Yr 6 Graduation, a joyful celebration!!
Welcome to the final newsletter for 2014! Isn't God good! That's not a question but rather a statement! I am thankful for so many things. We have wonderful, committed staff, a supportive and engaged parent community, enthusiastic and curious students and a great God! Thankyou to all the ways in which you have been involved in the life of the school throughout this year, whether through working bees, attending camps, helping out in the tuck shop, giving time to the Friendship Place or whatever it may have been. We highly value your involvement!

With the final few days of the school year upon us I’d like to remind you of a few things.

Firstly the calendar for 2015. The Preps and Year 7 students begin on Monday, 2nd February, here at school while the VCE students head off on their two day VCE retreat, Years 8 – 10 on Tuesday, 3rd February, and we are all together on Wednesday, 4th February, at school. I am looking forward to spending the Wednesday as a community in various multi-age activities, seeing the VCE students be given an opportunity to lead some of the activities and begin the school year as a whole school community as we look at what it means to be a student at MDCS. For those families with students in the Years 1 - 6, in the coming days you will receive a letter in the mail regarding booking a time with your child’s class teacher through PTO. These appointment times will be available on either the Monday or Tuesday of the first week of school.

The students reports are in the final stages of proofreading and printing and will be available for pick up at the end of the Final Assembly next Tuesday, 16th December. Along with your child’s report will be a copy of the 2014 Reflector, our school’s magazine. Thankyou to Mrs Heading for all the work, hours and liaising with staff, print company and all with a smile! It is greatly appreciated and I’m sure you’ll all agree when you see the final product that it’s a wonderful reflection of the year!

“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them. And the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favour rests.”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” So they hurried off… (Luke 2: 8 – 15)

As we approach Christmas may I encourage you to spend time reflecting on the wonderful gift that was given to us in the form of a vulnerable child; a king entered the world in a manner not expected and did so much more than expected. He wasn’t a king for a time, He was king for eternity! Enjoy your time with family and friends over the holiday period. I look forward to catching up with you next year and sharing holiday stories.

Merry Christmas!

Jason Riding

---

Form Principal’s desk...
As a school community, we are partnering with Open Door Church and the Monbulk Care Network to help provide for those in need this Christmas. Each student is encouraged to bring in a minimum of one food item that could be included in a Christmas ‘Hamper’. Some suggestions include:

- Packaged ‘Christmassy’ treats such as Puddings, Fruit Mince Pies, Canned Ham, Chocolates, Biscuits
- Other basic ‘non-perishable’ food items
- Children’s Toys

Each classroom will have a box in which items will be placed, and we hope to present them to a representative from Open Door Church and /or the Monbulk Care Network, at our final assembly on Tuesday, 16th December.

So let’s aim to have those boxes overflowing… and be a blessing to those in our wider community.

For more information, please contact the MDCS Office.

Community Levy 2015 The community Levy charge in 2015 will be $300. The rules governing the levy have been greatly simplified. MDCS have done away with the points system, so now an hour is an hour for all qualifying activities. You need to complete a minimum of 8 hours to have reduced the levy to zero.

Qualifying Activities include:
- Working Bees
- Hospitality Committee
- Fund Raising Activities
- Book Covering for Library
- Student Banking Co-ordinating

There will be three Saturday working bees, one in each of the first three terms. They will go from 8am-3pm. Those who work for the entire day will get a bonus hour. So it is now possible for one family member to satisfy the full requirements of the community levy at one working bee! The first working bee will be held on Saturday, 31st January, 2015. There will a twilight working bee in Term 4.

Many families put in many more volunteer hours than needed to satisfy the requirements of the community levy. The work that all volunteers do has helped MDCS to provide a school that is honouring to our Lord. We pray that people in our community will continue to step up and be generous with their time not because of the Community Levy, but because they wish to bless the school. MDCS acknowledges that some families have little time to donate hours because they already have a full schedule of work and other important commitments.

Congratulations to Harry Rothwell, who will be for the second year running working as Ball-kid at the Australian Open. If you happen to be attending the Tennis in January or watching it on TV, keep your eye out for Harry. What a wonderful achievement!

From the Library

We are in the process of completing a stocktake and have managed to cull some of our collection. We would like to make some of the culled books available for students to purchase at a small contribution to the library. Books will be available to purchase outside the library on Friday at lunchtime, with prices ranging from 20cents - $2.00.

Also, all library books not returned by Friday will be invoiced to parents in your next fees statement.

Holiday borrowing is available to all students who do not have outstanding library books, from this Friday. Thanks, The library ladies.

Lost property - FINAL DAYS

MOUNTAINS of lost property are here for the checking! PLEASE take a look for your child’s misplaced, neglected, forgotten, discarded, ‘nowhere to be found’ items! YOU WILL FIND THEY ARE HERE! but not for long.

Please check before it’s sent to an Op-Shop, The Office will be open until 19th December!!
Hello Mountain District Christian School community. I trust Term 4 is winding up well for you and your household.

I have just finished buying our family’s gifts for this Christmas; something I always find a bit odd. Let me explain why – I find myself at the shops which are full of Christmas bling - tinsel; giant baubles; decorated trees; flashing lights; carols playing; photos opportunities with Santa, and stressed out people who are madly rushing around buying gifts and festive food.

I find this all a bit odd, because for me the true essence of Christmas is not found in the perfect gift or turkey lunch. Although I thoroughly enjoy giving gifts and sharing a festive meal with family and friends, for me the true essence of Christmas is found in the gift of Jesus.

“Christmas is not just a time for festivity and merry making. It is more than that. It is a time for the contemplation of eternal things. The Christmas spirit is a spirit of giving and forgiving.” J.C. Penney

In today’s culture it is easy to lose sight of the true essence of Christmas, so let’s join together in abundantly manifesting the presence of God by being generous; joyful; forgiving and loving.

As this is my last newsletter contribution for 2014, I want to wish you and your household a wonder-filled, joyous Christmas celebration and a safe, restful holiday season.

Rich blessings til 2015!
Elissa White
Chaplain

‘Clocks’ – Critique from Prep/1/2 classes; This had a beautiful sound and a good tune. My brother was in it. We think they all played their instruments well. All the instruments combined well together. The singing was good with the instruments. It was a difficult piece, well done!

‘Let It Go’ – Critique from Prep/1/2 classes; Cennaire on the keyboard was well focussed. We love this song and everyone knows it, they played their instruments well. It was like the movie and the song. No-one was singing.

‘After A Bath’ – Critique from Prep/1/2 classes; Good instruments, funny words, they were talented how they sang. Very happy song, Jordan was confident and motivated his group. They kept focussed and had outstanding rhythm. We thought it was funny!

‘I Won’t Give Up’ – Critique from Prep/1/2 classes; This song made me feel relaxed, they worked well together, it was like sitting outside with the birds, it was harmonious, they sounded professional like a real band. We think Phoebe played the guitar really well and we like that they continued after making mistakes. It was slow and quiet. It had a good guitar

‘I Won’t Give Up’ – Critique from Prep/1/2 classes; This song made me feel relaxed, they worked well together, it was like sitting outside with the birds, it was harmonious, they sounded professional like a real band. We think Phoebe played the guitar really well and we like that they continued after making mistakes. It was slow and quiet. It had a good guitar

‘After A Bath’ – Critique from Prep/1/2 classes; Good instruments, funny words, they were talented how they sang. Very happy song, Jordan was confident and motivated his group. They kept focussed and had outstanding rhythm. We thought it was funny!

‘I Won’t Give Up’ – Critique from Prep/1/2 classes; This song made me feel relaxed, they worked well together, it was like sitting outside with the birds, it was harmonious, they sounded professional like a real band. We think Phoebe played the guitar really well and we like that they continued after making mistakes. It was slow and quiet. It had a good guitar

‘I Won’t Give Up’ – Critique from Prep/1/2 classes; This song made me feel relaxed, they worked well together, it was like sitting outside with the birds, it was harmonious, they sounded professional like a real band. We think Phoebe played the guitar really well and we like that they continued after making mistakes. It was slow and quiet. It had a good guitar

325 Macclesfield Rd      P O Box 483  Monbulk 3793      Phone 9756 7244      Fax 9756 7356      mdcs@mdcs.vic.edu.au
More news!...

MPR has reached ‘that certain age’...and is receiving a facelift!!!
Make sure you check out what has been done to the Multipurpose Room over the holidays!

Year 6 Graduation...
Last week 28 students graduated from year 6. This annual event which also celebrates the completion of a Tiny Toastmasters Public Speaking Course was held at the Monbulk Bowling Club. Teachers, parents and friends enjoyed an evening being entertained by speeches prepared by the students. Topics such as: What is Happiness, Animal Cruelty, Compassion and My Life were some of the thought provoking topics presented, which gave us all insight into the passions and interests of these amazing students.

Some of the Year 6 highlights of the evening were: listening to students memories of their Primary School years and receiving a Tool Box with the necessary “tools” for the next stage, Secondary School including a times tables, a multi coloured pen and a slinky.

A thank you to all the people who made a contribution to the night, your efforts were greatly appreciated and the students felt very blessed and encouraged by your support. A special thank you to Stephen and Sharon Tinsely, for speaking on behalf of the Year 6 parents.

The Celebration for the Year 6’s continued this week on Monday with a day out at the Casey Aquatic Centre followed by lunch at Fountain Gate Shopping Centre. All students enjoyed the opportunity to have fun swimming and socializing. This was a positive way to end the Toastmasters program and all the hard work that had been put into preparing for the evening. Thank you to the parents who assisted with the excursion and helped to make the day memorable.

Mrs Bratton
5/6 Teacher