



Edition 4 – February 23RD 2021

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Supervision Times: 8:15 Mornings Duty

3.20 -4:00 Afternoon Bus Duty

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

The first line of our School Vision states: *We are a community of learners.*

What intrigues me about this sentence is the concept of *community*. I like to think that a community is more than a bunch of people in one place. Instead, I feel a community will contain a range of qualities and attitudes that foster a certain culture. So where do we start and which attitudes are worth improving? After some thought, I believe as good a place as any to start is empathy.

Students, staff and their families go through many ups and downs across the year and we're never all in the same place at the same time. I foresee that having understanding for others will be a most welcome attitude throughout 2021. This attitude is summed up beautifully in the statement below:

Never be totally right.

Being right means you're done learning.

Being right means you're closed off from other ideas.

Being right means you're satisfied with where you are and not focussed on where you're going.

Never allow yourself to be totally right.

Learning is a life and life is learning. The more you learn about something the more you realise you don't know 😊

Gene VanderZalm, Principal

LOCAL EXCURSION FORMS

Thank you to those families who have returned their Contact Details, Local Excursion Consent and Chaplaincy Consent. Students with new enrolments for 2021 do not need to complete these forms as the enrolment form contains all the required information and consent. For existing enrolments, it is a legal requirement that we have a local excursion & travel consent form signed annually in order for the students to participate in activities/walks around the town. If we do not receive this consent for your child, unfortunately, the student must remain at school while these activities are taking place. This includes whole school activities such as walking to the Recreation Reserve for Stuart's Cup. A consent slip can be found at the end of the newsletter for families who have not returned this form.

BEANIE ORDERS

We have Meeniyah PS beanies to purchase for those cooler winter months at a cost of \$20 each. There are currently 35 in stock, however we may place an order for more depending on demand. If you would like to purchase our beanies please complete and return the order form at the end of the newsletter. It will be first in best dressed for stock on hand.

CALENDAR

Current 23/2 – 2/3

23rd Feb – School Council, 7pm

24th Feb – Parent Student Teacher Interview's

24th Feb – NO PREPS

25th Feb – School Photos

Upcoming

4th Mar – Welcome Evening

5th Mar – Stuart's Cup

8th Mar – Labour Day (pupil free)

12th Mar – Waratah Sports 3-6

16th Mar – School Council AGM, 7pm

18th Mar – Yr 1 Dinner / Yr 2 Sleepover

26th Mar – District Athletics Yrs 3-6

29th Mar – Student Free day

1st 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

ICY POLES



Dear parents and carers,

We, the Junior Action Team (JAT) are going to start selling icy-poles for 50c starting on Thursday 25th February. We will continue selling icy-poles until the end of term 1. If you would like an icy-pole, please bring 50c. There will be a maximum of one icy-pole per child each day. The money raised will go towards other Junior Action Team events and activities.

Thank you from the Junior Action Team

STUART'S CUP

The whole school is looking forward to the Stuart's Cup next Friday. This is a really fun, community event and parents/ carers are invited to come along and cheer the students on. Information for parents is attached to the newsletter.



BREAKFAST CLUB

Guess what? Breakfast club is back on! **Breakfast club will run for students from 8:30am- 9:00am each Thursday starting 4th March.** We are looking for donations of jam, honey, and fruit - so if you are a jam maker, a beekeeper or if you have some surplus fruit from your garden please send these treasures this way!! We are also keen for any helpers to come in to pop and butter the toast (Masks on please!)

PST MEETINGS

PST Meetings are on tomorrow. If you have not booked your interviews you can do so at, www.schoolinterviews.com.au using the booking code **kztee**. Parents can change their interview bookings, any time prior to the closing time, by re-visiting the website, and using the event code above. Remember to use the same name and email address, you used when you made your original booking.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

A reminder that photo envelopes and payment need to be returned to school prior to photo day (Thursday 25th Feb). Envelopes for sibling photos can be collected from the school office.

CAMPS, SPORT & EXCURSIONS FUND – APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

If you have a valid means-tested concession card, such as a Veterans Affairs Gold Card, Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for the \$150 Camps, Sport & Excursions fund. **Please request a form from the school office.** Payment amounts this year are \$125 for eligible primary school students. Payments are made direct to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions and sporting activities for the benefit of your child. **If you applied for CSEF through our school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year, unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.**

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

There is nothing more moving than a kid's sporting event, the cheering, the chanting and the trying. It does not matter how many I go to, there are many moments throughout the day where my chin wobbles and my eyes get all wet (with joy, gratitude and happiness)

This happened on the weekend. I took my middle child to her first swimming meet for the summer. My first tear shed with gratitude that we could have an event like this, the air smelt of sunscreen and the pool was alive with parents, kids, coaches and little sunshades.

The second happy tear came when the captain chanted with the children. It takes my breath away to hear collective voices making excited noise, cheering and I was imagining my little one lip-syncing the chants as she followed along with these glorious older children.

The biggest happy tear came from watching a child in her yellow Morwell Swimming Club hat cheering my daughter on. When the event ended, she waited at the edge of the pool and said, "I don't care that you don't swim for Morwell, that was a great swim!" I have talked to my daughter many times about what it is to be kind for the sake of kindness, what it looks like to be a good sport but that little girl from Morwell Swimming Club was the one that SHOWED my daughter what that was.

Later in the day the little girl from Morwell Swimming Club finished one of her races and I watched my daughter walk the whole way around the pool just to congratulate this child on swimming her race. She knew how this kindness had felt when someone had gifted it to her so she "paid it back". I introduced myself to the little girl from Morwell's dad and shared the story of our girls and he was chuffed.

One child's desire to be kind and a good sport to another child ended up making 4 people feel happy!

Neither girl won a race, neither even placed for the day but neither opted out of the day and I think my daughter learned a lifelong lesson, from a little girl from Morwell Swimming Club!

Donna Giliam, Primary Welfare Officer / 0390801881 / Donna.giliam@education.vic.gov.au

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Fish Creek Children's Literature Day:

The 2021 Children's Literature Day is part of the 2021 Prom Coast Festival. It recognised Fish Creek's unique standing as a destination for children's literature and storytelling. This is an opportunity for children to meet the authors and illustrators behind their favourite storybooks. The program will showcase local talent such as Alison Lester, Janine Firth and Roland Harvey. Explore an expanded form of storytelling tapping into creative storytelling through puppetry, oral traditions, illustration, circus, performance and interactive games.

When: Sunday 7th March **Where:** Fish Creek Hall **Information:**
fishcreekchildrensliteratureday.com.au or promcoastfestival.com.au



Fish Creek Children's
Literature Day

Leongatha Scouts:

'Try Scouting' day on March 27th at the Leongatha Scout Hall. A free day of activities including; rock climbing, mini golf, bowling, craft activities, cooking and stacks more!

When: kids aged 5-10years 10am-12pm kids aged 11-18 years 1pm-3pm

A free ticket is required to attend this event. Please secure you free ticket at www.tinyurl.com/1J2A4E23

Contact Josh Baker, Group Leader 0432 978 622 or scouts@newagebaker.com



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.

Meeniy Primary School

Beanie Order Form

(\$20 each)



Name _____

No. of Beanies _____ Total \$ _____

Payment method: Cash Direct Deposit (BSB: 063 518 Acc: 1007 1649)
(Please circle)

Rec No. _____

2021 LOCAL EXCURSION & TRAVEL CONSENT FORM

Student's Name: _____ Year Level _____

Student's Name: _____ Year Level _____

Student's Name: _____ Year Level _____

"I grant permission for my child/children to participate in excursions within the local township during 2021 as required." NB: for excursions outside our local area a permission form relating to the specific activity/day will be sent home.

"I authorise the teacher in charge of the excursion to consent, where it is impracticable to communicate with me, to the child/children receiving such medical or surgical treatment as may be deemed necessary, including requesting an Ambulance, the cost of which will be my responsibility."

Signed: _____ (Parent/Guardian)

Date _____



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Principal: Gene VanderZalm

2021 Stuart's Cup .. House Athletic Sports

Friday 5th March @ Meeniy Recreation Reserve

Dear Parents,

Next Friday, we again celebrate our wonderful House Sports, the Stuart's Cup. This event is the highlight of the year for many in our school community as it carries a beautiful community feel and is all about the participants. This year the day is reverting back to a one-day fixture with all team and individual events taking place at the Recreation Reserve on Friday.



Children are to wear a T-shirt/top in their house colour if possible - Wattle(yellow), Waratah (red) and Blue Gum (blue), Shorts (tracksuit/jacket if cold) and suitable footwear.

9:20am - Classes will be walked down to the recreation reserve by staff, arriving at 9.50am in readiness for a 10.00am start. Local Excursion and travel consent form must be returned by Thursday if you have not already done so.

Students will be seated in their house areas and will be able to join you for morning tea and lunch if you are able to attend. If your child goes home with you at the end of the sports, please notify the class teacher.

WHAT IF?



If the weather is unkind to us, it will mean a cancellation of the event. We will take the weather and the forecast into account and make a staff decision at 8.30am. Please do not phone the school before 8.30am, we will post a News Item on 'Compass'. If the weather on the day is hot, the day's program will be modified. If you are unsure, send your children to school (prepared for the athletics and/or a normal school day) so that they will be ready if the sports go ahead.

COMPETITORS REQUIRE:

T-shirt in their house colour - Wattle (yellow), Waratah (red) and Blue Gum (blue)	
Shorts (tracksuit/jacket if cold)	Suitable footwear
Hat and Sunscreen (regardless of weather)	Something to sit on if the ground is damp
Morning tea, lunch, snacks	Water bottles .. able to be refilled at the ground
Optional coloured hairspray or zinc can be applied at home (only a small amount please)	

PARENTS:

You may like to bring folding chairs or rugs to sit on around the track. Please keep pre-school youngsters with you so that they are not near the running track. Students will be seated in their house groups and called for each event by their House Captains. They will be able to join you during the lunch break.



OFFERS OF HELP PLEASE

We are seeking offers of help:

- Man a P-2 Tabloid activity – offer on the day
- Setting up house tents in the morning-let us know
- Check and wipe over toilets (yuck, but someone has to do it for the health and hygiene for students)
Supplies, cleaning products supplied -let us know

Gene VanderZalm