Open Day
Saturday
10-1pm

Cartoon Workshop
Maddison-Grace learning to draw cartoons
Undoubtedly, Martin leaves an indelible mark on every facet of this school – both the physical and the intangible aspects. Martin made you believe that ‘impossible’ was simply a matter of perspective. He was a visionary leader, committed to ‘keeping fresh’ and always moving MECS toward its vision of ‘Seeking the Kingdom of God in Education’. To say his influence on MECS, and on a personal level, my own life, has been life changing is not giving justice to his influence, grace and mentoring over many years. But one of Martin’s greatest gifts to MECS was the building of an amazing team – the depth of wonderful leadership in this place has been demonstrated so clearly in his absence this year. The vision of MECS is in every staff member and they are a passionate and incredibly talented group of people. That’s not going to change in the face of Martin’s resignation.

Please pray for the Board as it plans the next phase for MECS. It’s an exciting time and I am looking forward to what God has in store as He continues to build His school. As for Martin, we hope that this is not ‘goodbye’ so much as ‘see you later’. We look forward to seeing what God has in store for his faithful servant Martin.

How has this experience impacted the Youls?

Well, we have a whole new extended family in another world. Andrew Japaljarri and his wife Nakamarra really did take us under their wing. Visits to various Dreaming Sites would not have happened without them. Sara Napaljarri, a staunch member of the Yuendumu Church, helped me with language and culture on many occasions. It is a measure of our involvement there that we have been kept posted about details of the life of the family, and have been honoured to be invited to not only attend funerals, but to take part in them. I now understand a lot of which I knew nothing at all.

How has this impacted our school?

Generations of students have some introduction to an Aboriginal language. This is so unusual as to be quite remarkable. Past students will not easily fall for negative stereotypes of Aboriginal people in their later lives, because they have actually met and formed relationships with Aboriginal people in the flesh. I could not say such a thing when I was leaving school. Although language learning as such is notoriously easy to forget, the songs we have learned tend to ‘stick’, as do many of the anecdotes about Warlpiri life which I have shared with my classes. Our ‘Tribal’ (house) names are Warlpiri words, which reminds us constantly of our school’s commitment to the program. Oh, then there is the fact that hundreds of Past students remember their own ‘skin’ names, and use them whenever appropriate.

How did this first step impact Yuendumu?

Firstly, many Warlpiri people have visited our school, students and adults. Also firstly, the fact that there is a growing cohort of ‘kardia’ (white people) in far away Melbourne who remember and use their ‘skin’ names brings a smile to Warlpiri faces. Our visits are still eagerly anticipated by the Yuendumu younger brigade, and by many of those much older. There is a sense of Mount Evelyn Christian School as a ‘South Camp’ of the Warlpiri people. Some of our students have been back to visit and to work, and at least one, Liam Japangkara has been there so long and so unreservedly that he seems to be having some difficulty actually leaving the place.

continued next page...
A New Leadership Chapter for MECS

Dear MECS Community,

Below is a letter from our Principal on Sabbatical, Martin. The Board supports this decision and thanks Martin and Anita for their integrity and faithfulness to our process over the past few months. Please continue to pray for Martin and Anita and also for your Board as we face important decisions that affect the shape and future of our school.

Sue
Board Chair

A number of years ago I asked the Board to release me in 2013 for a year’s sabbatical (self-funded) with the intention of providing opportunity to re-energise and reflect on the next chapter of my life. As Anita and I have pondered this question I have come to the conclusion that it is timely for me to embrace fresh challenges.

Since arriving in 2002 and initially working alongside Stewart (who was a wonderful mentor) and later working with a number of Executive teams and Board members, I have thoroughly enjoyed, and have been honoured, to have served the MECS community. MECS is a special Christian educational community. It allows for great teamwork and partnership, lots of creativity and innovation, and thoroughly embraces the challenge of developing a faithful and distinctive educational practice. I first saw this back in 1981 when I visited from Sydney as a student teacher, and have continued to be inspired and excited by it to the present day.

God bless this wonderful community, which like me, I’m sure you hold special in your heart.

Shalom
Martin

Last week I informed the MECS Board that I would not be returning as the MECS Principal in 2014. I did this to give the Board adequate time to undertake the search for MECS’ next Principal. At this stage I’m uncertain what’s around the corner for me, although I expect that sometime later in the year it will become clear and I will be able to share that in an appropriate update.

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Elijah (MPO Yr4)

On Monday the CSIRO came to MECS to teach us about weather. Simon told us about the cycle of rain and that it is called dew when there is not much water. He did a lot of experiments and did a few with liquid nitrogen and two helpers, Emma and Samuel. He made a cloud in a bottle with water and a glove. It was very cool. He got a glass, a tissue and a jug of water and put the tissue at the bottom of the glass. He put that upside down in the water but when he took it out, the tissue wasn’t wet!

Tahlia (MPO Yr4)

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Tahlia (MPO Yr4)
MUSIC Notes

Congratulations Nicholas

Congratulations to Nicholas who was awarded Honours for his second grade Classical Guitar exam last week. Great work, Nick!

Kerrie
Instrumental Coordinator

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 (instrumental coordinator) or Brett (theory course teacher).

Kerrie
Instrumental Coordinator

MECS Notes

Sewers Needed Urgently!

We desperately need any parents who are able to sew up some material arms and legs in the coming weeks for our Year 8 Puppetry Unit. We have 60 pairs of arms and legs that need to be sewn over the next 3-4 weeks.

Straight sewing only.

Your help would be greatly appreciated!

Please contact Sharon if you are able to help!

Many thanks

Sharon
Year 8 Drama Teacher

Annual Report

Copies of the Annual Report are available at the Main Office or you can download it from the MECS website. Resources/Download Centre/Association Downloads/Annual Report.

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
• 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

Kindergarten to Year 12

Working Bee 11 May

What a great day to do a Working Bee. There was a magnificent sunrise and MECS was at its best in the beautiful morning. There were lot of mums, dads and children all working together to make MECS look so good and be the place it is.

We all worked together mulching the playground, repairing the running track, cleaning pathways and car parks, washing buses, staining seats on the oval and Middle School play area, painting posts in the Middle School area, pruning, planting plants, changing lights, replacing worn chair stops, mowing lawns, writing test tags, and best of all shifting all my maintenance equipment into my new maintenance shed.

Thanks to everyone who came and helped out on the Working Bee and a big thank you to Karen for a wonderful morning tea.

Pete and Steve
Maintenance Team
Mother’s Day Stall

On Friday we held our annual Mother’s Day stall. It was the first event organised under the new banner of ‘Friends of MECS’. We had lots of volunteers who helped make the stall a big success, I would like to thank Dale who ordered all the gifts and did a lot of preperation for us, also Evelyn, Julie, Karen, Sarah, Lynda, Melissa and Martina who all helped the stall run so smoothly.

Over the past few years the focus of the Mothers Day stall has moved away from fundraising and towards providing a service to the MECS community. Not a lot of profit was made on Friday (approx. $140) but a lot of fun was had by the students choosing presents for their Mums and hopefully the Mums loved their gifts (I know I did!). So thank you for supporting this wonderful event and if you would like to be involved in this or other fundraising or community events please contact me.

Nicole
Community Relations Officer

Coles Vouchers

Look what we got

I have a lot of people asking me if it is worth all the trouble of collecting the Coles vouchers. As you can see - tennis net and raquets, footballs, long jump mat, tee ball stands and bats, fitness spots, ball holder, soccer kick balls etc “Yes it is worth it”.

Thanks for all your help.

Anne-Maree
Secondary Sports Coordinator

Dance Lessons in the Gym

Last year as a lead up to the MECS 40th Anniversary Ball, we were offered Dance Lessons at a reduced cost when we purchased our Ball tickets. Approx. 30 couples took part and some enjoyed the experience so much that they continued with more lessons during Term 4, finishing with supper and a demonstration by our instructors on the last night.

There is now an opportunity for us to resume this fun exercise. If you would like to participate email Deb.

Those of you who may have missed out and want to join in, but think you may be too far behind, don’t worry, we have probably forgotten most of what we learned from last year!! So we can all start at the beginning together!

Lessons will be held on either Monday or Thursday evening and at either 7:30-9pm or 8-9:30pm (so that those who have late work schedules can make it).

Cost will be similar to last year depending on numbers. $10 per couple per night - 5 week block = $50 per term.

A qualified instructor comes from Dance Kingdom in Lilydale, to teach a variety of dances eg. Waltz, Samba, Salsa, Cha Cha, etc. It’s lots of fun and great exercise too.

If you haven’t been before, come and try it on the first night with no obligation to continue.

Please email me asap so we can get going shortly. List your preference for day and time please. We may not be able to please everyone but we will try anyway.

Deb & Pippi

Young Adult Writers Group

Come join a Young Adult Writers Group held every second Monday after school at Belgrave Library. We discuss literature and writing; we share our own work and support each other; and we often have authors come as guest speakers.

If you are interested please contact Damien.

Ranges TEC

Open Campus

Saturday 18th May
1pm-4pm

A Christian Trade Training Centre for students in Years 10, 11 & 12

www.rangestec.vic.edu.au
1/9 Hightech Place, Lilydale 3140 Ph. 9738 7100

Celebrating 40 Years

by Trinity
Cycle A Production

This term Year 7 and 8s have started their production: “The Compressed Works of Shakespeare” by Allen D.

Rehearsals are under way.
Performance Dates: 20, 21 & 22 June.

Public ticket sales begin on 27 May from the Main Office. Ticket prices are:

- $35 family ticket (strictly 2 adults, 2 children/concession or 1 adult, 3 children/concession, a total of 4 people on family ticket)
- $15 adult and
- $10 child/concession.

PS Cartoon Workshop with Richard G

I’d never seen so many children so engrossed and pencils so actively used! Many thanks to Richard, a long term friend of MECS, for bringing his cartooning skills and passions with him last Tuesday and running workshops with the Primary School students. We hope you all enjoy the enthusiasm for drawing that this has spawned across the school and the special offers he made available to us. Richard’s website also has great activities to try.

www.dustydog.com.au

Meredith
on behalf of PS teachers
Association AGM

Last Thursday night we had the Association Annual General Meeting. We started in the Kindergarten with coffee and a lovely dessert (provided by Karen) and a walk around the beautiful new Kindergarten facility. We moved up to the staffroom where Wendy gave an update on how the Kindergarten has been tracking this year. She also showed us a very cute video of our smallest MECS students telling us what they did at ‘their’ Kindergarten.

We heard the Principal’s report, the Finance report (Gerry is getting more creative with his presentation every year...) and the Board report. We welcomed the new staff into Association membership, as well as James and Trynda and Petra.

Craig and Phil were both thanked for their contributions and years served on the board; current board members Sue, Ian and Annamarie were re-elected for another 3 year term and new board members James and Petra were voted in and welcomed.

It was great to see a staffroom full of Association members, current staff and parents, past parents and founders - what a blessed community we are.

Nicole
Community Relations Officer

Mother’s Day in the Kindergarten

Last Thursday afternoon (Koalas) and Friday morning (Possums) Mothers arrived early for a special time of celebration at kindergarten with their four year old children. The Mums enjoyed a treat made by the children, (Yum!) painted their hands and made prints and decorated a tile that is a ‘leave at Kinder’ project. These tiles will become a lovely memento to decorate some flower pots for our entrance way. The children might one day visit the kindergarten when they are older and say, “Look, I made that tile with my Mum when I was at kindergarten.”

The session finished off with some songs and a funny story about what Mums do for us. The Bluebird group (3 year old children) also had a lovely Mother’s Day celebration and sang some songs for their Mothers before they went home. We hope all Mothers were able to celebrate their special day last Sunday!

Wendy
Early Years Coordinator
### 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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### Host a Japanese Student

MECS will be hosting 4 Japanese students from Toyo High School for 12 weeks in Sept/Oct 2013. MECS has hosted Japanese students a number of times in previous years, and MECS families have generously accommodated the students in their homes. We are hoping to be able to offer the same opportunity to these 4 students. The families that have participated in this program in the past enjoyed the opportunity to have a Japanese student stay with them. If you are able to offer accommodation to a student from Monday 2 September to Saturday 23 November, or would like some more information, please contact Natasha (Principal’s Assistant). For further information about the program please call AIIU Regional Manager Christine or email.

Host families receive a tax free stipend of $30 per night to assist with hosting costs.

Some points to note:
- The students do not have to have their own bedroom
- You do not have to cook Japanese food or speak Japanese
- The Group Coordinator provides families with cultural information & 24/7 support.

### CFA Mount Evelyn

Mount Evelyn Fire Brigade is recruiting volunteers now!

Have you always wanted to help your community, learn new skills and make new friends? Mount Evelyn Fire Brigade is currently recruiting volunteer firefighters to join our team, especially active men and women, 16 years or over for daytime response.

Are you available to help out - to attend house fires, car accidents and grass and scrub fires?

You will be fully trained and issued with protective equipment at no cost to you. Being a CFA volunteer is extremely rewarding and enables you to challenge yourself in a supportive, fun and friendly environment.

We are also looking for non-operational members to assist with community education, fundraising and administration.

**Interested?**

Call Brigade Duty Officer or Support Officer.

### Need a Tenant?

Looking for a mature age tenant? References available. Contact Rachel.

### 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,

Rachel

### Notices Sent Home This Week (can also be downloaded from website)

- SPC Headlice Letter
- Year 9 Soccer Notice
- Kindergarten Hand, Foot & Mouth Letter
- MP Chicken Pox Letter
- SP Camp Notice

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### LOST

Pencil Case - black with pink/red roses on it, A4 size. Calculator, pencils and pens inside. Last seen on bench outside Room 21 (BE). Please hand it in to the Main Office if you find it.