Discovering our History - Year 9 Canberra Camp

Chelsea, Lavina & Daniel looking at the memorial wall at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra
Staffing for 2014

This year we have spent a great deal of time celebrating MECS’ 40th birthday (we’re nearly 41!). It is wonderful to look at the photos and listen to the stories of the people who have made up our community for the past 40 years (and 10 months). No matter how long they stayed or what their role was, together they (and we) make up the rich story that is MECS.

Last Friday we bade farewell to Martin whose chapter as Principal at MECS concluded at a farewell assembly. This assembly included the sharing of fond memories, songs of blessing, a well-timed yawn and the ever threat of a water deluge (a Martin speciality). You can read more about this celebration later in the newsletter.

There are seven other MECS chapters that come to an end in just over two weeks. We will say goodbye to Liesje, Matt, Andrew, Kara, Jono, Paul and Carmen. These staff members have faithfully served our community, some for a short time, others for fifteen or more years. Each one of these people contributed their personality and unique gifts to our story. We thank them for doing their part in ‘Seeking the Kingdom of God in Education’ at MECS.

Our 2014 chapter is set to begin after a well earned holiday, and we have seven new characters (staff members) to welcome to our story. Our Primary team say hello to Jason (coming from Great Ryrie Primary School) as Primary Physical Education teacher, and Michelle (from Mossgil Park Primary School) joins the Senior Primary team. In Middle School, former MECS student Ella returns as a staff member to teach Science and Mathematics. Another former student, Luke (from Bundoora Secondary College) is joining our Senior School team as Health and Biology teacher, while Breana (from Western Heights College) will teach Senior School Art and Visual Communication. As mentioned previously, Narelle will be returning to MECS in the role of our new Principal.

We will also be welcoming back Bec and Ange (starting Term 2) who will be team-teaching in the Primary section, as well as Sharon returning to the Middle School. Mem is moving up to the Middle School to teach Maths. For those who are putting the puzzle pieces together and missing a piece, you’ll be pleased to know that the process for the appointment of a new Deputy Principal will happen in 2014. A new position of Director of Teaching and Learning will begin at MECS next year and this will be my role.

We welcome all of our new and returning staff and pray that God will bless them abundantly as they transition into their new roles at MECS.

Reflections

As a child I unknowingly watched pioneers work toward the fulfilment of their God given dream of MECS. There is something about pursuing that kind of dream that calls us on to things far greater than ourselves, calls us on to pursuing the Kingdom of God. In February 2012, we saw a new dream being fulfilled – the opening of a Christian trade training centre, Ranges TEC.

One of the core beliefs of MECS is that all children are precious in God’s sight, each created with a unique variety of gifts and abilities which are intended to be used to serve and glorify God. We do not regard some gifts as more important or valuable than others, rather we endeavour to recognise and foster the growth of all the gifts and abilities of our students.

We were well aware that many of the ways we “did” school did not allow us the same opportunities to fulfil this endeavour for students whose gifts are not “academic”. We dreamt of new and effective ways of fostering “hands on” gifts. Then an opportunity came along in 2008 when the Government announced its “Education Revolution” and provided grants under its new “Trade Training Centres in Schools” program. We dared to start believing that maybe our dream of a Christian trade training centre would become a reality and we could again pioneer in the Kingdom of God.

Our dream was a huge one and wasn’t ours alone, so we partnered with Donvale Christian College and Mountain District Christian School, and following the successful application for a grant from the Government, in 2012 we opened the doors to a facility offering engineering, carpentry, furniture making, hospitality, aeroskills engineering (in partnership with the Australian Centre for Mission Aviation) and horticulture. The students still participate in mainstream learning under its new ‘Trade Training Centres in Schools’ program. We dare to believe that maybe our dream of a Christian trade training centre would become a reality and we could again pioneer in the Kingdom of God.

We have now seen Ranges TEC serve students for two school years. We are learning lots about the best ways to serve our hands-on learners, and look forward to providing an even more effective program in 2014 and beyond. Praise God that we have this amazing facility and dedicated staff that enable our wonderfully gifted hands-on students to be valued and developed.

Gerry
Past student and past parent
Prep Vet Play

There was a Lamb at school

Preps were visited on Wednesday afternoon by Debra, a nurse from Mount Evelyn Veterinary surgery who spoke to the children about responsible pet ownership and safety around dogs.

The children practised approaching a dog, asking the owner for permission to pat it, and putting out their hand first for the dog to sniff. They patted ‘Lamb’, a beautiful golden retriever, on the shoulder and back. The children were given clues to tell if a dog is happy or angry, and some advice on what to do if approached by an angry dog.

The visit also enjoyed role playing vets and vet nurses.

Jan
Prep Teacher

Note: The visit of the Mount Evelyn Vet to MECS is in the Lilydale Leader newspaper this week.

MECS Wrestling

11th Annual Greco Roman Grand Championships

A two day tournament – crazy! The 2013 11th Annual Greco Roman Grand Championships took two lunchtimes to complete for the first time in my recent memory. Why so long? Firstly, a whopping 21 students wrestled. Usually by the 17th week of the season heaps of kids have run out of gas and thrown in the towel for the season. Not in 2013. I think our students are getting more resilient.

Secondly, relatively few wrestlers got pinned. If a wrestler gets thrown or rolled onto his/her back, a pin is called and the match ends instantly. Typically, most Greco Roman wrestling matches end with a quick pin. Not so for MECS 2013 wrestlers. They are getting too tough to give up a quick pin.

After two lunchtimes of wrestling, a few athletes got bumps, bruises and twists but all finished with a smile on their face and a dignified handshake for the referee and their opponent.

Adam
MECS Wrestling Coach

Results

Girls
1. Indigo
2. Lanii
3. Stefanie
4. Jasmine

Primary Rookies
1. Rian
2. Oliver
3. Josh

39 kg Primary Rookies
1. TJ
2. Lucas
3. Cameron
4. Nick

39 kg and/or Primary Veterans
1. Jacob
2. Nathan
3. Matthew
4. Dylan
5. Reubena

Staffing in the Primary and Middle School:

Primary:
Prep: Jan and Rebekah
JP: Daniela (4 days) /Olivia (1 day), Susannah & Bec. Ange will team teach with Bec from Term 2 (Bec 4 days, Ange 1 day).
MP: Derek, Jess and Ali.
SP: Mel, Ben and Michelle.

Middle:
Cycle A: Nicky, Sharon, Alison (Sharon stays on as specialist teacher).
Cycle B: Karissa, Brad, Duc.
Year 9: Sue, Jonny, Lance, Tim.
How to say goodbye...

Last Friday saw us close a chapter in the book of MECS, as we celebrated and farewelled Martin Hanscamp. We wanted the day to reflect the type of principal Martin had been, and to celebrate and honour what he has given to MECS. We started the day with a whole school assembly, inviting Martin to participate in a ‘This is your life’ type event, but with a ‘This was your school’ flavour. The Primary children presented some of the songs from their ‘Adventures in Wonderland’ production that were fitting for Martin: the tweedle dee and tweedle dum dance, the song continued next page...

Friends of MECS

Stationery

Urgent, more help is needed for Thursday 30 Jan, both in the morning for sales and the afternoon for pack up. Please contact me on 0425 821 947, if you can help.

Thanks,

Evelyn

Middle School Second Hand Book Sale

Attention all Middle School Parents & Students

Second-hand books are offered for sale each year on the two stationery pick-up days. This year we will be selling the Year 7 Pearson Mathematics book and the English book from Year 9.

If you want your child’s text books (as detailed on the list below) to be sold through the school, here’s what you need to do:

1. Please write your child’s name clearly on the inside front cover (this allows us to refund the monies to the correct people).

2. For Year 7 Maths please leave in specially marked box after Maths on Friday 13 December. For Year 9 English please leave the books in a specially marked box by Friday 6 December 2013. Both boxes will be located in the classroom.

3. Alternatively books may be handed in at the Main office in a clearly marked bag.

We will have some books for sale at the first stationery sales day on Thursday 5 December otherwise your name will be placed on a list so that one can be put aside for you to collect on the second sales day on January 30 or in the first week of school next year.

Books are priced according to their condition (approximately half of their new price). Any books that came with a CD included in the back, need to have the CD with the book otherwise the price will be reduced. Friends of MECS retain 15% of the sale price.

1. Sale price is deducted from your school fees in the new year.

2. Cash payment will be available early in Term 1 (dates to be announced).

If your books are sold there will be two Options for payment:

The first option is our preferred option. If you would rather a cash payment please ring me on the number below to let me know. If I don’t hear from you then any proceeds of sales will automatically be credited to your school fees.

Please be advised we will no longer be sending cheque payments and books that are not sold are held over to be sold the following year.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Evelyn

Stationery Coordinator

Books accepted for Sale

Macquarie School Dictionary
Guidelines for Referencing and Bibliographies
NIV Bibles (as sold by school)
Pearson Mathematics (Year 7)
Move into English 3 (Year 9)
How to say goodbye...

‘What will become of me?’ and the Mad Hatter’s song. The Senior School staff (unfortunately no students were around) presented a power point of some of the memories of Martin’s involvement in Year 12 Celebration Days and Formals, and some Middle School students performed a Blessing song to the accompaniment of Peter York and Annora Hummerston. Throughout the Assembly the threat of ‘water’ loomed, to reflect Martin’s love of a good old water fight, and the final moment saw him duck for cover as a pot - luckily for him, filled with confetti rather than water - was poured over him. One of Martin’s favourite things was to provide morning tea for the staff, so the whole school participated in a morning tea with him, in his honour.

Next on the schedule was lunch with guests from outside of MECS – other Principals, past staff and CEN representatives. Many people reflected on their time with Martin, and honoured his time at MECS. We finished off the day with a staff event in the PUMP room, where we enjoyed some finger food and drinks while being serenaded by Lance Peele and Peter York. A short formal time allowed for a few speeches, and the presentation of a photo book covering the 11 years of Martin’s time at MECS.

Although we’ve had 2013 to adapt to MECS without Martin, there were still many emotions present as we farewelled a man who has given so much to MECS and has been such an amazing leader both for MECS and for Christian education. We pray that the Lord will richly bless Martin, and his wife Anita, as they undertake a new adventure next year. He will be sincerely and profoundly missed.

Natasha
Principal’s PA

MECS Notes

MECS Authors Part One

MECS is privileged to have a number of authors as part of our Community and we thought you would like to know a bit about what they have written. Our first author is Kayleen.

Kayleen, MECS parent, has illustrated and authored 2 children’s picture books.

Adoptive Father ($19.95): Christian message about God’s adoptive love for us and the how we can love one another. (International outreach book project www.adoptivefather.org).

Without Me? ($18.95): A story about a would-be runaway who discovers his value and belonging.

MECS Christmas special: $35.00 for any 2 titles.
You can pay via PayPal to her email address or correct cash in envelope to the MECS Office.

To order single copies online use coupon code “free4me” to avoid shipping. www.kayleenwest.com.au.

Book sales have supported 2000+ books for the children in the poorest parts of India, Fiji, Cambodia and Burma.

‘Without Me’ Book launch at Mount Evelyn Station House Community Reading Room 12 December 4.15-5.30pm. Prizes, activities, book launch special prices and Bookaburra!
Year 9 Canberra Camp

I thought that Canberra would basically be a big concrete slab, full of boring politicians. But I was so wrong. Canberra is a beautifully planned city, the horizon is still shaped by the mountains, and everywhere you look is beautiful scenery. Although we had some mishaps with the bus on the way up, the camp ran smoothly. We enjoyed going on a bike ride, either 12 or 17kms, around Lake Burley Griffin and the opportunity to get onto the water in paddle boats. We had a tour of Parliament House, including a visit into question time, where we saw Tony A and the opposition leader discussing the battle to ‘Axe the Carbon Tax.’ We did a role play on our tour through Old Parliament House, where Tash Voorzaat accidently sat on the Prime Minister’s Chair. One of my personal highlights of the camp was the visit to the War Memorial. I bought a poppy and put it next to a name on the Wall of Honour with one of my ancestors’ last name. We also went to the National Sound and Film Archive, where we watched Australian films from throughout the years.

Katie

My favourite part about Canberra camp was going to the Old Parliament Building. It looked so rustic. We got to go on paddle boats on a big river. When we got there, a big sprinkler was shooting water up in the air. We got there just in time to go under it, it was like a never-ending storm. Some of us went on a night walk where we saw about 4 shooting stars. On the last night we watched a movie called Beneath Hill 60. The War Memorial was very confronting. So many people died.

Gemma
Year 10 Work Experience

Last week some Year 10 and 11 students participated in Work Experience. For many this was their second placement for the year.

The program ran very smoothly with all employers and students pleased with their experience. Students found positions at a variety of work places, including a radio broadcasting studio, the Ringwood Magistrates court, a Minister of Parliament’s office, a Leisure centre, a local theatre, a Vet, Special Development Schools, an equestrian centre, a youth campsite, a locksmith, a graphic design studio and two auto mechanics, to name a few.

Employers were overwhelmingly impressed with our students who according to reports, showed initiative, were free of ‘attitude’, confident in asking questions and related well to adults. Thank you to those members of our school community who took on work experience students. We greatly value and appreciate the time and effort that you generously gave in accommodating them.

A work experience information package will be going home with Year 9 students on Orientation Day (10 December). This allows parents and students to get a head start in organising work experience for next year. I encourage Year 9 students/parents to consider seeking out placements over the coming holidays. Many employers only take a certain number of students per year so it is worth arranging as early as possible.

Work Experience weeks for next year are 14-18 July and 24-28 November.

Amelia
Careers Coordinator

Work Experience at Cummins South Pacific

I did work experience at Cummins Scoresby in the ReCon and Manufacturing Operations area. The first day for me was completing e-learning which is an online OHS&E test that every employee and contractor must complete every twelve months so they can work in the factory. The next day I was working in the injector room where I did the first stage assembly for 59 injectors before 12:30PM. I started at 8:00AM. My work consisted of putting a barrel in the locating pins on the body, putting the plunger in some oil, inserting that down the hole in the middle of the barrel and body, putting a cup on the end of the plunger, then putting an Injector cup retainer on. On Wednesday I was put on the CustomPak fitting up a QSM 11 industrial engine which has 290 horse power. I got to use an overhead crane and attend a leaders meeting that day. On day four I was on the turbo line. I assembled eight turbos: three big ones and five smaller ones, and I attended another meeting but it was with the whole of the ReCon employees. On my last day I was working on air compressors assembling and testing.

The staff at Cummins were very welcoming and helpful. The Foreman in charge of me on the floor was very helpful and made me feel welcome. After 2:30pm I went up to the offices and was with the engineers finding out what they did and how they did it. I got to look at some of the engineering drawings of the parts and engines that they make.

Dillon

Mill Valley Ranch

For work experience I went to Mill Valley Ranch. It is a wonderful Christian organisation that taught me so much even in the short time I was there. It felt like a really safe environment and the staff were all so supportive and kind.

Mill Valley Ranch has school and youth groups coming in for camps and I was lucky enough to be there while a school group was camping there. The day started bright and early with rounding up the horses from their paddock and leading them into the arena. We then groomed and saddled the horses, getting them ready for the activities the day held. When the students arrived in the morning for their activity, I helped with the riding lessons for the students, teaching them the basics of horse riding and I was lucky enough to join in on a couple of trail rides. At the end of the day, the horses were unsaddled and rounded back into their paddock again.

It was wonderful to see the students grow in confidence and skill around the horses and in a Christian environment.

My favourite part of the week was to be seeing how the kids advanced in their skills in horse riding and seeing how enthusiastic they were and how much they enjoyed being around the horses. Being able to join in on the trail rides was also amazing. This has been an incredible experience and I am so thankful for the opportunity.

Alyssa
MECS COMMUNITY NOTICES
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MECS Chooks Need Help
Our chooks have been enjoyed by the students all year, laid many spotted green eggs, and provided excellent manure for our garden. BUT, they do need some carers in the holidays.

Are there any families who would like to either take the chooks home for a week or two? Otherwise you can come to school every few days to top up their feed and water, as well as collect eggs? The feed will be in the chook shed.

The weeks are:
- Week 1: Sat 21 Dec - Fri 27 Dec 2013
- Week 2: Sat 28 Dec 2013 - Fri 3 Jan 2014
- Week 3: Sat 4 Jan - Fri 10 Jan 2014
- Week 4: Sat 11 Jan - Fri 17 Jan 2014
- Week 5: Sat 18 Jan - Fri 24 Jan 2014

We would greatly value your help in this! If you feel that you could help, please email Liesje.

Year 11 Textbooks Wanted
- Business Management VCE Units 1 & 2 (8th Ed) Steve Barrile, Publisher: MEA Secondary.

If you have any of these books and would like to sell them, please contact Catherine.

Accommodation Needed
A family of four is looking for a 3 bedroom house to rent in January next year anywhere in the eastern suburbs. If you can help please contact Catherine.

Position vacant
MECS is looking for another part time Learning Assistant (2 days = 0.4FTE) starting in January 2014. See MECS website for further information.

MECS Website
See the MECS Website for notices home, colour newsletter pages, calendars and lots of other useful information.
www.mecs.vic.edu.au

Last Working Bee
This Saturday
Sat 7 Dec, 7am-1pm
BBQ Breakfast

Remember copies of all notices are available on our website www.mecs.vic.edu.au/Resources/Downloads/Notices-Home

Notices sent home this week
- Kinder Connections Number 10
- SP Helpers Notice
- MS Secondhand Books