Year 10 Trans Ed Week

Maddy, Charlotte, Alyssa & Hannah at the Australian Catholic University
School Funding Argy Bargy

Unless you avoid reading newspapers and avoid TV/Radio news you would know that there has been a lot of political hot air expelled in relation to the so-called Gonski school funding reforms. It seems as though Commonwealth Ministers are at odds with State Ministers and Premiers. Is there any way of knowing what is really going on?

Here is what we know in relation to Independent Schools. The legislation, the Australian Education Bill, has already passed in the House of Reps and will soon be passed in the Senate. This will bring into law the funding model and the so-called National Plan for School Improvement (this plan will have 57 matters of compliance for all schools to address – we do many of these already, but there will be new red tape to deal with). We know that funding for Independent Schools will change – it does not matter whether the Victorian Government signs up or not. For the 210 or so independent schools in Victoria this will mean some additional funding. The Commonwealth says it is as follows (though it is not clear if 35% of these amounts needs to come from the State):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>76</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Coalition says that they will repeal the Act if they gain power. The experts tell us this is unlikely as they will not control the Senate before the commencement of the Act. Nevertheless, this creates a degree of uncertainty. The other thing creating uncertainty is that we are not sure how the additional funding is going to be distributed between Independent Schools in the initial years of implementation. In the long term, the new funding model is positive for MECS, in the short term the task of developing a budget for 2014 is going to be challenging. Please pray that the politicians and education department public servants make wise choices.

By 1991, the growth in the number of students participating in the courses, the fact that students from all around Australia were now participating (predominately via distance education) and the increased compliance requirements to have the courses recognised as tertiary qualifications, led to the establishment of the National Institute for Christian Education (NICE). NICE continues to come under the direction of the Christian Education National (CEN) Board with the National Council of Institutes for Christian Education having oversight of the shape and philosophical perspective of the Institute’s activities. CEN recognises that if Christian schools are to retain their distinctive approach, their teachers need to receive training that reflects the reformational worldview of the movement. Dr B and Dr F wrote key units of work, with Mr Geoff W, Mr Andrew S (now Dr S), and Dr L providing strong lecturing support.

Today in 2013, there are 100s of schools in our area for a 3 day ‘intensive’ study in teaching from a biblical perspective. The vision of Christian education can only be achieved by equipping our teachers with the knowledge and skills gained from NICE studies.

"The vision of Christian education can only be achieved by equipping our teachers with the knowledge and skills gained from NICE studies."

Mr Andrew S (now Dr S), and Dr L providing strong lecturing support.

Today in 2013, there are 100s of schools in our area for a 3 day ‘intensive’ study in teaching from a biblical perspective. The vision of Christian education can only be achieved by equipping our teachers with the knowledge and skills gained from NICE studies.

"The vision of Christian education can only be achieved by equipping our teachers with the knowledge and skills gained from NICE studies."

Ken M
Adapted from original recollections of Ken M - long term teacher at MECS

For quite some years, even before the opening of Mount Evelyn Christian School, moves had been afoot to establish a Christian alternative for the education of young adults. Just as parents of young children saw the need to establish Christian schools as an alternative to secular State education, others involved in tertiary education had seen a similar need at their level and had formed the Association for a Christian University (which then became the Association for Christian Tertiary Education). It was recognised that there was a pressing need for parent and teacher education in the understanding and development of a distinctive curriculum for Christian schools.

So, after much conferring and organising, the Institute for Christian Education (ICE) came into existence with Dr Doug B as Principal, assisted by Stuart F and others. Jos G, Keith G, Jack M, Geoff W and Stewart M of MECS were members of the I.C.E. Commission.

Studies began in 1979 with the initial seminar ‘An Introduction to Christian Education’. The first group of ten students obtained their Graduate Diploma in Curriculum Studies after three years of study, and July 1982 saw the first graduation ceremony held in the MECS theatrette. Teachers from our school and many other Christian schools have completed studies in Christian education through I.C.E. which proved invaluable in helping them to teach from a Christian perspective.
Preps go shopping

Last week the Preps had their first excursion where we went to the local shops. They were so excited about their adventure that I think the bus ride would have been enough for some of them. They were each given $2.20 in 10c pieces to buy a bread roll, a stamp to post a letter to their parents and then some treasures from the Op Shop.

The Preps used their skip counting skills to count out the amounts needed to pay for each of the items. When we came back to school they shared the things bought and they made their own lunch using the yummy rolls from the bakery. It was lovely to see the excitement throughout the day as well as their sense of independence as the children participated in the different activities, consolidating their learning about the community around us.

Rebekah
Prep Teacher
MECS Notes

Congratulations to Lanita & Asha Steer

On Saturday 8 June the final Orienteering Selection Trial was held by Orienteering Victoria to finalise the 2013 Victorian to compete in the Australian Schools Orienteering Championships. Lanita Steer was selected as the Senior girls team co-captain and Asha Steer selected for the Junior girls team. They are part of the 20 member Victorian Team. Well done girls!

They will represent MECS and Victoria at the Championships to be held from Friday 27 Sept to Sunday 6 October in Canberra.

Drama for Everyday Life

Drama for Everyday Life is a program that uses drama games and role play to teach social skills and self-confidence in a safe and creative small group environment (4 or 5 students), and has been offered at MECS for the past 10 years. Parents, teachers and students themselves anecdotally report a significant improvement in social skills, behaviour management and confidence.

In Term 3, a 7 week program will be offered for Primary School students and a 6 week program for Middle School students, commencing Thursday 1 August and continuing on 8, 15, 22, 29 August, and 5 (PS only), 12 September at a cost of $125 for PS and $107 for MS. Enrolment forms have been sent home to current participants, and enrolment forms are available at the Main Office for new enrolments.

Shirley
PS Ed Support

Hawthorn Player Visit

Next Monday 24 June we have some AFL Hawthorn players coming to visit MECS. The will be here from 9-11am for a clinic with Senior Primary students but also for a ‘meeting and signing’ time in the Pump room from 9-9.30am.

You may wish to wear your Hawthorn (or other footy jumpers) that day and bring anything you want signed.

Anne-Maree and Derek

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
Entertainment Books
Don’t forget to order your book now and save money with the kids on school holidays. You can order Reading Cinemas CineMoney movie tickets at $11.00 each; if you plan to go to the Melbourne Aquarium you can get one general admission free when you purchase one, there are vouchers for the IMAX Melbourne Museum, Eureka Skydeck, Sovereign Hill and many more. Don’t miss out. Order online now at www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/193f695 or contact the school office.

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

Woolworths Earn & Learn Stickers - Last Chance
As you know, MECS has been participating in the Woolworths Earn & Learn program. The program has now finished for this year, so a big thanks to everyone who supported our school.

We’re now at the important stage of the program where Points Sheets are collected and lodged as our Earn & Learn claim so we can get new educational equipment for our school. The more we collect, the more we can redeem. So this week please send in your Woolworths Earn & Learn Points Sheets and any loose Earn & Learn Points Stickers you may have. Remember to check your handbag, the car glove box or they maybe stuck on the fridge. Every little bit helps. Thanks again for all your support!

Nicole
Friends of MECS

MECS Notes

More Baby News
Congratulations to Laura and Tom Holley on the birth of their baby boy Eli Grant. 3.94 kilos (8 lb 11 oz). Born on Tues 18 June at 10.30am Mother and baby doing well.

Meals needed
We try to keep a supply of frozen meals in the office freezer to offer families who need support and that freezer is nearly empty! If you are able to make a meal, please place it in a disposable container and list the quantity and ingredients. We would really appreciate your contribution. You can drop meals in at the Main Office anytime. Thank you.

Nicole and Amanda
Community Relations Officers

Year 7 Maths Fun

Decimlympics
The Year 7 students have begun their unit on decimals with their own version of the Olympics. Students competed in a variety of events including such things as moving a biscuit from their forehead to their mouth using only their facial muscles. Taller students clearly had an advantage in events measuring how high they could jump but the staring competition leveled the playing field.

Accurate results have been recorded to a number of decimal places and the winners will be announced in class shortly. The data collected will require some analysis before the final places can be determined.

Sue
MS Teacher

Nicole
Friends of MECS

Jeneba, Astrid, Elfie & Tiana

Brandon

Brent

Indyah & Jasmine
Year 10 Trans Ed Week

Last week the Year 10 students participated in an intensive four day career development program.

In introducing the week, the term ‘career’ was critiqued as it can have many connotations that are no longer applicable in this rapidly changing society. As work situations become more flexible and we now recognise the importance of unpaid work and education in our career stories, we embraced the idea of life as the ‘Big Career’ - that students are already in their career, rather than seeing it as something that you either choose to have or not.

Students were given an opportunity to explore and develop their own broader, theoretical perspective on career/life development through the use of metaphors (beyond “Life is like a box of chocolates!”). Their world view and God’s place in it was discussed as was the idea of ‘calling’ or ‘vocation’. Students considered the idea that one’s calling in life is not necessarily to do with the employment position itself but how we approach whatever job we find ourselves in.

They also considered how they might make informed choices about their future through understanding more about themselves (i.e. personality, interests, skills, abilities/gifts), the world of work and what motivates them (their values and beliefs).

During this unique week of school, students:

• Listened to some guest speakers share their career-life stories.
• Visited Australian Catholic University and had a representative from Box Hill Institute visit them.
• Had the opportunity to discover more about the job market and where the future growth areas are.
• Self-assessed their employability skills in order to become more aware of their strengths and weaknesses in this important area of career development.
• Learnt more about resume writing, particularly how to think of examples to address criteria relating to personal attributes, and began putting their own resume together.
• Heard a guest presenter give advice on interview skills.
• Received information about what to expect in the VCE and VCAL and the variety of educational pathways available after leaving school.

It was very rewarding as a teacher to see some students begin the week feeling somewhat overwhelmed and then watching their confidence grow as this enormous task of making decisions about their future was broken down into manageable steps. It was particularly exciting to hear from students whose thoughts about their future direction had changed over the course of the week as they became more informed about themselves and the wide range of work and learning possibilities available to them.

Amelia
Career Coordinator

Michael & Tiani with other Year 10s
Year 10 Trans Ed Week

This week we had ‘Transition Education Week’, a week where we can try and figure out what our future will look like career wise. Most people knew what they wanted to do, but I had no idea. On Monday we had a speaker come in from Box Hill Institute. She gave us a bit of a picture of what to expect when you go to either University or TAFE. On Tuesday we looked at what an ATAR is and setting some goals for the future. Thursday we went to the Australian Catholic University. Friday we learnt how to write a professional resume and how to give a good impression at a job interview.

I think that overall this week has been an eye-opening experience and an amazing week. My favourite part of the week was visiting the Australian Catholic University. I really got a first hand experience of life at university and all the benefits. It opened my eyes to see what university can give you. That day I realised that there are so many more options if you choose to finish Year 12, and go to university. At the start of the week I had no idea what I wanted to do so I was thinking of just leaving school at the end of Year 11. Now I am currently planning on staying to the end of Year 12 and going to university. I would like to go to Australian Catholic University to do a Bachelor in Nursing. I have learnt so much and I know lots of other students have as well. Thankyou Amelia Koole for organising an incredible week.

Charlotte
Year 10 Student

These past weeks have gone by so fast and with props and costumes organised we were able to have our first dress rehearsal on Monday. That went well. A few people are struggling with lines and entries but everyone is certain that they will be fixed by performance time!

Natasha
Cycle A Student

Cycle A Production

“The Compressed Works of Shakespeare” by Allen Dickson 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.
2013 Term 2 Week 9: 16 JUNE - 22 JUNE

Thur 20 - Sat 21 June
Cycle A Production Performances

2013 Term 2 Week 10: 23 JUNE - 29 JUNE

Mon 24 June
AFL Player Visit 9-11am

Tues 25 June
Parent Seminar (B) 7pm in Staffroom (Date changed from June 18)

Thur 27 June
Year 7-9 Indoor Sports Day
Prep HITS Incursion
Reports Issued

Fri 28 June
Last Day Term 2

2013 Term 2 Holidays: 29 JUNE - 21 JULY

Mon 15 - Tues 16 July
Year 11 Work Experience

Mon 15 - Wed 17 July
VCE Practice Exams

Mon 15 - Fri 19 July
Year 10 Work Experience

Thur 18 - Fri 19 July
Year 11 Work Experience
Year 12 Intensives

2013 Term 3 Week 1: 21 JULY - 27 JULY

Mon 22 July
Term 3 Begins
Welcome Back Morning Tea 9am Staffroom

Wed 24 July
Year 12 Parent Supper 7.30pm Staffroom

2013 Term 3 Week 2: 28 JULY - 3 AUG

Tues 30 July
Positive Boys (Year 6 Boys) Day at Oasis

Thur 1 August
Year 11 & 12 Information Evening
7.30pm

Sat 3 August
Working Bee 8am - 1pm

2013 Term 3 Week 3: 4 AUG - 10 AUG

Tues 6 August
Year 12 VYAC Info Meeting 1.30pm
Student Leadership - Board Dinner 6pm

Thur 8 August
Year 9-10 Netball/AFL
2014 Year 10 Info Meeting 7.30pm

2013 Term 3 Week 4: 11 AUG - 18 AUG

Wed 14 August
3 year old Kinder Connect Morning Tea
Staffroom 9am
‘Are you ready for Prep?’ Information evening Pump Room 7.30pm

Celebrating 40 Years

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.

Pearl Drum Kit For Sale
Full red Pearl drum kit in good condition with Double Kick, High, Mid and Low Tom-Toms, Snare, Bass, High-Hat, Crash and Ride with seat, drum sticks and silencer pads. $800
Contact Damien.

Holiday Movies
Discovery Church (formerly known as Careforce Church) is having their School Holiday Movie Days once again.

Secondhand Clothes Needed
My name is Pamela and I am a current MECS Year 12 student needing to raise money for a Schoolies Revolution mission trip to India at the end of the year followed by some months working with ‘Mukt’ an organisation founded by a Christian Indian woman offering education, housing, practical training and work opportunities to help break the cycle of poverty.

I am holding a casual stall at Camberwell Market during July and August selling secondhand clothes and accessories. If you can help me with any items then please leave them at the Main Office or contact me. Final drop off date is Friday 2 August. Thanks.

Holiday Home For Rent
In Shoreham (near Flinders) on the Peninsula, a 4 bedroom holiday home is available for rent, in a quiet court, not far from the beach. If you are interested in renting it for a few days, a weekend, a week or longer, just let us know. Reasonable rent.

Please ring Maria and Henk.

Ranges TEC needs a Volunteer
Ranges TEC needs a volunteer Tool Organiser. The person would meet with the trade area teachers to develop and implement a plan to manage the tools and equipment.

This will involve developing a register of tools for each trade area, sorting tools and equipment and marking them with Ranges TEC identification marking, developing and implementing storage options for the tools and equipment, and working on the service trailer(s) (racking, shelves, holders).

The task would suit a retired tradesperson or handy person who can pay attention to detail, and who can work in a flexible manner around trade classes.

To volunteer, or for further information please phone Phil at Ranges TEC.

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

• Year 7-9 Indoor Sports Notice
• New Careers Newsletter on Website
• Preps Headlice Letter
• Prep Notice