Out in the Bush

Maisie building a shelter during MP Bush Day
Changing Shapes

Late in Term 2 it struck me that the spaces and places our community lives and learns in are changing shape for the better. That’s why I couldn’t resist including Georgia’s poem from the Meaningful Structures chapter from our Transformational Education book.

The first change is actually taking place outside the school gate. It all began more than three years ago when I participated in a Yarra Ranges Council York Road Pedestrian Safety project (they never did come up with an acronym for that). That project identified that more than 21,000 cars travel on York Rd each weekday and that there was indeed a need for a much improved pedestrian crossing.

Fast forward to a little over a month ago when Shaun L, member for Eastern Metropolitan Victoria, came to the school crossing on York Road and announced on behalf of our local member James Merlino that a $490,000 upgrade to the school crossing has been approved. By mid-2017 we will see functioning pedestrian operated traffic lights. This is great news! The changes will make the busy crossing a safer place for our students, the crossing supervisors and the workers from the Yarra View Nursery (most of whom are disabled).

It was beautiful to see Karen D from the nursery with tears in her eyes at this news (she has been a tireless campaigner for justice for people with a disability).

The other planned outcome from the pedestrian safety project was the need for supervised crossings on Hawkins Rd and the York Rd service road. If you drive to school you will see that these crossing points have now been completed. This gives us significant increase in safety for our students as even with teacher supervision these road crossings presented a real risk to those who walk or catch a public bus to and from school.

Changing our physical learning spaces takes lots of hard work and lots of money. The hard work remains, but the money side looks like it is becoming a little easier. At the start of June we received the fabulous news that the Victorian Block Grant Authority has provisionally recommended MECS to receive a $770,000 capital grant from the Commonwealth Government toward the project to expand four middle school classrooms and add to our primary classrooms. That grant will provide about 45% of the value of the works, the rest will come from borrowing.

This most excellent news takes us on a most excellent adventure. The first step of that adventure was to submit further plan details and costings (not very adventurous I hear you say). Having done that, right now we are patiently waiting for the Minister of Education to actually accept the recommendation and so approve the grant. That might happen anywhere from August to October. As long as we have done all that is expected we should be fine in getting it approved and signed off – though there’s still a little nervous energy on my part. The fast track timeframe for the grant means that some initial works will commence by December 1. We’ll have more to say about the entire time line of building works when we have the details. In the meantime please pray that there are no hiccups in the approval process!

One of the learning spaces that has been a part of MECS since its very beginning is the oval. If you have seen the old 1970s film footage of the construction of the school, you will know that the earthworks for the oval were dramatic. There is no doubt that the oval has been a place in which we were not living up to our aspirations for meaningful structures. That is going to change in the next 6 months. In its June meeting the Board approved a project to upgrade the oval. That means in the September break there will be a flurry of activity to install irrigation, drainage and proper sports turf. Of course turf takes time to grow so Term 4 will be one in which we can only look on as the new grass grows and establishes roots – in other words our sport and PE teachers are going to have to get creative. Of course they are over the moon with excitement with the prospect of a beautiful, year round useable sports space.

Change, a space to work, a place to learn...

Gerry
Administration Manager

All Schools State Cross Country Championships

For a handful of MECS students the first day of school holidays was not filled with sleep and movies but instead an early start and nervous anticipation. For the first time in the history of MECS, students who were successful at both Tribal and Inter-school Cross Country were given the opportunity to compete at state level in Athletics Victoria’s ‘All School State Championships’. This also doubled as trials to represent Victoria in the National Championships. The best of the best from Victoria’s top schools were all there and our team, made up of Caleb, Matt, Bree, Saoirse, Erica, Jordan and Talitha, were all extremely competitive, most finishing mid-field with some just missing times required for national selection. The students gave their very best and represented God, MECS, and themselves with integrity. They are to be congratulated on their efforts. We look forward to an exciting future in Sport at MECS as we continue to pursue greater opportunities for students in their God given gifts and passions in sport beyond the inter-school levels.

Luke
SS Sport Coordinator
Welcome back to Term 3

It is always good to welcome a new term, particularly when twelve new students and their families settle in quickly and soon feel part of the MECS community. It was great to also see so many parents at our ‘welcome back’ morning tea. It is a lovely feature of our school that the parents are just as happy to see each other and catch up, as their children! As always, the coming term is packed with exciting learning activities and opportunities to mature in social and spiritual maturity. We pray for God’s blessing and protection over the coming term.

Safety at our Kiss’n’drop zone

Whilst we were pleased to announce some new road safety measures last term, it is still of great concern that our kiss’n’drop zone is not being utilised in a safe manner. Our staff continually report that parents are moving through this zone far too quickly and are not being sufficiently aware of the movement of traffic around them. Of particular concern are families that are allowing children to disembark into the traffic. It is critical that passengers alight directly onto the pathway. We had a near miss last term with a moving car collecting an open door; luckily the children had just moved out of the way. Let’s all do our bit to make sure that every student arrives and leaves safely every day. Thanks for your co-operation.

Staff Workbreak

It was pleasing to see that both teachers and students were able to relax during their holidays knowing all their preparation for the coming term had already been done! We have had very positive feedback from teachers and parents about keeping our terms to a manageable ten weeks and having teacher workbreaks before the holidays. We will keep this in mind for future planning.

Staff News

It is exciting to let you know that two more of our expected babies have arrived! Justine gave birth to a daughter, Ellia Jane last week, and Jess to a son, Maverick John. Check out the photo on Page 4. We celebrate with these families at this exciting time.

However, for other staff there are significant health challenges within their families. In particular, we pray for Alison (Foundation Geckos) and her family, whose father had significant heart surgery over the break and is still in ICU. We pray for his speedy recovery and for those providing expert care for him.

School Calendar

Make sure you check in with our ‘live’ school calendar via the web-site to be across all important dates for the term. You will find details for all parent teacher interviews to be held later in the term, as well as dates for Information Nights, Parent Seminars, Learning Expos and other important events. Whilst we will give you further details along the way, it is good to have some idea of what is coming up to plan those busy family schedules!

FOCUS On... MP

Middle Primary

The word middle often has a harsh reputation. “Caught in the middle”; “The middle of nowhere”; even the ‘middle child’ is a difficult position where you are neither the responsible eldest nor the privileged youngest. However, the same cannot be said for Middle Primary.

I have been in the role of Middle Primary cluster leader for almost 4 years now and a distinct culture has been formed amongst MP students, in their position between Junior and Senior Primary. This culture has been defined in three words: Independent, Mature and Thinkers. They are the three characteristics we strive for each student to be as they journey through and onwards from Middle Primary.

A Middle Primary student is called to be Independent. They might demonstrate this in individual projects, pursuing their own progression of skills or through the small but achievable homework tasks they have to complete. All of these are done with scaffolding, so that they can learn independence within the support of a community.

A Middle Primary student is called to be Mature. We develop their responsibilities so that they can look not just at the immediate challenges they face, but have a mature perspective of the big picture, of where God is leading them. This might be developed in their classroom learning, their personal goals or within social situations – our students learn that they have a responsibility for the consequences of their actions, both positive and negative.

A Middle Primary student is called to be a Thinker. In order for our students to be mature and independent, we develop their thinking skills. Being effective problem solvers who question, critique and analyse what they experience, means that they learn deeply about themselves and how they learn.

It is wonderful to see the journey of our Middle Primary students as they explore these three attributes. And rather than them being “caught in the middle”, our middle children of the Primary School are actively traversing the bridge between the earlier chapters and the chapters ahead.

All
MP Cluster Leader

Primary Division Cross Country

Recently we had 5 students represent our school at the Yarra Division Cross Country event at Yarra Valley racecourse: Julia, Jet, Kyan, Sophie and Pierre.

All 5 students did such a great job on a very tough course. Julia and Sophie placed in the top 12 in their race meaning they went through to the Regional Cross Country event. Unfortunately they didn’t make it past the regional event but did an outstanding job getting there.

Final division placings out of 60 participants:
Julia W - 3rd
Sophie V - 12th
Kyan E - 20th
Jet W - 22nd
Pierre V - 25th

Jason
PS Sports Coordinator
MECS Notes

Jordan’s Winning Website

Jordan (Year 10) is currently studying VET in Schools Certificate III in Media (Interactive Digital Media) at Mount Lilydale Mercy College on a Wednesday afternoon.

The Yarra Valley VET Cluster was looking for a make-over of their website so invited the students in this Media course to come up to come up with a design.

The design was to be clear and easy to use, yet contain all the necessary information. The Yarra Valley VET Cluster members were presented with the website designs and asked to vote on the one that they would most like to see representing their organisation.

We are delighted to report that Jordan’s website received the most votes and will now be put to real life use! Congratulations Jordan on an outstanding design!

Amelia
Year 10 Coordinator, VETIS Coordinator, Careers Coordinator

Celebrating our new babies

Maverick John was born on Sunday morning at 1.30 am to Jess and Nathan.

Ellia Jane was also born on Sunday morning at 2.30 am to Justine and Cameron.

Jess and Justine bumped into each other in hospital and shared this picture of themselves with their babies born just one hour apart.

Friends of MECS

Welcome to Term 3!

It was great to see the students back on Monday and so many parents gathering in the staff room for coffee.

On Monday we welcomed 12 new students into the school - from Kindergarten through to Year 9. It is always an exciting time starting at a new school (and maybe a little bit daunting!) Please help make our new students and families feel welcome.

Nicole
Community Relations

Birthing Kits packing day. Volunteers needed!

Thank you all for your support of our sausage sizzle and donations via the Vision Sisters webpage, we are delighted to say we reached and exceeded our target to raise money for 200 birth packs to go to Ugandan women.

Now it is time to pack! MECS mums - come along and participate in packing 400 clean birthing kits for our sisters in Uganda.

Packing will commence at 9am next Friday July 22 in the PUMP room. Morning tea together will follow.

Please RSVP your interest to Simone 0422 111 476 or sanddfraser@gmail.com

The Mind: ‘Enter the Labyrinth’

Psychology Excursion

Why does the moon look so much larger when on the horizon than when it is high in the sky? Are people’s behaviours influenced more by the group they belong to or by their individual beliefs? These are just some of the questions the Unit 2 Psychology students will be investigating this term. Recently, the students visited the Melbourne Museum and went on a self guided tour through ‘The Mind: Enter the Labyrinth’ exhibition at the museum that explores topics such as visual illusions, group behaviour, mental illness and brain processes, which are part of the Unit 1 & 2 study design. The interactive exhibition gave students an opportunity for hands on learning as they explored how behaviour and mental processes are shaped and how external factors influence behaviour.

Shannon
Psychology Teacher

Justine’ Baby Shower

We wanted to send our beloved Justine off with a Middle Primary Baby Shower. We had food (of course) and activities such as Pin the Dummy on the Baby, Guess the Baby Photo of our MP students and card making with messages of encouragement for new parents to be. At the end, MPR were able to present their basket of gifts for Mum and bubs that some of their parents had put together. Thank you to Kate and Naomi for organising this gift hamper and great day.

Alistair
Middle Primary Cluster Leader
Middle Primary - Bush Day

As a wonderful and memorable learning experience at the end of our Term 2 Core Studies topic, Australia: The Country The People, our Middle Primaries headed off for a Bush Day. It was a cold but sunny Melbourne Winter’s morning when we headed up to Upper Yarra Reservoir for some bush hut building games, indoor team challenges and an Aussie BBQ. We had so much fun together as a community that we were reluctant to travel home… until the wet weather arrived as we got on the bus, that is. A big thank you to the parents, staff and particularly Mr Beams for making it possible!

Alistair
Middle Primary Cluster Leader

MECS Notes

Save the Date: Term 3 Parent Teacher Meetings

Week 8 Wednesday August 31
Secondary interviews 4pm-9pm

Week 9 Monday September 5
Primary interviews 3:45-6pm
Secondary interviews 4-6pm

Week 9 Thursday September 8
Primary interviews 3:45-9pm
Secondary interviews 4-9pm

Week 10 Tuesday September 13
Primary interviews 3:45-6pm

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 with an Olympic Twist (Scott Mealy)

Week 6, Monday August 15
‘Tournament of the Minds’ presentation with SP Enrichment Group

Week 7, Monday August 29
SP Red (Mel Dykstra) and Library Book Week

Week 9, Monday September 5
Focus on Allergies

Week 10, Monday September 12
Foundation to Year 9 Enrichment Day with Alan Dickson

Parents and friends welcome.

Singing Opportunity

During each Wednesday lunchtime of Term 3, Lance 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
Year 7 Futsal

The Year 7 Futsal day was a fun and encouraging day. The students displayed great sportsmanship, worked really well in their teams and all did a great job representing the school.

The Girls A team ended their final in a draw which meant both teams went home with a flag. The Boys A team went the whole day undefeated and won their final by 2 goals.

Jason
PS Sports Coordinator

Empowering Girls Mother - Daughter Night

In the last week of term, all the Year 6 girls brought their mums along to school for the annual ‘Empowering Girls Mother Daughter Evening’. This event is the culmination of the Empowering Girls program that ran throughout Term 2, as well as a great opportunity to nurture our mother/daughter relationships. During the evening we played some games and spent some time encouraging each other by identifying each other’s strengths and gifts. We spent a lot of time laughing and the evening was definitely a highlight in the program this year. A big thank you to all the mums and daughters for coming along and getting so involved! Also thanks to Hannah for preparing a wonderful supper.

Olivia
Middle School Art / Senior Primary Numeracy Teacher

Instrumental Music Lessons at MECS

Winter is a great time to start learning an Instrument...

We currently have some vacancies in piano, keyboard, guitar, bass guitar, singing, violin and drums.

Did you know...?

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

And...it’s fun!!

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

Questions or queries? Contact Penny pmentiplay@mecs.vic.edu.au.
Year 10 Work Experience

I did work experience at a hospital specialising in rehabilitation and palliative care as I want to work in medicine, hopefully as a surgeon. I found the experience very rewarding. My supervisor was able to get me following someone around from all of the jobs that the hospital offers. My favourite times were when I went on rounds with a Geriatrician and his junior doctor and when I was able to sit in on a consultation with a doctor who specialises in memory.

Beth

I did work experience at a café in Lilydale. My role at the café included making coffees, preparing food, making a range of different drinks, taking orders and cleaning. I learnt a lot about how to make coffees really well, from how to do the shot correctly to latte art. When I was working at the café I was always busy doing something to help out and it was quiet I would just wash the dishes. The café I worked at offered a free lunch which was a bonus. I learnt a lot during the time I was there. I realised as a part time job I would prefer to work in a café.

Isabelle

I did my work experience at a Pet Shop for a week. The shop was located in Lilydale. My role at the Pet Shop was to clean the shop and to help the staff. I found this job very challenging as I had to work hard but I definitely have a greater appreciation for their work.

Elifie

For work experience I went to an Early Learning Centre. I enjoyed being there - the staff were very friendly. Most of them were good to work with and welcoming. I enjoyed the company of the children. Most of them were very friendly and comfortable with me and they enjoyed my company as I enjoyed theirs. I found the most challenging time was when the children were misbehaved and it could be difficult to know or to work out what to do in that situation.

Kaylie

For my work experience I went to a bike shop for a week. I really enjoyed working there, and I learnt a lot. Some of the things I did included building, cleaning and moving bikes. I also spent time cleaning the shop and rearranging stock. I learnt a lot about the way bikes work and how to service and maintain them. Working there for a week has left me with a good impression of what that kind of work looks like, and will help me in the future when looking for work.

Jake

For my work experience I went to a design company. While a small company they do work within many different aspects of design, such as graphic design and advertising communication. This meant that while I was on work experience I got to see a fair amount of work. I got to work on making my own ad campaign for a product of my choice, from the supermarket. This included sketching ideas for ads, taking photographs of the product and using computer programs to make the final ad. During the week I also got to see clips for a film being put together that the company had been working on. I learnt more about film production and some of the techniques that had been used when they were filming and in the editing stage. This week was a good chance to see what working in design is like.

Josh

My work experience placement was at a nearby café. The environment was very welcoming, I had great support and help from the staff there. The staff were all very nice and never left me bored with nothing to do. I got to try new things and expand my knowledge on other things. Unfortunately the first day I started I was told that the dishwasher was broken, so I spent a lot of my time doing dishes. Every day I got more confident and comfortable and got to do more things like waiting on people, taking orders, preparing drinks, taking food to tables, etc. I was quite surprised with how well I coped with all the tough busy work that I completed. It gave me confidence and reassurance that I can achieve anything with determination and support.

Bio21 wasn’t your ‘stereotypical’ work experience. To start, unlike a regular work experience you don’t shadow someone but instead get taught through a series of lectures. Quite a lot of what we did, involved seminars and viewing the work of the scientists who are experts in their field of bioscience, specifically the study of diseases. We also got to do a little bit of highly regulated lab work. But as this is so hard to organise and do there wasn’t all that much time spent within the lab area. At the beginning of the week no one knew each other but as the week progressed we built friendships. Although many of the people came from completely different walks of life and cultures we were united in the field of science and became very good friends. The scientists were very interesting and each one shared what they do and what they had to do to get there. Sometimes it made you feel a bit overwhelmed, nevertheless, I was still inspired by their devotion and hope to pursue a career down this pathway - possibly.

Benjamin

I did my work experience at Coldstream Primary School. It was made less daunting by the fact that I knew quite a few of the students and most of the teachers because I was there from Foundation – Year 6. The whole week was exhausting. The kids had an incredible amount of energy that was near impossible to keep under control, yet somehow the teachers found ways to get them to concentrate. I was spread throughout all of the classes over the week, I had a couple kids who got very attached to me and were quite upset when I tried to explain why I had to go home and couldn’t go to ‘After School Care’. I always knew that teachers worked hard but I definitely have a greater appreciation for their work and what they do after this week.

Sarah

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Sarah

For my work experience I worked at a Pet Shop for a week. The 8 hours went by really fast and I had a great time. At the beginning of the week, the other girl doing work experience and myself were given the task of changing the reptiles’ water and food, which was far more difficult than we expected. However, the second day we were given the task of cleaning out the bird cages, and I learnt very quickly how to do it. We also had to do a lot of cleaning the shelves and a lot of vacuuming. The worst was when I had to vacuum the dusty floor. I nearly broke the vacuum cleaner by sucking up too many dead bugs. I learned a lot throughout all of the classes over the week, to get them to concentrate. I was Spread throughout all of the classes over the week, I had a couple kids who got attached to me and were quite upset when I tried to explain why I had to go home and couldn’t go to ‘After School Care’. I always knew that teachers worked hard but I definitely have a greater appreciation for their work and what they do after this week.
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.

Children’s Work Benches for Sale
Hand crafted and polished work bench, pine with hardwood top. Perfect for children 4-5 years of age. Nice and safe with rounded edges.

This design will give hours of fun. Vice not included.

No assembly required. Great for cubby houses or kindergartens.

Order in time for Christmas. Dimensions: Bench top 600x300mm; height 550mm to 700mm. Cupboard size 200mm deep and 400mm wide.

Workbench Price: $250.

Call Ranges TEC on 9738 7100 and ask and to speak with Lachlan Dalglish or email: office@rangestec.vic.edu.au.

Guide for a Day
Visit different countries and learn about different cultures - jump on the Girl Guide Plane and spend a day exploring the world with other girls. From an African Safari to sight seeing in Europe there will be food, games and crafts in an action-packed adventure!

Sunday July 24, 10am-3pm, Mount Evelyn Girl Guide Hall - Wedderburn Crescent. For any girl aged 5-12. Cost $10 - covers lunch and activities. Book your ticket by emailing quollsguiding@gmail.com.

Mount Evelyn Cricket Club
Junior Registration Day
Friday August 12, M.E.C.C Clubrooms (Tramway Rd), 4.30pm-6.00pm.

Girls & Boys welcome for groups in U10s, U12s, U14s & U16s. Games held on Saturday mornings.

Registration cost $140 (second child $100) and includes: League registration, club shirt, club cap and end of season trophy.

Registration forms available on-line or contact Tim Heaphy: 0434 532 707, tim@metalbuild.com.au.

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.

Gapuwiyak Girri Opp Shop
Hey friends, can you help us out?

Gapuwiyak Girri Opp Shop is run by the Bush Miyalks, a women’s group in Gapuwiyak community, Arnhem Land, NT.

We need donations of kids clothes, baby clothes, women's tops/long skirts, men’s t-shirts/shorts, sheets and towels. Please remember clothing needs to be culturally appropriate and suitable for a warm climate.

All the money raised goes to supporting community activities and employment projects.

Donations can be dropped in to the main office labelled Di Emery.

Bek Ingamells (nee Emery)
Christmas in July
Community Leaders Lunch
Sumptuous 2 course luncheon prepared and served by a partnership of talented young people from Interchange Outer East, Ranges TEC and Tasty Az. Prior to lunch spend time meeting the entrepreneurial youth of our community from Ranges TEC whilst exploring their expo of products and innovations on display.

Tues July 26. Expo 11.30am-12.15pm. Lunch 12.15-1.30pm, ‘The Dining Room’ 111 Mangans Road, Lilydale. Parking available. Bus route 676 from Lilydale train station. $35 per person or $25 for Seniors.

All funds raised contribute to our exciting new community kitchen learning garden project in partnership with other Yarra Ranges Community Organisations