SP Trees and Forests Camp

Ellie, Year 5, enjoys having a go at the ropes course on the Trees and Forests Camp
From the Principal

Where Politics and Christian Education meet

At the time this newsletter was being prepared, Gerry and I were in Canberra to attend the annual Christian Schools Association National Policy Forum.

The purpose of this visit, apart from meeting with other Christian School leaders from around Australia, is to hear what is being discussed amongst those that have the power to make decisions that affect every school in Australia.

The fact that we have access to the Federal Ministers at this forum shows that the Christian School body is considered to be sizable enough to warrant attention. The forum offers Christian School leaders the opportunity, through discussion and debate, to present a system of funding that a) is fair and equitable for Christian Schools, and b) allows MECS to teach school based curriculum that meets our ‘Seeking the Kingdom of God in Education’ vision.

As the debates continue on quality teaching and performance based pay, and we remain in the dark about the funding outcomes from the Gonski review, the forum provides us with the opportunity to hear from Peter G (Federal Education Minister) and Christopher P (Shadow Minister) on these issues and their views on the validity of parents to choose Christian Schooling for their children. Please pray for the government as they seek to make decisions that are best for the nation but that also, we hope, allow parents the freedom to choose biblically infused, Christ-centred education.

VCE Drama Ensemble

ALL THE WORLD’S A STAGE

Last Wednesday evening VCE Drama students presented their ensemble performances on the seven stages of life, inspired by Shakespeare’s famous speech: All the world’s a stage, and all the men and women merely players...

During the semester students worked together in teams, researching, writing and rehearsing an original performance that explored the idea that ‘one man in his time has many parts’: the infant, the schoolboy, the lover, the soldier, the judge, the elderly man, the second childhood. Although all four ensembles contained this basic idea, each dealt with the theme in a different way, using a variety of non-naturalistic techniques. Some of the highlights were song and dance routines, the imaginative use of clapboards, scenes about the afterlife, a scene where a woman meets another version of herself and movement that symbolised birth and death.

A huge thank-you to Sam C for stepping in to the Unit 3 group to replace Sam B (currently recovering from surgery). Thanks also to Cliff for video-taping the performances and to the friends and family who came to be in the audience. And congratulations to all students on their successful ensemble performances!

Marlene
SS Drama Teacher
Rehearse, rehearse, rehearse!

For Cycle A, a large chunk of Special Week went into rehearsing for our Production coming up in Week 9. We spent time working through scenes and made sure people had confidence in their roles. This is very important for us, because we are doing ‘The Compressed Works of Shakespeare’ and sometimes it’s challenging to work out what a character is saying and WHY! Shakespearean language is hard! There are two casts in our play - Cast A doing the tragedies and Cast B doing the histories and comedies - so it was exciting to reveal what each of our halves had been practicing. We also sang, danced around and played silly, fun games to unwind.

Nicky
MS Teacher

Imagine over 170,000 children sharing a book together, all at the same time! It happened last Wednesday, and MECS was just one of many schools, homes and libraries across Australia that stopped to take part at around 11.00am.

The chosen book this year was ‘The Wrong Book’ by Nick B; a story about Nicolas Ickle. Well that’s not strictly true, as the students will tell you - poor Nicolas keeps being interrupted by unwanted characters, like a pirate, an elephant, some rats and a Queen, that clearly belong in other books.

The event is organised by the Australian Library and Information Association to promote the value of reading together, and the role of libraries in literacy. From the students’ point of view it’s just a bit of fun, and a good excuse to read another story!

Carole
Teacher/Librarian
Welcome to our new Instrumental Music Specialist, Libby. Libby comes to us as a highly qualified pianist and teacher. She has extensive experience in classical piano and most especially in contemporary worship music, jazz styles and improvisation. She is going to be a great asset to the MECS community. Great to have you on the Instrumental Team, Libby!

New instrumental music enrolments are always welcome! Pick up a form at the office or via the website.

Kerrie
Instrumental Tuition Coordinator

Special Week - A Poem

If last week you walked around the school,
You would have found it really cool,
To see the kids of Cycle B
Displaying such creativity.
The task of the week, as such, was pending
To come up with an exciting ending.
What happened on that picnic day?
Why did those girls go astray?
At Hanging Rock the scene was set
"Let’s create a script they’ll never forget!"
And “Who will we get to play the girls?”
“Let’s dress up the boys, with wigs of curls!”
Eight groups there were around all week
And if you listened, you would hear them speak...
“Miranda! Miranda! Where have you been?”
“Eating people? Why, that’s obscene!”
A ‘Green Screen’ helped to film a push,
And what backdrop? You ask, why – our natural bush!
So the kids really never will forget it...
And they’ve learnt how to produce, film, script and edit!

Karissa
MS Teacher

Thank you to those families who provided feedback on the quality of school photos received last week. The photography company, MSP, investigated the matter further and have confirmed there was a fault in the printing process.

MSP have kindly reprinted all portraits at no extra charge and these photos will be sent home with students this week.

MSP would like you to retain the original portraits and sincerely apologise for any inconvenience this problem may have caused.

Woolworths Earn and Learn Stickers

Please bring any Earn and Learn stickers you have collected to the Main Office. Please note that this ends on June 9 so get your stickers in soon. Many thanks.

Nicole
Friends of MECS

Lost Property

It's only half way through term but already our lost property racks are overflowing with assorted jackets, hoodies, cardigans and windcheaters. There was over 40 at last count - none with names. It's beginning to look like a well-stocked shop! Could you please ask your children to check or come in yourself. Every term we send off dozens of lovely items to the op shop because they remain unclaimed. Please, please, name your children's clothing. It makes it so much easier to return to them. Thanks,

Melinda
First Aid Officer & Lost Property Merchant
MS Special Week Year 9

During Special Week in Year 9 we were mainly focusing on health and nutrition, and topography. During the week we had a number of Master Classes where we learnt about healthy cooking and prepared a variety of dips and bread.

On the Friday of Special Week we went on a hike to further investigate the topographical features of our local area. At the end of the hike we had a lovely morning tea with all the food we had prepared during the week. We had planned to have the food for morning tea but that didn’t work out because the car couldn’t get to where we had stopped for a rest.

Jaden
Year 9

Absentee Line
If your child is absent from school, please call the absentee line on 9513 1561 and state:
• Your child’s name
• Class name (eg: Possums - Kinder, MPA or 9JW)
• Reason for being absent
Thankyou for your cooperation.

Year 9 & 10 Soccer
We had a boys and a girls team represent MECS at the Interschool Soccer Day. They had fun but were very tired as none of the teams had many substitute players. All teams had at least one win. The Year 10 boys improved each game and by the end of the day looked like they could have won the day if they had started the day like they ended.

Thanks to Adam going with the year 10s and for refereeing the Grand Final for the girls. Our team finished second. Thanks also to Tim for taking time out of his busy schedule to go with the Year 9s. He refereed the girls games when he wasn’t coaching. Both Year 9 teams came 4th overall.

Anne-Maree
Secondary Sports Coordinator

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Anne-Maree
Secondary Sports Coordinator
SP Camp

Over the last two weeks Senior Primary have held their 3 day ‘Trees and Forests’ camps at Camp Jungai in Thornton. Year 6s braved the wet weather two weeks ago and, despite being a bit wet, still managed to have great time. Year 5s went last week and enjoyed better weather and just as much fun.

Throughout the camp we went canoeing, visited Toolangi State Forest with the Gould League, went walking through the bush, did some great Art photography activities, played games and learnt more about Trees and Forests. We got to appreciate the beautiful and wonderful gift God has given us in Trees and Forests and the challenge that we have as his people to look after and appreciate them.

Mel D
SP Teacher

Highlights of Year 6 Camp

My highlight of camp was going for a walk in the rainforest and drinking the pure water from the stream.

Meggie

My inspiring camp moment was Toolangi State Forest. It was so amazing. The lady, Sue, taught us so much. The drive through the Black Spur is truly breathtaking.

Ally

My camp highlight was running through the muddy rain and slipping and sliding.

Riley
SP Camp

Highlights of Year 5 Camp

My highlight from camp was canoeing. The reason I liked it was because it was my first time doing it. We played a game where you had to try and get little sponges into other people's canoes to 'sink' them. It was really fun, especially watching the teachers' canoe.

Jodie

My favourite parts of camp were canoeing and the cultural walk. In canoeing our instructor had a very good sense of humour. We got to play lots of games. During the cultural walk, we learnt that there is a lot of medical plants in the forest and the leaves of a black wood tree can make soap if mixed with water.

Kasey

One of my highlights was canoeing where you got to see a really nice view from your canoe. My other highlight was orienteering. I liked working in pairs and you got to see right around the really nice camp site while looking for the codes.

Addison

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

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

Natasha
Cycle A Student
2013 Term 2 Week 6: 26 MAY - 1 JUNE
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)

Tues 18 June
Parent Seminar (B) 7pm in Staffroom

Wed 19 June
JP Connect Morning Tea Staffroom 9am
MP Swimming

Thur 20 - Sat 21 June
Cycle A Production Performances

2013 Term 2 Week 10: 23 JUNE - 29 JUNE
Thur 27 June
Year 7-9 Indoor Sports Day
Reports Issued

Fri 28 June
Last Day Term 2

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE is 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.

Apple Man Fri 7 June
The Apple Man visits the school fortnightly at around 11.45am with the next visit on Fri 7 June. He delivers 5-6 kilo bags of Pink Lady, Royal Gala and Fuji apples for $10, or for $8 Granny Smith apples, Golden Delicious apples or Brown or Green pears.

If you can’t be there to buy them yourself you can leave an order with the Main Office by 11am on the day and they will be available for you to pick up later.

Zoos Victoria July School Holiday Programs 2013
Healesville Sanctuary: Vet for a Day

Years 9-12: July 3, 4, 10, 11

Interested in becoming a vet? Come and work alongside our vets in a unique program on real life cases involving Healesville Sanctuary’s animal collection, including endangered species, as well as injured wildlife brought to the hospital.

Healesville Sanctuary: Keeper for a Day

Years 7-12: July 2, 3, 9, 10

Do you want to help save endangered animals? Come and work as a keeper at Healesville Sanctuary next school holidays and get up close to some of our most precious and endangered Australian animals. Meet our amazing keepers looking after threatened species including Tasmanian Devils and Mountain Pygmy Possums.

Werribee Open Range Zoo: Keeper for a Day

Years 7-12: July 2, 4, 8, 10

Are you interested in working with animals? If you are keen to find out what it takes to work in a zoo, then come out to Werribee Open Range Zoo next school holidays. Come and discover what a keeper’s day really involves! Keeper for a Day allows participants to work in the Zoo for the day, helping out our keepers and learning about one of the most rewarding jobs at a zoo!


CARL - Lilydale Baptist Youth Group
Fridays during Term: 6.30-9.30pm. Year Levels - 6 to 12. 305 Swansea Road, Lilydale Contact Matt or Jo. Facebook www.facebook.com/CARL Youth.

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.

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.

Canteen
Desperately needs helpers for Fridays. If you can help please contact Sheryl Beams sbeams@mecs.vic.edu.au or on 9738 6000.

NOTICES SENT HOME THIS WEEK
(can also be downloaded from website)
• Prep and JPS Chicken Pox letter
• Cycle A Newsletter Term 2 - now on web
• Cycle A Update
• Prep Fire Safe Kids Letter
• Prep Pipeline Term 2
• Kindergarten Photo Day

Celebrating 40 Years

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.