



School News



Edition 10 – April 20TH 2021

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Supervision Times: 8:15 Mornings Duty

3.20 -4:00 Afternoon Bus Duty

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Welcome back everyone.

It is mind boggling to recall that at this time 12 months ago we were all setting off on our journey of remote learning. Fast-forward 12 months and we have all learned so much. We are grateful that we have returned to face to face learning as some parts of the world still have not.

During Term 1, most aspects of schooling returned to somewhat 'normality'. This term we hope to take further steps forward by reintroducing other aspects of a normal year, including:

- Meeniyah ANZAC Day parade, including a song by a group of 5/6 students
- Visiting Arts performance 'Choolburra Show' for all students in the Stadium
- Winter Sports for all 5/6 students
- Zoo excursion for Year 3-6 students
- NAPLAN
- Cross Country for 3-6 students

Social distancing and other measures to restrict the spread of COVID still apply this term. As a result, students are still unable to share treats at school for their birthday unless they are individually wrapped.

Remember to save the date for the PST Open night on May 27 where you will have the opportunity to come into your child's class and see their learning from Semester 1.

Gene VanderZalm, Principal

CALENDAR

Upcoming

- 11th May – NAPLAN Commences
- 18th May – School Council, 7pm
- 27th May – PST Open night
- 28th May – Winter Sport Yr 5/6
- 1st June – Cross Country
- 3rd June – Zoo Excursion Yrs 3-6
- 4th June - Division Cross Country
- 14th June – Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
- 15th June – School Council, 7pm

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

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

HELPER NEEDED

We are still in need of one person who can wheelbarrow concrete for our new garden this Thursday.

If you are able to spare a few hours of your time, please contact Gene at school.

BOOK CLUB

Issue 3 catalogues have been distributed today. Please place all orders via the LOOP app on your phone or the Scholastic website. Do **not** send orders/money into school. All orders must be placed prior to 9am Thursday 6th May. Orders placed after this time will not be processed.

ANZAC Day



This Sunday is a special day in Australia's history and for us, an important community event. Each year students are invited to attend the Meeniyah ceremony and march with the school and other community groups. The ceremony is a very stirring event and is an ideal and practical way to develop our students' appreciation and acknowledgement of this historical event. Students are asked to wear school uniform and assemble 9.30am at the Meeniyah Hall.

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

I have been going to my cousin's holiday house in the Gippsland Lakes a couple of times a year since I can remember. It is one of those magic places which we can only reach by boat and once we are there, our shoes come off and time slows down. There were no phones, no power and the air smelt of Kerosene, mosquito coils and sunscreen.

As a child those long days were spent on the beach, in the tea trees and along the lake. We played magic games and pretended we were children of the sun, we jumped off one jetty and let the current float us down to the next one, we visited friends on houseboats and other holiday houses, we challenged each other to all sorts of card games, we never had showers and our beds were filled with sand as we topped and tailed in the bunkroom, or we slept by a fire on the beach.

The older we got the less supervised we became. The freedom was MARVELLOUS and not without many arguments, complications, and hiccups. We were left to sort this out and we mostly did, we trusted our instincts to when we needed the adults to help. Our adults trusted us too, they trusted us to look out for each other and to keep ourselves safe.

Each Autumn and Spring I take the same journey with my kids, I meet my sister and cousins there and our kids are repeating history. Every time we are there, I see them exhale, exhale the rush and inhale the freedom. They wander with their shoes off, the bigger kids always looking out for the little ones, their hair thick with salt and sand, the bunk room cackling with laughter into the night. Each year they jump from a bigger jetty or take a longer walk or explore a further sand dune.

As the timelessness slows them down, I see the kids become more connected and on the boat home I look at them with black sandy feet, sparkling eyes, a little bit more grown up and a little bit wiser.

I hope that your family had the time to switch off, to be in nature and feel some freedom over the break.

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

Stony Creek FNC AUSKICK:



READY TO PLAY?

Stony Creek F.N.C.
Registration Day.
24th April @ 11am
Stony Creek Reserve.

play.afl/auskick

Meeniyen ANZAC Day Ceremony Sunday 25th April

Assemble at the Cenotaph in the main street at 9.30am for a 9.45am March.



Lest we forget



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.