Year 8 Inspiring Girls Camp

Ellie enjoys the challenge of the climbing wall in the first part of the Inspiring Girls camp.
From the Principal

Last Friday we hosted the monthly Christian Schools Principals’ gathering. Apart from the great benefit of networking together with other Principals from Christian Education National schools, we were able to ‘show off’ our new Kindergarten and host the Deputy Director of the VRQA, Robyn T.

At this point you are wondering what on earth the VRQA is. The role of the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) is to “provide regulation that ensures quality education and training is delivered by the providers it registers in Victoria…” (www.vrqa.vic.gov.au) In other words the VRQA is the government body that ensures that schools and registered training organisations (we are both due to Ranges TEC) are performing as they should.

Later this year we will be audited by the VRQA. This audit will investigate our curriculum, our facilities, our policies, our governance, our finances, our planning for the future, our bushfire readiness, etc. etc. At times like this we have an opportunity to do a little reflection. Is such an audit merely a bureaucratic imposition, a necessary evil, a pain in the neck, a fearful thing? Or is it an opportunity for us to ask: ‘Are we doing the best we can? Are we serving the MECS community in a God honouring way? Are we using our resources wisely? Are we really Seeking the Kingdom of God in Education?’

At MECS we prefer to use such government provided opportunities as a springboard for greater faithfulness in the task of education. It is of course onerous, but please pray that we would be faithful.

1977 - Revolutionary Education

Even though I lived less than a kilometre away from the Mount Evelyn Christian School, my first contact with the school was at the funeral in 1976 of the Deputy Principal, Jenny. I was a close friend of Jenny’s husband, Barry. Until that time I had given the Christian school a wide berth. I didn’t understand what they stood for and imagined that it was associated with some sort of ‘fundamentalist’ group. I guess I felt like a lot of other Christian teachers teaching in State-run schools: the very existence of a Christian school seemed to devalue the contribution that I was making as a Christian teacher in the public system.

The first thing that attracted me to MECS was the message given at Jenny’s funeral. The Principal, Jack, said that Jenny’s death was not tragic, in the sense that she had died at a young age. God knew before the foundation of the world that Jenny would not see her 30th birthday; she lived her life to the full. For Jesus’ sake, and when it was time, God took her to be with him.

This message struck me as a magnificent expression of God’s loving sovereignty. It sat well with my own understanding and experience and so when the opportunity offered some time later, I agreed to visit the school. I was enjoying my teaching at Ferntree Gully Technical School but when I experienced the sense of Christian community, the trail-blazing mission and saw the potential for innovation and personal growth, I was sold. It was like stepping into an educational paradise; a glimpse of God’s kingdom at work.

I began the following January (1978) as the class teacher of Year 9. The model of secondary education that was being attempted at MECS was quite revolutionary. The 25 students spent much of their week with me as their class teacher and I was responsible for their overall educational program. This promoted a close relationship between student and teacher and the potential for deeper learning and more relevant studies. The themes we looked at that first year were: Ecology; Alternative Lifestyles; Travel & the City of Melbourne rather than the traditional school subjects such as Geography, History and Science.

Many of the team of staff had applied to teach at MECS because it was the kind of school that they wanted to be part of. Here people were struggling with what it meant to be a ‘thoroughly’ Christian school. It was assumed that a Christian school could not look like the school down the road. The Gospel of Jesus Christ suggests a radical approach to life and schooling: an approach that is distinctively Christian at its core. Staffroom discussion was spirited, earthy and focused on education.

Being part of MECS was a potent professional development exercise. Over the 12 year period I had the privilege of working in a setting that nurtured and challenged me, and I thank God for that opportunity. My work with Christian schools around Australia has revealed many legacies of Mount Evelyn Christian School, in the form of people who have left to teach elsewhere, programs and curricula that inspire similar developments in other places and a reputation which inspires others to question and reshape schooling to better serve families, students and God’s kingdom purposes.

Andrew taught at MECS from 1978-1989.

This article originally appeared in the 25th Anniversary magazine

Celebrating 40 Years

Thursday 15 December 2011

Mount Evelyn Christian School News

Thursday 7 March 2013

Mount Evelyn Christian School News

MECS Principal

Paul

MECS Principal

Celebrating 40 Years 1973-2013

When I experienced the sense of Christian community, the trail-blazing mission and saw the potential for innovation and personal growth, I was sold.
Year 8 Inspiring Girls Camp

This week has kicked off well for our Year 8 Inspiring Girls Camp. It is a wonderful opportunity to connect further with this special group of young ladies.

The first two days of ‘camp’ were spent at school where we began with a session about strengths, and how we can use our unique talents and strengths to glorify God.

We also spent some time baking up a storm in the food tech room, making delicious cinnamon scrolls, pizza scrolls, cookies and slices to take on camp.

On Tuesday we worked in small groups to challenge ourselves by climbing the rock wall, painted canvases that reflected our uniqueness and learned about the benefits of journalling, where we each put our personal stamp on our own journals.

On Wednesday we headed off to Belgrave Lodge to spend the next three days together. We are looking forward to some wonderful sessions on health and wellbeing, body image and self esteem and more!

Sharon
Year 7/8 Teacher
MECS Prayer Team

Would you like to be involved in supporting the MECS community by praying? MECS parent Renee is coordinating the MECS prayer group, so 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

MECS Notes
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

Ranges TEC New Bus

Ranges TEC has 57 students enrolled in VCAL programs, with an additional 47 students in their VET courses. Last week Ranges TEC celebrated the arrival of a new bus thanks to a generous donation from Bendigo Bank. We feel honoured to be a part of Bendigo Bank’s generosity and commitment to the community. The support we have received from the Montrose and Mount Evelyn Community Banks has been an integral part of the services that we are able to provide to our students. It helps the students by providing them access to various learning experiences off-campus and enabling them to further their education. The bus is a 28 seater. We are very thankful for this wonderful new resource.

Philip
Director Ranges TEC

Anniversary Events Mar 16

In just over one week 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 17 March.

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 Friday 15 Mar, 1-3.30pm to help set up and Monday 18 March to 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. I hope to see you there!

Nicole
Community Relations Officer

Call 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

Learn Violin

Violin is a great instrument for young beginners - and we have a string ensemble here at school with room for more players. Start lessons and join in the group! It’s a lot of fun.

The Instrumental Music Program has limited vacancies in violin/cello, guitar/ bass, singing and drums. Enrolment forms at the office and on the website. Enrich your life and have a go! (Parents welcome to enrol too!)

Kerrie
Instrumental Tuition Coordinator

You Are Invited!
Celebrating 40 Years
1973-2013
Mount Evelyn Christian School
Woolworths Earn & Learn

The school has now received the things we ordered from the Woolworths Earn and Learn vouchers in 2012. We received lots of lovely things! Most of it went to help equip our new Kindergarten with some great sand pit toys; some went to the SP classrooms and some to the Lego club. Thanks to all who participated.

Here is what we got:

- 18 assorted sand pit trucks & diggers
- Sand play set
- Sand shapes set
- 10 assorted spades
- 2 plastic rakes
- 10 plastic sieves
- 1 set castle moulds
- 10 plastic buckets
- Polyhedron magnetic shape set
- Numbers peg puzzle
- 36 soft seat cushions
- 3 VIP seats
- 3 time tracker
- 1 diamond spirit
- Lego software
- Lego mind storms education base set
- Robocup junior rescue field
- School art book
- Teacher’s resource book

Heather
Newsletter Editor

MECS Notes

Drama for Everyday Life

Term 1, 2013 Drama for Everyday Life Program Information Session on Confidence in the Schoolyard: Skills to Handle Teasing and Bullying.

Learn one of Voice and Movement’s secrets in teaching social skills, and learn more about how our program can assist your children.

Tea/Coffee provided. Information packs will be available.

Time: 7.15 for 7.30pm start – 8.15pm.
Date: Thursday 14 March 2013.
Venue: 34A Hamilton St, Mont Albert VIC 3127 (above the fruit shop).
Cost: Free

Please register your attendance by contacting us.

Head Lice – Please check your children

They're back! Our lovely, itchy little friends the head lice are starting to make their presence known at school again. They have been detected in Senior Primary – who knows where else they are lurking. Please take the time to check your children’s hair and treat any cases promptly. I periodically check kids hair at school (at teacher’s request) and next term we will have the whole Primary School checked involving a team of ‘experienced’ parents. Your child will NOT be sent straight home from school if head lice are found, just given a note requesting that they be treated that evening before returning to school.

Head lice are no big deal and they don’t carry any diseases. They are just a nuisance and with your help we can keep them in check!

Melinda
First Aid Officer

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

SP has a New Room!

While the Kindergarten was being built, a beautiful new SP room was also created. Now all the SP rooms are next to each other - all the better for interactions between the classes.

Heather
Newsletter Editor
SP Swimming

Over the past three weeks, Senior Primary students and staff have braved the very steamy conditions at the Kilsyth Swimming Pool to complete our annual swimming program. During this time students have looked at various stroke types and survival techniques, ensuring that they are prepared should they ever find themselves in danger out in the water. Given the very warm weather that we have been experiencing it has been a great way for the students to cool down after a week of hard work in the classrooms. The behaviour of our students has once again been exemplary, showing the wider community what fine students we have here at MECS.

Ben
Senior Primary Teacher
JP at the Zoo

The Zoo
I went to the Zoo. I saw the seals. One seal was sun baking and one was swimming. Then I saw the butterflies they were flying everywhere.

Faith, Year 1

Melbourne Zoo
On Wednesday we went to the Zoo and the first thing we did was see the animals. The first thing we saw was the pigs. They were wild pigs and they were brown. Next we saw the lions they were sleeping. My favourite animal was a snake. It was a python and it was green and it had big jaws. Then I saw the gorillas. One of them did a pee. Next we saw the bears. They were cool. We walked over 1km. I loved the Zoo it was so fun!

Ethan, Year 2

Our Trip to the Zoo
Yesterday the JPs went to the Melbourne Zoo. My favourite animal was a Slow Loris. I also liked the snakes, the fish and the sea animals.
I learnt that a Slow Loris eats worms and there are just two of them left in Australia.
I thank God for animals. I loved the Zoo. It was fun.

Hope Year 2

The Zoo
Yesterday the JPs went on a trip to the Melbourne Zoo. My favourite animal was the giraffe. I love their spots. I loved the Zoo.

Maisie Year 1
Calendar

2013 Term 1 Week 5: 3 MAR - 9 MAR

Fri 8 March
SP Swimming

2013 Term 1 Week 6: 10 MAR - 16 MAR

Mon 11 March
Labour Day Public Holiday - School Closed

Tues 12 March
Schoolwear in Canteen 2.30 - 3.00pm

Thur 14 March
ear -10 Swimming Carnival

Fri 15 March
SP Swimming

Sat 16 March
40th Anniversary Opening Ceremony

2013 Term 1 Week 7: 17 MAR - 23 MAR

Sun 17 March
40th Anniversary Service at Mount Evelyn Christian Reformed Church, 9.30am

Mon 18 March
Primary GT (MPA)
Student Leaders Training Day

Wed 20 March
ear -10 Interschool Swimming

Fri 22 March
Staff & ear, 9 & 10 Immunisations

Sat 23 March
Working Bee

2013 Term 1 Week 8: 24 MAR - 30 MAR

Mon 25 March
School Photo Day

Tues 26 March
MP Afternoon Tea for Parents

Thur 28 March
Prep Connect Morning Tea

End Term 1

2013 Term 2 Week 1: 18 APR - 27 APR

Thur 18 April
Term 1 Begins
Welcome back Morning Tea Staff Room 9am

Mon 22 - Wed 24 April
Parent Teacher Interviews

Remember the Working Bee!
Saturday 23 March
.00am-1pm
BB Breakfast

Celebrating 40 Years

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.

Mt Dandenong Tourist Road Closures – 18 to 22 March

This is important information for families who use Mt Dandenong Tourist Road to bring their children to school. In the coming weeks the Department of Sustainability and Environment and Parks Victoria, in conjunction with VicRoads, will be closing a portion of Mt Dandenong Tourist Road in Montrose. These closures will occur daily between Monday 18 and Friday 22 March and the road closures will be in place between 9am and 3.30pm to minimise the disruption to bus services and the general peak hour traffic flow. If you need further information please contact the office office@meecs.vic.edu.au for a brochure which indicates the exact location of the closures.

Free Unit

This unit is FREE to whoever is willing to pick it up from our house in Mt Evelyn. It can be separated into 3 separate pieces, and is in excellent condition. The width as one unit is 2m, depth 45cm, height 1.5m.

Contact John or Marg.

Community Market

In support of the RCH Good Friday Appeal the will be a Bubs and Kids community market, Sat 16 March, 9am-1pm, Jean Eales Pavillion, Lilydale Show Grounds. Second hand baby and kids clothing, toys etc. Gold coin entry.

Contact Simone.

Footy Registration Day

Ringwood Jets Junior Football Club is a great club of U/10 & U/12 teams who play on Saturday mornings. For more info contact Susan.

Car Roof Racks for Sale

2011 Toyota Corolla Hatchback roof racks for sale - $100.

iPods for Sale

2 x 5th Generation ipod nano 8gb.

Donations needed for Jinja Christian School Uganda

Ron and Anne who have gone to Uganda to start a Christian School. The first students (over 60 children) have commenced their education.

Here is what they are looking for;

- Knitting Needles (sizes 2 3/4mm - 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)
- Toys or toys that have letters or numbers would be useful

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 Anne and Ron 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 office ladies. Thanks.

Melinda

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

- Martyrs Bus Passes
- ear 10 Readiness Letter
- SP Japanese Project Letter 2
- Working Bee Letter
- MP Letter