Cross Country Fun at School

Jordan, Brandon, Jordan & Angus running the fitness track

AGM Tonight
7pm Dessert
7.30pm Meeting

9 May 2013

135 York Road Mount Evelyn 3796 - www.mecs.vic.edu.au - 03 9738 6000 - 03 9738 6001 (fax) - Absent student: 03 9513 1561
From the Principal

From its inception MECS has always identified parents as a key ingredient in providing Christian Education to their children. Whilst not a foreign concept to the founding members of our school, other educational institutions are now beginning to recognise that partnership with parents is a major influence on student performance.

A key leading educational theorist, Dr John H, describes the influence of parental involvement as having up to 60% influence on student performance, which then couples with 30% improvement in performance from quality teaching.

MECS, however, believes that this partnership needs to be far more genuine than specific outcomes. It includes sharing a genuine trust and mutual respect. It includes a two-way dialogue and communication that shares common values and ideas on the role that Christian Education has in their children's lives. It involves a collaborative approach that actively supports and engages the core fundamental values that are being enhanced, both at home and at school.

These types of relationships demand a great amount of work. In our busy lives it can be increasingly difficult to cultivate strong parent/school partnerships. It can be difficult to know where best to spend precious limited time in making it to community building activities such as working bees, school concerts and assemblies - even to making it to interviews and parent information nights.

Decisions that are made with a parent partnership mindset encourage deeper levels of involvement which in turn strengthen the bond between parent and school. Parents who truly participate begin to shape what a Christian school looks like, acts like and desires to be like. Schools demand attention to the establishment and maintenance of strong and healthy relationships in order that the goals that are set between home and school can have a reasonable chance to be achieved.

We have our Annual General meeting tonight and it's a great time for this connection to become stronger. When parents become Association members, the health and connection within the community becomes stronger. As we seek God's will in the life of the school, it's in these crucial moments that the bond between God's people becomes richer and the outcomes become shared.

I'm really looking forward to seeing you all as we look back to what God has done in 2012 at MECS. I'll see you there!

1980 - First Centre Trip

In August 1979 initial discussions began regarding the possibility of a Grade 10 trip to Central Australia as part of the Grade 10 CS work on Aboriginals. Colin Youl and Jack Mechielsen presented the idea to the School Board who agreed – suggesting that the students raise some money towards the cost of the trip.

After a class discussion, we (Grade 9 students of 1979) fervently began organising cake stalls, car washes and even a ‘Wake-a-thon’ to raise money for our Central Australia Trip the following year. Our fundraising efforts continued in 1980, which saw us hold a lamington drive, a paper drive, more cake stalls & car washes and even soup days. By early June 1980 we had reached our fund raising goal of $1,000!

Saturday 5 July 1980 was the departure date of the first Grade 10 Centre Trip. At 6am a group of 32 very excited Grade 10 students met in the school car park and boarded a hired coach, which was to become our home for the next 14 days. Colin and Jack led this expedition along with Mrs J (English teacher), Lesley (Andrew’s wife) and Mr de J (a student’s parent). John and Lynn, a husband and wife team who worked for Expo Adventure, were our coach driver, cook and tour guides for the 14-day trip.

The unsealed road between Adelaide and Ayers Rock and to Alice Springs was often heavily corrugated. I remember the windows in the coach rattling for hours on end and fine dust getting into everything including our eyes, noses and mouths.

Some of the fond memories I have of that trip include:

- Fossicking for opals and sleeping underground at Coober Pedy
- Finding a grader to jump start the coach 30 km from the SA/NT border
- Pushing the coach over the SA/NT border
- Camping in the Ayers Rock National Park, approximately 1.5 kms from Uluru, and waking up each morning with an amazing view of ‘the Rock’
- Climbing Ayers Rock
- Walking through the Aboriginal campsite at Ayers Rock, speaking to the local Aboriginals and buying artifacts from them
- Watching an old Aboriginal man sing songs and dance around a campfire at Ayers Rock
- Exploring Alice Springs for an afternoon by ourselves
- Travelling along the Oodnadatta track
- Bush camps, singing songs around the campfire and ‘sleeping under the stars’

I felt privileged to be a part of the first group of students from MECS to go on the Centre Trip. Experiencing first hand the Aboriginal culture, the vastness of our land and the many rich and varied experiences that this trip offered are memories I will never forget.

Yvonne
Past MECS student and current MECS teacher.
Student Leadership Day

On Monday 29 April, all tribal and student leaders from Primary School to Senior School hopped onto the MECS bus and headed off to Mount Evelyn Christian Reformed Church. This was a day for all of the student and tribal leaders to come together to develop our leadership skills and empower us for the year ahead.

We arrived at the church with proactive attitudes, ready for an action packed day. The day consisted of three major events run by Sharon, Jonny and Ben: leadership games and poetry writing, a talk on leadership from Pastor Shane from Fitzroy North Church of Christ, and an in-depth discussion of what we’re expecting for the year ahead in our student leadership positions.

The leadership games were mainly teamwork based, which enabled us to have a broader perspective of how we can interact and take authority in different teamwork situations at school. Jonny led us to each create a poem on the subject of leadership. Some students created and shared beautiful poems from this experience.

After a delicious morning tea, we had the special privilege of having Pastor Shane speak to us about his personal experiences in leadership. Afterwards, we got the chance to ask him some gripping questions we had on the subject of leadership, which was profoundly helpful to grow in our leadership knowledge and skills.

The last activity we had was actually discussing what our thoughts were for the year ahead in student leadership. In this time, we were able to come up with some valuable things we can do to further develop student leadership, so expect to see a few new things, particularly in the newsletter and assemblies.

Along with superb food, fun games and fantastic company, the student leadership day was beneficial for all class levels and ages. On behalf of all student and tribal leaders, we say thank you to everyone who invested time to make this a brilliant day.

Tamarra, Year 9 student leader

Year 7 & 8 Interschool Soccer

The Year 7 and 8 Interschool Soccer day was held last Wednesday, the day after Cross Country. Many of the students who pushed themselves hard in the Cross Country were also enthusiastic soccer players, so after their four matches they were well and truly spent. However they represented their school really well. The Year 7 girls team and Year 7 boys team each had some draws, losses and a win.

Our Year 8 boys were the champions for the day, winning against Balcombe Grammar in a penalty shoot out 3-1. Cameron was the goalie and stood up to the pressure of the shoot out. Well done! Goal scorers were Rob, James, Jono and Kwame. The other team members were Josh, Caylen, Josh, Jacob, Sam, Jayden and Malcolm.

Anne-Maree
Secondary Sports Coordinator

Leadership

As a river flows
- with different obstacles,
- different motions,
- different materials within it.
As a candle illuminates a dark, musky room
Giving hope,
A centre point.
As a wolf’s cry echoes throughout a silent, empty forest,
A sense of hope to the hopeless,
A way for the lost.
A person,
A collection,
United together
With a leader guiding.

Ari, Year 10 student leader

Leadership

A wolf’s howl
A castle where a king rules
A rhino, afraid of nothing
A snowy blizzard
A palace
A flashlight shining on things
The sweet smell of flowers
Role models
A light bulb
A song with many instruments
Lightning.

Josh, Year 6 student leader

Association AGM
Thursday 9 May 2013
7.30pm - Meeting Start
7.00pm - Dessert

Join us for a Community Dessert
Hosted by the Board in the new Kindergarten Foyer
Then relocating to the Staff Room
for the formal part of the AGM

All Welcome
MECS Notes

Mother’s Day Stall
This Friday May 10, the Primary students will be taken by their class teacher to purchase their gifts. Please have your child’s money in a named envelope. Middle School students will have an opportunity to buy at lunchtime in the PUMP room.

NAPLAN
Today students in Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 will bring home an information brochure outlining NAPLAN testing and the dates that students will be sitting these tests: Tuesday 14 May (Language Conventions and Writing), Wednesday 15 May (Reading) and Thursday 16 May (Numeracy). The Language Conventions test includes spelling, grammar and punctuation and takes 40 minutes. The other two tests take 45 minutes. The students will be required to write a persuasive text for the Writing test. Numeracy includes number, space, algebra function and pattern, measurement, chance and data.

The NAPLAN tests are a snapshot in time of the student’s performance and contribute to the school’s reporting and assessment process. They do not replace the ongoing and extensive assessment that teachers do as a matter of course and that is reported to you in our reporting process. Teachers ensure that the tests are just a normal part of proceedings at school. Students are prepared for the tests and are provided with appropriate support and guidance. The tests should not be seen as something to be feared or cause anxiety. They provide valuable information about the snapshot of the student’s performance and also help schools to evaluate teaching programs. They also provide information that assists teachers in identifying student needs and hence support programs that target a student’s particular needs in Literacy and Numeracy.

For further information read the Parent Information Brochure or visit www.nap.edu.au.

Diane
Teaching and Learning Coordinator PS

Entertainment Books
Have you looked at the sample book in the main office? It is well worth looking at and seeing where you can save money by using the vouchers. If you would like to order one please fill out your order form or order online at www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/193695. If you need another order form or would like to know more please contact me.

Evelyn

Friends of MECS

Open Day Help Needed
We are looking forward to our Open Day on Saturday May 18 10am – 1pm.
We would appreciate parents and students to help with
• Welcoming
• Making sandwiches
• Serving Devonshire Tea
• Supervising our jumping castles or cup cake decorating
• Face painting
• Being Tour Guides
• Helping in the classrooms
• BBQ Cooking

If you are available to help us (even for an hour), we would really appreciate it. Please phone Amanda or Nicole, or
email us.

If you have a busy day and are not sure if you can squeeze it in, then please drop into school when and if you can.
Thank you for your support.

Amanda and Nicole

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

Open Day Musicians & Singers still wanted for Sat 18 May
Thank you to all who have already responded.
There are still slots available.
Please email me asap if you would like to perform a 5, 10 or 15 minute slot between 10.30am-12.45pm for Open Day. Please keep in mind it is Background Music as guests are given tours around our school.
Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Annora
Music Performance Coordinator

Congratulations to Sharon
Middle School teacher Sharon Rodrigo-Wilson, husband Michael and big brother Seth, are excited to welcome Eden Elizabeth Wilson into the world! Born May 2, 4kg or 8lb 14oz in the old money!
Congratulations!
A Big Thankyou

Jinja Christian School and Ron and Anne would like to say a very big thank you to the MECS community. Many of you have been involved in some way in supporting this new school in Uganda. The school opened in February with the three lowest primary classes and now has 67 pupils. There are three full time teachers and a couple of part-time assistants and a bursar. The school is moving along well with four classrooms (one being used as a library/resource room), kitchen and toilet block. Term 1 has just finished.

Thank you so much for the donations that have been made. It was a wonderful surprise to come back to so many donations of puzzles and games for the school – it may take a few trips to get it all over there but be assured it will be well used. Thank you for financial assistance – it has helped to build this part of the school, and equip it. Thank you most to those who have and are praying, this is such a vital role. We know that to get to where we are, with the things going the way they have and the favour that we have received can only have happened because of God. A nice reminder of the blessing of God going to a community through His workers being there.

Ron and I are in Australia at the moment but will be returning at the end of June. If anyone would like more information on the work please don’t hesitate to contact us. I am working in the library this term as a long service leave replacement for Marrie Distefano.

Anne

Well Done Ben

Recently Ben Staunton (SPD) was awarded the Grey Wolf Badge in Cubs. This is the highest achievement for a Cub, and requires many hours of work over a 12 month period, including organising and running a day hike, and completing many other special interest badges. As part of the Grey Wolf, Ben achieved the Faith Awareness Badge - the first Cub to achieve this badge in the Mount Evelyn troop for 15 years. Ben worked very hard to complete all the requirements. Well done Ben!

Heather
Newsletter Editor

Win the Dollarmites Treasure

Simply make 3 or more deposits at school during Term 2 and you will be entered in the competition. 1st prize - $5000 family adventure holiday with $500 spending money and $5000 for the school to spend as they wish. There are 25 runner up prizes of kids’ adventure packs worth over $700 each.


Music Theory Group

Throughout Terms 2 and 3 we’re running a music theory course as friendly group lessons for all ages. Theory is all-round useful for musicians and is a prerequisite for higher level instrumental exams. This is for any musicians playing at (or above) Third Grade level and those who are thinking of doing VCE music.

It is running from Wed 8 May at lunchtime until the end of Term 3 in our Instrumental rooms for the cost of $14.50 per class plus course material (approx. $18). Enrol via the instrumental music enrolment form to be found on the MECS website.

More Information: Kerrie Handasyde (instrumental coordinator) or Brett Hook (theory course teacher).

Kerrie
Instrumental Coordinator
We made history last week with our first Cross Country held around our school grounds. Lillydale Lake has been a great resource but is very flat and has the draw back of needing expensive buses to get there. It also meant sharing a public space. The Lillydale Lake run was approximately 2.3km and our school course is 1km per lap. The 13, 14 and 15 age groups did 2 laps and the 16s did 3. The hills were a gruelling addition but made it a more realistic cross country. It sorted out the runners from the walkers.

We had the start and finish of the course on the Middle School basketball courts outside the understorey which meant that those waiting could see the runners start off and could again catch them on their second lap. There was a great atmosphere and sense of community and I thank Sharon Witt, Peter Beams and the Year 9 service class for providing a fundraising sausage sizzle. They raised $200 for Jinga School in Uganda which will go a long way for much needed resources.

Well done to all participants and particularly those who gained the most points for their tribe. Once again, Senior School participants changed the lead in the final race.

Please note that the first 8 runners at each level will go through to represent our school at the Interschool Cross Country, except the 16 and 17+ levels who will combine into the best 8 times for a 16+ group. More details about the Interschool Cross Country will be out later.

Anne-Maree
Secondary Sports Coordinator
Primary Tribal Cross Country

Last Friday our annual Primary Cross Country event was held for the first time on our fitness track at school. It was a beautiful morning, the air was crisp but the sun was shining. Our Primary students assembled on the Primary oval and Diane opened our day with prayer and a short chat with our very own super hero Captain Caring. The first run of the day belonged to our Prep students, who with the guidance of Captain Caring completed a lap of the track to the cheering of all our parents and students. The atmosphere was fantastic and set the tone for what was a great day. A great big congratulations to all the students, and a special mention to our place getters.

Each student ran their best and contributed to the overall score for their tribe. However the Walya Tribe ended up taking out the honour for the day.

A big thankyou to all the people who helped make the day a great success.

Derek
Primary Sport Coordinator

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<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
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<td>Prep</td>
<td>Riley</td>
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<td>Wyatt</td>
<td>Kayla</td>
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<td>6/7 yr olds</td>
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<td>Toby</td>
<td>Grace</td>
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<td>8 yr olds</td>
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<td>Ethan</td>
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<td>Harry K</td>
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<td>9 yr olds</td>
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<td>10 yr olds</td>
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<td>11 yr olds</td>
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<td>Brad W</td>
<td>Jenna</td>
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1st - Walya - Red 253
2nd - Wirri - Blue 179
2nd - Warlu - Yellow 150
3rd - Warlpa - White 129
**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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**Gapuwiyak School Opshop**

The following letter is from Gapuwiyak School in the Northern Territory:

Year 7/8 students from Gapuwiyak school are starting an Opshop. Can you help us by sending us some clothes? All the profits will go towards our school.

We are after clothes that are good quality and clean. Clothes that would be good to send are:

- sports shorts
- hats
- singlets
- t-shirts
- baby clothes
- sheets
- towels
- long skirts/dresses

Thank you for supporting our school.

Yours sincerely,

**Year 7/8 - Gapuwiyak School**

MECS would like to support their efforts so if you are interested in helping, clothes for the opshop can be left at the Main Office and MECS will pack and send them. Please only clothes listed should be donated and they should be suitable for the climate in Northern Australia.

**Staying Fit**

Participants needed: FREE study for overweight young people looking for help.

Murdoch Childrens Research Institute at The Royal Children's Hospital is running a randomised clinical trial of an online weight management program for overweight adolescents. We want to find a fun and interactive way to help adolescents learn about healthy food choices and physical activity. Around 30% of all 12 to 17 year old Australians are overweight and spaces in clinical services are limited. Staying Fit is an interactive online program designed to help adolescents learn about healthy lifestyle choices.

We are looking for 550 overweight adolescents aged 12 - 17, living in metropolitan Melbourne, to help us test two ways of providing health information. Those who take part in the study will be randomly assigned to either the Staying Fit group or the Usual Care group. If we find that the Staying Fit program is more helpful, then at the end of the study the Usual Care group will also get access to the Staying Fit program.

Participation involves completing height, weight, blood pressure and waist circumference measurements and an online questionnaire at baseline, 3, 6 and 12 months. Parents are also invited to participate. Every 3 months there will be a draw for a $100 gift voucher for those participants who have kept their appointments.

Enquiries Karly


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**The Apple Man is Back!**

Delicious apples or Brown or Green pears. He comes every two weeks.

For those new to the school the Apple Man delivers 5-6 kilo bags of Pink Lady, Royal Gala and Fuji apples for $10, or $8 Granny Smith apples, Golden Delicious apples or Brown or Green pears. He comes every two weeks.

If you can’t be there to buy them yourself you can leave an order with the Main Office and they will collect them for you to pick up later.

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**NOTICES SENT HOME THIS WEEK**

- MP Swimming Change (sent last week)
- Year 12 magazine contribution letter
- Mother’s Day Notice
- Year 10 Soccer Notice
- Working Bee Letter (sent last week)
- Latest Careers Letter (on Website)
- MP Term 2 Newsletter
- Open Day Flyer

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**Calendar**

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** is 11am Tuesday on published week. Email articles (images attached as jpg) to the Newsletter Office.