Candle Making on JP Camp

Hannah and Holly enjoy creating their candles on camp. More on Page 6.

14 November 2013
Experiential Learning

It’s Term 4 and with that comes, hopefully, better weather and a chance to do education a little differently. Next week Years 7-9 head off around the country for Camp Week. The camping program at MECS offers an opportunity for students to engage with God’s world in a way that extends beyond the four walls of the classroom, textbooks and the internet. It’s a chance to respond to the ‘real world’ with real challenges, dramas and achievements.

MECS focuses on these camping experiences because we believe they offer incredibly valuable educational outcomes. Primarily, students are able to connect and cement their class-based learning in a way that no other teaching strategy would allow. But there are many other reasons why this type of learning and experience is so valuable.

This generation of students desperately needs the opportunity to participate in new experiences that allow them to learn more about emotional and physiological responses, equipping them with skills necessary for adult life. Camps thrust children into an unfamiliar environment where they need to deal with many different emotions including excitement, freedom, anxiety, nervousness and wonder.

Our camping experiences allow students to:

• manage the uncertainty and ambiguity that comes when different scenarios present themselves, and find appropriate responses to these
• take responsibility for themselves in an unfamiliar environment
• experience community and contribute to it through personal interaction and seeing themselves as part of a larger community
• manage emotions and the impacts of these on decisions
• cast off technological hindrances and enjoy the simplicity of being in the outdoors.

Experiential learning takes students out of their daily routine and allows them the opportunity to show leadership, teamwork and compassion. There will be conflict and tears to deal with. At times, there may be disinterest in activities - but this encourages students to understand the need to take responsibility for their own learning rather than expecting to be entertained.

Camps develop independence, self-reliance, organisational and problem-solving skills and the opportunity to develop leadership skills where they may not necessarily naturally exist. Students need to learn to listen and communicate which develops key life skills.

MECS believes that students see ideas, themes and concepts in their ‘wholeness’ when out in the creation. The opportunity to engage with topics in this context allows for a richer and deeper understanding of God’s world, which ultimately brings students closer to understanding of who they are in God’s world.

It takes a lot of work to take a whole group of students on a camp. To our staff and parents who give up their time and energy – a big thank you. I look forward to hearing the stories that come from this wonderful opportunity.

Primary Tribal Athletics

MP Girls

SP Girls

Isobella

Ben

Rian & Pierre

Ruby

Celebrating 40 Years
Primary Tribal Athletics

On Wednesday 6 November the Primary School headed off to Morrison Reserve for our annual Tribal Athletics event. The day kicked off with our Junior Primaries running their 70m sprint followed by the rest of the students running in the 100m sprint. The 200m and 800m races led onto the field events. I was really proud of the way that the students got alongside and encouraged each other even though they might have been in different tribes. A highlight for me was when the Preps came to compete in their events and the rest of the Primary School lined the track and cheered them on. It gave the day a great community feel.

There were some great results this year with several MECS records broken:

**New Records**

100 metre
- 9yo Leah 14:37
- 9yo Joel 16:26
- 10yo Daniel 15:08

200 metre
- 9yo Indigo 37:04
- 10yo Reuben 33:70
- 10yo Anastacia 34:96
- 11yo Addison 32:20
- 11yo Eleanor 33:42

800 metre
- 9yo Rian 3:09

**High Jump**
- 9yo Leah 1.0m
- 9yo Jed 1.10m

**Triple Jump**
- 9yo Jessica 5:64m

**Discus**
- 11yo Jacob 19:57m
- 12yo Cooper 24:72m

Well done to all those that placed in their individual event and tried their hardest.

These days would not be possible without the helpers that come along. A big thank you to the parents who gave up their time to come and support the students and help with running events. Thank you also to the wonderful Middle School helpers who tirelessly measured throw after throw and jump after jump and handed out ribbon after ribbon. A very big thank you to the Primary Staff who were fantastic in the way they kept the day running smoothly.

A big congratulations to the Blue Tribe Wirri who won the day and to all the other competitors.

Derek
PS Sport Coordinator
MECS Notes

Goodbye to Matt

It is with sadness that we are farewelling Matt Macreadie at the end of this year. Matt has made a big impact in his short time here at MECS.

Matt will be taking up a position with his church ‘Empower Christian Church’ running the children’s ministry. He will be pursing some teaching work as well. Matt will be greatly missed by the MECS Junior Primary team and the children and parents. Matt will still be involved in the MECS community as a parent so it is ‘see you later’ not goodbye.

Di
PS Coordinator

Air Pollution and Asthma

School age students and young children with asthma can often have breathing difficulties when exposed to air pollution. Air pollution can occur:

Outdoors – smog (made up of nitrogen oxides and ozone), bushfires, cigarette smoke.

Indoors – formaldehydes/resins (some building materials), volatile organic compounds (found in paints, furniture, cleaning products), cigarette smoke, poorly maintained gas appliances.

The most important way to reduce the impact of air pollution on your child’s asthma to avoid the pollutant completely if possible.

- Stay indoors on high smog days, close windows and external doors
- Make sure you have a bush-fire plan if you live in a bushfire prone area
- Make sure your child’s asthma is well controlled and that you and your child know what to do if their asthma gets worse
- Make sure your gas appliances are serviced regularly by a registered or licensed gasfitter and that there is adequate ventilation in rooms containing gas appliances
- Choose building items, furniture, paints and wood items that are certified to emit low levels of formaldehyde and volatile organic compounds.

For more information about air pollution and asthma, contact The Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 ASTHMA (278 462) or visit www.asthma.org.au.

Friends of MECS

Stationery

Thank you to all those who have offered to help with the packing and sales days. The roster will be emailed out shortly. More help is needed for Thursday 30 Jan.

Help is also needed on the following days as I set up the stationery room and unpack the new stock:

- Thursday 28 November (am) – emptying storeroom and bringing up to Senior School.
- Friday 29 November – unpacking and sorting new stock.
- Monday 2 December – unpacking and sorting new stock.
- Tuesday 3 December – unpacking and sorting new stock (if not finished from previous days).

If you can help out on any of those days, even if it’s only for a few hours, please contact me on 0425 821 947 or email iedubbeld@gmail.com.

Thanks, Evelyn

Romeo and Juliet

Year 10 English classes finished in a flurry last Friday morning. We have been studying the text ‘Romeo and Juliet’ and the final part was the performance of the play. The twist was that each group chose their own context and theme for the play. This meant that at one minute the play might be in an Old Peoples’ home and a minute later the context might be the feud between two book clubs. All students gave a wholehearted effort and there was a lot of laughter as well. Well done Year 10.

Cliff
SS Coordinator

Charlotte & Justin
Madeline & Joshua
Renae & Nelson
Fairy-tale High - tonight!

‘Fairy-tale High’ is on this evening - Thursday 14 Nov! We would love to see you there to support our show, starting at 7.30pm in the Senior School Theatrette. Minimal cost of $5 adults, $3 students. It will be a great night of fun, music and entertainment!

Annora
Music Coordinator

Secondary Interschool Athletics

Last Thursday was another enjoyable day with a fantastic bunch of students, who were excellent representatives of MECS.

We had competitors in most events and a number of great helpers. For Taylor and Persis from Year 11, it was their last Athletics day. It was great to have them along.

Special mention to Shannan Haynes and Ethan Hamilton who filled in for others who were absent. Thanks to Tim Wright and Jono Bach for assisting in duties. You are awesome.

Overall, we came 4th. There were some excellent individual results and there is only room to mention the first three place getters. Well done to the following students:

1st place
Ben: Long Jump, Triple Jump, 100m, 200m, 400m and relay
Zoe: Discus
Bri: High Jump
Asha: 1500m
Lachlan: Long Jump
13 Boys Relay: Jake, Ben, Josh and Luke

2nd place
Daniel: Javelin
Taylor: Triple Jump
Juliette: Javelin
Bethany: Triple Jump
Zoe: Shot Put

3rd Place
Kaity: Javelin
Gemma: Triple Jump
Persis: High Jump

Anne-Maree
Secondary Sports Coordinator

MECS Notes

What is EMA?

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is a Victorian Government payment to families on a low income. It provides financial assistance to support their children’s education up to the age of 16.

To be eligible for the EMA your child must be under the age of 16 and enrolled at school. You must be a parent or legal guardian of the student and you must hold an eligible Health Care Card (HCC), or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC), or Veterans Affairs Gold Card. If you are a foster parent to the child you will also be eligible.

These criteria must be met on Tuesday 28 January 2014 (Eligibility Day). You must submit an EMA application to the school by 28 February 2014 (Census Day).

The EMA payments are:

- $200 for parents of eligible Prep students
- $150 for parents of all other eligible primary school students
- $300 for parents of eligible Year 7 students
- $250 for parents of all other eligible secondary school students up to the age of 16. (A pro-rata amount is payable for students turning 16 in 2014).

How to Apply: Contact the school office to obtain an EMA application form. The forms are already available for 2014 applications.

Act Now: Apart from the benefit for families on low incomes, it is vital to MECS that all eligible people apply for the EMA. Why? Over 50% of the funding we receive from the Victorian Government to operate the school is based on the number of families and their students who receive the EMA. The State government uses the EMA numbers as an indirect way of measuring the socio-economic position of a community and increases funding accordingly.

For more information contact Alison in the office or go to: http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/financial/pages/ema.aspx

40 Hour Famine

Teachers and students at MECS raised a total of $2185.50 this year which will go to help create sustainable change throughout Malawi in food security, clean water, sanitation, health care and education.

Well done everyone.
JP Oasis Camp

Oasis was a fabulous camp. The campsite is just near MECS and it only took us 5 minutes on the bus to get there. One of the activities was in a reptile enclosure. We patted a huge python and we played with Green Tree frogs.

Abby

The first activity my group began with was candle making. I was planning to make a very swirly candle but instead it only had one swirl. It still looked really good though and it smelt like chocolate and honey.

Patrick

I loved doing the Float the Boat activity. We made a boat using origami and we had to see if it could float in the pool and survive the storm. A lot of boats sunk. Mine tipped over!

Maisie

I loved camp because you got to make candles. My favourite thing on camp was the reptiles because I got to have snakes around my neck. Another one of my favourite things was the water mini-Olympics because at the end we got soaked with a bucket of water!

Christy

I liked the flying fox, also. I made everyone laugh because I lay on my back and pretended I was relaxing in the air.

I also liked the reptiles. I was a pretend tree to a GIANT snake! I saw a turtle and they are my favourite animal.

Krara

I loved the flying fox because when I jumped off the tower I went fast. When I hit the tyre I went flying backwards.

Harry

I liked the games room. There was a table tennis table and soccer table. There were also two pool and air hockey tables. I also liked lunch. There were hot dogs and they were yummy. Camp was fun.

Luka
MP Flight Camp

Middle Primary Camp, as a part of our Flight unit, went to Lyrebird Park in Yellingbo. The students were able to experience all types of hands on learning and fun activities around the theme of flight, both on our beautiful campsite and offsite locations. Among some of the memorable events, the students got to face their fears on the flying fox, learn about the history of Australian flight at Moorabbin Air Museum and even experience being a pilot at ACMA, Coldstream airfield. We were blessed with good weather and great memories (and some sleep). This camp was a big hit and enjoyed by all.

Ali
MP Teacher

Flying Fox
I went on the flying fox. When I went up I felt even more nervous. It felt like I was going to fall down into the bush. It was a long way to the end and a long way to the ground. There was a man who helped me feel relaxed but I was still not sure. I knew that the man thought it was safe and he knows what he is doing. So I jumped off, it was scary at first but in the end it was really fun!

Jess

Things I learned
I learnt what thrust, lift, drag and weight mean.

Star
I learned that two people can control the plane at the same time.

Joel
Learning at ACMA was interesting. I learned that plane material is very flimsy.

Nick

I Enjoyed
The flying fox, archery, kite making and when the planes flew over us at the Tullamarine airport.

Jacob

My Camp Experience
What went well? Archery, flying fox, the movie, the bushwalk, making kites and making propellers.

What was interesting or unexpected? The rope course and that the inside of planes are so advanced.

What is one thing you learnt from this experience? How planes can fly.

Jade
2013 Term 4 Week 5: 10 NOV - 16 NOV

Mon 11 November
VCE Exams to Nov 22

Thur 14 November
Fairy Tale High Production 7.30pm
Step into Prep Info Evening 7.30pm

Thur 14 - Fri 15 November
Year 10 Study Days

Sat 16 November
Working Bee 8am-1pm with Morning Tea

2013 Term 4 Week 6: 17 NOV - 23 NOV

Mon 18 November
VCE Exams to Nov 22

Tues 19 November
Rescheduled PS Interschool Athletics

Mon 18 - Thur 21 November
Year 10 Exams
Year 11 Exams continue

Mon 18 - Fri 22 November
Year 7/8 Camps
Year 9 Canberra Camp

Thur 21 November
Kinder 2014 Parent Evening 7.30pm

Fri 22 November
Year 12 Graduation

Sat 23 November
Canberra Camp Returns

2013 Term 4 Week 7: 24 NOV - 30 NOV

Mon 25 November
Year 9 Day Off in lieu of Canberra Camp

Mon 25 - Fri 29 November
Year 10 Work Experience Week 2
First Aid Training Staffroom

Tues 26 November
Open Village Info Meeting 7.30pm

Thur 28 November
Whole School Assembly - Martin Hanscamp’s Farewell 9.45am. All Welcome

2013 Term 4 Week 8: 1 DEC - 7 DEC

Mon 2 - Fri 6 December
Year 11/12 Orientation Week 1

Tues 3 December
First Aid Training Staffroom

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

Celebrating 40 Years

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

Electrical Apprenticeship Needed
A 3rd/4th year Electrical Apprentice needs a new apprenticeship. Retrenched due to his previous employers need to downsize. Has experience in commercial, solar and airconditioning and has completed his TAFE classes. Honest, hardworking, punctual, well presented and has own transport. He is very keen to complete his apprenticeship. If you can help please contact Leon.

Unit for Rent
Located in Kilsyth. 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, single carport, good size yard, lovely outlook. Available now.
Phone Simon.

Hiking Pack for Sale
Black Wolf Brand 65L Hiking Pack. Red/Black, only used twice, in as new condition, with full rain cover & is fully adjustable. $120.
Phone Michelle.

Go The Extra Mile
On Saturday 23 November, I will be doing a 50km walk with my cousin Dylan Dubbeld for ‘Go the Extra Mile’, which is an organisation with Hope Builders to raise money for the orphans in Uganda. If you would like to sponsor us please go to the following link https://www.goteextramile.com.au/50sinkaDay/donate-walker.asp?ZOLT=17HJKj118hGHBenwebEWhgwhW or place your money in an envelope marked Evelyn Dubbeld with your details or anonymously at the office. Thanks, Josh.

Accommodation Needed
I am a Christian lady (39) looking to relocate to Mount Evelyn or surrounding areas to be closer to work/church by the end of the year.
I am looking for a house with at least 2 bedrooms that has a suitable back yard (pat). Extras such as a bath, air con, dishwasher and garage would be valued. I am also keen on finding a flat mate who is responsible and reliable.
If you know of anything suitable please Phone Kat.

Mooroolbark Community Forum
Maggie Hamilton, public speaker and author will be speaking on ‘What’s happening to our children’, regarding depression, eating disorders, secret lives, ‘out there’ behaviour etc. She will talk of the issues and sensible solutions.
Mooroolbark Community Centre, Thur 21 Nov, 7.30pm. Gold coin donation. More info and RSVP.

What do Parents Think?
The University of Western Australia is conducting research on what parents think about children with social and emotional problems. This is often a topic of parents’ conversations, as well as the media. We are looking for parents of 4-10 year old children across Australia to complete an anonymous online survey (15-20 min). Participants will go into the draw to win one of 40 $100 gift certificates to Coles/Myer or Woolworths. To participate go to: http://tinyurl.com/parentattitudes
For more information contact Dr Jeneva Ohan phone.

JDRF Diabetes Fundraiser
Sat 16 Nov, 10am-3pm, 428 Mount Dandenong Road Kilsyth. Gold coin donation for a family day out at Phil Mundays. 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.

Budgies for sale
8 to 12 weeks old, $10 each, Lilydale. Phone Samuel.

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.

NOTICES SENT HOME THIS WEEK
(can also be downloaded from website)
• Notice Reschedule PS Interschool Athletics
• AASC Monday Basketball Notice