Year 9s Construct the New PS Sandpit

Lachlan Year 9, helping with the building of a Pergola to cover the Creation Garden Sandpit. Story page 5.
There’s a time for everything

It’s been a busy time of change. The weekend saw the AFL teams reduced to six (with a number of upsets) and the Federal election brought about a new Government, with new ideas and a new set of promises. (We will let you know how this changes the educational landscape in terms of funding as the news comes to hand).

And there are big changes happening here at MECS, with the exciting announcement of Narelle as the new Principal from 2014. I have known Narelle for a long time, working with her during her time at MECS (1992-2006) and catching up periodically as she developed her leadership skills at Donvale Christian College.

Change can bring a raft of different feelings and emotions. It can feel like the end of something familiar or a transition into something that is unknown, or a mixture of both. Change can challenge the current way of thinking and can present an uncertainty as to where the school will head into the future.

For some, letting go of the past can be difficult. The effect and presence of Martin is everywhere, from buildings such as the gym to the perennial ‘morning teas’ that Martin put on. His mark has left a wonderful feeling that is hard to let go of. Martin put his enthusiasm about education to the forefront; the way he never took himself too seriously. I came in and sought to fill his giant shoes. They were far too big so I put on my smaller yet ‘trendier’ shoes. I have relished the opportunity to continue God’s visions and dreams and have, with significant help from Jacqui, Gerry and the rest of the staff, attempted to take the school forward in seeking ‘the Kingdom of God in Education’. What a gift I have been given. I thank the Board for the opportunity to be creative and passionate in this role. But God’s plans were clear and it’s time to transition.

God has been preparing the way for Narelle’s return to MECS. The Board and many members of our community have prayed fervently for the right person to come to MECS. Throughout this time of change, God has been present and working in the lives of those who love this school and desire to see God’s plans brought out in this place. Narelle, with the ongoing support of the leadership, Board and staff, will see that the school flourishes in this next phase of MECS. I cannot express how excited I am about this next chapter in the school’s life. Please keep praying for Narelle as God shows her clearly what she is to do at MECS over the coming years.

Meet Narelle - Our new Principal

You would have received an email from the school this week announcing the appointment of Narelle Sketcher to the position of Principal, starting January 2014. This is the beginning of an exciting new chapter for MECS. We asked Narelle a few questions to help us get to know her a bit.

What are your favourite things to do outside of school? I really like eating out, hanging out with friends, watching and playing a lot of sport with my kids.

What’s your favourite CD of all time? I don’t have one all-time favourite, but I love listening to ‘The best of Leonard C’, ABBA Gold and Coldplay, and I really like James B.

Who do you barrack for? Collingwood. We love the footy in my family – watching it on TV and going to see the games. And my son plays local footy.

Who is going to win the grand final? I think Hawthorn. I would have loved to see Richmond get there but Carlton put an end to that.

Which is better – chocolate or vanilla? Vanilla, definitely vanilla. Savoury over sweet any day.

Favourite TV show? West Wing is my all-time favourite show. I don’t have any current shows that I regularly watch (except footy shows).


What are you most looking forward to at MECS? Coming back to working with people who I’ve taught with, who I started my teaching journey with and working with staff who I know through NICE. I’m also really looking forward to being involved in a whole school environment – working with Primary and Kindergarten sections. That’s exciting.

Where would you like to go for a Holiday? Desperate to get to New York, 2nd choice, Morocco, 3rd Dubrovnik.

Dogs or Cats: Neither, although I have a spoodle called Roy (named after Andrew S, before he was a disgraced cricketer. The tossup was between ‘Roy’ or ‘Buckley’. Should have gone with Buckley…)  

Favourite thing about Martin: His enthusiasm about everything; his loyalty and generosity to everyone he puts his mind to; the way he never took himself too seriously. I would like to model those things.

Children? Grace 14, Darcy 16.

Tea or coffee? Coffee.

Rather Pray or read the bible? Pray

Hillsong or hymns? Hymns

Favourite colour? Orange and purple. Used to be all black, have now moved on!
Cycle A Medieval Week

Last week, students in Cycle A immersed themselves in Medieval culture. The whole week built up to a Medieval Feast where students played out a typical feudal celebration in the town of CycleAalo. Students made wonderful Medieval Banners, complete with symbols and colours that represented themselves. They also made castles and came up with some costumes to match their characters in the plays they would be performing at the feast. These plays included stories about Joan of Arc, Robin Hood and even the making of the Magna Carta!

On Tuesday we were lucky to have the History Up Close team come and share their knowledge and expertise on Medieval Warfare, Games, Music, Dance and Chivalry. This was lots of fun as students challenged each other to sword fights, tried on replicas of Medieval armour and experienced what Medieval celebration would have been like.

On Friday we all got in our costumes, set up our banquet hall and seated ourselves in the correct (Feudal!) positions. Peasants were down one end and Kings, Queens, Clergy, Barons and Knights filled the spaces for the more privileged in society. Amidst plays, entertainment and dancing we had a Medieval meal of delicious chicken drumsticks and bread. A big and exciting week had by all!

Nicky
Cycle A Teacher
MECS Notes

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, 2015, 2016 and beyond. 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, please contact Christine, MECS Registrar, via the office.

If your child is not attending MECS in 2014, the school requires one full term’s notice in lieu of leaving MECS. Notice of leaving is also required if your child is attending Ranges TEC next year.

Many thanks,
Amanda and Nicole
Community Relations Officers

‘Adventures in Wonderland’

Notes for Primary Production

1. Childrens’ costumes need to be at school by Friday morning in a named bag.
2. Tickets for ‘Adventures in Wonderland’ can be purchased at the Main Office. There is a limit of 5 tickets per family for the Evening Performance. Matinee tickets are unlimited. Tickets are $5.00 each and can be purchased at the office. Children in Primary School do not need a ticket as they are performing.
3. If you are purchasing the DVD, Envelopes with orders and money need to be handed in to the Main Office by Tuesday 17 September.

Janine

Stationery Packing and Supplying

Friends of MECS would like some volunteers to help with packing prior to the two pick up days, and for supply on the two Stationery Sale dates. Please refer to your Stationery letter and form for all the details.

Dates for packing: Wed 4 Dec and Thur 5 Dec.
Dates for supplying: Tues 10 Dec and Thur 30 Jan.

It’s actually good fun! We would appreciate any help you can give.
Nicole & Amanda
Community Relations Officers

MECS is turning 40!

Festival Day

Saturday October 26, 1-5pm
Come along and celebrate

Wrestling

MECS wrestlers from Years 2-12 competed in the 11th Annual MECS Freestyle Takedown Championships on Tuesday. With the wrestlers training up to 5 times per week in Term 3, the level of skill displayed made the event fun to watch.

Winners at the various weight levels: Girls: Jasmine, Stephanie, Brooke & Ruby. Boys: Caleb, Jake (two weight categories) and Damien.

Thanks to all the wrestling parents and fans that attended this annual event.

Our next tournament is scheduled for recess and lunchtime on Wednesday 18 September. All members of the MECS community are invited.

Adam
Wrestling Coach

Emily & Stefanie
Dillon & Damien
Oliver & Caleb

Primary School Production

Tues 17 Sept Dress Rehearsal
Wed 18 Sept Matinee 12.30pm
Thur 19 Sept Evening 7pm
Sandpit Fun

Last week a very excited group of Preps were handed a bucket of sand to officially open the new sandpit in the MCG in the Primary School. This venture has been a number of years in the making and Wendy Mason was thrilled to also receive a bucket and joined in making a sandcastle.

A few years ago Wendy had a vision for a sandpit and cover so children could play safely and be protected from the sun.

The students in Year 9 (2012) designed the specifications and technical drawings and last week the current Year 9 students worked hard to see those drawings turned into a fantastic gazebo structure. Lance and his team have done an outstanding job once again to enhance our play areas by creating something practical but also very beautiful and aesthetically pleasing.

It is wonderful to see students working together as a community and sharing their gifts to build not only a structure but a link between themselves and the younger students in the school.

Thanks Middle School and Lance.

Di
Primary School Coordinator

MECS Notes

Lost Property

It’s nearly the end of term and once more our lost property racks are overflowing with assorted jackets, hoodies, cardigans and windcheaters - none with names. It’s beginning to look like a well stocked shop! Could you please ask your children to check 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 children's clothing. It makes it so much easier to return to them. Thanks.

Melinda
First Aid Officer & Lost Property Merchant

Southern Cross Cultural Exchange

Years 9 – 12 students are invited to attend a public information session, Tuesday 17 September, 7 pm, Conochie Hall, 2 Rochester Road, Canterbury.

Learn how to apply for an overseas student exchange program. S.C.C.E. staff will be on hand to answer all questions such as program selection, departure dates, suitability, hosting families, etc. Exchange students who have returned from their programs will also be sharing their experiences.


School Calendar

Please find your school calendar for next year enclosed. You will also be able to find this on the School Website.

Thursday 12 September 2013
Mount Evelyn Christian School News

Celebrating 40 Years
Cycle B Global Issues Expo

During Special Week, Cycle B students were organised into groups and had to develop a fictional aid organisations, dealing with specific global issues. My organisation was called Hungry 4 Change, and we focused on poverty, food and nutrition. The week ended with the Global Issues Expo, where each group presented their organisations to an audience of parents, students and school staff. The Expo has raised my awareness of how many people are dying each day from poverty and hunger around the world, and just how big the issue is. I have also learned how the issue has come about and the countries that are affected the most. I have also learned how it can be stopped. The Expo week has been a real eye opener. This week has shocked me in the issue of world hunger and the other world issues. Like the way lots of our products are made by slaves or low paid workers in the developing world. Also how there are victims of human trafficking and slavery in countries like Australia and America.

Joshua

In special week, Cycle B did a Global Issues Expo. We worked in groups and we had to come up with a company name, slogan and logo, and then created our presentation for the Expo.

My groups name was ‘Hungry 4 Change’. Our logo was a world with a bite taken out of it and our slogan was ‘Changing the World one bite at a time’. We made posters, power points, bookmarks and business cards for our presentation.

At the Expo we had parents, teachers, Year 9 students and Cycle A students. They came round to our stalls and asked questions about our organisations.

We also made beads, then jewellery to sell. To make the beads first we had to cut out some triangles from magazines then lacquer the beads, then once we had done that and had let it dry we made the bracelets, necklaces and earrings. This was my favorite part.

Jacinta

For Cycle B, Special Week was all about raising awareness of five world issues: water sanitation and hygiene; human trafficking and slavery; maternal and child health; insufficient income, and food and nutrition.

I found out so many things about these problems that I didn’t know. I mainly learned about water sanitation and hygiene, because that was my group’s issue. I learned that 1 in 9 people don’t have access to clean water. I also learned that every day around 4,500 people will die from diseases caused by unclean water, most of them children. Another thing I learned is that many children are unable to go to school, especially young girls, because they have to walk for hours to get water every day.

We didn’t only learn the bad things though. We learned about the organisations out there that go to the countries that are affected by this issue and start projects to help out. Sometimes they dig wells to get them fresh water. Other times they make pipelines from the fresh water source to several villages. They help in many other ways as well.

Malcolm
Year 9 Industry Week

It all started with resumes, cover letters and interviews for each Year 9 student to get given a job in Industry Week. Everybody has been involved with the departments such as: cooking, woodwork, textiles, media and sales, documenting and construction. Year 9s hard work went towards our Friday luncheon, our ‘Finders keepers’ stall and the gazebo and sandpit for the children’s playground. Our teams spent the week making delicious chocolate fudge, lemon butter, tomato relish, and wooden whistles, candle holders, jewellery and clothing accessories. The end results were amazing so a big “well done” to Year 9.

Alexandra
Year 9 Student

The ‘Finders Keepers’ Market

In the famous words of someone famous, “We put the dustry, “In-dustry Week””. It was wonderful to see the Year 9s take to their jobs like Velcro to a knitted jumper. They showed the qualities that would make them valuable employees in any industry they become involved in, in the future. They proved to themselves, and the world, that when they put their minds and passions to work, they are like sophisticated Oompa Loompas – they know how to work hard, obey instructions from their managers and have fun, all while being regular sized and maintaining great skin.

Don’t forget to check out our skilled craftsmanship by visiting the Finders Keepers Market today or tomorrow from 3:15 - 3:45 outside the Main Office. We guarantee that you won’t be disappointed.

Finders Keeper Market – Treasures Untold!

Thur and Fri, 3:15-3:45pm

Jonny
Year 9 Teacher
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.

Car for Sale
2012 Holden Commodore Omega V6 Auto Sedan VE REG until April 2014. Heron White. 11,000KM. Excellent condition with tow pack – basically a new car. Deceased estate. $20,000
Contact Ric.

Dance lessons
We are offering Dance classes to the MECS Community, in the Gym starting the second week of Term 4: Monday 21 October, 7:30-9pm (not on Monday of Cup weekend)
Total cost for the 5 sessions is $25 per person. Casey our instructor comes to us from Dancesport Kingdom in Lilydale and is really good and very patient! Come along, enjoy the company, get to know some new friends and have some fun.
Email Deb if you are interested and she will book you in.

Melbourne Playgrounds
Melbourne Playgrounds is a free online guide to thousands of Melbourne activities for the entire family. Activities cover playgrounds (more than 3800 reviewed with photos and ratings), Play Centres, Aquatic Centres, Skate Parks, BMX tracks, miniature train rides, sport and recreation, nature activities, museum & science, educational pursuits, indoor activities, hobbies and cultural activities such as music and dance.
There is also an extensive list of family activities outside Melbourne covering all of Victoria which is useful when planning a day trip or longer holidays within the State.

Caring for our Chooks
Is there a family who would like to mind (at school) our hard working two-legged egg-laying and earth-scratching friends for a week during the school holidays?
You would need to visit about 3 times over the week. At the end of the week the poo would need to be raked out and put in the compost, and a refresh of the hay in the laying boxes done if needed. Also place a little hay on the dirt floor if it has been wet to soak up the mud. During each visit please refresh the water and top up the pellets food. Of course, you get to keep the eggs, and pat the chooks!
Please email Liesje or phone the office and leave your details and I will phone you back.

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 Contact Stuart.

Orangutan Project Fundraiser
Disco for kids in Years 4, 5 & 6 to raise money for the Orangutan Project.
13 Sept. 7.30–9.30pm at Kilsyth Memorial Hall. Tickets $8. Drinks, chocolates and friendship bands also available. Facebook https://www.facebook.com/Grade456DiscoKilsyth

Movie Days
At Discovery Church, 89 Monbulk Rd, Mount Evelyn. Ph 9736 2323.
Wednesday 25 September ‘Cars 2’ and Wednesday 2 October ‘The Smurfs’ Entry by gold coin donation. Sausage sizzle and lollies for sale.

NOTICES SENT HOME THIS WEEK
(can also be downloaded from website)
• Careers NL (last week)
• Final Centre Trip Letter
• Cycle A Camp
• Message from Board Chair re New Principal
• Stationery Lists

LOST
2 x size 10 green polos have gone missing.
They both have iron on labels that say Jed M 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.