Some of our gorgeous Year 11s at the Formal

Our Year 12s say Goodbye to School

You may or may not remember the end of your schooling... how you felt on your last day, or after your last exam. Did the end of school for you mean moving into another chapter of study? Did it present the opportunity to use your gifts in an area of trade? Or maybe it presented a period of uncertainty... of not knowing what the future held for you.

As Year 12 rolls through, the pace of VCE studies requires students to have their 'nose to the wheel'. There's little time to contemplate the end and then all of a sudden, there it is - surprising, stealthy and for a fleeting moment, satisfying.

For so many years, school has represented a place of meeting, a place of consistency and routine. The structure of devotions groups, set classes and timetables; the consistent group of peers and teachers have all provided essentially a stable place. You know what you are going to get. But the finishing of school means changes. It means big goodbyes, new horizons, new relationships, maybe the moving out of home... who knows?

For those of you with a Year 12 student, over the coming weeks, exams are the focus. It's a massive few weeks. There are feelings of helplessness as your eager yet stressed student navigates the short yet torturous period of exams. And then with that last pen stroke, it's over and gone. Nothing left to do other than ponder the time spent at school and the years ahead.

Ecclesiastes reminds us that 'there is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven'. Let's continue to hold the Year 12s in our prayers as one season ends and another begins. I wish all of the Year 12s and their families God's blessings at this time as you traverse the exam period. I hope and pray that God provides you Shalom in the midst of change.

MECS is turning 40!

Festival Day

Saturday October 26, 1-5pm

Come along and celebrate

- Great food and coffee, Devonshire teas, Sausage sizzle, Poffertjes (baby pancakes), Slushies, Fairy Floss
- Activities for the kids: Face painting, Animal Farm, Jumping Castle
- History displays, Centre Trip Videos, Memorabilia
- Band, Karaoke
- Meet MECS community members past and present
- School Tours
- And lots more!

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!
MECS Association EGM

Last Thursday night was an exciting one! We started with the Kindergarten Dedication in the Kindergarten Foyer, an opportunity to acknowledge the hard work of many who helped establish our Kinder and thank God for this wonderful provision. Wally (past MECS teacher) wrote a proposal in 1996 recommending that MECS needed a kindergarten - this has been a long held dream of many staff and parents that have gone before us. Wally was able to join us for the Dedication, and unveiled the plaque. (More about the Kindergarten dedication and photos in next week’s ReConnect.)

We moved up to the Staff Room for a Community dinner. The EGM started at 7.30 and we looked at next year’s budget, passed some changes to the Rules of the Association and heard some of the history of the MECS Association. The Association was founded in 1964. We acknowledged two of the longest serving members - Truus (joined in 1964) and Dorothy (joined in 1966). Both of these wonderful women have gone to be with the Lord but their descendants continue to be involved at MECS as students, parents, staff members and board members. We praise God for the health of our Association and pray for that health to continue into the future. If you would like to know more about Association membership please come and see me.

Nicole
Community Relations Officer

Cycle A Practice Hike to Silvan Dam

Last Tuesday the students of Cycle A undertook the first of two practice hikes in preparation for our upcoming Wilson’s Prom Hiking Camp. The weather was stunning and a gentle breeze made the hike up to Silvan Dam very pleasant. We enjoyed our lunch up at the dam and some students took the opportunity to practice setting up their tents and cooking on their camp stoves.

The journey back to school was slightly warmer but just as nice. Students worked very well during the hike to encourage each other and walked at a cracking pace. We eagerly look forward to our next practice next week, when we hike in our Prom Camp groups with packs ready to go!

Sharon
Cycle A Teacher
MECS Notes

Future Enrolments at MECS

One of the great ways people come to know about MECS is by personal invitation and referral by our current families. We appreciate this greatly. If you have friends and family who would be interested in Christian education, please encourage them to telephone the school to speak with either Nicole or Amanda regarding coming in for a personalised tour of the school.

We are currently processing enrolments for 2015, 2016 and future years. If you have a sibling of a currently enrolled student whom you would like to be considered for a position at MECS, 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 the Registrar, Christine, via the office.

Please note that if your child is not attending MECS in 2014, the school requires one full term's notice in lieu of leaving MECS.

Amanda and Nicole
Community Relations Officers

Hand held devices - Security

Reminder to Primary Families

This is a reminder that children who have an ipod, phone or any other hand-held device, are to hand it in to the office for the duration of the school day. This mostly pertains to students who travel on the bus.

Primary students should not have a hand held device stored in their school bag or in their classroom. This helps with security and also restricts availability to devices during the school day. Devices should be handed into Cassie Nation in the main office at the beginning of the school day and can be collected at home time.

Thanks for your cooperation in this matter.

Di
PS Coordinator

Year 8 Puppets with Prep

On Friday of last week the Prep students were treated to puppet performances to a variety of children's songs. The Preps enjoyed the interaction with the puppets, and some even came up the front to deliver their own mini performances.

The Year 8 students always enjoy the chance to interact with the younger children and work on developing their puppet performance skills.

Sharon
Year 8 Drama Teacher

Wrestling

Over the September holidays, three MECS wrestlers and two parents flew to Sydney to train and then participate in the National School-Age Wrestling Championships. Our boys won 3 medals: Jacob had 2 wins and 2 losses finishing with a bronze medal. Damien also had 2 wins and 2 losses and finished with a gold medal. Jake started the day by pinning his first opponent in 28 seconds. He went on to win 4 of his 6 matches with 3 pins. Jake earned a bronze Medal.

We had a great time of bonding and our boys were incredible, tough and determined. Their outstanding results reflect up to 3 training sessions per week over 3+ seasons at MECS. In an age of 'give it a go then quit', these three students literally gave their blood, sweat and occasionally tears to the world's oldest sport. Congratulations to all three boys and we look forward to years of great results.

Finally, isn’t it appropriate that two of our three Nationals competitors are named Jacob after the greatest wrestler of all time? See Genesis 32:22-32 for more details.

A special thanks to MECS Primary School teacher Daniela for her ongoing support of MECS wrestling. She was one of our original managers as a Year 9 student in 2003 and as a teacher, she continues to give up her lunchtimes to support our wrestlers.

Adam
MECS Wrestling Coach

2013 11th Annual MECS Freestyle Grand Championships, Oct 16

winners

Girls 28kg Indigo
Boys 34kg Nathan
Girls 34kg Stefanie
Girls 45kg Tahlia
Boys 48kg Jake

Chloe

Celebrating 40 Years
Year 11 Mock Wedding

On the first Tuesday of Term 4, the Year 11 Legal Studies class set out to hold a marriage ceremony at River Valley Church as part of their study on Family Law. Two of our students, Corey and Erica, were ‘married’ by Andy who acted as Celebrant for the day. The ceremony was complete with formal wedding attire, non-alcoholic champagne and French Baroque music. Although both of the participants were underage, the ceremony contained several key legal criteria of a valid marriage including the reading of vows, the witness of adults and the signing of certificates. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the class enjoyed a very wedding-like reception, consisting of fish and chips by the banks of the Yarra River. The day ran smoothly, and the students not only enjoyed their opportunity to dress up and enjoy good food – but also learned much from our wonderful celebrant Andrew Bennett, who we would like to thank for his efforts in making the excursion a success.

Eryn & Lachlan
Year 11 Students

Positive Boys

Last Wednesday marked the end of our very successful Positive Boys program for 2013, with our annual ‘Blokes Night’. The night kicked off with a game of Skittles (Dads verses the boys) and, I have to say, it was a pretty shaky start by the Dads. They got thumped in the first two games, but bounced back in the third, only after being given Cooper and Michael to come over to help them out. We then had a flour filled stocking challenge which was very funny to watch. All in all, the games were played in a good spirit with a level competitiveness never seen at MECS before.

The boys and their Dads then had a chance to sit and chat together and reflect on the positives of being a young lad as well as a dad and what they admired about one another. In a growing culture of perceived ‘manliness’, emotion and talking about how we feel is often deemed ‘uncool’ for men, but is still a valuable tool in building relationships within families and our communities.

Karen McKenner and her team then blessed us with an amazing dinner. Any variety of meat that you could think of was cooked up beautifully accompanied by some salads and then some yummy dessert to finish off.

The final part of the evening was a very entertaining billycart auction. The amount raised from the sales will be donated to Jinga Christian School over in Uganda. After a very shaky start, we managed to raise well over $300 for our friends in Uganda. One Billycart, dubbed ‘Nito’ (meant to be Nitro but was spelt incorrectly), went for $70.

It was a fantastic evening, all the Dads really got into it and were given the chance not only to hear about how the Positive Boys program went, but also to be blessed and encouraged in the role they play as leaders of our families.

Ben
Positive Boys Coordinator

MECS Notes

Congratulations to Lanita & Asha

During the second week of the school holidays, Lanita and Asha competed in the Australian Schools’ Orienteering Championships. For Asha, the cost of participating in this competition was missing out on part of the Centre Trip. Both girls had extremely good runs and won their respective events and are therefore national champions! Lanita is the Australian Senior Girls champion while Asha is the Australian Junior Girls Champion. This is probably the first time that MECS has had two National Champions and so we offer both Lanita and Asha our warmest congratulations.

Lanita
Dr Roger
VCE Coordinator

Heat Protection for School

Over the school holiday break the school had a number of its roofs painted with a heat reflecting coating. The purpose is to cut down the heat load in the classrooms and so make them more comfortable in summer. In this way we can improve the physical learning environment without using more energy.

Gerry
Administration Manager
Year 11 Formal

Last Friday night the Year 11’s celebrated their second last year of school with a formal. It was a fantastic opportunity for students to look their best and put their dancing skills to the test. Students together with families and teachers, enjoyed a wonderful night filled with dancing, music and speeches. The night concluded with students taking home memories of fun, friendship and laughter. This event will be one to remember for a long time after. Thanks to Julian Distefano (nuanceimage.com.au) and Amanda Steele for the fantastic Photography.

Sam
Year 11
Year 11 Formal

Fred, Mike, Alex & Sam

Claire, Megan, Marion, Claire, Laura, Taylor, Lauren, Kia & Jess

Chloe, Kendra, Neesa, Sarah, Laura, Persis, Holly, Maddy

Aaron & Hannah

Ryan, James, Jai, Fred, Liam, Lachlan, Jakob, Joel, Aaron & Sam with teacher Paul

Fred

Claire

Jakob and Mum

Sarah

Celebrating 40 Years
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.

Sports Top orders for the PS Athletics Day
Do you need a Sports Top for your child for the Athletics Day on Wednesday 6 November? PLEASE pick up an order form from the office and return it no later than Thursday 31 October. This will be the very last opportunity to get Tribal tops, sports tops, short or hats as first day back after the Cup Weekend will be the Athletics Day.

Karen
Guinea Pigs for Sale
3 Baby boy guinea pigs, 8/9 weeks old, handled and tame. They are brown, white & black. Please contact Riley.

Donations of Goods for Orientation Show bags
On Orientation day on December 10, 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

Apple Man Fri 25 Oct
The Apple Man visits the school fortnightly at around 11.45am with the next visit tomorrow. He delivers 5-6 kilo bags of Pink Lady, Royal Gala and Fuji apples for $10, or for $8 Granny Smith apples, Golden Delicious apples or Brown or Green pears.

If you can’t be there to buy them yourself you can leave an order with the Main Office by 11am on the day and they will be available for you to pick up later.

Yellingbo CFA Fundraiser
Camelot Castle Medieval Village Fair
Family day at Camelot Castle, 2605 Healesville Koo Wee Rup Rd, Yellingbo Mel 308 F 10. Children’s themed activities, on site parking, cottage industry stalls, Medieval spit roast rolls, devonshire teas and free family entertainment. Gold Coin Donation. 27 October 10-4pm.

Talking about Childhood Asthma
Presented by The Asthma Foundation of Victoria and Royal Children’s Hospital Sunday 27 October 2013, 4pm - 6pm FREE! at Ella Latham Auditorium, Ground Floor, Royal Children’s Hospital, Melbourne
Ask questions, gain advice on: medications, diagnosis and asthma management from top Respiratory Specialists.
Light refreshments will be served and tickets are limited, therefore registrations are essential.
Attend the event at the Royal Children’s Hospital OR watch the LIVE Webcast online. Register at www.asthma.org.au.

Primary Production DVDs
These are ready for pickup at the Main Office.

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