Grace dresses up for the ‘Children of the World’ project presentation day. See Page 6 for details.
A Time for Renewal

This term has seen a lot happen in a short period of time. We have recently announced that Narelle will be the new MECS Principal and as a school, we couldn’t be happier. We have been through a round of parent/teacher interviews and we are finishing with the Primary Trip that left Sunday morning, MS Special week, visiting students from Japan, excursions and sports days, and you can be reminded that MECS is a vibrant and busy place.

It’s been a difficult term for colds and flus. There have been significant health concerns for families and staff, which remind us that in our fast paced, action based lives, there is a need to take a break, slow down and rest.

As our Creator, God understands our limitations. He knows that our need for rest is fundamental to not only our physical and mental wellbeing, but also our spiritual wellbeing. His commandment to have a day of rest allows us to reconnect with Him, to communicate and hear his still, quiet voice.

As you and your family take time out, possibly travelling, pursuing other adventures in exploring His creation, or in other ways of recharging, remember that God’s desire is to be with us in a covenant relationship. May your time with Him over the holidays be a time of renewal and blessing as you seek the peace/shalom that God alone can bring. I know I will.

Peace, love and safety to you all over the break this term.

I would not have been considered a great player, having migrated from Sri Lanka, where we might have asked the question, “Aussie rules-what are the rules?”

1999 - Staff - Student Football Match.

The origin of the first MECS staff-student football matches, like the origin of Aussie Rules itself, is shrouded in mystery. No one really seems to know when the first game actually took place. However, they were certainly being played in the early 90’s and the last game was held in 1999. When we did play them, the first few games were male only affairs and the staff team had some great players: the chicken-legged Bob (9 AFL games with Collingwood), the terrier-like rover Allan (his dad played AFL Reserves with Collingwood), the man-mountain Geoff (natural athlete from Boort) and the Adonis Stuart (a gifted sportsman.)

Even though I played in every game, I would not have been considered a great player, having migrated from Sri Lanka, where we might have asked the question, “Aussie rules-what are the rules?”

However, not all migrants experienced the same level of difficulty. In 1996, Dr James (Jimmy) worked here for a term replacing Geoff who was on long service leave. He was picked to play in the game and the canny Croatian-American ended up mastering the mysteries of the oval shaped ball (his Physics background??) and kicked a lazy bag of six goals. I think we, the staff, won that game.

In an earlier game we placed the ageing Colin at full forward where he towered over the student fullback but alas his lack of mobility and the paucity of precise ball delivery meant that Colin did not snap a few that day. In the first game that Geoff played, I recall a moment where my life flashed before my eyes: I was bent low trying desperately to gather the ball when Geoff, trying to protect me by laying a ‘shepherd’ on my opponent missed and I found myself facing his rather large and formidable derriere moving rapidly towards me. How I got out of this I do not know but the image still haunts me to this day.

Finally, because this is a game of some passion, there were moments of sinful human behavior even on the sacred MECS oval. In the first 15 seconds of a game, Bob had tapped the ball to me, it found my boot and went sailing through the goal. I had just begun my celebration when Danny (Year 11) thudded into me with a bone-crunching late tackle designed to remind me that every future kick would have to be earned. Amidst the following outcry and boos, Danny not only had to deal with his dad but also Colin ‘the enforcer’ Smith who reminded him that he was on notice.

However, there were also many moments of grace and redemption on the sacred turf. Probably the greatest was in our last ever game in 1999 when the ageing staff team was being soundly beaten. Colin S’s son Ben and my son Ross joined the staff team for the second half and we began to win. Ross took a mark at centre-half forward and while he could easily have kicked the winning goal chose to pass the ball to his dad who was loose in the goal square. Not only did I drop the mark, but in the ensuing scramble, I missed the goals from directly in front and kicked a point.

So why don’t we play any more you ask? Well, curiously, the staff team aged while the students all seemed to remain the same age. Also, we got injured. We suffered cracked ribs (Russell/Rusty), hamstring strains, bruised muscles and egos so finally Stewart the principal said “No more”.

Dr Roger, SS Teacher
Positive Boys Billycart Races

What a privilege it has been to see our Year 6 boys working in teams building and racing billycarts! Our Positive Boys program has been a real highlight for everyone involved this term. It is something that the students have looked forward to each Friday leading up to the all important race day.

Throughout this term we have spent time on Friday afternoons not only building our billycarts, but also in challenging ourselves to think about who we are and where we fit into God’s world as budding young men. We started the term with a team building day at the Oasis camp in Mount Evelyn and had Pastor Liam come in and speak to us the following week.

Friday saw the finale to our great term’s work with the Billycart Race. The big race included each driver navigating their way through two laps of the lower half of the primary school and then a time trial to finish off. We started by having a wheel fall off one cart, bearings falling out of numerous others and to top it all off, a nut came adrift from the front axle of another. By the end we had over 20 boys who gave the race their all and had an absolute blast, with some boys asking if each Friday we could have another race. We had a couple of carts spin out, another hit a pole but we praise God for blessing us with a great day and no serious injuries.

I have really enjoyed working on this project and in the Positive Boys program this term; we should all be really proud of these young men and what they have achieved individually and as a team. Don’t forget, Dads - the Bloke’s Night is happening on Wednesday 16 October at 7.30pm, where you will get to see and share in some of the excitement from our race.

Ben
Positive Boys Coordinator

Kindergarten Visitor

The Possum and Koala children have been learning about Our Country, Australia. Last week Eva Jo came to talk with us about Aboriginal culture, weapons such as spears and boomerangs, the flags, art, music and dance. After dancing Australian animal movements to the digeridoo Eva Jo painted a water design on our arms. God made Australia wonderfully diverse!

Wendy
Early Years Coordinator
Music Notes
Yes! We are taking Term 4 enrolments for lessons with our brilliant team of caring and talented Instrumental Specialists. It’s quite a short term, but that makes for a great opportunity to try out an instrument and just see if it suits you. It will give you a head start for 2014, and you can hire an instrument from a shop just until you’re sure it’s the instrument for you. You can find the enrolment form on the website under School Life. Extra Activities, Music, or you can pick one up at the office.

Kerrie
Instrumental Tuition Coordinator

MECS Notes
Enrolments at MECS
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

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

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

Community Meals
Thank you! (but more needed)
There are families in our school community who need some practical support. This week we were able to help 8 families with meals, families who have experienced sickness, death and hardship. Thank you so much to the people who have been able to make meals for the freezer. As fast as they come in they go out! Please keep them coming. Many thanks.

Nicole & Amanda
Community Relations Officers

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

Year 9 Girls Time Capsule
A Day In The Lives...
The Year 9 students have just completed an indepth study on the Industrial Revolution as part of their unit on the Making of the Modern World. Each student was given a role to play within a family. Researching specific information about this time in history enabled the family groups to create two time capsules representing their family’s life. One took a snapshot of family life pre-industrial Revolution and the other during this period. Each time capsule contained a letter from each family member and a number of items of significance to them. The students demonstrated a wonderful ability to infer what items would have been most valuable, made life easier or demonstrated what was happening in the world at the time.

Sue, MS Coordinator

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

• Great food and coffee
• Activities for the kids
• Jumping Castle
• History displays
• Bands
• Meet MECS community members past and present

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

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

On Ancient Times day we had to dress up as a character from Ancient Egypt, Ancient Rome or Ancient Greece. We pretended that we were on a chat show and Mel interviewed us and we had to have an answer that showed Mel that we knew about our character’s life from the research we did through the term.

Brooke

Ancient Times day was really fun because we had to have interviews on this funny talk show called ‘Cleochatra.’ Mel ran the show and she was Cleopatra she looked amazing! All of our class had an interview with Cleopatra (Mel) and the other classes had interviews with their class teacher and we were all dressed up in either Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece or Ancient Rome. We had to choose to be someone from the place we had chosen to research and had to chose an appropriate name from that place. We all gathered in the amphitheatre to have a photo of us in our awesome costumes. I was a rich Greek woman named Cassandra. It was funny wearing our costumes for most of the day - we could take them off at lunch. Ancient Times day is going to be memorable for a long time. It was great fun dressing up and doing the projects!

Tyra

The Ancient Times project was one of the highlights of the year. Every one, if not most, were looking forward to it. We were told to write down what we wanted to be for our project. I wrote down ‘Egyptian tomb raider’; I got the role with Brad. I was so excited.

Tim

MECS Notes

Drama for Everyday Life

Program Term 4

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. A research partnership with Latrobe University has recently been completed that confirmed these reports.

Each session consists of three main components that assist students in addressing conversation skills and non-verbal cues via role plays. Through this program, students are provided with skills to successfully manage a number of everyday situations, including:

- conflict
- meeting new people
- friendly conversations
- anxiety
- losing at games
- sharing and taking turns
- appropriate skills for the workplace (for senior students)
- identifying and expressing emotions

Students currently enrolled and new students are invited to join the program in Term 4, 2013. Students who have previously participated benefit from the ongoing nature of the program. Generally programs run for 6 – 8 weeks, depending on the school term program with camps and other activities.

Term 4 Program

Primary Students $110 for 6 weeks. Thur 7, 14, 21, 28 Nov & Thur 5, 12 Dec.

Middle School Students $75 for 4 weeks. Thur 14, 28 Nov & Thur 5, 12 Dec.

MECS recognises the positive impact of Drama for Everyday Life, and has subsidised the program for a number of years.

If you would like your child to attend in Term 4, please ask for a form from the Main Office and return as soon as possible. If you have any questions, requests or suggestions, please contact me at school by telephone or email.

Shirley
PS Ed Support
MECS Notes

Canteen News
During Term 3 I have been filling in for Sheryl Beams in the canteen, and I can’t believe how fast it has flown by. I would like to finish up by thanking the Mums who volunteer.

Over winter, illness often interferes with our roster, and this winter was no exception. So a big THANKYOU to those mums who did extra canteen shifts, or swapped at the last minute. Your willingness to help and flexibility is appreciated.

We had another new mum join our roster this term, but still need a few extra volunteers to fill term 4. If you are able to help – even if it’s only for a few hours, please contact the office.

Thanks again,
Keryn

Ranges TEC Open Campus
Is your child a hands-on learner? Does your child need a Year 10 pass to explore his/her career options? Would your child prefer an interactive environment that focuses on character building and development as well as learning?

If so, Ranges TEC may be the place for them.
We are a Christian Trade Training Centre, located in Lilydale and are passionate about assisting young people on their career and faith journeys.

We offer an interactive, challenging and exploratory Year 10 program including ‘tasters’ such as: Furniture making, Kitchen Operations, Electro technology, Aero Skills, Engineering, Horticulture and Building and Construction.

For the Senior Years (Yr 11 and 12), we offer VET Cert II courses and the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL).

For more information, come to our ‘Open Campus’, Saturday 12 October from 10am – 1pm.
Alternatively contact us beforehand to arrange a personalised tour.

Sausage Sizzle Thanks
The Year 9 Service Group would like to thank all of those that supported our Sausage Sizzle last Thursday lunch time.

We were able to raise $700 which will pay for a playground and equipment for Jinja Christin School in Uganda. They are thrilled as are we!

Anne will send photos soon!
Sharon
Year 9 Service Teacher

JP Children of the World
On Children’s Day all the JPs dressed up. I was a little Italian girl. I was wearing a skirt that my Nona made, and the left overs were on my head. It was red and white.

I went inside and set our little table with our project and I brought sauce that we make at Nona’s and pasta. I also brought my Mum’s scrap books. I brought in two pictures of my brother making sauce, I got lots of customers who came to my stall. Then I looked at other people’s ones. They were good. Then we went to play outside. It was fun. The End.

Lily

We invited our Mums and Dads to our Children’s Day and we got everything ready. We blew up balloons. They were all kinds of colours and they were big and small. My Mum finally came and we finally got to show our Mums and Dads our project. My Mum said she was proud of me. Once we all got to see everyone’s project we played some games and our Mums and Dads had to go. I loved Children’s Day!

Isobelle

For Children’s Day I worked with Taj on a poster about China. They have a lot of different foods that we now have in Australia too like noodles, fried rice and dumplings. China has more people living on it than any other country on Earth.

Josiah

It was a fun day. We got to see other people’s posters and even eat foods from other countries. I ate pappadums from India and croissants from France but there was also churros from Spain as well as other foods. We played a game from Brazil called Cinco Marias as well as other foods. We played a game from Brazil called Cinco Marias.

Asher

Yesterday it was Children’s Day. All the JPs dressed up as the country they were studying. I dressed up as a Dutch girl.

Our Mums and Dads came to see our projects.

I found out that Dora the Explorer comes from Spain!

Kiara

On Children’s Day I dressed up as a Swedish soccer player and I put face paint on. My country was Sweden. Lots of people came.

Toby
Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls! Get ready for the show of a lifetime brought to you by the Year 8, 9 and 10 Performing Arts students of 2013! Full of laughter, fun and fairy tales, this show is not to be missed. Over the last couple of terms, the thetrette has been battered and bruised (figuratively speaking of course!) by a group of performers seeking to entertain! Through all of the blood, sweat and tears, we have been working to put together a wonderful light-hearted show that will keep you laughing all the way through.

Fairytale High is the story of a high school filled with characters you may already have heard of, but never like this. Ever imagined that there could be a romance between Jack (the one who climbed the beanstalk) and Goldilocks? Or that a wicked queen might double up as a school counsellor competing against Snow White, the Home Economics teacher, for the title of Teacher of the Year? Or that little Pinocchio could go from a lying wannabe to teen heart-throb? Well come join us at the performance and you'll see all of this and more!

MECS Theatrette, 7.30 pm Thursday 14 November.
Admission $5, $3 concession.
Alyssa & Shannan

MECS TOURS
[Student's Name]
C/- Alice Springs Post Office
NT 0870
Post by Thur 19 September

MECS TOURS
[Student's Name]
C/- Yulara Post Office
NT 0872
Post by Mon 23 September

Postman Pat...Make sure you write to your loved one in Central Australia. We strongly recommend that all parents write (early in the trip) to their son or daughter, as this will really help to stave off any homesickness they might be experiencing. It is also very hard to be one of the few not to receive any mail. The last days that we will be collecting mail are Tuesday 24 September in Alice Springs or Friday 27 September at Yulara (Uluru). Letters may be sent to the addresses as shown on this page, with MECS TOURS written very prominently (write it in a box), to ensure that mail is not misdirected. Allow a week for delivery to be sure your child receives their mail.


**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.

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**Needed - Camp Equipment**

Needed - all equipment for Wilsons Prom Camp. We have been overseas for 10 years and don’t own any camping equipment. If you can help us out with a hiking pack and cover, light weight mat and sleeping bag, hiking tent and/or stove please contact Kylie.

**House for Rent Needed**

I am a Christian lady (39) who is looking to relocate from the Valley to Mount Evelyn or surrounding areas to be closer to teaching work/church by the end of the year. I am also keen on finding a flat mate who is responsible and reliable and pleasant.

I am looking for at least a 2 bedroom house with a suitable back yard (pet) and facilities such as a bath, air con, dishwasher and garage. If you know of anything suitable please contact me (Kat).

**Wyreena Community Arts Centre Holiday Program**

Wyreena run a number of art programs throughout the holidays for around $30 per session including materials. Includes: mobiles, crochet, pottery, painting on canvas, paper making, photography etc.

**Book Early.** These Programs fill up fast.

Please call the office on 5294 5590 to enroll. Full payment at time of booking.

13-23 Hull Road Croydon 3136.


**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.

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**Stop Human Trafficking Fundraiser**

The A21 Campaign is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that works to fight human trafficking.

www.thea21campaign.org. Thur 10 Oct Movie Premiere of ‘Diana’, Palace Balwyn Cinemas, 231 Whithorse Rd, Balwyn. 5.30pm Silent Auction, Gourmet Food and Hot drinks. 6.30pm Movie. Tickets $25 purchased online.

Bank details: Commonwealth bank-freedom fighters BSB 063239 ACC # 10512618. Please send email to kelly once payment has been made with transaction number and e-ticket will be forwarded. Contact Kelly with any questions.

**Penny Mentiplay**

**Tuning in to Kids**

‘Tuning in to Kids’ is an effective six session parenting program that focuses on developing your child’s emotional intelligence. Research shows that children with higher emotional intelligence do better in a range of life outcomes.

For Parents of children aged 3–7 years. Held at Ruskin Park Primary School, Ruskin Avenue, Croydon on 6 consecutive Wednesdays, 7 to 9pm from October 16.

Cost: $200 single, $300 couple.

To secure your place please contact facilitators: Dr Rachel C (Clinical Psychologist).

Ashley.

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**MECS Calendar**

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** is 11am Tuesday on published week.

Email articles (images attached as jpg) to the Newsletter Office.

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**NOTICES SENT HOME THIS WEEK**

(can also be downloaded from website)

- Kindergarten Connections No 8
- Careers Newsletter Sept 19
- Year 3-6 Stationery List Information
- Year 4 Kids with Courage
- Year 11 Legal Studies Excursion
- Year 10 Elective Letters
- Year 5 IMAX Excursion