Christian Education is an acknowledgment about God’s world. He created it, He holds it together, He rules it and His children have an obligation to learn all they can about it. Students are not simply learning about math, science and history; they are learning about God’s world. Christian education seeks to produce competent graduates who know the world – and the one who created it.”

What a great statement by James Drexler in his book, ‘Schools as Communities’, to begin with as I share about the second question we want students to wrestle with; What is our role?

What is the role of a student at MDCS? We see it as one where the student searches for truth. Sometimes this will occur individually and sometimes with others. It is important for students, (and us as the adults in their lives) to be aware that some students prefer the quiet spaces of learning to work, refine their ideas and think through their thoughts before sharing them in a larger context. Susan Cain, in her book, Quiet: The power of introverts in a world that can’t stop talking, says that, ‘Indeed, excessive stimulation seems to impede learning: a recent study found that people learn better after a quiet stroll through the woods than a noisy walk down a city street. Another study of 38,000 knowledge workers across different sectors, found that the simple act of being interrupted is one of the biggest barriers to productivity.’ She goes on to say that ‘Scientists now know that the brain is incapable of paying attention to two things at the same time. What looks like multitasking is really switching back and forth between multiple tasks, which reduces productivity and increases mistakes by up to 50%.’ Does this suggest that we shouldn’t share our knowledge or work together collaboratively on projects? Definitely not, but what it suggests is that for some activities it is important that students are given the opportunity to work alone before sharing their learning or ideas with others. It is crucial that we share our learning with others, eagerly contributing (speaking) and receiving (listening), but sometimes we need more time to sit quietly thereby allowing us focussed time to read, think, reflect, write and/or dwell before collaboratively engaging.

We want students to be dissatisfied with this world. James Drexler writes “Christian Education is an ambition to do God’s will because it is a lifelong process of transforming minds, Christian Education spans the “cradle to the grave”. Students must not be satisfied with this world but instead must be instructed to see the sin in themselves and in the world and to commit their lives to the pursuit of justice, compassion and integrity.” That’s a big statement, however, it would be hard to argue that all is right with the world. We want students to see that something is not right, something went wrong, but there is something we can do, we can respond in a way that seeks to honour the responsibilities given us by God, to be good stewards of the world that we have been given (this only comes by seeking to understand the world as God intended it), and seeking to fulfil the greatest commandment, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your mind… Love your neighbour as yourself. All the law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (Matthew 22: 37 – 40) This raises the concepts of justice seeking, becoming beacons of hope but more importantly of our need for a Saviour! These ideas will be explored more next time when I share more on the third question we want students to grapple with, “How do we respond?”

Have a great week!
Jason Riding

Forms and Letters sent home this week:
• Parent Teacher Meeting letter & pin numbers
• Years 9 –11 Interschool Swimming (selected students)
• Years 7/8 Volleyball Day (selected students)
• Year 10 Excursion letter
The school has a supply of sport shorts available that are Australian made and fair trade guaranteed. They come in sizes: child 12—adult XXL. Visit or contact us in the office if you would like to make a purchase.

**MARCH**

2nd - 6th Yr 3-6 Primary Swimming Program

6th - **OPEN EVENING**

7th - VCE Literature Exc

9th - **Labour Day Holiday**

10th - 13th Yr 7-8 Wilsons Prom Camp

12th - Interschool Swimming Carnival

16th - Secondary Assembly (Yr 10)

16th - 18th Yr 5/6 Camp

18th - Yr 7-10 Immunisations

- VCE Psychology Excursion

19th - 20th Parent Teacher Meetings

20th - **STUDENT FREE DAY**

- Yr 12 English, Movie Night

23rd - Yr 7-8 Volleyball

- Primary Assembly (5/6 BH)

23rd - 25th VCE O&ES Camp

27th - **TERM ONE ENDS**

- Yr 7-12 Interhouse Cross Country

---

**The Parent Teacher Meetings:**

19th - 20th March

Pin numbers for the online booking system for Parent Teacher Meetings have been mailed home this week. The system will open to parents Tuesday, 10th March. GET YOUR BOOKINGS MADE!

If you have any trouble making them and would like some help, please ring the office and we can make them over the phone for you!

---

**Friendship Place**

The playground can be a difficult place if you are shy or new to the school. That’s why we have a fun place for Primary kids called Friendship Place.

Parents supervise activities, such as lego, drawing or board games, at recess or lunchtime, on a weekly or fortnightly basis.

Can you help make playtime fun?

Contact: Stephanie Hanscamp: shanscamp@mdcs.vic.edu.au

OR, ring the school office!

---

Parents Please Note...

325 Macclesfield Road P O Box 483 Monbulk 3793 Phone 9756 7244 Fax 9756 7356 mdcs@mdcs.vic.edu.au

---

MDCS parents, Anne and Cathie co-ordinate our wonderful Tuckshop with its new nutritious Menu. Our Tuckshop runs because of volunteers. Anne and Cathie are looking for anyone who can offer even just a couple of hours on a Friday. Please contact Anne via email on anne.clowes@bigpond.com or contact the office.

---

The ‘One World Concert’ was held at Gemico Theatre in Emerald, in which Sarah Vegt sang ‘you raise me up’ (including a verse of her own). Over $2000 was raised for Burmese refugee children in southern Thailand to help them learn English and to keep them from exploitation.

Sarah, even though she was nervous, sang beautifully with poise and confidence, which I had not seen before - a veteran performer!

Louise Beare - Voice Tutor

---

325 Macclesfield Road P O Box 483 Monbulk 3793 Phone 9756 7244 Fax 9756 7356 mdcs@mdcs.vic.edu.au