This week I have the privilege of writing the editorial.

Something I have really enjoyed this year is getting involved with the teaching and learning of the older students in our school. If you had asked me a year ago what I knew about robotics my answer would have been, not much. And now, almost six months later, I am part of a Robotics club! For me it has been a reminder of the joy we can take in learning something new, in seeing student learning in action and being able to do this in a team.

Let me explain further. Six months ago a conversation with a parent about learning opportunities in our school resulted in a grant for robotics equipment from VEX and now, dare I say, a fully-fledged club with two mentors-Megan and Kirk, and plenty of opportunity to learn about computer programming, design, building and competition.

Our first scrimmage (competition) with our team members was a trip to Hillcrest Christian College in Pakenham, where we met with other schools to work on design and robotic programming. What was inspiring about this time was the sharing of collective knowledge—schools giving away design tips and students teaching students programming. I think it is safe to say we were amazed at the generosity of other schools in sharing their expertise. After all, this does tend to go against the norm of competition.

Over the past few weeks students finished designing the clawbot, our first project, and started on modifications using a computer program called Sketchup. If you attended our recent Open Day you would have seen it in operation in the science lab. I am continuously inspired by the student’s ability to problem solve and work together as a team.

Being challenged whether through learning a new game, instrumental piece, concept in maths or learning lines for a play and performing it in front of an audience, is not a bad thing. In fact challenge can be quite the opposite encouraging confidence, growth, excellence and personal development. As a staff this term we have focussed during morning devotions on the book of Hebrews. The Christians in this time period were being challenged to not give up but to grow in their faith and to press into God. We have that same opportunity, to not give up but to press into God who will give us all that we need to deal with the challenges we face each today.

I am thankful for the great community we share. The Year 11s were able to bless the Year 12s in a very practical way today by preparing and serving them lunch. It is a reminder, that often behind challenges (in this case Year 12s study schedule) there are often a great team of coaches, teachers, parents and students upholding those facing challenges in prayer and support.

Tonight we have our Parent and Teacher meetings and have the opportunity to share with you the learning journey of your child. We encourage you to make the most of these meetings and see your input as a valuable part of the partnership of the education of your child/ren.

Kind regards,
Janita Bratton
Deputy Principal

Staffing
Next term Mrs Godman will be taking some well deserved long service leave. She has been an employee of MDCS for just over 10 years! As the preparation for the Primary School Production will be in its final few weeks and she has made a significant contribution to it, she will be at school for the first three weeks of Term 4. I am pleased to announce that Mr Whiteside will fill in for her during Term 4 commencing in the first week.

You may have heard that Mrs Hamilton and her husband will be taking some time to travel next year. We will miss her next year but look forward to hearing of the stories of her travels and having her back in 2016. I am pleased to be able to announce, in Mrs Hamilton’s absence, that taking the role of Year 10 class teacher will be Ms Miller.

Applications for the second Year 7 class teacher have been advertised in a variety of places. These close on 3rd October 2014.

I hope to be able to announce the remaining staffing for 2015 early in Term 4.

Have a great week!

Jason Riding

Forms and Letters sent home this week:
• Yr 5 Sex Education Info

Reminders:
• STUDENT FREE DAY TOMORROW
Please remember, TOMORROW, Friday 12th September is a student free day.

**GRAND SALE!!**

Rugby tops are now on sale at the cheap price of $40ea. *(rrp $66)*

Perfect for spring weather as a warm but light weight hardwearing windcheater. Come and get these while they are ‘hot’! Sale ends—end of term three. Size 10 childrens to XXL adult sizes available.

**Lost Property!...**

The pile is now a ‘two-tubber’!!!!!

PLEASE come and check lost property before the end of term otherwise what remains goes to the Op-shop, **NEVER to return!** (your 300 windcheaters are now weeping inconsolably!) It will be displayed in the Multi-purpose room during Parent Teacher Meetings.

**PLEASE COME AND CHECK IT OUT!**

**SEPTEMBER**

11th - 12th Parent Teacher Meetings

12th - **STUDENT FREE DAY**

15th - Secondary Assembly (Various)

15th - 17th Yr 3/4 Camp

16th - Yr 10 Basketball

19th - **TERM THREE ENDS**

**OCTOBER**

6th - VCE Classes (Unit 4) resume

8th - **TERM FOUR BEGINS WHOLE SCHOOL**

- Whole School Assembly

**A huge ‘Thank You’ to Sally Mc Donald and Sharon Beyer for organising the shopping tour.** On Saturday, two weeks ago, 30 women on a bus with Phil Diprose, as the ever-patient driver, set off at 7am to shop at 9 outlets for those ‘one off’ bargains. Approximately $2000 dollars was raised which will contribute towards a commercial dish washer for the Gym. Thanks Again!

The ladies are pictured below refuelling with lunch, readying for the home stretch!