Middle School Showcase Evening Tonight! Thursday 18 August 7.30-8.30pm

Old fashioned sack races at Mont De Lancey

Cooper jumping happily on the JP excursion to Mont De Lancey
A Mile in My Shoes

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who won’t survive the week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 20 million people around the world.

If you attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death, you are more blessed than almost three billion people in the world.

If you have food in your refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace, you are among the top 8% of the world’s wealthy.

If you can read this message, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world that cannot read anything at all.

You are so blessed in ways you may never even know.

Philosopher and author, Roman Krznaric used to think that society was changed through politics and the law but he now thinks it's changed by changing how we understand each other. The key? Empathy. Without it, we're emotionally tone deaf. It's what bonds us to others. And so he's set about creating an empathy revolution. Krznaric's first step towards change involved the setting up of the world’s first Empathy Museum in London.

His second step was in the creation of the ‘A Mile In My Shoes’ installation which visited Australia earlier in the year for the Perth International Arts Festival. It’s a portable, giant shoebox where you're given a pair of shoes and headphones with a recorded story and you spend a mile, literally, walking in somebody else’s shoes. We never really understand another person until we ‘step inside their skin and walk around in it’ for a while. Everybody has a story and we never really understand that person until we step into their shoes.

We never really understand another person until we ‘step inside their skin and walk around in it’ for a while.

I think Jesus is the greatest example of someone who would step into the shoes of another person, understand their situation and through doing this, ultimately brought about a change in attitudes of individuals that continues to impact on our world even today.

When working with students it is really important to show understanding and empathy for them and their world and in doing so we are in a position to shape, influence, empower and facilitate growth.

It is also important to provide opportunities for them to step into the shoes of others and understand their plight and circumstances. This week is Middle School Special Week and as part of this week-long immersion program, Cycle B are focussing on a number of the Sustainable Development Goals. These goals were established in 2002 as Millennium Development Goals to reverse the entrenched poverty, hunger and disease affecting billions of people around the world. (Go to http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals to find out more about these goals).

Cycle B students have to investigate a particular goal and then form an organisation that raises awareness and support for their issue. This project culminates with the Middle School Expo on Thursday night when parents and friends can come along to be challenged, inspired and ‘donate’ to the most effective campaign. (You can also come along and see what Cycle A and the Year 9s have also been up to!)

What a great opportunity for our students to learn about empathy, and to increase their own awareness about some of the major issues that affect so many of the world’s population. Our school’s mission is to provide... ‘learning experiences that challenge each student to actively live for God in His world...’ This activity certainly does that!

Narelle
MECS Principal

Year 12 Tertiary Information Service Event

On Tuesday August 9, Year 12 students took up the opportunity to attend a Tertiary Information Service (TIS) event.

The purpose of the event was to inform students about tertiary study and entry processes. Students participated in a 40 minute lecture which was followed by an expo of tertiary providers. Students had the opportunity to speak to university, TAFE and independent provider representatives about their career ideas. They were given suggestions on suitable courses and provided with hard copy information.

Many students commented on how valuable they found the session overall.

This TIS event was part of a two part program aimed at preparing Year 12 students for tertiary applications. Last Tuesday (August 16), all Year 12 students attended a VTAC (Victorian Tertiary Admission Centre) briefing at school where they were given specific information about how to apply for tertiary courses online. Information about the Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS) was also provided. SEAS gives students who may have suffered a disadvantage to their VCE due to circumstances outside of their control, the chance to have their situation assessed by VTAC. Universities may then use this assessment to increase the students’ opportunity of getting into a desired course.

MECS believes that it is important to put the onus on students to make tertiary applications themselves as this is an important part of adult life. We provide as much information as possible to enable this process and support is available if needed.

Amelia
Year 10 & Careers Coordinator, VET in Schools Coordinator
Director of Ranges TEC

This information was shared with the students and families of Ranges TEC last week:

As most of you are aware I announced my resignation as Director of Ranges TEC at the beginning of 2016 to take effect in late 2016. I am pleased to announce that after a rigorous process a new Director (Head of Campus) has been appointed. Ric has been chosen as the person to lead Ranges TEC as it continues to provide a unique, trade based learning environment.

I am thrilled by this appointment. Ric brings a knowledge of, and passion for Ranges TEC that is second to none. I have felt privileged to work with him and I am sure Ranges TEC will benefit from his leadership over the coming years.

Warm regards, Phil

We congratulate Ric on this appointment and look forward to his leadership of the Ranges TEC campus next year.

Staffing Update

At this time of the year, we begin to confirm our staffing arrangements for next year and are able to let you know about staff who will be finishing their time here at MECS. Sue and Alison are both retiring and will be sorely missed from the Middle School team after many years of faithful service. Andrea, one of our Kindergarten Assistants, will also conclude her time at MECS after many years doing a variety of roles! Alison Holdsworth leaves us in order to prepare for her wedding in March and possible re-location to Paris!

Middle School Special Week & Expo

As mentioned in my editorial, this week is Middle School Special Week! If you have Middle School students in your household, can I encourage you to come along tonight and find out what they have been learning? As children enter Secondary School, it is often more difficult to be able to participate and see what they are doing each day at school, so this is a great opportunity to get a sneek peek into the Middle School program.

FOCUS On... Dress

“Why doesn’t MECS have a school uniform?” In my experience, this is one of the most frequently asked questions by prospective parents on Open Day. It’s a fair question, too, considering that school uniforms are a common feature of many Australian schools. When asked ‘the uniform question’, I generally flip it around and ask, “Why do other schools have uniforms?” People’s responses generally include practical reasons (e.g. easy to organise, less choice, washing, etc.), as well as providing students with a sense of unity and belonging.

Schools that have chosen to have uniforms may well find that they contribute to the student body’s sense of unity and belonging. However, they are not the only means to do so. At MECS, we believe that students can—and do!—experience a strong sense of community and belonging without requiring a uniform.

One commonly held misconception is that no school uniform means ‘free dress’. Students are expected to make responsible choices about what they wear to school by complying with the Student Dress Code. Their clothes should support their learning (i.e. be safe and appropriate for the work they are completing) and be in good repair (i.e. neat and clean).

Our decision to not have a uniform at MECS has been made for three key reasons. Firstly, it helps students prepare for their future, as they learn how to dress appropriately for the culture and requirements of their workplace. Secondly, it highlights the wonderful diversity in God’s creation. Thirdly, and perhaps most importantly, it reinforces the school’s commitment to recognising and embracing the uniqueness of each child.

Bradley
Middle School Coordinator

Developing Leaders Conference

Last week, I had the privilege of sharing most of the week with Jan, Ali, Anne-Maree and Nathan at the Developing Leaders Conference in Adelaide. This conference is facilitated by CEN each year to encourage and grow leaders within our schools. It is a great opportunity to reflect and grow in understanding about leadership from a biblical perspective and get some insight into what that looks like within Christian education.

Middle School Art

Libby, our piano tutor, is moving to Wodonga with her family and so her lovely association with MECS will also come to an end. Finally, we have some staff movements across campuses. Lance will be heading over to Ranges TEC where he will be working four days a week, and Paul, from Ranges TEC, will be joining the staff team here at MECS!
The literacy gap between indigenous and non-indigenous children is significant. Since 2009, the Indigenous Literacy Foundation (ILF) has worked hard to bridge that gap by putting books into the hands of children and families in remote indigenous communities across Australia. This year, our Library and Primary school are supporting the work of the ILF by holding ‘The Great Book Swap’. Parents of primary aged children will have received an email with the details. Please encourage your children to support this fundraiser by donating one or more books in good condition in the week prior to the Great Book swap and then bringing along a $2 donation to buy a ‘new’ book on Thursday, September 1, 2016. You can also make a donation directly to the cause, by clicking on the link that has been sent to you in the email.

Gawa Gifts Fundraising Sausage Sizzle
The Sausage Sizzle will happen next Tuesday. Order forms are due back tomorrow! The order forms were sent to Primary families via the students on Monday. If you haven't received a form please contact the office.
All money raised will be going towards the the cost of shipping the gifts and gift bags for the GAWA staff.
Thanks for supporting this fundraiser and helping us be a generous community who bless others.

Nico
Community Relations Officer

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, nnyhouse@mecs.vic.edu.au.
We are not asking for a commitment, just an indication of your interest, to help us in our planning for next year.
Thankyou,

Nico
Community Relations

Last Wednesday, Senior Primary headed off on an excursion to the Immigration Museum in Melbourne. During our time there we took part in an education session that told the stories of some real immigrants to Australia. Their stories were told via different objects in different suitcases. We learnt the story of immigrants who had come during the Goldrush (both British and Chinese) and a Jewish man who fled persecution of the Jews in Russia, who later changed his name to Sidney Myer... ever heard of him? We also learnt about a family that immigrated from Iran, and another husband and wife from Vietnam - both families seeking asylum because of war. The students then spent some time looking around the exhibitions in the museum. This has been a fantastic unit where we are learning fascinating things about the immigrants who have come to Australia from many places, at many different times and for many reasons. The unit has also given us the opportunity to explore important issues such as stereotypes and racism, and to celebrate the importance and richness of a multicultural Australia.

Mel
Assistant Primary Coordinator & Senior Primary Coordinator
School Sports and Asthma

Physical activity acts as a major trigger in up to 90% of people with asthma. Exercise Induced Bronchoconstriction (EIB), commonly known as exercise induced asthma, is the temporary narrowing of the lower airways, occurring after vigorous exercise. People with poorly controlled asthma are at a higher risk of EIB due to the sensitive nature of their airways. This may result in episodes of coughing, wheezing, a feeling of chest tightness/discomfort or shortness of breath, often worsening 5-10 minutes after exercise.

To ensure your child can safely participate in sports and exercise at school, the first step is to make sure their asthma is well controlled. If your child is requiring their reliever medication more than twice a week, it is a good idea to see their GP for a review as this may indicate poorly controlled asthma. Also provide the school with an Asthma Plan from the doctor, particularly before a sports carnival or excursion. The plan will include any instructions for EIB (e.g. use of their asthma reliever prior to physical activity). You can help them check that they are using their asthma devices correctly by watching our videos on the Asthma Australia website.

For support with your child’s asthma please contact your local Asthma Foundation on 1800 ASTHMA (1800 278 462) to speak with one of the Helpline staff.

Myuna Animal Ark

This term the K3s have been learning about how God provides us with plants and animals to look after and maintain, in order to sustain our bodies for growth. Thursday was a great opportunity for the Busy Bee's Playgroup and the K3 Rosellas and Bluebirds to feed and pat the young farm animals. In their half groups, the K3s had took turns taking the feeding cups from Farmer Skye and then they confidently fed and gently patted the various animals such as the ducks, rabbits, a very wooly lamb, very hungry goats, guinea pigs, a very loud honking goose and a turtle.

Lee & Sarah
K3 Kindergarten Educators
At last, the 100th day at school arrived on August 9 and we celebrated with dress-ups, party food and activities in the Bilby and Gecko rooms. So if you were wondering why we had a few older ladies and gentlemen around the foundation rooms on Tuesday last week, do not worry, because that is why!

We started out the day with a fashion parade where all the children had the chance to show off their fabulous costumes. We had children who had dressed as 100 year olds, children who had 100 things attached to their clothes, princesses and fairies, characters from books and even a hundred coin ‘millionaire’.

The children then continued to celebrate by making fairy bread with 100s and 1000s, colouring 100 sheep after hearing the story of ‘Cecil the Sheep’, making a giant play dough cake with 100 candles, and colourful paper chains with 100 links.

We sang "Happy 100th Day To Us" and blew out the candles on our cupcakes, kindly made by Mrs W.

The children took home a special certificate at the end of the day. The Geckos and Bibbies can be very satisfied with how much they have learned in their first 100 days at school, and what a wonderful part of the MECS community they have become.

Thank you to everyone who has helped the children in their first 100 days of school. It has been wonderful.

Jan & Alison
Foundation Teachers
The Junior Primaries went on an excursion to a fantastic place called Mont De Lancey. We went to a blacksmith and I broke a stick of metal. I was strong! We had an awesome day.

**Judah - Wallabies**

We went to the old house, we saw tools, a blacksmith and all sorts of crazy things.

**Micah - Wallabies**

On the excursion we went to an old school and we saw an old grumpy teacher. We got to eat damper too and we saw an old museum. The things were very old. We went to an old bell and it was very loud. We saw an old church too, it was fun.

**Jamie - Wallabies**

We split up into 3 groups and we went to the olden day house. Then to the kitchen. Then we went to the old and grumpy blacksmith. Then the wood carver and so much more. I loved the blacksmith!

**Noah - Wallabies**

We went to a blacksmith, the church, the school and the old museum. There were old things. My favourite thing was a dress I saw.

**Emma - Wallabies**

I liked the damper. The damper was yummy, tasty and delicious but the fire was hot, boiling and burning and my face was turning red.

**Felicity - Echidnas**

The blacksmith had a lot of metal, anvils, hammers and machinery. The teacher was very strict, a bit angry and a tiny bit terrible. The museum was very royal, precious and old.

**Arjun - Echidnas**

I loved the billycarts and skipping ropes and the damper. The damper was tasty and brown and it was hot and my favourite was the billy carts.

**Axl - Echidnas**

The twisty, curly apple slinkies were the best ever. The cooking was my favourite. Lemonade was made out of orange and sugar and it was so sweet and sour!

**Mia - Echidnas**

We did a whole heap of different activities. We walked over to the church and next to the church there was a big bell. We got to ring the bell. We pulled the rope and the bell went ding, ding, ding! Alannah and Junior pretended to get married in the church. They put rings on each others fingers and they even wore a veil and a suit!

We went to an old house that was very different. It had no toilet inside! There was no TV! There was no shower! There was no bathroom! There was no electricity! There was no kitchen inside, but there was one outside! The soap was made out of animal fat! They did have beds like we do today, and they had fireplaces in every room to keep them warm. They had a special room that they entertained themselves with music. We wouldn't like to live in that house because there is no toilet or bathroom or electricity.

Then we went to the blacksmith. He had a big metal rod and at one end was a hot bit of metal that helped us twist the metal rod at the other end. The blacksmith let Grace keep the metal twisted rod that we made to add to our Class Museum.

We went to the woodcarver's building. He made spinning tops out of red gum wood with a wood carving machine.

Then we went to the place with the monkey machine. The monkey that was going up tried to get the bananas but then it fell down! The monkey machine showed us how the engines used to start with a spinning handle. The man showed us an old fly spray can, an old gas lantern, a sausage mincer, some sheep shearsers and an old bean cutter.

Next we went to the garage. It had lots of tractors and machines. There was an old fruit truck, some rabbit traps and some old carriages.

In the afternoon, we did four rotations. First we went into a warm room with an open fireplace and cooked damper. It was delicious! Then we had some lemonade and a slinky apple. The lemonade was very sour.

We went to the school and the man had a cane! We had to listen to the man who told us that we weren't allowed to look out the window or smile or laugh! Freddie read out some olden day rules to the class.

Next we went outside and we made a skipping rope as a class. We did billy cart racing with a partner. We also got to do potato sack racing and walk on stilts. This was really hard!

Then we went to our last rotation where we made some lavender bags and some peg dolls. Then we walked back up and got on the bus and went back to school.

We loved going to Mont De Lancey. We learnt that in the olden days the school was a lot stricter. We're all glad we didn't have to go to school back then!

**Shared writing piece by everyone in JP Bandicoots**
Purple Patch Competition

Mount Evelyn Township Group is running a competition to name as many purple or blue edible fruits and vegetables as you can, giving the plant common name and binomial Latin names. All the plants named must be able to be grown in the Mount Evelyn soil and climate. Blackberries are classed as noxious weeds, so don’t include them in your list.

The winner of the competition will receive a $50 gift voucher from a local plant nursery.

To enter simply email your list of plant names, your name, address and telephone number by Friday September 23 to mtevelynplan@gmail.com.

Apple Man

The Apple Man is coming tomorrow - 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.

Vacation Care Program

Maroondah City Council runs a vacation care program for primary school aged children at Springfiel, Springfiel Ave Croydon and Belmont Park, Olympus.

Environmental Training Week

Training days will run from 9am - 4pm, Box Hill Institute, Lilydale, Lakeside Campus, Jaro Drive, Lilydale (off Melba Ave).

Day 1 - September 19: Introduction to weeds and plants
Day 2 - September 20: Advanced weeds and plants and treatment use.
Day 3 - September 21: Animals (threatened and pest animals).
Day 4 - September 22: Ecological surveying/ land management.


Notices sent home this week and on Website

- SP & MP Hooptime Notice (last week)
- Gawa Christmas Project (last week)
- The Great Book Swap - Primary
- PTO Parent Letter
- VCE ATAR release consent letter 2016
- Year 10 Psychology Notice
- Hooptime Parent Expectations Notice (last week)
- Bush Kinder Proposal (last week)
- Year 11 Formal Notices
- VCE Prac Exams Request for Help
- MP & SP Hooptime Coaches Letter
- VTAC Powerpoint

Newsletter deadline is 11am Tuesday on published week.
Email articles (images attached as jpg) to the Newsletter Office

Mount Evelyn Christian School Presents-

A Creative Arts Showcase

Thursday August 25th

7pm Theatrette

Instruments

Senior Dance/Drama

Percussion Group

Primary Choir

Performing Arts

Visual Arts