



Edition 2 – February 9<sup>TH</sup> 2021

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Supervision Times: 8:15 Mornings Duty

3.20 -4:00 Afternoon Bus Duty

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

*It's not Happiness that brings us Gratitude. It's Gratitude that brings us Happiness!"*

This quote refers to lasting happiness rather than the short lived kind we often get distracted by. Lasting happiness is the kind that brings us better health, particularly mental health, an issue the World Health Organisation has stated is the single biggest issue facing the western world.

Such is the nature of our world today that we often focus on the negative. News stations are far more likely to describe a car accident rather than an amazing piece of driving. Social media blasts us with what is wrong with our world rather than what is right. It was only last week the Herald-Sun printed a story stating, 'Schoolyard accidents leave thousands of kids in hospital'...alarmist to say the least. Is it any wonder that the art of gratitude has taken a back seat in our lives? As a school, we think it is time we do something about it. Staff are in the process of learning about daily gratitude practice and will shortly establish this in the classrooms. Each week students will explore what they are thankful for but at the same time we hope that families will get on board too.

When I was a kid, Mum and Dad used to just call it manners. "Remember your Please and Thank You's?" They would say every time they dropped me off or when I returned from someone else's house. What I now know is that they were actually teaching me gratitude. I loved going to friend's houses, I appreciated what was different and I loved returning to what I had in my own home. Learning appreciation from a young age truly brought me happiness as well the tools to sustain happiness throughout my life. Clearing the table after dinner, making their bed and bringing in the groceries and washing, all these sorts of things teach a child gratitude. At school we are encouraging students to make gratitude a habit. To ask themselves, *Who provided me with this opportunity? Who paid for this to happen? Who is playing in a way that makes this even more enjoyable?* And to follow through with actions like setting up, cleaning up and offering help.

Gratitude is not a quick fix or something we do when we feel like it. To be truly effective it needs to have a time and place where we commit to it each day. For many, family dinners around a table or some quiet time before bed are the perfect place to start. I encourage each of you to take just a minute or two out of your day each day. The students will be doing so at school so the more the merrier 😊

**Gene VanderZalm, Principal**

## MEDICAL AWARENESS

Please Note: We would like to make all parents and carers aware of a situation at our school. One of our students has a medical condition that can become quite serious if they were to contract a virus such as Chicken Pox, Measles, strong strain of Influenza or other virus that causes high temperatures, dehydration etc.

Therefore, throughout the year, the school would like to be notified as soon as possible if someone in your family contracts a virus like one of these so we can get the word out to all our parents, slow the spread of the virus and in particular help protect this vulnerable student.

## CALENDAR

### Current 9/2 – 16/2

10<sup>th</sup> Feb – NO PREPS

12<sup>th</sup> Feb – Waratah Swimming

15<sup>th</sup> Feb – Student Free Day

16<sup>th</sup> Feb – School Council 7pm

### Upcoming

17<sup>th</sup> Feb – District Swimming

17<sup>th</sup> Feb – NO PREPS

18<sup>th</sup> Feb – Welcome Evening 5.30pm

18<sup>th</sup> Feb – Book Club orders close

24<sup>th</sup> Feb – NO PREPS

25<sup>th</sup> Feb – School Photos

5<sup>th</sup> Mar – Stuart's Cup

8<sup>th</sup> Mar – Labour Day (pupil free)

12<sup>th</sup> Mar – Waratah Sports 3-6

16<sup>th</sup> Mar – School Council AGM, 7pm

26<sup>th</sup> Mar – District Athletics

1<sup>st</sup> Apr – Last day Term 1

### NEWSLETTER ITEMS

The newsletter is compiled on Monday.  
All items need to be submitted by 1:30pm  
to be included



## **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – CREATIVE WORKER @ MPS**

We are thrilled to announce that Mr Gonzalo Varela, who worked at our school in 2020 as a teacher's aide, will be working full-time with us this semester as a creative worker.

Our school was successful in attaining a Creative Worker grant from regional Arts Victoria late last year and we can't wait to see what Gonzalo can create with our students. Gonzalo will not have time to work with all students however. When he works with a group of students he likes to take his time exploring the creative possibilities. Depending on the age of the students, he steps them through different stages of a production and pays particular attention to capturing unique ideas via the students' imagination. Gonzalo creates art from a wide range of fields including painting/murals, puppetry and sculpture, using a wide range of materials.

Art classes with Gonzalo will take place during normal learning times and there is no extra cost to families. *Students who attend his workshops will miss out on the learning that takes place in their normal class. We understand that this opportunity is not for everybody and that is why parents will need to give their consent if they would like their child to work with Gonzalo.* We anticipate that artistic workshops with Gonzalo will:

- go for up to 2 hours on a given day (depending on the age of the students)
- range from 5 to 15 days per project (depending on the age of the students)
- workshop days will be spread across several weeks

All students are invited to submit an expression of interest. The number of groups we have and the number of students in each group will depend on the number of expressions of interest.

If you would like more information please contact Gene at school. A reply slip to register your child's interest can be found at the bottom of this page.

## **RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS**

This weekend I packed off my eldest daughter and dropped her to a share house in Brunswick West. The room is cheap because the ceiling light does not work and one of her house mates has a rescue greyhound which I am sure will cause all sorts of havoc! Of course, I sobbed most of the way home in my empty car and more so when I went into her empty, echoing room. And I reflected, on the long days and the short years of raising a spirited child. Raising a kid who questions the rules, storms through the boundaries and does not do anything by the book and my heart filled with empathy, love and joy for those, like me who might be raising a warrior child with an untamed sword. All children are magic and joyful creatures who are such fun to be around and there are some who are also the spice. These are the ones who push all our buttons, the ones who don't seem to do things like the other kids do, the ones who laugh the loudest and cry just as hard.

Being the grown up in these sparkly humans lives can bring as much joy as challenges and in my reflecting drive home from Brunswick West yesterday I focused on the things that made raising my spirited daughter a joy

- Open honest communication – listening with empathy and love
- Being playful and playing many games; cards, board games and imaginary games
- Learning about the things our kids are interested in, becoming an expert then realising they have moved on to a new interest!
- Having her friends in our home
- Having the village's eyes and hearts on her too – it is ok to get support and help.

There were many moments that were not a joy but for some reason they fade out as the room empties.

The days are long and the years are short, one day they are slamming doors and the next the room echoes and awaits the next child, or the spare bed or the craft room.

Please let me know if you need a chat, a meal or your child might need someone to talk to.

[Donna.giliam@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Donna.giliam@education.vic.gov.au) Donna Giliam, Primary Welfare Officer

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## **Creative Work – Expression of Interest**

I am interested in my child/ren \_\_\_\_\_ taking part in the Creative worker program in Semester 1, 2021.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 😊 **T Cope** for sharing his understanding of number when counting 'frogs on a log'.
- 😊 **Madison H** for following her classrooms expectations.
- 😊 **Archie L** for contributing thoughtfully to a productive and enjoyable class. A lovely start to the year.
- 😊 **Patrick T** for doing a great job in adjusting to his new classroom and school.
- 😊 **Hayley D** for overcoming blockers so she could keep learning.
- 😊 **Raf KS** for having a positive mindset, following classroom expectations and encouraging others to do the same.
- 😊 **Sophie C** for following classroom expectations and being inclusive to others.
- 😊 **Cleo E** for showing integrity.



## COMMUNITY NEWS

The following Community News articles promote community connections and communications.  
They are not considered school activities

### Meeniyana Junior Basketball:

Commences Wednesday 17th February & Friday 19th February 2021.

Wednesdays from 3.30pm Aussie Hoops 5-7 yo (Possible 2 times/groups), Mini's from 4:15 or 5pm (TBC) 7-9yo. Friday's from 4:30pm Intermediate's 9-12yo, Youth from 5:45pm or 6:30pm (TBC) 12-15yo.

Basketball Vic Insurance/Rego applies plus fees (\$50 new players & \$25 for last years players that had there season cut short) Registration must be completed by 11th Feb to confirm that you are playing. NO players will be accepted after this date.

Please see our Facebook page (Meeniyana Basketball Association) for futher details and Registration information. If no Facebook please call Kim Byrnes on 0427346048

### South Gippsland Volleyball:

Volleyball is back for the 2021 season! January 28<sup>th</sup> is 'Fun Night' (open to all). February 11<sup>th</sup> Spikezone and juniors commence. Trainings are Thursday 6pm and Splash in Leongatha for people 12-18 years. Younger people may participate, subject to trial. New players welcome. [www.facebook.com/southgippslandvolleyball/](https://www.facebook.com/southgippslandvolleyball/) or email: [southgippslandvolleyball@outlook.com](mailto:southgippslandvolleyball@outlook.com)

### Futsal – Indoor 5-a-side Soccer:

Any parents or children interested in joining a futsal group, please call Mike Sammonds 0417 871 513 or email [mikesammonds@gmail.com](mailto:mikesammonds@gmail.com) We are aiming to have regular games, either after school mid-week or weekends (or both) at the basketball stadium in Meeniyana. All ages and genders welcome.

### Fives Soccer Coming Soon:

Fives-a side football is the fastest growing sport in Australia. Each team fields five players with matches played on a smaller pitch with smaller goals and a shorter game duration. We are looking for player for this 6 week comp which, players choose, will lead into a local league. Commencing Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February at the Leongatha Velodrome from 5pm.

### Tarwin Sharks Junior Football:

Season 2021 is fast approaching!! Tarwin are very excited to welcom back their 3 junior coaches once again. All past players are welcome back and new players invited to join. Training will commence on the following dates:

**U15's** Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> Feb @ 5pm

**U13's & U11's** Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March @ 5pm

Coaches: U11's Brian Launder 0427 503 707, U13's Travis Cameron 0487 148 644 and U15's Tim Bright 0428 634 224  
Junior Football Operations Manager: Jason McRae 0409 977 347

### Girl Guides:

Girl Guides are a volunteer, world wide organisation for girls and women, enabling skills in leadership, teamwork, community service, the outdoors, guiding traditions and craft. Girls aged 7 years and over, come and try:  
Leongatha District meet Wednesdays – Chris Oliver 0428 644 397 or e: [guides@guidesvic.org.au](mailto:guides@guidesvic.org.au)

### DVD/Video Player free to good home:

DVD player that includes a video player with remote going free to anyone genuinely interested. Contact Jeanette Johnson @ [Jeanette.johnson@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Jeanette.johnson@education.vic.gov.au)



## 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.

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