Play Pod Fun

Jade & Jenna enjoyed making up an imaginary game with the help of the Playpod

Remember
Father’s Day Stall
Tomorrow 30 August

29 August 2013

Jade & Jenna enjoyed making up an imaginary game with the help of the Playpod.
Bushfire Preparedness

MECS has recently been in the process of an audit by the Victorian Registrations and Qualifications Authority (VRQA). Although MECS is an Independent school, this body is responsible for ensuring that we are fit to operate a school. For some, the thought of over regulation and compliance can instil fear and trepidation in a new Principal, but I’ve come to see that review by outside bodies can be a blessing in disguise. It’s been a surprisingly positive experience to interact with the VRQA, with some positive outcomes for the school.

The focus of the audit was our policies in 3 areas:
- Mandatory reporting policy and implementation
- Anaphylaxis policy and implementation
- Bushfire Preparedness Policy

It’s the last area that I would like to touch on briefly. For some of you who have been in our community for a long time (possibly Year 12 parents and some staff), you will remember the time that MECS came under a significant bushfire threat (I wrote about my recollections of this event a few newsletters ago). The threat was so significant that we evacuated the school, against the guiding of our bushfire plan but under the direction of the police. A review was undertaken and our emergency and evacuation procedures were updated.

More recently, the events of ‘Black Saturday’ again changed the face of bushfire threat response, and therefore required a change from us. Through this process with the VRQA, we as a school have double (and triple) checked things such as: Are our facilities safe and appropriate for accommodating all the staff and students in an immediate bushfire threat? Are our evacuation procedures as efficient and effective as possible to safely remove students from the site?

The VRQA have suggested to schools in high bushfire areas to undertake an audit of facilities to check that they provide the required level of safety should this unlikely event occur. Even though this is an expensive undertaking, it was never a question for us. Today we employed the services of a consultant organisation who have conducted these Bushfire preparedness assessments at over 250 schools post Black Saturday. This is a very good thing, and appropriate timing to allow for any recommended changes to be made before the bushfire season begins. We are determined and committed to providing the safest place for your children and our staff, and to have a best practice Emergency Management Plan.

I am pleased to be able to report that the VRQA is very satisfied with our current policies. The approach from the VRQA staff has not been one of ‘trying to catch us out doing the wrong thing’ but rather a legitimate desire to help us get the safety of our students right. And we are in complete agreement with that.

1993 - A New Teacher

The year is 1993 - my first official year with a brand new Year 7 class. I began working at MECS at the beginning of Term 4 the previous year, however this was my very first year, in what was to be two decades, of teaching in Middle School. I had fond memories of my own Year 7 teacher, Mrs Sue G and from that time I was determined to come back to MECS and teach Year 7 just like her.

I was so excited that I remember coming up to clean my new classroom during the school holidays! The most bizarre thing being that I was going to be the Year 7 class teacher in the very same classroom I was in at MECS as a Year 7 student in 1982! It was really strange reading through my ex teacher’s class notes and work programs!

In this year, I was confronted by the fact that my ex-Principal, Stewart was now my boss! It took me all of two terms to be able to call him by his first name!! I was also teaching alongside some of my other wonderful past teachers.

Back then classes were taught in year levels only. Being the only Year 7 teacher, I taught my class for Core Studies, Maths, English, Scripture and Drama, so we spent a great deal of time together. In many ways, this class were my guinea pigs. I was quite a shy and very new teacher and was often prone to tears when it all became a bit much!! The most exciting (not!) part of my new role, was teaching the students puberty and sex education. Talk about nerve racking!! As a young teacher it was all a bit scary but I will admit as the years have increased, I have grown to enjoy this element of the curriculum.

My fondest memories of 1993 were decorating Gordon B’s office (ex science teacher) with balloons inside and out to celebrate his upcoming wedding, hiking with my students at Wilson’s Promontory and the annual visit from ‘Jim’ – a wonderful man with Cerebral Palsy who would come to visit our class each year and talk with our children about living with a disability.

It seems such a long time ago now, but I am pleased to say that I am still in touch with many of those first students of mine. As my first ever class, they will always hold a special place in my heart.

Sharon
Year 7 Teacher (Still!!)
Play Pod comes to MECS

(That’s not just a storage shed in the MECS Creation Garden of the PS!)

At MECS Primary we would like to develop a culture that helps our students grow, flourish, wonder, have curiosity and strengthen positive friendships and relationships. We desire for play to honour God in the same way our learning does. For a child, play is their ‘work’ and in their capacity as a student and their role as student, their play is part of their service unto the Lord.

- We want to provide the opportunity for students to develop in their ability to play well.
- We want to give them opportunity to play imaginatively and creatively.
- We want them to honour God in their play.
- We want them to interact with each other in ways that build community.
- We want our students to learn to care for each other during their play and as part of their play.

Healthy and engaging play assists a school to have a culture that is positive and combats negative influences and bullying. Students who engage in healthy, fun, positive talk and play have a better experience of play times than children who are bored and unhappy. Children who are experiencing difficulty at play may be more susceptible to negative influences, and may engage in talk, play or games that are unhealthy, destructive or even violent.

Why a Play Pod?
A Play Pod can provide students with stimulus for creative and imaginative play.

The Play Pod provides opportunity for creative, open ended, collaborative play that enhances our culture of community and encourages positive problem solving and communication.

What is a Play Pod?
A play pod is a shed/container that is equipped with material that students can use for open-ended play. It’s the cream-coloured shed in the Primary garden.

What is in the Play Pod?
Recycled materials including: motorbike and bike tyres, rubber mats, lengths of rubber, barrels, material-shade cloth, netting and other waterproof materials that can be used for make-shift cubbies, poly piping, steering wheels, tubes, crates, plastic crates, boxes, tubs, wooden blocks, poles and cardboard boxes.

What do students do with the junk?
Have a lovely time making up all sorts of imaginative games, fun and cubbies.

The Primary would like to thank Gerry, Pete, Steve and Independent Schools Victoria (we received a grant to get the Play Pod underway) for helping us establish the Play Pod.

Di
Primary Coordinator
MECS Notes

Attention all parents with students taking part in the After School Sports Program, including Athletics and Cricket:

Please note that if your child is going to be absent from After School Sport, it is imperative that you let the office know, so that Sandra Jordan can be notified.

Please also remind your child that if they decide on the day that they are not going to attend after school activities, they must let the Office know.

By notifying the Office, it will ensure all students are accounted for and where they are meant to be.

Year 6 Empowering Girls Date Change

Please make sure you have marked this important date change in your calendar!

Empowering Girls Mother & Daughter night will now be held:

Wednesday 23 October 2013

In the Main Staffroom, 7.30pm.

Thanks for your cooperation with this change. Looking forward to seeing you all there.

‘Adventures in Wonderland’ Primary Production needs help

If you have any of the items below and wouldn’t mind lending them to the school for the production, let Janine or Carmen know ASAP. Thanks.
- A feather quill and ink pot
- Pictures in old fashioned frames
- Gloves - white - adult and child sizes
- Bubble blower shaped like a pipe
- A judge’s wig
- Fob watch
- Small old fashioned writing desk

Please Note

An envelope will be coming home with each family today. If you would like a copy of the ‘Adventures in Wonderland’ DVD (which will be professionally recorded) please put money in envelope and return to the school by Tues 17 Sept. Thankyou.

Janine

Friends of MECS

Festival-Reunion Day

We are planning a fun Festival Celebration Day on October 26, for the past and current MECS Community. If you would like to be involved please contact Nicole.

Nicole
Community Relations Officer

Children at Play

Last Friday it was raining outside but inside rooms 9 and 10 in the Senior School we were enjoying the company of some of our mums and their little ones. The Developmental Psychology class from Year 10 had invited mums and their babies and toddlers to come in and share the growth and change that they have seen in their children. It was a great time of sharing and observing the children in their play and in activities prepared by the Year 10 students. Thanks again to the mums who made it all possible.

Cliff
SS Coordinator

Ranges TEC

Enrol now for 2014

Open Campus
Tues 10th Sept
4pm-7pm

Find out more about our VCAL and Trade programs in the following areas...
- Aeroskills (Aircraft Maintenance Engineering)
- Building & Construction (Carpentry)
- Electrotechnology
- Engineering
- Furniture Making
- Horticulture/Rural Operations
- Hospitality (Kitchen Operations)

A Christian Trade Training Centre for students in Years 10, 11 & 12

www.rangestec.vic.edu.au
1/9 Hightech Place, Lilydale 3140 Ph. 9738 7100

Celebrating 40 Years
Cycle B World Issues Awareness

Flower Power Girls

This term Cycle B are studying world issues like human trafficking, world hunger, water and sanitation, insufficient income, and maternal and child health. We are studying different issues in groups and our group is doing maternal and child health. We wanted to do something for girls our age so we are sewing sanitary products for women and girls in developing countries. We are aiming to make and ship 100 women’s sanitary packs to East Timor, containing two shields, eight liners, a bar of soap, a face washer, a pair of underwear and two plastic bags. We are aiming to make 200 shields and 800 liners.

We are looking for donations of face washers, underwear and 100% cotton material or flannelette. If you are unable to donate materials but would still like to contribute to this worthy cause then gift vouchers for Spotlight or monetary donations are more than welcome. They will help us purchase the supplies needed for our project. There will be a box for material donations located in the Main Office. Any other donations can be given in a sealed envelope to Cassie in the Main Office. We can achieve anything with your help.

Siennah, Erica and Chandelle

Year 8 Drama - Puppetry

Year 8s have been creating their Muppet Puppets over the past two terms. With the encouragement from our amazing Drama teacher Sharon, we have slowly brought our puppet characters to life. We have been making ears, noses, attached eyes and hair, along with dressing our puppets with clothes that many students found in op shops. Everyone has thoroughly enjoyed making their friends and are now learning how to use their puppets and perform to an audience.

A big thanks to all the parents who also helped sew arms and legs for us and Sandra for sewing the bodies.

Brenton

Over the past two terms, the Year 8s have had a glorious time constructing Muppet Puppets. We have made the arms and body skins, constructed and glued the foam body parts and put it all together. Everyone had a great time shopping around for clothes to dress our puppet in. We have recently sewn our hair, anything from thick dreadlocks to luscious blonde locks. We have chosen our eyes, tongues, skin, ears and more! Over the next few weeks we will be learning everything there is to know at puppet school, preparing to perform on the big stage!

Sam

Over these past 2 terms we have been creating Muppet Puppets in Drama. I enjoyed cutting out the foam during the construction and quick gripping the pieces together. We got to choose the material for our puppets. I chose to make an Elmo puppet. Over the past few weeks we have been applying the finishing touches to our puppets and I am looking forward to learning how to talk and sing with my puppet. It will be great fun performing to the Junior Primary students later this term.

Natasha

Chloe

by Romina

Joshua

Reilly

Celebrating 40 Years
Chesterfield Farm

What an exciting day!

On Wednesday last week the Preps went to Chesterfield Farm. This tied in nicely with our unit on Marvellous Materials as we were able to learn about wool and its uses. We also identified other animals that give us produce, such as cows, chickens and pigs. The Preps had the opportunity to milk a cow, watch the sheepdog at work, have a tractor ride, visit the animal nursery and feed many different animals including emus, camels and deer.

When asked what their favourite thing was, many of the Preps said that they enjoyed the tractor ride. Isobelle said “I like the animal nursery because I got to hold a guinea pig.” Micah said “I liked milking the cow because I got really good at it.” It was a long day for the Preps, but they were chirpy the whole day, even on the bus ride home.

Bec
Prep Teacher
Last Wednesday the Year 12 Studio Arts class went on an excursion as part of their Unit 4 study of the roles of galleries. We visited the Smith Street Australian Gallery and Heide Museum of Modern Art to compare the role of a commercial gallery with that of a public gallery. It was interesting to contrast the atmosphere and presentation of artworks between the two spaces and experience a variety of art styles.

Students found the Smith Street Gallery Storeroom was the most interesting aspect of the excursion as we were able to view a very concentrated amount of interesting and unique art pieces in a more relaxed atmosphere. This space also gave some insight into the methods of storage that galleries use when artworks are not on display.

Overall the excursion was an interesting and informative experience that gave the students a valuable insight into the Art industry.

Kara
SS Art Teacher
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.

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

• MP Flight Camp
• MS 2012 Maths Books
• Fathers Day Stall Flyer
• Cycle B Global Forum
• SP Project Costume

Celebrating 40 Years

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE is 11am Tuesday on published week.
Email articles (images attached as jpg) to the Newsletter Office.

Electrical Apprenticeship Needed

A 3rd/4th year Electrical Apprentice needs a new apprenticeship. Retrenched due to his previous employers need to downsize. Has experience in commercial, solar and airconditioning and has completed his TAFE classes. Honest, hardworking, punctual, well presented and has own transport. He is very keen to complete his apprenticeship. If you can help please contact Leon.

Taekwondo Classes

Taekwondo classes are now being offered in Lilydale on a Monday evening for juniors (7-13 years) and seniors (14 years plus). Come along and learn self-defense, self-discipline, develop self-confidence and greater coordination, develop better focus and flexibility, get fit and have fun.

For all enquiries including training times and location please call Stuart.

MECS is turning 40!
Reunion - Festival Day
Saturday October 26, 1-5pm
Come along and celebrate

• Meet past students and teachers
• See your old classroom
• Class reunion photos
• History displays
• Great food and coffee
• Kids' activities

Extra carparking and shuttle bus available from the York on Lilydale carpark.

See our website or facebook page for more details www.mecs.vic.edu.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.

LOST

LOST Samsung Galaxy Ace
If found please contact Desley on 9761 0550 or 0413 840 102.

MISSING

2 x size 10 green polos have gone missing.
They both have iron on labels that say Jed Macartney on them (possibly faded).
Please check the label on your child’s green polo to ensure you have not taken his home by mistake. Please return them to the Main office if found.

MECS 1973-2013