The Compressed Works of Shakespeare at MECS

Kate & James acting in one of the 'Works of Shakespeare'
‘Now for the highlights package’

I’m a bit of a sports nut and my favourite time is watching the highlights package on Sports Tonight called ‘7 plays in 7 days’. Well it’s been an 11-week term so there are plenty of highlights to be had.

- The term started with the Victorian State CEN conference for teachers. It encouraged us to remain faithful to the call of transformative curriculum and a whole-of-life perspective. It was great to see God’s redemptive power at work around the state.
- Interviews came and it was a time for reflection and setting goals for the rest of the semester. It was great to partner with parents in this way.
- The Primary school had a few events on, but it was the Senior Primary camps that added fun and perhaps a little too much adventure to this term.
- Middle school celebrated Special Week with a range of activities that culminated in the presentation of the various endings to ‘Picnic at Hanging Rock’. The themes presented certainly brought the genre into the 21st century. Nice to see our budding film producers on display.
- We had the Cross-country for both Primary and Secondary - both fun and successful events. The weather certainly played a positive role. It was good to see all kids having a go.
- Annora and her team produced another excellent music night where talents were showcased and performances were met with fantastic reviews. Well done to all students continued next page...

1991 School Uniforms - To be or not to be?

Back in the 1980’s, the issue of whether or not MECS should have a school uniform caused a significant debate between 2 strongly opposed groups of parents. The fact that MECS didn’t (and still doesn’t) have a uniform is a statement about its philosophy – the uniform debate was only the symptom of an emerging deeper philosophical divide.

The Dutch migrants that arrived during the 1950’s and 60’s brought with them some pretty fierce convictions. Those with a Calvinistic Reformational Christianity in particular held strong views on a concept known as ‘Sphere Sovereignty’ - everything that existed belonged and is totally accountable to God, yet different areas of life (‘spheres’) do not have authority over each other: state does not control Church and Church does not control school. Unity but not conformity, distinction but not separation. In relation to education, this view held that parents are responsible for the education of their children which is why MECS is a ‘Parent Controlled School’, not one controlled by a denomination or Church.

This view held that while all of life is united under the Lordship Christ, all of life has its own individual unique identity including each person, each child. Thus in the early years of MECS school uniforms was simply not an issue - it was a foreign concept for these early founders of MECS and for many it just did not fit with their world and life view.

Occasionally some mums would express how much easier it would be if there was not the hassle of “what do the kids wear today?” and “why can’t I have what other kids have?” but principle, tradition and conviction ruled the day.

But over the years, as the percentage of families from Reformational Dutch background decreased, and the number of families from other Christian backgrounds increased, this presented challenges for MECS. These families sometimes held different views and convictions and started to press their opinions and desires, and I believe rightly so.

A group of parents within the school Association promoted a different concept of ‘Christian Education’, and two strongly opposing camps developed. The Dutch-influenced philosophy of ‘unity but not uniformity’ - united in purpose but recognising and expressing the uniqueness of each individual, conflicted with the Anglo-inherited, more exclusive view that a private school should be distinctively different from the secular world. Thus ‘school uniform, to be or not to be’ became the battle ground. Some of you of my age may recall the special meeting to resolve this issue.

The practicality of uniforms and the legitimate concern of competitiveness, along with the pushing of the decency boundaries was a real issue, especially for many Mums. However, school uniform was a clear expression of the school’s philosophy and the original conviction and vision of MECS won the day. Sadly this resulted in a substantial number of parents transferring their children to other Christian schools, which challenged the practical survival of MECS at that time.

Today our school has succeeded to resolving the school uniform issue without losing the vision that we are all united in our belonging to God, affirming God’s authority over our school, yet recognising and celebrating the wonder and beauty of the uniqueness of each individual.

Having the choice available to wear a school uniform or free choice of dress combined with a sound dress code seems to me an excellent way.

John
John is a long time MECS Association member, past Board member and parent, now current grandparent and volunteer gardener.
Editorial Continued...

who have honoured their gifts in this way.

• Senior School ran their Transition Education week which allowed students to seek out their gifts and talents as they begin to contemplate what work is. Amelia created a wonderful program.

• Our Year 10s were able to engage with Muslim students at the Islamic school. This has continued to provide a rich experience in breaking down stereotypes and providing opportunity for students to engage with and receive hospitality in this forum.

• Finally, Middle school production hit the stage and impressed us all. The students and teachers provided a wonderful performance.

God is good and we have a wonderful staff, student and parent group that seeks to uncover God’s kingdom in a variety of ways. May God bless you as you rest over the holiday period.

Report Delay

Delay to delivery of some reports

Reports were due to be delivered to you today but due to a serious technical problem with our new photocopier, we have been unable to print the reports for following classes: Year 7/8 Alison, all of Year 9 and Senior School. We apologise for this delay and trust that you will understand that this problem is beyond our control. We are hoping that the part for the photocopier (coming from the US) will be delivered early next week and we will print your child’s report and mail it out to you. If your family is new to the school, today you will receive the folder that you can use to store your child’s report when it arrives. Again I thank you for your understanding of this situation.

Christine
Registrar

Year 9 Landscaping Project

Each Monday of Term 2, 24 Year 9 students have worked on a large landscaping project behind the Year 9 room. Gary, a young landscaper, has been helping out along with myself. Students have been mixing concrete, building ponds, laying random river pebbles, spreading toppings and digging to precision.

Here are some student comments.

"It’s cray cray"

"Hectic"

"Physically challenging, mentally rewarding"

Lance
Year 9 Teacher

Report Delay

Delay to delivery of some reports

Reports were due to be delivered to you today but due to a serious technical problem with our new photocopier, we have been unable to print the reports for following classes: Year 7/8 Alison, all of Year 9 and Senior School. We apologise for this delay and trust that you will understand that this problem is beyond our control. We are hoping that the part for the photocopier (coming from the US) will be delivered early next week and we will print your child’s report and mail it out to you. If your family is new to the school, today you will receive the folder that you can use to store your child’s report when it arrives. Again I thank you for your understanding of this situation.

Christine
Registrar
MECS Notes

Signing Students Out

Please Note: Parents need to sign their children out at the Main Office when they are leaving school early. All Students who are in Primary School or Middle School need to be signed out by a parent. Thank you.

Congratulations Jakob

Recently, Jakob (Year 11) submitted an entry for the annual Victorian Automotive Chamber of Commerce (VACC) automotive design awards.

The VACC website describes the awards as “the most prestigious event in the design calendar and is a wonderful opportunity for students in Victoria to display their talent”. This year’s theme was “futuristic automobiles”. Jakob entered the competition for secondary students and his design was shortlisted (a two door car) from the many submissions.

The judging panel included the head designers of Ford, Toyota and Holden and the winners were announced at a ceremony held at Federation Square on June 20. As a shortlisted secondary student Jakob has received an invitation to attend an automotive design master class at both Monash University and RMIT University.

The MECS community would like to offer Jakob our warmest congratulations and we pray that he will use these God given gifts to design our future cars in a way that husbands this amazing planet that is God’s good creation.

Dr Roger
VCE Coordinator

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 Players Visit

After much anticipation, Brad and Jed come out from the Hawthorn Football club to run a clinic with Senior Primary students and some Middle Schoolers. They did some handballing games in the gym followed by a boys game on the oval and a girls game in the gym. The girls, Brad and Jet then took on all the boys, which made it a close game.

They told us how they played footy from a young age in Perth and Darwin and started getting serious about the game around 16 years of age. It was encouraging to see that you don’t have to be 7 ft to play AFL! However, fitness is a must with Brad telling us he got 16.2 on the Beep test. This would mean something to all our PE students who have to endure this fitness test!

The students also had a chance to get some photos and signatures.

The Senior Primaries showed some excellent skills in their games. Well done.

Anne-Maree
Secondary Sports Coordinator

Lost Property

Our lost property racks are overflowing with assorted jackets, hoodies, cardigans and windcheaters. Could you please ask your children to check tomorrow 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 childrens’ clothing. It makes it so much easier to return to them. Thank you,

Melinda
First Aid Officer & Lost Property Merchant
Friends of MECS

Woolworths Earn & Learn
Last chance - all stickers must be in by tommorrow, please put them in the collection box in the main 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.

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.

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 an 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.

Nicole
Friends of MECS

Cycle A Production

Last week was the culmination of 8 weeks of hard work for Cycle A. Our annual performance this year was ‘The Compressed Works of Shakespeare’, written by former MECS teacher Mr Allen, and first performed over ten years ago here at MECS. This was no easy feat with thirty seven mini Shakespearean plays, over two hundred individual parts, played by fifty-four students. We had one matinee performance for the Primary students as well as three evening performances.

One of the wonderful things about Cycle A Production is the opportunity provided to all students to be involved not just in an onstage role, but back stage as well. Students undertake the responsibility of running lighting and sound, costumes, set construction and painting, props, tickets and advertising - just to name a few.

We are incredibly proud of the amazing work each and every student put into learning lines, encouraging each other and delivering stand out performances. A huge thank you also to our wonderful support staff, who provided assistance with rehearsals, building sets and helping with make-up each evening.

Sharon
Cycle A Teacher

continued next page...

MECS Notes

Understanding Adolescent Boys

Understanding Adolescent Boys... an evening with Dr Ian (father of 3 sons, former Principal of a secondary school, international consultant on gender, boys’ education and middle schooling).

Dr Ian’s presentation covers boys at home and school. It gives parents and teachers strategies to help boys in their growth into adults and compares childhood and adolescence. The role of parents and the teacher, nature and other factors impacting on boys’ success are explained. This evening looks at ways to get boys to talk about their feelings and explores ways that teachers and parents can keep communication channels open with their boys. It looks at the rites of passage for boys, bullying and relationships with girls. Ian outlines the changes in society over the last few decades and the impact this has had on our boys.

7pm to 9pm. Monday 19 August 2013, Parade College, 1436 Plenty Rd Bundoora. Everyone welcome! $10 per ticket, pay on the night.

Email or phone to book your place.

Stop Bullying Learning Modules

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has developed some online learning modules for Parents as part of their Bully Stoppers toolkit. The modules provide practical advice, information and strategies to stop bullying. They have been developed in partnership with experts Andrew (psychologist and student wellbeing specialist) and Susan (cybersafety expert). The modules can be found at www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/bullystoppers/Pages/parentmodules.aspx

Lilydale Quarry Consultation

The Lilydale Quarry is nearing the end of its economic life and will cease operation in the near future. Yarra Ranges Shire Council has established a ‘Plan Cave Hill’ project group and is seeking community input into a range of opportunities that exist for the site. If you would like to participate, there are a number of options including a community forum on July 4, a ‘drop in’ information session on June 30 and an online forum. More information is available at www.planecavehill.com.au or by calling.

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
Friends of MECS
Celebrating 40 Years

After a long term, Cycle A Production is finally over and we can now relax and not worry about learning lines, sets, costumes, props etc. Last Thursday, as soon as we got to school we went into a mad rush of organising costumes and makeup. We had our first performance for the Primary School on Thursday during the day. There were a few wrong entries, missed lines and wrong costume changes but apart from that it went really well. Everyone was worried that the children wouldn’t understand it but they clapped when required and laughed in appropriate places.

We stayed after school and had pizza for dinner, soft drinks and lollies provided by the teachers and then again went through makeup. The night performance was great. The students were all hyped up on sugar but were confident in our performing abilities. The second half went a bit longer than expected, going over by half an hour.

After a well needed day of rest on the Friday, all students came back to school ready for the penultimate performance. It was easier to perform in front of an older audience because they understood more of what was going on during the plays. The last performance, Saturday night wasn’t the best performance we had done out of all of them - everyone was tired, worn out and just wanting to go home and sleep. But we got through it with next to no mistakes and had the fastest time for the ‘quickie’, a 4:09 record time for us. The best part of production for me would have had to be hearing everyone, especially the younger audience, laughing at our performances and seeing loved ones that we don’t regularly see.

Natasha, Cycle A
This was the week of Cycle A Performances. We performed to the Primary School at midday on Thursday, then that night, Friday night and Saturday night. That was a lot of performances to do.

Thursday was probably the hardest because it was our first time performing it to a real audience, not just our cast.

On Thursday we made some mistakes like forgetting lines, missed scenes and forgot to bring on props. On Friday it was a lot better except some people forgot their cue, but other than that there was more energy.

Saturday night was the night Allan came to watch and it was the best we had ever done. Everything was on time, we all remembered our props, costumes and our scenes. It is all finished now and we did the best we could ever do.

The hardest bit of the play was learning lines in time, getting our costumes ready and trying not to get nervous for the night. We are happy it’s all over and done with. Some of us still wish it was still on. The teachers were an amazing help with all of us and we thank them for everything they have done. We also thank Allan for writing this play for us. We had such a great experience.

Georgia, Cycle A
Main Office
of the gateway that leads up to the Ladies size 10. Found last night near the Main Office or contact Peter.

FOUND
- Black Snowgum snow jacket, Ladies size 10. Found last night near the gateway that leads up to the Kindergarten. Please collect from the Main Office if this belongs to you.

LOST
- Jess Hook in MPA has lost her black iPod somewhere within the Primary and Kiss and Drop area. If found, please hand it in to the Main Office.

First Aid Training
- If you wondered what you would do to help a friend if they had a heart attack? Can you do CPR or use a Defib machine? If not, why don’t you come along to MECS and do a Level 2 First Aid Course and learn all about these things and lots more.

Course Dates - 4 Nights - Aug 13, 20 and 27 and Sept 3, 6-10 pm. Cost $160

Public Forum
- A Public Forum will be held on July 25 to encourage our State and Federal politicians to support the ongoing provision of University, TAFE Vocational Education and Training, Secondary School VET and Adult education programs in Lilydale to aid students in the Outer East to be able to access Tertiary Education.

Show your concern by attending the Public Forum.


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.

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 ‘Mukti’ - an organisation founded by a Christian Indian woman offering education, housing, practical training and work opportunities to help break the cycle of poverty.

Schoolies Revolution is a project of HopeBuilders International and supports their global projects in Uganda, Rwanda, India and Sri Lanka.

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, please leave them at the Main Office or contact me. Final drop off date is Friday 2 August. Thanks.

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. Contact Damien.

Crash and Ride with seat, drum sticks and silencer pads. $800

Gold coin donation. Lollies will be for sale at the door. Sausage sizzle after the movie.

NOTICES SENT HOME THIS WEEK
- Prep Hand, Foot and Mouth Notice
- SP Parties
- Year 6 Boys Camp Letter
- Cycle A Wilson’s Prom Camp Info Night Letter

NOTICE DEADLINE is 11am Tuesday on published week.

Email articles (images attached as jpg) to the Newsletter Of

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE is 11am Tuesday on published week.