

## The Heartbeat of Mountain District Christian School



Our vision and mission statement says that we are a school committed to training students for a life of service. This means encouraging students in their gifts and talents, assisting them to see the importance of all aspects of school life and developing a faithful heart response.

Martin Luther King preached an 'all of life is sacred' message. Using the example of a shoe maker and a preacher he stated that all jobs are of

equal importance in God's eyes as it is using ones gifts faithfully that matters most. At MDCS students get to demonstrate faithfulness daily as they study and learn what it means to be God's people in His world. It has been inspiring to see so many students challenge themselves; give of their best, overcome problems and serve the community well. This week's Ice Cream Day, led by the Year 8 students and our Soiree are just two examples of gifts and service.

Whether we celebrate the student with the highest ATAR or those who have improved in their learning, being faithful to giving ones very best is most important. I am thankful to work with staff that celebrate and foster a love of learning and engagement.

It is with this purpose in mind that teachers have worked in small teams this year to develop areas of the curriculum. General Studies units involving history, geography, civics and citizenship and science have been designed and implemented. Questions were developed to draw out Biblical perspectives and these were hung on classroom walls to encourage thoughtful reflection and discussion about what it means to be faithful in our response. Some of these included: How can we look after water? What changes has Australia seen? Is space exploration necessary? Through inquiry, students were

challenged in their understanding, opinions and responses with the intention of fostering more than knowledge but a head, heart and hand response.

When designing curriculum, teachers have worked to familiarise and align documentation to the Australian Curriculum. Passionate teachers, with a desire to see an integral approach, worked tirelessly. Early in the year the Secondary English department handed over a scope and sequence document in dramatic fashion, literally. More calculated was the Mathematics department who methodically planned from their scope and sequence document improving coverage and uniformity in practice. Mrs Chaney, our Primary

Maths coordinator, successfully created a maths scope and sequence document which will be launched next year. These are just a few examples of inspiring teachers using their gifts to serve faithfully.

... 'Whether we celebrate the student with the highest ATAR or those who have improved in their learning, being faithful to giving ones very best is most important' ....

As you inspire your children to use their gifts faithfully, encourage them to finish the year well. Let our focus be on others and what it looks like to live in community faithfully serving God. Blessings,

Janita Bratton  
Deputy Principal

### Forms and Letters sent home this week:

- Primary Production DVD Order Forms
- Primary Student Class Lists 2017 (mailed home)
- Upper Primary Head lice Notification

- Yr 5/6 End of Year Information
- Nurture Magazine
- Yr 7-9 Community Day

#### REMINDERS

- Lunchbox tomorrow
- School Banking tomorrow!

### DECEMBER

1st - Yr 6 Graduation

5th - Whole School Orientation

- Primary Assembly Year 5

7th - Yr 10 Last Day

9th - Yr 6 Aquatics Excursion

- Year 10 BBQ

13th - Thanksgiving Assembly

- TERM 4 ENDS

### JANUARY 2017

30th - Prep & Yr 7 Begin

31st - TERM 1 2017 Begins

What is Christian education?  
How is it different to another education?  
How is teaching Christianly distinctive?  
How is Christian education based on the Bible?  
Maybe you love Christian education but would like to be re-energised

## CERTIFICATE OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (CCE)

ONE DAY ENGAGING WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS, TEACHERS & STAFF

### Join us

for presentations, videos, discussions, cartoons and reflections

Donvale Christian College

Saturday 25 February 8.30am - 3pm

Lunch and refreshments provided

Register: [www.cen.edu.au](http://www.cen.edu.au) (vic events)

Enquiries: Pam Lavery 0439442669 or [pam.lavery@cen.edu.au](mailto:pam.lavery@cen.edu.au)



## Parents please note...

Please note that all secondary textbooks are to be returned by Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2016. Class and subject teachers will be communicating to students the lesson in which these texts need to be returned.

Any student without their text in the allocated lesson has until the end of term to do so independently.

If the texts are not returned by 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2016, an invoice will be issued to replace the textbook.

These will be prepared on the 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2016.

No refund will be given for texts which are returned during the new year, as replacement texts will have been ordered and purchased.

It will also be at the library's discretion to judge the reasonable condition of texts returned to determine if they need to be replaced, and the borrower's charged.

Denise Scott - Head of Secondary

## OPEN DOOR' CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

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 bucket 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, 13th December.

So let's aim to have buckets overflowing.....and be a blessing to those in our wider community.

For more information, please contact the MDCS Office.

# Thanksgiving Final Assembly

Tuesday, 13th Dec

2pm ~ Gym

Come and celebrate  
2016 with us!



Head Lice: Parents please note there have been a number of cases of head lice reported across the primary section. Please check your family and treat accordingly.

## School Fees 2017

The School Fee invoices for 2017 have been mailed along with information about buses and Working Bees. Thanks to all who have returned the forms requested to the office, and a reminder to those who have not to return them ASAP. Also, a reminder that if you want to take advantage of the 8% discount you have to make payment by Friday, 9th December. If you require replacement forms or invoice please let the office know or send an email to [accounts@mdcs.vic.edu.au](mailto:accounts@mdcs.vic.edu.au)

Old laptops free to a good home: We have two Dell Inspiron 1011 Mini Laptops 10" screen with 1Gb RAM. The touch pads on these are somewhat fiddly (a wireless mouse would overcome that issue) but otherwise are OK. Also Lenovo B590 with questionable number keypad. This one has a 15.6" screen with 8Gb RAM and is a 64bit machine. All are running Windows 7. Please contact the Business Manager Andrew North ([anorth@mdcs.vic.edu.au](mailto:anorth@mdcs.vic.edu.au)) if you are interested.

## Term Dates 2017

### TERM 1

Prep & Year 7 start - Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January

Whole School start - Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January

Labour Day Holiday - Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March

Parent Teacher Meetings (*Friday student free day*) - 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> March

Term 1 ends - Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March

Good Friday - Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April

### TERM 2

Easter Monday - 17<sup>th</sup> April

Students start - Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April

Anzac Day Holiday - Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April

Queen's Birthday Holiday - Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June

Term 2 ends - Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June

### TERM 3

VCE Students start - Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July

Whole School start - Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July

Parent Teacher Meetings (*Friday student free day*) - 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> September

Term 3 ends - Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September

### TERM 4

VCE Students start - Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October

Whole School start - Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October

Melbourne Cup Day Holiday - 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> November

Term 4 ends - Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Day - Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December