Preps & Year 12s Parade Together at Assembly

Rebecca with Buddy, Chloe, meet at the Whole School Assembly on Tuesday
From the Principal

It’s been a really hot summer. The temperature has hovered around the low thirties since the start of school and this has made the start quite arduous for some. I marvel at how our younger students hold up in such weather as well as our parent community during extended periods of drought.

But just as it seems to continue on and on, there’s a break, a cool patch that allows us to take a break, perhaps sleep a little easier and to find rest and comfort. It reminds me that Christ also offers this comfort. In the heat of the day, Jesus offers a woman, who has been ostracised from her community, a drink of ‘living water’. It’s water that satisfies and will leave no one thirsty.

I have been teaching for a while now and used to think that education was how well I could impart a set of facts or better still, promote a set of principles to follow. These ideas would be assessed and students would be judged on how well they could remember these key bits of information. Over the years, you begin to realise that students are ultimately searching for meaning, the ‘what’s it all about’ moments that allow students to connect rather than deflect thoughts and ideas.

Change: it happens every day, every moment, everywhere.

Whilst celebrating our 40th Anniversary this year, naturally Change is more than just about the buildings. I recall making up silly plays, practicing them in the class storeroom at lunchtime, then when we felt they were sufficiently polished, knocking on the doors of other classes to ask if we could perform our play for them. We were rarely turned away. This more casual approach to the school day seems quite unbelievable to us now, given the much less flexible nature of the curriculum today.

Change is not always embraced by all. I recall the six term year MECS adopted in the late 70’s, early 80’s when all other schools had a three term year. While we shared some holidays with our state counterparts, many of our holidays were different. Oh how I hated being at school when all my friends from other schools were on holidays.

Life is all about change and we must learn to embrace it. It reminds us that anything is possible. It’s encouraging to know that nothing stays the same forever.

May you enjoy peace throughout this hot spell we are currently enjoying!

1973 - Change

Change: it happens every day, every moment, everywhere. Whilst celebrating our 40th Anniversary this year, naturally our thoughts turn to how our school has changed and evolved over these 40 years. Of course there are the physical changes to our school; when those first modest buildings were being built over 40 years ago, did those early pioneers ever envision a huge gym or a multi room kindergarten? Did they ever imagine that one day our school would have 3 separate staff rooms, not just one tiny little room for all staff?

When I started at MECS in 1975, the school was two years old. It consisted of two rows of classrooms, four on the bottom row and three or four at the top of the stairs. In between those two rows were the toilets, a sick bay, a tiny office and a staff room. Oh, and a ramshackle tin hut and a dusty gravel carpark. Back then a science room, craft room, gym and even a library were still just a dream. But we grew quickly and as we grew, so too did our buildings; new classrooms, a new staff room and a new library. These all came within those first few years. I remember, as a child of eight or nine, the privilege of being assigned the duty of washing the teachers’ cups after recess. It really felt like a privilege at the time, because it got us out of class and we got to spend time in the staff room, an area normally off limits to students. I remember piles and piles of new books in the staffroom, just waiting for the brand new library to be finished. That beautiful new library that seemed so big at the time, served the school for twenty years, but was bursting at the seams when it was replaced by the current library in 1996 and the “old” library was transformed into classrooms.

1975-2013

Celebrating 40 Years
VCE Inter-school Basketball

Thirteen MECS VCE students took time out of their busy schedule to compete in the inter-school round robin for basketball on Tuesday 12 February. We also had 2 past students who are now at Ranges Tech come and help fill the team out for the boys.

Both teams played really well and made the Grand Final after finishing first in their pool but unfortunately both were beaten. It was a great day and pleasing to see students who have a good balance of keeping their bodies and minds active.

Anne-Maree
Sports Coordinator

Parliament Prayer

Over 1500 people including government and church leaders, media representatives, youth and children met together to pray for Australia in the Great Hall of Parliament House in Canberra. Siennah was one of several young people invited to pray for and on behalf of their generation. She was joined on stage by other youth from various backgrounds aged 8-21, who represented the diversity of Australian society.

Highlights of the day included: Siennah being able to speak out the prayer (as she was very nervous), meeting Pastor Alan, an indigenous elder from Elcho Island, and watching the amazing International ‘Experience Artist’, Sarah D paint the tree of life.

Dear God
I want to ask for your wisdom for the future generation of leaders and culture shapers in Australia. And for all small and big decisions they make towards where you are taking us as a Nation.

I pray for my Indigenous brothers and sisters, that they will be accepted, welcomed and forgiving. I ask you to forgive us for not seeing each other how you see us.

I want to thank you for the leaders you have provided for our country, and for the up and coming ones in the near and distant future. I ask you to lead us in all our decisions including the ones for this year’s Federal election. I also pray for your guidance for every voter. I pray that they would help fulfill your purposes for Australia’s future.

Jesus I pray that you will keep our hearts open to you and help us to show others your love and grace.

Amen

Prayer written and spoken by Siennah at the National Day of Prayer, Parliament House Canberra.

Kindergarten Mascots

The MECS community would like to thank Richard for the mascots he designed for our Early Years Section. Richard has been involved in the MECS community on a number of levels for many years. He is a past parent and Board Member, he is the father-in-law to Middle School teacher Brad and he is a grandparent of one our Kindergarten children. We are thankful to have longstanding relationships with Richard and his family.

Richard is a gifted cartoonist and teaches cartooning to school students all across Melbourne. We love having someone so closely connected to our school design these beautiful mascots.

We would like to introduce the Early Years mascots to you!

Amanda
Community Relations Officer

Celebrating 40 Years
MECS Prayer Team

Would you like to be involved in supporting the MECS community by praying? Then why not join the prayer team? MECS parent Renee is coordinating the MECS prayer group and she would love more people to be involved. If you would like to be a part of the prayer group and receive weekly emails with requests for prayer and praise reports please email.

Amanda
Community Relations Officer

Year 9 City Excursion

On Monday 18 February, the Year 9s had to travel into the city on public transport, without any teachers. Once we arrived at Flinders Street Station, all students met up with the teachers and were given clues/directions to certain destinations. As we travelled round the city using public transport e.g. trams, trains and our feet (not that they’re public), we had to find certain buildings, statues, shops and when we found the building/statue we would have to answer questions, take/draw a picture and find out what the building’s name meant and other bits of information and write them down on paper. The excursion was a great experience. It showed the teachers that we’re responsible and that we know our way around Melbourne city. I had a really great day and experience.

Chelsea, Year 9

MUSIC Notes

Calling all Singers!

This year we have our 40th Anniversary Celebrations and we would love to gather a choir of our MECS community (past and present) to be part of the Opening Ceremony Re-enactment on Saturday 16 March at 2pm.

If you or someone you know would like to be involved in this special occasion, please contact me via email and I would be happy to give you more details regarding the songs we will sing and the number of rehearsals needed to prepare.

The choir is open to all ages from 12 years and up, so it would be great to have a good mix of ages from our MECS families (past and present).

Look forward to hearing from you!

Annora
Music Performance Coordinator.

Music for Young Children

The music program presents flexible, weekly, hands-on sessions which develop music concepts and general life skills, using a combination of speech rhymes, action songs, games, finger plays, drama and stories.

If your child loves music then this program would be lovely for you and your child to participate in. There are a couple of vacancies available in the 2 different sessions. You are also welcome to come to a ‘Come and Try’ session – bookings are made through the office.

This program is led by Music teacher Rachel. Held on Tuesday mornings, session times are 9-9.30am or 9.45-10.15am. Fees are per child and are paid per term; additional siblings are $5 each per session (over 2 years), siblings under 2, free.

Term 1 $70 7 sessions
Term 2 $90 9 sessions
Term 3 $80 8 sessions
Term 4 $80 8 sessions

For a brochure with more information see the MECS website or contact the Main Office.
Jindi Woraback Youth Mentoring Program

Youth Services at Yarra Ranges Council currently coordinates a youth mentoring program targeting young people aged 15-25 who are in need of additional support, friendship and positive role modelling. The Jindi Woraback youth mentoring program is based on a young person being matched with a suitable mentor. Common interests, hobbies and personalities are taken into account during the matching process.

We are in need of Learner Driver mentors (L2P) to work one on one with learner drivers aged 16-21 years who face significant barriers with obtaining their drivers licence. The primary function of the role is to supervise learner driving practice sessions to assist the young person to become a safe and lawful driver.

The L2P program includes training, a safe vehicle and ongoing support for the mentor. All volunteers must satisfactorily complete a screening, induction and training process. Mentors are required to commit to a minimum of 1 hour a week, for a 12 month period.

An upcoming Mentor Information Night will be held at Montrose Town Centre (Hall) on Wednesday 13 March at 6.30pm.

Year 7 Afternoon Tea

On Monday afternoon this week we held our informal Year 7 Parent & Student afternoon tea in the staffroom. The purpose of this afternoon tea was the opportunity for parents, students and staff who teach our Year 7 students to mingle, chat and get to know each other better. We all enjoyed a magnificent afternoon tea and the chance to chat and discuss how well our new students have settled into Middle School life.

Sharon
Year 7/8 Teacher

The Premier's Active Families Challenge

This provides a great opportunity for all Victorians to get active and enjoy the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.

Registrations are now open! The challenge is for students (and their families if interested) to register and complete 30 minutes of physical activity for 30 days from 4 March to 14 April 2013.

Participation is free and there are great incentives just for signing up including:

- 20 free YMCA passes per family or team
- 15% discount at Rebel Sport
- one hour free tennis court hire at Melbourne Park or Albert Park Reserve
- one free child entry to the Melbourne Aquarium
- one free child entry to the National Sports Museum and MCG Tour

Students will also have the opportunity to nominate their school for the chance to win between $350 and $1000 in Rebel Sport vouchers.

For more information and to sign up visit www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/challenge.

MECS Notes

Canberra Camp Thankyou

MECS would like to thank the Australian Government for the contribution they made to our annual Year 9 Canberra Camp in November 2012. The rebate that they provide helps us to cover our costs for the event. Our program sees us visit a range of fascinating and exciting places in the National Capital, including: the Houses of Parliament, Lake Burley-Griffin, the Australian War Memorial, the National Film & Sound Archive and the National Gallery, among others. We are eagerly looking forward to our visit this year!
Whole School Assembly

On Tuesday morning, students from Prep through to Year 12, staff, members of the School Board and parents came together in the Gym for the first Whole School Assembly of 2013. The event offered a little something for everyone, including Jonny’s rendition of his somewhat familiar sounding poem, ‘It Might Be, Maybe’, a devotion from Principal Paul, the introduction of new and returning staff members, the announcement of this year’s student and tribal leaders, and the annual parade showcasing Year 12 students and their Prep buddies. As always, it was a thrill to be involved in an event that united the school community so comprehensively, and provided the opportunity to thank God for our school and commit the year to Him.

Bradley
MS Teacher

On Tuesday we had a Whole School Assembly, held in the gym. It was kicked off with the entertainment of a poem/parody by Jonny W called ‘Call me maybe’ which was a personal highlight for me, because every time he said ‘baby’ all the Preps and JPs would giggle. It was very cute. Continuing on, a few Middle School students led us in singing the national anthem before this year’s Principal, Mr Oldman, talked about lego houses, and the foundation of MECS, based on the bible. We also got introduced to all the new MECS teachers, and this year’s tribal and student leaders. As the assembly came close to the finish, the Year 12s did their parade walk with the Preps; it was really nice, watching those just starting school being able to come close with those who are finishing their time at MECS. At the end to finish up, at least one person from each section of the school closed the assembly in some beautiful prayers.

Emily, Year 9 Student
Primary Prayer said at the Assembly (picture under Primary key verse)

Turn the soil
As we begin this year.
Heavenly Gardener,
Hallowed be thy tools,
Your hands that lift, that shift
That feed, that nurture
Caring for each of us
With just what we need
From the oldest tree
To the tiniest seed

Thank you God for this new year.
You are loving and all powerful
And we know it is because of you
That we are so blessed with all that we have.
We thank you that you provide for us
and we pray that we might come to
know you better.

Turn the soil
We stand amazed at your creation,
your garden of delight,
your created cluster bursting
with both diversity and unity,
with an array of unique plants
each with its individual path and purpose,
yet all intertwined in a journey together.
These grounds filled with new
landscapes,
New plants and newer opportunities
That boasts more than mash up of
Backyard Blitz and Gardening Australia.

We thank you God that we have been
able to welcome new staff and new
students.
We pray that they will enjoy beginning
at our school
And will feel at home here soon.
We thank you as well for the start of our
new Kinder and
All the wonderful students who get to
start the journey of school here.
We pray that they and their
parents will be excited to come to
school each day.

Turn the soil
As this new season of 2013
Creeps up, flowers up
May we grow upwards
And onwards towards maturity,
May our soil be richer, rains be fuller
And faces always be seeking
the warmth and light of the sun,
Your Son,
In this garden of delight

We pray for the year ahead, Lord.
We thank you that Mr O will be helping
lead MECS as Principal this year,
And we ask you help him and all of us
with the positive and challenging events
ahead.
We also pray, that for both staff and
students,
We will grow and mature this year
Finding new and exciting ways to learn
and to serve you.

Turn the soil
As we begin this year.
Amen

Primary School key verse: Isaiah 58 v 11-12
The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-
scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-
watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. Your people will
rebuild the ancient ruins and raise up the age old foundations; you will
be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
11am Tuesday on published week. Email articles (images attached as jpg) to the Newsletter Office.

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.

Can you sew?
We need some volunteers to do some simple sewing to make bunting for the 40th Anniversary Reenactment in March. All material will be provided. If you are able to do some sewing at home over the next week or two, please contact Nicole Nyhouse, she would love to hear from you.

Volunteer Request
From time to time MECS puts on catered events such as Grandparents and Special Friends Day, AGMs, Connect Morning Teas, Open Day, and other celebratory events. All of these events rely on the wonderful support of our community. I would like to start an email contact list which I can use to request people's assistance. I will send out requests via email of the different events coming up, there may be an event or occasion that you may like to assist in, so you would reply to the email if you are able to help. Would you willing to be added to this list? If you would like to be on the catering volunteer list please email me.

I look forward to hearing from you, Karen.

Mount Evelyn Netball Club
Training has now begun for winter season 2013 at Morrisons Reserve. U9 - U13 Tuesday and U15 - U17 Wednesday afternoons. Games played Saturdays. Boys and girls of all age groups welcome to join this fun and friendly club.

Details please contact Sheelagh.

Holiday Home For Rent
In Shoreham (near Flinders) on the Peninsula. A 4 bedroom holiday home with all mod cons, is available for rent, in a quiet court, not far from the beach. If you are interested in renting it for a few days, a weekend, a week or longer, just let us know. Very reasonable rent.

Please ring Maria and Henk.

Stall Holders Wanted
Bubs and Kids Community Market in support of the RCH Good Friday Appeal. On sell your kids clothes and toys etc. Stall holder fee goes directly to the RCH Good Friday Appeal.

Stalls from $30 each or two for $45. Saturday 16 March, 9am-1pm. Jean Eales Pavilion, Lilydale Show Grounds.

Contact Kerry or Simone.

Student Desks for Sale
40 student desks 1200 x 600mm. $5 each. Contact Main Office.

Unit to Let
Unit in Yarra Glen - quiet, modern, centrally located, 2 bedroom, single garage.

Available from 21/2/13. Inspections welcome. $250 per week.

Contact Thomas.

Electrical Apprenticeship Needed
3rd-4th year Electrical Apprentice needs a new apprenticeship. Recently retrenched due to his previous employers need to downsize. Has experience in commercial, solar and airconditioning and has completed his TAFE classes. Honest, hardworking, punctual, well presented and has own transport. He is very keen to complete his apprenticeship. If you can help please contact Leon.

MECS Website
See the MECS Website for notices home, colour newsletter pages, calendars and lots of other useful information.

www.mecs.vic.edu.au

NOTICES SENT HOME THIS WEEK
(can also be downloaded from website)
- Prep Excursion Permission Form
- Year 9 City Camp Letter
- JP Zoo Excursion

Celebrating 40 Years