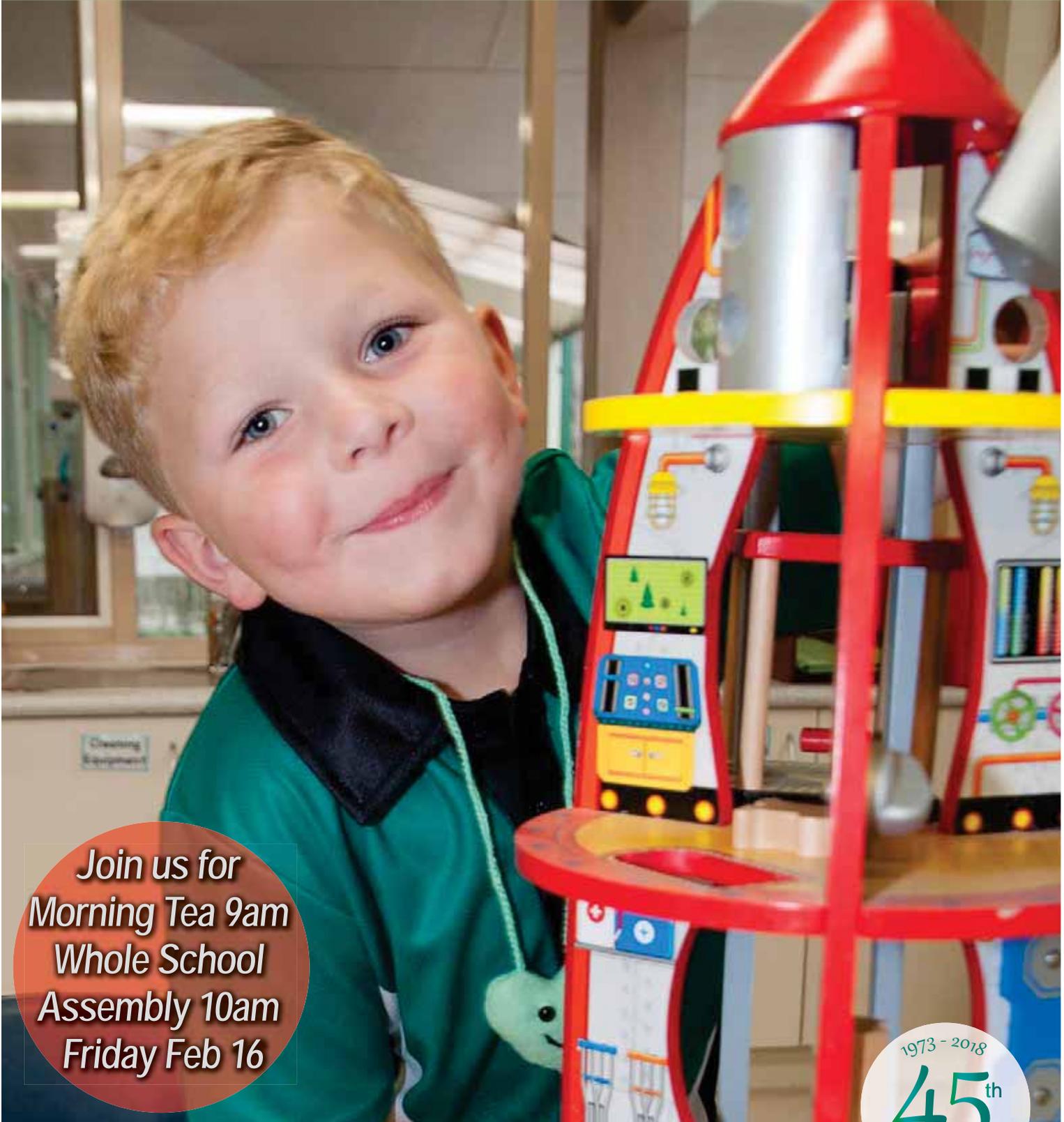


# mecs matters



8 February 2018

Celebrating 45 Years of Christian Education



Join us for  
Morning Tea 9am  
Whole School  
Assembly 10am  
Friday Feb 16



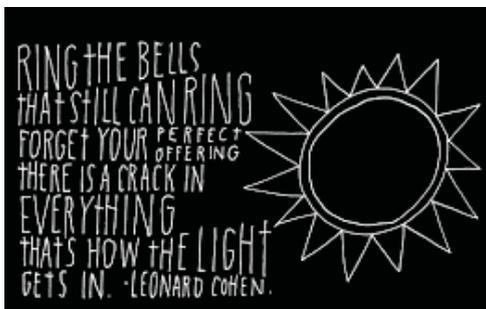
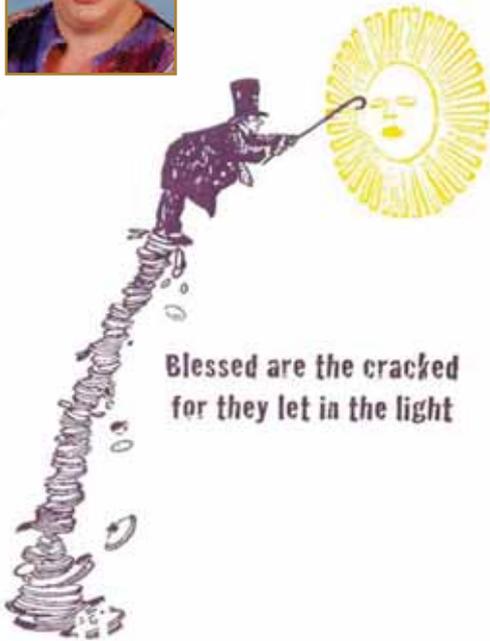
Nicklas enjoying his First Day of School in Foundation

# Editorial

8 February 2018



Narelle  
MECS Principal



*We are in the business of transformation and restoration. As Christians, our core purpose is to be open to this in our own lives and to facilitate it for others.*

## Blessed are the cracked for they let in the light

*One of my best concert experiences ever was seeing Leonard Cohen live in November 2010 at Rod Laver Arena. I went with a girlfriend and we had a fabulous night. One of our favourite lyrics, that we talk about often, was a couple of lines in the song 'Anthem', (see Leonard Cohen's lyrics to the left).*

The idea that even in our brokenness, the light is still seen and shines through, is a promise of hope not despair.

When I look back over the last four years of being Principal, we have put a lot of time, resources and energy into the 'how' of education. We have introduced new systems and processes to help us plan and document our 'how' better. We have built new buildings and refurbished others, so we can do our 'how' better. We have encouraged a professional learning culture that hopefully enables teachers to do the 'how' better with a deeply embedded Christian worldview. Even the development and support for our Ranges TEC campus is about doing the 'how' in a more appropriate way for the students who attend that campus. What we do and how we do it is important. It will remain important, and we will continue to invest appropriately into our 'what' and 'how'.

However, it is not the 'what' and 'how' that inspires me to work hard in this role, to push through challenging situations, to make hard decisions and to remain positive and upbeat...it's the 'why' that sustains those things. It is my passion for this school being a sneak-peek into the Kingdom of God for broken, bruised and cracked students that I love. It is bringing a context for wholeness, where understanding, knowledge, teaching, learning and wisdom can be explored in its rightful context to the Creator that I love. It is the fact that God can use broken, bruised, cracked people like me and the rest of our staff to accomplish His purposes that I love. It is playing my small part in God's supreme reformation project that I love.

Moreover, just as important as me having a clear and passionate understanding of my personal 'why', is our shared, community understanding of 'why'. If we do not share an understanding of our 'why', then over time we may just look like every other hard-working school.

So let us clearly state our why!

We are in the business of transformation and restoration. As Christians, our core purpose is to be open to this in our own lives and to facilitate it for others. As a Christian community, our purpose and calling is to be Christ to each other. This can sometimes be messy, overwhelming, hard and relentless; but this is what grace is. However, it is also joyous, uplifting, inspiring and beautiful. What a privilege.

And as a Christian **school** community, transformation and restoration is worked out not only in the lives of our students, families and staff, but also through our curriculum. The written curriculum and unwritten curriculum... how is this bit of creation, this knowledge, this skill to be understood and transformed in the light of the gospel? How can I be part of restoring this 'thing' into how God created it to be? We need to be reminded that when people stop believing in God, they don't believe in nothing, they believe in anything. How do we help our students stand firm in their faith when other seducing 'stories' are also vying for their attention?

AT MECS, we believe that God's mission is to reconcile, renew and restore all things within His good creation so that His good creation may enjoy fulfilment and satisfaction in His presence, under His good rule and sovereignty. That is the message of the gospel and our hope and prayer at MECS. Ultimately, the promise of God's grand narrative is one of hope. Our school, our world, and we, will be made whole again. The light shining through the cracks will overcome the darkness!

May 2018, our 45th Anniversary, be a year in which we see this vision lived out more clearly in the life of our community. We look forward to a year of partnering together in this vision.

# Sketcher's Scoop

## Welcome back to school!

How exciting it was to see everyone back at school last Wednesday and there was a great turn out at the parent coffee morning! It was pleasing to see how quickly students fall into the patterns and routines of school. We particularly welcome new students and their families into our school community. This year we have welcomed 101 new students and 52 new families! This has been a phenomenal effort by our Enrolment Manager, Natasha. We feel blessed that MECS is a community that welcomes new students so readily; we hope they will feel part of the place in no time.

## New Teachers

It's always great to welcome new staff on board. Melinda joins our secondary team as a specialist maths teacher, whilst Chris and Stephanie are our new sport/PE teachers across the secondary school. Hayley and Tracey join our Middle School humanities team. Craig comes into the secondary school to develop the music program from Year 7-12. Lyse (Year 5/6 teacher) and Richelle (Primary Ed Support teacher) take up important roles in the Primary school. Karena, Mandy, Catherine, and Emma all join us as Learning Assistants. Dylan joins the IT team as a volunteer two days a week and Priscilla is our new Office Manager and Executive PA. Ranges TEC also welcomed three new staff, Daniel, Rachel and Siobhan. Finally, it's great to see Bek, Rachel, Annora and Shannon back from maternity leave in part-time roles. It was great to be able to pray for each of these new staff members during workbreak and 'commission' them for service here at MECS.

## Workbreak

Whilst school started for students this week, teachers were already back into the swing of it before Australia Day. Workbreaks are an important part of the way we 'do' education here at MECS. To deliver an authentic approach to Christian education, much time is required to work in teams and in faculties to develop curriculum units together. On our first day together, we met together for a time of singing and communion, as we committed the year to God. On one of the mornings, we all started the day at Ranges TEC for a delicious breakfast.

Over 15 of our teachers are engaged in post-graduate studies with the National Institute of Christian Education this year. Last Monday they were involved in a one-day intensive program to get their studies underway for the year. We appreciate the community support of these pupil-free days as we unpack what it means to seek the Kingdom of God in education.

## Behind the Scenes!

Whilst your children are home enjoying the holidays, a team of staff are busy working away getting the school ready for another year of operation. Peter and his crew of contractors do a fabulous job working on some of the bigger maintenance projects around the school. Unfortunately, Steve, one of our maintenance team, suffered a serious foot injury in mid-December whilst mowing our lawns and is just back at work on light duties. We wish him a speedy recovery. Admin staff also continue to work hard throughout January keeping the wheels of business turning over. We have a great team of staff who support the teachers in the main mission of the school. We are so grateful for all their tireless work over the summer break!

## VCE Results

We look forward to sharing more with you over the coming weeks about the success of our 2017 Year 12 students and what they are doing this year! However, we want to recognise one amazing achievement straight away. Jake received a 'perfect' score of 50 in his Further Mathematics subject. Congratulations to him and his teacher, Jenny, for this outstanding result. Jake completes the rest of his Year 12 subjects this year and so we wish him all the best.



## End-of-day routines

Finally, just a reminder that the Primary School playground and car parks are not supervised after 3.45pm. We would really appreciate it if all children and families left the school grounds by this time so that we can ensure that everyone is kept safe and well. If you are unable to arrange to collect your child (ren) before this time, you might like to consider using the after-school care service provided by 3CKidz. Please contact the office if you need further information about this service.

## MECS Notes

### Speech Therapy at MECS

Brittany from Everybody's Talking will continue to provide speech therapy at MECS in 2018.

Private sessions (full price), FaHSCIA funded students, some other funded students and any students requiring therapy can be accommodated through MECS.

Therapy will happen during school hours either on a weekly or on a 5-week block basis each Tuesday. We are able to offer individual speech therapy at a cost of \$60 per half hour session. We will require a signed commitment to pay from parents and parents are billed monthly.

We recommend either weekly sessions or a 5-week block.

Spaces are limited; please request a permission form from the office to ensure a place.

Please email Shirley Gillie at [sgillie@mecs.vic.edu.au](mailto:sgillie@mecs.vic.edu.au) or Jo Miller at [jmiller@mecs.vic.edu.au](mailto:jmiller@mecs.vic.edu.au) if you have any questions.

**Shirley & Jo**  
*Education Support Coordinators*

### After School Care Taking Enrolments Now

Are you planning on using After School Care this year? Start the enrolment process now, as approval can take up to two weeks.

Contact the office for more details.



# Money Matters

## What is CSEF? Information for Parents

CSEF (Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund) will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid Health Care Card or pension card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance will be paid to the school and will be credited to your account.

The annual CSEF amount per student is \$125 for Primary School students, \$225 for Secondary School students.

### How to apply

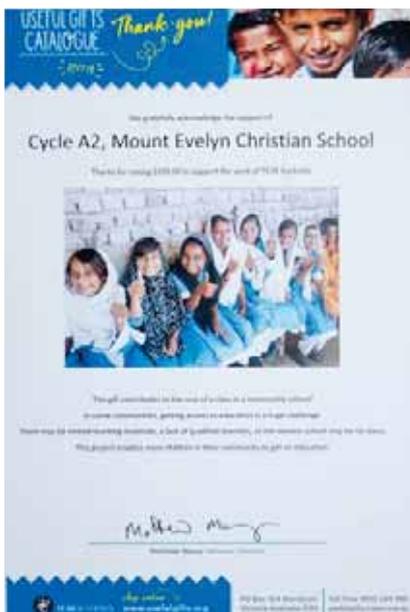
Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from [www.education.vic.gov.au/csef](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/csef).

For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit [www.education.vic.gov.au/csef](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/csef).

## School News

### MS Fundraising

At the end of last year I asked my class if they wanted to do a Kris Kringle OR collect all the money they would have spent on that and give it to a worthy cause. They chose the latter. We raised \$100 which enabled us to start a class in a community school (the picture is our special receipt). I am so proud of the class for choosing such a wonderful use of their money - well done!



Tim  
Middle School Teacher

# Friends of MECS



I always love the excitement and buzz of a new school year. It starts with the staff returning and catching up with each other. We started the year together with worship and communion and a prayer of blessing over 2018.

The rest of the week was full of meetings and planning for the new year ahead. Then there is the first day of school, a much louder buzz as students return and parents and grandparents are here dropping off and reconnecting with other parents and staff, and a full staff room as parents and grandparents joined us for a cuppa. On Monday our Foundation students had their first full day at school - another exciting day, and important moment for those students and their families, and yet another morning tea to attend and an opportunity to get to know other parents.

It is wonderful to see all of you back again after the summer break! I am reminded that parents, and grandparents, extended family, teachers and other parents all make up the 'village' that helps raise and educate our children. So welcome back! And if you are new - welcome to the MECS community. I encourage you to get to know this community, find ways to get involved that suit you, and enjoy all that the MECS community has to offer.

### Here are a few things that are happening this term:

**Prayer Group:** Meets weekly on Mondays in the Principal's Office, 2.15 - 3.15pm. All MECS Community Members welcome.

**Knitting Group:** Knitting for Stable One and The Babes Project. Meets weekly on Wednesdays in the main staffroom, 8.45 - 10.30am. All MECS community members welcome.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1967808476775906/>

**Cook Off Day:** Wednesday 28 Feb 8.45 - 12pm. Come along for a fun morning of preparing meals for our Community Freezer. No experience or expertise necessary, just a willingness to do some chopping and stirring and meet other parents. Please let me know if you are able to help out. [nnyhouse@mecs.vic.edu.au](mailto:nnyhouse@mecs.vic.edu.au)

**Spectrum Support Morning Tea:** Monday 5 March, 8.45am onwards in the main staffroom. This is new this year, and is a way to support our parents with a child/ren on the Autism spectrum, providing an opportunity to connect and support each other.

Nicole  
Community Relations

## Temporary Home Needed for the MECS chooks

Our four MECS chooks need a temporary home for about three weeks during Term One while their pen is moved from the Creation Garden to a new location. If you are able to assist, please email Kaye Smith at [ksmith@mecs.vic.edu.au](mailto:ksmith@mecs.vic.edu.au).

# Meet the New Staff



**Lyse**  
Year 5/6 teacher



**Stephanie**  
Sport/PE Teacher



**Melinda**  
Specialist Maths Teacher



**Priscilla**  
Office Manager and Executive PA



**Tracey**  
Middle School CS



**Richelle**  
Primary Ed Support Teacher



**Dylan**  
IT Volunteer



**Emma**  
Learning Assistant



**Chris**  
Sport/PE Teacher



**Catherine**  
Learning Assistant



**Mandy**  
Learning Assistant



**Craig**  
Secondary Music



**Hayley**  
Middle School CS



**Karena**  
Learning Assistant

## Returning from maternity leave



**Bek**



**Annora**



**Shannon**



**Rachel**

## Focus on...

### Transition to Primary School

Here at MECS, we understand that the transition to school from Kindergarten can be daunting for children and their parents. Anticipating the step from Kindergarten to 'big' school may lead to feelings of excitement and apprehension...we understand that. This is a time when parents release their children to the care and nurture of another person for most of their waking day - this is just the beginning of what we hope is a wonderful school experience.



In our experience, the partnership between teachers, other educators and professionals, parents, and children is central to ensure a smooth and positive transition. For several months before a student commences Foundation, there is a huge emphasis placed on getting to know them and their learning needs and strengths. Teachers develop relationships with students and their families, gaining insights through Kindergarten visits, observations and assessments, transition reports, 'Footsteps into Foundation' visits, Orientation Day, and by listening to the hopes and concerns of parents. We believe that this helps to establish the best start possible for our new students.

Here at MECS, our Foundation students have a 'Say G'day and have a play' session as part of their transition to school. This allows children to come into their classroom environment for an hour with one other student, spend time with their teacher and Learning Assistant, become familiar with the organisation of the classroom, and enjoy a play with their peers. We believe this provides a calm and welcoming introduction to school, alleviating some of the apprehension that may be experienced by students.

This week, our new Foundation students experienced their first days of school...and what a great start they have had! It is such a privilege to be part of their journey.

**Steph**  
Foundation Geckos Teacher



## Focus on...

## Year 12 camp

The Year 12 students and Senior School staff headed up to Oasis campsite last Monday and Tuesday to kick off the big year ahead with the Year 12 study skills camp. Over the course of the two days students took part in a variety of sessions about the VCE, ATAR, exam revision techniques, time and stress management, as well as a helpful talk by Jacqui on mindset. There was also the opportunity for some fun activities such as archery, flying fox, pool and games, with even a time for a little bit of pampering.

On Monday night the Oasis staff put on a beautiful dinner for the students and their mentors, followed by a goal setting session and finishing with some silly games.

After 10 years of working with John and Rhonda it was somewhat bittersweet to share their last camp as managers of the Oasis campsite. We would like to thank them for their many years of working with MECS to help put on some fantastic camps and wish them all the best in the new adventures ahead.

Overall, it was a great camp to help the Year 12 students gear up for the joys and challenges of the year ahead.

Some comments from the Year 12 students:

"I really enjoyed the camp. I feel it was effective and reassuring."

"Loved the dessert and being with my mentor. It was good to see what is ahead of me now."

"It was motivating and informative and nice to be with our pals."

"Dinner was beautifully prepared. Mentor/Mentee discussion was a highlight of the camp."

"I LOVED the mentor dinner."

"I think the camp is a good way to embark on Year 12, particularly setting goals with my mentor."

**Emma**  
Senior School Coordinator



Savannah



Jemma & Jacinta



Piper, Jemma, Luke & Jake



Isabelle & James



Ashley



Kate



Emily



Luke

# Year 12 Study Camp

# MP Science Incursion



With the start of a new year and a new time of learning in Middle Primary, we wanted to start the year off with a bang...and a fizz...and a bubble...and a crackle. So Ben, our visiting scientist from Fizzics Education, showed us all sorts of exciting experiments. In Core Studies this term, our Middle Primaries are becoming investigators who will look to predict and explain changes in solids, liquids and gases. As we saw

today, there are many exciting, surprising and sometimes predictable changes in God's world and we had fun exploring those with this visit.

## Alistair

*Assistant Primary Coordinator, Middle Primary Cluster Leader and Teacher*

Flour flying through the air. Flames burning brightly in front of our faces. Elephant toothpaste oozing from the tube like flowing lava. A scientist has come to MECS to teach us about 'change'.

Ben, the science guy, came to Middle Primary on Friday and showed us some phenomenal experiments about how the atoms that make up everything in our world can change when something happens to them. Atoms change when you make them excited. Some of the ways you can do that is by mixing them with other atoms, adding different chemicals, adding heat or taking heat away.

The experiments were interesting, a little scary and fun. We loved learning about science with Ben, the science guy.

**MPG**



Josiah



## Foundation first Day of School

Monday was a big day for our Foundation students and their families as they began their Primary School journey. After kisses, hugs, and goodbye waves, students from Foundation Bilbies and Geckos settled in for a wonderful day of learning, playing, and making new friends. There was so much to explore and learn as students engaged in Investigations, played in the MCG during recess and lunch time and experienced a new daily routine.

Highlights of our first day included walking to the Principal's office where the students met Mrs Sketcher for a lovely chat, and created beautiful artwork to be displayed in her window. After lunch, we placed the first star on our '100 days of school' chart, listened to 'The Rainbow Fish' story, and then completed our very first art masterpieces of our very own fish. It was all very exciting!

Well done to all of our Foundation students – we are so happy to welcome you to our school community.

## Steph

*Foundation Geckos Teacher*



Elijah



Shine



Zoe & Kirsten

# Foundation - off to a great start

February 8 2018

# Calendar

2018 Term 1 Week 3: 12 Feb - 18 Feb

Monday 12 February  
JP Minibeasts Incursion  
Parent Prayer Group 2.15-3.15pm, Principal's office

Wednesday 14 February  
MECS Mums Knitting & Crochet Group 8.45am Staffroom  
Year 7 & 8 Swimming Program  
MECS Mums Knitting & Crochet Group 8.45am Staffroom

Thursday 15 February  
Year 9 City Day Excursion  
SP Science Works Excursion  
Year 9 & 10 Swimming Program  
JP Information Session 2-3pm PUMP Room

Friday 16 February  
Pre Assembly Morning Tea for Parents 9-10am Staffroom  
Whole School Assembly 10-11am Gym

Saturday 17 February  
Working Bee including BBQ Breakfast 7am-1pm

2018 Term 1 Week 4: 19 Feb - 25 Feb

Monday 19 February  
Primary GT 9am PUMP Room, Student Leaders  
Year 11 and 12 Basketball Day  
Parent Prayer Group 2.15-3.15pm, Principal's office

Wednesday 21 February  
MECS Mums Knitting & Crochet Group 8.45am Staffroom  
Year 7 and 8 Swimming Program

Thursday 22 February  
Year 9 and 10 Swimming Program

Friday 23 February  
K4 Connect Morning Tea 8.45am  
New Parent Dinner 7pm

2018 Term 1 Week 4: 19 Feb - 25 Feb

Monday 26 February  
School Photo Day  
Parent Prayer Group 2.15-3.15pm, Principal's office  
Parent Seminar A, 7.30pm Staffroom

## First Working Bee



17 February  
7am-1pm

Starting with BBQ Breakfast

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

## 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.

### Mount Evelyn Netball Club

Winter Season 2018 registrations are now open. If you are interested in playing please call Sheelagh 9736 1132. Winter season commences 3 March.

### Mal White Coaching Services

Make 2018 a Brilliant Year of Growth!

- Your business growth
- Achieving your aspirational life goals
- Personal development
- Professional development for individuals and groups

Contact Mal White, 0432 300 654, malwhite007@gmail.com

### Baptist Fun Run

Saturday 3 March, the Victorian Baptist Fun Run is a fundraising opportunity for your church or group.

- You can enter the individual or team categories.
- 60% of the money you raise in sponsorship can be allocated to your church, youth group, brigade, seniors group, building fund etc.

The course starts and finishes at Kilsyth South Baptist Church, 382 Liverpool Rd, Kilsyth South, and follows the Dandenong Creek walking track. It is open to individual entrants who may choose to walk the 6km course, or to run the 6km, 11km, or 16km course, and to teams who may run the 16km as a relay event. You can enter online or download Entry Forms at [ksbc.org.au/funrun](http://ksbc.org.au/funrun).

### Early Years Services Parent & Educator Information Sessions

Yarra Ranges council are running information sessions to support families and build parenting confidence and skills. All sessions are **free** to attend, registration is essential as places are limited. For further information please contact Michelle Lehmann, 1300 368 333 or [earlyyears@yarraranges.vic.gov.au](mailto:earlyyears@yarraranges.vic.gov.au). The following seminars are being offered.

### Talking Toddlers, play behaviours and expectations:

**Thur 22 Feb**, 9.30-10.30am Mooroolbark Terrace MCH Centre, Brice Ave Mooroolbark **or**

**Tues 13 Mar**, 10-11am Sherbrooke Family and Children's Centre, 1443 Burwood Hwy, Upwey **or**

**Wed 28 Mar**, 10-11am Upper Yarra Family Centre, 2444 Warburton Hwy, Yarra Junction. To register 1300 368 333 or [earlyyears@yarraranges.vic.gov.au](mailto:earlyyears@yarraranges.vic.gov.au)

### Positive Parent Child interactions:

Interactive session for parents and children together.

**Mon 19 Feb**, 10-11am, Sherbrooke Family and Children's Centre, 1443 Burwood Hwy, Upwey **or**

**Wed 7 Mar**, 9.30-10.30am, Mooroolbark Terrace MCH Centre, Brice Ave Mooroolbark **or**

**Wed 21 Mar**, 10-11am, Upper Yarra Family Centre, 2444 Warburton Hwy, Yarra Junction. To register 1300 368 333 or [earlyyears@yarraranges.vic.gov.au](mailto:earlyyears@yarraranges.vic.gov.au)

### Managing your child's worries and anxiety:

**Wed 28 Feb**, 7-9pm Kimberley Place, 33 Kimberley Drive, Chirnside Park. Bookings 1300 368 333

### Resilience in Children 0-6 years:

**Wed 21 Mar**, 7-9pm Sherbrooke Family and Children's Centre, 1443 Burwood Hwy, Upwey. Bookings made via Sherbrooke Reception, 9754 4432.

### Toilet Training Information Session:

**Wed 8 May**, 7-8.30pm, Sherbrooke Family and Children's Centre, 1443 Burwood Hwy, Upwey. Bookings made via Sherbrooke Reception, 9754 4432.

### Kinder Readiness:

**Thur 10 May**, 7-8.30pm Kimberley Place, 33 Kimberley Drive, Chirnside Park. Bookings open 10 April, 1300 368 333.

### Screen Time and Cyber Safety:

**Tues 21 Aug**, 7-9pm Mount Evelyn Primary School, 33 Monbulk Rd, Mount Evelyn. Bookings open 21 July 2018, 1300 368 333

### Healthy Eating:

**Thur 18 Oct**, 7-8.30pm Sherbrooke Family and Children's Centre, 1443 Burwood Hwy. Bookings made via Sherbrooke Reception, 9754 4432.

## Notices sent home this week and on Website

[www.mecs.vic.edu.au/Resources/Downloads/Notices-Home](http://www.mecs.vic.edu.au/Resources/Downloads/Notices-Home)

- K4 Connect Morning Tea Invitation
- Foundation Bush Telegraph
- Foundation Birthday Email
- JP Term 1 Newsletter
- MP Term 1 Newsletter
- SP Term 1 Newsletter
- SP Science Works Excursion
- Yr 7 Term 1 Newsletter
- Yr 7 Immunisation Program 2018
- Yr 7 Camp & Abseiling Permission
- 2018 Working Bees Notice

- Yr 8 Term 1 Newsletter
- Yr 8 Man Camp & Inspiring Girls Camp
- Yr 7, 8, 9 & 10 Swimming Lesson Notices
- Yr 9 Open Village Term 1 Newsletter
- Yr 9 City Camp Letter
- Yr 9 - 12 Music Excursion
- Yr 10 Early Release Request Form
- Yr 11 & 12 Early Release Request Form
- Speech Therapy Permission
- Group Speech Therapy Permission
- Careers Newsletter Feb 9

# Community Notices