Tournament of Minds Team
Zoe, Holly, Genevive, Lily, Joshua, Isaiah, Jessica & Sophie - Story Page 4
Servant Leadership

If you asked me, “When did you know you wanted to be a leader?” I am not sure that I could tell you. But in pondering that very question, I think the reason for my lack of response comes not from my inability to articulate that ‘key’ moment, but rather from the perspective that I look at what leadership is all about; that is, service. So the question should actually be “When did you know you wanted to be a servant?”

In the book of John, Chapter 13 we read John’s account of the last supper, where Jesus did something so outside of the cultural norm: “Jesus knew that the Father has put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.”

In this upper room, in a ‘private party’ where he is preparing himself for the journey ahead, the cross that lies before him, Jesus becomes very aware of his authority. So what does he do? He immediately humbles himself in the service of others.

“But when he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. ‘Do you understand what I have done for you?’ he asked them. ‘You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord’, and rightly so, for this is what I am. But now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.’ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.”

As followers of Christ, we are to emulate Him, serving one another in lowliness of heart and mind, seeking to build one another up in humility and love.

I don’t know how many of you know the hymn ‘The Servant Song’ by Richard Gillard: “Brother, Sister, Let me serve you. Let me be as Christ to you. Pray that I might have the grace to let you be my servant, too. “

The words of this hymn have always held a special place in my heart; I strongly recall ‘praying’ these words as I prepared myself to volunteer on my first Scripture Union Beach Mission when I was 17. I remember the shift that took place that year; for so long I had holidayed at Wilson’s Prom as a ‘camper’: weeks on end with no schedule, endless beach days and evenings free, but this particular year God had placed it on my heart to join the Team: two weeks of busy schedule, early mornings, stricter bed times, talking to strangers, performing in front of crowds with very little preparation, continuing with the program despite poor weather, wearing Clown make up in 35 degree heat, looking after other people’s children (in my holidays)….. and to tell you the truth I am so thankful for the opportunity.

Whilst the list above is some of the realities of the experience, they are in no way my ‘memories’ of this opportunity to serve. What I do strongly recall are the smiling faces of children and families that I would connect with that year (and the years following), praying a simple prayer with a 10 year old as she welcomed Jesus into her heart, late-night conversations with a struggling teen about the grace and love of Christ, seeing the ‘refreshed’ face of a mother who had been able to have some rest from having five children ‘trapped’ in a tent in the rain, assisting children to make friends and later seeing them playing at the beach together, worshipping God and all His Creation on the top of Mount Oberon, ministering to campers in line for the showers….

For me, the example of Jesus is clear. In order to be an effective leader, I first must be a servant.

I learnt more about myself as a leader, and grew as a servant of the Lord in those two weeks (and another five beach missions and overseas mission trips in years following) than I had done in any ‘leadership position’.

For me, the example of Jesus is clear. In order to be an effective leader, I first must be a servant; my focus is not on growing my capability, but in supporting others’ inability. And when we have that servant’s heart, the Lord has promised; we will be greatly blessed. (John 13:17)

As Sam J Ervin Jnr (US Senator and supporter of civil rights) once said “A person who is worthy of being a leader wants power not for himself but in order to be of service.”

So, when did I know that I wanted to be a servant? When I decided I wanted to follow God and serve only Him; actively participating in any opportunity to serve others, walking in the footsteps of Jesus, so that the world may know my Father in Heaven. It has been through my role as a servant that God has equipped me to be a leader.

So perhaps it’s my turn to ask you….”When did YOU know you wanted to be a servant?”

Karissa
Assistant Principal - Secondary

WHAT ARE YOU DOING THIS SUMMER?

Volunteer on an SU Holiday Mission or Camp

Enjoy community … Share God’s Good News

If you’re 16 or over, grab a friend and register today!

www.suvic.org.au/missions or (03) 9482 5700

mecs matters
Excursion to Healesville Sanctuary

On Monday, I spent a lovely morning with the Middle Primary students at Healesville Sanctuary. The Sanctuary staff were so impressed with the knowledge of our students about the endangered species they have learnt about in class and how to care for injured wildlife. A special thank you to our parent volunteers who came along and looked after a small group of students. It was a delightful day and we were so thankful that the rain held off!

Middle School Showcase

It was great to see so many parents and friends at our Middle School Showcase a week ago. Building on last year’s success, there was an expanded range of activities and displays to provide not only a glimpse into the special week activities, but also other learning outcomes throughout the year, such as the fabulous art display. There was also music and food to fuel the festival atmosphere on what was quite a balmy evening for this time of the year. Thanks to the Middle School students and their teachers for such an entertaining evening.

Emergency Management Procedures

We have sent all families an email about our water situation last Friday and a few reminders about our emergency procedures. For parents with older students, can we once again re-iterate the importance of responding to our official communications and not those received directly from your children? We would also appreciate you having a chat to your children about how this can compromise the safety and well-being of not only themselves, but others in an emergency situation. As always, these situations provide an opportunity to review and refine our processes and protocols and we will certainly be doing this in the light of this incident.

LED Talks

One of the highlights of our staff professional development program are our LED (Leading Educational Discussion) Talks. Every term a panel of staff members, (usually teachers, but not always) share a 10 minute segment in the format of the very popular TED talks. We are working through the chapters of our Educational Transformation book as the themes for each term. On Tuesday afternoon, we had a real treat when students from across the school came to present to staff. We were reflecting on student orientated learning, and it made sense to actually hear from the students!! With great insight they shared about what really inspires and motivates them as learners and what they would like to see more of in their classrooms.

Safety in our cars

It has been observed over recent weeks that cars are driving too quickly up and down our driveways, through our car parks and at our ‘kiss ‘n’ drop’ zone. Please be mindful of your safety and the safety of others by slowing down and being extra attentive in these areas. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Focus On... Learning

Learning New Things

My son recently started Foundation at MECS. This new stage of life for him has been fascinating for me! Each day he grapples with an incredible amount of new ‘things’. While he loves many of the exciting new elements of being in Primary School, the biggest challenge for him has come in the form of working through the process of learning to read. During the time I spend supporting him in his homework activities, I often reflect on how I learnt to read. Quite frankly I can’t seem to remember much. What I do remember and know for a fact is that learning new things can be tough. I watch my son’s frustration when he forgets a word he knew the day before, the tiredness he feels when he has to once again grapple with a process or the simple desire he feels to walk away when concepts are hard. The reality is that we all feel these emotions when we are learning new things.

Learning is a constant human experience and some of our experiences with this process can be uncomfortable. What I try to bear in mind, and what I hope I present to my students is the idea that learning happens in the struggle. While it seems a little strange, perhaps our experience of learning new things becomes a more positive one when we embrace the challenge and enjoy the difficulty.

If we were to look at Transformational Education, the idea of Active Learning ties into this idea well. The book makes the point that learning is a dynamic activity, it’s something to be experienced, grappling with and challenged by. However, we aren’t always going to perfect a learning challenge overnight. It can be assumed that we will experience failures. It’s difficult to see positives in mistakes, but often these are our best teachers. The key is not to get mired in these episodes of failure, rather we should look to glean from them the valuable lesson of experience, and simply try again. I like to remind myself that when I know better, then I do better.

So when my son is wrestling with his homework, I often encourage him to enjoy the struggle, and praise his continued effort in going back for just another try. While he usually doesn’t appreciate my cheerleading, I’m ok with that, because I’m sure at some point it will resonate with him, as it has with me.

Sharon
MS teacher

Student/Teacher Volleyball

After suffering defeat to their teachers in a volleyball tournament earlier in the year, the Year 12 students where determined to notch up a win in a rematch last Monday. Students swarmed into the gym full of eager anticipation both for the game and for the hot chips provided by Mrs Sharon Payze. The game got under way and it quickly became apparent that whilst the teachers did not look much like a formidable bunch, their hidden volleyball talents, along with their ridiculous good looks, were too much for the students to handle. Teachers finished the day maintaining their title as champions defeating the students 2 games to 0.

Luke
Secondary Sport Coordinator
MECS Notes

Parent Teacher Meetings and Parent Teacher Online (PTO)

For parents who have an email address registered on our database, you will have received an email with your user name (parent surname/s), a unique password and instructions for this round of meetings. If you have not received this email, please contact the office for it to be sent again.

If you do not have an email address, a letter was mailed to you. You will be able to contact our admin staff (main office or Senior School office) who will be able to book these online for you.

The PTO booking system is already open and you can book your appointments via the new PTO website by following the Parent Teacher Meeting links on the school’s website www.mecs.vic.edu.au under ‘Updates’ or ‘Quick Links’ towards the bottom of the page.

Please email the office if you have any questions.

Corrie
Admin Support

The Great Book Swap
Thursday, September 1

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.

Friends of MECS

Sausage Sizzle

Thanks to all the families that supported the sausage sizzle and made donations - we raised $535 to go towards the cost of freight for the GAWA gift bags, and gifts for the staff. Amazing effort!

Father’s Day Stall

Friday September 2. We are looking for a few volunteers to help run the stall - please let me know if you are available to help out; even a few hours is great!

Cook Off Day

Monday September 12. We are looking for volunteers to help on the day, even for a few hours.

Please contact me via the office or email, if you can help out.

Nicole
Community Relations Officer

Tournament of Minds

On August 20, 2016 a team of 7 students from Senior Primary - Lily, Zoe, Sophie, Joshua, Holly, Isaiah and Jessica took part in ‘Tournament of Minds’ at Lilydale Mercy College. They had prepared for this day for one whole term.

As part of the challenge they needed to present their solutions to two challenges. One of the challenges was a Spontaneous Challenge and the other was a Long Term Challenge. The team had 6 weeks to prepare for the Long Term Challenge. During this time they needed to come up with a creative solution to a social sciences problem called “Peas in a Pod”. They weren’t allowed to ask any teachers or adults for ideas. The challenge involved analysing the problem, researching, writing a script, making all their own props and costumes and keeping a budget. Two presentation skills also needed to be included.

The TOM team chose Puppetry and Non-Verbal Communication/Mime.

On Challenge Day their hearts were pumping as they walked into the room. It was time. They had prepared for this day for one whole term.

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The TOM team chose Puppetry and Non-Verbal Communication/Mime.

On Challenge Day their hearts were pumping as they walked into the room. It was time. They needed to perform the Long Term Challenge in front of 4 judges, their parents, Genevive, Shirley and the Primary Principal Di! Everyone remembered their lines and the team did well. At the end of the performance they said, “We’re finished!” and approached the judges table. The team weren’t allowed to find out the scores but the judges gave them some great feedback about their performance. They said the performance had the ‘greatest message of any of the other performances they’d seen that day.’

Now it was time for the Spontaneous Challenge. They were given a challenge and had 4 minutes to solve it together. The process was exciting! The main things the team were judged on was their creativity and teamwork. Unfortunately they cannot reveal anything about the challenge until 6.01pm on August 28 because the same challenge will be used at Tournament of Minds in Geelong next weekend.

Tournament of Minds was an awesome opportunity to work together, problem solve, use higher order thinking skills, research and be creative.

We give thanks to God for the opportunity to participate in the TOM challenge.

Zoe, Jess, Holly & Lily

In breaking news...

Our Tournament of Minds Team came first in the Primary Social Sciences Division and has made it into the State Finals! Congratulations on this excellent achievement.
MECS Notes

Gawa Christmas Gifts

As mentioned in the letter home about the Gawa Christmas project, the Primary School is organising gifts for the Gawa school. Each child and staff member at Gawa Christian School will once again receive a Christmas gift bag with some homemade goodies, cards, letters and gifts from MECS. For most of these children this is the only Christmas gift they will receive.

Please forward all gifts to either your child's class room or the main office.

The gifts need to arrive at MECS by Friday September 2 ready for packing and postage the following week.

Note that each year level has been given suggestions for gifts so that our giving this year will be more intentional.

Thanks in anticipation.

Di
Assistant Principal - Primary

MECS Jobs

There are currently four jobs being advertised on the MECS website: three Primary positions and one Secondary position for a maths teacher.

See the website for more information.

Down on the Farm

Name tags on, seat belts on... and off we went on the bus to Chesterfield farm.

Our very excited Foundation Bibbies and Geckos had a wonderful day at the farm last Wednesday. The showers cleared before we arrived and it was a perfect day to enjoy the baby animals in the nursery and walk around the farm to feed the bigger animals. The emus can be cheeky and steal the cups so the children had to hold on tight. Some children laughed as the deer and ponies tickled their hands as they were fed. The groups watched a sheepdog show and saw a sheep being shorn. In the Discovery Barn they found out more about where wool came from, as well as looking at other products from the farm. The children got to milk a cow, and one was chosen by the farmer to feed the baby goat. The children enjoyed having lunch and morning tea together and having a run in the paddock. The tractor ride was a big hit as well. A big thank-you to the parents who came to help on this special day.

Jan
Foundation Coordinator / Teacher

Year 7 and 8 AFL

Year 7 and 8 students had a great day at the interschool football event on Friday. Dominating three out of five games by winning by over forty points everyone was feeling confident about making finals. Then the challenge came as we played the other top two teams going down by 7 points and 9 points respectively. We managed to hold the best team scoreless in the second half but could not kick straight enough to beat them. We kicked 4 goals 13 points to just miss out on a spot in the grand final. All the boys played like champions and showed great sportsmanship all day.

Luke
Secondary Sport Coordinator

Year 7 and 8 Netball

It was an excited group of Year 7 and 8 girls that boarded the bus on Wednesday 17 to head to Dandenong for their interschool Netball competition. Twenty girls came along and enjoyed the friendly competition with teams from four other schools. Our girls were super sports, whether they won or lost their games. They were encouraging of each other and put their best effort into every game. The Year 7s came second in their finals and the Year 8s came in third. Congratulations girls on your great results, and especially on how you conducted yourselves throughout the whole day.

Sandra
Year 7 and 8 AFL

Year 7 and 8 Netball
Middle School Special Week

The Medieval Times of Cycle A

Special Week was a week of fun and games to end off our unit about the Middle Ages. We made banners and tapestries, we learnt embroidery and enjoyed a fun and exciting dress up feast. On Thursday evening we had an open night, where we presented all we had learnt, including a dance, to our parents. Friday was a day filled with sword fighting, music and medieval games, taught to us by ‘History up Close’.

Scarlett

In Special Week we had an enjoyable experience such as at the opening of the week creating banners showing heraldic symbols, tapestries telling heroic and inspiring stories such as battles and coronations, a presentation showing glorious deeds or a magnificent play depicting Robin Hood rescue a woeful knight from the clutches of depression. On Friday we thoroughly enjoyed the memorable experience of learning about medieval instruments and weapons as well as the armour the honourable knights wore. Then we fought tremendous battles with swords.

Adam

Once upon a time, in a school far, far away. Cycle A-alot was preparing for the King and Queen to come. On the first day, they intelligently designed banners of their liking.

The second day was about telling stories with embroidery and felt markers. Everyone creatively participated drawing their own ideas and thoughts. The middle of the week came and the king and queen were coming soon; some groups practised their magnificent skills of embroidery. Other groups practised their entertainment for the royal couple. Finally, the day came. Everyone of Cycle A-alot dressed in their best. We feasted together, laughed together and danced together. Overall it was a grand time.

On the final day we had visitors from outside the castle walls showing us their culture and fighting skills. Hopefully everyone who came learnt lots and had a joyful time. And they all lived happily ever after. The End.

Eleanor

World Issues with Cycle B

Snippets from Cycle B

During Special Week Cycle B learned about refugees, Aboriginal health, food security, water, sanitation and hygiene, child labour and maternal and child health.

Brielle

Throughout the week we got into groups and worked together to create an organisation about our chosen topic. My group did ‘Child and Maternal Health’ and we worked hard on getting information. While doing research you find out some things that completely changes the way you see the world.

Kiara

During Special Week parents came in to the classrooms and asked us about our displays. If they felt we explained well they would put some (fake) money in our donation box. The group that raised the most was ‘Behind the Fence’. We all had a great time learning about world issues and realising all the stuff we take for granted.

Sophie

Special Week was really fun. We got to learn about how bad things really are in some countries. It shows how privileged we really are here in Australia.

Ellie
Middle School Special Week
Industry Week with Year 9

Last Thursday we held our second annual Middle School Showcase Evening, an event where we exhibit and celebrate our students’ hard work and great learning. Students participated in three main areas: a Medieval Celebration featuring drama, dancing, juggling, period dress, and heraldry; the World Issues Expo, in which students developed fictional aid and development organisations to address social injustices; and Winter Rhythm, a showroom of handcrafted goods made by our Year 9 students. The evening further showcased the creative talent in the Middle School, with an extensive art display and live musical performances. The Showcase Evening was a resounding success, with parents and guests enjoying the atmosphere and great sense of community while celebrating the students’ dedication and hard work. I’m already anticipating next year’s Showcase Evening!

Bradley
Middle School Coordinator

During Special Week I was given the position of the OH&S manager. My job throughout the week was to make sure people were safe and that they didn’t hurt themselves or others. I went around checking off my list of safety rules that were given to me by a teacher. There were a few incidents that occurred but nothing major. We are generally a safe school.

Luke
Year 9 Industry Week was interesting to say the least. On behalf of all of us, I can definitely say that at some point during the week, we were challenged... a lot. We were put in situations that we had not experienced before. There was pressure on apprentices and managers alike: to complete that watermelon pillow or to organise finances. Then, on Thursday night, we had our Winter Rhythm Festival Evening. It went splendidly and we had many sales. We got so many compliments about our enterprise and those made it completely worth it!

Hope & Tori

During Industry week I was working as a Textiles Apprentice. Throughout the week there were many trials and triumphs, but over all, this Special Week was my favourite. I learnt what I would be like under pressure and I developed many skills that will help me out of school and within future occupations. I extremely enjoyed Industry Week and wish it hadn’t ended.

Lilly

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Lilly
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.

Yarra Ranges Athletics
Come and join us for our season launch at Lilydale Lake on Saturday September 10 at 9am. There will be high jump, shot put, javelin, races, relays and a free BBQ. Our registrations team will answer any questions and help with joining up. Our coaches will be there for anyone interested in specific skills development.

For more information about this event please e-mail info@yarrarangesathletics.org.au or call the club President, Michael on 0403 819 390.

Before our event - starting at 8am - we will be partnering with Parkrun, the local weekly FREE timed 5km run. If parents want to run together, Yarra Ranges Athletics will be keeping the kids busy while the parents run. To register for Parkrun, go to www.parkrun.com.au/lillydalelake.

Apple Man
The Apple Man is coming Friday Sept 2 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 Sept 2.

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.

Calendar

2016 Term 3 Week 7: 22 Aug - 28 Aug

Thur 25 August
Creative Arts Showcase 7pm Theatrette

Fri 26 August
Primary Interschool Athletics Day

2016 Term 3 Week 8: 29 Aug - 4 Sept

Mon 29 August
K4 Road Safety Talk
Primary GT with SP Red (Mel Dykstra) & Library Book Week

Wed 31 August
SP Hooptime Day
K4 Koalas Bring your Bike to School Day

Thur 1 September
K4 Father’s Night 5.30pm
Year 9 and 10 Performing Arts present Four Funerals and a Wedding, Theatrette, 7.30pm

Fri 2 September
Father’s Day Stall
K4 Possums Bring your Bike to School Day

2016 Term 3 Week 9: 5 Sept - 11 Sept

Mon 5 September
Primary GT Focus on Allergies
Parent Teacher Meetings:
Primary 3.45-6pm
Secondary 4-6pm

Tues 6 September
Year 10 Basketball Day

Thur 8 September
Parent Teacher Meetings:
Primary 3.45-9pm
Secondary 4-9pm

Sat 10 September
Centre Trip Departs

2016 Term 3 Week 10: 12 Sept - 18 Sept

Mon 12 September
Enrichment Day Foundation-Year 9
Community Cook Off Day

Tues 13 September
Years 7-9 Girls Football Day
Parent Teacher Meetings:
Primary 3.45-6pm

Thur 15 September
MP Connect Morning Tea 8.45 Staffroom
Year 9 Basketball Day
JP Classroom Museum

Fri 16 September
Last Day Term 3 (usual school finish times)

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

Remember the Father’s Day Stall
Friday Sept 2

Mount Evelyn Christian School Presents-
Thursday August 25th
A CREATIVE ARTS SHOWCASE
Featuring Performances from...

Instrumental
Senior Dance/Drama
Percussion Group
Primary Choir
Performing Arts
Visual Arts
7pm Theatrette

Notices sent home this week and on Website

• Yr 6 Grad Decorating Committee (Last Week)
• Primary Interschool Athletics (Last Week)
• Unit 3/4 Oct Exam and Intensives Timetable
• Primary District Athletics Helpers Letter
• K4 Road Safety Notice 24 August
• Year 11 Psychology Movie Notice

• Scholastic how to order form (Last Week)
• Careers Newsletter Aug 15
• Water Event Notices
• Middle Primary Music Notice
• Year 3 Consent Notice