It's Racing Time!

Sam and Henry ready to race in their Billy Cart named ‘The Flash’
Fan or Follower?

I’m an enthusiastic fan of my children’s sport. Most Saturdays you will find me cheering on the Ignite Scorpions or Surrey Park Panthers. I don’t mind a little inconvenience: a wet, cold day at a suburban footy oval is not enough to turn me off; I take my turn to score and provide the lollies at netball; I pay my membership fees and buy my tickets for the meat tray raffle each week. I’m a pretty committed fan, costing me time and money each week! However, I’m not interested in getting dirty, or injured, or having to put in extra time for training or other responsibilities. I’m happy just being a fan – turning up once a week and doing my little bit. I’m too busy for anything more, I have other priorities...

Kyle I in his book, ‘Not a Fan’ suggests that the church is full of ‘Jesus fans,’ but not enough followers! Too many people who are happy to be fans as long as it doesn’t cost them too much or take away from other things that are important to them. Too few people are willing to be followers. He writes, “A concern I have with our churches today is that when we gather together, I think there is the possibility that instead of a community of followers we are nothing more than a stadium full of fans. Where we may wear a cross, but we don’t bear the cross. You can come to church, know all the songs, open your Bible and take notes, walk out to your car with a Jesus fish on the bumper and say grace before lunch, but that doesn’t necessarily make you a follower.”

The Bible provides an interesting cameo of a man who moved from being a fan to a follower. In fact, at the beginning he was hardly even a fan! We first meet Nicodemus in John 3. He is one of the seventy-two men who serve on the Sanhedrin, the Jewish Ruling Council. He would have been a respected, wealthy and revered man, well known in his community. He would have known and heard about Jesus and what he was doing. And yet in verse 2, we find him sneaking off under the cover of darkness to meet Jesus. I get the impression from the limited narrative that he was probably intrigued by Jesus, perhaps begrudgingly admired him. But he knew that his reputation was at risk if he sought him out in daylight. He didn’t want this Jesus character to inconvenience him too much or disrupt his good life. And yet... there was something that drew him in as a reluctant fan!

In Chapter 7, we find Nicodemus has moved closer to being a follower. He speaks out aligning himself with the truth about who Jesus really is, protesting against the course of action his fellow religious leaders were taking against Christ. This probably cost him his job and reputation, and perhaps even his family and friends. Finally, in Chapter 19, we find that Nicodemus is one of the friends that takes care of Jesus’ body after his crucifixion; wrapping it and anointing it with herbs and spices that he has provided.

Kyle Idleman speaks into this issue by sharing this insight: “I grew up thinking it was my knowledge and my good behavior that made me a follower. I loved Jesus and I knew a lot about Jesus — but I didn’t know Jesus. I wasn’t talking to him about my day — I wasn’t listening for him to speak into my life. See, a lot of us don’t mind Jesus once a week on Sunday. We don’t mind making some minor change in our lives but Jesus wants to turn our lives upside down – we want him to do a little touch up work, but Jesus wants complete renovation – we come thinking tune-up but Jesus is thinking overhaul – we think just a little makeup is what we need and Jesus is thinking makeover. We think a little decorating is required, and Jesus wants a complete remodel.”

Our school mission statement is about providing learning experiences that challenge each student to actively live for God in His world. Can you do this only being a fan, or do you need to be a follower to do this really well? As a Christian school, are we satisfied when our students are simply fans or do we hope and pray for more? How would you describe yourself – a fan or follower?

These are good questions to be reflecting on in a world that seems to encourage shallow and temporary attachments, rather than deep and committed relationships. Let us be a community of followers, instead of a stadium of fans!

Wow! What a transformation from reluctant fan to complete follower. The reality for most Christians is that it is easy for us to move backwards and forwards from being a fan to follower. Or to think that knowing about Jesus is the same as knowing Jesus.

Narelle

MECS Principal

SP Poetry Incursion

This term, Senior Primary will be investigating Poetry. To kick start our unit we had a visit from performance Poet, Cameron S. Cam told us how he became a poet and what a poet did. He performed some of his poetry for us and helped us write our own poetry, where we compared ourselves to our favourite animal. We learnt some interesting things about poetry:

- poetry is not all soppy love stuff
- poetry doesn’t have to rhyme
- imagining things in our head before we write helps us write better poetry
- poetry performance can be really dynamic and interesting to watch
- we all can write poetry!

Mel
Assistant Primary Coordinator & Senior Primary Coordinator
Board Strategic Planning Day

Last Saturday the Board, Gerry and myself met together for a Strategic Planning Day. Geoff from Northern Territory Christian Schools was our facilitator and he did a great job bringing together the various ideas and priorities of the Board. Part of this process has also been the development of a 2017-2019 Teaching and Learning Master Plan by the Senior Leadership Team of the school. As these important plans are finalised, we look forward to bringing them to the Association for reflection, before bringing them to the wider school community. Please continue to pray for our Board and school leadership as we seek God’s direction for the coming years.

Billy Cart Races

Last Friday afternoon the much anticipated Year 6 Billy Cart races were held. This was held over from last term when the weather was a bit wet on the final day of school, and was the culmination of the Year 6 Positive Boys program held last term. Complementing this was the Empowering Girls program which finished with a lovely mother and daughter evening. Both of these programs are designed to provide an opportunity for gender specific conversations and activities that will challenge and equip our Year 6 students to grow and mature in God-honouring ways. We appreciate the way that Ben and Olivia have facilitated these programs so effectively in recent years.

Staff Meetings

You might be interested to know what our teaching staff do when your children go home each day. Well, we have just published our schedule of meetings for this term. Over the coming weeks, there are thirty-four different meetings that have been scheduled! Generally these happen on Monday and Tuesday afternoons, and can range from whole staff meetings, section meetings, conversations around specific issues or topics, right through to collaborative planning and reporting. This is on top of the time scheduled for parent-teacher interviews at the end of the term. Our teachers and learning assistants are working hard to provide the best and most appropriate teaching and learning opportunities that they can and these meetings are pivotal in making sure they have the time and support needed to do this.

Kinder Focus

Last Friday I had the opportunity to pop down to the Kinder as the 4 year old groups welcomed their grandparents and special friends to join in some of their activities. It was great to see so many smiles from all parties as children showed off some of their favourite things. Presently in the kinder piazza, there is a lovely reflection on the way our Kinder is embraced by our whole school community. During the recent workbreak, staff participated in a prayer walk around the school. When we visited the Kinder we were invited to use our fingerprints to draw something original and offer a prayer for our kindergarten families. In this way we were able to acknowledge that our youngest and some of our newest families are an important and vital part of who we are as a school.

FOCUS On... Justice

In visiting the Victorian County Court the Legal Studies students were provided with an opportunity to speak one-on-one with the presiding judge, and so glean some insights into the workings of our legal system. What was particularly poignant about the judge’s reflections, being in the legal profession for over 30 years and working closely with Aboriginal communities throughout Australia, was that our treatment of our Indigenous brothers and sisters is worsening. Incarceration rates were around 30% and 20% higher for indigenous juveniles and adults respectively. This is subsequent to the Royal Commission findings in the 1980s, which were meant to assist in the alleviation of this discrepancy.

The issue of seeking justice is a complex one requiring much thought, collaboration and at the end of the day a heart transformation. It is wonderful to know that we serve a God who reveals what justice is through His very character, e.g. fair and equal treatment of all, no favouritism, as well as an exhortation to put love into action. To know Him gives us good reasons to seek justice. As stated in Micah 6:8, the task is ‘To do justice, love kindness and mercy and walk humbly with your God.’

Pursuing justice within and outside of the legal system is a requirement of all who call themselves followers of Jesus. As Timothy Keller says in his book called Generous Justice, Most people know that Jesus came to bring forgiveness and grace. Less well known is the biblical teaching that a true experience of the grace of Jesus Christ inevitably motivates a man or woman to seek justice in the world. As the book of James points out, faith and deeds go hand in hand.

Our desire for all MECS students is that by the time they leave our school they will not only have a passion for Jesus, but because of that passion they will actively seek justice in all areas of life, the legal system included. That is why we have developed innovative programs like the Mock Court Case and Mock Wedding, to enable our students to engage with the legal system and so discover ways in which they can be bringers of justice.

Sharon
Year 12 Coordinator, Legal Studies Teacher
**MUSIC Notes**

**Coordinator Change**

It has been great to have Penny Mentiplay as our Instrumental Coordinator this year.

We are thankful as a community for what she has brought to the program and how she has supported our Instrumental staff. Unfortunately Penny is unable to continue in this role for the remainder of the year. In light of this, Annora will be coordinating the Instrumental and Performance Program at school for the rest of the year.

Her contact details are: ahummerston@mecs.vic.edu.au

**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 Annora ahummerston@mecs.vic.edu.au.

**Singing Opportunity**

During each Wednesday lunchtime of Term 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**

---

**Friends of MECS**

**Birthing Kits packing day - tomorrow!**

Tomorrow morning a group of volunteer Mums will be packing 400 clean birthing kits for expectant Mums in Uganda (we fund raised for these last term with a sausage sizzle).

If you are free to come and help please sign in at the office and head to the PUMP room at 9am. Many hands make light work! Morning tea will be provided.

**Nicoles**  
**Community Relations**

**Four Funerals and a Wedding**

The Year 9/10 Performing Arts class will be heading off to Emerald this Saturday to perform their play ‘Four Funerals and a Wedding’ in the Dandenong Ranges One Act Play Festival. This is a great opportunity for our students to take their creative ventures into the wider community. Last minute costume and prop gathering and rehearsals are happening this week so wish us ‘Break a Leg!’ If you want to come along and support the students, we are performing in the 3.15pm session. Tickets are sold at the door for $12 for the session.

**Marlene**  
**Drama Teacher**

---

**Emily & Jemimah**  
**Beth & Britney**  
**Alecia & Kira**  
**Zarah**  
**Megan, Ashley, Caitlyn, Tara & Hope**  
**Declan**  
**Lily**
Whooping Cough

Last week one of our Foundation students was diagnosed with Whooping Cough. The child was only at school on Monday July 11 (first day of Term), and we have taken all steps recommended by the Health Department to minimise any risk to the health of the other students. We believe that the risk that the illness has spread is extremely low.

The highest risk category for Whooping Cough include babies and mothers in the last month of pregnancy. If you have any concerns about your child’s health, please see your doctor.

Natasha
Enrolments & Office Manager

Term 3 Primary School GTs

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

- 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.

Save the Date: Term 3 Parent Teacher Meetings

- Week 8 Wednesday August 31
  Secondary meetings 4pm-9pm
- Week 9 Monday September 5
  Primary meetings 3:45-6pm
  Secondary meetings 4-6pm
- Week 9 Thursday September 8
  Primary meetings 3:45-9pm
  Secondary meetings 4-9pm
- Week 10 Tuesday September 13
  Primary meetings 3:45-6pm

Year 10 PE

In Year 10, PE students have the option to choose between 6 different electives across the year. Each elective focuses on a specific game type (invasion, net and wall, striking and fielding) or movement type (human movement rhythm and fitness, or human movement strength and conditioning). This approach is aimed to give students a choice of a variety of sports so they can choose one that suits them best and that equips them to feed into local sporting clubs and gyms, and to utilise local recreational facilities as they move on from compulsory sport in school as they exit Year 10. At the conclusion of each unit students have the opportunity to go on an excursion that builds on what they have learnt and brings a fun aspect and/or a connection to the community.

Invasion game students played zorb ball soccer in the gym. As the majority of the students in this unit already play competitive sport in local clubs, this was a great way to celebrate the semester by playing an invasion game with a twist. The Year 11 physics students even dropped in for a go using the excuse that they were studying the coefficient of restitution, force, mass, acceleration and other such concepts. All the students had a great time and it was a great way to finish off the elective.

The human movement elective visited Fernwood gym in Ferntree Gully. The girls were able to participate in a 45 minute step class that worked aerobic capacity and muscular endurance. It was a great opportunity for the girls to visit a female only gym and think about what sort of physical activity they could regularly include in their weekly routines. The girls also came away with a magazine and a free pass if they wish to try the gym out more in their own time.

Luke & Emma
Sports Teachers

Literacy Fun

As part of a Year 10 Literacy class several students taught their peers a skill. This formed the basis for a VCAL ‘Oracy for Practical Purposes’ outcome and involved students planning, bringing the resources and teaching their peers something that they may have never done before.

Callum taught ‘drifting’ on a drift bike, Ben taught frisbee skills, Alex taught students how to whistle with their fingers, while Lachie taught his class mates how to make two different types of paper planes. All boys did an amazing job and everyone had a ball. Who said that ‘literacy’ was boring?
Positive Boys

Blokes Night

At the end of last term Year 6 boys had Bloke's night with their dads and other blokes. In the evening the boys and dads went to play Skittles and the adults won of course. After that game of Skittles we went to the Middle School Staffroom where our food was getting cooked. While we waited for our food we did this activity with our adult that came with us and talked about what we appreciated about each other.

After dinner we started to auction our billy carts. Henry got to keep our billy cart after he bought it for a record $160.

It was a great evening for the Year 6 boys and for the men who came along to support us.

Caleb SPB

On the last Thursday of Term 2 we had the Year 6 boys and a special man in their life come to MECS for the annual Blokes Night. We got to have heaps of fun and played Skittles against the men. The older blokes won, 2-1.

We had a very yummy dinner that was a BBQ and ice creams for dessert. We also talked with the blokes about what we liked about them and then got to auction off the billy carts with the money going to a very good cause. It was a fantastic night.

A special thanks to Mr Ben and also to Mr Peter.

Sam SPG

A few weeks ago the Year 6 boys had a Blokes night where we had lots of fun. We had a skittles match (Dads won) we also had awesome food. Later we talked about what we like about our Dads and what they like about us Year 6 boys. We also had a billy cart auction with the money going to Jinja Christian School Uganda. I would like to say thanks to all the Dads that came along and had a good time with us.

Jed SPR

Billy Cart race

Last term the Year 6 boys started to build their billy carts as part of the Positive Boys program. This term we raced them. All the carts were painted and ready to roll. The carts names were The Flash, Raptors, Red Bull Racing, Superman, Nightmare, Kart Crushers and Meteorites. Mr Clark showed us the track and we walked it first as the anticipated race awaited us. The track is four laps of the car park and oval; at the end of the car park the teams were able to switch their drivers. All the drivers sat in their carts quietly. Mr Ben shouted GO and the carts were off. The Raptors won this after a tight race right to the end. We also got do a time trial of one lap of the car park with Red Bull Racing winning by a slender margin.

Daniel SPG

Last Friday the Year 6 boys had their billy cart race. Groups of Year 6 boys had completed the billy carts in their separate groups with all different names. There were two competitions that each group competed in. The main race was great and there was also a time trial. A group called the Raptors won the main event. My group came second last and the nut from the axel came off so we couldn’t do the time trial. So my team made a deal with a group called The Flash and we got to use their cart in the time trial. The Red Bull team won this by only 3 hundredths of a second.

Jackson SPB

We’re on the hill ready to start. Chatter everywhere and nervousness fills the air. Mr Clark tells us READY... SET... GO! Bumping, pushing 1st, 2nd, 3rd everyone wants to win. Around the car park over to the oval around the oval back to the car park PIT STOP! We all change over and off for 3 more laps, 2 more laps, and then the final lap! My team’s ahead, almost there and we won, yes! Now the time trials. We are up last and we have to beat 19.72sec READY... SET... GO! We’re off! We only need to go around the car park and we cut the corner coming up and across the line. Mr Ben’s face looks amazed. He says "The Raptors (my team) time is 19.7......5"! So close! The Billy Cart race was epic.

Rian SPR
Friday July 15 was Grandparents and Special Friends day for the four year old children in the Kinder. There was great excitement and anticipation for the arrival of the special visitors. The children completed a family tree together and took great joy in showing their visitors around the kinder. It was so beautiful watching small clusters of family playing together! Grandparents enjoyed cutting, pasting, painting and even having a run outside! This visit sparks off our thinking about family, and how God’s plan is for little children to grow up with their family. Family is a community, which will lead us to then investigate the wider community in which we live. Thank you to all our special visitors, we hope you enjoyed your time in our kinder community!

Wendy
Early Years Coordinator
Free Guinea Pig
3 week old male guinea pig, free to good home. Call Michelle, 0430 229 116.

Pest Warriors
Pest Warriors has been established for 35 years. We are offering MECS families a free mouse treatment with any treatment purchased. Pest control services from $80
Contact Nick (MECS parent) on 0400 970 094

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. Cupboard size 200mm deep and 400mm wide.
Workbench Price: $250.
Call Ranges TEC on 9738 7100 and ask: tim@metalbuild.com.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.