Get with the Beat - Celebrating the Olympics

Cora-Belle & Morgan playing drums as part of the Primary Olympics Opening Ceremony
More than Talking - Connecting

When my Mum, now in her eighties, was a little girl she would sit by her father on a little footstool on a Sunday afternoon. It was the only time in the week when she was allowed to spend time with him. He was a WWI Gallipoli soldier, a farming man, a hard worker and a hard taskmaster. Conversing with little girls was not something he thought to be of great import.

This had profound impact upon my mum. She still talks of how she admired and loved her dad but yet felt so isolated by the limited amount of time she was allowed to connect. I contrast this with my newly born granddaughter and how at only a few weeks old her dad peers down at her chatting and singing to her and she kicks her legs and tries so hard to gurgle back with meaningful sounds. Daisy and her dad, Tom, are connecting and communicating; a sense of belonging and deep love is being established.

It is commonly known that good communication is the key to healthy and productive relationships. In our own lives we know that communication that is ongoing, open, friendly and supportive assists us to grow as individuals and to contribute to the wider community. It not only benefits us but it also helps the community itself to grow stronger. Families need good communication to thrive, and strong families that are supported and nurtured by strong communities are so needed in our current day and age.

We also know that being connected helps us to feel valued and have a sense of belonging. On the other side of things, poor communication and lack of connection can make us feel isolated, alone, angry and misunderstood. It can damage relationships and break apart family and community.

At MECS we see relationship as vital to the task of Christian education.

“The Christian school is a covenant community of students, teachers, administrators and parents, joined together to live out and witness Christ’s redemption of learning.”

This means committed partnerships, mutually supportive relationships and a relationally nurturing environment reflected in every aspect of the school. Sustaining relationship characterised by justice, mutual respect, compassion, honesty, trust, grace, authenticity and love” Transformational Education p 70.

Our task is to work together as parents, students and staff on developing strong relationships that give Glory to God.

We all have a story and our stories are complex, rich and sometimes confusing. Sometimes we understand the complexities of our own story and sometimes our stories and their nuances are revealed as we journey through life with others. When those complex stories interact with each other we can easily hurt, dismiss and only see things from our own perspective without true patience, gentleness, longsuffering and perseverance. Being empathetic and seeing the big picture is challenging. In our school community we continually need to strive to develop and maintain those strong supportive relationships with each other.

I am encouraged by CS Lewis’ words that there are ‘no ordinary people’. We are all complicated, wonderful and made in the image of God. None of us are ordinary, we are all extraordinary. I pray we learn to walk together in humility, kindness and patience.

Practical Implication

Here’s a thought about one form of communication we all use every day. Emailing is a great way of communicating. It can be quick, easily accessible and direct. We don’t have to wait around for the person to answer the phone. We can send emails at any time and we can get our message across. The downside of emailing is that there is no dialogue. Sometimes it can be hard to understand the tone of an email or we read between the lines things that may or may not be there. Sometimes an email can come across as curt or even rude when in reality it is just stating the facts. Sometimes emailing can even be destructive as there is no person to engage with. It gives one side of the story only. There is no filter on emotional wording and sometimes the email can be hurtful especially when the email is written in a state of upset with no person present to actually physically see and hear how that information is being received. We need to be careful about how we use email: it is helpful as a communication form for straightforward information; more complex conversations need to be just that - conversations that are face to face.

At MECS our words encourage others and are hope filled.

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my rock and redeemer. Psalm 19.14

Di

Assistant Principal - Primary

VCE Drama Excursion

On the evening of Tuesday August 2, VCE Unit 2 Drama students spent twenty minutes sitting in Ms Magee’s car waiting to get out of a car park. We also saw a play by the Melbourne Theatre Company called Jasper Jones. This was a more entertaining experience. The play was adapted from the novel by Craig Silvey and was set in an Australian country town in the 1960s. It dealt with some fairly challenging issues such as racism and suicide but was also very funny. The excursion was part of our unit on Australian Drama and now the students get to write an analysis of the performance.

Woohoo!

Marlene

VCE Drama Teacher
Primary Olympics

Our week started with lots of colour and excitement as our Primary School participated in their very own Olympics. Students paraded into the PUMP room in the colours of various countries, before joining in an exciting opening ceremony, complete with entertainment, an athlete’s oath and the games being officially declared open! Then it was off to a series of round-robin activities led by our fabulous Primary School teachers and learning assistants. Check out the great pictures in this edition of MECS Matters.

Child Safe Standards

In recent years, governments and educational authorities have been placing increasing emphasis on measures to ensure child safety. The introduction of Child Safe Standards in Victoria forms part of the government’s response to the ‘Betrayal of Trust’ report, which found that more must be done to prevent and respond to child abuse.

Ministerial Order 870 clearly outlines the minimum Child Safe Standards that all schools must meet in order to maintain VRQA registration. These standards came into effect on August 1 and we have until the end of the year to be fully compliant.

These standards strengthen existing approaches to preventing and responding to child abuse, and provide for consistency in how these issues are managed in schools. They will promote a culture where protecting children is part of everyday thinking and practice. Schools must be inclusive of the needs of all children, particularly those who are vulnerable due to indigenous, cultural or linguistic background.

The emphasis of the standards is on establishing a genuine safety culture, rather than simply adopting policies. For this to occur, everyone who works within MECS will receive information and support designed to ensure that all workers and volunteers understand and support the child safety culture that we are keen to establish and maintain.

At MECS, the safety of our students has always been of paramount importance. Therefore, as soon as we became aware of these expectations under the new Ministerial Order, the Executive Team began developing and implementing an action plan designed to ensure we are fully compliant by the end of the year. A new Child Safety Policy and a Child Safety Code of Conduct has been prepared and will be presented to our Board for their consideration shortly. Over the coming months, I will provide a number of updates in relation to this important topic.

FOCUS  On... Nurturing Diversity

Open Village

Our students are growing up in a culture where alternate views are increasingly being quashed and silenced under the guise of political correctness. Sadly this can lead to a society that both subtly and overtly encourages conformity. In this environment we seek to be counter cultural. Encouraging students to embrace their God given uniqueness while also valuing the differences displayed in their peers can be challenging, especially when being different can be quite confronting during adolescence. Tackling this in the educational setting provides us with a rich opportunity to demonstrate how we are a much stronger community when we form a realistic view of our own strengths and weaknesses and each celebrate the diverse variety of gifts of those around us.

Nurturing diversity is one aspect of Transformational Education that aims to address the need to celebrate and cater for each student within the school environment. Open Village provides an opportunity for students to explore their strengths and weaknesses and to experience working in community. Students each have unique gifts and interests and they learn best in varying ways. Through the Open Village program we give each student the opportunity to design some of his or her own projects and negotiate these assessment requirements with a teacher (see photo examples). Through this process, the targeting of areas of gifting to be further stretched or weaknesses that need to be addressed is made easier. Each student will be working on a project that caters for their specific learning needs and presents a challenge for them. In this way a rich educational experience remains accessible to all students. Learning in community reinforces the Biblical concept that we are all parts of the one body. Just as each part of the body is celebrated as equally necessary for the health of the whole, each student, regardless of their gifts, is a valued member of our community.

Sue
Year 9 Teacher
MECS Notes

3CKidz After School Care - 2017

Are you considering using the After School Care program next year?
If this is possibly an option for your family, please let me know via email.
We are not asking for a commitment, just an indication of your interest, to help us in our planning for next year.

Thankyou,
Nicole
Community Relations

Come and Celebrate our Creative Arts Community

On Thursday August 25 from 7-9.30pm in the Theatrette we will have our Creative Arts Showcase!

It will be a great night of talent from throughout our school community from each area of the Arts.

Look forward to seeing you there!

Annora
Instrumental Coordinator

Year 9 Special Week Items Needed

We would appreciate any donations of the following items:

• Tin cans, washed and label removed OR food tins that are painted e.g. coconut milk, olive oil large tins or any decorative biscuit tins and the like
• Tea cups, saucers, tea pots (lids not needed) and terracotta and ceramic planters
• ANY succulent pieces broken off, with or without roots, in a bag
• Lace doilies, clean fabric, cotton, corduroy, jeans
• Buttons, lace, ribbon, stuffing and wheat

Please leave in the box at the main office or send with your child to Anne-Maree or Meredith.

Primary Olympics Day

Monday’s GT proved to be a celebration of grand proportions, where the Primary School held their very own 2016 Olympics opening ceremony. The morning was filled with flamboyant style as each year level dressed up to represent one of three different countries. Complete with the flag raising and the lighting of the Olympic flame via a torch relay with a student made torch, other notable highlights included the Indonesian dance troupe, the athlete's oath, the African drumming ensemble, Senior Primary choir, Foundation/Junior Primary choir, and of course, a conga-line consisting of Brazilian clad Primary teachers. Following the opening ceremony, the ‘games began’, with students having the chance to compete in 20 different activities around the school. The entire morning was a great success, and enjoyed by students, teachers and parents alike.

Scott
Primary Music Teacher
MECS Notes

Asthma Management in Winter and Spring:

Asthma is one of the most common chronic childhood conditions, affecting 1 in every 10 children in Australia. Emergency admissions and hospitalisations peak during the winter for children with asthma and flare-ups are often more prevalent during the winter and spring. Good management however can help children with asthma and their carers get through this tricky time of year with more confidence.

Here are a few tips for parents and carers:

• make an annual appointment for an asthma review by your child’s doctor
• update your child’s Asthma Plan at the start of each year and provide a copy to the school
• talk to the teacher and other key staff about your child’s asthma – their usual triggers, symptoms and medication
• provide an in-date blue reliever puffer and spacer for use at school (clearly labelled with your child’s name and date of birth)
• help your child understand the importance of taking their preventer medication every day, as prescribed
• ask your child’s doctor about having a flu vaccination
• encourage hand washing and covering one’s mouth when coughing to help prevent the spread of germs.

Years 9 & 10 AFL & Netball

Years 9 & 10 AFL

The Year 9 and 10 boys teamed up with Mountain District in their football competition on Tuesday. Throughout their 3 games, the windy day made it difficult to score goals, but it was quite an even contribution with several of our MECS boys kicking goals throughout the matches. With 2 early losses it was great to end the day with a convincing win with the team finishing third overall. Well done to all involved!

Amanda

Year 9 & 10 Netball

The Year 9 and 10 girls enjoyed a fabulous day of team sport at the interschool netball competition on Tuesday. Both teams put in 100% effort through the rounds to make it into the grand final. There was a lot of encouragement of each other as they worked hard within their teams. The Year 9 team had such a close game, but missed out on first place by one goal. The Year 10s managed to double their opponents score to become the overall winners of their competition.

Congratulations girls for being such great sports and doing your best for your teams.

Sandra
Wow! Yesterday was awesome! But you missed it! The JPs dressed up! Miss Murray was very strict. When we all had our brain food, Miss Murray read us all a story. We did cursive writing, made kites and played marbles. It was awesome. After finishing making kites, we went outside and flew our kites!

**Jem JP Bandicoots**

Yesterday we stepped back in time. I liked playing with the marbles and making kites. We did loads of fun activities.

**Junior JP Bandicoots**

Yesterday we stepped back in to 1866. It was so, so, so, so much fun! My favourite thing was making a kite. Miss Murray was pretending to be a strict teacher.

**Abigail JP Bandicoots**

Yesterday was so fun! We pretended that it was 1866! We dressed up in olden day clothes. Some of the games we did were…
cursive writing on black pieces of paper that we turned into blackboards, and marbles.
We made a hopscotch on the basketball court with chalk. We also played dominoes and had animals on our kite. At lunchtime we coloured in our animal kite. My animal was a sugar glider. We did not finish our kite in our kite rotations so after lunch we finished them off. Then when we had all finished we tested our kite.

**Anouk JP Bandicoots**

Wow! August 4 was the best day ever! The JPs dressed up. Miss Murray pretended to be really strict. We thought it was funny because she said “no smiling! No laughing!” Then we all started to smile and laugh.

**Orielle JP Bandicoots**

In the Olden Days I liked the games. I like hopscotch and the games dominoes and marbles. I had fun making kites. I made a frilled neck lizard kite.

**River JP Echidnas**

My favourite part was the Olden Day writing. Some of it was hard. There were rows of boys and rows of girls. My mum did the knitting for my bonnet and apron.

**Evie JP Echidnas**

We all sat in rows. All the Year 2s were seniors and the Year 1s juniors. I loved making the owl kite. There was lots of sitting and when you spoke you had to stand up. Mrs Smith called us by our last names as well as Master and Miss.

**Naomi JP Echidnas**

Yesterday was our Olden Days Dress Up Day. It was fantastic! The girls wore a bonnet, shawl, dress and tights. I liked the chalk handwriting with Miss Murray the best. Games with Miss T was also fun. I wish it never ended.

**Mikayla JP Echidnas**
A Visit to Montrose!

The four-year-old children in the Kindergarten had a very exciting day last Friday; our very first excursion out of the Kindergarten... all the way to the town of Montrose! As a provocation to inspire children to engage with the purpose of writing, we have been writing letters to each other at Kinder, posting them into the Kinder post box and delivering them to each other via a ‘Postie’. To bring this into real life situation, all the children ‘wrote’ a letter to their parents and posted it into the real post box in Montrose. We walked up and down the street, noticing words and numbers, discussing purpose and meaning. The children saw numbers on house letter boxes, on shop windows and on signs everywhere. Afterwards we headed back to the park to play. Montrose park is a reflection of the town of Montrose, with mini shop fronts and local services such as the library and the fire station. What a wonderful day we had immersing learning in a familiar and local community.

Wendy
Early Years Coordinator
**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.

**Mooroolbark Flashes Basketball Club**
The Mooroolbark Flashes Basketball Club are now recruiting new players for the upcoming summer season that starts at the beginning of the term 4 school term. We are looking for players of all ages and all skill levels to join the club. Contact Andy Borg 0434 372 061 or email mooroolbarkflashesbasketball@gmail.com.

**Pumped BMX for Girls & Boys**
A free 6 week cycling activity program for primary school aged girls and boys will be held at the small BMX track at YMCA Mount Evelyn Recreation Camp, Tramway Road starting Saturday Aug 13.

Girls program 10-11am, open program (boys and girls) 11am-12noon. The sessions run on Aug 13, 20, 27 and Sept 3 and 10.

Bookings for the free program can be made by searching 'Pumped' at www.eventbrite.com.au.

**Rental Property Needed**
We are having some renovations done so need somewhere to live for 3 months. We would be keen to talk to anyone who may have a house or bungalow for rent for 3 months starting later in August. Please contact Tim Payze 0452 278 898.

**Apple Man**
The Apple Man is coming on Friday Aug 19 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 19.

**First Aid & White Card Courses**
Ranges TEC is delivering a course in First Aid Level 2 on August 16 and 23, 4pm-8pm. Course cost is $120.

They are also delivering a White Card Course on August 30, 4-8pm. Course cost is $110.

Pre-booking essential.
Contact Dee Dee at Ranges TEC 9738 7100 for more details.

---

**Calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016 Term 3 Week 6: 15 Aug - 21 Aug</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mon 15 - Fri 19 August</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS Special Week Years 7-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mon 15 August</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary GT Tournament of Minds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation with SP Enrichment Group 9am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wed 17 August</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 7 &amp; 8 Netball and AFL Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation Chesterfield Farm Excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thur 18 August</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation Connect Morning Tea 8.45am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staffroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS Showcase Evening 7.30-8.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sat 20 August</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 5 &amp; 6 Tournament of Minds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016 Term 3 Week 7: 22 Aug - 28 Aug</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mon 22 August</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MP Healesville Sanctuary Excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tues 23 August</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SS Connect Morning Tea 8.45am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staffroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wed 24 August</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MP Hooptime Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K4 Kew Traffic School Excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SP ASRC Refugee Centre Incursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent Seminar B 7.30pm Staffroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thur 25 August</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JP Connect Morning Tea 8.45am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staffroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Recital 7pm Theatrette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fri 26 August</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Interschool Athletics Day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016 Term 3 Week 8: 29 Aug - 4 Sept</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mon 29 August</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K4 Road Safety Talk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary GT with SP Red (Mel Dykstra) &amp; Library Book Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wed 31 August</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SP Hooptime Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K4 Possums Bring your Bike to School Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent/Teacher Meetings - Secondary, from 4pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thur 1 September</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K4 Father’s Night 5.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 9 and 10 Performing Arts present Four Funerals and a Wedding, Theatrette, 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fri 2 September</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father’s Day Stall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K4 Koalas Bring your Bike to School Day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Middle School Showcase Evening**

Thursday 18 August
7.30-8.30pm

**Mount Evelyn Netball Club**
Spring Season 2016 Registrations will be on Tuesday August 9, 4.30-5.15pm and Wednesday August 10 from 4.15-5pm at the Netball clubrooms, Morrison Reserve, Mount Evelyn.

Spring Season commences October 8, 2016. Enquiries please call Sheelagh 9736 1132.

**Apple Man**
The Apple Man is coming on Friday Aug 19 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 19.

**First Aid & White Card Courses**
Ranges TEC is delivering a course in First Aid Level 2 on August 16 and 23, 4pm-8pm. Course cost is $120.

They are also delivering a White Card Course on August 30, 4-8pm. Course cost is $110.

Pre-booking essential.
Contact Dee Dee at Ranges TEC 9738 7100 for more details.

---

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


- Foundation Connect Morning Tea Invite
- Parent Letter Term 3 Recital
- Junior Primary Connect Morning Tea Invite
- Year 7 and 8 AFL and Netball Notice
- Middle School Showcase Evening
- Senior School Connect Morning Tea Invite
- Tournament of Minds Update and Map
- Year 10 Health Seminar