A Japanese Experience

Eliza & Britney enjoy dressing up for SP Japan Day, Story page 6
From the Principal

On Saturday, a significant event occurred – and it wasn’t the start of the football season. It was far more significant - a signpost that characterised the health of a community: the MECS Working Bee.

There are many things that happen within this place to keep our school running and most of it occurs without fuss or fanfare. But I think it’s time to acknowledge the entourage that turn up for MECS Working Bees. Ably led by Peter, our school grounds are wonderfully and skilfully maintained and transformed into gardens on which we regularly receive comments of praise. Sometimes our beautiful grounds are taken for granted, but they don’t ‘just happen’ – it takes a lot of ‘behind the scenes’ work.

Enter the humble Working Bee. They run every weekend around the State at various schools and kindergartens. Aside from the obligatory nature of parents being ‘required to do it’, I believe there is something much stronger that gets parents to MECS by 7am-ish and working together to achieve fantastic outcomes. Working Bees are evidence of the parent partnership that is so vital to MECS. Peter frequently comments that Working Bees at MECS are never really ‘work’; they would be better described as ‘community bees’ where people genuinely feel that they are a part of something bigger, something living, with all its parts working to achieve common goals.

Working Bees are fun and create opportunities to meet new parents and to build stronger bonds. Attendance becomes something desired, not a chore that just has to be ticked off.

The health of a community is often seen in the small things that create big outcomes. Thanks to all of you who turned up on Saturday, or who turn up on other Saturdays, to not only keep this place looking great, but to build up the community of MECS. I know that it makes one Peter a proud man.

MP CS Foods - A Gourmet Term

CS Foods
As part of studying ‘Foods’ this Term the MPs were involved in a number of activities which included cooking sessions to bake goods for the Parent’s Afternoon Tea and visiting the Victoria Market. Here are some of their reflections:

Cooking
Last Thursday my class did cooking. My group made double chocolate yo-yo’s. For the double chocolate yo-yos we needed an electric mixer, spatula, dark chocolate, flour and lots more! There were other groups that made banana bread, cupcakes, ginger bread and savory cheese dreams. In my group were Hannah, Reuben, Evan, Caleb and myself and we also had a parent helper. There is a Food Tec room and we did all the cooking in there.

Tahlia MPA

On Thursday, MPA prepared for the parent’s afternoon tea by cooking some yummy dishes like tiny cupcakes, chocolate yo-yos and lots more! We had cooking groups and parent helpers. In my group there was Toben, Jasmine and Jed and our parent helper and we made cupcakes. My favorite bit was icing the cupcakes.

Jess, MPA
Victoria Market Excursion

The Middle Primary students went on a wonderful excursion to the Victorian Market, where they had the opportunity to see a variety of fresh foods. Students explored the Market in small groups and enjoyed seeing and tasting new foods from a variety of cultures. They all enjoyed the challenge of buying their own lunch, making sure they were having a balanced meal. Thankyou to all the lovely parents who helped make the excursion a very successful day.

Ali, Meredith & Jess
MP Teachers

When we were at the market the teachers told us the rules and we set off. We were just looking for the first half and then we decided what we wanted. We wanted French bread, tzatziki dip, grapes, strawberries, a peach, an orange, salami, and Swiss cheese. It felt like we were in Master Chef! After we got our ingredients we went to the park to eat and have a little play before we went back to the buses and back to school.

Emily MPO

We got into groups and had a look around. Our group looked at the meat and fish stores first. We saw a huge crab that you can’t even fit in the frying pan! Next we saw a lot of big fish that are twice as big as your arm. Then we saw cow tongues, pig trotters, hearts, brains and kidneys from animals. Yum or yuck?! After that we bought pizza and went to the fruit and veg stores. I saw a lot of different fruit that I have never eaten before. We bought two packets of strawberries. Yum! We all went to the park to eat all of our food. Delicious!!

Marcos MPO

MP Afternoon Tea Finale

Middle Primary celebrated a festive finale to ‘FOOD’ with an afternoon tea for their parents and special visitors, held in the PUMP room this Tuesday. The children had worked together in small collaborative groups to research and cook different recipes to serve. The range of culinary delights was a credit to the children’s developing teamwork skills, their manners were beautiful and many a recipe was requested- even a book may be produced. Well done kids. It was a lovely afternoon. The Middle Primary teachers, Ali, Jess, Dez and Mem were delighted with the attendance of so many friends and family in support of our unit and are very grateful to the parent helpers who gave their time to help the children in both the planning and production stages for this activity. Thankyou so much! We hope your children take more interest in shopping and helping in the kitchen from now on - maybe even a future Masterchef?!

Meredith
MP Teacher
Celebrating 40 Years

Student Leadership Conference

Ari, Lachlan, Persis and I attended a Leadership camp at Oasis from 22 - 24 March. We had a very enjoyable and productive time learning from some very inspirational leaders. Most of the teaching was done through practical activities and it really stuck in your head. Each one of us was in a small group of about 4-8 people each. In these ‘clumps’ we reflected on what we had learned, and encouraged each other in the areas that we felt they were strong in. Personally, I met some amazing people and got a few new friends on facebook, and I can say the same for the rest of the student leaders that attended. One major highlight for me (although it was all really good) would be the impromptu worship sessions that I joined in with, as there were a lot of talented musicians and worship leaders there. It was a wonderful time, and we hope to bring the skills we learnt there into our schools, churches, and so on.

Peter
Year 12 Student Leader

Open Day
10am - 1pm
Saturday May 18, 2013

Working Bee 23 March

Bacon, eggs and a good cup of coffee were a great way to start our first Working Bee for 2013 (thanks cooks). After a good feed we got to work. We shifted 30 metres of mulch, put in some bollards, raked and resurfaced the running track with 8 metres of Lilydale topping, spread 5 metres of crushed rock down near the Kindergarten, washed and cleaned all the buses inside and out, pruned lots of plants, did a rubbish pickup all around the school, cleaned all the leaves off the car parks and courts, washed and cleaned the fence and cupboards outside Junior Primary, put a fence barrier up in the Kindergarten, replaced blown fluro tubes in classrooms, replaced chair and desk feet, wrote up test tags for electrical equipment and gave the deck in front of the music room and Senior School a coat of stain. We also stained the seats down at the junior oval and ironed some table cloths from the dinner last weekend.

It was a great day. There were about 5 families here for their first Working Bee which was great. During morning tea Gerry set up the movie that was put on for the 40th anniversary last weekend which showed images of when we started to build MECS. Everyone loved it and many saw family and friends who were involved in the building of MECS. Thanks to all the 60 or so people who came to make Saturday an excellent day and make our school look great.

Pete and Steve
Grounds Management
Parent Teacher Interviews

The Parent Teacher Interviews for all sections of the school will be conducted on Monday 22 April, Wednesday 24 April and Tuesday 30 April. This combination of days is a change from how Parent Teacher Interviews have been conducted in the past, with the notable difference of all interviews being conducted after school hours. One of the positive outcomes of this change means that there are no disruptions to classes for students.

Last year for Primary and Middle School we introduced the new internet-based booking system Parent Teacher On-Line (PTO). PTO was a great success and the feedback from parents and staff was very positive.

For this round of interviews (and ongoing) we are opening up the PTO system to include the Senior School parents, which will bring the whole school online with this simple way to book your Parent Teacher interviews.

You will receive a letter home during the holidays (via email or mailed if you do not have an email address) giving you the easy to follow instruction sheet with your user name (parent surname) and a unique password.

The PTO booking system will be accessible to you from the 15 April and you can access the PTO site by clicking on the PTO logo on the school's website www.mecs.vic.edu.au.

Do not panic if you do not have internet access at home or elsewhere, you will be able to contact the Office for help (after 15 April). If you have not received your letter with your user name and password, also contact the office for another copy.

If you have any questions about the new system after reading the letter, the instruction sheet and by ‘having had a go’, please feel free to contact the Office for help (after 15 April). If you have not received your letter with your user name and password, also contact the office for another copy.

I hope that you find the PTO system easy to use and a time saving experience.

Christine
Office Manager

MECS Notes

Drama for Everyday Life

Drama for Everyday Life is a program that uses drama, games and role play to teach social skills and self-confidence in a safe and creative small group environment (4 or 5 students), and has been offered at MECS for the past 10 years. Parents, teachers and students themselves anecdotally report a significant improvement in social skills, behaviour management and confidence.

In Term 2, a 7 week program will be offered, commencing Thursday 2 May and continuing on 9, 23, 30 May, and 6, 13, 20 June at a cost of $125. Enrolment forms will be sent home to current participants and are available at the Main Office for new enrolments.

Year 12 Parents

Each year we have a ‘Funny Photo’ taken where the students dress up or ‘act up’. This is exclusive to Year 12 students and SS staff. The photo is the same size as the group photo, i.e. 10 x 8, and costs $15 per photo.

When all the school photos are returned to school and distributed, I will be given a sample of the Funny Photo from which the students can then decide if they want to order or not. When this happens there will be a deadline given for orders and money to be received and then I will order the number of photos required.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding the above.

Rosalie
SS Receptionist

Dylan’s Cake

Hi, I am Dylan. I made this chocolate fudge cake. I was able to cut it up into 26 pieces for my class.

It tasted very yummy, everybody in the whole class liked it and I’m proud of myself. Cheerio mates.

Dylan - MP
Sp Japan Day

It was Japan day for all the Senior Primaries. Nearly everybody was dressed up; it was like being in Japan for real!

First we learnt how to write and count from 1 to 10 in Japanese - it was very interesting! Then we tasted sushi, wasabi peas and rice puffs… they were delicious!

Shortly after, we did some paper origami and then made fish kites.

Finally it was time for the Senior Primary kids to present their wonderful projects. All the parents were amazed.

In conclusion, it was an extravaganza of a day that everyone will remember.

Eliza SPD

Association

Association for Christian Education

AGM

Thursday 9 May

7.00pm

Join us for a Community Dessert
Hosted by the Board in the new Kindergarten Foyer

Then relocating to the Staff Room for the more formal part of the AGM

All Welcome

Celebrating 40 Years 1973-2013

Celebrating 40 Years

Kailem, Dakota & Abbey

Joel

Ellie Taggart

Eleanor

Tom & Daniel

Chloe & Kasey

Bek

Josh

Alexia

Ben

Brittany, Aiden, Asher & Daniel

Ellen Taggart

Chloe & Kasey

Ben

Bek

Josh

Alexia

Ben

Brittany, Aiden, Asher & Daniel
SS Tribal Indoor Sports Afternoon

The indoor sports afternoon for the Senior School took place down at Bayswater North and was a great event. Students responded well to the tight timeline that we had and settled in very quickly to the round robin format. It didn’t matter what the sport was the members of each tribe got involved. It was good to see that even when being beaten in a game, tribe members were able to laugh and compete. This was a great way to let off steam just before the holiday break and I must commend the students on the way that they made the afternoon a memorable one. A big thank you to Emma who put in a lot of work to make things go smoothly.

Cliff
SS Coordinator

Secondary Interschool Swimming

On Wednesday 20 March, 23 students from Years 7-9 represented MECS at the annual SEISS Interschool Swimming Carnival, at Monash Aquatic Centre. We travelled a bit further than usual however the outdoor pool enabled diving starts. We competed with other independent schools from the region and found all the competitors had a great sense of sportsmanship and enthusiasm. We had some excellent individual results but struggled to get the points to finish higher than 6th. Unfortunately, the Year 10 VET program prevented the Year 10s attending, otherwise we believe we would have placed at least 5th-maybe next year! Overall, it was an excellent day with a great group of students who were motivated to do their best and represent their school. Thanks to Nicky for assisting on the day and getting awesome photos.

Some great achievements:

Lachlan: 1st place in 15 Boys Backstroke, Breaststroke and Freestyle. 2nd in Butterfly

Georgia: 2nd in 15 Girls Breaststroke

Luke: 2nd in 13 Boys Breaststroke and Freestyle

Anne-Maree
Secondary Sports Coordinator
Guinea Pigs need a Home

Guinea Pigs Pumpkin & Shadow need a new home... due to circumstances they just aren’t getting enough attention from children at the moment. Would you like to take them for just $20? Come with a good size cage & cuddle pouches. Contact Karen.

Work Needed

Organised, perfectionist mum looking for paid work within school hours Monday to Friday. Indoor or outdoor labour work. Cleaning/sorting, gardening etc. Fit and healthy. Loves the Lord. Contact Rebecca.

Bunkbeds Needed

I am looking for 2 bunkbeds for my sister-in-law, free if possible. Are you able to help?

Please contact Karen.

Entertainment Books

It is that time of year again! The 2013/2014 Entertainment Books are coming. Look out for the order form that will be coming home soon or you can order online now at www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/193695. A sample book will be in the office at the beginning of Term 2 for people to look through if you are unsure of what the book is about. The book costs $65 and the school makes $13 on every book sold. One example of how to save money with this book is Coles or Woolworths Gift cards. For every $100 gift card you save $5, so if you get a $500 gift card to do your grocery shopping for a month, you save $25 a month and by doing this each month it won’t take long to get your money back on the book and then you still have lots of other vouchers to use. Books that are ordered will start then you still have lots of other vouchers to get your money back on the book and doing this each month it won’t take long to get your money back on the book and then you still have lots of other vouchers to use. Books that are ordered will start

Evelyn Dubbeld

Affordable Food Market

Friday 12 April, 9.30am-1.30pm Mount Evelyn Scout Hall (behind IGA). Free cupcake making and Free Cooking demonstrations.

Holiday Fun

Meet Cred and Pat the Dog from Coinland. Lots of fun & giveaways!

At Commonwealth Bank, Eastland Shopping Centre, Thursday 4 April, 11-12am and 2-3pm.

Montrose Auskick

Registration Day, 13 April 2013, Montrose Primary School Oval, 9.30am – 11.00am, Cost: $70.00.

Registration and Payment Online www.aukidskick.com.au

This year we are running an under 8’s side that will train Saturday with Auskick and play Sundays. If you are interested please see Reece at Registration Day.

Contact: Rachael.

3 Bedroom Rental Needed

A MECS family, single mum and 2 kids have sold their house and are looking for a 3 bedroom rental up to $300 wk within close commuting to the school. Needed by 24 April. Contact Katie.

Microwave for Sale

This much loved Panasonic Convection Microwave Model NN-CD997S will not fit into the ‘microwave space’ in our new home. The measurements are (W) 62.6cm x (D) 37.6cm x (H) 50.1cm. Please see all the features and benefits online. It is in excellent condition and is a current model which retails at $1099. My price to you is $550. Please contact.

Dog & House Sitter required

April 6-15. Yarra Valley area if you can help please contact me.

NOTICES SENT HOME THIS WEEK

- Parent Teacher Interviews Letter (During Term Holidays)