Welcome to Middle Primary for 2013!

It has been great to see all the smiling faces settling back into school life for the year and making new friends. We are especially excited to see some new students to MECS this year as well.

Core Studies Units for 2013

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<th>Term 1</th>
<th>Term 2</th>
<th>Term 3</th>
<th>Term 4</th>
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<td>Australia: Explorers</td>
<td>Australia: Our Country</td>
<td>Light</td>
<td>Plants</td>
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Our Core Studies unit for this term is ‘Australia: Explorers’. We will be embarking on some exploration of our own as we uncover who the early explorers of Australia were and what they achieved. As well as learning about the historical findings from sources such as journals, our students will be learning, first-hand, the skills an explorer might need to survive on an expedition. We will be discussing whether an explorer was successful from analysing their strengths and weaknesses. We aim to understand the dangerous and significant work these explorers did and the affect they have had on life in Australia today.

We have a curiosity to explore all that God has given us, whether that is new places, new relationships or new knowledge. We will look to unpack this both in the story of the Israelites venturing out towards the Promised Land and in the students’ everyday lives. Overarching all of these topics will be the celebration of the world God has created for us to explore and ultimately care for.

Important Dates this Term

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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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>Wednesdays Feb 12, 19, 26, March 5, 12</td>
<td>MP Swimming (details below)</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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<td>Monday Mar 17</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday April 3</td>
<td>MP Bush Day and evening incursion (more information will go home closer to the date)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday April 4</td>
<td>Last day of Term 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday April 28</td>
<td>Term 2 Commences</td>
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Swimming

All MP students will attend weekly swimming lessons at Kilsyth Centenary Indoor Pool, on Wednesdays for 5 weeks. Lessons will take place with qualified instructors, and will run for 40 minutes. Students will be grouped according to ability, with a maximum group size of 10 students.

**Dates:** Feb 12, 19, 26 and March 5, 12

**Lesson times vary according to class:** MPA - 12:35pm, MPW - 1:15pm, MPC - 1:55pm

This program is a compulsory component of the Sport and Physical Education curriculum and it serves as a wonderful way to develop swimming skills and improve technique. Students will depart from the kiss and
drop via a MECS school bus 25 minutes prior to their lesson time and staff members will accompany them to
and from the pool.

Please make sure your child has appropriate swim wear, (no bikinis without a rash vest) a towel and a plastic
bag for wet items. Parents are welcome to observe the lessons but will need to provide their own transport
to the venue. If you have any questions or issues about the swimming program, please contact your child’s
class teacher or Jason Brown, Primary School Physical Education and Sports Co-ordinator.

Other Important Class Information

Homework
In Middle Primary, weekly homework is designed to help your child improve their organisational skills as
well as continue their learning at home. Homework should not be arduous and should not take up
inordinate amounts of time. Tasks should take only 10-15 minutes of time on as many evenings as you
can.

Reading to an adult is still important in Middle Primary and we ask that you spend 10-15 minutes on this,
as many evenings as you can, as this will improve your child’s fluency and comprehension skills.

It has been emphasised that homework is NOT to become a problem for you at home, (for example speed
tests do not have to be timed if this causes stress for your child). If you are finding homework a problem
for any reason, please don’t hesitate to either speak, write to or email the class teacher. It is possible for
tasks to be modified for the student if needed.

Unless other arrangements are made there is an expectation that all written homework is given each
Monday, and returned each Thursday. (One week grace per term is extended. After this, there will be the
opportunity to catch up at lunchtime).

Stationery List Items
If your child still has some stationery items at home or unpurchased, please send these to school as soon
as possible as most of these items are now being used.

Library bags
Library bags and art smocks are available for purchase from the office if required. We request that a
library bag is used when taking books home. It improves longevity of the books, saving both money and
trees!

Blogging
This term, as part of our Explorers unit, we will be teaching the students blogging on the school
computers. This is done in a safe and secure way where the learning objective is clear and the outcomes
monitored closely.

Tissues
Please send along a box of tissues to enable a more hygienic response to the snuffles.

Absences
Please make sure you call the MECS Absentee line (9513 1561) to advise if your child will be away from
school. Children are required to bring a note upon their return if they have been absent for a day or
more. Please ensure the note specifies the date of absence.

PE/Sport
PE is on Wednesday for MPA and MPC, Thursday for MPW. Please ensure that your child comes dressed
in the MECS PE uniform, (green MECS polo, black shorts/tracksuit pants and appropriate footwear and
hat). This is compulsory PE attire.
**Tribal Sport** activities will take place on Wednesday afternoon. Students will need to come dressed in their tribal T-shirts for this activity. Both MPC and MPA have their PE and Tribal sports on the same day. Therefore, for the time being, they can wear either one of the sports t-shirts that day.

We are excited about the year ahead with your child in Middle Primary - it is truly a blessing to have the opportunity to teach them. We look forward to our partnership with you in their journey this year.

Warmest regards

*Ali Coffey, Derek Warren and Jess Clacy*  
Class teachers