



Edition 5 – March 2ND 2021

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Supervision Times: 8:15 Mornings Duty

3.20 -4:00 Afternoon Bus Duty

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Thank you to all of our Parents and Carers for such a fantastic turnout to the PSTs last week.

At MPS, we strongly believe that communication between home and school is a crucial foundation to any students learning. For us, learning does not stop once the students leave the school grounds. Knowing what your student is learning, their strengths as a learner as well areas for development are all part of the picture. By gaining insight into this picture, enables families to reinforce strategies being applied and chip away at goals. When we strike a great balance between home and school, great things tend to happen.

If you ever have questions or feel you need more follow up on PSTs please contact the classroom teacher. We understand that sometimes parents and carers would sometimes prefer an interview with just the teacher which is not a problem. Similarly, if you would like to discuss a more global issue with your child's learning please contact myself and make an appointment.

Swimming

Over the past few weeks, more than half of our year 3-6 students have represented our school and cluster at swimming sports. As a school we are extremely proud of every student who has competed and given it their best effort. Participating and throwing your hat in the ring is a trait we highly value. It leads to qualities such as persistence, resilience and the wonderful 'grit'. A shining example of this was one of students in Grade 4. Last year they came long to school swimming and were a little overawed by the experience. For them, it was a step too far. But they didn't give up. A couple of weeks ago, that same student confidently (at least on the outside ☺) strode to their starting position and completed their swimming event. What a great achievement! Days later, I asked this student how they did it, how did they turn around something that was quite scary when they were in Grade 3?

They said they practised. They went to the pool and practised swimming this same distance, using the same stroke until they felt confident they could do it during our sports. What a great example of meeting your struggles head on.

We can't always determine what our struggles will be at school in fact sometimes a student might appear like they don't have any. But here is something we as a staff know about learning..... **there is no learning without struggling!**

CALENDAR

Current 2/3 – 9/3

4th Mar – Yr 3-6 Athletics form due

4th Mar – Welcome Evening

5th Mar – Stuart's Cup

8th Mar – Labour Day (pupil free)

9th Mar – SC Elections close 4pm

Upcoming

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

BREAKFAST CLUB

Our first Breakfast club will run on
Thursday morning for students
from 8.30 – 9.00am.

ICY POLES

Icy poles will be on sale each day
for the remainder of the term.
One icy-pole per person.
50c each



Gene VanderZalm, Principal

OUTSTANDING ESSENTIAL ITEMS LEVIES

It would be appreciated if outstanding payments for Books & Requisites be settled prior to the end of term 1. Family invoices will be sent home to those families with outstanding balances (unless prior arrangements have been made to pay in instalments) early next month.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Nominations for the annual school council elections will open on Tuesday 2nd March and close at 4pm on Tuesday 9th March. We have 4 x 2 year parent vacancies and 2 x 1 year parent vacancies and 1 staff vacancy. If you are interested in representing the parent / carer body in making long term decisions and directions of the school, please show your interest by being on School Council. Nomination and self-nominations forms are available from the office or the MPS website.

What is a School Council?

- ✓ a legally formed body that is given powers to set the key directions of a school
- ✓ the major governing body of the school
- ✓ plays an important role in school accountability and improvement processes
- ✓ endorses the key school planning, evaluation and reporting documents

| What it does: | What it doesn't do: |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Establish the broad direction and vision of the school within the school's community▪ Participate in the development and monitoring of the school strategic plan▪ Develop, review and update school policies▪ Approve the annual budget and monitor expenditure▪ Maintain the school's grounds and facilities▪ Enter into contracts (e.g. cleaning, construction work)▪ Report annually to the school community and to DEECD▪ Generally stimulate interest in the school in the wider community | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Manage the school▪ Make operational decisions▪ Employ ongoing teaching staff with no fixed date for termination▪ Represent sectional interests▪ Renew the principal's contract or hire and fire the school principal▪ Determine class allocations▪ Discuss individual issues between teachers and students and/or parents |

WELCOME EVENING

This Thursday, 4th March is our Welcome Evening. BYO picnic blanket, picnic dinner, catch up with old friends and make some new ones. Our 2021 Year 6 leaders will also be presented with their leadership badges. We can't wait to see you there from **5:30- 7pm (ish)**. Please bring a mask.

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

The final line of my favourite poem is "Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild precious life?" I have it stuck on my fridge and sometimes it gets covered with kids' artwork or bills or other "stick on the fridge stuff" every now and again it makes its way into my line of site and I stop. I ponder on that big question.

It is good for my soul to do this, to stop and really think about it. Let my imagination celebrate this one wild precious life and the potential it holds. Most of these thoughts head straight to my children. I imagine bushwalking with them, camping with them, diving under waves, swimming in rivers, building sandcastles, reading amazing books, playing cards, family dinners, snuggling up with a movie in the shed, a long, interesting phone call with my adult child, dancing in the kitchen with my gorgeous partner.

Then I reflect on how things actually are. Rushing out the door for school, scoffing food before sport or music, growling at them to brush their teeth, rushing through the readers and story time, Andrew and I like ships in the night passing on quick messages about where the kids are and when we will be home. Cleaning, washing, drying, folding, scrubbing, polishing, weeding, growling. Staying up too late on my computer, who am I kidding? The computer is always there dinging and pinging sound tracking our lives.

So today I choose to STOP, I CHOOSE to wonder, to wonder "what if..." What if, on the days we do not have sport on we climb a mountain or dive under the waves or explore the rail trail? What if, I read an extra chapter of that magic book each night? What if, we have a picnic on our hill on the sport free nights? What if I leave my computer in the bag and worry about that tomorrow? What if I play my guitar and sing out the front of the girl's room while they go to sleep? What if I ignore the cleaning and play cards with Andrew after the girls have gone to bed?

On paper it is pretty clear, what I need to do with my one wild precious life... I just need to choose it, how lucky is that?

Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild precious life?

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

UPDATED TRADING HOURS – BELEZA PAKENHAM STORE

Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm
Saturday 10am – 1pm



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- ☺ **Matilda B** for changing her thinking and her words from 'I can't' to 'I'll try'.
- ☺ **Eden P** for participating in Tabloid Sports with a big smile on her face despite having a sore shoulder.
- ☺ **Lana M** for helping great resilience and self-management.
- ☺ **Joseph W** for consistently being respectful to all members of the class.
- ☺ **Ryker D** for being a kind and caring classmate & having a go at all set tasks with a smile on his face.
- ☺ **Archie M** for asking questions to truly understand a maths concept.
- ☺ **Liam T** for paying careful attention to class discussions to improve your learning.
- ☺ **Mia A** for persisting to improve during maths.
- ☺ **Darcy K** for creative use of his writers voice.



YARD DRAW AWARD

- ☺ **Xavier S** for picking up rubbish at the eating area

HOUSE POINTS

Last week's winner: Bluegum

Overall winner: Bluegum

Year 5/6 Writing

Grade 5/6 have been working on creating engaging story starters when writing a narrative. Students have discussed the many ways authors use story starters to capture an audience. Here are some samples that students have created so far.

The ginormous brick house seemed like an abandoned castle. But really, inside it was bustling with soldiers covered in shining armour, with bows and swords ready for a major attack. – *Nico*

The girl stared at the dangerous and unknown city. Building after building, apartment after apartment. The endless roads and lanes leading you on and on, into a mysterious world of smoke and chatter. – *Evelyn*.

On a day much like no other, the dark clouds were pouring with rain until the streets were flooded. Abby, the fourteen-year-old girl got up from her slump, glancing out of the bedroom window. – *Keerah*.

Meeniyah Primary School - Beanie Order Form (\$20 each)



Name _____

No. of Beanies _____

Total \$ _____

Payment method: Cash
(Please circle)

Direct Deposit (BSB: 063 518 Acc: 1007 1649)

Rec No. _____

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Meeniyian Community Cupboard:

A great new community project in Meeniyian has just begun. The Meeniyian Community Cupboard is a green metal cupboard placed near the Meeniyian Community Garden. The cupboard contains basic non-perishable household goods and is available to those in need of this support.

The cupboard is available 24 hours a day and we ask that the cupboard and its contents be treated with respect and consideration for others. Good quality and 'in date' donations and financial support are always welcome. Please contact Lauren at Bread and Pickles Café or phone Rosie on 0438 644 230. Perishables are available on request.

Fish Creek Children's Literature Day:

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 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



AUSKICK @ Stony Creek FNC & Junior Football Training:

Registration Day for AFL Auskick is Saturday April 24th, 10am. Contact Mat Linke 0421 466 545 or Mark LePage 0447 352 208

Come and train on Thursday nights for Junior Football (U11 U13 & U15) at Stony Creek Football ground starting 5pm. New players & families welcome. For more information contact Mark LePage 0447 352 208 or Dale Gilliatte 0417 096 456



CHILD SAFETY STANDARDS WHAT WE EXPECT AT MEENIYIAN 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.