



Respect



Responsibility

Edition 18 – August 25TH 2020



Doing Your Best



Care and Compassion

Contact Us 5664 7382

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w: www.tarwinvalleyps.vic.edu.au

Supervision Times: 8:15 Mornings Duty

3.20 -4:00 Afternoon Bus Duty

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

COVID Update:

This week marks the half way point for Remote Learning in Term 3. With case numbers starting to decline across the state and numbers in regional areas particularly low we have our fingers crossed that we will be back to business as usual in early Term 4. Something to be prepared for however is how we will return. Last week, I had advice on good authority that we will not be returning all at once. Just like in Term 2, this person thinks they will stagger the return of students according to grade levels. Whether this turns out to be the case remains to be seen. All we can do is take it one step at a time and follow the directions we are given.

Around the School:

Over the past three weeks, we have continued to chip away at wide number of projects that will set us up to be bigger and better when students return. Some of these have included:

- Admin: ordering 3 TVs and a Promethean Board for classrooms, Ipads and computers for classrooms, school signage, a new bell and speaker system for the school, new sign-in kiosk for parents and guests, transition preparations for 2021 Preps, Grade 6 clothing, staff clothing
- Buildings and Grounds: New blinds for main building, displays in new foyer, grants for school improvements, Gonzalo's murals, Handyman jobs for Bird, mulching garden beds and the biggest job of them all – moving the Art room to Room 1 and setting up Rooms 2 and 3 for classes in 2021!
- Switching everything to Meeniyān Primary School: We hope to have completed most aspects of the changeover by the end of term and will officially run as Meeniyān primary School from the start of Term 4.

So it is heads down and bottoms up for the next few weeks. Ensure you keep looking after yourselves and your families during this time. Get plenty of sleep, exercise and good food into your systems and I hope I can bring you some great news about returning in the not too distant future ☺

Gene VanderZalm, Principal

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

Our staffroom at Meeniyān Primary school is usually a bustle of conversation, celebration and warmth. We have a soup club, birthday cakes and we share our lives with each other. We ponder on how to support and engage the kids, tell of our success and our struggles. The microwave buzzes, people eat fast to get a phone call to a parent in or get to yard duty or get the following lessons prepared before the bell.

We love your kids and feel so lucky to teach them.

Today I tribute our teachers ES staff and principal, there was no sign up for a pandemic. There was no training for remote teaching. Yet here they are – making magic, considering each task – how will I engage the kids with this? Will my students need their parents to help with it? Where does it sit in the curriculum? Does this follow up with what we have been learning about before remote learning? Is my feedback going to drive this child? Our staff are still working through lunch, some remote teaching their own kids at the same time. They are still staying awake thinking of your children and how to hook them in.

Our ES staff are on the ground creatively and warmly supporting those who need to be at school. Taking the phone calls, juggling and balancing the changes in a work place during this pandemic.continued on next page

CALENDAR

Upcoming

Aug 27th – Wellness Thursday, 8pm

Aug 27th – Book Club orders close COB

Sep 3rd – Wellness Thursday, 8pm

Sep 10th – Wellness Thursday, 8pm

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

The newsletter is compiled on Monday afternoons. All items need to be submitted by 1:50pm to be included

We are here for you and we care. Remote teaching is not what we signed up for but we are smiling behind the masks.

Our staffroom is spread between various kitchens, home offices and lounge rooms. We look at each other through the screen and ask "Can you hear me? Can you see me?" We share our success and struggles and we still all challenge each other, support each other and make each other laugh.

These magic people are here for you. We all have different qualities to offer and we are all here to help each other. Please if you need support, a chat, a frozen dinner, a cry or to celebrate your child's success please be in touch.

Donna.giliam@education.vic.gov.au Primary Welfare Officer

LOST PROPERTY

We have many unnamed items sitting in lost property. If any of these items belong to you, please contact the office via email

meeniyam.ps@education.vic.gov.au or phone 5664 7382 to organise collection.

Any unclaimed items will be donated to MACS.



A look into Remote Learning

Grade 5/6H have been focusing on using flashback in our writing, by understanding how and why writers use it to engage and interest an audience. It has been a well-received topic and one that the students have been enjoying so far. Here are some small snippets of writing students submitted last week.

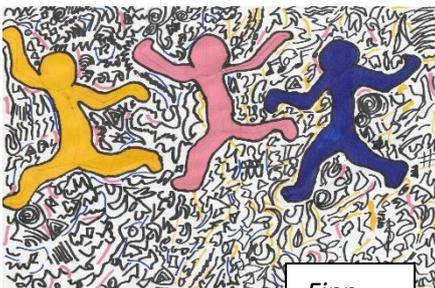
I kicked the ground and dust flew up into my face, making my new white t-shirt dirty. Although it wasn't brand new, it was second and from the op shop. All we could afford was second hand stuff, nothing new. – *Holly M*

I think back to when the city was full of colourful flowers, happy children and trees are high as the buildings around them. It was a beautiful place. I think about my joy filled parents and their magnificent cooking. I remember picking flowers for bouquets. – *Emily EB*

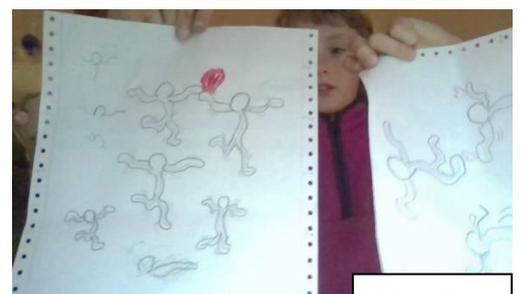
Finally the day came, but before she was going to get on the boat one of the crew members found a note that said Janie on the front of it, and it announced: February 6th 1975 dear Janie on the last day of the cruise I fell out of the boat and landed in this tropical island, I am OK here, well for now at least. – *Keerah P*

As she walks though the burnt bush she suddenly has a memory of when it was colourful, and full of birds. It also smelt like beautiful gum trees. But now, as she walks through it all she smells is dull burnt ash. – *Minna S*

34GG Art work responses from Ms Warren's Art lessons.



Finn



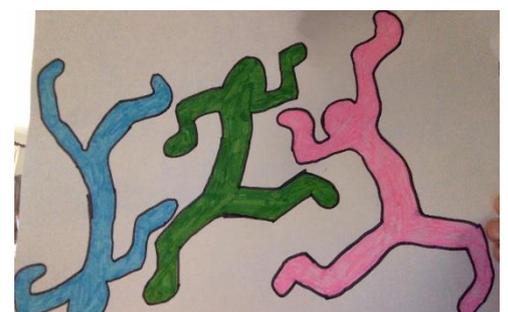
Nico K



Hannah H



Archie M



Evelyn W



CHILD SAFETY STANDARDS WHAT WE EXPECT AT MEENIYANI PRIMARY SCHOOL

- ❖ Everyone connected to our school can help children be safe.
- ❖ We have zero tolerance of any abuse of children.
- ❖ We have policies and procedures in place to protect the care, safety and welfare of children.
- ❖ There are clear boundaries about how adults in our school community may interact with our students.
- ❖ The new Child Safe Standards go further than child protection arrangements did in the past.
- ❖ The Child Safe Standards apply to school staff, volunteers, contractors, visitors and students' family members.
- ❖ Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility.
- ❖ We want to ensure you know how we are keeping your children safe at school, and how we would like you to support us.
- ❖ Unsupervised contractors will be asked about their child safety arrangements as a condition of working with us if they work with children enrolled in the school (or children can reasonably be expected to be present while they are at the school).

Please see further information on Child Safe Standards on our school website.

Community members are encouraged to raise any concerns about child abuse with the Principal or report directly to Child Protection / Police.