Hooptime for fun and fitness

Georgia & Monique practice their basketball skills in Hooptime training
A day in the life of workbreak

One of the times at school that I love is workbreak. It’s great to see the machinations of school turning busily into a new term. Units of work have been planned and are eagerly underway. The design, implementation and ultimate purpose, to show Christ in education, takes hours of work and I’d love to share just a little about the week called ‘Workbreak’ (the third week of the holidays).

For some parents, workbreak represents the tricky juggling of schedules to make sure that kids are taken care of. Let me assure you, the sacrifice of our parent community is not just appreciated but honoured as teachers develop curriculum that seeks to uncover God’s world to students.

Here are some highlights from the recent workbreak:

Our Middle school spent time dreaming about what a MECS Middle School could look like. The constant thinking about ways in which curriculum could be connected together was both inspiring and uplifting. The desire to connect Core Studies and specialist classes seeks to bring together key areas of the curriculum and allows for all staff to be part of keeping the curriculum ‘integral’ or connected to the ‘big picture’. God is in ‘all of life’ and students will get slices that ‘make sense of God’s overall view’.

Mel led a session on Restorative Discipline for the Middle School which staff warmly embraced. It was great to see a consistent approach that is developing through the Primary and Middle School sections.

The Primary staff were led by our Educational Support Team in a variety of workshops aimed at meeting the needs of all students, and exploring ‘new ways’ of teaching. Cluster groups were able to get together to plan exciting units that will enhance learning this term.

The Senior Section was given the space to dream and plan, and there were meetings amongst faculty areas to plan for effective teaching. There was also a meeting on the transition from Year 9 to 10 that included voices from both the Senior and Middle School sections. Staff came away from this with a good understanding that they are on the ‘same page’ and will both work hard to ease the transition from one section to the next.

On Friday afternoon we met as a whole staff to talk about our workbreak experiences. There was a real ‘whole school focus’ as each staff member spoke openly about enjoying the time to think collaboratively. Some staff said it was the most inspiring workbreak that they had been a part of - it’s at this point that I would like to thank the staff for their level of hard work and productivity. Many new staff who have taught in other sectors commented on the blessing it was, to be able to start in such a positive and intentional way. Again, thanks to you, our generous community, for giving support to staff who are seeking to teach in a uniquely ‘transformational’ manner. Your sacrifice is appreciated and we now hope to bless your students this term.

“Mummy we saw the farm where they turn calves and fawns, but with eyes as big as buns she says "Mummy we saw the farm where they turn cows and sheep into meat." I have to say the Farm camp was always an education.

Russell
MECS Teacher 1985-1999

Over the years, the students had the chance to plant many trees and help the farmers out in other small ways, whilst getting some great real-life experience.

No two words can capture the feeling of a warm cow pat on a very cold winter’s morning in Fish Creek better than ‘Farm Camp’. Held biannually, (to give the farmers a rest from the MECSicans) our students got to have a short snapshot from Farm Camp). One student, a vegetarian, proclaimed she wouldn’t go in. My advice to her was that she needed to know what she was objecting to if she was to live with the force of her convictions. Brave girl - she took it all in. I must say we always had a few temporary vegetarians after that day – but it typified our ‘get your feet wet’ approach to education.

The girls slept in the big machinery shed with hay bale beds and walls – the boys had the back hay shed lean-to - it may have let the wind in but I think we got the better deal. One year we had to do tents – oh the mud!! Much better in the sheds.

Arriving home from our reconnaissance trip, I expected my daughter Melinda to be full of stories about lambs and calves and fawns, but with eyes as big as buns she says...
Ollie’s little sister came to Kindergarten to have a bath! We watched with great interest as Mim, her mum, undressed her and then gently washed her face first, with great care. She then slowly put her in the warm water. Once she was settled she started smiling at everyone, curious that all these faces were watching her!

We talked about what babies can do, and can not do for themselves. Little babies cannot sit up by themselves. As our parents care for us, we grow and learn. The children discussed their own siblings or known younger children’s abilities, and how their parents help them. Our Lord gives us families to live in to care for each other. Having a new member of the family causes change, and as children grow and learn our parents help us, as is our Lord’s intention for people.

Later the children washed and dressed their own baby dolls, showing care to hold them upright!

Wendy
Early Years Coordinator
MUSIC Notes

Music Recital August 15

Our Recital is coming up next Thursday evening (August 15, 7pm in the Theatrette) and we would love to see you there supporting our musicians and singers.

For those students involved in this Recital evening (those with surnames beginning with E through to M or any students from our Senior School who haven’t performed in a Recital this year), I hope that you received a notice via email last Thursday. If you did not, please contact me and I will fill you in on particular details for the night.

The Recital is also for those groups that are preparing to perform, please see your Group Director for further information regarding your particular group. Looking forward to hearing what our up and coming musicians and singers are learning!

Annora
Music Performance Coordinator

Guitar! Violin! Drums! Piano! Singing!

We have just a few vacancies for instrumental lessons at present. Download a form or pick up a copy from the office if you’d like to join our wonderful programme! The form can be found on the MECS website under School Life - Extra Activities - Music - Instrumental Music Booklet download.

Kerrie
Instrumental Tuition Coordinator

MECS Notes

Are you a speedster?

This is a reminder that the speed limit around MECS school zones is 40 km, between 8am - 9.30am and 2.30pm - 4pm. Hawkins Road is a 40 km zone at all times. Please be vigilant to these limits as we have many students coming into the school via foot and bicycle.

CLI Order Forms

This is a reminder to Primary parents that the Complete Learning Initiative Order Forms are due to be returned by tomorrow (Friday 9 August) for those who are interested.

Congratulations to Pamela & Tom

The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) offers ‘Extension Studies’ as a pathway for academically gifted students at Year 12 level. In our Senior school history we have had continued next page...

Hooptime Training

The Middle Primary and Senior Primary students are once again getting ready for the Hooptime competition. They are meeting weekly in the gym with some very dedicated Middle School coaches; running through training drills and practice matches. The competition is aimed at promoting students to become involved in a basketball team and in the past has led to students at MECS starting their own team in an afterschool competition. The Hoo Time program is broken up into 3 different levels: Rookies – for those that haven’t had a lot of experience; Future Stars – for those that have played a little bit and All Stars – for those that already play at a high level. We are entering teams in each level this year in both Senior Primary and Middle Primary, which is very exciting. This would not be possible without the help of our Middle School Coaches. They have voluntarily given up their lunch times one day a week to help manage a team. They have been doing a fantastic job so far and I look forward to seeing the teams improve and progress under their coaching.

The Middle School coaches are Riley, Georgia, Emily, Beth, Jess Dudley, Jasmine, Ethan, Daniel, Lachlan, Georgia, Sophie, Brooke, Ruby, Jess, Jade, Sam, Gemma, Catherine, James, Georgi, Sarah, Claire and Brandon

For parents who would like to be involved the dates are:

Middle Primary: Wednesday 28 August – at Maroondah Stadium in Ringwood.
Senior Primary: Friday 30 August – at Dandenong Stadium in Dandenong.

If you would like to come and help on the day please come and talk to me or send me an email so I can organise this.

Derek
Primary Physical Education

Michael, Cooper, Joel, Riley & Aiden

Brooke, Sophie, Ruby, Jack & Joshua

Celebrating 40 Years
Friends of MECS

Father’s Day Stall

It’s only 3 weeks until the Father’s Day stall! The gifts have been ordered and delivered - we just need some help to run this great service for our kids and Dads!

We need help on Friday (August 30) from 9am - 2pm to help set up and run the stall.

If you can help (even for an hour or 2) we would love to hear from you. Contact me. Thanks,

Nicole
Community Relations Officer

MECS Notes

students enrol in First Year Mathematics, Biology and Philosophy at University. The bonus to the participating students is that they will already have completed a first year University subject towards their degree before even attending University and that this subject will count towards their ATAR.

This year, two of our students, Tom (First Year Japanese) and Pamela (First Year German) have been accepted into the program. Here is Pam’s experience of the program:

2011 was a year full of challenges and adventures for me. As an exchange student in Germany, I realised how short 12 months really is. I learnt how to make the most of the little time I had in which to encounter a new culture and discover the beauty in learning a new language. I found myself with a growing passion and determination to master the German language to the best of my ability. This passion ultimately extended beyond my time as an Exchange Student. After coming home, I studied Units 3&4 in German at the Victorian School of Languages while I was in Year 11. In spite of the 5-period classes starting early on a Saturday morning, it was my favourite subject. However, I have never seen myself as an overachiever at school. So, when Roger suggested at the end of last year that I apply to study German at University level during Year 12, I doubted my application would even be accepted.

Amazingly, I was accepted into the course and I have been so encouraged and broadened by the people and the stimulating classes at the University of Melbourne. The most fantastic aspect of this opportunity is that it draws me out of the constant frame of mind that Year 12 can trap people in. Through this I have learnt that God is daily inviting us to go adventuring with Him. He wants to teach us, to shape us and to grow us. If we allow ourselves to become so entrenched in the familiar and the comfortable, we are going to miss out on some of the great blessings He has for us.

Matthew 9:26 “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

Pamela
PS. Both Pam and Tom achieved High Distinctions in their mid-year language exams.

Dr Roger F
VCE Coordinator

Hooptime Training

Amara, Tara & Alana
Declan
Ruby, Alistair, Brooke, Jordan & Jackson
Eliza & Abbey
Rebeccah, Patience, Ashlin, Rebekah, Meggie, Olivia & Anastasia

Celebrating 40 Years
Working Bee

After being at MECS for a few years you see things that work and I think the Working Bees are the best way to build relationships with families, staff and the school. Lots of mums, dads and students come along to Working Bees to be involved in doing the jobs that help make the MECS grounds and buildings look as good as they are today. The commitment of these parents to be involved in Working Bees is wonderful. It also gives great opportunities for parents to see and meet their children’s friends and parents as well as make new friends themselves. It’s a great way to build relationships and be part of the school community.

Working Bees also give parents and families an opportunity to see their children’s class rooms and look around the rest of the school and see why we need their help to keep the school looking good and well maintained. Morning teas are always a great way to talk to people over yummy cake and coffee that we share together.

On Saturday we had 40-50 mums and dads come along on a beautiful morning and be part of the work for the day. The jobs to do included spreading mulch and planting plants in the Kindergarten, putting in two arches to grow creepers over, putting in sleeper edges in the car park then adding gravel up to the sleepers, then mulching the bank and planting some plants, it looks amazing!

We trimmed the fitness track in the Senior School, and weeded the bush, put in some new bollards with Lillydale toppings for a new path to the car park, washed and cleaned all the buses, cleaned all the pits and drains, swept and blew all the car parks and pathways, pressure cleaned some pathways up at the Senior School, replaced damaged pathways, stained some decks plus sanded and stained a table for the Preps plus other little jobs.

The school looks great. Thanks from Pete and Steve to all the parents who helped out on Saturday. See you next time.

Peter
Property Manager
Working Bee
**2013 Term 3 Week 3: 4 AUG - 10 AUG**

**Thur 8 August**
2014 Year 10 Info Meeting 7.30pm SS Theatre

**Fri 9 August**
Primary Concert Rehearsals

**2013 Term 3 Week 4: 11 AUG - 18 AUG**

**Tues 13 August**
First Aid Training Staffroom 6pm

**Wed 14 August**
Year 7/8 Netball/AFL Animal Farm at Kindergarten & Busy Bees 3 year old Kinder Connect Morning Tea Staffroom 9am ‘Are you ready for Prep?’ Information evening Pump Room 7.30pm

**Thur 15 August**
Instrumental Recital 7.00pm SS Theatrette

**Fri 16 August**
Primary Concert Rehearsals New Parents Dinner Chirnside Park 7pm

**2013 Term 3 Week 5: 19 AUG - 24 AUG**

**Mon 19 August**
MP Celebrations Incursion 2pm

**Tues 20 August**
Year 7-12 Tribal Athletics First Aid Training Staffroom 6pm

**Wed 21 August**
Prep Chesterfield Farm Excursion Parent Seminar A 7pm

**Thur 22 August**
Primary Concert Rehearsals

**Fri 23 August**
Primary Concert Rehearsals

**2013 Term 3 Week 6: 25 AUG - 31 AUG**

**Mon 26 August**
VCE Netball/AFL

**Tues 27 August**
4 year old Kinder Connect Morning Tea Staffroom 9am First Aid Training Staff Room 6pm

**Wed 28 August**
Prep Connect Morning Tea Staffroom 9am MP Hooptime JP Excursion to CERES

**Thur 29 August**
VCE Music Recital 7pm

---

**Primary School Production**

**Term 3 Week 9**

**Tues 17 Sept Dress - Rehearsal**

**Wed 18 Sept - Matinee**

**Thur 19 Sept - Evening Performance**

---

**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.

---

**Future Enrolments at MECS**

We realise one of the great ways that people come to MECS is by personal invitation and referral by our current families and we greatly value this. If you have friends and family who are interested in Christian education, please encourage them to telephone the school to speak with either Nicole or Amanda regarding enrolment possibilities. You can also pick up an information pack from the school office to give to them.

We are currently processing enrolments for 2014 and 2015 and future years. If you have a sibling of a currently enrolled student whom you would like to be considered for a position at MECS, could you please ensure that you have completed an Application for Sibling Enrolment, available from the office and return it to the school office as soon as possible.

This will help us tremendously in our forward planning. If you are unsure as to whether you have already completed a form, do not hesitate to contact Christine, MECS Registrar, via the office. Please note that if your child is not attending MECS in 2014, the school requires one full term’s notice in lieu of leaving MECS.

**Amanda and Nicole**

Community Relations Officers

---

**Help Needed**

A family friend of a current MECS student has recently had a bad horse riding injury and has become a quadriplegic. His first child is due in September. His family have set up an information and donations website and all donations are full term’s notice in lieu of leaving MECS.

**Amanda and Nicole**

Community Relations Officers

---

**Home for Rent**

A four-bedroom family home is available for rent in Mount Evelyn during 2014.

Five minutes to shops and school.

Contact Wayne or Carolyn.

---

**Meeting to pray for our current Year 12 kids**

As our kids complete this last stint of their school life a number of us have felt it would be beneficial to surround them in prayer.

We have arranged to meet in the Senior School (Room 8) on Wednesday afternoons from 2.15pm until the end of school.

We welcome anyone who would like to attend – grandparents/friends included.

We realise not all are able to come, and maybe not all the time but we still want to allow everyone’s prayer needs to be met. If you would like prayer for any reason we would love to be able to pray with/for you, (all prayer requests will be confidential and need to remain within the prayer group for prayer only).

Prayer requests can be emailed.

Looking forward to seeing you there – next meeting will be Wed 14 August.

---

**Fundraiser for Jinja Christian School - Uganda**

A pleasant Sunday afternoon at the Lilydale Lake Community Room on Sunday 18 August at 2.30pm. Cost $15.

Barbara a singer/songwriter/harpist will be performing traditional folk music which will include Celtic Folk, Australian Folk and Latin American Folk as well as original songs. She will play the Celtic/Paraguayan Harp, flute and Charango. Barbara will be accompanied by John on the didgeridoo.

---

**NOTICES SENT HOME THIS WEEK**

(can also be downloaded from website)

- Year 10 Centre Trip Letter
- SP Newsletter
- JP Lice Outbreak
- Year 7 Drama Notice
- Careers Newsletter 6 August
- Year 9 & 10 girls Netball Notice
- Year 7 & 8 Netball Notice
- Year 9 Open Village Newsletter
- Cycle A Newsletter

---

**Celebrating 40 Years**