

Principal's Update

In my last highly entertaining contribution to this newsletter, I outlined some changes to the secondary school's educational approach as we respond to an ever-changing educational landscape. We've changed our Monday schedule to allow teachers to meet with colleagues during a time where no one is coaching, rehearsing with a music group, sponsoring a leadership class, etc. This week I'd like to provide some detail as to what is occurring during those meetings.

The Science Professional Learning Community (PLC) is piloting an assessment program called eDoctrina which will provide more detailed feedback to Science teachers regarding student performance on specific aspects of the Science curriculum. During their PLC meetings, Science teachers are collaboratively creating assessments which are directly tied to the learning outcomes they'd like our students to acquire. There is a tremendous amount of work demanded up front as the outcomes are matched to specific questions on each assessment, but once that work has been done, student results are sent electronically to a central data analysis facility in Buffalo, New York. Within 24 hours, the analysis is sent back to MEI, providing teachers with detailed information about how each student performed with regards to each learning outcome. Over the course of the year, that information will be used to adjust the teaching methods used by staff within the different courses.

The English PLC is working along similar lines, breaking down the elements of good writing and creating assessment rubrics (criteria) by which all student writing will be evaluated. The department will require 8 pieces of writing from each student in Grades 9 and 10 which will be assessed along specific lines, allowing teachers a greater degree of refinement when teaching aspects of writing that contribute to making good writers. Their methods are slightly different than the Science Department, but the

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Spiritual Emphasis

Mike Mannes, lead pastor of Southside Church in Sardis, spoke at the annual Spiritual Emphasis Week held the last week of October.

He drew on his previous capacity as a high school teacher and coach at Highroad Academy to quickly connect with the students at MEI who appreciated his humour as well as his ability to make biblical stories and concepts come alive.



Some of the key points of discussion included:

- we were created on purpose and for a purpose. We were all created for abundant life (John 10). The problem is, we fall into believing the lies and accusations of the devil who seeks to crush our confidence in God's purposes for us.
- our appetites can take us to very unhealthy places. Being led astray is really falling to our own desires to satisfy our appetite. In Genesis 25 we can read the story of Jacob and Esau where the older brother sacrificed his future to address an immediate desire for food. All of us have a birthright which is an incredible future and we shouldn't sacrifice it for a "bowl of stew".
- the plan that God has for us is infinitely bigger than the plan we have for ourselves. God desires us to enjoy salvation, right relationships with others, and to experience the joy that comes from true repentance and forgiveness.

Mike ended each chapel with an invitation to receive prayer and encouragement and many students took advantage of the opportunity. Hearts were touched and lives were changed.

Toy Drive

We will be collecting toys and food for the Christmas Bureau. Our celebration chapel will be on Tuesday, December 6. This is a great opportunity to bless our community this Christmas!

Thank you for your support.



Student Christmas Banquet

Friday, December 9 ~ 6:30 pm
Doors open at 6 pm
The banquet is for current students only
Tickets will be \$25.



Christmas Concerts



Tuesday, December 13 ~ 10 am & 7 pm

MEI Secondary concerts will be held in the gym. Come to be inspired as we celebrate the Christmas season.

Santa Claus Parade





The Screaming Eagles Marching Band, last July's Grade Prize winners (\$3000) of Abbotsford's Canada Day Parade, has gotten off to a very busy start this school year. Recent performances include the MCC Sale, UBC Football, CBC News' kickoff to Arts & Culture, and an appearance in the filming of an upcoming reality TV show set to air in January. Stay tuned for this and many other performances.

Attendance Update

As a school, we believe it is important to have our students here in the morning and on time. Students who arrive late to class and school miss morning announcements and class devotions, disrupt class lesson flow, and place unnecessary demands on the teacher and their classmates while trying to catch up on content already covered in class.



We do understand there are times when morning lates are unforeseen. For this reason, administration will not follow up with students for the first three morning lates per term. However, on the fourth and subsequent morning lates, a student will be required to serve a one hour after-school detention for each morning late. If an excessive number of lates are noted, a student may face suspension. If there is an overall disregard for the start time of school and classes, a student will have his/her enrollment at MEI re-evaluated.

Thank you for your understanding and support in this matter. If you have any questions feel free to contact me at the school, 604 859-3700.

On behalf of our teachers and administration. Dean Weiss, Vice Principal

Cheer Team



Cross Country Team



Band Camp

On Thursday October 27, MEI Band students from grades 9-12 embarked for Stillwood Camp and Conference Centre to take part in the annual tradition fondly referred to as Band Camp. Since new students entering the middle school's band program did not come along as they normally do, the camp's original focus on mentoring young musicians shifted to learning this year's half time show - based on the music of **Paul Simon**.

The realization of not being paired with a cute little 'band buddy' was somewhat discouraging for Concert Band members, as the lack of younger students also changed the feel of the infamous "Night Game" and team-building activities scheduled throughout the evening. Fortunately, the creative senior Band students in charge of these festivities were able to put some twists on familiar events, as well as introduce a few wacky ideas of their own, ensuring plenty of spontaneous laughter.

Preparation for the show continued into the following week. All of this hard work came together on Friday, November 4 at the Langley Events Center, where Trinity Western University basketball fans were graced with the very first performance. Despite a slight shift in approach, Band Camp 2011 achieved its goal of being equally enjoyable and productive.



Keep in Touch

As our primary method of communication with parents is via email, please let us know if your email address has changed since registration in February. This will ensure that you are kept up to date with school events.



Be our guest
and tour the mission of our schools!

Experience the Heart of MEI

December 6 & 13 and January 17 & 31

The Heart of MEI Experience is a tour of our mission. We want to share the Heart of MEI with our community - how we are equipping and nurturing our students to live a life of excellence through serving our world. Come and hear the many stories of lives that have been changed at MEI.

For more information or to add your name to our guest list contact:
Luella Johnsen 604-870-6058 or email ljohnsen@meisoc.com



Principal's Update cont'd

intention is similar, in that we want to take deliberate steps to ensure that MEI graduates are fully competent writers as they enter post-secondary school or the workplace.

Our Modern Languages PLC has created common language standards that will be applied to each student, regardless of the language they actually study. After all, students should be able to wish someone "Gesundheit" whether they're in Hamburg, Paris, or Seville. In support of those language goals, the department has purchased access to a software program which not only provides online assessment activities for students to complete wherever they sign on, it will actually correct their pronunciation as they "speak" to their laptop.

I hope these updates provide you with a clearer understanding of the work our staff is doing to continue raising the quality of education at MEI. In the next newsletter I'll focus on the direction that several other PLC's are taking on your children's behalf.

Grad Breakfast



The Principal's Grad Breakfast was enjoyed by the grad class on October 12. Parents were encouraged to give their grad a letter of encouragement as they embark on an exciting year.

Student of the Month

Each month we seek to honour students who:

- exemplify the values and standards that MEI represents
- are appreciated by his/her peers as a leader
- demonstrate a conscientious effort in his/her academic work
- are involved in the life of the school
- demonstrate a positive attitude with respect to this school, our students, and our staff.



The student chosen for November is **Stephen Dahl**.

Bad Weather & School Attendance

The general policy of MEI is to keep the school in operation at all times. In the event that the school must be closed due to inclement weather or road conditions, it will be announced as early as 6:30 am on the MEI website, Star FM (98.3), PRAISE (106.5), CKNW (980) and CKWX (1130).



Athletics

Cross Country Team



The Cross Country Team had a fantastic showing last month, once again claiming the Christian School Provincial Championships. The team then went on to finish off with a very strong showing at the Fraser Valley Championships, qualifying 2 athletes for the Provincials. Congratulations to **Alicia Unruh** and **Mike Rogers** of the MEI Cross Country team for their awesome performance at the BC Provincial Championships in Kelowna on November 5. It was well below zero and the course was extremely hilly, so it made competing against the best in the province even more challenging. Both athletes rose to the occasion – as a grade 9 qualifying in a senior's race, Alicia placing 35th out of 280 girls was an amazing result!! Mike finished well into the top half of 280 boys, so both runners have much to be proud of – way to go Eagles!! The Cross Country team will continue to run all winter and we would love to have you join our team. If interested in going out for nice easy runs a few times a week, please contact **Mrs. Meindersma**.



The Jr. Boys soccer team finished their season in style yesterday (ask them about the double session photo shoot -- they are so pretty). They also put together a great team effort beating Credo 4 - 2. They even impressed a couple of Brazilian coaches that were watching because it really looked like they knew what they were doing. A big thank you to the fans who came out and cheered them on. A huge shout out to God

for allowing us to experience a small miracle. Although the weather forecast had been for rain all afternoon and evening, God answered prayer and held the rain until every player, coach, parent and even a good number of fans had been fed a banquet of burgers, fruit, veggies, chips, hot chocolate and even cookies and cupcakes. And, just to make sure Coach Peters knew that it was God's doing, a very cold rain started to fall as clean up began. Before the cleanup was finished, the few faithful volunteers that stayed to help were being completely drenched in freezing cold rain. Thank you God for answering prayer and holding back the rain for the game and the celebration.

Sr. Girls Volleyball

The Sr. Girls volleyball team can be last seen: winning games, raising and lowering the GO! meter, laughing at themselves, playing mafia + ninja, debating gear, doing 150 sets of punishment, discussing God's awesomeness, and competing hard for the team all star hoodie. This is no ordinary team, it's an unbelievable group of girls that can turn nothing into something. Our season theme was inspired by Walt Disney's Cool Runnings: a true story about the journey of the Jamaican Olympic Bobsled team. The team enjoys quoting the movie and talking like Jamaicans (yah-mahn), but on a more serious level, our team theme came out of this inspirational story: 'it's how you cross the finish line that matters'. We will continue to grow and learn as a team until our last games together, and we look forward to finishing well at Provincials; representing MEI and doing our best to bring God the glory for our talents and abilities.

We've been a bit of an underdog team as we've made our way through our season, struggling in our tournaments to prove that we were a top team and able to fight with the best out there. But as **Tessa Ratzlaff** would say, we will *fight like an eagle of the institute*. We've started to 'figure it out' and bring our best on a more consistent basis. We will go into Fraser Valleys ranked 3rd in our league, and if we can hold a top 3 spot we will head to the Island to compete in the AAA Provincial Tournament (Dec 3-5). A big thank you goes out to the parents of our team that support us in too many ways to count!

Jr. Girls Volleyball

MEI had the pleasure of hosting the BC Christian school grade 9 - 10 girls volleyball tournament on November 4-5. Sixteen teams played some great volleyball during that time and our MEI Girls A team finished a very respectable 5th while our MEI Girls B team finished 9th winning the B side pool. All of the Christian schools were very appreciative of the way we hosted and ran the tournament. Many thanks to **Rick Thiessen**, the Athletics Director, for his oversight of the tournament. Also many thanks to the MEI parents who helped run the concession and took care of the coaches area. Thanks to **Saralyn Stel** and the Sr. Girls volleyball team for refereeing all of the matches and also thank you to our very own **Angela Booy** for helping coordinate the parents.

Sr. Boys Volleyball

The Sr. Boys volleyball team won the George Elliott Tournament in Kelowna recently. The boys went undefeated winning three best of five matches on Saturday. Congratulations team! **Caleb Konrad** and **Ben Lieuwen** were selected to the all-star team with **Jeremy Lieuwen** selected as tournament MVP.



November 9 the team defeated Langley Christian in five sets to secure first place in the league. MEI will host the Fraser Valley Championship November 17-18.

Jr. Boys Volleyball

The Jr. Boys volleyball team has had a good season so far and is eagerly awaiting the post-season. We finished league play without losing a single set and competed in the district finals on November 8. We have had mixed success at tournaments this year placing as high as 1st (at MEI) and 2nd (at TRU's 24 team tourney), and as low as 9th (at Abby Christian). We are looking forward to competing at the Fraser Valleys on November 19-22, and at Provincials on November 24-26 here at MEI.

Come out and cheer us on as we attempt to win it all here at home.

