Fun at the Farm

Ariah enjoyed the hands-on experience of the Myuna Mobile Farm incursion for Busy Bees and Bluebirds (3 year old Kindergarten)
A time for wisdom

As opposed to most people, I quite like elections. Maybe it’s the fact that as voters, we can have a say in who governs this great country and that we get to see what all parties consider to be the key issues relating to all manner of policies. With school funding a key election platform, I am waiting with interest to see what each of the major parties are putting on the table.

Two weeks ago, Gerry wrote a short piece in the newsletter about the politicians we hosted here at MECS. Generally the key messages were well covered but for me, one thing was left nagging.

All of the candidates seemed to have a distinct stance that the call of God in leadership is not to be brought into discussion. Now I know this might seem overly ‘Christian’ in its focus but it doesn’t seem that long ago that prayer was considered an important beginning to parliamentary discussion. Whilst the debates and commentary continues please pray that the muck raking that can plague the real issues being discussed is kept to a minimum. God is thoroughly interested in leadership, and as Christians I believe that we have a powerful say in the public forum.

MECS is also looking at a leadership change. The process and responsibility of appointing the new Principal is charged to the Board and a selection of the school Executive, who, through fervent prayer and the seeking of God’s wisdom, trust that we will know with confidence, who is God’s chosen person to lead the school into its next phase. Please continue to pray for wisdom and clarity. It is an exciting time and one to be embraced with anticipation. I look forward in the near future, to announcing our new leader and I for one, can’t wait to see who that is.

Worried parents started to come in and there was a sense that all was not well, which created some unrest amongst the students. We were in the process of trying to finish marking the roll when Geoff (ex teacher) bellowed for quiet. It’s the only time I have been genuinely shaken by a singular voice. It was just what was needed. We waited for instruction.

The call came to evacuate students to the oval at KH Fraser Reserve across Swansea Road. As members of the fire fighting team, Geoff and I grabbed some buckets and watched for embers. I remember standing on the oval and seeing the bush fire helicopter fly close. Geoff and I wondered where they were dumping the water. When we saw the water pouring onto the front of the school and continue towards the library, I said to Geoff that it was time get out of here and he agreed. We got into my car and drove towards KH Fraser reserve. From there we were evacuated to the showgrounds in Lilydale and then dismissed students from there.

In the wash up of the day there were many lessons learned. We were evacuated against the wishes of the CFA (conducted by the Police). Subsequent to that, we were praised for enacting our procedures successfully. There was fantastic leadership - from Stewart and each of the staff that protected each and every student. For me, as a newly engaged young man, I learned the importance of contacting my now wife much earlier than I did. My first message was at 2pm explaining the situation followed by a phone message at 7pm. The 5 hour wait between messages caused much anxiety. Suffice to say I am still married to a wonderful and understanding woman! Thankfully, this event has never happened again and I hope it never does.

Paul
MECS Principal

2000 - Bushfires come to MECS

There have been few times where I can honestly say that I was genuinely worried at work but here is a story of one of them.

The year was 2000 and I was a second year PE teacher in the Senior school. I can’t remember the exact date but, like most people who were there, I remember the weather and the vibe of what was happening. It was directly after lunch and I had Year 12 PE. It was hot and it was the third or fourth day of high temperatures. I remember Ben (son of Colin) remarking that the skyline had a real orange tinge to it. He asked if I thought that meant something was happening but at that stage, I had no idea of what was going on.

The fire alarm went off and we followed procedure by taking students to the theatrette. To be honest, I felt that it was precautionary and there was no reason for alarm. Suddenly, ex-student, Rob came in (I’m still not sure why he was there) and remarked anxiously, ‘The fires are coming up Hawkins Road’.

Geoff (ex teacher) bellowed for quiet. It’s the only time I have been genuinely shaken by a singular voice. It was just what was needed.
Mobile Farm visits Early Years

Myuna Mobile Farm visited the Kindergarten on Wednesday 14 August. Playgroup children and parents had a lovely time visiting the animals first. Bluebird children (3 year old Kinder) also had a turn to cuddle, pat and feed the baby animals. The involvement with the animals was a wonderful hands on experience. This was a rich learning experience that the children can keep coming back to as we draw, paint and talk about our visit from the farm. The children learned about being 'gentle' and they were excited to just be up close with these gorgeous animals. This incursion helped reinforce the overarching perspective that 'God Provides.' Farming is one way that people get food, that there is a process involved with it coming to our homes, but that all good things come from God.

Vee and Naomi - BusyBee Playgroup Leaders
Lee and Karen - Bluebird Educators
Wendy
Early Years Coordinator

Congratulations to Matt & Hayley

They welcomed Finn Matthew born 10.54pm August 12. 3.62 Kilos (8 Pounds). Baby brother for Hudson and Mia.

Matt is one of our Junior Primary teachers.
MECS Notes

‘Adventures in Wonderland’

The Primary Production needs some help

Please, if you have any of these items and wouldn’t mind lending them to the school for the production, let Janine or Carmen know ASAP.

Needed
• A feather quill and ink pot
• Pictures in old fashioned frames
• Glass bottles - assorted shapes and sizes
• Small glass bottle with cork
• Gloves - white - adult and child sizes
• Bubble blower shaped like a pipe
• Old fashioned pepper mill
• A trumpet - real or toy
• A judge’s wig
• A handheld fan
• Blue fabric in a long roll
• A hedgehog stuffed toy or something similar
• Fake cupcakes
• Checked tablecloth
• Fob watch
• Small old fashioned writing desk
• Tea set
• A golden staff or something similar

We are also in need of some parents to help paint card costumes (hearts, diamonds, spades and clubs).

Scoliosis

Dear Parents of Year 7 and 9 girls,

You will be receiving a brochure on Scoliosis with the newsletter about checking your daughters for the condition known as Scoliosis (curvature of the spine).

The Spine Society of Australia recommends a yearly check for all girls in the age range 11-13 to detect this common condition. Around 2.5% of all adolescent girls will suffer this condition and it is easily detected by a simple forward bend test which can be done at home. Early detection means early treatment and this brochure will explain what Scoliosis is, how to check your daughter and what to do if it is present.

Please take the time to read through this brochure and check your daughter - it only takes a couple of minutes. I have personally suffered this condition which wasn’t detected until it was too late for treatment, so this is something I highly recommend to you to do!

Thanks for your cooperation,

Melinda
First Aid Officer

Year 9 and 10 AFL

The MECS Year 9-10 football team took to the road on Thursday with the mighty Peter York driving and Coach Blowers on board. This team included several extras from Ranges TEC and together was to prove pretty formidable. A close match at the start saw a win against MDCS but once the boys got a taste of victory it was on. The next two games were huge wins for the team with the opposition not being able to score. MECS was able to finish champions of their division and the celebrations continued all the way home in the bus. Well done boys as it was played in a very good spirit.

Cliff
SS Coordinator

Year 9 and 10 Netball

What a sensational day to be outdoors with 3 netball teams of Year 9 & 10 girls. Each team had success with the A team winning all games except the Grand Final. However we are saying they were equal first! Our Year 9s won their competition and the 10 B team came 4th. I was so proud of the girls’ efforts to include everyone and treat the opposition and the umpires with respect. We had just as much fun on the bus trip back which reinforces to me that these days are about more than just a game.

Anne-Maree
Secondary Sports Coordinator

Celebrating 40 Years
Friends of MECS

Father’s Day Stall

It’s only 2 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 two) we would love to hear from you. Contact me. Thanks,

Nicoleta
Community Relations Officer

Dollarmite Banking Competition

Win an iPad mini for yourself and a Commbank Marquee for your school, just by depositing into your school banking account between August 12 and September 13. You will be automatically entered. The more times you bank, the more chances you will have to win. For more information contact your School Banking Specialist, Kath.

Primary GTs Term 3

MECS Primary run a whole Primary Get Together (GT) every couple of weeks. The GTs are lead by the students, with each class taking a turn. Parents are most welcome to attend. Come join us at 9am in the Pump Room.

The dates and classes on for Term 3 are:

- Week 6 26/8 SPC
- Week 8 9/9 JPM

MECS Notes

Thanks from Pamela

The Camberwell Stall went really well as a fundraiser! It was a hard slog (I got up at 3am to be there at 4am), but we made about $500 profit and still have lots of things left over. I am considering holding another stall, or maybe a garage sale. This was a big help towards my fundraising for Schoolies.

Thank you so much everyone that supported me and encouraged me. The amount of clothes and second hand goods that have been donated is overwhelming! All of your generosity has made a massive difference. Thank you so much. God bless

Pamela
Year 12 Student

‘MECS Girlies’ and the 40 Hour Famine

A group of Year 7 MECS girls are this week participating in World Vision’s 40 Hour Famine. Girls have chosen to give up talking, food, technology or furniture for 40 hours. Some daring girls are even giving up all four! All this effort is to raise money for people in developing nations to get ongoing food and supplies.

Last Monday, we had a fundraiser morning tea for the staff. Every girl in our group made a plate of food, and we raised over $200!

So far, the most challenging thing has been for those of us not talking!

If you would like to sponsor the MECS girls, please do this by the coming weekend. Go to www.worldvision.com.au and search for ‘MECS Girlies’.

Our aim is to raise $2000.

Emily and Savanna
Year 7
Paint It!

Please help! The MECS Staffroom needs a paint... well, not really but please don’t tell the Year 7s. Over the coming weeks these students will be completing a Maths project called ‘Paint It’. Small groups of Year 7 students will need to prepare a quote for the quantity of paint required to cover each of the painted surfaces in the Staffroom with two coats. Initially the students will estimate the amount of paint needed based on some rough field drawings. Later on they will need to complete a scale drawing of the Staffroom with all the correct measurements and calculate the precise amount of paint needed based on the surface area of the walls. One of their goals is to ensure their final quote allows for a 15% profit.

Sue
MS Coordinator

Kindergarten Children go to Montrose

Last Tuesday the 4 year old Kinder groups, Koalas and Possums, went on their very first excursion to Montrose. We went in the bus, which was a very exciting thing to be doing!

We walked along the path to the strip shops, where we looked at houses and letter boxes along the way, noticing numbers and we talked about purposes for numbers. We glanced into the shops, talked about the names of shops and what they sell until we came to the post box. Once there we all got to post a letter to our home. Peter and Mr V (our bus drivers) were kind enough to lift some us up so we could reach to put our letter inside. On the way back we stopped at the park where we explored the Montrose Playground. We discovered there were mini shops, just like the strip shops where we had been. After a snack we travelled back to Kinder, looking out for traffic and street signs, traffic lights, houses and letterbox numbers.

This excursion was a rich learning experience in so many ways. As a part of the Early Years Learning Framework, we are working toward the 5 Learning Outcomes for the children. Learning Outcome 5 states that “Children are effective Communicators”. Reciprocal interactions about our experience, looking for written words, letters and images in the environment are just some of the ways the children engaged in this learning. When we got back to kinder the children drew about our experience in their Kinder Journals, and educators wrote down each child’s thoughts, modelling how we can communicate using written words. These types of experiences are important ‘pre’ Literacy and Numeracy understandings, which forms the foundation for further learning at school.

Thank you to all of our parent helpers and wonderful bus drivers, your help is invaluable for ensuring the excursion runs smoothly!

Wendy
Early Years Coordinator
JPS and Children of the World

In Junior Primary this term we are travelling around the world in 40-days as we explore Children of the World. As part of this unit, over the past fortnight, students have been creating a self-portrait using only glue and paper and the technique of paper tearing to create their masterpiece.

JPS students flourished as we remembered our memory verse – “I will praise You for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful and I know that full well” (Psalm 139:14) and talked about what it means to be a child of God. We gave thanks to God for His amazing love for us and that all people are created in His image.

It was a great joy to see students be creative to express how they see themselves in God’s image both visually and verbally. Throughout the project students were posed with the question – How do you see yourself in God’s image? Some remarks from JPS students:

“The brightness of His light. I see the darkness flow through me when I feel I did something bad. I feel normal.” Owen

“Pretty, loved, happy, kind and helpful.” Honey

“Happy and free. Alive!” Harry

“I’m not the best. No one is the best. Everyone is the best. I love God and how He made me.” Bethany

Susannah
JPS Teacher

Studying Polynesia Cycle A

Learning about Polynesia has been an amazing experience. We didn’t even know that the Polynesian Triangle even existed until this term! It is an imaginary triangle around numerous countries that are a part of Polynesia. We have learnt a whole lot from Alison, Nicky and Sharon, not just in Core Studies, but in Art as well! We got to make a Polynesian totem pole. We even got to decorate it with drawings of Polynesian tattoos.

One very interesting lesson, we got to sample some of the food that Polynesians survive on! We got to try some sweet potato, yam, Polynesian banana, coconut and taro, which all disappointingly tasted like potato.

We saw some pretty creepy statues on Easter Island, called Moai. Because of religious beliefs, people believe that the Moai walked to the edge of the Easter Island. Other people believe that they were put there by aliens. They were actually put there by the people who lived on Easter Island.

We also learnt about the Maori cultural beliefs. They believe that there was a ‘father sky’ and ‘mother earth’. They had two sons, a tall son named Aoraki and another son named Maui. Aoraki and Maui were fishing one day and their hook got caught on something. Aoraki thought it was a fish. But in fact, it was... the North Island of New Zealand! Then Aoraki and Maui froze because it was so cold making the South Island.

We also learnt about the Polynesian languages. They have some pretty hard to pronounce words... We learnt that Kaumatua means ‘elders’, Taurekarea means ‘slaves’ and PLENTY more. Their language is a lot different to ours, so it was really interesting to learn about.

Studying Polynesia has been a blast and we have really enjoyed it. It was really interesting learning about their cultures, it makes us think about how different other countries and cultures are to ours.

Sarah & Isabelle 7 & 8 AC
First year cabinet maker apprentice required
Please contact Andre from Prestige Cabinetmakers.

Lyndale on Yarra Weekend Retreat
A beautiful, peaceful two bedroom self contained cottage on the river in Warburton East. A unique place to relax and to see what Warburton has to offer. A great place for a girl’s get together or a weekend escape. For more information please contact Lynda.

‘Small Birds’ An Art Exhibition
Gabby is having her solo art exhibition from 23 August - 22 September at the Knox Community Arts Centre, Cnr Scoresby Rd & Mountain Hwy, Bayswater. Join us on the opening night for celebrations – Friday the 23rd August from 6-8pm. There will be small to large artworks on paper, framed pieces, mobiles and mixed media artworks for sale. Boutique, hand made stationary by Vanessa Marijanovic will also be available on the opening night. Entry is free. Hope to see you there!

To view some of Gabby’s artworks, look for ‘Gabby’s Art Page’ on Facebook or visit www.gabbywillmott.com

Baseball Come’N’Try day
Upwey Ferntree Gully baseball club is having a Come’N’Try day on Sunday 25 August where children of all ages get to have a go at baseball.

For more information call Denis, secretary. www.upweyftgbaseballclub.com.

Looking For Volunteer Host Families
World Education Program (WEP) is inviting you to experience another culture in your own home by becoming a volunteer host family to an international student arriving in January 2014. Our students from Italy, Belgium, France, Norway, Canada and South America are looking forward to experiencing life in Australia, making new friends and becoming a member of an Australian family soon.

To find out more contact WEP today to receive a full information pack. Sylvia - Manager – Inbound Exchange Programs, web www.wep.org.au

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.

Fundraiser for Jinja Christian School – Uganda
A pleasant Sunday afternoon at the Lillydale Lake Community Room on Sunday 18 August at 2.30pm. Cost $15.

Barbara Jeffrey 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 Rogers on the didgeridoo.

NOTICES SENT HOME THIS WEEK
(can also be downloaded from website)
- SP Headline Note (last week)
- Myki Letter to Schools (on web only)
- VCE Netball
- Year 7 & 8 Boys AFL
- SP Ancient News
- SS VCE Drama Excursion
- Scoliosis Note
- Empowering Girls Date Change
- JP CERES Excursion
- MP Term 3 Newsletter
- Prep Dress Up Notice
- MECS Kinder Excursion to Traffic School

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.

Primary School Production
Term 3 Week 9
- Tues 17 Sept Dress - Rehearsal
- Wed 18 Sept - Matinee
- Thur 19 Sept - Evening Performance

Celebrating 40 Years

LOST
1 x black and white penguin onesie. Lost from the MP area last Friday. Please hand back to the office if found.