



School News



Edition 23 – August 10TH 2021

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Supervision Times: 8:15 Mornings Duty

3.20 -4:00 Afternoon Bus Duty

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Although only 4 days long, this recent lockdown started and ended so abruptly that it left our heads spinning and I'm not sure they have stopped!

We are extremely happy that students have returned to onsite learning and I am also happy that our staff have established a more thorough mode of Remote and Flexible Learning (RFL) should it be required in the future. Many of our staff have worked tirelessly towards RFL over the past 4 days as we all predicted the lockdown would go for much longer.

Now teachers switch their plans back to face-to-face learning. I take my hat off to their professionalism and willingness to support RFL and the wide range of requests that comes with it. I know this did not go unnoticed by many of you. Thanks to the many families who expressed their gratitude via emails and phone calls. Now more than ever this was very much appreciated.

Parent Opinion Survey

A reminder to those families who received an invitation to complete this year's Parent Opinion survey, that the survey must be completed by Aug 22nd. The survey was sent to 80 families and so far 22 have completed it. We encourage all families who received the invite to complete the survey, so we get as broad a response as possible.

Gene VanderZalm

CURRICULUM DAYS AND ZOO EXCURSION

Next Monday and Tuesday's Curriculum days will go ahead student free as planned. We understand the impact this has on families after remote learning, however due to past COVID lockdowns, this is the 3rd time we have had to reschedule these dates and unfortunately we cannot reschedule them again.

We will make a decision early next week about the Year 5 & 6 Zoo excursion once we have more information on restrictions around COVID.

PREP BAGS SURVEY

At the beginning of the school year, the Department of Education and Training provided every Prep student attending a Victorian government school with a red Prep bag.

The Prep bags contained 14 items, including children's storybooks, flyers, stickers, and stationery items, all designed to help Prep students and their parents and carers thrive from the start of Term 1.

The Department is now inviting families of current Prep students to participate in a short survey, closing Sunday 29 August.

Feedback will help inform what Prep students and their parents and carers like about the Prep bags and what can be improved in 2022.

To have your say, complete the survey using the link

www.surveymonkey.com/r/2021prepbags. The survey takes about five to ten minutes to complete.

CALENDAR

Current 10/8 – 17/8

16th Aug - Student Free Day

17th Aug - Parent Student Teacher Interviews

Upcoming

19th Aug - Yrs 3-6 Zoo Excursion

22nd Aug - Parent Opinion Survey closes

23rd Aug - Book Week colouring competition closes

24th Aug - School Council, 7pm

17th Sep - Last day Term 3

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

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



BOOK WEEK COLOURING COMPETITION

In MARC library lessons we are celebrating Children's Book Week by reading many of the books shortlisted for a prize and will vote in class on the book we think should win Book of the Year. We would also like to celebrate with a Colouring In Competition. The colouring in picture has gone home with the newsletter. Extra copies can be collected from classroom teachers. Please submit completed pictures by Monday 23rd August.

PST MEETINGS

Bookings your interview online at www.schoolinterviews.com.au and use the code **4j6nb**. Interviews are strictly 15 mins and spaces are limited. If you require more time, please contact your teacher directly to make alternative arrangements. You can change your bookings any time prior to the day by re-visiting the www.schoolinterviews.com.au website and using the event code. Remember to use the same name and email address, you used when you made your original booking.

Parents are required to wear masks while on site as well as social distancing, keeping 1.5metres apart. You will need to sign in with our QR code which is located at the entrance to each building.

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

I usually find a time on the weekend to curl up and write for our respectful relationships part of the newsletter, the ideas come to me throughout the week after seeing something, reading something or hearing something.

This week so many words rolled around, hooray we are back at school, oh no we are back in lockdown, there were so many disjointed thoughts and conversations over the weekend. Even right now, as I am typing, I tell my 8-year-old AGAIN, that I have something pressing, important, which must be done and the guilt sinks in.

It is hard to find a balance or the calm in these times. It is ok for it to be hard because it just is.

So, today, I honour our incredible team at MPS. This is not just the school staff; this is YOU the mums and dads. YOU have been asked to do so much over the last 18 months and it is sometimes FUN and magic but often it is really HARD, but you do it. You learn how to use Seesaw, Webex, Compass and relearn how to do long multiplication! We all want the same outcome – for these wonderful young people to be the best they can be!

I know that all of you will be trying hard to balance and juggle and adjust, OVER and OVER again.

Thank you, parents, for being so gorgeous when we call you, email you and compass newsfeed you. THANK YOU – it is just wonderful working with you all! Thank you, all staff at MPS – for everything. You are a solid bunch! Thank you also to the wattles, which keep on flowering – lockdown or not!!

Donna Giliam, Primary Welfare Officer



Writing from students about the MPS Olympics

Yesterday we got to play games all day. It was way more fun than real school. First we did the Opening Ceremony, the individual events, then we did the Jump Rope for Heart. I was pooped. *Lucas*

We came Bronze. My favourite event was Catch the Flag. I was New Zealand. *Brock*

We all had lots of fun. My favourite game was Catch the Flag. It was so so fun. I was in the Netherlands. I won a gold medal. I missed Olive. *Edie*

Yesterday we had the Olympics. We started with the Opening Ceremony and had two speakers. Then we had team events. Then we had individual events. Then we had the Closing Ceremony. The we had Jump Rope for Heart.

By the time we had Jump Rope for Heart, I was pooped. I think that was the most exercise I have ever done but it was really fun. *Thalia*

I was in India with Mrs. Russell. We wore orange, white, green and blue. India did not win. The Netherlands did. *Flynn*

On Thursday 5th August, the whole school gathered on the basketball court for an Opening Ceremony with Mike Munday and Kate Thomas. They talked about their experiences doing sport but they never gave up. Mike wanted to be a professional soccer player but ended up being a volleyball player. Kate was talking about when she was little, she loved playing basketball but never really got it. Then, after practice, she finally succeeded. After that we separated into our countries to do our individual events. After that we did team vs team games. After the games, we had a Closing Ceremony. Since I was in the Netherlands, the Netherlands came first. Then we did Jump Rope for Heart and had a dance competition. *Matilda*

Meeniy Primary School Olympics



Wow, what the most incredible day we had celebrating the 2020 (2021) Olympics in Japan by having our own MPS mini-Olympics. We started the day we Mike Munday and Kate Thomas speaking to us about their elite sporting careers and the lessons they learned along the way, inspiring our students to find their passion, be brave, and apply themselves. Then students marched off to their countries National Anthem for their first event.

Each country participated in 10 individual events for 7mins, to score as many points as possible for their team. Events included: swimming on skateboards, completing an obstacle course, a relay, long jump, shooting soccer and basketball goals, throwing tennis balls for distance, rowing on mats, distance running, and Bowitgee (an indigenous ball game).



After Recess each county played 5 other different countries in 5 different sports. Many of these were indigenous games, including: Arrkene Irreme, Chiba, Edor, and Boogalah giving all a fair playing field of learning a new game and giving us an opportunity to celebrate indigenous culture through sport. We also had an Aussie favourite of Capture the Flag, which many enjoyed too. There was 20 points awarded for each of the country vs country games. Scores were tallied and the winning country was The Netherlands! Silver went to Kenya, New Zealand took bronze, and all students walked away with a big smile and found memories.

A big shout out to all the students and their families who got involved, dressed up for the day, and competed in the Olympic spirit by giving everything a go.



Jump Rope for Heart



A big congratulations to all MPS students for their participation in the JRFH program this year. The improvement made by all students in PE class was impressive, but it was the atmosphere of skipping on the basketball court during Recess and Lunch times drew tears of joy from me. It is one thing to participate in class, but to continue this to their spare time makes me so proud. Speaking of proud! I would like to give a big shout out to Monty Gilligan-deWolff who raised \$385.24 for the Heart Foundation. Our school as a whole raised \$744.48 from donations for Blake Horkings, Braydon Poletti, Dominique Quinn, Edie Stewart, Matilda Passarin-Stewart, Jordyn Browne, Matilda Browne, and Llyod Calder. A big thank you to these students' families for getting behind a very important cause.

Our Jump Off at the end of our Olympics Day was great fun and gave the chance for the students to showcase their skills to the whole school.

Keep Skipping for fun everyone!



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.
- ❖ 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.