



Edition 5 – March 1<sup>ST</sup> 2022

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Supervision Times: 8:15 Mornings Duty

3.20 -4:00 Afternoon Bus Duty

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Each term I give one or two social surveys to students in Years 3-6 to gauge what is happening in their worlds. When I did one last week, I was pleasantly surprised to find the vast majority of students are loving school more than ever before. All students acknowledged peers and staff they were thankful for, were able to articulate their challenges at school and moments they were proud. Feedback from many parents during our PSTs last week was much the same. Many of you spoke of how your children can't wait to get to school and want to arrive early. Like they are making up for lost time!

This excitement is encouraging as it plays a critical role in fuelling the fires of learning. Teachers are jumping on this positive wave of emotions with many having planned or in the process of planning different experiences and excursions for their students.

Nonetheless, it is critical that all families understand there are some students experiencing different emotions at this point in time. Now more than any other time in my 20+ years of teaching I am seeing higher numbers of students demonstrating two very different behaviours: *impulsive* and *highly sensitive/low resilience*.

- Impulsive behaviours we are seeing include name-calling, being physical with others and swearing.
- Highly Sensitive/Low Resilience behaviours relate to an imbalance in the catastrophe scale.

When combined, these two sets of behaviours lead to higher levels of conflict. So how do we deal with these issues at school? On two fronts:

1. We maintain strict expectations and consequences to keep all students safe and help them understand what it means to be a part of society.
2. We maintain a strong focus on Wellbeing with regular lessons and experiences aimed at developing resilience.

We are not alone in this phenomena, in fact we are getting off fairly lightly compared with Principals across our region and state sharing their experiences at a recent Principal forum.

Important skills for parents at this time:

- Truth Seeking: many children give the version of facts they want us to hear. Understand this phenomena by balancing conversations from both perspectives.
- Encourage students to use positive strategies to deal with any issues including talking to someone at school about their issues.
- Visit the Resilience Project website for Parent Information related to building resilience.

**Gene VanderZalm**

## MPS BEANIES FOR SALE

We have a new supply of our MPS beanies ready for the cold winter months. If you would like to get in early and purchase beanies, please complete the slip at the end of the newsletter and return with payment to school.

## CALENDAR

### Current 1/3 – 8/3

8<sup>th</sup> Mar - Dress in Purple – gold coin donation

### Upcoming

10<sup>th</sup> Mar - Dinner/Sleepover money and consent due

11<sup>th</sup> Mar - Curriculum Day (pupil free)

14<sup>th</sup> Mar – Labour Day (pupil free)

21<sup>st</sup> Mar - Yr 5/6 Quantum Excursion

22<sup>nd</sup> Mar – School Council AGM, 7pm

23<sup>rd</sup> Mar – Yr 3/4 Bugs Excursion

24<sup>th</sup> Mar – Yr1/2 Dinner - Yr 2 sleepover

8<sup>th</sup> Apr – Last day Term 1

### NEWSLETTER ITEMS

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

## DRESS IN PURPLE – INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

International Women's Day is coming up on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March. The Junior Action Team are organising a dress up day. The theme is the colour purple. Please come dressed in purple and bring a gold coin donation - this will be put towards the JAT Team's fundraising efforts which will be put towards a chosen charity over the coming weeks.

## SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Nominations for the annual School Council elections will open on today, Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 4pm and close at 4pm on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March. We have 4 x 2 year parent vacancies and 1 staff vacancy. If you are interested in representing the parent / carer body in making long term decisions and directions of the school, please show your interest by being on School Council. Nomination and self-nominations forms are available from the office or the MPS website.

What is a School Council?

- ✓ a legally formed body that is given powers to set the key directions of a school
- ✓ the major governing body of the school
- ✓ plays an important role in school accountability and improvement processes
- ✓ endorses the key school planning, evaluation and reporting documents

| What it does:  | What it doesn't do:   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Establish the broad direction and vision of the school within the school's community</li><li>▪ Participate in the development and monitoring of the school strategic plan</li><li>▪ Develop, review and update school policies</li><li>▪ Approve the annual budget and monitor expenditure</li><li>▪ Maintain the school's grounds and facilities</li><li>▪ Enter into contracts (e.g. cleaning, construction work)</li><li>▪ Report annually to the school community and to DEECD</li><li>▪ Generally stimulate interest in the school in the wider community</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Manage the school</li><li>▪ Make operational decisions</li><li>▪ Employ ongoing teaching staff with no fixed date for termination</li><li>▪ Represent sectional interests</li><li>▪ Renew the principal's contract or hire and fire the school principal</li><li>▪ Determine class allocations</li><li>▪ Discuss individual issues between teachers and students and/or parents</li></ul> |

## BUS ROLL CHANGES

Starting next week, we will be making changes to the afternoon bus roll system. Due to the number of bus travellers growing considerably in recent years the administrative requirements of staff in relation to bus organization has also grown. Quite simply, we need a system that suits a larger school.

From Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March we will have a roll that simply ticks off who is on the bus for record keeping purposes. Just like the morning bus run, if your child is in the bus line, they will be put on the bus and if they are not there, the bus will leave as scheduled without your child on board. Parents will no longer need to call and notify us that their child is not on the bus however we do understand that sometimes you may need to call to get a message to your child about travel arrangements. This is a small change we hope will have a positive impact for all. It is the same system that larger nearby primary schools use as well as our secondary schools. We will meet with all bus travelling students to explain the changes in the coming days.

If you have any issues or concerns, please email [meeniyan.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:meeniyan.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 😊 **Fergus B** for his fantastic focus and enthusiasm – EVERY DAY!!
- 😊 **Kieran S** for dedication to improve his reading skills by using his reading time with purpose.
- 😊 **Sofia E** for showing her dedication and persistence for her learning.
- 😊 **Matilda B** for showing an excellent attitude to learning and the way in which she treats others.
- 😊 **Ayme D** for using a new 'Authors Device' in her writing.
- 😊 **Trey C** for displaying an excellent attitude with all his learning.
- 😊 **Riley B** for his hard work and persistence with all his learning tasks.
- 😊 **Chidinma C** for choosing to challenge herself in maths and asking for help when in the dip.
- 😊 **Taylor L** for being a diligent and focused learner.
- 😊 **Corey R** for digging deep to display Gratitude at a very tough time.
- 😊 **Evelyn W** for being a great role model for her peers by being kind and considerate to everyone around her.



**HOUSE POINTS** Last Week's Winner: Bluegum

### YEAR 3/4 BUGS EXCURSION

Information and consent requests for the Bug Excursion on 23<sup>rd</sup> March has now gone live on Compass. There is no cost to families for this excursion, however parents will still need to give their consent. If you are not able to access Compass, please contact the school

### RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

My eldest daughter just moved house this weekend. She had thought of everything – fridge, washing machine, an extraordinary number of couches, books, boxes of kitchen bits. EVERYTHING – but she and her 2 housemates had forgotten to connect the power.

My daughters first night in her new house was just her and her giant dog by candlelight. She told her neighbours about their issue and how tricky it was to keep food and move about in the darkness. Her new neighbours then offered for her to plug in an extension lead and power board in at their house so that Lola and her housemates could have power until it is connected.

They did not have to help her; this is empathy and kindness – they put themselves in her shoes. Her neighbours had been in the same position when they moved in and the previous people in Lola's new house had done the same thing for them. It is contagious and people can learn kindness from experiencing this from someone else.

Lola having no power in her house was an opportunity for her to be the recipient of kindness and possibly make some new friends.

On Thursday, your children will be doing a Resilience Project lesson about Empathy and Kindness, and I will share the parent video with you on Compass too. Let's give our kids lots of opportunities to witness, receive and give kindness and be empathetic to others – we need a little more of this in the world right now – let's start right here, right now in our little town of Meeniyan!

*Donna Giliam, Primary Welfare Officer*

## COMMUNITY NEWS

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

### **Toora Primary School Colour Run:**

Everyone welcome for a fantastic family event on 4<sup>th</sup> March from 4pm. Please wear white clothing that you don't mind getting stained. We will have music, a sausage sizzle, fairy floss and slushies.

Cost: \$10 per runner / \$20 per family

For more information, please contact Toora PS on 5686 2283





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.

## Meeniyan Primary School Beanie Order Form (\$20 each)

Name \_\_\_\_\_



No. of Beanies \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed cash

I have paid via D/D (BSB: 063 518 Acc: 1007 1649) Rec No. \_\_\_\_\_

# ourpatch

## Important Dates:

- Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March Hot Breakfast 7.30 - 8.00am

- Mackenzie from Gippsland United at 4.00 – 5.00pm on Tuesdays

- Make-your-own toasties on Wednesday afternoon

- Pupil free day Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March, whole day service available

As requested by the children, last week we put more of an emphasis on our children's voice in activities. We were lucky enough to have Mackenzie from Gippsland United join us again for a very action-packed basketball session. The kids were also able to break in some new equipment, like our brand-new cricket set, soccer balls and the frisbees. Tuesday saw the kids enjoying some homemade banana muffins. Wednesday's group also enjoyed their first cooking session, where they made their own toasties. As we neared the end of another week, we took a moment to breathe, and had a mediation focused session. The kids quietly enjoyed some mindfulness colouring, as well as making a cosy cubby and meditating.

This week we are offering homemade tacos, make-your-own toasties (chicken, ham, cheeses, tomato, aioli or tomato sauce) and homemade blueberry muffins. Our Active Patch will include more group games, group sports and specialist activities.

## A few reminders for parents/guardians:

- Friday 11<sup>th</sup> of March is a pupil free day. We will be offering services from 6.45am - 6.00pm. For those who are interested please hop onto Zap and book your child in ASAP.

- Please be aware that parents/guardians must book their child in or cancel their booking prior to when the session starts. This is so that us educators can better plan the sessions for the children and cause minimal disruption.

- Also, we would like to remind everyone about the hot breakfast for the Before School Care kids. This will be running every Tuesday starting from the 1<sup>st</sup> of March from 7:30 – 8:00 am. We will be serving scrambled eggs, hot toast and baked beans to start off with.

- Another reminder about our weekly Tuesday afternoon specialist activity with Mackenzie from Gippsland United, who is teaching the children to learn and practice their basketball skills like shooting, dribbling and passing as well as having enormous fun. We really hope to see more children attend this!

We look forward to another exciting week with the children! 😊

Chloe Clarke  
Patch Leader

Nicole Antzoulatos  
Patch Coach

