



# School News



Edition 16 – June 8<sup>TH</sup> 2021

Contact Us 5664 7382

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

w: [www.tarwinvalleyyps.vic.edu.au](http://www.tarwinvalleyyps.vic.edu.au)

Supervision Times: 8:15 Mornings Duty

3.20 -4:00 Afternoon Bus Duty

## PRINCIPALS'S REPORT

I feel like a broken record but welcome back again everybody after lockdown 4.0!

As annoying as these lockdowns are, our school has escaped the mayhem fairly well. At this stage, the Zoo Excursion for Years 3-6 is the only thing that we will need to reschedule. We are hopeful of completing our Year 5/6 Winter Sport and Cross Country obligations at a Division level and should receive confirmation on upcoming dates in the next week.

In terms of normal day-to-day operations, very little has changed. Visitors are still permitted on the school site at the school's discretion. Parent helpers will need to contact the appropriate classroom teachers for further information. Parents are still allowed on-site and will need to continue using the Compass kiosk site for students that are late arrivals or early departures. Any visitor's will need to wear face masks and maintain 1.5m distancing. The only other significant change is that school assemblies will not be running until further notice. In the meantime we will switch back to our online assemblies with students and staff only.

In many ways we are glad that we planned most of our school events, such as camps, swimming and parent evenings for the second half of the year. Fingers crossed we get on top of COVID over the next few months and have few interruptions in the back half of 2021.

*Gene VanderZalm, Principal*

## SCHOOL COUNCIL REPORT

Peer Observations:

As part of the Professional Learning Culture at Meeniyah Primary School, teachers are heading out of their own classrooms and into that of their peers. These peer observations enable teachers to observe, provide feedback and reflect on their teaching practice as well as look at ways to improve student learning.

With each teacher observing and being observed three times over the course of the term, peer observations have formed a large part of teacher professional development at Meeniyah PS in 2021. In addition to this, teacher walk-throughs encourage dialogue with students about what they are learning, whether they think the task is successful in teaching / aiding their learning and ways it could be improved in the future – essentially, providing student voice to the program!

How lucky are we to have such dedicated teachers / education support staff that go above and beyond to improve not only their own teaching and learning, but also that of their students. 😊 😊 😊

Keep up the fantastic work, Meeniyah PS!

*Melissa Horkings, School Council representative.*

## LUNCH ORDERS

Please be aware that at the moment, Bread and Pickles cannot take payments over the phone for lunch orders, this should fixed in a few weeks- Until then please go into the shop to pay for your lunch orders. Bread and Pickles have extended their business hours until 4pm.

## CALENDAR

### Current 8/6 – 15/6

14<sup>th</sup> June – Queen's Birthday Public Holiday

15<sup>th</sup> June – School Council, 7pm

### Upcoming

25<sup>th</sup> June – Last day Term 2, 2.20pm dismissal

12<sup>th</sup> July – First day Term 3

26<sup>th</sup> July - Student free day

27<sup>th</sup> July – School Council, 7pm

3<sup>rd</sup> Aug - George Telford Parent Session

### NEWSLETTER ITEMS

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

## Riddle



People have stepped on me, but not many. I never stay full for long. I have a dark side. What am I?

Solution at the end of the newsletter

## UNEXPLAINED ABSENCES

Some families will have received letters regarding unexplained absences with today's newsletter. It is a requirement of the DET to have an explanation for all non-attendance. Our preferred method is for the parent/carer to explain their child's absence via Compass, however, if you are not able to do so, a phone call to the school is advised. If you have received a letter today, please complete the form explaining why your child was absent from school so that we can rectify this in our system.

## RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

Once, aged 21 in a bar in Alice Springs I got into an argument with a man from Brisbane about the mistreatment of Aboriginal people in Australia. He ended the argument by telling me "You are middle class Melbourne trying to save the world, you have no idea."

Shamed into silence. Only for a short while but shamed all the same. The theme for Reconciliation Week this year is *'Reconciliation is more than a word. Reconciliation takes action'*.

Action can be exciting but can also be uncomfortable. Action can be uncomfortable when we look at the history of Australia, even more uncomfortable when we look at how many stories remain untold. So many words locked away, so many languages lost, so many families destroyed and generations of trauma, judgment and oppression. At the dinner table last night my family and I listened to Ziggy Ramo and Paul Kelly sing the changed-up version of 'From Little Things Big Things Grow' – the song originally co-written by Kev Carmody and Paul Kelly has always moved me. A song of protest and change making. Ziggy has changed it again and his words made me openly weep at our dinner table.

My children said why are you crying mum. And I tried to find the words to tell the story for their younger ears but not to be token. It was uncomfortable, painful, and sad.

Usually, the stories I share with them are about beautiful languages, finding bush food, hunting, fishing, laughter, and the ancient sound of the women singing in Mutitjulu, Ukaka and Jarlmadangah. Usually, I tell them of the birds, the reptiles, and the bush medicines. Stories of the song lines and fire farming.

This time I wept with sadness as I told them of sorry camps, generational trauma and of stolen children.

It was uncomfortable but I refuse not to acknowledge this in my home. Because *'Reconciliation is more than a word. Reconciliation takes action'*

Our wonderful school captains have taken action with support from our Koorie Education Officer Annemarie to write our own Acknowledgment to country for Meeniyan Primary School. I leave you with their thoughtful, meaningful words.

*We would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Land on which we stand.*

*We would like to pay our respect to the Elders past, present and future.*

*We will respect the land, the animals and the waterways. From the Tarwin River to the roaring ocean our wildlife and our beautiful bush.*

*We will do our best to protect and care for this land.*

Donna Giliam, Primary Welfare Officer [Donna.giliam@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Donna.giliam@education.vic.gov.au)



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



- 😊 **Katie B** for beginning to self-correct while reading.
- 😊 **Clay M** for challenging himself during reading comprehension.
- 😊 **Lydia W** for working hard to meet the narrative writing goals. Terrific story writing!
- 😊 **Sam N** for bravely going into the 'Learning Pit' and asking for help.
- 😊 **Alastair T** for improvement in his writing skills.
- 😊 **Penny C** for seeking feedback to improve her writing and having a great mindset.
- 😊 **Charlotte H** for asking great questions in reading.
- 😊 **Lara H** for showing integrity in her French questioning.

## Riddle Solution



The moon



# MPS Cross Country



## 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.