school facilities. We loved using our hands to help others. A huge thank you to all the parents who helped us with baking and running the Bake Sale. We raised an outstanding $295!

Kaye
JP Teacher & Cluster Leader

Vision Sisters Fundraiser Report

Last Thursday the delicious smell of sausages wafted over the Primary School as a group of hardworking mums, and a Grandpa, filled the orders and delivered sausages and drinks to the classrooms. While it was great to see the students enjoying a warm lunch on a cold day, the aim of the day was to raise money for Vision Sisters' safe birth packs for women in Uganda for which we raised $535! Thank you to all our families who supported this fundraiser and to the volunteers - Simone, Tamara, Kelly, Libby, Jessica and Bill who worked hard on the day.

Special thanks to Bakers Delight in Lilydale who donated the bread.

Nicole
Community Relations

Lost Property

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
Lost Property Merchant

Singing Opportunity

During each Wednesday lunchtime of Terms 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

Crossing Upgrade

Last Friday afternoon Shaun Leane, Member for Eastern Metropolitan Victoria came to the school crossing on York Road and made the announcement, on behalf of our local member James Merlino, that a $490,000 upgrade to the current school crossing has been approved. The safety of the crossing has been an ongoing concern for both MECS and our families and for vulnerable staff (most of whom are disabled) at Yarra View Nursery who are also regular users of the crossing. The funding will cover pedestrian operated traffic lights, an upgrade to the footpath near the north side bus stop as well as road surface improvements that will stop the road flooding during periods of heavy rain. The traffic lights will be operational by mid-2017.

This is great news! The changes will make the busy crossing safer for our students, the crossing supervisors and the workers from the nursery.

Gerry
Administration Manager

MECS Notes

Term 3 Primary School GTs

Mondays (mostly) at 9am, PUMP room, on the following dates:

Week 2, Monday July 18
SP Blue (Ben Clark)

Week 4, Note - TUESDAY August 2
Whole School Assembly

Week 5, Monday August 8
Music (Scott Mealy)

Week 7, Monday August 22
SP Red (Mel Dykstra) and Library Book Week

Parents and friends welcome.

Singing Opportunity
Transition Education Conference

Last week the Year 10 students were delegates for Transition Education Conference 2016.

The week was a departure from the typical school timetable. Students received an information package and a ‘show bag’ on Monday morning. They then departed MECS for Mooroolbark Community Centre where they spent the day focussing on preparing for job interviews and talking about the importance of ‘soft skills’.

Tuesday saw the students visiting the Australian Catholic University and Monash University. On a very wet day, the difference between the two in terms of physical space was striking. At ACU, students could see the whole university within two buildings that were set closely together. At Monash, students were required to walk long distances between buildings which was a challenge in the drizzle (thankfully they supplied us with a number of large umbrellas).

Many students commented on how valuable the visits to the universities were simply because it allowed them to get a ‘feel’ for the places. They said they felt more confident about applying for university in the future because they could “see themselves there”.

The rest of the week was spent visiting some TAFE providers, both public and private, receiving important information about the VCE and VCAL, and listening to some inspiring speakers share their career journeys.

There was plenty of yummy food provided throughout the week and lots of opportunity for our students to ask questions and start thinking about their plans for next year and beyond. While not every activity was suited to every student, it was an important program that gave everyone the opportunity to fully understand the options available to them. This will empower them to make more informed choices regarding their future study and careers.

Amelia
Year 10 Coordinator, Careers Coordinator, VETIS Coordinator

Loddon Prison Excursion

Student reflections

The Loddon Prison excursion had to be one of the best excursions I’ve been on. It was so interesting being able to talk to people in real-life situations we’ve been learning about in class.

Sam
It is such a unique experience going to visit jail. The first thing that happened when we met the prisoners was a game called ‘Guess what we’re in for’ where we called out offences they may have committed. We then broke off into 4 groups and heard the prisoners’ side of their crime and experiences. It gave us real insight into their situation.

Sophia
Visiting the prison was an eye-opening experience. Perhaps most interesting was seeing the prisoners’ side of the story. It was also interesting to see the justice system at work, and to decide whether imprisonment is an effective method of rehabilitation.

AJ
It has given me a completely different view on jail. The prisoners we talked to were very down-to-earth and it was interesting to hear their side of the story, (and how different it was to what actually happened).

Chloe
I enjoyed the excursion to Loddon Prison because we got to see what prison is actually like instead of a fictitious/fabricated version we see on TV.

Jade
The prison excursion pushed me beyond my comfort zone, and showed me a new side to the life of a prisoner.

Sophie

Today was a confronting experience because they all seemed like normal people. The trip was definitely worth it.

Anthony
I enjoyed hearing about the reality of prison and how people/inmates see it and feel about it.

Juliette
I enjoyed having an inside look of what prison is like. It was also great to hear the prisoners’ side of the story.

Emily
I enjoyed this day because we got to see life from a prisoner’s view. We also went to KFC and Maccas which was great!

Khosie
We spoke to the prisoners and guards and learnt about the legal process.

Emmi-Lee

The most interesting part of the excursion was hearing the prisoners’ point of view, and then reading the report on the internet. The differences are startling!

Ethan
The excursion gave an interesting insight into how prisons work. I enjoyed hearing the stories and experiences straight from the prisoners.

Sarah
The thing I found most interesting was learning about what really happens in a prison and that it was so much different to what is on TV. It was very confronting listening to their stories of why they were in there and that even the smallest mistake can cause you to end up in trouble.

Koton
I enjoyed the excursion to Loddon Prison because we got to see what prison is actually like instead of a fictitious/fabricated version we see on TV.
Primary Futsal Clinics

Recently the Middle Primary and Senior Primary students had the privilege of spending their PE classes at the Mount Evelyn Futsal Stadium.

For two consecutive weeks each class had the chance to be coached by the venue staff and experience a lot of game time on their high quality courts.

It was fantastic to see students really enjoying themselves and showing improvement in their ball control and kicking skills.

Thanks to the parent helpers who came along for the 2 weeks.

Jason
PS Sport Coordinator

Year 10 Futsal

On Tuesday this week, the Year 10s attended the Futsal tournament. The whole day was a great success. Both the boys and girls' B teams made it to the finals, but despite their best efforts, both teams walked away runners up. All of the teams worked really hard and there was an incredible amount of talent amongst all of the MECS teams. We saw some great goal keeping by Zac and some fantastic defending by Julian. Both Savannah and Georgia excelled during the games and Raylee displayed some great skills on the court. Overall it was a great day and we look forward to next year's tournament.

Ashley
Year 10 Student
**MECS COMMUNITY NOTICES**

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**Calendar**

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<th>2016 Term 2 Week 10: 13 June - 19 June</th>
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**Thur 16 June**
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 Intensives

**Wed 22 - Fri 24 June**
VCE Practice Exams

**2016 Term 3 Week 1: 11 July - 17 July**

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

**Wed 13 July**
Year 10 Zorbe Ball Soccer Incursion

**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

**Fri 22 July**
Years 11/12 Netball & AFL

**2016 Term 3 Week 3: 25 July - 31 July**

**Mon 26 July**
SP Connect Morning Tea 8.45am Staffroom

**Tues 25 July**
Parent Seminar B, 7.30pm Staffroom

**2016 Term 3 Week 4: 1 Aug - 7 Aug**

**Tues 2 August**
Pre Assembly Morning Tea 9am
Whole School Assembly 10am

**Thur 4 August**
Year 10 2017 Information Meeting 7.30pm

**Fri 5 August**
Year 12 Studio Art Excursion

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**Tech Holiday Activities**

**Club Engineer** - Build and program robots with Lego Mindstorms, write then play your own computer games. The junior program is for students from Year 5 to Year 7. The middle and senior school programs are for students from Year 8 and beyond and teaches game programming using a variety of commercial languages and tools. All courseware is available online for free for those who cannot make it to a face-to-face session.

**e2 Young Engineers** – Hands-on LEGO® Challenge workshops where students build educational motorized models like amusement park rides, aircraft, transportation vehicles, cranes etc. Lego kits, battery, motor with visual instructions will be provided.

**Monash University Faculty of Engineering Year 8 Challenge** - Dive into the wonderful world of engineering with six exciting workshops! Registrations are now open.

**PrimeSCI Winter School Holiday Science Workshops** - Full of fun, hands-on science workshops for children from Kindergarten to Year 8 are being held Monday June 27 - Friday July 1.

**Robotic Australia Holiday Camps** - Robotics and technology holiday camps for kids and teens. Programs available every school holiday.

**Scienceworks Winter School Holiday Program** - Bring out your inner inventor at Scienceworks these winter school holidays.

**Chisholm Institute Tech Games Fest!** - A three-day program for Year 9 – 12 and TAFE students interested in the development of games, games culture, ICT networking and other ICT stuff. Theme is Star Wars VS Zombies. June 28-30.

**Invent the World** - Experienced, qualified and passionate staff teach your kids about the world of technology and games! Includes Minecraft, Kerbal, Games Programming, Microcomputers and more.

**Makertronic** - A comprehensive school holiday program of making, creating, electronics and coding. Suitable for ages 7+. Venue: Bialik College.


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**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.

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**Movie Days**

Alvin and the Chipmunks, The Road Chip, Wed June 29 at 10.30am
Zootopia, Wed July 6 at 10.30am

At Discovery Church, 89 Monbulk Road, Mount Evelyn, 9736 2323. Gold coin donation. Sausage sizzle and lollies for sale.

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**Apple Man**

The Apple Man is coming next - Friday July 22 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 July 22.

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**Drum Kit for Sale**

Roland Electronic Drum Kit TD-11. Comes with instruction manual, stool, Iron Cobra 200 kick pedal and an extra cymbal (Roland CY-8 dual trigger cymbal pad). Note that the TD-11 has the mesh head snare drum that handles rim shots, and the cymbals have grab silencing.

$1000, or nearest offer. Call Kylie on 0498 206 705.

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**Montrose Football Club Community Festival**

Sat July 9, 10am-3pm, Montrose Reserve. Food, games, performances and more.

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

- Scholastic Book How to Order Form
- HDRES Letter
- Foundation Notice 2
- Reports