JP's lead the Primary GT

Gabriel and Honey enjoy being flowers in the garden with the masks they made for the Primary GT.
From the Principal

Last Tuesday, we had our first whole school ‘Get Together’ as the Primaries would put it (others will know it as ‘Assembly’). I love the way the words ‘get together’ intimate a time of coming as one. There is nothing particularly formal about it but it is an essential part of getting community happening in a broader school context.

Here are a few reasons why I love whole school ‘get togethers’:

1. It’s a chance for a celebration. We were able to enjoy the rhythmic styles of Jonny poetic talents - it was great to see the Prep students really engage, and it was a timely reminder that Jonny’s talents are about engaging with a theme and being creative and having fun.

2. It’s a chance to acknowledge and celebrate a range of talents in our students. It was great to welcome our student leaders, those who will make a difference at MECS by leading with integrity, and to acknowledge our sporting leaders, who will endeavour to encourage others to express their talents in a broad range of activities.

3. It’s a chance to celebrate the old and the new. It’s great to see our Year 12s interacting with the Preps in such a warm and positive way. What a thrill it is to know that the Preps are cheering on those who are in their last year of schooling. Most Year 12s recount this as one of the highlights of their schooling at MECS.

4. It’s a great time to get together and worship God through prayer. The ability to come together and to hear the insightful and inspirational prayer from Alistair as the staff representative, and the many students’ prayers reminds us that God brings us all together for his sake and for his school.

In the end, we do more than ‘get together’; we connect as God’s people here at school. How blessed is that!!

Celebrating 40 Years

1976 - A Year of Growth

An amazing year. A stressful year. A year of change and growth. Would we have wanted to be part of the MECS roller coaster in 1976?

In December 1976 the Principal wrote the following in his report to the Board: “To look back on the year is to recognise the tremendous goodness and faithfulness of our great God who has led us to grow in obedience to Him in the educational task. There is no question that there have been many things we ought to have done better, with greater zeal and diligence, there can also be no doubt that we have had problems and difficulties at times, however, despite shortcomings and problems, the Lord has used this place so that children might be educated in His ways... The biggest blow we experienced during the year was the death of our colleague Jenny Brookes, whose contribution to our school cannot be measured and certainly cannot be put into adequate words.”

A red flowering gum was planted in memory of Jenny at that time. Last year the tree died, we believe due to a fungal dieback disease. We harvested some of the timber from the ‘Jenny tree’ and we hope to create some furniture from it. We also intend to plant a replacement memorial tree in conjunction with the Opening Ceremony Re-enactment on 16 March (I hope you can join us).

The growth and change of 1976 happened in buildings: A new library facility was opened in August; we now know that building as Rooms 21-23 and the Media Centre. And building developments were going ahead for the science/art/craft rooms (now Rooms 15 & 16) that opened in time for 1977.

The growth and change happened in ideas: the proposal to pursue senior secondary education was ‘planted’ with such passion and vigour to the Association that it is hard to imagine it being rejected. We have been enjoying the rich delicious fruit of that proposal for many years now. Here’s a quote from the proposal report, “The central task of the Senior School will be to develop in the students a world and life view that is in accord with Scripture which will help them to find out their tasks before the Lord, provide knowledge of the true nature of creation and society, and work towards a radical Christian alternative to the pagan philosophies of society.” Words worth pondering!

The growth and change happened in student numbers: Term 2 in 1976 had 150 or so students enrolled, with a projection of 190 or so for 1977; by December 1976 the 1977 projection was over 200.

As for students, impromptu plays were still happening, spin the bottle was a favourite in Year 6, and even the best behaved of students were led astray into out-of-bounds areas.

As for parents, MECS was trying to get a ‘Friends of MECS’ group established (stay tuned for more news on this year’s Friends of MECS developments), some were still speeding through the school grounds, and many needed encouragement to attend working bees; as the Maintenance Director, Eddy van Leeuwen, wrote, “…Only with your cooperation can we keep the school grounds in good order and improve them. It costs you nothing extra, only one day a year…” (Peter Beams could have written that today.)

Praise God for 1976.

Gerry
Administration Manager
Year 9 & 10 Interschool Volleyball

Last Thursday we had a record 8 volleyball teams compete in the 9/10 interschool day at the State Volleyball Centre in Dandenong. Most teams had one or two wins and the Boys Year 10 A team got through to the Grand Final. Unfortunately they were defeated by Balcombe.

The students all represented the school well by playing as a team and encouraging one another. Thanks to Paul Scott and Adam Radke who came and helped coach and referee on the day. I especially appreciated Adam taking on all our refereeing responsibilities so capably.

Anne-Maree
Secondary Sports Coordinator

The Voice

Last Friday the Middle School students and staff were treated to a performance by Taga. Taga was a contestant on the television show ‘The Voice’ as a member of ‘Team Keith’. Not only did he sing some songs for us but he also shared something of his life story. He reminded the students about how precious they are and encouraged them to listen to the advice of trusted adults such as parents and teachers because these people genuinely cared for them.

A few of the highlights included the serenading of Mrs Witt, the teachers dancing Gangnam style on the stage and the amazing duet by Taga and Matt.

Sue
MS Coordinator
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 the prayer email.

Amanda
Community Relations Officer

Donations needed for Jinja Christian School Uganda

Most of you will know Ron and Anne (both ex-MECS teachers) who have gone to Uganda to start a Christian School. After a lot of hard work and much time and love invested, the school is now up and running and the first students (60 children) have commenced their education, for which we thank and praise God.

In a recent email from Anne, she asked me to look out for a few items they need for the school and I have decided that I will extend the request to the MECS community as I am sure many of you will be happy to help. Here is what they are looking for:

- Knitting Needles (sizes 23/4mm - 4mm metric or old sizes 12-8)
- Good quality (sturdy) Children’s jigsaw puzzles – must be simple ones of 50 pieces or less. Even some of the preschool wooden ones that use letters or numbers would be useful.
- Educational board or card games (for primary-aged children). Games that involve counting, letters, simple words, matching etc would be good eg-Junior Scrabble, Snakes and Ladders, Connect 4, Uno, Trouble etc
- Christian / Bible - based easy reading books / readers / picture books – simple text and pictures (not novels)

If anyone has any of these items they would be willing to donate or purchase (they don’t need to be new - second hand is fine!) I am happy to collect them and pass them on to the Mathesons who are arriving home at the end of March and will return to Uganda in the middle of the year. There will be a box in the office for donations from next week. Just leave any donations with the lovely ladies.

Thanks in anticipation,

Melinda

Home Cooked Meals

Have you ever experienced the pleasure of receiving a meal from someone when you were finding things difficult? We have some families in our community who need some practical support with meals at the moment. If you are able to cook a double batch of a meal (or soup) we would certainly appreciate it. We would appreciate meals in disposable containers, either freshly made or frozen; they will be gratefully received in the Main Office. Please mark the container with the ingredients, the amount of people the meal is for and the date it was made.

Thank you for supporting others in the MECS community.

Amanda and Nicole
Community Relations Officers

Congratulations Sandy

Congratulations to Sandy Ison, one of our Learning Assistants, on recently completing her Certificate 3 in Education Support.

Heather
Newsletter Editor
Money Matters

All families will have received an invoice/statement for 2013 fees.

Thanks to all who have made payments or entered into Direct Debit arrangements so far. It has been much appreciated.

If you have not yet made a payment for 2013 or entered into a payment arrangement, can you please contact Craig or Alison in the office ASAP. Any queries, please give us a call.

Craig
Accountant

Immunisation Reminder

There are still a few families who have not returned their Immunisation cards to the office. This applies only to Year 7, Year 9 (boys only) and Year 10 students.

It is really important that these are all returned as soon as possible even if your child is NOT having the vaccinations as it helps us and the council keep good records. Immunisations will take place on the following dates at MECS: March 22, May 23, Oct 18 (note that a wrong date was given for the first vaccinations in last week’s Newsletter).

Melinda
First Aid Officer

Grandparents Day Mar 7

Parents please note

Next Thursday (March 7) is our annual Grandparents & Special Friends day. Last year we had over 200 visitors!

With so many extra people on the grounds there will be lots of extra pressure on the carparks.

Unless you have urgent business in the office please use the kiss and drop for the morning drop off and leave the carparking spaces for our Grandparents and Special Friends. (Prep and Kindergarten parents are the exception).

The office carpark will be reserved for disabled parking ONLY.

Sorry for any inconvenience and thank you for being considerate of our special visitors.

Amanda & Nicole
Community Relations Officers

Anniversary Events Mar 16

In just over two weeks we will be celebrating the school’s 40th Anniversary with the founders and people who worked so hard in the early years to get MECS established.

We will be re-enacting the original Opening Ceremony that was held on the grounds here in 1973, this will be followed by an afternoon tea and formal dinner for our special guests. There is also a celebratory service at the Mount Evelyn Christian Reformed Church, Mount Evelyn at 9.30am on Sunday.

You are welcome to come along for the Re-enactment and afternoon tea or the Church service - it would be great to see some of our current families attending and showing interest in the rich history of this school. The Re-enactment will be held on March 16 at 2pm on the Middle School courts followed by afternoon tea under marquees on the oval.

We will also need some volunteers to help set up and clean up after these events. Please contact me if you are able to help out.

If you have any questions please call me in the office 9738 6000. I hope to see you there!

Nicole
Community Relations Officer

MECS Notes

Gifted and talented in a particular sport?

If your child is involved in a sport that they excel in, you may be interested in the 2013 School Sport Australia National Championships. Please read the information below and look at the website and if you're interested, email me your child’s details. It requires parent involvement and cost if they get through. We are affiliated members of School Sport Victoria which means our students can be nominated.


Nominations are now open for students to register to trial for SSV Team Vic State teams. Information on how to register to trial for SSV state teams is available from the ‘Team Vic’ page on the SSV website at https://www.ssv.vic.edu.au/TeamVic then click on the relevant sport.

Anne-Marie
Secondary Sports Coordinator

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
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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 or contact 1300 463 684.
Celebrating 40 Years

PS Get Together

On Monday 25 February, JPS ran the first class-led GT for the year. We did a play based on the book by Peter Brown 'The Curious Garden'. It was a wonderful opportunity for the JPS students to have a go at being in front of an audience and share some of their gifts. They did make very cute flowers. Well done!

Ange
JP Teacher

About GTs

GTs are a wonderful way to discuss and share information.

GT stands for: Get Together.

Each time a class performs a little skit, song or movie about what they’re learning about that week or term. We sing songs and sometimes the Primary School choir sings as well.

Also the Year 6s get to sit on the chairs at the back, (it’s pretty much like saying that they’re the leaders of the primary school).

Sometimes we have guests, sometimes we have teachers dressed up as guests!

In our mind GTs are great!

Meggie & Rebekah SPD
On Wednesday of Week 2 music students from Years 9 and above attended the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra's opening Sidney Myer Free Concert. After a beautifully sunny day our MC, ABC Classic FM’s Julia, certainly didn’t hesitate to inform us that it was the perfect evening for dinner and music on the lawns of the bowl.

Full of the richness and mystery characteristic of the music of Eastern Europe, the program began with a restrained and thoughtful reading of Antonin Dvořák’s delightful Czech Suite. The orchestra was solid from the outset under the assured direction of the young Latvian conductor, Ainars, demonstrating good balance and a level of intimacy that isn’t easy to achieve in the outdoor setting.

The Ukrainian-Australian pianist, Alexey, then gave an elegantly playful interpretation of Béla Bartók’s popular third Piano Concerto, a highlight of which was the delicious interplay between the soloist and woodwinds in the slower movement.

As the sun’s passage sank beneath the horizon and the city eased in for the night, the bowl came alive with the opening brass ‘Fate’ theme of Pytor Il’yich Tchaikovsky’s Symphony No. 4 in F minor. Recurring throughout the first and fourth movements, this theme anchored a stunning rendition of the much-loved symphony. Again the woodwinds were sublime and the pizzicato third movement had the crowd fair buzzing. I anticipate an exciting career ahead for Rubikis and look forward to next year’s round of concerts!

Tim
MS Teacher

Celebrating 40 Years
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.

Morrisons Vacation Care Easter Program
Morrisons Easter program runs from 2 April until 12 April. We cater for children between the ages of 5 and 12 years old (Prep to Year 6). The staff at Morrisons are very approachable and welcoming to all children and strive to provide a high quality and interesting program to engage the children. We offer a mixture of activities and experiences including games, art and craft, cooking, indoor outdoor programs and lots more. Morrisons incorporate incursions, excursions and days at the service to ensure the children are able to take part in a variety of fun and exciting play based experiences of their choice. For booking forms and more information please go to our website: http://www.morrisons.org.au/index.php/vacation-care-program.html
Or call us on: (9am - 3pm).

Parenting Anxious Children Seminar
This seminar is to help parents of preschool & primary children cope with anxiety in their children.

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.

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

NOTICES SENT HOME THIS WEEK
(can also be downloaded from website)

- Prep O & Prep C Parent Helper Notice
- Cycle A Term 1 Newsletter
- MS & SS Vocal Group Invitation Letter
- VCE Drama Excursions
- PS Health Questionnaire Letter
- SS Avalon Airshow Letter

Celebrating 40 Years