Adventures in Wonderland

Emma was the Queen of Hearts in the fabulous Primary Production - Adventures in Wonderland. More on Pages 6 and 7.

EGM Tonight!

Primary Production DVDs can still be ordered - see page 8.
The Monday at the start of each term sees the school roar back into life. There’s a real buzz in the air as the kiss n’ drop fills up with parents and students kissing and dropping and the buses arrive filled with eager students to begin a new term after a long a restful break.

Looking back
As we look ahead into Term 4, I’d like to just take a minute to look back to the end of Term 3 and congratulate the Primary staff and students on the amazing Primary school production. What a mammoth amount of preparation, persistence and patience – but so very worth it! What a colourful, entertaining, humorous and professional performance. A massive thank you to all those who put in so much effort to make it so great for both the students involved, and all the many family and friends who had the enjoyment of watching.

Looking forward
Term 4 is an interesting one in the life of a school. Year 6 & 9 students are beginning to outgrow their status as the eldest in their sections. Planning is rapidly occurring to organise, dare I say it, ‘end of year events’. Just as the shops are gearing up for Christmas, the school also has a sense of preparing for the end of the year and looking forward to 2014. But let me say, ‘not yet’. Term 4 is a wonderful time of celebration and enjoyment and there’s no rush.

This year’s Term 4 brings us the wonderful opportunity to celebrate MECS’ 40th Anniversary with the Festival Reunion Day (make sure you don’t miss it… it’s shaping up to be a fantastic day). We also have the EGM with the Kinder dedication and community dinner this week, as well as the wonderful celebration that is the Year 11 Formal – the chance to celebrate student growth and the families and positive influences that impact on a student’s life. In two weeks, the Year 12s finish their classes - this last bit of time with them is surely something we don’t want to rush but rather, savour, as we come to the end of the years of relationship, investment and ministering that has occurred. And towards the end of Term, we will say an official farewell to Martin Hanscamp – the closing of another chapter.

So welcome to Term 4, and as we travel through it, let’s engage with and enjoy every minute of it.

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.

You’re Invited!
Well Done Keanu

Congratulations to Keanu for winning the ‘Are you Fire Ready?’ campaign Art Competition. Congratulations also to the other prize winners from MECS - Alexia, Rian and Micah. On the right is a photo of Keanu with the poster the Fire Service made of his artwork.

Heather
Newsletter Editor

MP Celebrations

On Thursday 5 September, the MPs exhibited their ‘Celebrations of the World’ presentations. These were some of the celebrations: Thanksgiving, Saint Patrick’s Day, Life of Buddha, Children’s Day, Hanukkah, Saint Lucia and Carnival. We wrote information on each celebration and we also dressed up in the colours of the different country flags.

Emmerson & Azrielle

MECS Notes

Drama for Everyday Life

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. It is currently subsidised. Parents, teachers and students 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. 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), and identifying and expressing emotions.

MECS is once again participating in the AASC program in Term 4, 2013.

In Term 4 activities to be offered are:

Monday 3:45pm – 4:45pm: Basketball (fun games and ball skills)
Thursday 3:45pm – 4:45pm: Badminton (discover skills in a fun way)

The program will run for 7 weeks beginning 21 October, 2013.

Children attending will be offered fruit for afternoon tea prior to the activities commencing. Please ensure that your child brings a refillable water bottle to each session.

The program will offer fun, safe and inclusive activities which will provide children with the opportunity to develop their motor skills. It also promotes a healthy lifestyle in a comfortable, non-competitive environment.

If you would like your child to participate in this program, please complete a parental form (available from the office) and return this to the office by: Friday 18 October.

This is a free program and places are limited.

For further information, contact the Main Office.

AASC

The Active After-school Communities (AASC) program is a major component of the Australian Government’s package ‘Building a Healthy, Active Australia’ that aims to improve the health and well-being of Australian children.

MECS is once again participating in the AASC program in Term 4, 2013.

In Term 4 activities to be offered are:

Monday 3:45pm – 4:45pm: Basketball
(fun games and ball skills)
Thursday 3:45pm – 4:45pm: Badminton
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For further information, contact the Main Office.

Shirley, PS Ed Support
Year 10 Centre Trip

The Centre Trip for 2013 saw the coach, bus and fifty plus students head for the centre of Australia. Gavin, our trusty driver, saw us onto the roads less travelled and for many students this was a completely new experience. Being away from home for 18 days, being with friends all the time, rougher camping conditions, dust, bandies and many other challenges had to be met.

The road trip headed straight for Yuendumu and we spent 4 days there as visitors to that great little community with which that we have had a relationship for so long. Students found a high level of acceptance in the community and the experience led many to rethink their understanding of indigenous Australia.

The trip home saw visits to such classics as Kings Canyon, Uluru and Kata Tjuta. Many saw the hike through the Valley of Winds as one of the highlights of the camp. The size of Uluru never seems to stop amazing people even after several visits and it was with regret that we started the trip home from there. A stop at Coober Pedy to sleep in the underground rooms is a ‘homeward bound’ highlight as was the attempted rescue of a family that was bogged at Lake Hart. We saw them off to the closest place to get help and continued our run home to meet with parents on the Wednesday evening for a hot shower and a good meal back with family.

Special thanks to the camp staff that put in many hours to make the whole camp possible.

Cliff
SS Coordinator

In the silence

The lights blink out like a village of fairy houses going to sleep for the night

When you embrace darkness, only then can you truly see light

Look up to the sky

I see a rainbow of silvers bursting from their black canvas. The milky way is like a sprinkle of mellifluous smoke in front of a spotlight

Look up now with undistracted eyes

I see a joyful and anticipant herd of wild brumbies racing through smoky snow, the wind whipping their manes into majestic tangles. They sing symphonic choruses Melodious, harmonic stars Traveling through the sky Like purity Like freedom

This sky is an enormity Like I have never seen before This silence speaks a million words But at the same time None At all

As the lights around me flicker back on like lanterns bobbing on a river, and the serene surroundings become light again, I heed the honest light fade. A vision of my blindness

Shannan

Melinda
First Aid Officer

It was another action packed, amazing Centre Trip. Fifty kids, 10 staff, 4 cooks, 18 days, 7000 km, sleeping under the stars, 5.30 wake ups, spending time with the Warlpiri community at Yuendumu, climbing the canyon, walking round the rock, surviving dust and electrical storms, great camp meals, singing on the bus, campfires, road kill, sketching, wildflowers and lizards, dealing with injuries, illnesses and night time vomiting, leading a small group of 7 amazing young kids, and being challenged anew about the issues confronting our indigenous people. Best way to spend the holidays!
MECS Notes

Volunteer for Prep class
- to work with a student who has English as a Second Language

A volunteer is needed for language activities in 10-30 minute sessions from 1 to 5 times per week (depending on availability) during Term 4.

Any assistance available will be of great benefit.

Activities would be provided with guidance from the teacher. They would include:

- practicing pronouncing words correctly
- saying and labelling the names of objects or parts of familiar things as they are drawn or put in place
- imaginative play eg with a dolls house giving directions and chatting, and repeating back sentences correctly within the conversation

If you are interested in volunteering to help in this way and have a current Working With Children Card, please contact Jan.

Costumes for Nativity Play

As we are coming up to our Christmas GT, we are planning to represent the Nativity story in some way, and are thinking about freshening up our costumes and adding to our collection, as we have a large group of Preps this year.

As ‘Onesie’ type animal costumes are very popular now but cannot be used once outgrown, if they are headed for the op-shop, perhaps they could be put to use in our annual Prep Christmas play instead.

Any barnyard animal costumes, suitable cloth for shepherd outfits, or angel-like dresses, wings, gold or silver tinsel, cord or tassels would be most appreciated. Thank you,

Jan & Rebekah
Prep Teachers

A note of thanks to MECS

My name is Tracey E and I recently met your Year 10 students and teachers whilst on holidays in the Northern Territory. I found myself in a dire situation with my three children and your wonderful students and staff came to my aid whilst they were on their Year 10 Central Australia trip. Their kindness and generosity will always be remembered and I wanted to formally thank each and everyone of them for their assistance. It is a true credit to MECS to have such fine and caring citizens representing your school. Many thanks again.

Yours sincerely,
The E family

Jordan

Surrounded by trees
I come across another tribe
I drink from the fresh lake
I cover the caves with dreaming
I listen to the desert wind
This is my homeland.

Surrounded by rubbish
I come across another tourist
I drink from a beer can
I cover the streets with graffiti
I listen to the drunken fights
This was my homeland.

Two Voices

Surrounded by trees

I come across another tribe

I drink from the fresh lake

I cover the caves with dreaming

I listen to the desert wind

This is my homeland.

Surrounded by rubbish

I come across another tourist

I drink from a beer can

I cover the streets with graffiti

I listen to the drunken fights

This was my homeland.

Jordan

Justin

Alex

Yuendumu

Two Voices

Surrounded by trees

I come across another tribe

I drink from the fresh lake

I cover the caves with dreaming

I listen to the desert wind

This is my homeland.
Adventures in Wonderland

Wow! It is with unique opportunities like our recent Primary School production of Adventures in Wonderland that a MECSican (that is, a member of the MECS community) can feel immensely proud of our Primary School students. From the gorgeous dance routines of our Preps to the creative characters played by our Senior Primaries, this year’s production was a big success!

We had an excellent team of staff and parent helpers who made it all possible but the real credit goes to our Primary students who were fantastic. Seeing our students walk nervously on stage but leave with a look of achievement and confidence will always be my highlight of the production.

Ali
SP Teacher
Adventures in Wonderland

Hope

Jodie & Ashlin

Addison

Jessica

Prep C

MPA

JPS

MPO

The Cards

SPB

JPM

MPC

SPD

JPR

Ashton & Mason

Sarah

MPO

JPR

SPD

Prep C

MPA

MPC

SPB

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

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**MECS COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**Dance Lessons for Adults**

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. Caseay 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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**Donations of Goods for Orientation Show bags**

On Orientation day in early December the new students coming to MECS in 2014 receive a show bag of goodies. If your family has contacts with companies that would be willing to make a donation of goods I would love to hear from you.

**Amanda, Community Relations**

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**Beautiful Emmaljunga Pram for Sale**

This is an old fashioned type, navy blue, two-in-one pram and stroller. Old but in great condition. Any offers considered!

Contact Marlene at school.

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**Dollarmite Banking**

Remember, Dollarmite Banking is held every Wednesday. There is a new competition happening in Term 4 with exciting prizes. Simply make two or more deposits from 21 October to 30 November and you will be automatically entered into the competition. There are 60 Apple 16gb iPod touches and 100 Adventure DVD Packs including Despicable Me, Despicable Me 2 & HOP to be won. So remember to bring your banking each week and let’s see if someone from our school can win one of the prizes.

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**Seville Community House**

This community centre runs a number of community programs including craft for kids as well as cooking, computers, health and wellbeing, training courses etc. For more information phone or email Website sevillecommhouse.org.au. 8 Railway Rd, Seville.

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**Primary Production DVDs**

Post-event DVD orders cost $35 and can be ordered from the link below. They will deliver the DVD to the school. The order form in the checkout has a place for the school name so you get the correct DVD.


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**Remember the Working Bee!**

This Saturday 19 Oct
8am-1pm
Morning Tea Provided

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**NOTICES SENT HOME THIS WEEK**

(can also be downloaded from website)

- AASC Program Term 4 - For PS
- Oct Working Bee Letter
- Blokes Night Out Year 6 Boys
- Year 6 Rock Climbing Notice
- Year 5 IMAX Excursion
- Prep Term 4 Newsletter
- SP Newsletter
- JP Newsletter
- Canberra Camp
- Primary Tribal Athletics
- SS End of Year Letter
- SS Headline Letter
- Open Village Newsletter
- Preps Night Out Notice
- Year 6 Puberty Letter
- Kinder Connections
- Cycle B Wetland Excursion & Ecology Camp