Stationery Pickup Day
Tues Dec 6

Equipping for Life

Year 9 Canberra Camp
Brooke & Rebecca on Canberra Camp
Aiming for Holy and Finding your Sweet Spot

When you think about ‘Holy People’, who comes to mind? Mother Theresa? Jesus? Yourself? It’s easy to look at people like Mother Theresa and come to the conclusion that some people are just born holy. They seem to just have it all together and meanwhile the rest of us struggle to know where we sit with our faith and commitment to God, or to know what it truly means to live a saintly or holy life. The chance of us being recognised by others as ‘holy’ is about as likely as our becoming astronauts.

But what if the situations and circumstances of our daily lives (the boring, mundane parts of our lives) could actually become very real opportunities to encounter God and become saints? (By saint, I mean someone who discovers their deepest potential and happiness in knowing God, loving people and serving the needs of the world).

Our daily work takes on a much higher value when it is done for God – that is finding your ‘sweet spot’.

The definition of ‘SWEET SPOT’: The place on a bat, that engineers have designed, to produce the best forward motion for a ball that makes contact. It’s the spot that helps you hit a home run, hit a ‘hole in one’, hit a ‘6’, ... Its that place on the bat that makes you go ‘sweet’ when you hit it. ... In life, it’s the place that you dwell that makes you feel that all is right with the world – where you are using the things that make you, you; the things you enjoy, to bless others and bring glory to God...

Let me tell you about Solanus Casey. Actually born Barney Casey, in Wisconsin in the late 19th Century, Solanus was one of 16 children. He was a less than average student and spent years of his life experiencing academic failure and career confusion. He failed school and pretty much had no idea what he wanted to do with his life. He ended up working as a lumberjack, handyman, prison guard and finally a bus conductor. Feeling that there was still more to life, he eventually tried to enter a monastery, but with classes in German and textbooks in Latin he bombed out again and was sent home.

Next Solanus approached the Franciscan order, and after ten years of failing exams and trying again and again, he was finally granted special permission to become a ‘simple priest’. This meant that he was seen as so unspectacular that he was only allowed to do the most basic of tasks. His superiors felt that he was so unimpressive that he was only suited to being a mere doorkeeper. His job was to open the door and greet people when they rung the doorbell. And that is what he did, day after day, for 21 years!

He did it with such amazing joy and grace that he made people feel incredibly welcome. He also had a gift of patience and the ability to deeply listen to people. As time passed he also began to experience the ability to have insights into people’s needs and when he prayed for people, those prayers seemed to get answered, and often in miraculous and surprising ways.

Solanus Casey was so important and impacted so many lives not because he raised the dead, started a church movement, healed lepers or fed the poor. He just opened the door for people... for 21 years, but he did it with the love of God and it changed people.

Solanus had found his sweet spot.

This example shows that you can find God in the hiddenness and smallness of your daily tasks and encounters with other people. You don’t have to climb Mount Everest to find solitude and ‘find God’. You can find Him in the reality of exactly where you are right now. Like Solanus Casey, the smallest things you do, if done with the love of God in your heart and a desire to care for others, can achieve amazing things.

Think now of all the people in your school, work, church or home community who are feeling lonely or rejected... What if you simply gave yourself to the task of greeting them each day with warmth and sincerity, or maybe just got to know them better? What if you approached that one task in the same way that Solanus Casey approached the opening of a door? Don’t fall into the trap of believing that you can only change the world by being part of some great historical event or movement. It is the hidden and simple tasks of right now and doing them with joy and love that can create real change.

“Christ has no body now on earth but yours,
No hands but yours
Your are the hands with which He is to bless His people.”
St Teresa of Avila

This was the speech/devotion shared with the Year 11 students at our recent Year 11 Formal. Excerpts taken from “The Curious Case of Solanus Casey”. Road Ahead Magazine, 2016.

Karissa
Assistant Principal - Secondary
SKETCHER’S SCOOP

Working Bees
As we begin to wrap up this year, I’d like to thank all parents and students who have helped out at a working bee this year. This coming Saturday we will hold our last one for the year; make sure you are here early for an egg and bacon breakfast! As mentioned in previous newsletters, we could not keep our grounds and facilities as we do without the work done at our working bees. In fact, we estimate that our community contributes over 1000 hours of work to keeping our school looking great. Our working bees also provide a great opportunity for parents to meet one another and so we hope that has been your experience this year.

Staff Farewells
The end of the year inevitably brings a number of farewells. To Alison, Sue, Paul, Andrea, Alison and Sarah – thank you for all that you have done as members of staff. We have appreciated the passion and gifts you have brought to your roles. You will be greatly missed by students and colleagues alike, and we wish you well in your future endeavours. Laura has also advised us that she will not be returning to her role as a Learning Assistant in the Senior School after maternity leave. We wish her and her two young sons all the best.

Gratitude to the Board
The end of the year also provides an opportunity to thank the members of the Board who work tirelessly throughout the year. As a governance Board, their main job is to make sure the running and direction of the school is aligned with the core vision and mission of the Association. This means that at our monthly meetings, a particular area of the school comes under discussion and we check that our governance policies are being adhered to. On behalf of the whole MECS community, we want to thank and acknowledge the service of Ian (Board Chair), Lisa (Vice Chair), Louise (Board Secretary), Bretlyn (Board Treasurer), James, Steve and Kirsty.

VCE Results
Our VCE students receive their results next week. Once again we want to congratulate them on all their hard work this year and wish them well as they now finalise their plans for 2017 and beyond.

Dinner at Parliament House
Last week, I had the opportunity to dine at Parliament House with a small group of CEN leaders and Hon. Nick Wakeling, the Shadow Minister for Education. It is always good to have these opportunities to advocate on behalf of Christian education more generally, and for our politicians to know who we are and what are schools represent. Hot topics of conversation over the dinner table were the proposed changes to the Equal Opportunity Act, the compulsory nature of the Safe Schools material in government schools and the frustrations around state and federal funding. I have invited Nick to visit our school next year and he is keen to do so.

Be safe over Christmas
We have received various reminders from the CFA and Yarra Ranges Council about our families remaining safe over the Christmas period. We want everyone in our MECS community to return next year safe and well so please make wise and sensible choices. In the New Year we will send out our annual reminders about our bushfire readiness, but in the meantime up-to-date information can be found on the CFA website – www.cfa.vic.gov.au

FOCUS On... Art

Art can be taught
Having taught Art for a number of years, it always amuses me that at least one student, when arriving at the start of the school year for art lessons, announces to me that he or she is ‘no good at art’. It seems the student is setting the scene so I can lower my expectations in his or her case with a type of disclaimer that will equally, for the students who feel they are not good at art, how much talent we have at MECS). But I can take great joy in these gifted students and love nurturing their talent. (It amazes me how much talent we have at MECS). But equally, for the students who feel they are not good at art, there is the joy of seeing skills improved, that ‘aha!’ moment when the student recognises that his drawings have improved or his landscape painting captured the scene.

These are wonderful moments for the student and teacher alike. The shared experience of success promotes a sense of accomplishment for the student and a ripple effect of creative possibilities within the whole class. The art-making process is teachable, and a rich, rewarding experience.

Alison
Middle School Teacher

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Like any other subject, the skills of art making can be taught. The Art curriculum is shaped to cover a range of skills such as drawing realistically, painting techniques, how to make a good composition or exploring a variety of mediums for two and three-dimensional creations. Yet that moment of making the first mark on a paper for a drawing or coming up with an idea for an artwork can be daunting. The creative spark needs to be encouraged with lots of assistance from the teacher in setting each student up for success. Some students have a gift for creativity, just like they can be good at Maths or English. Art teachers take great joy in these gifted students and love nurturing their talent. (It amazes me how much talent we have at MECS). But equally, for the students who feel they are not good at art, there is the joy of seeing skills improved, that ‘aha!’ moment when the student recognises that his drawings have improved or his landscape painting captured the scene.

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Alison
Middle School Teacher
MECS Notes

Year 12 Study Camp
The Year 12 Study Skills camp will occur on **Tues 24 and Wed 25 Jan.** This is before Australia day. Details have been emailed home to parents

Sharon
Year 12 Coordinator

Cycle B Inverloch Camp
Keep an eye on next week’s newsletter for photos and stories from Inverloch.

Heather
Newsletter Editor

MECS Dollarmite School Banking
The last banking day for this year is **Wednesday December 7.** Your tokens will carry through to next year.

Thanks for supporting the school through the year. We look forward to banking again with you in 2017!

Anita
School Banking Coordinator

End of Year Information
Here are a few important pieces of information relating to the end of the school year.

School Finish Time:
The last day of term will be **Wednesday December 14.** School will finish at 2pm.

Distribution of Reports
Distribution of reports will occur as follows:
- Reports for all Foundation-Year 6 students will be distributed on the second last day of term.
- Reports for Middle School students will be distributed on the last day of term.
- Reports for students in Years 10 and 11 will be sent home with a younger sibling, or posted home.
- Reports for any students absent on the last day of school will be posted home.

Distribution of Class Lists:
Class lists for 2017 will go home via email in January (January 16-20). The exception will be 2017 Foundation students who will receive theirs at the end of this year, via post, just after school finishes.

If you have any questions about any of the above, please contact me via the office.

Natasha
Enrolments & Office Manager

Orientation Day - Tuesday December 6

Next **Tuesday, December 6,** is Orientation day for all students going into Foundation – Year 10 next year. All students will spend time in their 2017 year level, having the opportunity to get to know the classrooms and teachers and the new students that will be joining their year levels in 2017. All students need to bring their usual snacks and lunch.

Parents’ Morning Tea: We will be hosting a morning tea from 8.45am in the main staffroom for new and current parents. We hope you can join us for a cuppa and a chat.

Stationery: will be available for collection from the Senior School between 9am-3pm. Enter the Senior School from Gate 2 (32 Hawkins Rd) and follow the signs. Please note this is the only collection day so stationery needs to be collected on this day.

Car parking will be tricky as it is such a busy day at the school! Please allow yourself a few extra minutes.

Here are the specific instructions for each year level:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Instructions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Foundation 2017** | 8:50am-12pm  
Come straight to the Foundation classrooms and hang your bag on any hook. Say goodbye at the door, and go into either Foundation room and start one of the activities.  
Please bring brain food and morning tea, and your child’s blue broad brimmed hat that they use for Kinder.  
*Pick up time is 12pm, from the Foundation classrooms.* |
| **Year 1 2017** | **8:30am-10am**  
Come straight to the JP Echidna classroom, and hang your bag up outside any of the JP classrooms. When the music starts, line up outside the JP Echidna classroom ready to head into story time with Mrs Viv Theunissen and Mrs Kaye Smith. Parents are welcome to chat with the teachers at the end of the day, however we ask that parents wave their children off from outside the classroom and depart promptly to allow the children to commence this exciting day.  
Bring your usual lunch box food. Pick up usual time. |
| **Year 2 2017** | **8:30am-10am**  
Come straight to the JP Bandicoots classroom, and hang your bag up outside any of the JP classrooms. When the music starts, line up outside the JP Bandicoots classroom ready to head into story time with Miss Fiona Murray. Parents are welcome to chat with the teachers at the end of the day, however we ask that parents wave their children off from outside the classroom and depart promptly to allow the children to commence this exciting day.  
Bring your usual lunch box food. Pick up usual time. |
| **Year 3 2017** | **8:30am-10am**  
Come straight to the MP classrooms and sit and wait on the bottom 2 steps outside the MP rooms. Hang your bag on a hook outside any of the MP classrooms. You will need your pencil case.  
Bring your usual lunch box food. Pick up usual time. |
| **Year 4** | **8:30am-10am**  
Hang your bag on your usual hook, then sit and wait on the top 2 steps outside the MP rooms.  |
| **Year 5 & 6 2017** | **8:30am-10am**  
Come to the SP classrooms, hang your bag on any of the hooks outside the SP classrooms, then head to the PUMP room for some SP activities. |

Middle/Senior School Year 7 – Year 10

**Orientation program runs for the full day.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Instructions</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 7 &amp; 8 2017</td>
<td>Go to the understorey, and bring your bags with you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 9 2017</td>
<td>Go to the Year 9 Open Village rooms. Make sure you have paper and pen with you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 10 2017</td>
<td>Go straight up to the Senior School and go to the Theatrette for a period 1 start at 9:00am. From there you will receive a timetable for the classes you will have that day, as well as go on a Senior School tour. Students will need to bring writing materials and a workbook to use for note-taking in classes. Bags will be kept in the Theatrette during the day.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Stationery Collection Day

Next Tuesday December 6 is stationery collection day, between 9am – 3pm in Rooms 9 & 10 in the Senior School. You can pay with cash, cheque, credit or eftpos. Please remember that this is the only collection day so please put it in your diary.

Schoolwear Sales

Next Tuesday schoolwear will be available for sale anytime throughout the day from the main office

Evelyn

Wilson's Prom Camp

On the third night of Cycle A camp, Skye and Maisey headed back to find that a wombat had been in our tent. Then when we were cleaning up, the wombat returned and we all were terrified, but the next day we didn’t care as much and laughed about it all. We also went to the beach and had a sandcastle competition. We buried Jonathan in the sand but still didn’t win. It was good fun.

Joey

On Cycle A camp group 3 was hiking on the 37 degrees day which was really hard for the group. The next day 4 people had to go back to base came and rest. And finally on Wednesday night we got a wombat in our tent because of someone (me!) and when we were cleaning up it came back. But by the end of the camp it is something we can just laugh about.

Jade

Camp was good. I really enjoyed Little Waterloo; that was the best and if I were you I would go group 1. Our teachers in group 1 were brilliant as, too.

Jake

Tidal River was awesome because we got to swim there. Oberon Bay’s sand dunes were lovely with the view; it made me realize how beautiful God made this world. She’ll be right!

Nathan
MECS would like to acknowledge the contribution that the Australian Government makes to our annual Canberra Camp through the PACER program. This program contributes funding for each student based on the distance travelled to Canberra. This year our Year 9 students undertook an educational tour of the national capital, participating in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australian Identity, including history, culture, heritage and democracy.

Tim
Year 9 Teacher, VCE Music Coordinator

Canberra Camp Reflections

My favourite highlight was Parliament House because it reminded me of the tour at the start of the year when we went through the Arts Centre on City camp. Everything there was designed with a purpose and all the supplies that were there, were there for a reason. I learned that they still have a ceremonial mace that has to be on the table when parliament is sitting.

Britney

My highlight was the High Court because it was really funny and we had a good group of people and an excellent tour guide. I learnt that some people can make anything interesting.

Josh

I learnt that something as boring as the High Court could be interesting and fun as long as Cecil was one of the tour guides.

Hamish

One of my highlights was Circa at the National Museum. I also enjoyed the War Memorial because I finally got to see Vivian Bullwinkel’s uniform and I had wanted to see that since July. I learnt a lot more Australian history than I expected and also learnt about barrel rifling.

Tori
Year 9 Canberra Camp

My highlight was going to the War Memorial because I had always wanted to go there and I got to learn about my Great Grandfather, Sir Weary Dunlop. I had the opportunity to place a poppy on one of his statues. I was lucky enough to see the section of the museum dedicated to the Vietnam War. The most interesting thing I learnt was that Canberra was built from a vision that Walter Burley Griffin and his wife had for the local landscape.

Ruth

My highlight was going to the High Court because we had two very good tour guides and it was very interesting. At Parliament House I learnt that in Parliament House there are two boxes that are replicas of the ones in England’s Parliament House, given to us as a present; when their Parliament House was bombed and destroyed they made replicas of our boxes for their Parliament House.

Jemimah

Old Parliament House was my highlight because it made learning about the Australian political system fun and interesting. I learnt more about the history of our politicians, especially the story behind Gough Whitlam’s dismissal.

Hope

My highlight was going to the War Memorial. I learnt about the Australian men and how they fought for our country.

Mermaid

My highlight was meeting Cecil at the High Court. We learned a lot from him. Apparently the way to get to sit in the judge’s chair is to go to school, do well in school, go to law school, do well in law school, become a lawyer, do well as a lawyer, become a judge, do well as a judge, become a Supreme Court judge and then you get to sit in the judge’s chair.

Lwendyl

I enjoyed Question Time because it was interesting. I learnt that some people like to yell a lot and how uncivil and disrespectful our politicians can be. Before camp I assumed the politicians would act politely towards others and respect their opinions.

Emily
# 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.

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## Furniture for Sale

- **Solid timber TV cabinet** - 1830mm long, 450mm deep, 560mm high.
- **Wine cupboard/buffet** - 1370mm long, 500 deep, 880mm high. Good used condition, approx 4 years old. Few small surface scratches. $200 each or $350 for both.
- **6 seater dining table**, well loved and used for many years. Solid heavy table, 100cm x 180cm. One chair has some repairs done. $100.

Pick up Coldstream, call Nicole 0400 537 967.

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## Cane Furniture for Sale

- **3 piece set**, relatively new and in very good condition. $350. Pick up Mitcham. Contact Heather on 0419 935 312.

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## Rental Wanted

Couple looking for a rental house, unit or self-contained bungalow in the Ringwood or surrounding areas, beginning January 2017. If you know of anything we would love to hear from you. Please contact Tiffany on 0419 366 968 or Michael on 0412 685 070.

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## Apple Man

The Apple Man is coming for the last time this year on Friday Dec 9 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 Dec 9.

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## Family Carols

Sunday December 11 from 6pm, next to the Seville Water Park. Sing your favourite Christmas carols & songs. Guest artists. Support Seville CFA. BBQ from 6pm. Presented by the local churches in Seville & Wandin. If rain occurs, the event will be cancelled.

We invite you to bring along Christmas gifts of new toys and personal items for disadvantaged people and families in the Yarra Valley. To be distributed through LinC and Anglicare.

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## Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 28 Nov - Fri 2 Dec</td>
<td>Year 11 and 12 Compulsory 2017 Orientation Classes Primary GT - MP Green (Naomi Campbell) PUMP Room 9am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 3 Dec</td>
<td>Working Bee Including Breakfast 7am-1pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 5 Dec - Fri 9 Dec</td>
<td>Year 12 Compulsory 2017 Orientation Classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 6 Dec</td>
<td>Orientation Day Stationery and Schoolwear Pickup 9am-3pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 7 Dec</td>
<td>K4 Party Celebration 12.20pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 8 Dec</td>
<td>Busy Bees Last Session Bluebirds &amp; Rosellas (K3) Last Session Bluebirds &amp; Rosellas Party Celebrations - Rosellas 10.30, Bluebirds 1pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 9 Dec</td>
<td>Possums &amp; Koalas (K4) Last Session Year 6 Graduation 5pm Gym</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 12 Dec</td>
<td>Year 7-9 Indoor Sports Day Primary Christmas Celebration 6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 13 Dec</td>
<td>Kinder Clean-up Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 14 Dec</td>
<td>Last Day of School - Finish Time 2pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 23 Dec - Mon 2 Jan</td>
<td>School Closed from 12noon on Friday 23 Dec and will reopen on Tues 3 Jan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 24 Jan - Wed 25 Jan</td>
<td>Year 12 Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 26 Jan</td>
<td>Australia Day Public Holiday School Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 12 Dec</td>
<td>Year 12 Camp</td>
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## Next Working Bee

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

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

- Year 11 English Text Update
- Orientation Day information
- Year 9 End of Year Events Notice
- Year 12 Orientation Camp Notice
- Foundation Books and Work Notice
- JP Bandicoots Christmas Celebrations

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*Please Note - next week will be the last week that notices can be placed in the newsletter this year.*