Prep Healesville Sanctuary Excursion
Last week we had Nathan Want and Sharon Witt join us for a Cyber Awareness seminar. It was a very informative event for parents and students alike. The students were left with the message, ‘What happens in the virtual world affects the real world.’ The message to us as parents was ‘Be alert, not alarmed.’ Below is a reflection of the evening from Merryn Van Bremmen, our school’s Board Chair. Elissa White, our school’s chaplain, also reflects on the evening in her article.

Please remember that next Tuesday, 12th August, is Grandparents and Special Friends day and on Wednesday evening 13th, we will be having our VCE/ VET information night for Year 9 & 10 students.

Have a great week,
Jason Riding

What incredible times we live in! The age of the digital revolution and a rapidly changing world! We are living in an era of accessibility and digital mobility in so many forms: instantaneous downloads, live feeds, interactive apps, multiplayer games, online communities, the list goes on... The challenges of this is new to our parenting generation - our children are ‘digital natives’ - and will not know a world without the internet. No-one, however, is born digitally literate and skills must be acquired around responsible digital citizenship. Our concern is how do we help our children navigate and explore the benefits of technology, through the screen of the cyber-world, harnessing the benefits and utilising the creative opportunities without becoming entangled or ensnared by it. Our recent Lost in Cyber Space event was an excellent evening and focused on awareness and alertness to the potential pitfalls, the importance of fostering open and honest discussions between parent and child, practical boundaries and safe use of the internet. Nathan Want, a local tech-savvy youth pastor, introduced the evening and shared about his day where he talked to the Year 5 to 12’s at school. Ask your children about the ‘toothpaste’ analogy that Nathan shared with the students.

Sharon Witt, secondary teacher, mother of teens and author of the Teen Talk series shared her insights, wisdom and knowledge with us. Sharon talked about ‘FOMO’ - children's fear of missing out, shared McAfee's latest cyber survey results, encouraged us as parents to bridge the subject of ‘What would you do if...?’, and to be good role models. Sharon offered some practical tips and advice such as creating an 'I-Table' (a charging table or bench that all devices go to at night), making the internet a family activity, creating a family contract, educating yourself and setting clear expectations.

If you missed out on the evening, there is a great resource available that you might find useful, cybersmart.gov.au. This is a website initiative of ACMA (Australian Communications and Media Authority), and provides useful resources to parents and age specific tools to educate children about safe internet practice.

Can I urge you to take advantage of the evenings hosted by the school - the calibre of speakers was excellent and the opportunity it affords you to avail and equip yourself with knowledge is priceless - one gem of good advice can make a world of difference in your family life. The informal cuppa time created an opportunity to chat around the subject and proved an immensely valuable time between parents to share stories and encourage one another in the raising of our children. On behalf of the parents I extend a big ‘thank you’ to the staff who gave of their time to facilitate the evening.

Merryn Van Bremen
Board Chair

HELP! The Year 9 Production Team would love some assistance from MDCS families who might be able to lend/donate:
(Time period is 1920s-30s, but anything ‘Antique’-looking is good)
Small Desks (2) - 2-Seater Couch - Caraffe - Old metal garbage - tins (2) - Grey/Charcoal Suits - Grey/Charcoal Skirts/Dresses - Ladies’ jackets in muted colours - Toy guns (4) - Whiskey Bottle (empty) - Fob Watches - Capacious Handbag - Desk Lamp - Lamp Stand - Hat/Coat Stand (2) - Impressive Letter Opener

Open Day is coming ..... Thank you to all who are already helping on our Open Day. It is going to be a wonderful day! We still require;

- Two men to take turns manning the jumping castle over a four hour period. This will ensure safety for our little and big ones.
- Community to pray for the day.

Forms and Letters sent home this week:

- Shopping Tour Flyer
- Yr 9/10 Parents VCE & VET Information Evening
- Yr 5/6 Homework Notice

REMINDEERS
- School Banking & Tuckshop
Scholastic Book Club: Scholastic Book Club will be sent home with students today. All orders and correct money must be handed into the office by Friday, 8th August. Please make sure all orders are clearly labelled with a name and correct money is included with the order. All orders will be sent home with students unless parents specify otherwise on the order form.

Working Bee: Sat 16th August
9am—3pm
Lock the date in your diaries and plan to attend!
Help get our school spick and span for Open Day.

VCE and VET Information
Evening for current Year 9 and 10 students
Wednesday 13th August
7.30pm in the MPR

MDCS Shopping Tour
- Saturday, 30th August.
- $25 (including morning tea and lunch).
- Please contact the MDCS office for information, or to book your place.

Your friends, family and neighbours are welcome, too!

WANTED - Items needed for Year 12 last day
If anyone would like to donate any of the following items:
- Old wooden toys (trains etc)
- Toy mice (or similar soft toys)
- Old brooms
- Old tea pots/ cups
- Large cardboard boxes
If you can help with any of the above, please contact the MDCS office.

AUGUST
8th - 5/6 Social & Sleepover
11th - Secondary Assembly (Yr 11)
- Yr 7 Indonesian Consulate Excursion
12th - Grandparents Day
13th - VCE/VET Information Night
14th - Yr 11/12 Football/Netball
16th - WORKING BEE
18th - Primary Assembly (Primary)
18th - 22nd Primary Book Week
Hello Mountain District Christian School community. I trust you and your household are travelling along well.

As teachers and parents we are interacting with the most tech-savvy generation ever. That’s why we recently ran some cyber sessions for our students with Nathan Want (Youth Pastor at Discovery Church) along with a parent seminar with Sharon Witt (MECS teacher and author of the TeenTalk series).

If your child is in year 5 through to VCE, I would encourage you to have a conversation about how Nathan Want helped them to be more responsible cyber users. They will at least remember the very fun toothpaste game they played which was aimed at helping them to be aware that “everything you do in the cyber world, affects the real world.” As Sharon suggested, being alert to the possible dangers of the cyber world and preparing our children for those is important. Perhaps you could ask them what they would do if they received a message from someone they did not know, asking them for personal details.

I believe our challenge as adults is to be cyber aware – to know what constitutes the cyber world now and what safety guidelines and boundaries we need to implement whilst allowing our children and students the opportunity to learn and communicate in the online world. As Michael Carr-Gregg states, “Young people may have been born in the most technological age, but they are not born computer literate or well versed in digital citizenship skills.”

If you were unable to make it and would like some cyber resources, please let me know as I have books and DVDs you can loan plus brochures on various cyber topics. Another great resource is www.cybersmart.gov.au

Rich blessings.

Elissa White

Jacob, Year 12, learning about the danger of cyber-words by first, squeezing out a whole tube of toothpaste (easy), then trying to put it back INTO the tube!!

Year 5/6 : touching lives in China...

Last term, both 5/6 classes focused on China in their General Studies program. One of the activities they were involved in was to see how far along the Great Wall of China they could ride on bikes. This was done by gathering together an assortment of exercise bikes, dividing the classes into two teams and spending 10 minutes each day riding the bikes. The distance travelled each day was recorded and a running record of the total distance was kept. To coincide with the ride the children gained sponsorship from friends and family for the distance they had travelled with the view that all the monies collected would be given to Autumn Rain to be used to get Bibles into China.

The children powered their way along the Great Wall. Sweat was abundant, steam was evident, and a great deal of youthful exuberance was displayed as the children rode each day. After much spent energy, on-the-run repairs, and some legs that also couldn’t go the distance, the term was over and the great ride had ended. Altogether the children pedaled some 2,000 kilometers. They then collected all the sponsorship money which came to the amazing amount of $1879.00.

On Tuesday 29th August, Doug and his two children, representing Autumn Rain were presented with the cheque. They informed the children that each dollar raised would pay for Bibles to be transported into China. They told the children that with the money they had raised, 900 Bibles would now be delivered to the Christians in China.

Well done 5/6’s! A big THANK YOU to the children for their amazing effort and to all those family and friends who supported them through sponsorship and encouragement. A big thank you also to Charlie and Ben who continually kept the bikes road safe.
Yr 10 Netball Day:
Alyssa, Ali & Steph - On Tuesday the Year 10 girls came together and worked as a team to do their best on the netball court. It was great to see the girls encouraging each other and improving their skills as the day progressed. They found victory in their hearts as they looked back to see how far they had come from their Yr 7 netball days. The day ended on a high with the girls defeating Heritage Christian School by a large margin.

Yr 9 Netball Day:
Shania Turner
It was great to see the girls trying their best and everyone putting in 100%. We worked together to win a number of games and ended up playing off for third and fourth place. Which we won! We all had a great time encouraging one another and having fun. A great effort by all.

Football Day
Run and carry, intercept marks and powerful tackles were a key to a successful team effort in winning the SEISSA Gold division round robin event. The team was able to, through their intensity, score freely while the back line, holding firm, just allowed two points through. It was great to see some of our football specialists shine but equally impressive was that all students gave their best to benefit the team. The coach was also a shining light. An impressive day.
Yesterday the Preps went on their very first excursion to Healesville Sanctuary! They had lots of fun walking around and seeing the Australian Animals that God created. We had lots of different favourite animals and really enjoyed the Spirits of the Sky show. Thank you to our parent helpers who were able to come and enjoy the day with us!

Levi Roma – Yesterday we went to Healesville Sanctuary. My favourite thing was the baby Koala’s because it was cute. I saw the echidna’s with the Koala’s.

Meg Dempsey – Yesterday we went to Healesville Sanctuary. I liked the Bird Show because I like how the birds fly over our head.

Isabella Diprose – Yesterday we went to Healesville Sanctuary and we saw a Platypus. I liked it because it swims.

Lee Messenger – Yesterday we went to Healesville Sanctuary. I liked the Dingo Pups because they are cute. They were in the Hospital playing. There were two.

Emmanuel Megee – Yesterday we went to Healesville Sanctuary. I liked the snake because we saw the inside body of one.