Morning Tea
9am
Whole School
Assembly 10am
Tues Aug 2

Year 12 Biology Excursion
Paige loading a gel to separate DNA fragments by electrophoresis
Recently you may have seen articles in the newsletter relating to our ‘Positive Boys’ and ‘Empowering Girls’ programs that run for Year 6 students - and I bet you wanted to know more about these great programs and how they tie in with what we are trying to do at MECS!

The focus of this editorial is Positive Boys, run for Year 6 boys. My role, as I see it, is to help these young men be the best image bearers of Christ that they can be, with Positive Boys being one of the many tools that MECS uses to help facilitate this.

Positive Boys is run for Senior Primary boys (and Empowering Girls is run for the girls) once a week for two periods in both a whole and small group setting. It incorporates a number of the goals from the MECS Transformational Education model, with which you may be familiar. In this model, each of the letters of ‘Transformational’ represents a core understanding of Christian teaching and learning. I will focus on a couple of these throughout my unpacking of Positive Boys, but first let me explain a bit about what actually happens in the program.

The Positive Boys program begins with a challenge day at Camp Oasis. The boys work in teams to complete an array of challenges including archery, flying fox, ropes course and initiatives. The day focuses on teamwork, communication and the building of camaraderie between the boys before we get into the term ahead. The grand finale of the day is the ‘Crate Climb’ where boys are strapped into a harness and get to see how many crates they can stack on top of one another without falling off. You can see that the Transformational Education element of Active Learning runs deep already, giving students immersion in rich, new experiences, discovering learning through teamwork and being taken outside of their comfort zones.

Throughout the remainder of the term, the boys have the opportunity to design and build their own Billy Carts. For some, this is the first time they have built something on a larger scale in a team setting. It caters for the boys who love using tools as well as the artistic members of each group who have the opportunity to put forward design ideas for their decorations on their team’s billy cart. This component of the program lends itself to the Adventurous Methodologies part of the Transformational model. The building of carts in teams stimulates a rich range of learning responses from the experience of discovery, curiosity and discernment as well as the experiences of awe, wonder and delight.

While building carts is one component of the program, there is also a 10-15 timeslot at the start of each session to share together in devotions. The aim of this time is to give these young men an opportunity to discuss what ‘being a man’ really means in today’s society, with a focus on biblical teaching, as well as to discuss and challenge some of the misconceptions and stereotypes that go along with being a ‘bloke’ in today’s world. I see this as a vitally important part of the program as soon, these boys will be people of influence in the community and leading the next generation.

While I get to do a lot of the talking and sharing, equally as important are some of the other men who come in as guest speakers, or to help us with the hands-on component of the program in building the carts. Peter, Steve, Simon, Jason and Tim have all had a part to play in the program this year. Pastor Liam also joined us at the start of the unit as our guest speaker. It is essential for the boys to be surrounded by positive role models, not only in the school setting but also through influential guest speakers from the community. All these men who invest their time and teachings into the program, are such an invaluable resource.

When the carts are all finished and looking like they have just rolled off the showroom floor, we take them out and compete in our annual Billy Cart Race. The boys get to complete a circuit of a part of our school grounds and also compete in a time challenge race as well around a smaller circuit.

The program culminates in a significant evening with the boys inviting their dads, or other significant male, along to ‘Bloke’s Night’. The boys get to challenge their dads in a MECS-favourite game of ‘Skittles’, and then share in some time together asking one another questions and discussing what they love and appreciate in one another. This challenges stereotypes and ‘male norms’ giving the men and their Positive Boys a chance to communicate together and share openly. Personally, I know communication for men can sometimes be a struggle but with this approach we allow boys and their men a chance to be intentional in what they share.

We all then enjoy a BBQ together with the boys and the school being able to bless the men with a nice meal and time of community. The Relational Community aspect of the Transformational model is evident here with boys and their significant males continuing to build relationships in a nurturing environment, along with staff who have contributed to the program.

To top the night off, the Billy Carts are auctioned off, with all proceeds going to Jinja Christian School in Uganda.

Finally, my passion for Positive Boys is that it reflects the Transformational goal of Student Oriented - each student is seen as a unique individual, made in God’s image and gifted by him.

While the Positive Boys program changes and develops each year, it continues to be a highlight for both the boys and the staff involved. I am passionate and excited about the growth I see in the boys each year, and love having the opportunity to implement some of the goals of Transformational education into my teaching via this program.

Ben
Assistant Primary Coordinator & Senior Primary Coordinator
SKETCHER’S SCOOP

Year 9 & 10 Performing Arts Performance

It was great to see our Year 9 & 10 Performing Arts students perform in the Yarra Ranges One Act Festival again this year. They performed another original work, written and directed by drama teacher Marlene, entitled ‘Four Funerals and a Wedding’. The students did a fabulous job and were recognised for their efforts by winning ‘Best Production’ in the youth category as well as a number of individual awards. See more on Page 4. Marlene was recognised with a ‘Best Director’ award. Congratulations to the whole ensemble on such a wonderful effort. The students will be performing this play on Thursday September 1, in our own Theatrette, so if you can come along and support these students you will be in for a great nights’ entertainment!

Parent Seminars

On Tuesday night, Di and I were pleased to spend a couple of hours with fifteen or so of our newer parents as we shared some of the important things that underpin the vision and mission of our school. The recognition that we are shaped by some sort of story that informs our worldview and the challenge, therefore, of living out of a biblical worldview was presented. As parents and teachers, we were encouraged to ‘claim back’ and celebrate our role as one of the main ‘story-tellers’ in our children’s lives. Thanks to those who attended and your willingness to engage in discussion around these ideas.

Information Nights in the Senior School

Over the next two Thursday nights, the Senior School will host important Information Nights for parents and students as they transition into, and through, the Senior School. Tonight crucial information about VCE subject selection and entrance to tertiary courses will be presented to our Year 10s. Next week, the Year 9 students will hear about all that awaits them in Year 10. If you are unable to attend, please contact Roger (VCE Coordinator), Emma (Senior School Coordinator) or Amelia (VET Coordinator) with any questions or concerns. We look forward to seeing you there!

Yarra Ranges Tech School

Over the last eighteen months our school has been part of conversations in regard to the Yarra Ranges Tech School. This is an initiative by the State Government to develop a facility that will use leading edge technology and innovation to prepare students for the jobs of tomorrow! The aim is to provide students from around the region with the opportunity to attend learning sessions and activities at the learning centre throughout the year to enrich and support their school based learning. Due to open in 2017, this is one of ten centres which are part of the Victorian Government’s $128 million Tech School initiative. We’re not sure what our involvement and access will look like at this stage, but we will keep you posted!

FOCUS On... Student Leadership

This term has seen the launch of the revised and restored Student Leadership Program for the Secondary School. The new model is one of portfolios, rather than year level leaders. There are four portfolios:

1. Culture – providing opportunities for students to influence and direct positive Christian culture in all areas of the school.
2. Community – providing opportunities for students to interact with the school and wider community through event planning and participation.
3. Sport – allowing directed opportunities for students to speak into the sporting events, carnivals and resources – and helping to facilitate a culture of celebration and participation.
4. Environment – finding ways for students to help manage and direct the environmental strategies used by the school, and also provide ways to encourage their peers to be good stewards of God’s world.

The Portfolio Model was developed in order to work at increasing the number of students who can be involved in student leadership, as well as working with students’ areas of passion and gifting.

After an application process, 34 students were approved for varying roles within the leadership team; a wonderful example of their commitment to living with their Heads, Hearts and Hands, which is just one facet of our Transformational Approach to education: ‘Ideally, learning is holistic; it aims to instruct the mind, shape the heart and equip the hand. Holistic learning generates wisdom and shapes character; it is a whole life formation.’

Over the course of the next 18 months (and beyond), these student leaders will be stretched and challenged in a variety of ways as part of their ‘whole life’ formation. They will be taught how to manage ideas, stay connected with the overarching vision of the school, plan events, learn from mentors and develop their own skills and capacity as a leader. The student leaders will participate in a variety of events and training opportunities, including the CEN Student Leadership Camp, which is taking place this week.

I look forward to seeing what the months ahead bring in the area of student leadership. Let’s pray for these young leaders that they will grow in both skill and wisdom, as they actively serve God in this community.

Karissa
Assistant Principal - Secondary
MUSIC Notes
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.

MECS Notes
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)
- Week 6, Monday August 15 ‘Tournament of the Minds’ presentation with SP Enrichment Group
- Week 7, Monday August 29 SP Red (Mel) and Library Book Week
- Week 9, Monday September 5 Focus on Allergies

Parents and friends welcome.

Four Funerals and a Wedding

Last Saturday, July 23 the Year 9 and 10 Performing Arts group competed in the Dandenong Ranges One Act Play Festival. We performed Four Funerals and a Wedding written by Marlene, a production we have been rehearsing and organising since the start of the year.

We spent the whole day on Saturday practising and performing this production. There were 19 groups overall, including schools, theatre groups, adults and youth. Our group won quite a few awards. We received special awards for Best Costumes and Best Accent (Lilly) and in the youth category we were awarded Best Production, Best Ensemble, Best Female Actor (Bethany), Best Male Actor (Britney because she played a male role!), Best Supporting Female (Lwendyl). Marlene also won Best Director and both Lilly and Emily were nominated for the Most Promising Actor Award. Congratulations to all the Year 9 and 10 students on such an amazing job!

Jacinta
Year 10 Drama Student

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Jacinta
Year 10 Drama Student

Friends of MECS

Birthing Kits packing day

Last Friday a group of volunteer Mums spent the morning packing 400 Birthing Kits that will be sent to Uganda. Everything needed to be disinfected, and volunteers wore gloves to keep the bags and contents sterile. Many of us had moments of thinking about how fortunate we are to have the hospital facilities and medical care that we do. It was great to know that these packs will help improve birthing conditions for Ugandan women.

Thank you to all our families who supported the fundraising sausage sizzle last term, to Simone who did the organising and to the team of packers who worked hard on Friday.

Nicole
Community Relations

MECS Notes
Term 3 Primary School GTs

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Parents and friends welcome.
Year 12 Biology Excursion

Last Wednesday, Dr Roger F took the Year 12 Biology class on an excursion to Melbourne University in the city. When we finally got to the city after a long train ride, we had arrived an hour and a half before our actual Biology experiments started.

During this time Roger took us on a tour of the University campus showing us all the sights, while describing events that he had experienced during his many years at the University.

When we arrived at the Gregor Mendel Biology Laboratory, we were joined by another school group of 97 girls, a huge number compared to our small class of just 6!

Once we were allowed to enter, we met our demonstrator Jake who helped us with our prac and answering all our many questions. Each prac was quite complex and we all appreciated the opportunity to participate in creating recombinant DNA as well as looking at the genetics of the common fruit fly, Drosophila melanogaster. At the end of the experiments, we were allowed to go and have a look at a PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) machine which Roger had organised for us.

Overall I learned a huge amount from this excursion and I was glad I was given the opportunity to participate in it.

Isaac
Year 12 Biology Student

Year 10 Dance and Drama Excursion

Although coming face to face with an “Iceberg, right ahead!!!”, the Year 10 Dance/Drama excursion to “Titanic: the Musical” was anything but disastrous. Karissa, Chris and Tim set sail with 13 students to a night of theatre at Chapel Off Chapel in Prahran. The fabulous 20-strong cast sang and acted their way through the ill-fated story of the ‘unsinkable’ Ship of Dreams, skilfully exuding both the tragedy and the hopes of the passengers on board. The performance was thoroughly enjoyed by the students and staff alike, with more than a few tears being shed as the remaining passengers aboard the great vessel slowly sank into the deep. Conversation was abuzz on the bus trip home about which characters in the show survived the sinking; a task made more challenging by the fact that most of the actors in the cast were playing multiple roles. Overall, an enriching cultural experience enjoyed by all.

Chris
Year 10 Dance/Drama Teacher
At the beginning of last term students in the Year 10 Media class had a presentation from Anne who runs ‘Steps’, an outreach program for homeless youth. They learnt about the prevalence of homelessness in Melbourne and were invited to enter a photography competition that focussed on creating compassion and understanding for this issue. Throughout the term the class learnt and developed a range of photography skills whilst exploring various representations of youth homelessness. Some students decided to enter their photographs into the competition and were received with an overwhelmingly positive response from the judges for their compassionate and creative approach.

Isabelle successfully took out first place in the competition with her photograph titled ‘Tunnel Vision’ and Bethany third place with ‘Chalk House’. Zach, Elfie and Ady placed in the Top 12 and along with Isabelle and Beth will have their work published in the ‘Steps’ fundraising calendar, raising money for homeless youth. Each of these students along with Tiana will have their work included in an upcoming exhibition. They are to be congratulated on their impressive creative efforts.

Exhibition times:
1. Atrium at Fed Square August 5-7 for Homeless Persons’ Week.

Bre
Year 10 Media Elective Teacher
Australian International Academy Visit

On Tuesday July 19, Year 10 students visited the Australian International Academy, a Muslim school in Coburg North, as part of their Cultural Studies investigations of other religious worldviews. MECS has made this visit for a number of years now, and students from both schools found the exchange helpful in further developing their cultural understandings.

Students spent some time in small groups talking and getting to know one another, as well as mixing together over soccer and basketball at recess. There were also presentations and questions about our respective religions, with Nathan sharing from a Christian perspective while Mr B from AIA outlined some of the practices of Islam. While recognising that there were key differences between the two faiths, students reflected on opportunity to discuss commonalities in their interests and hobbies, and also to identify shared values as Australians, as shown below.

**Nathan**
**SS Teacher**

I expected the school to be stricter than what it was but it was surprising to see that it wasn’t. We all did an activity involving what we thought were values of life alongside the question of what it is to be Australian. As we went around in a circle saying what we thought, we asked questions to each other and began to understand more about their school and religion. We also learnt about what each person was interested in and some of us had conversations about them.

**Heidi**

I expected the Muslims to be very religious and different to us, but I found that they were interested in the same things, they watched the same shows and read the same books and they are lovely people. They are nothing like what the media portrays them as. They are normal people they just believe different things. It was really good to get to meet them and see what they are really like and not what the media says about them.

**Jacinta**

We had learnt about Islam in preparation for the excursion, and visiting the school has caused all of us to learn a lot from the experience. I didn’t know what it was going to be like, and in hindsight, I am grateful that I had the opportunity for this experience. While it was awkward at first, it was enjoyable talking, laughing and playing sport with the students there.

**Tiana**

On Tuesday the whole of Year 10 went to visit an Islamic school. This was a really good experience for us all to learn about another culture that is currently under the media spotlight. We learnt about their culture and traditions and we told them about our faith and beliefs… they were all very lovely, welcoming and we had a really great time.

**VCE Netball**

Our VCE netball team did MECS proud in the interschool competition on Friday. Eight Year 12 girls put aside their studies to take part in this friendly but competitive day. The girls were great sports, working well as a team, being positive and encouraging of each other as well as the other players. They battled their way through five rounds to make the Grand Final against Edinburgh College. It was a nail biting finish, with the girls putting in every effort, but a goal shot by the other team in the last moments of the game put our girls in second place. Congratulations girls on your achievement, your positive attitudes and great example throughout the day.

**Sandra**

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**Sandra**
Calendar

2016 Term 3 Week 3: 25 July - 31 July

Thur 28 July
VCE 2017 Parent/Student Information
Evening 7.30pm

2016 Term 3 Week 4: 1 Aug - 7 Aug

Tues 2 August
Pre Assembly Parent Morning Tea 9am
Whole School Assembly 10am
VCE Drama Excursion 6.30pm

Thur 4 August
JP ‘Olden Day’ Dress Up Day
Year 10 2017 Information Evening 7.30pm

Fri 5 August
K4 Excursion to Montrose Park
Year 12 Studio Art Excursion

2016 Term 3 Week 5: 8 Aug - 14 Aug

Mon 8 August
Primary GT Olympic Twist, Music GT, 9am
PUMP Room

Tues 9 August
Years 9 & 10 Netball and AFL
JP Mont de Lancy Heritage Museum Excursion
Year 12 Tertiary Info Service
Wilson’s Prom Camp Meeting 7.30pm

Wed 10 August
Years 5 & 6 Immigration Museum Excursion

Thur 11 August
Playgroup & K3 Myuna Animal Ark Excursion

2016 Term 3 Week 6: 15 Aug - 21 Aug

Mon 15 - Fri 19 August
MS Special Week Years 7-9

Mon 15 August
Tournament of Minds Presentation 9am

Wed 17 August
Years 7 & 8 Netball and AFL Day
Foundation Chesterfield Farm Excursion

Thur 18 August
Foundation Connect Morning Tea 8.45am
Staffroom
MS Showcase Evening 7.30-8.30pm

Sat 20 August
Years 5 & 6 Tournament of Minds

2016 Term 3 Week 7: 22 Aug - 28 Aug

Mon 22 August
MP Healesville Sanctuary Excursion

Tues 23 August
SS Connect Morning Tea 8.45am Staffroom

Wed 24 August
MP HoopTime Day
K4 Kew Traffic School Excursion
Parent Seminar B 7.30pm Staffroom

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.

Maroondah Careers Group Expo

Many tertiary institutions - large, small, public and private will be represented. There will also be careers advisors from the Maroondah Careers Group available for you to talk to. You can take home course information, talk to Uni and TAFE representatives about pathways to different jobs/further study and get an idea of the many career and study options that are available.

Tues Aug 2, 4-8pm, Box Hill Institute, Lilydale Lakeside Campus, Ground Floor, Building LA.

Butterfly Foundation for Eating Disorders Seminars

Body Esteem Educator Training
$170 - includes educational resources for ages 8-18 and morning tea. A half-day experiential workshop on prevention and effective body esteem education, providing skills to support healthy body image in young people which is a strong protective factor against developing an eating disorder.

Tuesday August 16, 9am-1pm, Japara House, 54/58 Durham Rd, Kilsyth.

Body Confident Children & Teens - Free
A presentation aiming to equip parents and community members with knowledge, information and tips to better understand and support children and teen’s body confidence.

Monday August 15, 7-8:30pm, Belgrave Library Meeting Room, Reynolds Lane, Belgrave.

For more information contact Amberley amberley.laverick@thebutterflyfoundation.org.au or 9040 1596.

Apple Man

The Apple Man is coming on Friday Aug 5 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 Aug 5.

Social Skills Training & Tutoring

Alan Hardingham, who runs the Social Skills Drama program at MECS, is available to assist children in developing and improving communication and friendship skills using role-play and drama games. Alan specialises in children with autism, ADHD and behavioural issues. Contact 0425 864 134.

First Aid Course

Ranges TEC is delivering a course in First Aid Level 2 on August 16 and 23, 4pm-8pm. Pre-booking essential. Course cost is $120.

Contact Dee Dee at Ranges TEC (03) 9738 7100 for more details.

Parents are invited to have coffee in the staffroom at 9am before the Whole School Assembly at 10am Tuesday August 2.

VCE 2017 Information Evening - Tonight
Thursday July 28, 7.30pm in the Gym

Year 10 2017 Information Evening
Thursday August 4, 7.30pm in the Gym

VCE 2017
Prerequisites for 2018 Tertiary Students
Prerequisites for 2019 Tertiary Students
VCE Unit 2 Drama Excursion Notice
JP Term 3 Newsletter

Year 10 Centre Trip Parent Info Letter
JP Special Show and Share Roster

Notes sent home this week and on Website