



Edition 6 – March 8TH 2022

Contact Us 5664 7382

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

w: www.tarwinvalleyyps.vic.edu.au

Supervision Times: 8:15 Mornings Duty

3.20 -4:00 Afternoon Bus Duty

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Did you know that on average we ask and answer 300 – 400 questions in a day! Do you know what *kind* of questions you ask most frequently? Research on the questions teachers ask shows that about 60 percent require only recall of facts, 20 percent require students to think, and 20 percent are procedural in nature.



Usually at dinner time at my house we ask each other “How was school today?” and usually I am hit with the response “good.” Often, we take this simple response without thinking and move on to other topics, but lately I have been asking “what was it that was good?” or “tell me more about...” I am really trying to get out of the habit of asking these simple questions, which require little thought to answer, instead trying to get my kids to think and share with greater reflective thinking involved.

At school we use a range of questions to prompt, clarify, redirect, probe and refocus, often without even realising. We also intentionally ask higher order questions which require students to figure out answers rather than remember them. This ensures students to deepen their understanding, make generalisations related to the facts and to look for meaningful patterns in their learning.

“The art and science of asking questions is the source of all knowledge.” -Thomas Berger

As part of my work as a learning specialist I get to go into classrooms each week to work with the teachers on developing an aspect of their teaching. This is based around the Challenging Learning work we have done over the past years with George Telford. Many of the teachers have chosen to look at how they are asking questions and how they can better utilise the questions they ask to increase challenge and deepen student learning. Through observations we are recording the number and type of questions asked to gather data to evaluate. Teachers are working on planning their questioning carefully, looking for an increase in questions that require comparison, inference, application or evaluation to extend students thinking and learning.

What kinds of questions do you ask?

Jo Healy, Learning Specialist

CALENDAR

Current 8/3 – 15/3

10th Mar - Dinner/Sleepover money and consent due

11th Mar - Curriculum Day (pupil free)

14th Mar – Labour Day (pupil free)

Upcoming

21st Mar - Book Club orders close 9am

21st Mar - Yr 5/6 Quantum Excursion

22nd Mar – School Council AGM, 7pm

23rd Mar – Yr 3/4 Bugs Excursion

24th Mar – Yr1/2 Dinner - Yr 2 sleepover

8th 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

Have you given consent?

- ❖ Year 1 Dinner
- ❖ Year 2 Sleepover
- ❖ Year 3 & 4 Bug Excursion

ABSENCES

As per the Department of Education’s policy, all students’ absences must be explained by a parent/guardian. This can be done through Compass (our preferred method) or by phoning or emailing the school. At this early stage of the year, our system currently has well over 100 unexplained absences waiting for action. If your child has been absent this year and you have not done any of the above, please do so as soon as possible.

BOOK CLUB

Issue 2 Book Club catalogues have been distributed today. Please place all orders via the LOOP app on your phone or via the Scholastic website by **9am** Monday 21st March ready for processing. Please **do not** send orders into the school office.

YEAR 5/6 QUANTUM EXCURSION

On Monday 21st March, the Year 5/6 students will take part in a Quantum excursion in Melbourne. There is no cost to families for this event however parents will need to give their consent via Compass once it goes live (hopefully tomorrow). Please be aware that students will be leaving school at **7.00am** and return at approximates **5.15pm**.

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

I have written this week's newsletter 3 times. As always, I left it to the last minute because I knew something would come to me. What's more, the 8th of March is International Women's Day. It should be easy to write about this special day in a Respectful Relationships section of a school newsletter.

But it is not.

The theme for this year is 'Changing Climates: Equality today for a sustainable tomorrow.' I read up on how Climate Change is impacting the lives of women and I compared this to how COVID lockdowns impacted women too.

I pondered on the expectations of mothers and the mental load we carry. I tried to relate this to my own experiences but worried that this sounded like sympathy seeking rather than trying to empower women and girls.

Then I just stopped. Instead, I am going to celebrate the wonderful women in our community, the reason your kids are dressed in purple today.

Today we celebrate; the women standing in the rain time keeping at the swimming, the women buttering toast in the breakfast club, the mums who juggled remote learning and everything else, the women with a career, those who take the casual flexible jobs and in turn do not get sick leave, maternity leave or carers leave, the footy mums, the netball mums, the soccer mums and the pony club mums. The women who choose not to have children and those who do not choose but cannot. Women who use every ounce of their creativity to figure out how to get their kids to 3 different sports and still attend a work meeting. Those who meal plan and those who only remember dinner at 7pm each night. Those who buzz around doing everything and those who are finding it hard just to get out of bed. Those who reuse, repurpose, and juggle the books to make it all work. The women who are looking out for each other - sharing lifts, stories, meals, laughter, and tears.

We are diverse, creative, bold and wonderful.

Today, we celebrate our wonderful women. Find one of the women in your life and TELL them how ace they are and share the load.

Happy International Women's Day.

Donna Giliam, Primary Welfare Officer

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 😊 **Marcus J** for responding well to feedback from the PST interview.
- 😊 **Clay M** for always attempting challenging tasks and constantly taking pride in all of his learning.
- 😊 **Lily H** for showing respect, kindness and using lovely manners.
- 😊 **Ellie S** for taking responsibility for her own learning journey by asking questions.
- 😊 **Chloe G** for her hard work and persistence with all learning tasks so far.
- 😊 **Ariya H** for a fabulous transition to MPS! Her brilliant attitude and sunny disposition are an asset to our school.
- 😊 **Charlotte H** for consistently trying her best giving all tasks 100% effort and being a kind classmate.
- 😊 **Rose S** for contributing to classroom discussions.



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

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Corner Inlet Junior Football - boys and girls:

Junior footy is back! Corner Inlet Stingrays will hold their first training on Wednesday 2nd March from 4.30pm – 5.30pm at the Fish Creek football oval. We are seeking players for Under 10's, Under 12's and Under 14's. Follow us at <https://www.facebook.com/stingrayfc> or phone Shannon Gee on 0402 331 487



We are also seeking expression of interest for Coaches and Team managers in all age groups. If you are interested, phone wither Dean Thomson (President) 0409 546 094 or Shannon Gee (secretary) on the number above.

Dumbalk and District Garage Sales – 19th March from 8am:

We are having garage sales at peoples' properties in the Dumbalk area. A map will be available for purchase for a gold coin donation. These will be at the Community Centre in Tarwin Street Dumbalk. Tea, coffee and slices will also be for sale.

So come and spend a fun day roaming around DUMBALK with at least 10 garage sales to attend

If you live in the Dumbalk area and want to have a garage sale or help out at the Community Centre on the day contact Meg on 5664 4461 before Thursday 17th March.

Meeniy 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. _____



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.