Yr 1&2 Royal Botanic Gardens Excursion

...release your inner ‘tree hugger’!
In the last few weeks I have had to think hard about what the date is when I am asked. While the date is not normally a hard thing to remember, I am amazed that we are almost at the end of Term 1. Recently, I was reminded of the speed at which we move as a society and the general tendency to allow the things that we have developed or discovered to make our lives easier, become the things that make our lives busier. Things like email, laptops, tablets, mobile smart phones, etc. I heard that once upon a time it was thought that the new technology developed would ensure that we would only need to work two days of the week and we would be trying to figure out how we would be spending our recreation time! This obviously didn’t happen. I was privileged to hear Os Guiness, author and social critic, speak a few years ago as part of a presentation he gave in Darwin, titled ‘Survival of the fastest’ he said, ‘Wherever you are, be all there.’ With such a fast paced society and the requirements on our time, may I encourage you to slow down, turn off the phone, and close the laptop when with your family. Spend some quality time listening to the people close to you. Let’s not allow the technology in our lives to control us but rather, wherever we are be all there!

As we near the end of Term 1, next week we have an opportunity to discuss your child/ren’s progress at the Parent Teacher Meetings. These will be held on Thursday evening and Friday morning. These are valuable times as we work together to provide an environment that supports the learning of the young people here in our care. It is important to remember that due to this next Friday is a student free day.

Thank you to all those who came to the Open Evening to help in whatever manner, whether touring, cooking, catering, supporting or just enjoying our beautiful school environment. We had a great afternoon sharing our community with those that visited. There will be another Open Day later in the year where we will again be able to share our school with others.

Have a great week.

Jason

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**Forms and Letters sent home this week:**
- Yr 6 Graduation shirt order
- Yr 9/10 Canberra Camp

**REMINDERS**
- School Banking & Tuckshop tomorrow
- Return Mobile Phone & Internet agreement forms
- Yr 7 & 10 + Year 9 boys Immunisation Cards
- Prep - Yr 7 Head lice check tomorrow
Parents please note...

MARCH
24th - Yr 7/8 Volleyball
   Primary Assembly (Yr 5/6HB)
27th - 28th Parent Teacher Meetings
28th - STUDENT FREE DAY
31st - Secondary Assembly (Various Students)

APRIL
4th - Yr 7-11 House Cross Country
   - TERM ONE ENDS
28th - TERM TWO BEGINS Whole school
   - Whole School Assembly
   - Immunisation Yr 7&10 + Yr 9 boys

Come for a visit.
Thinking about volunteering for Friendship Place? Wondering if you have what it takes? Or, would you just like to play with your kids one lunch time? You are welcome to come for a visit. Email or call first, to see when it is on. shanscamp@mdcs.vic.edu.au Stephanie Hanscamp 97567244 Friendship Place: Lunchtime activities room

The Parent Teacher Meetings:
Get your bookings made!
The system will remain open to parents until 5pm Wednesday, 26th March. If you are having trouble making them and would like some help, please ring the office and we can make them over the phone for you!
Hello Mountain District Christian School community. I trust you are all travelling well as we head toward the end of term 1.

The reality is that our children are going to have times when their play and peer interactions go poorly. How do we assist our precious children to learn the art of negotiating the difficulties that arise with their friends and peers?

There are two helpful phrases we can teach our children. The first one, which is good for primary aged children, is “Stop it. I don’t like it.” The second phrase, which can be more helpful for adolescents, is “When you... I feel... because...”. For example, “When you yell at me, I feel confused, because I don’t get why you are yelling.”

The reality is our children are going to experience difficulties with their friends and peers at times. We need to arm them with a phrase that is neither passive nor aggressive, but rather assertive.

And what do we do if the problem continues? Encourage your child to seek out an adult if their peer or friend does not respond to their words. And make use of our parent partnership model by sending your child’s teacher an email or note to ensure they are aware of the difficulty your child is experiencing.


Elissa White
Chaplain

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Ladies High Tea
5TH APRIL
9:30am-12:30pm
485 PATERNOSTER RD
MT BURNETT

School Mums, Helen Verheij, Lee Kotnik & Kelly Failla are WALKING 50KM ON THE 26TH APRIL to raise funds for ‘GO THE EXTRA MILE’.

They will walk from 7AM to dark, and are currently ‘in training’!

All funds raised at the high tea will be going towards Hope Builders International, a charity who owns and runs a village called ‘Village of Hope’ in Uganda. Orphans are rescued from the streets and given a safe & loving family home.

YOU CAN HELP BY MAKING A DONATION AND SUPPORT THEM WHILE ENJOYING TEA AND CAKE (AND REAL COFFEE!)

YOU CAN ALSO VISIT ONLINE TO DONATE www.gotheextramile.com

COME AND BE PART OF THE FUN!

Thank you God for your presence in so many ways, at this school. You are good!

Mel

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OPEN DAY

What gorgeous weather we were blessed with for our Open Evening. It was warm with a very slight breeze. The community took the opportunity to enjoy the surroundings, activities and share in a meal with the families that toured. Our tour guides were busy touring families through our grounds, speaking with staff and then, for those that could, share in a gourmet barbeque with our community. It was a busy yet somehow relaxing environment with a really great (as Mr Riding has mentioned in a previous newsletter) ‘feel’. If you missed this Open Evening, but would have liked to have been there, there will be an Open Day on the Saturday 23rd August. Thank you to all who gave their time and shared their giftings, to help make the evening so wonderful.
The Interschool Swimming Sports were held at Monash Sports and Aquatic Centre. We took a team of 35 students to compete against other schools in our region. We always find this challenging as we have a smaller group of students to choose from. It was so pleasing to see the students attitude on the day. They gave each other plenty of support which was instrumental in the results we had. Luke Jones starred individually coming home with a first place in backstroke. The U15 Boys medley team came first and the U15 Girls medley team came in second place by a fingertip. Placing in relays due to our size, is even more impressive. Despite being on the scoring desk, I personally was jumping up and down in a professional manner watching our students do their best in the pool. Well done team, you did our school proud.
When we visited the Old Treasury we learnt about the Maynard family who lived there in the 1850s, they were the caretakers. The Old Treasury was built during the gold rush to store the gold that was coming out of Victoria. The walls of the Old Treasury are 60cms thick. They also had three inch thick steel doors on the vaults where the Gold was stored. We saw replicas of the Welcome Stranger and Welcome nuggets and learnt where they were found. We also learnt that the price of Gold influences the price of the dollar. We saw the first Governor’s room and the first flushing toilet in Australia. These rooms are still used today by Victoria’s politicians on every Tuesday.
Last week, as part of their General Studies Unit for this term, 'Plants', the Yr 1/2 classes visited the Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne. They saw a Buya Bunya tree that produced enormous seed pods the size of footballs and a one hundred year old Oak tree that had been struck by lightning. To save it, a series of cables and wires had to be attached to the tree to hold it together. MUCH fun was had as they played, planted, hugged trees and learned about all things 'botanical' in God's marvellous creation!
A wonderful ‘Pi Day’ was had by secondary students last week. Hot pies were the order of the day, with apple pies too for those who REALLY love pie!! (including Mrs Hamilton see right)

Catherine Jewell won the Pi event by reciting ‘pi’ to the 25th decimal place; WELL DONE CATHERINE!

We had the most amazing response to our 5c coin trail with the whole school raising $365.90! Thank you so much for your awesome contributions, PVBS will be thrilled to receive this money to work with Samaritan’s Purse in helping to provide education for children in developing countries. The outstanding totals for Primary were Yr 1/2H with $111.45 and in Secondary with Yr 7 collecting $58.85!

Well done, your support was much appreciated.

D. Scott.