Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school! We also welcome two new families to JP – the Ernstzen family and the Smith-Stuart family. We hope you all enjoyed a wonderful Christmas break with your family and that the holidays have been a great time of togetherness, excitement, rest and relaxation.

The Junior Primary team for 2014 is:
JPY – Mrs Rebecca Yeates and Mrs Angela Smit (from Term 2)
JPR – Mrs Daniela Repse and Miss Olivia Dyer
JPT – Miss Susannah Timmins

We are committed to partnering with parents. Please feel free to contact us via the school office, email, a note via your child or come in after-school to communicate with us or to make an appointment. If you would like to keep up to date with what’s happening in Junior Primary please ‘follow’ our blog: www.mecsjp.wordpress.com. If you click ‘follow’ you will automatically get email updates.

Dates for your Diary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday Feb 7 (Week 1)</td>
<td>JP Beach Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Feb 9 (Week 1)</td>
<td>Commissioning of our new principal, Ms Narelle Sketcher and MECS community BBQ. Commences 4pm in the MECS Gym. All welcome.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday Feb 26</td>
<td>Junior Primary Family Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday Mar 6</td>
<td>Grandparents and Special Friends Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday Mar 10</td>
<td>Labour Day Holiday (School Closed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday Mar 17</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday Mar 26</td>
<td>Mini Beasts Dress Up Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday April 4</td>
<td>Last day of Term 1 – 3.15pm</td>
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<td>Monday April 28</td>
<td>Term 2 Commences</td>
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Mini Beasts
We are excited about commencing our Core Studies unit on Mini Beasts this term. We anticipate a great time of inquiry and excitement as we seek to explore the question - *What do Mini Beasts teach us about who God is?* We hope that as we harness students’ natural curiosity and allow them to pursue their own interests, they will grow to understand God as an unbelievable designer and creator. Together we will be able to praise God and worship him because we know how much he loves, cares and sustains even the tiniest parts of his creation and us! As a part of this unit we will be doing a Mini Beast Incursion in Term 1.

Junior Primary Family Night – Wednesday Feb 26
All Junior Primary parents and families (including siblings) are invited to join us on **Wednesday, Feb 26 at 5:30pm** as we share a relaxed BBQ dinner together outside the PUMP room and enjoy the opportunity to get to know one another. The Junior Primary team is growing and changing and there have been a few new innovations in the classroom! After dinner we anticipate students will be eager to show off the ‘Daily 5’ so our classrooms will be open for a sneak peek, then all children will have the opportunity to play a few games together while parents learn a bit more about Junior Primary; LEM, the new Home Studies structure, home reading expectations – just to name a few! We hope to update you with some answers to Frequently Asked Questions. We’ll be finished by **7:00pm**. So pop the date in your...
We look forward to seeing you then. Please return the RSVP attached to this newsletter to your child’s class teacher.

**Mini Beasts Dress up Day – Wednesday March 26**

To celebrate our learning about Mini Beasts, we are excited to invite parents and families to join us on the morning of Wednesday March 26 at **9.00am** in the PUMP room for a parade of costumes and sharing of some of the wonderful things we have learnt. Children and teachers will come dressed as a Mini Beast of their choice. We are seeking parental assistance in helping your child make a Mini Beast costume from items found around your home.

**Parents and families are invited to join us for a parade and sharing of learning from 9:00am to 10:00am.**

**Home Studies**

**LEM Phonics**

Foundational to Literacy understanding is the learning of phonograms. It is important for students to be able to see sounds and say them, as well as hear sounds and write them. These skills assist students with reading, writing and spelling. As the ‘Daily 5’ literacy program allows space for students to practice their spelling words at school we will no longer be expecting students to practice their spelling words at home each night. Instead, we will be using the Home Studies book to notify you of our weekly ‘focus sounds’. You can then work together as a family to notice words around you - at home, in the car, at the shops. Home Studies books can be used to make a ‘word bank’ that uses our weekly focus sounds.

**Take-Home Books**

Student readers are chosen within your child’s reading ability and understanding. They should be easy enough for the child to read with fluency, expression and deep understanding. This year readers will come home Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. They are changed each school day (when it is noted the book has been read) for coloured reading levels. Children who are reading at library level (students borrow good-fit non-fiction or fiction books from the school library) are able to change their reader once they have completed the book. The class teacher checks each day to see if a child needs to change their library reader.

All JP children will have a **READING RECORD BOOK** to record the title of the book, how many pages of the book they read each day, and if they Read to Self or Read to Someone. The class teacher will be checking these regularly.

**Reading and LEM are important methods for developing your child’s language skills. The combined LEM Phonics and reader should take no longer than 20-30minutes. We thank you for your partnership with Home Studies.**

Please do not hesitate to contact your child’s classroom teacher if you would like clarification or have any concerns.

**Reading Eggs and Mathletics**

In JP all students will have access, at home and school, to Reading Eggs and Mathletics. These tools are used within our Daily 5 Literacy and Numeracy sessions to engage learners in a variety of ways. You will receive your child’s login details soon.

**iPads**

MECS has generously provided a set of six iPads for each JP class to use across all learning sessions. We are thankful to be blessed to use the iPads as another tool to foster learning in JP.

**Food**

**Breakfast** – please ensure your child has a healthy breakfast before school. Research shows we work and concentrate best when we eat breakfast. **Please, no TV prior to school.**
**Brain Food** – each day, at approximately 10/10:10am, we stop for Brain Food. This allows the children to eat fresh fruit, vegetables, sultanas, nuts, cheese and plain yoghurt (unsweetened). Please cut up fruit (i.e. apples/pears/oranges) into smaller pieces.

**Morning Tea** – a nutritional snack is advised (i.e. cheese, fruit/vegetables, crackers, muffin etc.)

**Lunch** – children enjoy eating their lunch inside or supervised outside in the seating area. Please provide the amount of food they can handle e.g. a sandwich/roll, salad box, and a snack.

**JP Housekeeping**

**Banking:** Student banking is available – for enquiries please contact the Office. Banking books are to be brought to school each Wednesday.

**Boomerang Bags:** All correspondence, readers, notices etc from the classroom and home will use the Boomerang Bag. Please ensure your child’s name is clearly written on their Boomerang Bag and that it is brought to school every day. We are looking for helpers to change the Boomerang Bags - if you think you could assist with this please fill out the slip attached at the end of this newsletter.

**Class Timetable:** By now you will have received your child’s class timetable. Please place this in a visible area to know what to bring or wear to school on each day.

**Cushion:** Children are encouraged to bring their own cushion to keep in the classroom during each term. The cushions are frequently used during various learning sessions. Please bring your cushion to school during Week 1.

**Dress Code:** Please ensure your child is dressed according to the dress code, especially in the warmer weather. Also, please ensure runners are worn to school when your child’s class has PE. Thank you. Details of the dress code can be found at [http://www.mecs.vic.edu.au/Resources/Downloads/School-Wear](http://www.mecs.vic.edu.au/Resources/Downloads/School-Wear).

**Drink Bottle:** To encourage students to stay hydrated please send a drink bottle to school each Monday. The drink bottle will remain in the classroom during the week and be sent home every Friday for washing.

**Hats:** It is compulsory to wear a broadbrim hat during Terms 1 & 4. Please ensure your child’s hat is clearly labelled. Children without a hat will not be able to participate in outside activities. We do not keep spare hats due to health issues.

**Lunch Orders:** Lunch Orders can be ordered on a Wednesday or Friday. Canteen price lists will be sent home shortly.

**Oval Games:** During Term 1 the ball games allowed on the oval are:
- Monday, Wednesday, Friday – Soccer
- Tuesday, Thursday – Cricket

**Recyclables/Craft:** We would greatly appreciate the following items (please ensure they are clean):
- ice-cream containers and lids
- margarine/butter containers and lids
- egg cartons
- buttons
- beads
- wool
- small to medium (i.e. muesli bar / cereal) boxes and packaging (i.e. cling wrap roll) suitable for construction

Due to health regulations toilet rolls cannot be supplied. Thank you in advance for your generosity!
**Rest:** In the first few weeks of school children need lots of rest as they adjust to the routine of school, plus the days are long and usually fairly warm. Please give them a great start to the school year by making sure they are in bed early as well as enjoying relaxation time in the afternoon - a snack and play time.

**Show & Tell:** By now you will have received your child’s class roster and weekly theme for Show & Tell this term. Show & Tell encourages listening and growing in confidence in speaking in front of others clearly.

**Tissues:** Please send in a box of tissues during Week 1 or 2 for your child’s grade. Thank you.

**VIPs:** VIP of the week will commence shortly. Please remind your child, when they are VIP in their class, to bring:
- Monday: 5 photos
- Wednesday: a ‘ME bag’ containing 5 personal/special objects to show the class.

VIPs will enjoy special privileges throughout the week, including an opportunity to enjoy a special morning tea with our Principal, Ms Sketcher. The class will also make a memento book for each VIP to take home.

We look forward to a wonderful term ahead!

Blessings,

Rebecca Yeates, Daniela Repse, Olivia Dyer and Susannah Timmins

**Junior Primary Teachers**
Boomerang Bag Checking/Changing
Expression of Interest

Child’s Name: ................................................................. Class: ........................................

Parent’s Name: ..........................................................................................................................

Contact Number: ......................................................................................................................

Email: .....................................................................................................................................

I would like to assist the classroom teacher with checking/changing Boomerang Bags during Term 1: (Please circle day/s you’re available)

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How often: Weekly / Fortnightly

When: Beginning of the day (9:00am) / End of the day (2:45pm)

Thank you! The class teacher will contact you soon 😊

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Junior Primary Family Night RSVP
Wednesday Feb 26, 5.30pm – 7.00pm

Join us for a relaxed dinner and an evening spent learning a little more about Junior Primary at MECS. All children welcome (not just JPs!). Please return to your child’s class teacher by Wednesday Feb 19.

Family Name: .................................................................

Number of Adults Attending: .................................

Number of Children Attending: ...............................

Other Notes:
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