JP Transport Camp

Evie having an exciting flying fox ride during the JP Transport Camp. Story page 7.
Year 6 at MECS - Growing up and graduating

This term will be the last weeks in Primary School for our Year 6s. On December 9 they will celebrate their graduation. It’s always my favourite school event.

It is fantastic as a teacher to sit back and watch your students get up and make a speech in front of hundreds of people. As their teachers, we’ve worked with them this term to help them write and practise those speeches. I know that on Graduation night many students who are extremely nervous about their speeches now will not only do them, but do them well. For some students this will be a mighty challenge, but we will believe in them, help them to believe in themselves and support them so that they too, can present their speech in a way that is achievable for them. I know too, that I will feel my heart welling up with pride as I watch them. That’s because each year at Graduation I feel the same way and realise again how privileged I am to be a Year 6 teacher and to share this event with my students.

Why is our Year 6 Graduation such a wonderful event? It’s not only because it’s an excuse for a new dress, and not only because it’s a great community event; but it’s because of the way it represents much of what is good and precious about Year 6. And mostly because it’s a wonderful chance for us to acknowledge our creator God who made these Year 6s and placed them in His world to learn how to be faithful and to give glory to Him by being who they have been created to be and using the gifts He has given them.

Graduation is highly anticipated by the students because it’s special and it’s mostly about them being special. It shows everyone just how far they’ve come through their Primary School journey and how ready they are to take on the world ahead. It’s a night filled with fancy clothes and special food and grown-up type of stuff (no parents at the dinner) and celebration of how fantastic they are (and don’t they know it!). And they are fantastic. Every Graduation I am amazed at the strength of the fierce ness of how much I love those kids. Year 6 can be a tough year, and many of them mature considerably throughout the year and this is often reflected in their speeches and their behaviour on Graduation night.

As teachers we make individual recognition of each student by presenting them with an individualised award during the ceremony. Every student at MECS excels in some way that contributes to the life of our MECS community and deserves to be acknowledged and celebrated. MECS Year 6 Graduation is about acknowledging the journey, but more about celebrating the amazing individuals - all gifted by God in some way, all successful because of who they are as a person and who they are in Christ, not necessarily because of what they have done.

Over the years the MECS Year 6 program has grown and developed. We have developed the ‘Positive Boys’ and ‘Empowering Girls’ programs in which the students learn much about being together and about life in general. Our Term 4 Core Studies unit is separated into Year 5s and 6s. Year 6s undertake a unit called ‘The Next Step’ which looks back at their journey over Primary school and explores how to prepare for the trip up to Middle School. The students explore how God empowers us and helps us in all of our ‘steps’ and take part in activities that help them recognise the importance and blessing of their Year 6 ‘community’. Our Year 6s are not alone in moving on to Middle School. The have their God who goes with them and also their own student, and wider school, community.

Our Year 6s aren’t perfect and sometimes they exasperate me greatly; but they are perfectly created and definitely worth celebrating. When I see them at Graduation I am also more than a little sad that our time together has come to an end. Once they move up those steps to the next level, both literally and metaphorically, we will see them only occasionally. However, I am thankful for the blessing of teaching at a school where, in 6 years time, I will be able to be part of celebrating their Year 12 last day.

Will Graduation be the highlight of the year for them? It’s going to be hard to beat camp, the rock climbing excursion, Empowering Girls/Positive Boys, Buddies, the Hoodie party or the much desired privilege of sitting on chairs at GTs (our assemblies). Whatever the case, there will be celebration. Celebration of 44 precious gifts from God, for whom we are very thankful. We will wish them God’s richest blessings as they leave our Primary School (sniff). Stay tuned for photos of us looking gorgeous in the newsletter following Graduation!

Melissa
Assistant Primary Coordinator & Senior Primary Coordinator

Primary Interschool Athletics

On Wednesday November 9 we took 44 students to the Inter-Christian School Athletics Carnival at the Knox Athletics track. We had great weather and the students did a great job representing MECS. We had a good number of students receive ribbons in their events especially in the shuttle relay where we had 2 teams win first, and 2 teams win second place.

It was a busy but fun day and I was once again proud of how our students interacted with the students from other schools throughout the day.

Jason
Primary Sport Coordinator
‘Pop- Up’ Parties

We have recently received information from Victoria Police that I thought was worth passing on to parents, particularly those with older children. There has been an increase in the eastern suburbs of what are being called ‘pop-up’ parties. These are social gatherings being organised via social media which are unsafe for young people to attend. These parties are being hosted in private homes, abandoned buildings and public halls. Victoria Police have made a number of recommendations to ensure young people can safely attend local gatherings. As we move towards the end of the year and possible celebrations, can I encourage you to follow these recommendations?

Talk to your children and be mindful of where they are;

Be vigilant around monitoring all of your child’s social media accounts (consider there may be multiple accounts) and look online at any events your child wants to attend;

Investigate any party your child is attending, and be satisfied of where your child is and who they are with. If a party location is unknown one or two weeks prior to a party date, this may be of concern.

Underage alcohol drinking and drug use is not recommended.

Building Program About to Commence!

As you are aware, over the next few years we are embarking on a building program to extend our capacity in the Primary School. Part of this is also the refurbishment of some existing Middle School classrooms. Work on the first stage of this program commences shortly, in fact, under the conditions of our federal grant, we need to start work on December 1! The work that will commence at this time is the enlargement and refurbishment of these Middle School rooms. The work that will be done in the first two weeks of December will be largely external.

Our intention in 2017 is to keep you fully updated on these works in our weekly newsletter and via other communications. We know building works can be an inconvenience. We hope to mitigate some of this inconvenience with careful project management and good communication. However, we know there will be times when things will not always be as we would like them! We thank you in advance for your co-operation and understanding as we move into this exciting new phase of development for the school.

As we begin this process we pray for the safety of all our contractors who will work on our site, and for the effective co-ordination and smooth running of these projects.

Year 12 Graduation

This week culminates with the Year 12 Graduation on Saturday night at the Karralyka Centre in Ringwood East. This will be a great opportunity to celebrate with our Year 12s and their families the completion of their schooling here at MECS. Please continue to pray for our Year 12s as they head off on various service trips and fun activities over the coming weeks that they will be kept safe and enjoy the opportunities that are now before them.

Primary Interschool Netball

On Friday November 11 we took 3 netball teams to Great Ryrie Primary School for an all day netball tournament against the teams from Great Ryrie. Our girls did such a great job especially our B team which consisted of girls who had mostly never played a game of netball before. All our teams did a great job competing all day outside in the sun and we ended up with our A1 team and our B team making the grand finals.

Although they both lost their grand finals they were both very competitive games.

A huge thank you to our 6 Middle School umpires who did an absolutely stellar job umpiring the whole day. They were patient, encouraging and very much ‘on the ball’ with their umpiring decisions.

This truly is a wonderful world that God created. Every aspect of it was thoughtfully considered and purposefully made. I believe it was God’s intention for us to teach children ways to help keep the world as God intended it to be.

We are all blessed to be part of a wonderful school community and to have such a beautiful environment in which we teach and learn. It’s important that we look after it.

Our Primary School students have been investigating ways to take better care of our school and our Earth and our first concern has been the amount of waste brought into and produced by our school.

In order to find out how much waste we produced at MECS, the Middle Primary students conducted a Waste Audit of the Primary School. The results gave us a lot to think about and have encouraged us to change our habits.

As a result of student consultation, our Primary School will become rubbish free in 2017. We are encouraging students to bring healthy, rubbish free lunches to school each day and, similar to the rules of a National Park, to take all rubbish home with them. Take only memories, leave only footprints.

Students are creating recipe books to help families with healthy, rubbish free lunch box ideas. We are discussing how our bodies and minds benefit from eating healthy as well as how our Earth benefits from reducing waste. We are enthusiastic about these changes and we know what a difference we will make to our environment.

Naomi
Middle Primary Teacher

On... Sustainability
MECS Notes

Working Bee

What a change in weather compared to our last Working Bee - bright and sunny instead of wet and cold!

We had a great day; even though the group was small we achieved a lot. There were new planter pots and poles as part of a big tidy up in the kinder yard; a big clean up and tidy up in the MECS community garden; and the cleaning of all pits and drains. We did some gardening and filled a big bin of green waste; cleaned around all the door handles, light switches, power points etc.; finished pulling out an old sleeper wall and prepared a path ready for concrete; blew pathways clear; put in some posts for a fence around the new tough mudder course we are making and did a general tidy up.

As well as all that we had a great morning tea. As always, it was a great time of chatting and community building and we thank all those who came along for their hard work to keep MECS looking wonderful. Thank you to all the children who came as well.

Our next Working Bee is on December 3. Come along and enjoy a yummy breakfast - you won’t be disappointed! See you there.

Pete and Steve
Property Management

---

Friends of MECS

Stationery

Thank you to everyone who has offered to help with the stationery packing and sales day. The roster will be emailed shortly. I would still like some more people to help so if you are free on any of the following days please email me at iedubbeld@gmail.com or contact me on 0425 821 947.

Wed 30 Nov, 9-12noon, Tues 6 Dec, 8.30-12noon
Wed 30 Nov, 12.30-3pm Tues 6 Dec, 12-3pm
Thurs 1 Dec, 9-12noon

I will be emptying the storeroom near the main office on Wednesday 23 Nov and bringing it up to the Senior School. This normally takes between 1-2 hours so if you are free to help please meet me at the main office around 9am.

I will also be in the Senior School unpacking the new stock on Fri 25 and Mon 28 Nov so if there is anyone who is free and can help please let me know.

Evelyn

---

Enrolments now open for 2017

3C Kidz Care is a ministry of Casey City Church
Primary GT Run by Bandicoots

10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1. Blast off!! The Bandicoots GT went off on Monday! Every single child got involved and did a fantastic job of joining in with the GT. From designing and making props, to planning and making videos, to colouring and making signs, to acting on the day. Everyone was involved in so many different aspects of the GT and worked together as a team to bring it all together!

Fiona
JPB Teacher

Toot! Toot! Here comes the train! Bandicoots did GT on Monday! In the play we did there was a train, a bus, and a car. I went on the train as a passenger. Oliver was the train driver and the other passengers on the train were Solly, Freddie, and Abi. The people who were on the bus were Jack and James E. Only Alannah was in the car. In the play Alannah was Mrs E! The part where Mrs E had her boat license was funny and everybody in the audience thought it was funny too! We put lots of boxes together and made a train. We put string between the carriages and then we painted it. The front carriage was red, the second carriage was black, the third carriage was green, the fourth carriage was yellow, and the fifth carriage was blue. The bus was yellow with orange lights and black wheels. It could fit four people in it. The rocket was red with blue spots. The car was red at the front, blue on the left side, and orange on the right with lightning on both sides.

Anouk

Healthy Eating

One of our Year 12 students, Rhys, has undertaken his Senior VCAL certificate this year with a large focus on obesity in Australia. The results of this culminated yesterday when Rhys and Hayden ran a healthy eating session at Mooroolbark East Primary School for a class of Grade 4 students. The students were eager to answer a lot of the questions that Rhys and Hayden asked and the young men imparted some great knowledge. The fruit supplied at the end was also a winner, with all students happily consuming apples and bananas. Congratulations boys. Another example of not only great work, but a great community partnership as well.

Julie
Literacy Teacher

MECS Notes

Congratulations to Nicky and Paul

Nicky and Paul welcomed baby Emmanuel Soren into their family on Sunday November 6 at 10:56am, weighing in at a healthy 4 kilos (8lb 14oz).

Employment at MECS

MECS is currently advertising for a new Learning Assistant. If you or someone you know is interested, application details can be found in the employment section of the website.
Drama Double Bill

The Ratz

Years 7/8 Performing Arts’ production of “The Ratz” was a joyous, musical escapade that delighted the audience and left them wanting more (literally!). Mr Bishop had to spontaneously announce the end of the performance as the audience sat steadfastly hoping for an encore. Other memorable moments from the performance included entertaining dance moves from Oliver and Matt, and an epic fainting scene from TJ. Preparations for The Ratz began in early Term 2 when auditions were held and casting decided before rehearsals wound into full swing. Twenty-three Years 7 and 8 students were involved as cast members playing various roles including Mums, Kids, Councillors, members of “The Ratz” band, and a cunning Piper. With the audience in front of them, each performer rose to the occasion and executed an entertaining and skillful performance. The experience of being in a production like this is invaluable and all students should feel extremely proud of what they have achieved.

Alice

Year 10 Dance & Drama is a brand new elective in 2016 and this year’s group has shown a spirit of adventure and a willingness to step outside of their comfort zone in their theatre making. The students chose the theme of “Alice in Wonderland” for their major performance piece of the year. With the help of Mr B, the class devised a non-naturalistic performance which removed the dialogue and instead told the story through movement and music. Minimal sets were utilised and actors transformed into various objects including a table, a door, croquet hoops, and a Jabberwocky!! Furthermore, the character of Alice was played by 6 different actors. This transformation of character occurred between scenes using a symbolic change of costume. The execution on performance night was a highlight with the performers working in harmony and delivering a polished and accomplished ensemble performance. A number of these students will progress onto VCE Drama studies which focusses largely on non-naturalistic styles of performance.

Chris
Music/Drama/Dance Teacher & Performing Arts Coordinator
On camp I had one of the best days of my life. The first activity we did was this wooden wall and you had to climb up the rope. The next activity was connecting pipes together. Next was to try to stand on a platform with all your group on it.

**Micah**

Wow! Transport day was epic! My favourite part was watching Cars and painting what I saw on Puffing Billy. My favourite thing on camp was Puffing Billy and playing Doctor Doctor. Wow! That was fun!

**Junior**

We went on the flying fox. It was really cool because I did a dab. We did a rope course. We also did five activities. It was a great camp.

**Arjun**

Wow! Camp was awesome! We went on Puffing Billy. I saw lots and lots of trees out the window. We arrived at Emerald Lake. After a lot of activities at Emerald Lake, we hopped on the bus and off we went to Oasis! I loved JP Year 1 Transport Day! We all had lots of fun.

**Jem**

My biggest moment was the flying fox. I swam in mid air. The air went through my hair. On my second go I did a dab.

**Finn**

Room! Room! Room! I made a car. It was fun. At camp I had dinner there and dessert and then my mum and dad came. Then the next day it was transport day.

**Christopher**
## Calendar

### 2016 Term 4 Week 6: 14 Nov - 20 Nov

**Thur 17 November**  
Foundation 2017 Information Evening  
7.30pm PUMP Room

**Fri 18 November**  
Primary Interschool Futsal

**Sat 19 November**  
Year 12 Graduation

### 2016 Term 4 Week 7: 21 Nov - 27 Nov

**Mon 21 - Fri 25 November**  
Year 7 and 8 Cycle A Wilsons Prom Camp  
Year 7 and 8 Cycle B Inverloch Camp  
Work Experience Year 10 and some Year 11 students

**Mon 21 - Sat 26 November**  
Year 9 Canberra Camp

**Mon 21 November**  
Foundation Crazy Hair Day

**Thur 24 November**  
Footsteps into Foundation Orientation  
Session 3, 2pm  
Kinder Information Night 7.30pm

**Fri 25 November**  
Fit to Drive for Year 11s 9am Theatrette

### 2016 Term 4 Week 8: 28 Nov - 4 Dec

**Mon 28 Nov - Fri 2 Dec**  
Year 11 and 12 Compulsory 2017 Orientation Classes  
Primary GT - MP Green (Naomi Campbell)  
PUMP Room 9am

**Tues 29 Nov**  
Meet and Greet session for students coming into Years 1-6, 2-3pm

**Wed 30 Nov**  
Term 4 Music Recital Evening 7pm

**Thur 1 Dec**  
SP Choir Performance Evelyn Ridge

**Sat 3 Dec**  
Working Bee Including Breakfast 7am-1pm

### 2016 Term 4 Week 9: 5 Dec - 11 Dec

**Mon 5 Dec - Fri 9 Dec**  
Year 12 Compulsory 2017 Orientation Classes

## 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.

### Apple Man

The Apple Man is coming on Friday Nov 25 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 Nov 25.

### Road to Bethlehem

An outdoor walk-through theatrical presentation bringing the true story and meaning of Christmas to life  
Monday 12 to Thursday 15 December, 7pm till late at **Edinburgh College**, 33-61 Edinburgh Road, Lilydale.  
The ticket booth opens at 6pm each evening of Road to Bethlehem.  
Arrive early and pick up your tickets then enjoy the entertainment and children's activities OR leave and return just before your tour time.  
To book your free tickets go to [www.roadtobethlehem.org](http://www.roadtobethlehem.org)

### Southern Cross Cultural Exchange

Southern Cross Cultural Exchange will be welcoming some excited and enthusiastic students into Victoria in February 2017. These exchange students will be arriving from France, Italy, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Austria and Japan.  
We would love to hear from those who are interested in sharing their Australian life and culture by being a host family. Contact Southern Cross Cultural Exchange 1800 500 501, email cheryl.p@scce.com.au, www.scce.com.au.

## Next Working Bee

This Sat 3 Dec, 7am-1pm with Breakfast

## Notices sent home this week and on Website

- Primary Choir Parent Letter (last week)  
- Christmas Carols Invitation (last week)  
- Boxes Needed for JP Notice  
- Year 9 Movie Notice  
- Primary Interschool Futsal Day (last week)  
- Careers Newsletter Nov 15  
- Instrumental Music Re-enrolment Letter  
- Road to Bethlehem Invitation

---

**BAKE SALE**

**ON THE 30TH OF NOVEMBER @ THE UNDERSTORE**  
R.S.P.C.A, R.C.H OR R.M.D.H  
FROM SWEET LIL THINGS  
ONCE YOU BUY A TREAT YOU CAN CHOOSE IF YOU WANT TO DONATE THE MONEY TO...

**BAKE SALE**

**FROM SWEET LIL THINGS**

- Yummy Treats for Everyone!  
- Including Nut Free, Dairy Free, Egg Free & Gluten Free.  
- From $1 - $5  
- **ON THE 30TH OF NOVEMBER @ THE UNDERSTORE**  

**BAKE SALE**

**FROM SWEET LIL THINGS**

- R.S.P.C.A, R.C.H OR R.M.D.H  
- ONCE YOU BUY A TREAT YOU CAN CHOOSE IF YOU WANT TO DONATE THE MONEY TO...

---

**Thursday November 30**  
7pm in the Senior School Theatre  
Performers - ‘Dress to Impress’  
Come along and support our last Recital for the year!

---

**Last Day of Canteen**

Tomorrow - Friday November 18 is the last week for canteen for this year, as the Ranges TEC students will be finishing up. There will be some delicious specials and meal deals available over the counter!