



School News



Edition 11 – April 27TH 2021

Contact Us 5664 7382

e: meeniyian.ps@education.vic.gov.au

w: www.tarwinvalleyyps.vic.edu.au

Supervision Times: 8:15 Mornings Duty

3.20 -4:00 Afternoon Bus Duty

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

ANZAC Day means so much, to so many people, for a whole host of reasons. Since my family moved to Meeniyian, we have cherished spending the morning with friends and neighbours at the Meeniyian march. Each year we are moved by Syd Jackson's rendition of the Last Post and the minute's silence in our hometown. But now we have an added highlight and we're not alone.

For the past five years, Meeniyian Primary has selected two students to research names of fallen soldiers from the Meeniyian honour role. Together with their families, the students spend a number of weeks researching the finer details of these distinguished local heroes. Often the tales they uncover highlight individuals living ordinary lives. Their research sheds light on the soldier's experiences before and during the war and the struggle for clarity for their families after their death. A common pattern we notice is the number of soldiers afflicted by illness and in some cases the ultimate cause of their death.

This year was no exception. On behalf of the Meeniyian community and our school I want to express my thanks to Minna and Harvey, their families and their teachers. A wide range of people came up to me on Sunday expressing their thanks for their work. Most people appreciated the fact it gave a local touch to the ceremony. Others highlighted the importance that our younger generations were connecting with their past and some were grateful that our soldiers from the past were not forgotten. Personally, I was appreciative for all these reasons and proud that our students could have such an impact on such a significant day.

Gene VanderZalm, Principal

THANK YOU

Thank you to Toby & Reuben Gammon, Rhys Livingstone, Andrew Watt, Brad Kijlstra-Shone and Sarah Thomas for their time last week helping with works for our new interactive garden space.

YEAR 6 & SCHOOL LEADER PHOTOS

For families wanting to purchase a Year 6 photo or a 2021 School Leaders photo, there are two sizes available. Photos can be purchased in 8 x 10" for \$24 each or 6 x 8" for \$20 each. Please send cash or a cheque made out to Foons Photographics into the school office in a clearly labelled envelope by Friday 7th May. The photos are on display in the school foyer.

CHESS BOARDS WANTED

Ms Dickie is hoping to start a Chess Club at school but we do not have enough chess sets. If anyone has a set laying around at home that doesn't get used and they would be happy to donate, please send in to Ms Dickie in 34D.

CALENDAR

Upcoming

6th May - Book Club orders close 9am

11th May – NAPLAN Commences

14th May – Yr 7 applications due

18th May – School Council, 7pm

27th May – PST Open night

28th May – Winter Sport Yr 5/6

28th May – School bike ride

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



BIKE RIDE & TRIVIA NIGHT

As we edge back into reality memories come back to me of school events. Welcome evenings, end of year gathering, Trivia nights, school bike rides and all the other wonderful events we had started to DREAM about back before COVID.

There is so much more we can do now and I get goosebumps just thinking about it!

We would like to have a School Bike Ride so families can gather, exercise and share a sausage at the end. We would like to do this one on Friday the 28th of May. We need HELPERS to help organise and cook the sausage sizzle. Please come to school at 9:30am on Thursday the 29th of April to meet if you can help with the bike ride or contact Donna Giliam if you would like to help but can't make the meeting.

There are dreams of a Trivia Night early term 4. We will need helpers for this too - please let me know if you will be able to help with organising this event, most planning and meetings will be during term 3.

Thanks Donna Giliam

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

My eldest daughter and I spent much of the first 10 years of her life on the road. I would chase a new exciting job or adventure. We would follow the sun.

On our road trips we would roll our swags out under the stars and doze off with my dear old dog at our feet. On rainy nights, the swags would be rolled out in the back of my beautiful 60 series Land Cruiser with the windows cracked because when you follow the sun, the rain brings sticky humid nights.

I would love to say that I ALWAYS felt safe on our long road trips but I didn't.

It was the same in my early 20s when had to walk to my car after a long security shift at a pub or an event or walking back to a campsite at a music festival, there was often a sense of feeling unsafe.

As I write this, my beautiful mum is driving off to Western Australia in her VW van. She has done so many trips in this little car and I convoyed some of the way with her over the break. I was surprised how many people we met on the road showed concern about her travelling alone and asking if that was safe.

Something bubbled inside of me, I think it was rage. Rage for the young Donna who had to keep her wits about her under the stars she loved so much, rage for the young Donna who proudly worked as a bouncer all night at the pub and then had to ask a bloke to walk her safely to her car, rage because why can't my daughters be safe at a music festival and why does my 67 year old mum who waited all her life to travel need to worry about her safety when she crosses the Nullarbor?

I want a world for the kids I know and love where they can walk home safely, sleep under the stars just wondering about the skies and when they are old and grey, they can sleep out in their little Kombi Vans on the Great Australian Bight only wondering about the wind.

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- ☺ **Hamish G** for working hard to improve his counting.
- ☺ **Laura J** for being a caring and thoughtful friend.
- ☺ **Cody M** for responding in a positive manner to feedback.
- ☺ **Winnie S** for consistently being a kind and caring classmate and challenging herself in reading by thinking more deeply about texts.
- ☺ **Harvey K** for his maturity and focus during 'writing'.
- ☺ **Minna S** for going above and beyond to continue improving in all learning areas.
- ☺ **Christian L** for setting high expectations for himself.



HOUSE POINTS

Last Week: Wattle

Overall: Bluegum

FOOTBALL CLINIC



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.