Open Day - Wet but Successful!

James entertains our visitors with music during Open day.
MECS Open Day

At some schools, Open Days can be a bit like wedding days. Everyone is dressed up and looking beautiful, everyone smiles and the vibe of the day is positive and hopeful for a long and happy future.

MECS doesn’t do the ‘dressing up’. What we presented at our Open Day on Saturday is who we are. Sure we cleaned up and put our best foot forward, but what we showed to our visitors was ultimately the real MECS. We are who we are and proud of it.

What we put on display on Saturday was a place where all staff understand and embrace a shared vision, where the uniqueness of MECS is held tightly and collectively by parents, students and staff. It is a place where parents and students turn up voluntarily to help out and take visitors on a tour of a place of which they are proud. It is a place where staff can be overheard speaking passionately with our visitors and engaging with their questions.

I thoroughly enjoy having the opportunity to explain what I love about MECS at Open Day. It makes me feel blessed to work here and proud of how we live out our values. As I presented the ‘Principal Talks’ in the library, the feedback I loved hearing was this: ‘What I really liked about the school was that everyone, from the Principal to the teachers all articulated the same message, that our children will be valued learners and that God’s kingdom will be taught throughout the school’.

Yes, Open Days are an opportunity to show our school to visitors, but they are also a chance to remember and celebrate what’s great about this place.

and bookshelves. After putting our stuff in the class we all met in the Prep - Two room for devotions. After that we went back into our room which was the Year 3 – 5 room and did some writing. At recess, lunch and afternoon we played cricket. We loved being in small classes and being in a small school.”

The portable building finally arrived on 7 April, 1983 and the children were able to move out of Room 14 and into their new school on 13 April. The official opening of the school was held on 30 April.

Although numbers were growing in the new school and there was a need to purchase another portable to house the secondary students, the tide of high property prices were against the school and it became apparent that the school would not be viable to continue in the future.

It was a sad day for the RINCS Board to announce to the staff, the parents and the students that this wonderful school would have to close in May 1986. It was MECS who came to the rescue of the school and were in a position at the time to incorporate all the staff, students and buildings of the Ringwood District Christian School into their own school community.

I would like to thanks the MECS Board who were generous with their time, energy and were gracious enough to allow the school to begin on their land. I would like to thanks the MECS staff and students at the time for accepting the RINCS students and teachers into their fold so graciously and kindly after the school closed. I would like to thank God the Creator and sustainer of all, for allowing me to be part of the wonderful school that was RINCS, and for his steadfast love and care of us when the school finally closed.

David

David was the founding Principal of RINCS, and then later, the Principal of Mountain District Christian School. He currently teaches at Luther College.
God made me special

Last Thursday night the Preps and their parents came along to school for a special evening to celebrate how special each Prep is to God, to their parents, and to each other. The Preps started with some songs they had been practising, and then had some special discussion time with their parents, where they shared their ‘About Me’ booklets. We had the chance to share the learning we have been doing in Term 1 on ‘God made us Special’, and then our learning about families as the beginning of our Term 2 unit on ‘Communities’.

The children shared the yummy treats they had made and parents shared their thoughts with a special letter to their child. It was a precious time for each of the children and their parents.

Jan & Rebekah
Prep Teachers

Technology bringing People Closer

Last year Di (Primary Coordinator) went to spend time in some schools in the Northern Territory including one where her daughter Bek is a teacher – Gapuwiyak, East Arnhem Land.

As part of our unit on Community, Preps had the opportunity to talk to some Year 8 and 9 students via Skype from Gapuwiyak Indigenous Community and ask and answer questions about what children like to do in a place far from their own.

The children learned that both communities enjoy footy and games like Wii and things like swimming…. although where we swim is quite different! We don’t have to worry about crocodiles in Victoria like they do in Gapuwiyak.

Di showed us some photos on the whiteboard of what they do to have fun and what the Gapuwiyak school looks like.

The students there asked to hear us sing a song and they sang us a beautiful song about fresh water which was written by one of their Year 12 students.

Di told us the Gapuwiyak students are really good dancers. Maybe we can send a video of our PS students doing the production later in the year.

They taught us some words in their language and we all said goodbye in their language, Yolŋu Matha.

It was fun to see each other on Skype through the interactive whiteboard and to find out that our lives and communities are different in some ways, but in many ways are also the same.

Jan
Prep Teacher

Gapuwiyak School

What a wonderful exchange for MECS Preps (djamarrkuji -children) and the students in Arnhem Land.

Not only were our students blessed by the interaction, but the students in Gapuwiyak had the opportunity to speak English to our Prep students. English is a second language for these students and they do not get a lot of opportunities to speak English in real life situations. They were able to rehearse their answers and were not afraid when they saw our lovely little Preps. They thought they were very cute and it gave them lots of courage to speak up. The students up there were so thrilled and excited that they asked if they could speak to the MECS Preps every week in their English class!

It is a joy to journey with these Indigenous students and to bless them with such a simple thing as having a conversation in English.

You can further support the Year 8/9 class at Gapuwiyak school by donating to their Opportunity Shop.

Di
PS Coordinator
MUSIC Notes

Instrumental Recital

Our First Instrumental Recital is coming up next Wednesday evening (29 May) in the SS Theatrette!

Just a reminder to all Instrumental students to check with their Instrumental Teacher, in regards to whether it is your turn to perform.

There has been a change to the program:- Students with surnames between A and E are invited to perform a 2-21/2 minute set of music on Wednesday 29 May.

The evening starts at 7pm and will be finished by 9.30pm (possibly earlier) including Supper.

Bring along friends and family – it’s a great opportunity to see what our musicians and singers are learning in their lessons and to encourage them in their performing!

If you have instrumental lessons outside of school, you are still very welcome to perform. If your surname falls between A and E and you’d like to perform next Wednesday please email ASAP with what you would like to perform and if there is room within the program, I will do my best to include you in the Recital.

For any other questions please contact Annora.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Annora
Music Performance Coordinator

Enrol for Music Lessons

Winter is a great time to enrol for music... hmm, picture yourself playing beautiful music as the rain falls softly outside. If you’re in Senior Primary or older (or a parent!) you can enrol for Drums, Guitar, Bass, Violin, Piano or Singing. If you’re in Middle Primary you can try Guitar, Piano or Drums. And Junior Primary and Prep students do really well with Violin. Enrolment forms are at the office or on the website.

P.S. Have you heard our Violin Ensemble rehearsing on Mondays? Or our rock band on Thursdays? They’re sounding so good!

Kerrie
Instrumental Tuition Coordinator

Year 12 Mentor Supper

‘If we have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.’

As Year 12 can be a particularly stressful time we encourage each of our students to ask someone to journey with them and guide them as mentors. Students are encouraged to select someone who is outside of their immediate family and who could bring a certain level of wisdom to the role.

Last week on Thursday 16 May, MECS held its annual mentor – mentee supper. We heard from two past students, Taminka (2012) and Tom (2011), who provided us with poignant tips about navigating the challenges of the year. Time was also given for the mentors and mentees to review the year so far. Karen’s amazing culinary delights made the time spent together, on such a cold Autumn night, much more palatable.

I would like to personally thank the mentors for their dedicated approach to their important role, for I really believe that we do see further by standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before us.

Sharon
Year 12 Coordinator

Asthma & Complementary Therapies

Complementary or alternative therapies are becoming increasingly popular in Australia, and many people seek out complementary remedies to support their health. As with any health condition, if you or a family member have asthma and are considering using complementary therapies, we strongly advise that you communicate with your doctor about your asthma treatment. They may even be able to suggest safe therapies to try!

It is equally important to communicate to any complementary therapists about your asthma so that they can avoid treatments that are known to potentially make asthma worse.

Complementary therapies considered safe for asthma are: exercise programs, vitamin D, low-salt diet, some Chinese herbal medicines, some Indian (ayurvedic) herbs, music therapy, tai chi, buteyko (breathing technique).

Complementary therapies considered potentially unsafe for asthma are: inhaled salt (small risk of a fungal respiratory infection), echinacea, bee pollen or royal jelly (propolis), and products containing aspirin.

Remember, response to treatments and medications differs between people. Make sure you or your children continue taking any asthma medications prescribed unless otherwise instructed by your doctor. Stopping asthma medications suddenly can result in worsening asthma symptoms and even an asthma attack. For more information regarding complementary therapies and asthma please refer to The National Asthma Council (NAC) http://www.nationalasthma.org.au/ or contact the Asthma Foundation of Victoria for your free copy of the new NAC Asthma & Complementary Therapies brochure.

For more information please contact The Asthma Foundation of Victoria www.asthma.org.au.
P is for Pony

In the first half of the year, Prep children bring in an item that begins with the letter we are learning to share in show-and-tell.

Wyatt’s ‘P’ show-and-tell was a pony called Hercules!

Bailey made a very quick connection to “Hercules Morse as big as a horse” from the beloved Hairy Maclary stories.

Hercules was very popular as the other children in the family showed the pony to their friends in Star’s class and Rory’s Kindergarten group as well.

I’m sure the pony enjoyed all the attention. He was very ‘P’ for Patient with all the People and Pats, and in Prep, Wyatt was ‘P’ for...

Proud of his Pet.

Jan
Prep Teacher

MECS Notes

2013 Team Vic State Teams Trial Process

Students attending Primary and Secondary schools affiliated with SSV (School Sport Victoria) are eligible for selection in Victorian Teams to compete in 2013 School Sport Australia National Championships. Information on national events can be found at the Team Vic page on the School Sport Victoria website, https://www.ssv.vic.edu.au/TeamVic, or the School Sport Australia website, http://www.schoolsport.edu.au. SSV requests that schools advertise to parents via their school newsletter and school website of the opportunities available to gifted and talented students at their school.

Nominations are now open for students to register to trial for SSV Team Vic State teams. Information on how to register 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.

Sewer Needed Urgently!

Cycle A needs a person who can sew 8 black capes for our upcoming production. These need to be completed for use in three weeks time. Payment will be offered.

Your help would be greatly appreciated!

Please contact Sharon if you are able to help!

Sharon Witt
Year 8 Drama Teacher

Dance Lessons in the Gym

Last year for the MECS 40th Anniversary Ball, we were offered Dance Lessons. This was so much fun there were more lessons during Term 4. There is now an opportunity for us to resume this fun exercise.

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). A qualified instructor comes from Dance Kingdom in Lilydale, to teach a variety of dances eg. Waltz, Samba, Salsa, Cha Cha, etc.

Cost will depend on numbers. $10 per couple per night - 5 week block = $50 per term (approx).

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

If you would like to participate email Deb. List your preference for day and time please. We may not be able to please everyone but we will try anyway.

Deb & Pippi

Year 7-10 Wellbeing Session

Last Thursday, the Middle School and the Year 10s took part in the first Wellbeing session for the year. In response to conversations with Student Leaders the program is changing, with more emphasis on smaller, interactive groups and less on formal presentations.

Middle School participated in a panel, discussing questions they had lodged earlier in the term. The three panel members shared their own wisdom and experience with the students, allowing time for tricky subjects to be discussed in more depth.

Year 10s took part in a Q & A session with guest speaker Shane Myer, who spoke about being 15 -16, and how ‘life becomes more real’ as students develop more self awareness and take greater responsibility for their lives.

It seems that these changes to the sessions have been welcome for both students and teachers. Stay tuned as we explore other new ideas for the program later this year.

Natasha
Student Welfare
A Wonderful Open Day

We are thrilled with the results of the Open Day on Saturday. Despite the rain, we had a wonderful turn out of over 80 families visiting MECS. The kindergarten was jam packed with visitors for the whole Open Day. There were lots of visitors to Primary, Middle and Senior school too, despite the weather.

Thank you so much for the support and effort that everyone gave. The school looked fantastic and the teachers did a wonderful job presenting their classrooms. Thank you to the music students who performed under the guidance of Annora Hummerston. Many parents helped on the day too – we appreciated having so much support. We had many wonderful comments from the visitors.

Future Enrolments at MECS

One of the great ways people come to know about MECS is by personal invitation and referral by our current families. We appreciate this greatly. If you have friends and family who would be interested in Christian education, please encourage them to telephone the school to speak with either Nicole or Amanda regarding coming in for a personalised tour.

We are currently processing enrolments for 2014 and future years. If you have a sibling of a currently enrolled student whom you would like to be considered for a position at MECS, please ensure that you have completed a ‘Application for Sibling Enrolment’, available from the office and return it to the school office as soon as possible.

Amanda and Nicole
Community Relations Officers
A message for parents/guardians of Middle and Senior School students...

For a few years now, MECS has been providing parents/guardians with a printed double-sided student profile (Interview Profiles) in the lead up to Parent-Teacher meetings. These profiles usually include results of assessment completed, possible upcoming assessment, and comments. We are in the process of reviewing this practice and have created a very short online survey. Earlier this week a link to this survey was sent to the email address you provided to the school. If you have not yet responded to the survey I would warmly encourage you to do so at your earliest opportunity. If you did not receive the email and would like to complete this survey, please contact the school office.

Jacqui
Deputy Principal

Cycle A Production

This term Year 7 and 8s have started their production: ‘The Compressed Works of Shakespeare’ by Allen Dickson.

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
$10 child/concession.

These past few weeks Cycle A has been rehearsing our play ‘The Compressed Works of Shakespeare’ and we have watched it grow in the short time since we started organizing and rehearsing it. We have been rehearsing in the theatrette and started painting backdrops. We also started sound and lighting. The play is coming together like puzzle pieces; we have been working hard and we are excited to see it coming along.

Ticket bookings forms are available from the office or on the website.

We would love to invite parents, family and friends of MECS to come and see our fantastic play.
2013 Term 2 Week 5: 19 MAY - 25 MAY

Mon 20 - Fri 24 May
MS Special Week

Wed 22 - Fri 24 May
Year 5 Camp

Thur 23 May
Parent Seminar (A) 7pm in Staffroom

2013 Term 2 Week 6: 26 MAY - 1 JUNE

Wed 29 May
MP Swimming
Instrumental Recital 7pm

Thur 30 May
MP Connect Morning Tea Staffroom 9am

Fri 31 May
Year 7-10 Interschool Cross Country

2013 Term 2 Week 7: 2 JUNE - 8 JUNE

Wed 5 June
Prep Connect Morning Tea Staffroom 9am
MP Swimming

Thur 6 June
VCE Music Recital 7pm

Fri 7 June
End Unit 1 & 3 (SS)
Prep Montrose Fire Brigade Incursion

2013 Term 2 Week 8: 9 JUNE - 15 JUNE

Mon 10 June
Queen's Birthday Public Holiday - School Closed

Tues 11 - Fri 14 June
Year 10 Trans Ed
Year 11 Exams

Tues 11 June
Unit 4 Begins (SS)
4yo Kindergarten Photos

Wed 12 June
3yo Kindergarten Photos
Prep Shop Excursion
MP Swimming
Year 10 VET Courses (afternoon)

2013 Term 2 Week 9: 16 JUNE - 22 JUNE

Mon 17 June
Unit 2 Begins (SS)

House Sitter Needed
We need a house sitter/cat butler June 30 - July 21 for our Yarra Junction house. The cats are two indoor Tonkinese, who need human company at least in the evenings and overnight.
Contact Natasha.

Friends of MECS Prayer Group
Would you make time to pray with us? The 'Friends of MECS Prayer Group' would love others to join them praying for our school and its community members. It's really simple, straightforward and done in your own time with prayer needs communicated through a weekly email. Simple... but worthwhile! Send a quick email to get involved.

Renee
MECS Prayer Coordinator

Meet Rev Dr John S of God's Squad
John Smith and God's Squad Christian Motorcycle Club will be holding a number of public events between Sat 25 May and Sun 2 June including a family day, Church services, a study night and a Men's breakfast. Enquiries: contact Marsh or www.gscmc.blogspot.com for some of the details.

Entertainment Books
Don't forget to order your copy now. If you bought one last year it will be expiring on 1 June, so get in now and buy your new one. Order online at: www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/193695 or complete your order form. Contact Evelyn if you need more information.

Evelyn Dubbeld
Tupperware
For all your replacements, spare parts, parties, updates and catalogues give Sheryl a call.
Special attention for all MECS customers.

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.
commbank.com.au/adventureisland
Don't forget that Wednesday is banking day.

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 AIU Regional Manager Christine or email.

House Sitter Needed
MECS will be holding 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 AIU Regional Manager Christine or email.

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

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

- Top Arts Excursion (SS Art) (Last Week)
- Year 9 Hike
- Interschool Cross Country 7-10 Notice
- New SS Careers Newsletter on Website

Canteen
Desperately needs helpers for Fridays. If you can help please contact Sheryl.

FOUND
Found at the kiss n drop 23 May: 1 x Hi Country sleeping bag, Unnamed black, silver and blue. Was in a black bag. If yours - enquire at the Main Office.

Celebrating 40 Years