



Edition 36 – December 7TH 2021

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Supervision Times: *8:15 Mornings Duty*

3.20 -4:00 Afternoon Bus Duty

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

2021 Sign Off

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our school community for the past year. In many ways 2021 has been a lot tougher than 2020 but after so much upheaval and heartache I am immensely proud. Throughout every challenge thrown before us we have listened, asked questions, and supported each other every step of the way. In recent months the challenge has been even greater. Losing valued members of our school community has been heart breaking. The strategy for the path ahead is no different. In 2022, we will continue to support each other as only we know how. As restrictions ease back, we hope to come together, face to face, as it is a whole lot easier listening and supporting each other when we get time together.

As a school, we acknowledge that right now is still a very difficult time for our unvaccinated parents and carers. To succeed in learning, a child requires the support of both their teacher and parents/carers. It is for this reason, that we as a school will continue providing outdoor opportunities for all our school community. Whilst we must abide by different restrictions, we don't want to exclude any student or their family from what is a critical time going forward.

The summer break is going to be an important time to recharge the batteries. Lots of fresh air, exercise and good nutrition will be critical to all of us. On behalf of the staff, I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a happy, rejuvenated, back to normal New Year 😊

2022 Staffing

This year, unlike any other, has seen much unrest surrounding families and where their child will be schooling in 2022. Several students have come and gone in recent months as the post COVID effects continue. At MPS we have settled on a staffing schedule for 2022 and look forward to providing consistency in the year ahead. We are excited by the addition of Jo Healy as a Learning Specialist (LS) for 4 days each week. As a LS, Jo will provide mentoring to all classroom teachers, drive improvement amongst our team of teacher aides and provide support in the leadership of the school.

Classroom Teachers	Specialist Teachers
Prep – Claire Guy	French – Jo Dunlop
Yr 1 – Chloe Pittaway	Arts – Tanya Jackson
Yr 1 – Peter Helms	PE – Bec Browne
Yr 2 – Donna Russell/Donna Giliam	MARC Library – Jeanette Johnson/Sophie Callcott
Yr 3/4 – Emma Lester/Bec Browne	
Yr 3/4 – Molly Patten	
Yr 5/6 – Eliza Dickie	
Yr 5/6 – Peter Harris/Jo Healy	

CALENDAR

Current 7/12 – 14/12

- 7th Dec** - State wide transition day
- 8th Dec** - LSC Orientation day
- 9th Dec** – Year 6 Graduation
- 10th Dec** - Pool Party consent/money due
- 13th Dec** - Year 6 Pool party
- 14th Dec** - Year 3/4 Wilson's Prom excursion – 5pm return

Upcoming

16th Dec - Students last day,
3.20pm finish

31st Jan 2022 - Student's first day

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

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

Year 3/4 Prom Excursion

A reminder to parents/carers to give consent for your child to attend the excursion through Compass.

No consent = No getting on the bus.

'CLASS OF 2022' UNIFORM

The 2022 Year 6 uniform orders have arrived at school and will be collated over the coming days. Orders will be distributed to students on the last day of school, Thursday 16th December. If your child is absent on the last day, they will receive their order on the first day of school next year.

BOOK CLUB HELPER

Thank you to Kitty Keenan who has been our wonderful parent helper for book club over the last few years. Kitty is ready to hand over the reigns next year so we are looking for another parent to kindly help out. All orders are placed and processed online, so the role would comprise of collecting the order from the Post Office when it arrives, checking off the books, collating the orders and distributing to students. There are eight catalogues per year (two each term) so it only requires a couple of hours of your time each term. If this is something that you would be happy to do, please email Janelle.Smedley@education.vic.gov.au

YEAR 6 GRADUATION

Students and staff will celebrate with their Graduation dinner at the Meeniyah Hall on Thursday night. At the conclusion of the dinner, staff and students will walk down to meet parents and families at the Meeniyah Rec Reserve for the presentations. Parents will not need to collect their child from the hall to transport them to the Reserve.

SILENT ART AUCTION

We are currently running a silent art auction with pieces that were created by our students last year with Rachel Warren. All bids must be emailed to tanya.jackson@education.vic.gov.au by midnight Sunday 12th December. Details, including photos of the pieces up for auction are attached to the newsletter or can be viewed on the Compass news item that went out yesterday.

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

On the weekend I went to my little cousins wedding up in Dollar. It was just fabulous to be at a wedding and experience all the magic which comes with such a celebration.

On arrival, dressed in our finest attire (I had a fabulous, borrowed dress from Mrs Guy!) we set up our camp for the night. While we were setting it up Sam the MC came and introduced herself to us. She was very excited to meet the family because she had heard about the way our family tears up a dance floor at every chance we get and more so when we are all together.

And we did...we all danced into the wee hours of the morning, and it was fabulous.

Our family dance with confidence but not always with grace or coordination. We just do it because it is what we have always seen and done. It is how we celebrate and have fun. Our Granny often was impressed if a new boyfriend or girlfriend coming into the family liked to dance.

I was thinking about this on my way home and relating it to parenting and gender. 2 important things came to my mind.

When Sam said she was excited to dance with us because she had heard we could dance – it made me feel like I could. What we tell people about themselves has an impact, if we tell our kids they can do something often enough they will believe it and then they will do it!

My cousin's parents LOVE to dance – particularly their dad, he is known for his interesting moves and because of this, all three boys love to dance too. This is what the boys have seen, and they are always first on the dance floor. What we see is what we consider 'normal' if our kids see both men and women dancing or playing football or running or playing netball or going to work each day or doing the dishes or mowing the lawn – that will become our normal.

Donna Giliam, Primary Welfare Officer

BELEZA VIP UNIFORM SALE

Beleza Pakenham store will be holding a VIP Sale with 20% off full priced items. The sale will run from Saturday 4th December to Friday 17th December. In store only.
Ph 5941 4989



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- ☺ **Matilda P** for a great effort in Inquiry.
- ☺ **Rose S** for a great effort in Inquiry.
- ☺ **Sophie S** for her persistence when learning about division.
- ☺ **Annabel G** for persistence, determination and always striving to do her best. (For being a considerate learning partner too)
- ☺ **Nakayla J** for integrity in French. She kept trying to learn more and more of a song.
- ☺ **Kieren S** for his integrity and positive engagement with all learning opportunities.
- ☺ **Sophie C** for integrity in French. So many examples of creativity and a zest for learning.
- ☺ **Evelyn W** for always being a caring and supportive classmate.
- ☺ **Alastair T** for his willingness to go to the 'Learning Pit' in maths.
- ☺ **Seth M** for excellent recount writing about the beach excursion.



Prep Beach Excursion





Year 6 Christmas Cakes



Thank you to Fay Sinclair for expertly guiding the Grade 6 students with Christmas Cake decorating this year. We all enjoyed decorating them and it was a great experience.

Fay has taught us how to properly decorate the cakes and gave us a lot of options with what we could put on our cakes. Before we could begin decorating, we had to put two layers of icing on our cakes. Some of the cakes have reindeers, a snowman or Christmas trees on them.

Once again, a big thanks to Fay Sinclair and her assistant Marilyn Mackie for helping the Grade 6s with Christmas Cakes.

From Grade 6 - 2021



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.