Pulse

The Heartbeat of Mountain District Christian School

12th June, 2014       Term 2: Week 7/9

Primary Soiree

VCE at MDCS
REFLECTIONS see ‘From the Principal’s Desk’...

rocks the Gym!
Last week, I shared that MDCS was beginning to grow the Secondary school in 2015. This was one of the announcements we made at the AGM held a few weeks ago. The first step in this process is to start a second Year 7 class. If you missed the article I would encourage you to read last week’s newsletter.

In two weeks our Year 10 students will be participating in their Transition Week program. The purpose of the week is to expose the students to the possibilities that are before them and potential alternative pathways instead of the VCE, such as Ranges TEC which offers the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL). As part of this week the students will begin to investigate the requirements they need to meet in order to enter the university course or other training of their choice. Some courses require the presentation of a portfolio, some courses require the completion of Mathematical Methods and a science such as Biology and Chemistry; some courses even have a fitness test as part of the entry requirement. Having the opportunity to know these requirements before they start their course helps them with their subject selection.

This is the 10th year of Year 12 at MDCS. Our Year 12 program has hit double figures! MDCS has a very good VCE program. Last year we were able to offer 20 VCE subject choices. The average Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR) for students was 67.03. One quarter of the students achieved an ATAR score over 80 & ten percent scored above 90. All students that applied for a university course were offered a first round preference for the course of their choice. Those students that did not apply for university study, began apprenticeships or deferred their course until 2015 to work or travel. The added bonus to the MDCS VCE program is that we are able to offer small class sizes so that the students are able to have more attention given to them from the teacher.

But... Is it all about the ATAR score? Do we reduce students to a rank that they receive upon completion of the VCE program? Definitely not! It is important that we are working as a staff to ensure that our students reach their highest God-given potential through engaging, rigorous educational programs. For some students, obtaining their VCE certificate is a mighty accomplishment, for others a VCE goal may be to achieve an ATAR in the nineties. MDCS recognizes that all people are created in the image of God and all have inherent value because of His love for us. An ATAR score does not give some students more value or cause others to be less valuable. This can often be the thought process for some students that are undertaking their VCE. However, it is something that we need to wrestle and fight against. We need to encourage our students to develop good study habits and a purposeful work ethic...not necessarily for the purpose of achieving a high ATAR score, but so that we are better equipped to be good stewards in His world; so that we can serve Him and our communities in purposeful and meaningful ways…

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As your child begins the process of thinking through their options at VCE, talk to them about it, encourage them to think through what subjects they currently enjoy, what they may like to do once they finish school and how they may reach that point. At school, our Year 10 students will begin to think through this more purposefully during Transition Week. Above all, pray with them, seeking God’s wisdom as they make plans for their future.

Have a great week!
Jason Riding.
Parents please note...

YEAR 7, 2015?
As announced by Mr Riding at the recent AGM and in last weeks edition of the ‘Pulse’, MDCS will begin double streaming Year 7, in 2015. If you know of any family looking for Year 7 next year, we are now taking enrolment applications.
This is such exciting news for our school!

Meals Needed!
From time-to-time families in our school community go through a rough patch and could use a helping hand. Providing a meal makes a big difference. These meals are stored in our freezer.

Currently the freezer is depleted!! If you would like to help replenish it, please contact the office.
Thank you! - Mel

Grab your handbags ladies and set this day in ROCK in your diaries…. SHOPPING TOUR next term:
Saturday - 30th August
Get ready for the fun!

What’s coming up in Term Three:

August
- 16th - Working Bee
- 18th - 22nd - Primary Book Week
- 23rd - OPEN DAY
- 30th - Shopping Tour

September
- 4th - 5th Sep - Year 9 Production

Tax Deductible Building Fund Donation
At Mountain District Christian School we are blessed with a wonderful school environment. To assist in the ongoing success of the students, it is important that we continue to invest in and renew our school buildings. In recent years we have seen the development of wonderful new facilities such as the Gym and the VCE Arts Studio.

As a school, we are committed to the continual development of facilities and are in the process of putting together a 10 year Master-plan. In this plan we intend to build a number of state of the art buildings. We will need support from donations from the community as well as government grants to be able to see the plans come to fruition.

We appreciate that many have already donated at the start of the year with the $292 voluntary payment. If you want to donate any further amounts, contact Tony Drummond or simply transact an internet transfer into our bank account.

Mountain District Christian School
BSB 033-326
Account 342482
Reference BFund-Surname

You will need to do so by the end of June to get a tax deduction in the 2013-14 year. A tax receipt will be sent out to all donors by early in July.

JUNE
13th - VCE Unit 1 Ends
- Yr 3/4 Scienceworks Excursion
16th - Primary Assembly (Yr 3/4EB)
16th - 17th Yr 9/10 Exams
16th - 20th Yr 11 Exams
23rd - 27th Yr 10 Transition Week
23rd - VCE Unit 2 Begins

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Hello Mountain District Christian School community. I trust term two is going well for and your household.

Being a parent can be a challenging and tiring job, especially when it comes to putting in boundaries around undesirable behaviour and speech. Although the Bible instructs parents to discipline their children, especially throughout the book of Proverbs, the way we go about that discipline is critical.

As parents it is important that we don’t attack our children’s identity when putting in boundaries regarding their undesirable behaviour or speech; to separate their WHO from their DO. For example, if your child is teasing their sibling, you may want to say “You are a being pest!” However, that attacks their identity; their WHO. It is much better if we can train ourselves to say “Please stop teasing your sister, it’s not friendly.” That deals with their DO and leaves their sense of WHO in tact.


Elissa White
Chaplain
Elise (right) Coming in to the Blood Donor's Centre, you start to get a bit nervous. This is a new thing to experience, and something you are totally unsure about. But it's a great way to give back.

It's a bit awkward before the interview because you are taken into a little room by yourself, but the nurses there were all really lovely. When I first started to give blood I was still a little nervous and I finished in about 8 minutes, which isn't bad for a first time. I felt completely fine giving blood, but once I finished giving blood and the needle was taken out, I started to feel fuzzy. I was given very special treatment, just to make sure I was OK. I was given chips and cheese and crackers. I was all good within a few minutes though, nothing to worry about.

Tim (left) There are many accomplishments in which one can achieve, but none greater than becoming a donor. The moment you enter those doors, whether you pull or push them, you become a hero. Filling out the details was a tough ask, but with courage and perseverance, I got through it unscathed rather more knowledgeable of ones self. When thinking of donating blood, people's minds cross to needles. But the biggest fear is stepping on those scales. It's as if your on the biggest loser in front our mass crowd, putting your life on the line. The number is revealed to all, and shame is bestowed upon the hero or heroin involved.

There's a competitive side to blood donating. Trying to pump it out as quick as you can. I took home the gold on this glorious day with an impressive 6:07 time and a haemoglobin level of 152. Dukey was devastated as he was told he took the silver. His jealousy of me sky rocketed with this as well as his recent defeat to me in Supercoach. Blood donating is an amazing experience and you can walk out a hero for saving lives.

Erin (left) Giving the blood wasn't that bad, the most painful thing was a pinprick in your fingertip to test your haemogoblin, the actual giving barely hurt at all. I think I freaked the nurses out a bit with the questions I was asking. They kept telling me not to look and I insisted on asking questions like how far in the needle went, and what the bruising would look like. They thought it was a bit weird that I watched most of what was happening.

And then I got a sticker, and a drink bottle and I was super proud that I didn't faint or anything! Would defiantly do it again, cause if you can help people like that, why wouldn't you?
Last Friday evening, the Primary Soiree was held. It began with supper, where parents were able to warm their hands with a hot drink and enjoy something sweet while conversing with others. At seven we were seated and entertained by beautiful renditions of ‘Here I am to Worship’, ‘Castle on a Cloud’, ‘Fields of Gold’ and many more. It was wonderful to see how our primary students have grown in their ability to play their instruments. Their progression was admired by all. Congratulations and thank you to all those students who participated.