

The Heartbeat of Mountain District Christian School



Recently I was walking through a shopping centre and was surprised to hear Christmas Carols playing. It's almost Christmas. Wow! This is one of my favourite times of the year and it has snuck up on me. I was talking with someone yesterday who put up their Christmas tree on Melbourne Cup weekend, three of them in fact! Our family has a tradition of putting our tree up on December 1st, partly because my family won't let me do it

any earlier. I enjoy the fun traditions that occur at this time of year, the carols, time with family and the giving of gifts. These are all wonderful things that we do, however, they can be the things that we begin to focus on too much, particularly the commercialisation of a significant time in our Christian calendar. This week we brought out the wood carvings made last year by a local "chainsaw artist", Brandon Kroon, of Mary, Joseph and Jesus in a manger. The purpose of this is that it reminds us of the incredible gift we have been given, the gift of Jesus; God as man, coming to earth.

In fact these events in our calendar are significant for all that we do at MDCS. It is a reminder that the development of our curriculum, teaching and learning programs and desire to see our students use their skills, talents and gifts is to serve and bring glory to our Lord and saviour. One aspect of the Australian Curriculum in the area of Civics and citizenship states,

"Through the study of civics and citizenship, students can develop skills of inquiry, values and dispositions that enable them to be active and informed citizens; to question,

understand and contribute to the world in which they live. The curriculum also offers opportunities for students to develop a wide range of general skills and capabilities, including an appreciation of diverse perspectives, empathy, collaboration, negotiation, self-awareness and intercultural understanding. The Civics and Citizenship curriculum aims to reinforce students' appreciation and understanding of what it means to be a citizen. It explores ways in which students can actively



shape their lives, value their belonging in a diverse and dynamic society, and positively contribute locally, nationally, regionally and globally."

<http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/humanities-and-social-sciences/civics-and-citizenship/rationale>

This is a good statement as it talks about contributing to society, developing empathy, self-awareness, etc. It seeks to have students think beyond what is good for them only. It helps students to think about what is good for our society and how they can contribute. As a Christian community we would say this statement doesn't go far enough. We want to have our students consider how they may use their skills, gifts and abilities to make our

world a better place through their service **and** seek to give glory to God for all good gifts that He gives us. He is Creator and it is Him we are serving. The good gift of Jesus, who we remember at Christmas time, is our motivation to use our gifts to serve Him, our communities, and bring glory to His name.

Have a great week

Jason Riding
Principal



Congratulations! Juzzlyn Dubbled and Bindi Schroder took out two awards at the local Emerald Art show.

Bindi was awarded Best in Show and Juzzlyn Best Painting. Many of our VCE students were represented and all their work looked stunning.

Well done to all of you.

Lia Burke - Secondary Art



Forms and Letters sent home this week:

- 2017 VCE Retreat
- Year 12 Jumper
- Secondary only— Police Information re Pop up Parties

REMINDERS

- Lunchbox tomorrow
- School Banking tomorrow!

Parents please note...



The school driveways need to be kept clear at all times. Please park in designated bays (either lower or upper carpark) to drop off your children and walk younger children across the driveways.

Please note; ALL children must be supervised by parents when in the carpark area; this includes very young children & those that do not attend our school. **PLEASE be vigilant in your care as you enter and leave the school.**

Volunteers Thank you Afternoon tea

It was so wonderful to have the opportunity to thank our volunteers at our Volunteers Thankyou Afternoon Tea. There was lots of chatter, laughter, food, tea and coffee enjoyed. It was great to be able to be a part of such a joyful atmosphere. For those who missed it, thank you for helping in class, the library, school camps, open day/ evening, tuckshop, I.T, maintenance, hospitality and in any other way. We hope to see you at next year's afternoon tea.

Psalm 115:15

"May you be blessed by the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Mel Ashton



NOVEMBER

11th - Year 2 Sleepover

14th - VCE Unit 3 begins

- Year 10 PE, Gym excursion

- Secondary Assembly

15th - Year 9/10 Anatomy, 1st Aid Training

Term Dates for 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 - Wednesday 19th 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 - Monday 6th & Tuesday 7th November

Term 4 ends - Tuesday 12th December

Christmas Day - Sunday 25th December



17th - Year 12 Valedictory

21st - Primary Assembly (Year 6)

21st - 22nd Yr 9/10 Exams

23rd - VCE Unit 1 Begins

- Prep Orientation #1

25th - Year 11 Last Day