Preps and the Firefighters

Oscar has an exciting time with the Firefighters.
I started at MECS in its inaugural year of 1973 as a Grade 6 student and six years later I graduated. Now here I was in 1986 about to return as a member of staff. I was very excited at the prospect of coming back. When I had finished University 2 years previously, there had been no positions available to apply for. Now MECS had 2 positions on offer – a Year 7 and Year 10 teacher. I applied for the Year 10 class teacher position, keen to teach the older students. But if I took up that position, I would be required to teach Year 10 Maths! That was a worry. But Roger reassured me that he would help me through it – which he did.

It was a busy year and a steep learning curve for me. I had trained as a history and geography teacher at uni but that was not really what I taught at MECS. I was a classroom teacher and expected to cover a broad spectrum of topics. Students will undertake some profiling activities, designed to start teasing out areas of gifting and interest that they may have.

Our hope is that each student will see that they are wonderfully and creatively made, and understand that their gifting have purpose. We want them to see work as a way to serve others and God, to be productive members of our community and to be happy in their work.

Please continue to pray for your children as they seek to determine who God has created them to be, and what role he has in mind for them in the future.

They felt that if the Year 10 class moved up to the Senior School and were more used to that environment, then the transition to Year 11 would be less severe.

I started off with a crash course in Worldviews, only ever being a week ahead of the students. I taught Maths at two levels. Aboriginal Studies was another wild ride as we looked at the history and prepared for the Centre Trip. I decided to learn Warlpiri alongside the students to help me in understanding the Warlpiri worldview. Then we went on the Centre Trip which I thoroughly enjoyed. When we returned we moved as a class from the Middle School up to the Senior School. The Senior School staff of 1985 (guess who was there then and is still here now!) felt that the Year 10s in general were less than prepared for the rigors of Year 11. They felt that if the Year 10 class moved up to the Senior School and were more used to that environment, then the transition to Year 11 would be less severe. So in 1986 the Year 10 class transitioned to the Senior School.

My year at MECS in 1986 was full on, demanding, exhilarating and I loved it! It was my dream come true. I felt so at home at MECS and was glad to be back!

Sharon
Sharon. Student (Class of ’79), past teacher at MECS, past parent and current Association member.
MP Swimming

This term Middle Primary students have had swimming lessons during their Sports time every Wednesday. One class at a time, we make our way down to Kilsyth’s version of AAMI Stadium: Kilsyth Centenary Pool. As we would expect, our students represent MECS well, in behaviour and attitude, as they learn skills from life-saving to effective swimming techniques, all differentiated according to their level of ability. They had great fun (especially with it being cooler weather) and a lot of them made some great progress as well!

All
MP Teacher

Swimming is cool. I have a great teacher her name is Laura. There are 3 groups. The groups are a, b and c. We do torpedo diving and all sorts of things in different levels. It’s very cool.

Azrielle MPA

Going swimming is a lot of fun because we get to jump in, do lots of fun activities and learn how to swim and learn lots of styles of swimming.

We go into different groups and do different activities according to how confident we are.

It is lots of fun and I love it and I think others do too!

Jasmine MPA

MPs think that swimming is awesome because they have FUN! There are different groups of children. My teacher’s name is Shara, then there is Ben, Laura and Alistair. We go to Kilsyth pool for swimming. It is a lot of fun.

Hannah MPA

In Term 2 the Middle Primaries did swimming. MPC went after recess. The second class to go was MPO and they went at just a bit before lunch. About 10 minutes before lunch ended MPA started getting on the bus and started heading for the swimming pool. When we were at the swimming pool we walked to the benches and then we put on our goggles. Then we stood behind the buckets and waited for our swimming teachers. Then we jumped into the swimming pool and listened to our swimming teachers. After that we got changed and hopped on the bus and headed back to school.

Star MPA
MECS Notes

June Board Report for Newsletter

As you will be aware, our Principal, Martin, has been on Sabbatical this year and has come to the decision to resign. The Board is obviously sad that he has come to this position but always understood that this was a possibility and can wholeheartedly support Martin and Anita as they move into a new phase in their lives.

On Saturday we will meet for a Planning Day and begin the process of finding the right person to replace Martin. This will be done in consultation with representatives from the staff and wider Christian Education community. We value your prayers and support as we go about this extremely important task.

The Board also wants to reiterate its gratitude to Paul Oldman for the efficient way that he is carrying out his role as Acting Principal during this interim year.

In addition to leadership planning, the business of the meeting included the following matters:

As required by our Constitution, the Board Office Bearers had to be reappointed at this meeting. The following people were re-elected: Chairman – Sue; Vice Chairman – Ian; Secretary – Louse; Treasurer – Ian.

The Board also received the usual reports with thanks to God for his many blessings: Principal’s report; Finance report; Portfolio reports for Parents and Community.

We are grateful for the hard work done by all the staff in the school - both teaching and support staff - and thank God for their commitment and enthusiasm. May we as parents keep them in our prayers.

On behalf of the Board

Annamarie

MP Art

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 that 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.

Last week you received 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 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

Celebrating 40 Years

by Jackson d
VCE Chemistry

Here we see Year 12 Chemistry students working on an experiment where they learn to calibrate a simple calorimeter using electrical means and also where they determine the molar heat of a solution of ammonium nitrate using the calibrated calorimeter.

Wilma
Lab Technician

Entertainment Books
Check out the sample book in the foyer. Order online at www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/193695 or contact the school.

Woolworths Earn and Learn Stickers - Last Chance
Please bring any Earn and Learn stickers you have collected to the Main Office. Please note that this ended on June 9 so get all your stickers and sheets in as soon as possible so they can be counted. Many thanks.

Dollarmite Banking
Banking day is every Wednesday. Just place your bank book in the grey bag in the classroom.

Father’s Day Stall
We are looking for volunteers to help with the stall on Friday 30 August. Please contact Nicole Nyhouse if you would like to be involved. Thanks.

Nicole
Friends of MECS

MECS Workhealth Grant
Cooking Classes
By taking part in the Work Health Program for staff, MECS received a grant from WorkSafe to fund some healthy cooking classes. These classes were run by Nutrition Australia. Classes consisted of two demonstrations, samples and recipes. We chose ‘Healthy food with flavour’ which covered family friendly meals and quick cheap and healthy meals.

MECS Notes
Baby Congratulations
We had some very exciting arrivals over the weekend! Congratulations to Ali and Liz who welcomed Maisie Ruth 2.27 kilos (5lb 13oz) and to Allen and Sherene who welcomed Indiana Lea 3.05 kilos (7lb 14oz).
And on Wednesday 12 June, Ange and Brad welcomed Levi William 2.98 kilos (8lb).
We praise God for the safe arrival of these precious miracles.

MECS Workhealth Grant
Cooking Classes

Amanda, Alison & Chris enjoy the demo

Salmon Rocket Salad

Chilli Con Carne

Michelle
Personal Assistant
**VCE Recital**

Last Thursday evening our VCE Music Performance students took part in the first of two Performance Recitals for the year. It was an intimate affair with only five performers. Each student was required to give two solo performances and one ensemble performance. Zac (guitar) got the evening off to a strong start with his ensemble performance with Tim. As the night progressed our other performers, Lydia (piano), Persis (contemporary voice), Josh (bass) and d’Artagnan (cello), our student from Mountain District Christian School, provided a variety of exciting and interesting interpretations of their repertoire. I look forward to seeing how our students progress through to our second concert in August.

Tim
VCE Music Coordinator

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**Cycle A Production**

"The Compressed Works of Shakespeare" by Allen will be presented by the Year 7 & 8 Cycle A students next week!

Performance Dates: 20, 21 & 22 June.

Tickets available from the Main Office for Thursday and Friday performances. Saturday is sold out.

$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.
Preps and the Firefighters

“The Firefighters are Here!”

“How many more sleeps until the firefighters come?” was the buzzing question at the start of last week. Sure enough on Wednesday morning the Preps were very excited to see that the big red fire truck had come to school.

The firefighters taught the children some important things about fire safety and being prepared with a pre-arranged meeting place. They importantly reminded them to get out and stay out if there is a fire and not to go back for special toys or pets.

The children squirted the fire hose with great delight, and got to go inside the truck and look around at where the firefighters sit.

The Preps will be sending cards to the three inspiring firefighters from Montrose fire station who gave of their time to teach the children, and help them appreciate another group of people who help us in our community. We thank God for giving us people who help us.

Jan
Prep Teacher
Caring for our Chooks
Is there a family who would like to mind (at school) our hard working two legged egg-laying and earth scratching friends for a week during the school holidays?
You would need to visit about 3 times over the week. At the end of the week the poo would need to be raked out and put it in the compost. Please refresh the hay in the laying boxes if needed and place a little hay on the dirt floor if it has been wet to soak up the mud. During each visit could you refresh the water and top up the pellets food? Of course, you get to keep the eggs, collect any veggies that are growing and pat the chooks!
Please email Liesje or phone the office and leave your details if you can help, and I will phone you back.
Thank you so much, we would value your help!

Guide for a Day
Mount Evelyn Girl Guides invite girls ages 5-14 to a day of activities, craft and fun around a Circus theme on Sunday 21 July, $15 for lunch. For more information or to register email

Car for Sale
2005 Nissan Pulsar, 86,000kms, auto, white, great economy, well looked after.

Small Dog Nanny Needed
Pablo our one year old male Chihuahua is in need of a home for 6 weeks from Sept 13 to Oct 29. Pablo is a friendly toilet trained dog who gets along with cats. We are happy to negotiate a minder’s fee and supply his food. If you would be interested please contact Barrie.

Plumbing Apprenticeship Needed
My name is Daniel. 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 II in Building and Construction, and have a couple of years of labouring experience. If you can help please contact me.