YEAR 8 SNOWY RIVER CAMP - 2014
I enjoy this time of the year! The celebrations, the remembering of what has happened during the year, the sharing of stories and the memories that have been created within our school community. Some of these memories will be shared tonight as we celebrate with our Year 12 students at their Valedictory Dinner held at Nathania Springs. There is some sadness about this event as their formal secondary schooling comes to a close and we say farewell to them for the last time, yet an excitement that is evident as the graduands look forward to the next phase of their life. Next Thursday, we join with the Year 6’s as they graduate from their Primary Years and look forward to the transition they make into the Secondary School. I am very much anticipating this event as we hear from the students the speeches they have prepared as part of the Toast Master’s program they have participated in throughout the last term.

Next Monday afternoon we have our whole school orientation session. For the 2015 Prep class it will be their third time together, for the Year 7 class it will their second time together and for other students it will their first time coming together with their new teachers.

I’d also like to remind you about our Open Door Christmas Hampers that we are contributing to. Suggested items have been listed with an attachment to the newsletter about what you may contribute. The purpose of this is to support those families that may need extra support at Christmas time. The items donated will be presented to representatives from Open Door Church and Monbulk Care Network at our Final Assembly on Tuesday 16th December.

Have a great week!

Jason Riding

CHAPLAIN’S CHAT
Hello Mountain District Christian School community. I trust term four is going well for you and your household.

In this edition I’d like to focus on how we best help our child when they feel anxious. Although the Bible tells us to be anxious for nothing (Philippians 4:6), trying to convince your child to not worry may not be overly effective. That’s not to say that praying about the worry or choosing to trust in God is not helpful, but there are some other things we can do to help our child to settle. These include letting your child know that worry is a normal feeling that everyone feels at times, and that it’s role is to keep us safe from danger. Try teaching your child that anxiety is a type of worry that is triggered as a kind of false alarm by our system. However, there are some simple techniques they can try when the worry becomes anxiety, including acknowledging your child’s concern; taking some deep breaths or brainstorming solutions together.

There is a great website a staff member made me aware of recently which has more detailed tips if your child struggles with anxiety. Why not check it out:


Elissa White
Parents please note...

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.

From the Library

All library books are due back to the school library by Monday (1st December) of next week.

Please ensure your child has returned all his/her books by next week.

Your help is appreciated in this.

Holiday borrowing will be available for students (with no outstanding books) in the final week of term.

Thank for your co-operation.

House to rent! A young couple, new to our school community, are currently house hunting for a rental property to live in next year. They are searching for a small, preferably 2 bedroom house in the area of Mount Evelyn or Lilydale.

If anyone has any contacts in regard to leasing property within these areas, please contact the school office.

Tuckshop Tomorrow

Slushies 50 cents
Community News...

Thomas Nelson, a student in Year 7, competed in a Team Up Active Triathlon. He participated in a 200m swim, 8km bike ride and 1km run. His highlight was the bike ride as he had a strong tail wind and got up to 53km per hour. Well done Tom!

Sponsored by Shire Yarra Ranges and Integrity Health

CAMP FOR BUILDING SELF ESTEEM AND CONFIDENCE FOR KIDS!!
On the weekend of Fri. 13th February - Sun. 15th February 2015 $60 Full Fee*

We have discovered that if you try to build up kids in this amazing area of their lives, they are so glad when adults try they almost do it all for them! This Level 1 camp starts kids off on this exciting adventure, and they usually don’t want to stop!

We already have quite a few kids booked in. You can ring for a prebooking, which will hold a space for 21 days, giving enough time to formally confirm the booking.

See www.kidsofgold.org.au for further info, pictures, slideshow etc.

WHAT IS IT? - A camp designed especially to build confidence and self-esteem for Primary Kids in Grades 4-6 ( & 9yr olds only in Gde 3). Students going into Year 7 in 2015 are still eligible, as well as Grade 3s going into Grade 4 in 2015.

There are 4 Levels that kids can ultimately do if they continue to come! Overcoming issues like shyness, bullying and inability to make friends are some of the areas that parents have seen their kids ‘winning through’ on through this camp. Fun games, low ropes and initiative activities, wall climbing, dramas etc are all in the program.

WHERE IS IT? - In the Yarra Valley at the safe and attractive setting of the Lyrebird Park Camp, 510 Beenak Rd Yellingbo. It is found in Melways Map 308 K10, and is marked as 1km further along Beenak Road..

COST? $60 per child. There are full sponsorships available to some on application ( $60 is only 43% of the full price), and will be met through subsidies received through fundraising efforts and Kids of Gold sponsors. Bendigo Bank, Bunnings and the Shire of Yarra Ranges support our cause as much as they are able.

CONTACT - Enquiries/pre-booking to ‘Kids of Gold’ on 0418 170 027 ( Jenny) or 9737. 9475 (Gary) or 0415 427 396 (Gary).

KIDS OF GOLD, 323 MONBULK RD SILVAN VIC 3795

Table Tennis Anyone? Get off the Couch!

" Hit'n Giggle "

Every Friday 7.30pm - 9pm at 'the Hub' lower level, Monbulk Living and Learning Centre. Newly formed Not for Profit Club. $5 members, $5 visitors. $40 annual fee. All ages. Join anytime. Just show up or call Jenie 9752 1213 or mail@jeniestrohnatur@path.com. Sponsored by Shire Yarra Ranges and Integrity Health
“...When they reached the mountain's summit, even Clancy took a pull,
It well might make the boldest hold their breath,
The wild hop scrub grew thickly, and the hidden ground was full
Of wombat holes, and any slip was death,
But the man from Snowy River let the pony have his head,
And he swung his stockwhip round and gave a cheer,
And he raced him down the mountain like a torrent down its bed,
While the others stood and watched in very fear.

He sent the flint stones flying, but the pony kept his feet,
He cleared the fallen timber in his stride,
And the man from Snowy River never shifted in his seat
It was grand to see that mountain horseman ride,
Through the stringybarks and saplings, on the rough and broken ground,
Down the hillside at a racing pace he went:
And he never drew the bridle till he landed safe and sound,
At the bottom of that terrible descent.

He was right among the horses as they climbed the further hill,
And the watchers on the mountain standing mute,
Saw him ply the stockwhip fiercely, he was right among them still,
As he raced across the clearing in pursuit.
Then they lost him for a moment, where two mountain gullies met
In the ranges, but a final glimpse reveals
On a dim and distant hillside the wild horses racing yet,
With the man from Snowy River at their heels...”

Excerpt from 'The Man from Snowy River' by A.B 'Banjo' Paterson.
Each year, as part of their English studies, the Year 8 students look at the ballad, “The Man from Snowy River” by A.B. “Banjo” Paterson. As part of our Snowy River study, we also embark on our annual Snowy River Camp, giving the students a chance to really experience our rich heritage and feel a part of this legendary story. The camp also gives the students, their parents and teachers a chance to continue to get to know one another and enjoy time together by participating in activities like our trail ride through the Victorian High Country and hiking the spectacular Bluff Walk and then down to Bluff Hut. This year we were fortunate to have lessons in whip cracking and relished the chance to learn this new skill – and some students were absolute naturals!!

This camp is an ongoing tradition at MDCS and every year we ALL come back so much the richer for it in every way as not only is there a physical, mental and emotional element to the camp but certainly a spiritual one. My favourite place to be is on the summit of the Bluff Walk as I feel so close to God there – the stillness, silence and scenery – scatterings of wild flowers and a dramatic landscape, continues to inspire, refresh and humble me to know that the God who created this awesome place invites me to share in it as well.

On behalf of the students and myself, I’d like to sincerely thank the staff and parents to who came along to help the camp run so smoothly; without your gifts and talents, and the giving of your time, the camp and this experience would not be possible.

Psalm 8: (3) “When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of, the son of man that you care for him?... (9) O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!”
HIGHLIGHTS FROM SLEEPOVER—

Last Friday, the year 2’s had the Year 2 Sleepover!

After everyone had left school, we got to stay and play outside on the courts before eating some fruit and chips for afternoon tea.

After that we got to set up all of our beds in Mr Heckathorn’s room.

Miss Bennett played some games with us on the courts with some parents too. So much fun!

We had definitely worked up an appetite, and thankfully Mr McDowell and some helpful mums had made yummy bolognese and ice cream dessert.

We got to go down the Nature Trail where we had clues to find chocolate coins hidden around. There were no leeches!!

When we got back, we got our pyjamas on and watched a movie before bed.

Zzzzzzzzzzzzzz *snore* zzzzzzzzzz.....

In the morning we woke up.
Mr Heckathorn played Frozen music and we got to have a pillow fight.
Pancakes for breakfast!
Best sleepover ever!!