Focusing on the Eye

Elfie & Tiana enjoying an interesting Year 7 science lesson. More on page 7.
From the Principal

Last weekend, Gerry and I travelled to Canberra to attend a number of events including the CEN (Christian Education National) AGM. It was a chance for leaders and Board members of CEN schools to come together to talk, share and pray about matters that are current across CEN schools.

As participants, we were invited to attend some specific presentations that covered a variety of topics. For the MECS representatives, a presentation from some key CEN staff on the role of the school Association particularly resonated with us. The presentation covered two aspects: the need for schools to encourage current members to join their Association, and the importance of a healthy Association.

The key point was that the culture of a school shifts, on average, every 3 – 5 years or at a change of the Principal. As the moral and spiritual owners of the school, a healthy Association helps the school remain in line with its vision and mission. Without this accountability, the direction of a school can and does shift subtly until the culture of the school resembles something that may seem watered down or at worst, non-recognisable from its original intent and purpose. We were implored to ensure that our Associations remain faithful and ‘bring back the biff’ if the school strays from the path. I would encourage you to consider being a part of the challenge to keep MECS strong in its vision, by becoming a member of the Association, and I ask you to pray for a dedicated and thriving Association.

We also had the opportunity to say goodbye to the founding MECS Principal, Jack, as he retires from his involvement in the Christian school movement. Jack reminded us in a particularly moving and inspiring speech, that there is still a job to do and we all ‘better get on with it’ - spoken in a way that only Jack can. So, let’s get on with it.

Celebrating 40 Years

1990 Reflections of the Flood

It’s a bit difficult for an “old girl” of my age to remember details of that particular year, but I know it was absolute CHAOS! Oh, how I loved my role in the school as a Library Technician under the wonderful guidance of the then Teacher-Librarian Heather for whom I give thanks even today for her enthusiasm and insights as she stretched me in our on-going task.

9 February 1990 was ‘my day off’ so I was not there at the time. It was a stormy day and as the day progressed, so the skies became an incredibly dark green. Very scary! Just before school was due to finish the torrential rains fell. Our ‘little’ library was housed in what is now the Media Centre of the Middle School, a flat-roofed building, and the volume of water that poured down that afternoon could not be contained in the guttering. The rains literally poured through the ceiling – an internal tropical downpour - and completely soaked the almost 30,000 volumes of books we held there. There was a river of water ankle-deep along the covered way of the Lower Primary classrooms, also down to the then art and woodwork rooms.

Within minutes there were students and staff helping to move the books out of the building, and some stayed into the early evening helping along with parents who also came to help. I think there were about 70 people involved – a warm sense of community was evident. The school provided hot chips for all of us!

Imagine – all those books! Plastic covers were removed from all hard-cover books. Every book was fanned open on the floor of 5 classrooms, facing the heaters, to attempt drying out. We were there on and off all weekend to attend to them.

The rains literally poured through the ceiling – an internal tropical downpour - and completely soaked the almost 30,000 volumes of books we held there.

Ruth

Ruth was the Library Technician at MECS from 1983 to 2002.
Friday, 31 May saw us head off to the Interschool Cross Country event. We had some great results, particularly in some of the girls sections. It was a difficult course with very uneven terrain and a few bottle-neck points where there was some shuffling for position.

The students mixed with athletes from other schools and appreciated the very mild weather. As I reflected on the day I thought how important it is that students feel connected with the community in some way. The unity created from being in a team where all have exhausted themselves and then recovered enough to enjoy great chips from the local fish and chip shop, is worthwhile. There is something in the sharing of an event like this that can’t be measured but goes into the folio of school memories. Not everything learnt on these sports days is about fitness or competition. I encourage all students to be part of a sporting team at some point in their lives.

Results:

13 year old girls  - Annaliese 3rd, Bethany 4th
13 year old boys  - Ben 2nd, Jake 6th
15 year old girls  - Asha 1st, Talitha 2nd, Bec 3rd, Gemma 6th
15 year old boys  - Daniel 7th
16 year old girls  - Mikaela 2nd, Shannan 3rd, Reona 4th

MECS came second overall.

Anne-Maree
Secondary Sports Coordinator
MECS Notes

Notice for all students travelling on buses with myki

A message from Public Transport Victoria

From Monday 27 May 2013 Bus drivers will sell and top up myki cards. The initial purchase of a myki card costs the following - A Full Fare myki costs $6. A Concession, Child or Seniors myki costs $3.

However this cost does not include any travel. A student wishing to use their card to travel first needs to ‘top-up’ their card using cash. EFTPOS and credit cards are NOT available on board buses. The minimum top up is $1; the maximum $20.

Students with invalid mykis or negative balance

Any student who does not have a valid myki (e.g. their myki is defective or cannot be topped up), shall be requested by the driver to purchase and top up a new myki on board and directed to a staffed railway station or the PTV Call Centre 1800 800 007 to resolve any issues with their defective card.

Please Note: If you travel without a valid myki, you are travelling as a Fare Evader.

Lost Property

It’s still three weeks to the end of 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

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.

Embracing Technology

The MECS Administration team considers communication between home and school vitally important and it is for this reason that we have been reviewing our system of notices being sent home to families via their youngest student.

We feel that it is time to embrace the technology we have available to us and in the process save valuable resources. We would like to introduce a process of emailing you a direct link to notices and correspondence that you would previously have received in paper format, starting in Term 3, 2013. All you will need to do is click on the link, and you will be taken directly to the document.

We believe there are many advantages using this new process, including:

- Notices will not get lost by students and will be delivered in a timely manner directly to the parent(s). Especially useful in the instance of student absence.
- Providing paper copies of notices requires time and resources, while providing this information electronically achieves better results and models to our students a more appropriate, responsible and environmentally friendly approach.
- The MECS community will benefit from cost savings and improved communication.

This emailing system has been used in the Senior Section of the school for the last couple of years and has received very positive feedback from families.

We understand that not all families will be able to take advantage of this system and for these families, we will still send home paper copies via their students. While we encourage as many families as possible to get involved with the new system we understand that this is not always the preferred method of communication.

Today you will receive a letter which will confirm the email addresses we have, or request this information if we do not have it on the school database, and give you the opportunity to “Opt Out” if you prefer to receive hard copies. Please complete this form and return it to the school office by Friday 21 June. If this “opt out” section is not ticked, or the form is NOT returned, we will assume you are happy to be part of this new emailing system and that the details we have on our database are correct.

We also hope that you have made use of the improved MECS website www.mecs.vic.edu.au which has the up to date information on all our events and activities, and stores copies of all the notices that are currently sent home with your child.

Please note that the Newsletter will continue to be sent home via your youngest student.

Should you have any queries relating to this letter please contact Paula Rudge through the office or email her directly.

Christine
Office Manager

Money Matters

Tax Matters

As the end of the financial year approaches you may be thinking about tax deductible donations. I’d like to encourage you to consider making a gift to the MECS Building Fund. The building fund was established long before the school began, to provide finances to develop the school buildings and grounds.

The school has been blessed for more than 40 years with wonderful gifts to its Building Fund. These have varied from small regular weekly gifts, larger monthly amounts, to one off lump sums. The result of this faithfulness has contributed to the wonderful facilities we now enjoy and are still developing.

While 2013 has been a quiet year building-wise the Board will soon approve the new 2020 Infrastructure Master Plan. This plan guides our efforts to re-develop some of the classrooms that have largely been unchanged since the mid-1970s. It will also address sustainable measures to improve well-being in our classroom physical environments.

Thanks for letting me put this forward to you. If you would like to make a tax deductible gift to the MECS Building Fund please ask at the office for our Friends of MECS Building Fund donation card.

Gerry
Administration Manager
Thankyou

Thank you to all the people in the MECS community who donated clothes, towels, sheets and toys to Gapuwiyak school in Arnhem land. You have no idea how much it means to them knowing that they will be able to have clothes to wear and that their kids will have toys to play with.

The op shop is run by the Year 8/9 students at Gapuwiyak school and it is real life learning. They are learning about... money, running a business and serving the community. All the money that is made by the op shop goes to help the school.

Nicole
Friends of MECS

Entertainment Books

The old book has now expired so if you haven’t ordered your new one yet do it today. Check out the sample book in the foyer to see the many ways you can save money. Order online at www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/193f695 or contact the school.

Dollarmite Banking

Banking day is every Wednesday. Just place your bankbook in the grey bag in the classroom.

Worawa Sports Carnival

Last week a group of Year 10 girls went to play netball with students from Worawa. Several other schools were there as part of the carnival to celebrate Reconciliation Week. The format was that of a round robin and MECS played three other teams including Worawa. MECS was able to win one game and are to be congratulated on their good play and ability to work as a team. Even though the competition was tough they were able to keep up the hard work. During the day there was a table set up with Aboriginal flag tattoos from both Mainland Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders. The school had set up a band that played old time rock-and-roll for people to listen to as the activities took place. The day was made up of many enjoyable moments which we will remember for a long while. Thank you to the Worawa girls for making and holding such a great day.

Evie, Year 10

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
Celebrating 40 Years

**Instrumental Recital**

Last Wednesday evening was our first Instrumental Recital for 2013. We enjoyed performances from our students throughout the whole school community.

It was great to have the diversity of instruments, ages and abilities in our program and to see how our musicians and singers are developing in skill, confidence, musicality and performance.

Thank you to all who came to support this event - our Instrumental Staff, all performers and our hosts - Tammy Bills and Amy Brewster, you all made our first Recital an enjoyable and God-honouring evening of music and song!

**For your diaries:** the next Recital is for our VCE Music students is **TONIGHT** (June 6), at 7pm in the Theatrette. We hope to see you there!

Annora  
Music Performance Coordinator

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**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 began 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.**

Ticket bookings forms are available from the office or on the website.
**J is for Joey**

The Preps have been learning about the letter and sound ‘j’. We made jelly at the start of the week and on Wednesday we had Yolanda come and visit with two joeys named Nigel and Barney. The children loved the opportunity to learn about joeys as they hopped around the classroom. This also tied in nicely with our unit this term named ‘God Gives Us People Who Help Us’ as we learnt about what Yolanda does in the community by rescuing animals. We are looking forward to learning about what other people do to help in our community.

Rebekah  
Prep Teacher

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**Year 7 Science**

This Term in Science, the Year 7 students have been undertaking dissections to help them learn about the different Body Systems. After dissecting a sheep’s heart and lungs, this week they have tackled a cow’s eye. Utilising their scalpels and tweezers with skill, the eye was deconstructed layer by layer to see the amazing complexity that lies within. Whilst not for the squeamish, the dissections have proven to be a great learning opportunity and lots of fun as well!

Jono  
MS Teacher
**Car for Sale**

2005 Nissan Pulsar, 86,000kms, auto, white, great economy, well looked after, $7000. If interested please call Lisa.

**Plumbing Apprenticeship Needed**

My name is Daniel Harvey. I'm a past student of MECS currently doing a pre-apprenticeship in Plumbing at Swinburne Croydon. I am looking for a 1st year plumbing apprenticeship. I am ready to work and to learn. I have a driver’s licence and a car. In the past I have also completed a Certificate 2 in Building and Construction, and have a couple of years of labouring experience. I can be contacted.

**Cubs ’Come and Have a Go’ Night**

See what Cub Scouts is all about. Enjoy a night of games and learning, Friendship and teamwork! For girls and boys aged 8-10.

Tuesday, June 11, Mt Evelyn Scout Hall. 7-8.30pm.

Questions? Contact Dan.

**PrimeSCI Holiday Program**

Swinburne Wantirna Campus is running a science holiday program full of fun, hands-on science workshops for children from Kindergarten to Year 8. The program has been designed to complement the Wildlife of Gondwana exhibition being held in the KIOSC building at Swinburne’s Wantirna Campus. Every booking you make will entitle you to one free child admission to the exhibition.

For more information and to enrol online, please visit: www.primesci.monash.edu.au/shp/

**Glitz Gymnastics Holiday Program**

Monday July 1 - Fri July 5, Mon July 8 & Wed July 10. Enrol 4 days and get 5th day free. 9am-4pm. $55/child. 6-12 year olds. Enrol by June 28. For details go to www.glitz.gymnastics.org.au.

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**Sausage Sizzle!**

Week 8: Thursday 13 June

Lunchtime For Years Prep-9

- Sausage in Bread- $2.00
- Cans of drink - $2.00
- Meal deal: 2 sausages in bread plus can $5.00

All proceeds go to new teaching supplies for Jinja Christian School, Uganda

Run by Year 9 Service Elective