



Respect



Responsibility

Edition 21 – September 15TH 2020



Doing Your Best



Care and Compassion

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Supervision Times: 8:15 Mornings Duty

3.20 -4:00 Afternoon Bus Duty

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Wow, the September school holidays have never quite felt like these ones!

As with all school holidays, they will be an important time to recharge the batteries and take some time away from school learning. But unlike most school holidays, students and their families will need to take some time to reflect and set some realistic goals for the coming term.

There has been some talk in the news about schools using the coming months and years to 'catch up'. ***I can't begin to tell you how much I dislike and disagree with this statement.*** If there was a way to 'catch up' or 'speed up learning' wouldn't we be doing it already? At Meeniyah Primary we don't see our students as machines that can be simply switched into overdrive. Instead, we believe that it is critical to:

- Prioritise key areas to teach in Reading, Writing and Numeracy and
- Explain to students how important their attitudes will be for their learning in the coming months and years.

As a staff, we took a few hours out of the Planning Day last Thursday to discuss the return to onsite learning and how we could best prepare to support the students in Term 4. We developed two simple goals for the term:

- Re-engage the students and re-establish school and class routines. This includes helping students to re-establish friendships and class relationships.
- Undertake the necessary steps to prepare for and complete successful transitions into 2021. This includes assessing students across all key learning areas so we have a clear understanding of where their learning is at going into next year.

During the periods of remote and flexible learning, some students have faced barriers to their learning. Many others have found new pathways to learning. What will matter most in Term 4 is providing continuity in learning and support for every student to the fullest extent possible.

Gene VanderZalm, Principal

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

So today I am digging right to the back of my mind to find uplifting words for us all as we roll into week 10, round 2 of remote learning.

I hear someone clambering into the pantry, most likely leaving a trail of mess for me to deal with before I head out the door. Another child is on a mission to find a pair of shoes because we have to go out the door today and need to be places on time.

I feel my heart racing as I look at all I need to do and I can't see the opportunity for a break anytime soon.

Yet right now, in this moment JJJ comes to the rescue. We can find music anywhere these days but there is still a THRILL when a song I love comes on the radio.

So I crank it. LOUD. I turn off my nag about the shoes, the hairbrushes, the honey trail out of the pantry and I grab my children and I dance in my kitchen barefoot and get lost in the music, the moment and I make them laugh.

I would like to say "we are nearly there" but really right now the goal posts move so often maybe we need to just be here. Right here. SO let's take our shoes off, crank up the tunes and dance in our kitchens and have a little music festival in our homes with our wild and precious children!

Please call if you need a chat, a cry, a laugh, a frozen dinner or some good 1990s dance moves!

Big support to you all, Donna.giliam@education.vic.gov.au 0390801881 or find me on messenger.

CALENDAR

Upcoming

Sep 18th – Last day Term 3
2.20pm dismissal

Oct 5th – Term 4 commences (Remote learning)

Oct 12th – Students return to on-site learning

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

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

LAST DAY OF TERM

This Friday is the last day of Term 3. Like the last day of normal terms, school will finish one hour earlier. For students learning remotely, this means that teachers will not be on SeeSaw after 1.30pm on Friday and for students on-site, school will dismiss at 2.20pm.



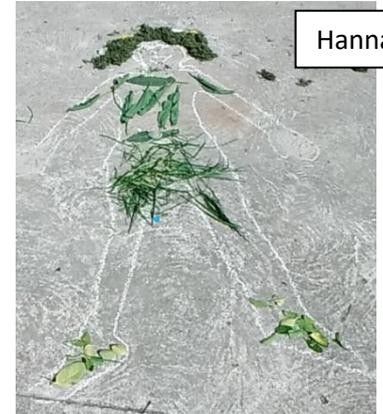
Week 9 Learning 3/4GG



Rose



Archie



Hannah



Evelyn



Nico



CHILD SAFETY STANDARDS WHAT WE EXPECT AT MEENIYAN 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.