



Edition 7 – March 16th 2021

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Supervision Times: 8:15 Mornings Duty

3.20 -4:00 Afternoon Bus Duty

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

I love my job. I must admit, at times it feels like I have 160 + children of my own 😊

Although it was a busy time organising two sports days within 8 days, it was easy to get caught up in the euphoria of watching so many amazing performances at both events.

I've been around education for long enough to see the lasting benefits of a child pushing themselves beyond what they thought were their boundaries. Many kicked off the day with a run in the 800m. Although a surprise for the muscles and lungs of many of the 9 year olds, they still toughed it out and ran the full distance. Throughout the day our students toiled to the best of their abilities, as well as cheering on friends to reach their personal best. As 2:30 swung round and many started packing their bags, I reminded students that there was one more event, the 1500m, 5 laps of the Foster SC oval!

Many Meeniyah students remained undaunted.

I could not believe the sea of red singlets that not only took part in this gut buster but managed to jog/run the whole way! This is GRIT. The ability to dig deeper because you know it is the right thing to do.

I take my hat off to Mrs Browne for the way she has prepared our students for the sports and I also take my hat off to the parents/carers for encouraging these behaviours in their kids.

This was never about ribbons. Many think that Action comes from Inspiration and Motivation where in fact it is actually the reverse.....Action always comes first, which is what we saw plenty of at our recent sports days 😊

Gene VanderZalm, Principal

Thank You: To Sarah Thomas for washing all the sports tops from last Friday.

If your child/children took their tops home from the sports, please return to school asap.

SCHOOL COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

Congratulations to the following parents who will be formally elected to School Council next Tuesday night at our AGM – Rhys Livingstone, Melissa Horkings, Katrina Benson & Brad Kiljstra, together with Jo Healy as our new staff rep. Our 1 year casual vacancies will be filled by Kate Thomas & Sarah Mitchem.

LOST PROPERTY

We have a large number of clothing items in lost property already this year. Many items are unnamed and not uniform items. Please look through the lost property baskets and collect any items that belong to your child/ren. Any items that do not have a name and remain unclaimed will be donated to MACS before the end of term.

CALENDAR

Current 16/3 – 23/3

18th Mar – Yr 1 Dinner / Yr 2 Sleepover

18th Mar – Book Club orders close, 9am

23th Mar – School Council AGM, 7pm

Upcoming

26th Mar – District Athletics Yrs 3-6

29th Mar – Student Free day

1st Apr – Last day Term 1 - 2.20pm
dismissal-buses run 1 hour
earlier than usual.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

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

MACS

Thanks to our wonderful MACS
volunteers, we have received a
cheque for \$1276.11

JUNIOR ACTION TEAM NEWS

Happiness Day:

On Friday 19th March, the Junior Action Team will be running a happiness day. We are asking students and teachers to dress in the happiest clothes of all – YOUR PAJAMAS! This is a free event, there will be NO DONATION needed. The idea of the day is to celebrate our learning, our school and the things that make us happy. Random Acts of Kindness will be encouraged!

Icy Poles:

Please note that icy pole sales will only be on Thursdays and Fridays until the end of term.

YEAR 1 DINNER / YEAR 2 SLEEPOVER

Excitement is growing among the students in anticipation for the Yr 1 Dinner / Yr 2 Sleepover tomorrow, Thursday 18th March. Please note the following reminders regarding meals on Thursday 18th and Friday 19th March.

	Year 1 Students	Year 2 Students
THURSDAY 18th March		
Recess and Lunch	Bring recess snack and lunch from home	Bring recess snack and lunch from home
Afternoon Tea	PROVIDED	PROVIDED
Dinner	PROVIDED	PROVIDED
FRIDAY 19th March		
Breakfast	Eaten at home before school	PROVIDED
Recess snack	PROVIDED	PROVIDED
Lunch	PROVIDED	PROVIDED

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

I was lucky this weekend to go and watch my daughter swim at Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre. It was surreal looking at my strong lanky 9-year-old daughter standing on the diving blocks ready to smash out 50mts of breaststroke. She pushed, frog kicked, glided and pushed and frog kicked and glided over and over, knocking 7 seconds off her qualifying time. She was so excited about her swim and was totally lost in the atmosphere of a big event like this.

Yet, the swim and her PB played a much smaller part in her day than you would think. That was all over in 1min and 4 seconds. There was so much learning happening before and after the event.

Parents were not allowed on the pool deck, we had to stay in the grandstand and our kids had to work with their coaches and had to take a lot of responsibility for themselves. Annie had to make sure she ate at some stage during the morning, she had to deal with the still time that comes with waiting, she had to listen to their coaches, she had to sort the anxiety they may feel before the event, she had to make sure she was marshalling 3 heats before her own.

From up in that grandstand, I saw my 9-year-old daughter grow up right before my eyes and she was so very proud of herself. She dealt with her broken bathers, she dealt with the pre-race butterflies, she asked her coaches for advice, she ate her snacks, she did not even get close to placing but she came out smiling.

This all happened to her and for her because she DID NOT opt out. This feeling of independence and excitement will stay with her forever and she will be able to draw on it when she must do other things that ask her out of her comfort zone.

I don't care if my daughter is a champion, I don't care if she swims last. What I do want for her and all our girls is to stand on diving blocks or basketball courts or running tracks or bike trails or ski slopes or whatever AND JUST DO IT – even if it is hard! I want to see all our girls to get to high school, dress in their house colours and get points for their house. I want them to understand what it means to be part of a team, to make lifelong connections and to love their bodies because of the wonderful things their bodies can do, rather than how they look.

Our kids can often do so much more than we give them credit for, it can be tricky not to buy into the opt out but there is SO many VALUABLE life skills learned from opting in.

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

Mt. Eccles Netball Club:

Netball training commences Thursday 18th March, 4.00 – 6.30pm at the LDNA courts. We welcome players from all over South Gippsland. Junior training times: U11's and U13's 4-5pm. U15's and U17's 5.30-6.30pm. The season runs April – September will all games played at the same times on Saturdays at the one central location.

To register <https://forms.gle/x4x3rgZePe7NndSw9>. For queries contact munteccles@gmail.com or phone Jacinta 0400 255 954.

Meeniyau Auskick:

Come and join in Mondays 4-5pm starting Monday 19th April and running for the duration of term 2. Register online now at play.afl/auskick with walking bus from Meeniyau Primary School leaving 3.30pm and complimentary sausage sizzle following Auskick session. For more info, contact Steve Trotman 0438 762 068. To join the walking bus, contact Emma Trotman 0448 438 610.

NetSetGo:

Our program starts Saturday 24th April from 10am. The 45minute program includes warm up, skill development & modified netball games. All participants receive a NetSetGo pack! Program is for boys and girls aged 7 and runs at the Leongatha & District Netball Association (LDNA) Netball Courts. The cost is \$90 for the 14 week program. For further information, please contact Chloe Cope 0459 999 622 or leongathaanddistrictnetball@gmail.com

Meeniyau Community Cupboard:

A great new community project in Meeniyau has just begun. The Meeniyau Community Cupboard is a green metal cupboard placed near the Meeniyau 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.



CHILD SAFETY STANDARDS WHAT WE EXPECT AT MEENIYAU 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.