



School News



Edition 29 – October 19TH 2021

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Supervision Times: 8:15 Mornings Duty

3.20 -4:00 Afternoon Bus Duty

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Now more than ever, the lack of censorship in our programming makes it extremely difficult for parents to monitor what their children are exposed to. Primetime radio and tv shows are littered with content that would have been well beyond a PG rating 20 years ago. And the music charts? Let's just say there isn't too many tunes about a 'Yellow Submarine'!

Meeniyan Primary is not immune to this phenomenon. For this reason, I'm using this article to bring awareness to our parents surrounding some troubling games we have noticed students playing this term.

School staff are always on the lookout during recess and lunch breaks, judging the appropriateness of games. It is common for students to replicate movies and tv shows they may have watched and then turn this into a schoolyard game. Superheroes are a common example, and we regularly remind students to curb their enthusiasm when battling the bad guys by not using weapons etc.

This term some students have returned with knowledge around programs rated M, M15+ or higher. This issue is not constrained to Meeniyan Primary. On the back of lockdowns, many schools in our area have reported students sharing inappropriate content at school. The darker themes of these shows are not appropriate for primary age students. With titles such as Squid Game and Slender Man, it is easy for parents to assume the content is fine. Violence and swearing are not the only issue with inappropriate content. Adult themes and sexual references create lots of confusion in the minds of preadolescents as they try to gain grasp of the big wide world before them.

As a school, we have a duty of care to all students. We remind students about having awareness for what is appropriate at school. If they have questions, we prefer them to ask a trusted adult. To our parents and carers, if your child is ever exposed to any movies, games, online videos or tv that are of a mature nature, please discuss the content with them and help them decide whether it is something they would share with their friends.

Gene VanderZalm

GRADE 6 UNIFORM ORDERS

All money and order forms for Class of 2022 uniforms **must** be in by 9am this Friday, 22nd October. Orders after this date can not be accepted as this is the one and only order placed with the supplier for these items.

SWIMMING PROGRAM

Consent can now be given for your child to attend the swimming program via Compass. Consent for P-2 students is due Friday 22nd October and consent for 3-6 students is due Friday 5th November. There is no cost to families for this year's program. Please phone the office if you are having trouble logging into Compass.

SHOEBOXES NEEDED FOR PREP CLASSES

The Prep classes need shoeboxes this term. If you have any at home that you don't need, please send them along to school with your child.

CALENDAR

Current 19/10-26/10

- 21st Oct - Book Club orders close CoB
- 22nd Oct - 2022 Year 6 uniform orders due 9.00am
- 22nd Oct - P-2 swimming consent due (CompassPay)

Upcoming

- 29th Oct - P-2 swimming program commences
- 1st Nov - Student free day
- 2nd Nov - Melbourne Cup (pupil free)
- 5th Nov - 3-6 swimming consent due (Compass Pay)
- 8th-10th Nov - Years 5/6 camp
- 15th Nov - 3-6 Swimming program commences

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

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

TAKE HOME READER BOOKS

The junior classes are missing many take home books. If you find any at home, please return them to school so other children can use them. These may be from last year when many books were not returned after remote learning.

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

This week I wanted to write about the use of screens, supervised viewing, and internet usage for our kids. I would love to be able to write this like a well-researched professional, who can reference other important people's words to explain how to "parent" screen time in general and how to "parent" this during a global pandemic. But I can't. Screen usage has been the absolute most challenging part of my parenting. I read the books, I searched the websites, I did the parenting courses, I talked to the counsellors, I set the boundaries and I negotiated the limits, I refused to have a mobile phone myself – to lead by example.

I did all that and it was still just so hard! We did not have TV, my eldest did not get a phone until year 9, she had to hand it and her computer in at night, she was not allowed to take her phone to school, she had to have the door open when she was online, and the list goes on. As she got older the limits changed and things only got worse.

We argued often. It was terrible. People told me to let it go but it was important, it hurt me to see my child on a screen on a sunny day. The lack of online privacy bothered me, what people would say to my child online broke my heart, the binge watching, the access to so many things that were not appropriate for her age. So much influence from so many people who did not know her or care about her at all. So addictive and hard for her to part with.

Then there was the other side, a more positive side, my quirky, curious daughter – who often could not find her people in our small country town - found some people. She found them online and it made me feel sick with fear, but she was smiling and happier, so we talked about it. She included me in the conversations with these girls and they were her people. Crazy dressers with colourful hair, big hearts, and complicated stories. Smart, creative, young women from all over Australia (and NZ) – not quiet fitting in their hometowns either. I talked to their mums, just like I did with Lola's other friends, I walked into her screen and introduced myself to them. One of the girls has come from Gympie to stay with us twice and another we met in Dunedin for a day. Beautiful humans from another postcode.

I am uncomfortable in the world of technology; I am uncomfortable raising my children around so much technology. I would like it to be different, I understand the tremendous responsibility I have to ensure my children are safe online and the incredible challenge that comes with that. So, I parent it, the best I can- with what I have.

With lockdowns easing, summer on the way and kids slowly coming back to school, this is a good time to check in on any habits that might have formed around excessive screen use, what they may have been watching, playing and who with. It is a good time to make changes.

Please do not hesitate to call if you need a chat.

Donna Giliam, Primary Welfare Officer, 0493 131 403



STAFF PROFILE OF THE WEEK

Georgia Higgins, Student Support

Where did you grow up? Leongatha

One word to describe you would be.. Positive

What do you love about MPS? The friendly nature of all students and staff

How long have you been involved with MPS? 3 months

What is your favourite movie? The Grinch

What was your favourite subject in school? English

What are you looking forward to this year at MPS? Meeting and getting to know new people as well as learning and growing as an individual.

What is something you have always wanted to try? Swimming with dolphins

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- ☺ **Tarkyn Z** for thoughtful and reliable leadership in the classroom. Great learning attitude Tarkyn!
- ☺ **Lloyd C** for showing an excellent attitude during remote home learning.
- ☺ **Alanah H** for thoughtful inferring to gain deeper understanding of a story.



COMMUNITY NEWS

The following Community News articles promote community connections and communications.
They are not considered school activities

Leongatha Little Athletics:

The 2021/2022 season commences 6th November, 9am at the Leongatha Velodrome. (Dependent on government restrictions) For kids aged 5-15 years old. New athletes 'Come and Try' prior to paying. All returning athletes must be registered and paid for prior to competing. Register online at www.lavic.com.au/membership/ or for information, email leongathalac@gmail.com

Free online Emotion Coaching Parenting Program:

Free live ONLINE program for parents of children aged 2-12. Stop yelling and nagging and learn how to resolve difficult behaviour over 3 sessions. Parent will receive a free workbook to apply the concepts learnt and a certificate of completion.

When: 11.30 – 2.30 over 3 Tuesdays.

November 30th, December 7th and December 14th

Cost: Free but bookings are essential.

Ph: Mark Brookes, Group Work Facilitator, Uniting Gippsland on 5662 5150 or 0438 204 437

Email: mark.brookes@vt.uniting.org



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.