Year 12 Celebration - Buddies

Gabby with her Prep buddy Leni
Transformation Education - Early Years

How do we deliver and understand Transformational Education in the Kinder?

Term 4 in the Kindergarten began by reflecting on our previous learning about God’s creation: we looked at the season of Spring and all of the wonders that happen around us during this time of the year. It is God who sustains the order of the seasons, giving good time to each for our provision. It was exciting to re-visit the bush, an integral part of our ‘learning through nature’ program, and notice the environmental changes that have happened! As described in one of the chapters of ‘Transformational Education’, Active learning is promoted using curiosity, inquiry, imagination and experiential activities. We wondered at the new life that Spring brings, from the growth of seeds to the miraculous change that occurs when a caterpillar changes to a butterfly. We used technical terms like ‘transformation’ to describe the metamorphosis that happens inside a chrysalis, and talked about how we might apply this to our lives living with Jesus. Transformative Christian Education is for the whole of life.

Our learning this term, or Overarching Story, that informs our kinder curriculum, (in fact every aspect of kinder life), moves on from the family sphere where we began looking into the community in which we live. We have looked at our surrounding suburbs, our city and some of the current and traditional aspects of our country. We learnt about what God wants of people, and that church is where people gather to learn about God by reading the Bible and praying together. Relational Community happens best where trusting relationships exist, and where people exercise their particular calling before God. We believe cultivating this atmosphere in the kinder provides the optimum learning environment for the children.

Nurturing Diversity is the acknowledgement that we all have differences. Through talking about our gifts and talents and using them in the community we help other people. In the kinder we look at how we can use what we are good at to help each other. Through looking at community helpers we can see how people use their own gifts and talents to benefit others. We have pointed the children’s attention towards our amazing creator God, who made diversity in the land and in people. People are His crowning glory of Creation (Psalm 8).

As we launch into our studies on ‘People around the world’ this term, we ‘travel’ around God’s big and diverse world, looking at aspects of different countries and people. Australia is made up of many cultures, giving relevance to the exploration of some of the cultures that are represented within our community. We hope to have some parents come and share their own cultural backgrounds with the children, as they have done in the past. We want to create further Rich Learning experiences.

One such country I hope to explore with the children and educators in the kinder is Cambodia. During our last term break, my daughter and I had the privilege of travelling to Phnom Penh in Cambodia, to partake in delivering teacher training with teachers from Christian schools from the surrounding provinces. This program happens each year, directed by Jo, our Education Support Coordinator in the Middle and Senior school. We took copies of ‘Transformational Education, A Framework for Christian Education’ and devised training from some of the chapters. There are many challenges associated with this type of work that are centred around cultural differences, such as choosing carefully how we explain things, as not all of the English language translates into Khmer (Cambodian language) successfully! Explaining small snippets of information takes considerable time, so we used games, discussion groups and story telling to consolidate many of the concepts. As we shared our ideas with the teachers, they also shared their understandings with each other. It was so wonderful to see Teachers in Teams, working together for mutual support, encouragement and growth. This is also the atmosphere we develop with the educators in the kinder. Together we collaborate and devise relevant experiences designed to maximise children’s learning, yet centred in Christ, such as described by the element Oriented for Students.

There’s nothing like teaching something to learn it! My teaching experiences of ‘Transformational Education’ in Cambodia have heightened my awareness of the core understandings of Christian teaching and learning in the kinder. As a staff we continuously learn and unpack the framework together.

Wendy
Early Years Coordinator
Staff Comings and Goings

Our staffing team is nearly complete for next year, and as always, we thank God for the provision of just the right people at the right time! In the Kinder, Lee is moving into a kindergarten assistant role in the 4 year old program and Naomi has been appointed as our 3 year old teacher. Sandy also comes into the Kinder team as one of our Kinder assistants.

In the Primary school, Stephanie, known to many of you as one of our Learning Assistants, has completed her teacher training and will now commence as one of our Foundation teachers. Natalie (humanities and health) and Sarah (maths) will be joining our secondary team. We are presently advertising for a senior Physics teacher, after the recent resignation of Paul. We wish Paul all the best after 10 years of service at MECS.

Year 12s Celebration Day

Can I congratulate the Year 12s on the success of their ‘Muckeration Day’ last Thursday? Many other schools find this a difficult day to navigate, whereas at MECS we are so proud of the way our students choose to celebrate the end of their schooling. The activities of the day not only provide opportunity for reflection and celebration, but also some fun and organised mischief! The respect that students show to other students, staff and our facilities means everyone can have a great day! Our prayers are with them as they sit their exams over the next few weeks and then we look forward to a final celebration on Saturday November 19 at their graduation evening.

VCE Solo Performance Evening

I never fail to be amazed at the diverse range of talents our students have and the myriad ways in which they are used and developed within the life of the school. Last week, parents and friends enjoyed an evening of VCE Drama and Music performances, performed by our Unit 2 and Unit 4 VCE students. The VCE Drama Solo Performance is essentially non-naturalistic storytelling where the actor transforms from their main character into other characters within the ‘story’ and uses a range of other non-naturalistic theatrical conventions. Each performance is an original piece devised by the student. The VCE Music Solo Performance requires the student to choose a range of pieces within their instrument category to form a 20-25 minute program that is contrasting in musical style and technique. Marlene, our VCE Drama teacher, Tim, our VCE Music teacher and their senior students are to be congratulated for the outstanding quality of the work that was performed.

Champion Wrestlers

Hopefully you read in the newsletter last week about our national champion wrestlers, Jacob and Jack! Adam, their dedicated wrestling coach, wrote a lovely piece reminding us of all the work and effort that has gone in over many months and years to achieve this result. Adam is also to be congratulated. For 15 years, Adam has faithfully run wrestling and weight training during lunchtimes for interested students. This comes from his deep commitment that a healthy body enables the students to learn better in the classroom. These sessions will continue next year and might be something that you would like to encourage your son or daughter to be part of in the future. Who knows, you might have a national champion wrestler living amongst you and you don’t even know it?!

Success at the Inter-school Athletics

Further to our wrestling success, our secondary students excelled at the inter-school athletics meet last Thursday and brought home the winners’ trophy. Forty-nine students participated at Knox Athletics Track, with nine records being broken by our students in track and field events. Caleb, Hadassah, Jake, Patience, Kyal and Aaron have all qualified to represent MECS at the 2016 Victorian All-School Championships. Congratulations to not only these students, but to all those who participated on the day. A big thank-you to Luke and other teachers and parent volunteers who helped on the day.

FOCUS On... Trauma

Recently the Primary team have been learning more about Trauma informed practice. This is much too big a topic to explore in a few hundred words but here is a snapshot of a few things we have learnt about how trauma affects a developing child.

The Australian Children’s Foundation describe relational trauma as “overwhelming relational experiences that provoke a survival response.”

Some of the resulting feelings for a child can be that they may not feel they can trust the adults in their life, that they may be a bad person and/or the world is a scary place and needs to be retreated from.

As a child develops, their brain develops in sync with the quality of the relationships that are helping to shape and form their brain. Four weeks after conception, brain neurons are already growing at an astounding rate - 250,000 per minute. Infants are therefore the most vulnerable to harm from trauma then, but the early years also offer the greatest potential to intervene, transform and prevent. Research now suggests that the right hemisphere of the brain (big picture thinking, emotions, feelings, creativity) is developing at a greater rate than the left hemisphere (linear thinking, divergent thinking, logic, mathematics, language) in those first two years of life and after two years of age the left hemisphere takes over. The brain develops both laterally and sequentially until it is integrated by the age of 8.+

Newborns cannot self-regulate their emotional state but in healthy relationship, the adults scaffold the baby’s developing ability to self-regulate through: touch, gaze, voice matching and interactions. The developing child learns to regulate its own behaviours and to feel safe and OK in the world.

On the other hand trauma may affect the brain by deforming and/or destroying neurons, decreasing blood flow to the brain and may result in impairing growth and activity in the certain aspects or functions of the brain.

Australian Children’s Foundation suggest that the key to transforming trauma experiences is in the relationships the child experiences. These steady and strong relationships can lead toward healing and transformation.

Used with permission www.childhood.org.au

DI
Assistant Principal - Primary
MECS Notes

Sporting Achievements in the Senior School

We wish to congratulate Luke (Year 10) on being selected for the Under-18 training squad for the NAB Eastern Ranges AFL team. This is a fantastic achievement for Luke who is only 16. For the next four months he will be training 3 times a week until the start of the 2017 season as he seeks to make the final group of 30 players who will play in Victoria’s premier U-18 AFL competition next year. Success in this competition could lead to selection in the U-18 NAB Vic Metro team which competes in the National NAB U-18 competition. It is from this competition that young men are selected via a National Draft to pursue their dream of playing in the AFL competition as a professional footballers.

We also congratulate Year 10 student Ben who left the Centre Trip from Alice Springs in order to prepare well for the 2016 National Inline Hockey Championships. Ben represented Victoria as part of the under-15 team and scored 3 goals in the tournament. Based on his performance he was ranked equal 4th in his age level. The Victorian team won four out of their six qualifying games but ended up winning all the finals including the grand final. In the next few weeks Ben will be informed as to whether he has been selected for the Australian team. Given that a team consists of 5 players at any one time, Ben should be representing the Green and Gold next year! Congratulations on a wonderful effort Ben.

Term 4 PS GTs

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

Week 6, Monday 14 November
JP Bandicoots (Fiona)

Week 8, Monday 28 November
MP Green (Naomi)

Week 10, Monday 12 December
Primary Concert 6pm

Parents and friends welcome.

Working Bee

Saturday was Working Bee day - and also probably one of the wettest Saturdays I can remember!

However, we still managed to have a great morning! Everyone brought along their wet weather gear and set about doing their allocated tasks, despite the rain, hail and sunshine that greeted us. It was great seeing everyone working like little beavers in the rain.

We accomplished lots of work: we spread 15 metres of mulch; filled a 25 metre green waste bin; pulled out lots of vegetation ready for the new building works; completed some jobs in the kinder and MECS community garden; raked the fitness track; pulled apart a sleeper wall and dug a new walk way; dug some holes and cleared away some rubbish on the new ‘tough mudder’ course; cleaned drains and pits; started cleaning out the Manual Arts store room and other jobs. We had an early morning tea and pulled up stumps early due to the rain.

Thanks to everyone who came along, especially those families who came to their last ever working bee, and a special welcome to the new families attending their first. It is really special to see the commitment of MECS families to the school and to being part of working bees.

Pete
Property Manager

VCE Music & Drama - Going Solo

Last Wednesday VCE Music and Drama joined forces for the second time this year in ‘Going Solo 2016’.

Opening with a performance of some very challenging music pieces expertly played by Unit 4 student Kristoffer Berg, the evening also included eight solo Drama performances.

The Unit 2 Drama students, Beth, Jordan and Ashley, presented three very engaging but very different performances based on the song ‘We Are Australian’. The Unit 4 Drama solos ranged from classical to absurd. Rachel presented a beautifully written performance of Arachne, a mythological weaver who was turned into a spider by an angry goddess, while Caillan had the audience in stitches with his performance of Arbiter Maven from the quirky British comedy series, ‘This is Jinsy’. MDCS students Josh and Brendan entertained us with their solos, The Board Game Character and The Thief respectively, and Brenton (also presenting The Thief), concluded the evening with his highly polished version of an Irish rogue.

Overall, it was an engaging evening of quality Music and Drama by some very hard working and talented students. If you weren’t there, you missed a wonderful night!

Marlene
VCE & Middle School Drama & English Teacher
**Indonesian Market Day**

Last term in Indonesian class, Senior Primary students consolidated their vocabulary of stationery items and clothing by applying it to buying and selling in Indonesian. They’ve been practising market language, learning how the Indonesian rupiah money system works, and how to say (very large!) Indonesian numbers. To finish our unit last week, the students used these skills to put on a market of their own!

Students dressed up, made product cards (that had labelled pictures of their products for sale in Indonesian) and set up their own stalls complete with shop signs and catalogues.

All students participated with enthusiasm and I was so proud to see them putting their learning into action both in listening and speaking (as well as bargaining skills!). It was a wonderful day of students engaging with the Indonesian language and culture. Hebat! (Awesome!)

*Rachel*
*Indonesian Teacher*

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**MECS Notes**

**Kiss ‘n’ Drop Etiquette**

From time to time we notice a drop in patient and courteous behaviour at the Kiss ‘n’ Drop. Here’s a little reminder about our etiquette. Please take note of your responsibility as a driver and what we expect of your children.

- Students need to wait behind the bollards
- Students need to wait in the area bounded by the power pole at the eastern end of the bollards and the lower end of the shelter
- It is very dangerous for students (and drivers for that matter) to get in or out of cars on the driver side. Don’t do it!
- Students are not allowed to play with balls in the Kiss ‘n’ Drop area – we will confiscate a ball if necessary
- Students are not to be leaping and running about the seats in the shelter
- We discourage conversations through car windows between kerb side students and their buddies who have got into a car – it holds up the traffic flow
- The Kiss ‘n’ Drop zone is not a parking area
- Drivers need to move down as far as possible – even moving a few metres helps us to avoid traffic banking up into the car park entry
- Drivers should never leave their cars
- If cars have banked up past the area with the bollards teachers can use their discretion in allowing students to get into their car there, but it is not as safe so we prefer not to do that
- We hope to see everyone driving slowly and watchfully through Kiss ‘n’ Drop

Thanks for helping to keep everyone safe.

*Gerry*
*Administration Manager*

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**SP Rock Climbing**

On October 19 we went to a rock climbing centre in Nunawading. All the Year 6s went along with the teachers and parent helpers.

As soon as I stepped foot in the rock climbing centre I felt worried. I didn’t know if I wanted to climb anymore. We were put in groups and started climbing on the practice walls. Once we were ready we went to the big rock walls. When it was my turn I climbed up as far as I could to give me confidence for my other goes. We picked a different spot, and I went up higher. Every turn I had, I went a little bit closer to the top. By the end, I was not nervous at all. I knew I was safe, and I had so much fun.

*Jess*

As part of our Year 6 Core Studies unit (The Next Step) we went to Hard Rock climbing in Nunawading. All of us got plenty of goes and climbed to where we felt comfortable. It was a great bonding activity and we all encouraged each other. Thank you to all of the adults who helped to make it an enjoyable day.

*John*
Year 12 Muckereration Day

May the Lord bless you and keep you...

For the Year 12s the last week of school is a really strange time comprising a whole mixture of emotions, from a sense of relief to one of sadness. Many students have been at MECS right from the beginning of their schooling, so for them in particular this time of transition is a whole new adventure.

Over the years we have established a number of special traditions for the Year 12s in order to honour and celebrate with them. On their last day of classes a special morning tea is held where teachers from the Primary and Middle School have a chance to reflect on special times and events. At the conclusion of the day the Year 12s transform the Senior School in accordance with their chosen theme. This year the theme was ‘TV Shows’, where a number of classrooms were set up accordingly.

The following day comprised a cooked breakfast put on by the SS staff, an ‘X Factor’ dance party, a CSI whodunit, a balloon pit, a Year 12-led whole school assembly - this year complete with an AAMI commercial and a special address by Cliff, a staff/ student volleyball game that somehow resulted in a water fight and a special luncheon in the main staffroom, where the staff and students reflected on the final years of schooling. It was special to hear how MECS has helped to shape the students in their journey towards maturity, in both their character and faith.

We sincerely thank all the Year 12s on making their last school day so memorable and for all the right reasons. The Senior School really felt like a mini carnival had come to town. We want to wish our 12s all the best with the final days leading up to their exams. We pray that God might grant them peace, and insight into his infinite love for them both now and always.

Sharon
Year 12 Coordinator
Interschool Secondary Athletics

With MECS never having won an Interschool Athletics meet, and the possibility to progress to state finals, 48 MECS students set off determined to give their all at the Knox Athletics Track. The sun was shining and the MECS students where in excellent form with ribbons being won regularly both on the track and field. Across the day MECS students broke nine interschool records and finished up with four age group champions. A big congratulations to the following students in their events.

**Ben** 16+yrs male, record in the 1500m

**Hadassah**, 13yrs female, **Age group Champion**, and records in long jump & high jump

**Jake**, 13yrs male, record in long jump

**Hayden & Aiden**, 15yrs male record in high jump

**Caleb**, 13yrs male, **Age Group Champion**, and records in the 100m and 200m.

**Patience**, 15yrs female **Age Group Champion**, records in the 100m and 200m

**Saoirse**, 16+yrs female, **Age Group Champion**, record in 400m

**13yrs boys** relay: Caleb, Jacques, Kyal & Ben

As the day progressed competition tightened as MECS and Bayside Christian College were neck and neck for the top spot. With our excellent relay teams, MECS pulled ahead in the final moments to take our first ever Interschool Athletics Meet Championship by just 18 points. Six of our students won with times, heights and distances that have qualified them for ‘2016 Victorian all Schools T&F Championships’.

Caleb: 100m, 400m, 1500m
Hadassah: 800m, 1500m
Jake: long jump
Patience: 100m
Aaron: High Jump
Kyal: 100m

A huge congratulations to all MECS students who participated to the best of their ability and represented themselves and the school with excellence in their performances and conduct across the day. The only disappointment was the twenty students who failed to attend without giving notice, leaving many holes to be filled by other students. A big thank you also to Sarah who volunteered her time as an assistant all day as well as teaching staff, Sue, Tim, and Anne-Maree for their diligence in organising students and events.

**Luke**
Secondary Sports Coordinator

Platypus Education

Late last term the four year old children had a visit from the Platypus education group, funded by the Shire of Yarra Ranges. We learnt interesting facts about the platypus through a range of games, demonstrations and some hands on activities. We played a game that showed us how hard it is for the platypus to find food in the creek when it is full of rubbish. We talked about how we can conserve by using alternative products and by recycling. We sorted out rubbish and recycled. Even dog poo washes into our creeks and harms wildlife so we should always pick it up when we walk our dogs! If you see a plastic band, such as the kind you find around the milk bottle tops, you should; ‘spot it, snip it and bin it!’, as these can be very harmful to the platypus and other wildlife!

**Wendy**
Early Years Coordinator
Montrose Football Club

Community and family focused for boys and girls age 8-17.

Registrations open November 1. Open day 10am-12noon Sunday Nov 20. Call 0407 619 900 or email montrose.juniors@gmail.com

Gospel Concert

Whittlesea Combined Churches present 'Carter and Carter' Golden Guitar winners. Kinglake locals, multiple award winners for their great country music! Supported by local artists.

Sunday November 20 from 2 – 5pm at Saint Mary’s School, Fir Street Whittlesea.

Adults $10, Children $5, Family $25.
All proceeds - Khumi Children’s Village - School & Home, Zambia.


Bunk Bed Needed

A bunk bed is urgently needed to accommodate the fostering of two Aboriginal children ages 10 and 11 years old, most likely arriving on Friday. If you can help please contact Leanne, 0438 093 990.

Rental/house sitting accommodation required

A family starting new to MECS is looking for a house to rent or house sit for a few months, beginning anytime in the near future. They need a 3 bedroom house, anywhere between Healesville and Mt Evelyn. References are available. Please contact Serena, srsmith8@yahoo.com.

Apple Man

The Apple Man is coming on Friday Oct 28 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 28.

SP Asylum Seeker Response

Safety

Safety is warming like a thick, woolly blanket
Keeping you comforted in the worst of times.
Safety can welcome you
It can please your being and make you feel special
Safety helps you continue – to continue to who you want to be
Australia is safety
So let them stay

By Rian

Refugee Haiku

I can’t speak English
I feel like an alien
I don’t fit in here

By Will

What is an Asylum Seeker?

Quickly fleeing from your country,
Your heart pumping rapidly
A rush of fear shooting down your body,
Your only wish is to be safe
A tear rushing down your cheek
As you say your last goodbye
Sailing off, not knowing what will happen,
But trying to have hope that all will be alright.
That is an Asylum seeker.

By Maddi

Lost Bracelet

Black cord with a metal anchor on the end with ‘castaway’ inscribed in it. The cord is quite long as you wrap it around several times then loop cord through the anchor.

Please hand it to the main office if found.

Calendar

Montrose Football Club

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 3: 24 Oct - 30 Oct

Thur 27 October

Year 4 Kids with Courage Parent Theatrette Centre Trip Presentation Night 7.30pm PUMP Room Footsteps into Foundation Orientation Session 1, 2-3pm PUMP Room Centre Trip Presentation Night 7.30pm Theatrette Year 4 Kids with Courage Parent Information Session 7.30pm Staffroom

Wed 2-4 November

MP Merricks Lodge Camp - Plants

Wed 2 November

VCE Methods Exam 1
VCE Dance/VET Hospitality Exam

Tues 1 November

VCE Business Management Exam

VCE Drama Exam
VCE HDD Exam

Footsteps into Foundation Orientation Session 1, 2-3pm PUMP Room Centre Trip Presentation Night 7.30pm Theatrette Year 4 Kids with Courage Parent Information Session 7.30pm Staffroom

2016 Term 4 Week 4: 31 Oct - 6 Nov

Mon 31 October

Pupil Free Day
VCE Further Maths Exam 2
VCE Business Management Exam

Tues 1 November

Cup Day Public Holiday School Closed

Wed 2-4 November

MP Merricks Lodge Camp - Plants

Wed 2 November

VCE Methods Exam 1
VCE Dance/VET Hospitality Exam

Tues 3 November

VCE Drama Exam
VCE Methods Exam 2

2016 Term 4 Week 5: 7 Nov - 13 Nov

Thur 3 November

VCE Drama Exam
VCE Methods Exam 2

VCE History Exam

Mon 7 - Tues 8 November

JP Oasis Camp

Mon 7 November

VCE Music P Exam
VCE Specialist Maths Exam 2
VCE Outdoor Ed Exam

Tues 8 November

VCE Chemistry Exam
VCE VCD Exam

Middle School Connect Morning Tea 8.45 am Staffroom Performing Arts Double Bill Year 7, 8 and 10

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 Notices sent home this week and on Website


• SP Puberty Information Session (last week)
• Preparation for MP Camp Letter
• Performing Arts Double Bill Notice
• Year 11 Fit to Drive Workshop

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