Whole School Assembly - next Thur 11.30am
Please join us!

EGM TONIGHT
7.30pm
Main Staffroom
All Welcome

Exploring the Centre
Isabelle during the Year 10 Centre Trip
Transformational Icons

Over these last school holidays, I had the privilege of attending the Christian Schools Canada Conference in the stunning Canadian town of Banff. When I was not being distracted by the beautiful scenery and local wildlife, I had the opportunity to meet with and hear from many Christian school leaders from across North America. It quickly became evident that there is a great sense of camaraderie and shared language between our school movements.

While there was lots to glean from the work being done in Canadian Christian schools, it was interesting to hear the enthusiasm of many around MECS’ Transformational Education book. Our ‘little green book,’ as it is affectionately called, has found its way into the hands of many educators throughout Canada. They were generous in their praise of the book, and are thankful for the simple but comprehensive articulation of Christian education. For MECS, the 16 facets covered make up our teaching and learning framework, and we often draw from these areas in our planning.

Earlier in the year, we began by looking in more detail at the icons that relate to each of the facets. We began by looking at the first four. In this editorial, I will focus on the next four: Scripturally Infused, Formation – Head, Heart, Hand, Overarching Story, and Relational Community.

Scripturally Infused

The Bible is central to what we do here at MECS. It is the story of the Kingdom of God and points us to Jesus Christ. It is foundational in shaping our faith and life in God’s world. We believe it is important that teachers and students have a growing knowledge and understanding of the Scriptures. It should 'infuse' all aspects of teaching and learning at MECS. This is not limited to devotions and Scripture classes, but is woven throughout our curriculum, teaching and classroom practices, assessment, camps… the list is endless.

The icon for Scripturally Infused includes an image of a book representing the Bible with the dove signifying the illuminating role of the Holy Spirit. The Bible is not a textbook, but God’s revelation in Christ expressed in human words. It is the story of salvation and has a message for everybody.

Formation – Head, Heart, Hand

You may often hear the phrase that learning at MECS is holistic. We articulate this best with the focus on ‘Head, Heart and Hand.’ Ideally, learning aims to instruct the mind, shape the heart, and equip the hand. It is about the formation of the whole person into someone with Godly wisdom and character. Our approaches to education play a critical role in shaping the hearts and minds of young people, and at MECS we take this responsibility very seriously.

Personally, the icon for Formation – Head, Heart, Hand is my favourite. At first glance, it appears to be a slightly odd-shaped person with the image of a heart. On closer inspection, the body of the person is a hand (albeit a finger short).

Overarching Story

We all live out of stories. At MECS, we recognise three stories that influence our beliefs and practices. Firstly, there is God’s story of redemption and renewal through Jesus. Secondly, there is ‘our story’, the story of MECS and our heritage. Lastly, there is ‘my story,’ the unique story of each student and staff member. ‘God’s story’ is the overarching narrative that informs and shapes all of our practices at MECS. We often summarise it as the story of Creation, Fall, Redemption and Renewal, and we seek to teach all of our subjects and topics in the context of this story.

The icon for Overarching Story depicts the world and the universe in the hand of God. You may even find the Sunday School classic “He’s got the whole world in His hands” start to play in your mind. Dutch Reformer Abraham Kuyper is renowned for saying; “there is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry: ‘Mine!’”

Relational Community

One of the most commented strengths of MECS is the relational community. Graduating students often remark that they appreciate the strong relationships developed with teachers throughout their educational journey. Scholars have come to the conclusion that learning happens best in communities of trust. We value and invest in partnerships throughout the MECS community, including students, parents, teachers and administrators. These relationships are characterised by trust and mutual service.

The icon for Relational Community depicts people holding hands and standing in a circle. This theme is beautifully articulated in the poem of the students that accompanies this chapter in the book. It finishes with “together we are... all needed, all created by the one true God.”

In my next editorial, I will explore the next four icons: Meaningful Structures, Active Learning, Teachers in Teams, and an Integral Approach. A reminder that if you would like your own copy of Transformational Education, they are available from the school office for $20.

Jacqui
Director of Teaching, Learning, and Innovation
Welcome Back to School

It was great to welcome all our students back at school this week after three weeks of holidays! This term is an action-packed one as we head towards the end of the year. There are plenty of celebratory events, camps to experience and everyday learning to enjoy. Hopefully we can all keep up!

Gawa Christian School Christmas Gifts

Thanks to all those students and families who contributed to our Gawa Christian School Christmas Gift project. We were blown away with your generosity and are thrilled to be shipping not only individualised gift bags to each student, but also gift bags for all the teachers as well! What a blessing for us to be able to give so generously to this remote indigenous community. Our gifts will be heading off on their way soon, by land and sea, and will hopefully arrive safely by early December!

Association EGM

We are looking forward to seeing our Association members at our EGM tonight. It will be a great time of fellowship as we share a meal together, but also look more closely at the new strategic priorities the Board has set for the coming three year period. Pam, the State Executive Officer of CEN will also be sharing what is happening in Christian education around the state.

Towards the end of last term, we formally launched our 3D (Deepen, Dream, Design) Enrichment Program with a ‘Big Idea Day’ for students from Foundation to Year 9. We had celebrated the success of the Year 6 Tournament of Minds team the previous week. So, what is the MECS 3D Enrichment program?

The Bible tells us that “Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people! The variety is wonderful”, 1 Corinthians, 12:4 – 7 (The Message).

As Christian teachers, we are called to offer a curriculum that encourages children to discover, develop and delight in learning about God’s world, including WHO and WHOSE we are. We are also called to nurture in students a deepening interest in learning, and challenge them to faithfully develop their God-gifted talents. The emphasis is on the skills, talents and abilities that God has gifted to each of us, rather than the individual ‘owning’ the gift or talent.

Developing these talents is an act of worship to God, and, in response, He asks that we ‘pay it forward’ with acts of service. Thus the 3D (Deepen, Dream, Design) Enrichment Program enhances existing learning practices by offering students the opportunity to ‘deepen, dream, and design’.

Currently at MECS, the following formal enrichment activities occur:

- Extension groups in Junior, Middle and Senior Primary. The focus of these groups changes each term: literacy, maths, science, robotics, art, drama
- Year 6 Tournament of Minds (to be continued in Middle School)
- Year 7/8 and Year 9 maths extension
- Middle School Writing
- Various competitions and experiences in the Senior School
- The Big Idea Day – a Forensic Science experience for Primary and Middle School. (More of this on Page 4).

We are continuing to explore ways for our students to develop and use their God-gifted talents.

The Association will also have the opportunity to thank Phil for his service as Director of Ranges TEC, as well as express appreciation to departing staff members Alison and Sue for their many years of faithful service.

Workbreak

Last week staff gathered for a range of professional development and community building activities. We had a great week, but the highlight for many was our whole staff retreat day on Monday. We headed to Mornington and Sorrento for a great day of fun and fellowship together. We are grateful to be part of a school community that values the contribution of each staff member and the work that we do together.

Principals Study Tour of NZ

From 9 to 18 October I will be travelling with a group of Principals from other CEN schools in Australia to New Zealand on a study tour. We will be visiting other Christian schools in the Auckland and Christchurch areas, as well as getting a glimpse into the activities of the NZ Graduate School of Education who are doing some great work in the area of teacher development and appraisal. We will also be meeting staff at the Bethlehem Tertiary Institute which is a Christian tertiary college that offers a range of post-graduate courses from a biblical perspective. I am grateful to the Board for this opportunity and look forward to gleaning lots of insights to bring back to MECS.

FOCUS On... Enrichment

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Friends of MECS

Cook Off Day - this coming Monday, October 17

We have a wonderful team of volunteers to help run the day but more help is always welcome if you would like to come along and help out.

Any donations of groceries or cash to help cover the cost of this service to our community are most welcome and can be left at the office.

Nicole
Community Relations Officer

Online Safety

The Office of the Children’s eSafety Commissioner has launched an online resource hub for parents, with guidance and strategies to help them keep their children safe online. According to the Commissioner’s office, the new iParent portal already houses a large variety of resources, advice and how-to videos intended to keep parents up to date with the technology being used by their children – and more is set to come. It includes an infographic that highlights seven different ways parents can manage devices at home — including tablets, game consoles, smart TVs and smartphones.


Enrichment Day

On Sept 12 we had Forensic Science Day with Allan. At the start of the day we had a big school assembly up to Year 9. There were different groups depending on your age. My group was from Year 3 to Year 5. We did lipstick prints and had to choose a suspect from the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series who left a lipstick print on a cup. The suspects were Rowley, Patty, Holly, Chris and Fragley. I think it was Patty.

Faith SP

On Monday Allan came to teach us about forensic science.

I learnt that you can tell someone’s height by the size of their shoes. All you have to do is to measure the size of their shoes and divide it by 0.15. The answer you get will be approximately your height. Another thing I learnt is that a lot of the time the main suspect is someone closest to the victim.

J’den SP

MECS Notes

Term 4 PS GTs
Mondays 9am PUMP room on the following dates except the final concert which is at 6pm.

Week 3, Monday 24 October
Education Support Enrichment

Week 6, Monday 14 November
JP Bandicoots (Fiona Murray)

Week 8, Monday 28 November
MP Green (Naomi Campbell)

Week 10, Monday 12 December
Primary Concert 6pm
Parents and friends welcome.

Foundation Athletics Afternoon

Feel free to join us on Monday October 17 (Week 2) to cheer on our Foundation students as they compete in various events as part of their athletics. They will be on the Primary School oval from around 1:50-2:45pm. Please make sure you visit the sign in table at the oval upon arrival. Hope to see you there.

Year 7 Immunisations

The last round of Year 7 vaccinations will be occurring this term and will take place on Friday 21 October. Please note this date has been brought forward by a week. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Main Office.

Congratulations to Rachel and Rohan

Congratulations to Rachel and Rohan on the birth of Ruby Margaret on 19 September. 3.5 kgs (7 pounds 12 ounces). Sister for Benjamin.

2017 School Fees

For your forward planning the following table gives the school fees for 2017.

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Girls’ Footy Day Years 7-9

What a day!
The Middle School girls’ footy day was an exciting event. Of course, we had the best of luck with the weather... it rained all day!! The relentless rain was not enough to dampen the spirits of the girls who won all of their three games! We had some excellent goals from the likes of Eliza, Olivia, Clare, Bek, Parker, Pennie and Chenei. Our team won the Winner’s Cup and the MVP (most valued player) was awarded to Clare Cromie who was a tough tackler and ran through packs to drive the ball forward. Well done to Super Coach Luke for his excellent guidance and dedication to the team. The group could only train at lunch, so both Luke and the girls sacrificed their own time to practice their skills. A special mention to Ben and Tyler who had very important roles as goal umpires. When we weren’t playing, we took shelter in the bus so we didn’t get too cold!! Well done everyone!!

Nicky
MS Cycle A Coordinator
Year 10 Centre Trip

The Wrap up

Three significant things I’ve never done before this trip: sleeping under the stars, going to Uluru and going into the salt lake.

Four things I’ll never take for granted again: showers, clean clothes etc, my own space and money.

Three highlights: Yuendumu; just hanging out with the kids and getting to know them, talking to people outside my friendship group, and sleeping under the stars; I really enjoyed the experience.

One disappointment: the rain; even though it was part of the experience, I would’ve enjoyed sleeping those nights under the stars instead of in tents.

One area of my life that has undergone change and/or growth over the past 16 days: my understanding of aboriginal life (I now have a better appreciation for what I have). I never realised how underdeveloped the aboriginals lives are. I knew they weren’t well off, but I didn’t know how poor they actually are. Yet even though the kids’ lives aren’t that great, the kids appreciate what they do have. We complain about all these little things and they have so little but they keep smiling and make the most of what they do have.

A ‘little thing’ that has changed in me that may lead to a ‘big thing’ growing: just going on Centre Trip and seeing how big Australia is has helped me change. It’s made me more aware of how amazing God’s creation is and how much he loves me. He’s given me this opportunity to experience different parts of His creation and showing me many different things. I’m going to remember this trip for years to come and how God worked through this trip to change my attitude towards Him and life. He’s given me insight to all these amazing things that are going to help me into my adulthood. My perspective about many things has changed and will continue to change and be impacted due to this opportunity.

Jacinta

Overall the Centre Trip camp was an amazing experience. But like all camps it came with its challenges. Let me say that it is not easy having to be near 50 or so other people constantly for 16 days. It gets even harder when you have to wake up in the middle of the night to set up tents in the rain. But with rain came flowers and animals. One of the best experiences was being able to see the creeks and salt lakes fill with water and see animals that normally hide from the hot dry weather come out. You don’t normally expect to encounter snails or tadpoles when you go to the desert. Then of course we got to meet the Yuendumu community which was definitely a highlight for most and really changed the views of a lot of people. Getting to learn about different Aboriginal tribes that are still around today and how we are impacting them was a big eye opener for many including me. Really, overall the Centre Trip was a great learning experience and opportunity to get to know other people.

Bethany

Another Centre Trip has been and gone, and with it the students in Year 10 have been through many challenges and new experiences. We have all learnt far more than we imagined that we would, and the vast quantity of understanding which Centre Trip has given us is more than we can realize. We have been given many challenges, including an epic thunderstorm on our first bush camp! While it was challenging having muddy tents and sleeping through loud thunder, we had the rare opportunity to experience rain in the desert. The desert was one of the locations that was new for many of us, and being in these new places has been remarkable and informative. On the 16 days of Centre Trip we visited many locations, but going to Yuendumu was a massive highlight for me and many of my classmates. Going there really stood out from the rest of the camp as a significant and immersive experience. In Yuendumu we got straight into meeting the kids who went to the school there and had fun with receiving skin names and playing games. The rain didn’t stop at our first bush camp; in Yuendumu we had heavy rain at times. We found ourselves having to walk through muddy ponds and getting soaked while running around with the highly enthusiastic kids. I really enjoyed Centre Trip, especially Yuendumu, and I have learnt a great deal about culture, society, my classmates and teachers. Overall, the Year 10 students are extremely grateful for the opportunities that Centre Trip provides and the effort given by the helpers who came along with us.

Jake
I went into this camp not knowing much about the aboriginal people. I thought I knew, but what I didn’t know was that I did not know. The way I saw their community was simply as I saw us. But, in Yuendumu they’re very different. They don’t care for their clothes to be in pristine condition. They don’t care for a hole in their shoe - a lot of the time they don’t care to wear shoes at all. But what they do value is far more important. Community, family, friendship and relationship. As much as we may value these things we can so easily forget their worth in our world of work and productivity.

There are many people who disregard the Aboriginal community and never bother to research the struggles they may face and believe the things they hear simply because they don’t have any existing knowledge of their culture. By having the incredible opportunity to go to Yuendumu, there are now 44 kids who are able to eventually make their own way out into the world with the knowledge of the truth about the Aboriginal people. We now have a better understanding of their struggles and their strengths. We now have been given an opportunity to be inspired to help. We may now know ways in which we can help. We can educate others the best we can. We can make a difference, even if it’s a small one.

Sarah

Marvellous Materials Celebration

At the end of the Foundation unit ‘Marvellous Materials’, Bilbies and Geckos displayed their artwork and projects for parents in a celebration night. The children chose projects using various materials such as a teddy bear from paper mache, wind chimes from metal, rainbow scenes from sand art, things from clay and wood, 3D constructions from cardboard and a terrarium - to name a few. The unit allowed children to investigate materials freely at first, generating lots of questions to be answered later through books, youtube resources or further exploration, and after some explicit teaching about how the materials of interest were manufactured, the children planned, made and reflected on their projects thinking foremost about what materials could be utilized most effectively in what they wanted to create.

The children were very engaged and showed great independence and initiative. While some chose to work in pairs or groups and some alone, almost all children reached a stage while they were waiting to begin the next stage of their project, or once they had finished, where they offered help to others. This collaborative and caring approach was lovely to see and very natural to the children. We ended the unit by thinking about how blessed mankind is to have these Marvellous Materials, and how we need to be good stewards in looking after them and not wasting them.

Jan
Foundation Coordinator / Teacher
**Calendar**

2016 Term 4 Week 1: 10 Oct - 16 Oct

**Thur 13 October**
EGM 6.30pm Dinner, 7.30pm Meeting
Starts - Main Staffroom

**Fri 14 October**
Year 11 Formal

2016 Term 4 Week 2: 17 Oct - 23 Oct

**Mon 17 October**
Community Cook Off Day
Foundation Athletics Afternoon

**Wed 19 October**
MP Hoopptime Regional Finals
Year 6 Rock Climbing Excursion
Staff & Parents Morning Tea for Year 12 Students
VCE Drama Solo Performances

**Thur 20 October**
MP Hoopptime Regional Finals
Year 12 Muckerkin Day
Year 7-11 Interschool Athletics
Whole School Assembly 11.30am

**Sat 22 October**
Working Bee 8am - 1pm Including Morning Tea

2016 Term 4 Week 3: 24 Oct - 30 Oct

**Mon 24 October**
Year 9/10 Volleyball
Cycle A Practice Hike
SP Hoopptime Regional Finals
Primary GT - Ed Support Enrichment

**Tues 25 October**
JP Connect Morning Tea 8.45am Staffroom

**Wed 26 October**
VCE Exams Begin - English

**Thur 27 October**
Year 7/8 Volleyball
VCE Psychology Exam
Year 7, 2017 Orientation Family Evening

**Fri 28 October**
Unit 2 Drama Excursion
VCE Biology Exam
VCE Further Maths Exam 1

2016 Term 4 Week 4: 31 Oct - 6 Nov

**Mon 31 October**
Pupil Free Day
VCE Further Maths Exam
VCE Business Management Exam

**Tues 1 November**
Cup Day Public Holiday

**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.

**Lilydale Show**
Saturday 19 November 9am – 9pm
Sunday 20 November 9am – 5pm
Lilydale Recreation Reserve,
Main Street, Lilydale.
Animals, Art & Craft, Cookery,
Photography, Entertainment, Fireworks,
Food, Showbags and much more...

www.lilydaleshow.org.au for information about tickets, entries to show displays and closing dates (the earliest closing date for entries to show displays is Tuesday 25 October).

**Quilt Fundraiser**
One of our long term past parents is involved in a charity quilting group ‘Quilts for Orphans’ who over the last 7 years have created and despatched over 2000 quilts to children in India, China, Zambia, Uganda, Israel and Thai/Burma border area.

The group is holding their main fundraiser, a ‘Quilt Fair’, and would love your support! Quilts, Christmas items and other creations will be available for sale, as well as display items of stitcheries etc created by our members.

November 12 & 13, 10am-4pm both days at 345 Macclesfield Road Monbulk.

Entry will be $5, refreshments will be available.

**Campfire Night**
Mount Evelyn Community House is running a Community Campfire Night this Friday 14 October from 6-9pm at the Mount Evelyn Scout Hall, 23 Station Street, Mount Evelyn. $15 per family, $5 for individuals, bookings essential.

Bands, camp fire, damper making, marshmallow toasting, children’s activities, CFA demonstration, sausage sizzle. This is an alcohol free event.

For bookings and more information contact Mt Evelyn Community House 9736-1177 or www.facebook.com/mtevelyncommunityhouse.

**Apple Man**
The Apple Man is coming on Friday Oct 14 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 Oct 14.

**Next Working Bee**
Sat 22 October,
8am-1pm
with Morning Tea

Mt Evelyn Christian School presents

**GOING SOLO**
An evening of
Solo Drama and Music performances
by VCE Students

Wednesday 19 October
7.30 PM
The MECS Theatrette

**Missed Pencil Case**
Blue with white flowers. Contains a scientific calculator & stationery. Please contact the Main office if found.

Newsletter deadline is 11am Tuesday on published week.
Email articles (images attached as jpg) to newsletter@mecs.vic.edu.au

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

- Year 9 Open Village Term 4 Letter
- JP Connect Morning Tea Invite
- SP Rock Climbing Excursion Letter
- The Bush Telegraph Term 4 (Foundation)
- JP Show and Share Rosters Term 4
- Coaches Regional Hooptime Parent Letter
- Cycle B Term 4 Newsletter
- Working Bee October Letter
- Foundation Athletics Afternoon Letter
- Centre Trip Presentation Night Invitation
- SP Term 4 Newsletter
- JP Term 4 Newsletter
- MP & SP Regional Hooptime Parent Letter
- Kinder Connections No 6
- Careers Newsletter 13 October
- Secondary Interschool Athletics Notice