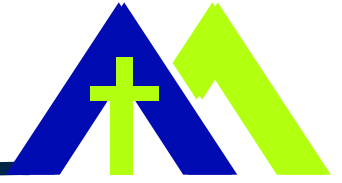


Pulse



The Heartbeat of Mountain District Christian School



TOAST



MASTERS



Year 6 Graduation 2016



This is the final newsletter for 2016. I wanted to take this opportunity to say it has been a privilege to be able to partner with you throughout the year. It has been delightful to see the students grapple with what it means to be successful. As we have explored what it means to be faithful and to seek excellence we will see successful outcomes (which looks different for each student). The reason we engage in seeking our best outcome is to bring glory to God and to contribute meaningfully

to the community of which we find ourselves a part.

There are so many examples where this can be seen. I encourage you to keep this in mind as you look through this year's edition of Reflector, our school magazine, which you will receive with your child's report next week. Mrs Heading has, once again, completed a massive task and produced a wonderful memento to help us remember 2016. Thank you, Mrs Heading!

There has been much to celebrate over the course of 2016. At the start of the year it was a delight to be able to welcome our new students and staff, each one a unique addition to our community. We also continued renovations across the school with a refreshed library and Year 7 – 9 classrooms. Air conditioning was also put into all classrooms. Over the holiday break renovations will continue in four of the primary school classrooms.

It is such a privilege to be part of a supportive community, with engaged parents, enthusiastic and curious students, a wonderful and committed staff, and a great God! Thank you for all the ways in which you have been involved in the life of the school throughout this year, whether through working bees, attending camps, helping out in the Lunchbox or whatever it may have been. We highly value your involvement!

With the final few days of the school year upon us I'd like to remind you of a few things.

Next Tuesday, 13th December, is our Thanksgiving Assembly. We would like to invite you to come and be a part of it. At the end of the assembly your child/ren's reports will be available for

Political updates

A couple of weeks ago I had the privilege of having dinner at Parliament House with the Hon. Nick Wakeling, Shadow Minister for Education, and a small group CEN leaders. We were able to share a more intimate time discussing areas of interest for schools. Topics of discussion included the Equal Opportunity (Religious Exceptions) Bill (more below), the compulsory nature of Safe Schools material in government schools and state and federal funding issues. Nick is eager to come and visit our school next year and we look forward to his visit.

For those of you that have been following the progress on the Equal Opportunity Amendment, mentioned above, a resolution was achieved on Tuesday. The result was a 19:19 vote (not a majority) and therefore a defeat. We are very thankful for this outcome. This issue has been on the Victorian agenda since 2009 and other governments have been watching with interest the outcome. A decision on this issue would have been influential either way. Whilst we could have worked with the 'Inherent Requirement' constraint, the 'exception' provision within the Equal Opportunity law would have affected the religious freedom we enjoy as a Christian School. Thank you to all those who advocated for this freedom by writing letters. Jason Riding

pick up. I encourage you to read through their report with them, discussing their progress, areas of celebration and areas for growth.

School start for 2017. The Preps and Year 7 students begin on Monday, 30th January at which time the VCE students will depart for their VCE retreat, the rest of the year levels will begin on Tuesday, 31st January.

Finally, as we approach Christmas, one of my favourite times of the year, it is a great opportunity to remember why we celebrate.

"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them. And the glory of the Lord shone around

... 'Thank you for all the ways in which you have been involved in the life of the school throughout this year'...

them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them. "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby

wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favour rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off.... (Luke 2: 8 – 15)

May I encourage you to spend time reflecting on the wonderful gift that was given to us in the form of a vulnerable child; a king entered the world in a manner not expected and did so much more than expected. He wasn't a king for a time, He was king for eternity! Enjoy your time with family and friends over the holiday period. I look forward to catching up with you next year and sharing holiday stories.

Merry Christmas!

Jason Riding
Principal

COMING HOME THIS WEEK:

- Year 1/2 End of Year Information
- 2017 Year 7/8 Wilson's Prom Camp Information

REMINDERS:

- Tuckshop tomorrow

DECEMBER

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

Parents please note...

Please note that all secondary textbooks are to be returned by Tuesday, 13th 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 13th December, 2016 an invoice will be issued to replace the textbook. These will be prepared on the 14th 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

Keep the goods coming for the Christmas 'Hamper' for Open Door Church and Monbulk Care Network. 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

Goods will be handed over during 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!



Community Connectors

A big thanks to the MDCS parents from the MDCS staff for

taking on the role of Community Connector for 2016. Thank you for planning and creating opportunities for parents to connect outside of school hours. We understand life is busy, so thank you for committing to this way of blessing the MDCS community. You have been a blessing! Psalm 115:15 "May you be blessed by the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth."

School Fees 2017

REMINDER: 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

From the Library:

Parents, please note that all library books and text books must be returned to the library by the last day of school this term – Tuesday, 13th December.

By now, all library books are overdue. Students have been receiving reminder notices regarding their outstanding books for the last few weeks from class teachers.

Any books not returned by 13th December will be invoiced with your next school account. Please be aware, no refunds will be given for texts or library books which are returned during the holidays or the new year.

If you have any queries about this please call Caren or Debbie in the library.

Students and parents who wish to borrow for the school holidays may do so on Monday, 11th and Tuesday, 12th December – providing they have no overdue books.

We pray you have a blessed Christmas time and a great reading holiday.- The Library Ladies

Parents, please note small change of date for beginning of Term 2...

Term Dates 2017

TERM 1

Prep & Year 7 start - Monday 30th January

Whole School start - Tuesday 31st January

Labour Day Holiday - Monday 13th March

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

Term 1 ends - Friday 31st March

Good Friday - Friday 14th April

TERM 2

Easter Monday - 17th April

Students start - Thursday 20th April

Anzac Day Holiday - Tuesday 25th April

Queen's Birthday Holiday - Monday 12th June

Term 2 ends - Friday 30th June

TERM 3

VCE Students start - Wednesday 19th July

Whole School start - Monday 24th July

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

Term 3 ends - Friday 22nd September

TERM 4

VCE Students start - Monday 9th October

Whole School start - Wednesday 11th October

Melbourne Cup Day Holiday - 6th & 7th November

Term 4 ends - Tuesday 12th December

Christmas Day - Sunday 25th December

Whole school Orientation Day, Monday...

Every year level across MDCS spent the afternoon in what is to be their 2017 class. Current students and new students participated, with new Parents having their orientation in the library. Topics included 'What to do when...', 'Who to see' and 'What you will need..'. It was wonderful to see so many parents engaging with what was being presented and also with each other. We look forward to partnering with not only our new parents but our current parents in the education of their children as we seek Faithfulness, Excellence and Success in 2017.



Community News...

Family Carols Night

Saturday 17th December 2016

6pm - Free BBQ & kids activities
7pm - Carols on the grassy hill
at the Woom Yallock Church (opposite the Primary School)

Christmas Nativity Lights Display
Every Night from 9th to 27th December 2016

Please turn over for more information



Position Vacant : Children and Families Minister

The position is for 1.5 days per week, to begin in February 2017. A Practising Christian is required for this role, with experience working with children and volunteers. At a later date a part-time ministerial role may also become available.

For expressions of interest contact: Ron Bishop on: 9751 0041 or 0417 038 783 or Judy Thornburn at 0423 760 208 at Open Door Community Church, Monbulk; no later than the 9th of December 2016.

Emerald Community Carols



Friday December 16th

at St Mark's Emerald
1-3 Church Street, Emerald

5:30pm Family Festival

Free sausage sizzle, jumping castle,
face painting and kids crafts

7pm Christmas Carols

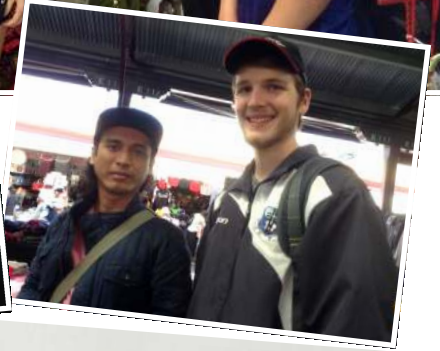
Sponsored by:



www.facebook.com/EmeraldCarols/

What's happening in Indonesian...

On Tuesday, 29th of November, Year 9, 10 and 11 Indonesian students went on an excursion. We were so thankful for the beautiful weather for the outing. First we went to Queen Victoria Market to find Indonesian sellers. In less than hour, we found two of them! The students managed to engage by having a conversation in Indonesian. Kyle and Nicholas attempted to speak Indonesian to a RMIT student who had only been in Melbourne for 4 months. Later, we visited the Melbourne zoo. The students were able to say and understand some of the signs that were written in Indonesian at the Gajah (elephant) compound. Although Harimau (tiger) was not around, we managed to see many other animals. The students had a taste of the tropical weather (hot and humid) like in Indonesia while we were in the butterfly area. In about three hours, we managed to see and name almost all the Indonesian animals in the Melbourne zoo. Before we returned home, we ate at Indonesian restaurant in South Melbourne. We had rice, fried chicken and sate, noodle and Siomay (dumpling) Bandung with peanut sauce. Yum... A taste of Indonesia in a day.



Year 8 children storybook

At the end of this semester, the Year 8 Indonesian students were asked to do a children's story book as their final project. This project was in conjunction to the animal topic study. It's amazing to see the creativity when combining arts and language. Many of them put thoughtful effort into the project. These are just a few examples of the book; simple but interesting and entertaining as children's story books should be! Sue Surmano - Secondary Indonesian Teacher



LIHAT!.. MAKANAN!
Mmmmm... MAKANAN
INI ENAK SEKALI!



SUKA AIR DAN
PUNYA AIR TETAPI
MAU MAKANAN DA
DAK PUNYA
MAKANAN.

Soiree...

There was Jazz, Rock, Classical, Ragtime, Irish, Scottish, Marching Band, Spoken Ballads and much more at the 2016 Whole School Soiree. The MPR provided a relaxing, intimate performance venue. We were relaxed with the smooth lyrical piano playing of Ruby, blown away by the amazing memory of Jacinta who recited The Man From Snowy River and rocked out by Connor's elite drum kit performance. With no two items the same, the evening provided us with a showcase of the talents that God has given each student. Thank you to the instrumental teachers; Jonathon, Russell, Katherine, Chelsea for the preparation into each musical item. Thank you Libby Fensham for your preparation with the Ballads. Thank-you parents for supporting the musical education your children. Hannah Denny

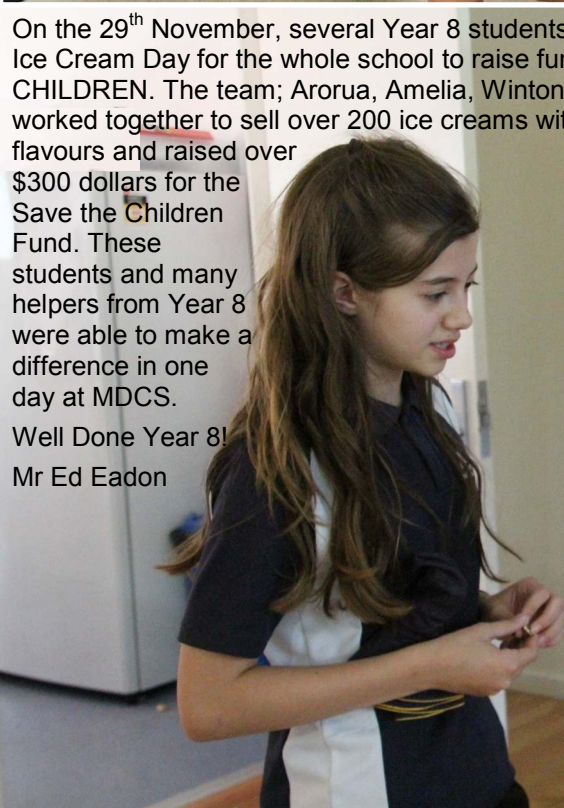


Year 8 Ice Cream Day fundraiser...



On the 29th November, several Year 8 students organized an Ice Cream Day for the whole school to raise funds for SAVE THE CHILDREN. The team; Arorua, Amelia, Winton and Jade, worked together to sell over 200 ice creams with all different flavours and raised over \$300 dollars for the Save the Children Fund. These students and many helpers from Year 8 were able to make a difference in one day at MDSCS.

Well Done Year 8!
Mr Ed Eadon



Prep - Year 2 Melbourne Aquarium Excursion...

For our Water unit, we went to the Melbourne Aquarium. The Prep to Year 2 classes looked at living things that need water to survive. It was so exciting travelling in to the city on our bus.

First, we saw a 4D movie from the movie Ice Age, it was so funny! We all looked so cool with our glasses on! As we watched it snowed, sprayed water, shot air and things jumped out at us!

We saw lots of animals and appreciated the unique way God has created them. We were amazed at what they do, how they survive and how every animal plays an important part in His intricate design.

It was exhausting but fun! Some of us fell asleep on the way back to school.

Ken McDowell

Year 1/2KM Class Teacher





Year 6 Graduation...

Last week, fourteen students enjoyed a celebratory evening with their family and friends. The occasion was Year 6 Graduation and the completion of Tiny Toastmasters, a public speaking course. A hearty meal was enjoyed whilst being entertained by speeches prepared by the students. Topics ranged from Primary School memories and the importance of family to issues about endangered animals and the wellbeing of the earth. We were challenged and inspired all at once.

Some of the Year 6 highlights of the evening were: walking into the room, food, receiving a Tool Box with the necessary "tools" for the next stage, Secondary School including times tables, a rubix cube, pen and star sticky notes. You will have to ask the students what the significance of each item is. Also, up there with the "I was surprised with how good it was" highlight, was: I didn't even feel nervous. This was a testament to the student's hard work and preparation.

A thank you to those who contributed to making the night memorable, your efforts were appreciated and the students felt blessed and encouraged by your support. Thank you to Richard and Jenny Harvey, for speaking on behalf of the Year 6 parents. Thank you to Bek Ditton, Christy Allisey, Leigh Stebbing and Bianca Winter who made the venue look amazing.

The Celebration for the Year 6's continues tomorrow with a day out at the Casey Aquatic Centre followed by lunch at Fountain Gate Shopping Centre. All students are looking forward to the opportunity to socialise and celebrate with each other. Well done Year 6.

Mrs Janita Bratton

