Our Year 12s celebrate their last day of school

Kyle, Lanita, Teri & Stephanie put their 'game' face on for the Year 12 Celebration Day. More pages 6-7.
A Brush with Politicians

On Wednesday night, an intrepid bunch of CEN devotees made their way to Parliament House to meet with the State Education Minister, Mr Martin D and Mr Kim W, Minister for Police and Emergency Services and Bushfire Response.

The background to this dinner is that CEN have for the last three years purchased an opportunity to have dinner and some exclusive time with Mr Kim W, who kindly organises for the Education Minister (who for the last couple of years has been Mr D) to also attend, in order to discuss issues that are relevant to CEN and broad topics around Education. Suffice to say it was an excellent opportunity to talk about key issues relevant to our member schools. Here are some of the discussions had:

CEN Schools
We discussed the relationship between CEN and the Victorian Registrations and Qualifications Authority (VRQA). The VRQA have expressed being impressed by the leadership shown by CEN when it has been needed by its member schools. It was pleasing to hear Mr D comment on the effective way the recent merger between two CEN schools (South Coast and Chairo) has been handled, and to have him highlight the strength that exists within the CEN community.

Consistent funding model
The conversation turned to funding for schools and Mr D recognised our frustration and the difficulties caused by the lack of decisions and consistency relating to the funding model for schools. He understood the difficulty surrounding budgeting for schools like MECS and committed to putting a consistent approach to funding as a top agenda item. We await the outcome of these important meetings and pray that wisdom and equity is used to decide just outcomes for CEN schools.

Early years learning
I had the opportunity to comment about our kindergarten facility and Mr D demonstrated significant interest in Early Years education. I spoke about parents’ desire to begin Christian education in these formative years. We discussed the arduous compliance requirements on kindergartens. While Mr D highlighted how important these formative years are, I boldly suggested that funding should reflect this recognition of the importance of Early Years learning. He didn’t disagree so I look forward to seeing the plan for the next few years in terms of Early Years support.

Trade Training Centres
Both Minister Martin and Kim both showed significant interest in Trade Training. They were both impressed with how Donvale, Mountain District and Mount Evelyn Christian Schools were able to work together to see that these skills and gifts are honoured. We spent some time discussing the future of Trade Training centres.

It was a privilege to gain insights into the complexities of decision making at a State Parliament level. Please remember our leaders in your prayers as they make decisions that have significant impact on education in Victoria.

Going Solo - VCE Drama

On the evening of Wednesday 23 October, VCE Drama students presented their solo performances to a full house of family, friends and teachers in the theatrette.

Once again, it was exciting to see the students’ theatrical creations come together! The evening was also a practice run for Unit 4 students’ performance examination two days later. These students performed characters from the VCAA list comprising a hilarious Manuel from Fawlty Towers (Sam), a suspenseful Alfred Hitchcock (Damien), an eccentric celebrity cook, Fanny Cradock (Laura), a clownish personification of Luna Park known as Mr Moon (Isaac) and a menacing ‘film noir’ Detective, based on The Maltese Falcon (Nathanael).

Students in the Unit 2 course on Australian Drama performed a variety of characters based on research on the Vietnam War. We saw as a nurse, two soldiers, two journalists, two entertainers, a protestor and a gun!

The evening also included a wonderful VCE visual arts exhibition. Thank you to everyone who came along and supported our ‘artistes’!

Our next theatrical venture is the Performing Arts production, Fairy-tale High, on Thursday 14 November at 7.30 pm. (Next week).

Marlene
VCE Drama Teacher
Empowering Girls

Mother/Daughter Night – 23 October

In Term 3 the Year 6 girls participated in the Empowering Girls program. The last session is a Mother/Daughter night and this is always a highlight of the program. The girls brought along their mums and we had a lovely night sharing some of the things we had discussed and learned throughout Empowering Girls.

We laughed a lot, shed a few happy tears and had a really nice time encouraging each other and being thankful for the wonderful gift God has given us in our mums and daughters. We could all feel the love in the room!

Many thanks to Karen for the magnificent supper she lovingly preparing for us.

Olivia

Cycle A Practice Hike 2

On Monday 28 October we went on our second practice hike to Silvan Dam. We are hiking to prepare for our Wilson’s Prom Camp when some of us will be camping for 1 or 2 nights. This time most people cooked a meal and had their pack ready to go. In some ways it was a bit easier than the first hike because we had done it all before, but it was still a challenge. We are looking forward to the real camp in 2 weeks!

By 7/8AJ

EXO Day

‘Exo day’ was a Middle School event completely organised and run by a group of Middle School students, as a gift and an eye opening message that ‘Life is excellent (Exo) with God.’ A free sausage sizzle, fairy floss, jumping castle and inflatable soccer field were provided during lunch time. After lunch there was a dance crew, student testimonies, tribal wars, prize giveaways and our special guest speaker, Ben from Planetshakers church.

Alexandra
MS Student
Friends of MECS
Festival Thanks
A huge thank you to those parents who helped out at the Festival day. Your willingness to be involved is much appreciated!
Nicole
Community Relations

Fairy-tale High - Performing Arts
‘Fairy-tale High’ is coming up next Thursday evening (14 Nov) for our Performing Arts team! We’d love to see as many of you there to support our show that has been written by our own Marlene with some musical additions written and arranged by Annora.
The show starts at 7.30pm in the Senior School Theatrette and has a minimal cost of $5 adults, $3 students.
Look forward to seeing you there for a great night of fun, music and entertainment!
Annora
Music Coordinator

Past Student News
Congratulations to Taminka (class of ‘12) who has been chosen (along with two other students) to represent the Australian Catholic University Law faculty at the Young Leaders Initiative on Peace and Justice in Washington DC (USA) in February of next year. This is part of the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering.
Taminka was selected on the basis of an application to the Law Faculty. Her selection is a testament to not only her academic ability but also her Christ inspired passion for justice. We congratulate Taminka on this wonderful achievement and pray that she would be able to make a significant contribution to this gathering.
Dr Roger
VCE coordinator

A Note from Paul
‘A time to go’
It’s with sadness that I am moving on from MECS after 15 fantastic years. MECS has been a wonderful and amazing place to work and has been instrumental in my understanding of Christian education. I’d like to share with you a bit about the journey I’ve been on, that has led me to this decision.

When the Principal position at MECS became available, I was keen to apply. I’ve loved taking on the role this year and have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Principal. However, something didn’t sit right with me and I struggled to understand why I felt so uneasy about applying. I earnestly sought God’s direction, and after some time of stillness and listening, God made it clear to me that the MECS Principal position was not for me. Whilst I was disappointed, I knew this to be true and felt a strong sense of peace.

Over the coming weeks, I spent a lot of time discussing the future with my wife. Whilst I had a strong sense of peace about not applying for the MECS Principal position, I still had uneasiness and I began to see that God was calling me to broaden my Christian education horizons. Having spent 15 years at this amazing place, it’s time for me to experience Christian education in another environment. God was leading me elsewhere - and I responded to a call to Plenty Valley Christian College.

I love MECS with my whole heart. I could have easily stayed for the rest of my career and been very happy. But I feel God leading me through a time of change and growth in Christian education. While I look forward to the challenges ahead, my heart will always remain strong with MECS. I will always remember this time as a ‘life changing experience’ for which I will be forever grateful. Who knows, one day I might be back.

The Next Step - Hard Rock!
This term the Year 6s are working on getting ready to transition to Secondary School. Part of our unit ‘The Next Step’ involves a visit to the Hard Rock Indoor Rock Climbing Centre. This is always a great day of fun and challenge; but is also a learning experience as well.

After the excursion we investigate how rock climbing is like moving on to High School and what we can learn from rock climbing that will help us in our transition. This includes things like the need to have good support underneath us, being brave enough to make a start on a sometimes daunting climb, knowing how to place ourselves in positions that will help us move forward and knowing that we all ‘climb’ in different ways and different speeds - just to name a few. We had a wonderful day together climbing. We wish to especially thank all our parent helpers. Having so many meant that all of the Year 6s got plenty of opportunity to climb. Thank you very much!
Mel
SP Teacher

Celebrating 40 Years
Basketball & AFL

7/8 Basketball & Football
This year we played against students from Heritage and LAA in a round robin of basketball here at MECS. Our Year 7 boys won their games and the Year 8s needed more practice! Thanks to Mr Turner for running this on the day. It was a very friendly and enjoyable atmosphere. The girls played their games at LAA and the Year 7A team beat both of the other schools’ Year 8 teams. They were superb. The 7B team won one and lost one. Our 7 and 8 girls combined to play a game of football against a combined team from LAA and Heritage. We were the stronger team by a long way.

7/8 Super 8’s cricket
We took two Year 7 girls teams. One of our girls’ teams won all their games and would have gone on to the next stage had they not been on camp. Our other Year 7 girls team came 2nd. Our Year 7 boys struggled to win but showed determination and good sportsmanship right to the last game. Well done. Our Year 8 boys had a lot of fun and ended up 3rd overall. Thanks to Nicky for her involvement and sense of fun on the day.

9/10 Basketball
We had the same format for this day as for the 7 and 8s. It worked really well and allowed for really friendly competition. The Year 9 girls were 2nd and our Year 10 girls 3rd. Our combined Year 9 and 10 girls played really well against a combined LAA and Heritage team. The Year 9 boys won all games and drew one which made them the winners as each team played each other twice. Our Year 10 boys had some very close games but won them all and were the overall winners. Well done and thank you to Tim for running the day and Khosie and Skye for assisting.

Well done to all the students who participated in these days. You represent our school so well and make me proud every time.

Anne-Maree
Secondary Sports Coordinator

Results
Girls 26kg
1st - Indigo,
2nd - Jasmine

Girls 34kg
1st - Lani, 2nd - Stefanie,
3rd - Michelle

Girls 46kg
1st - Tahlia,
2nd - Victoria

Primary Rookies
1st - Oliver, 2nd - Rian,
3rd - Matthew, 4th - TJ,
5th - Josh

Primary Veterans
1st - Jacob, 2nd - Nathan,
3rd - Reuben, 4th - Dylan

The wrestlers’ last tournament for 2013 is Wednesday, Nov 5. It is a long and often painful season, so if you come across a wrestler, please pass on a word of encouragement. Their commitment and resilience is a credit to their families.

Adam
MECS Teacher and Wrestling Coach

Wrestling

With the 2013 MECS wrestling team heading into its 5th month (started in June), the wrestlers entered the Greco Roman part of their season. Wrestlers enjoyed adapting their tactics to the Greco-Roman style. Greco-Roman Wrestling is descended from the ancient Hellenistic style and was a feature sport in the first modern Olympics, the 1896 Athens games. Not being allowed to contact their opponent’s legs, the wrestlers focused on exciting throws such as the ‘headlock’, the ‘bear hug’ and the ‘lateral drop’ (otherwise known as the ‘over/under’).

The first of two Greco-Roman tournaments featured 16 wrestlers in a ‘takedown only’ format. The results were:

Girls 26kg
1st - Indigo,
2nd - Jasmine

Girls 34kg
1st - Lani, 2nd - Stefanie,
3rd - Michelle

Girls 46kg
1st - Tahlia,
2nd - Victoria

Primary Rookies
1st - Oliver, 2nd - Rian,
3rd - Matthew, 4th - TJ,
5th - Josh

Primary Veterans
1st - Jacob, 2nd - Nathan,
3rd - Reuben, 4th - Dylan

The following was the speech presented by MECS parent Andrea to our students from Years 10 and 11 who are leaving MECS at the end of 2013.

Last week at the MECS Kindergarten where I work, we were exploring and celebrating together the miraculous process of change that goes on, when a caterpillar becomes a butterfly. As we were watching real footage, the monarch butterfly emerged and it had tiny, insignificant wings. And then something amazing happened. Blood rushed down through those wings, so that they became huge, majestic, absolutely beautiful, and most importantly, strong enough to fly. And that is what is happening to the students who have spent time under the teaching, administration and care of this school.

You are being prepared for a life of flight. You are not just being filled with facts and information. Your curriculum has been steeped in love for God and love for the students. It has been soaked and marinated in God’s truths and in prayer. And it has been delivered to you over the years, with a rock solid commitment to building character in you that will give you wings, so that you can take flight when you leave and make a real difference to this world; so that goodness may go out from you and touch many, many lives; so that you will impact the world and be a catalyst for change.

Thank you teachers and support staff, for doing this for all of our children. For your prayers, your extra hours, your creativity, your humour, your continual studying, your seeking of God’s face and His ways, your giving of yourselves even when you feel you don’t have much left to give, and your enduring commitment. It is of great value to this world and it has an eternal significance which is immeasurable.

Thank you to all the students who have travelled alongside those who are leaving. For every time you encouraged them, for the moments when you chose kindness, for your playfulness, your support, your help, and most of all, your friendship. You too have shaped these young people into who they are today and we are grateful.

May our God, who is nothing but love, bless you all deeply in the years to come. May we all take this special bond with us in to the rest of our lives, this bond of belonging to a great community, who has educated and supported our children, with a hope that sustains and empowers them, into their future.

Andrea
Kindergarten Assistant & MECS Parent

MECS Notes

Celebrating 40 Years
Let’s Celebrate

For the Year 12s the last week of school is really a strange time, as it comprises a whole variety of emotions, from a sense of relief to one of sadness. Many students have been at MECS right from the beginning of their schooling, so for them in particular, this time of transition is a whole new adventure.

Over the years we have established a number of special traditions for the Year 12s in order to honour and celebrate with them. On their last day of classes a special morning tea is held where teachers from the Primary and Middle School have a chance to reflect on special times and events; this year’s reflections included a video clip of Kaine’s singing debut. At the conclusion of the day the Year 12s transform the SS in accordance with their Celebration Day theme. The theme this year was ‘Video Games’, where a number of classrooms were set up as gaming venues.

The following day, officially known as Celebration Day, comprises a cooked breakfast provided by the staff, a visit to the SS from the rest of the school, a visit down to the Primary and Middle school by the Year 12s, another yummy morning tea, a Year 12 led whole school assembly - this year complete with a ‘pokemon’ MECS video game, a staff/student volleyball game that somehow always results in a water fight and a special lunch in the Main Staffroom, where the SS staff and students reflect on the final years of schooling at MECS. If nothing else at the end of the celebrations, the students are definitely well fed!

We want to wish our Year 12s all the best with their exams, and look forward to completing celebrations at Graduation on Friday 22 November. We pray that God might grant them peace, and a solid knowledge of his infinite love for them both now and always.

Sharon
Year 12 Coordinator
Farewell to our Year 12s

The Year 11 Physics class recently went on an excursion to the Coldstream Airport, eventually getting there after a few mishaps with the bus. After being given a quick introduction about flying at ACMA (Australian Centre for Mission Aviation) we went out to play Microsoft flight simulator.

We were taken out one by one to go for a flight in a small two-seater plane. During my turn we flew around for a bit until the instructor gave control over to me and for about half an hour I flew a plane at two thousand feet in the air. Unfortunately all good things come to an end and I had to relinquish control back to the instructor and he went back and landed the plane. It really was a great experience and I’m incredibly glad I did it.

Fred, Year 11 Student
Sausage Sizzle Next Thursday!!
Prep - Year 9, Thursday 14 Nov.
Sausages in bread $2.50.
Cans of drink $1.00
ALL funds raised go to completing the playground at Jinja Christian School in Uganda.

Year 9 Service Class
Budgies for sale
8 to 12 weeks old, $10 each, Lilydale. Contact Samuel.

Accommodation Needed
A MECS family, single mum and five children require rental accommodation close to the school as soon as possible. Please contact Cherie if you can help.

Taekwondo Classes
Taekwondo classes are now being offered in Lilydale on a Monday evening. 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.

JDRF Diabetes Fundraiser
Sat 16 Nov, 10am-3pm, 428 Mount Dandenong Road Kilsyth. Gold coin donation for a family day out at Phil Munday’s. V8 Race Cars, American Muscle Cars, Pit stop challenge, meet drivers, get autographs, Travis and Cameron Cloke from Collingwood Football Club, food and much more.

Second Chance Fair
Buy unique products hand crafted by women from one of the largest slums in Bangkok giving these ladies a ‘Second Chance’ of a fair wage and employment. Find out more about Second Chance www.scbkk.org. Or to have a look at some of the great items visit the Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/creativewares.scbkk/info/
66 Viviani Cres, Heathmont, Mon Nov 11 from 7:30-9pm, Wed, Nov. 13 from 9:30am-12pm.
Or visit the Market at Doncaster East Baptist Church on 9 Nov from 9am-1pm or at the Fair’s Fair on 16 Nov at Truth and Liberation Church in Bayswater. If you need more details contact Eva.

Next Working Bee!
Saturday 16 November
8.00am-1pm
Morning Tea Provided

Book Fair November 7 – 12
Book Fair starts today...come join the fun!
Today, your (Primary school) children will come home with Book Fair wish lists. Please note that these are only wish lists and there is absolutely no obligation to buy. Prices start from as little as $1 and there are some terrific gift ideas, with books, posters, diaries and other stationery items available.
The Book Fair is being held in the Library and will be open from 8.30am to 4.30pm tomorrow (Friday) and Monday but only from 8.30am to 2pm Tuesday. As mentioned in last week’s newsletter, all commissions raised will go towards purchasing books for Jinja Christian School in Uganda, so come along and help support a great cause. Hope you can join us.