



Edition 7 – March 15TH 2022

Contact Us 5664 7382

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Supervision Times: 8:15 Mornings Duty

3.20 -4:00 Afternoon Bus Duty

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Brilliant Start to the Year

As we well and truly click into the second half of the term it is worth reflecting on the amazing start to the year everyone has made. The attitude of the students has been fantastic. Classrooms are buzzing with energy and the playground has never been more active. I think the past two years has shown us all, 'You never quite know when things might be interrupted' and to make the most of every opportunity. Special thanks to our amazing teachers for continuing to go above and beyond in how they are engaging our students. Next week, nearly every student will be involved in extracurricular activities such as excursions and camps. When we combine this with the lunchtime clubs that are running every day of the week, there should be something to engage everyone.

Attendance

After such a positive start it might seem strange that this next paragraph is about attendance concerns. Across schools, over 85% attendance is the benchmark that schools try to achieve for each student. This translates to roughly 7 or less days of absence per term. So far this term, 47 students at MPS (nearly a third of all students) have attendance percentages of under 85%. This current rate is 3 to 4 times higher than we would expect. We understand that COVID and other illnesses have impacted some families, but we have to highlight such a dramatic statistic. Of greatest concern is the fact that this statistic is not present at our neighbouring schools? We do have many students who are just under the 85% mark and we hope that they can maintain their attendance in the coming weeks. If any families have issues maintaining attendance, please see myself or your child's classroom teacher for assistance.

Gene VanderZalm

CALENDAR

Current 15/3 – 22/3

21st Mar - Book Club orders close 9am

21st Mar - Yr 5/6 Quantum Excursion

22nd Mar – School Council AGM, 7pm

Upcoming

23rd Mar – Yr 3/4 Bugs Excursion

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

1st Apr - Yr 3-6 Athletics

8th Apr – Last day Term 1

25th Apr - ANZAC day (pupil free)

26th Apr - Student free day

27th Apr - Students return to school for Term 2

29th Apr - Yr 3-6 Zoo Excursion

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

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

Have you given consent via Compass for....

- ❖ Year 3 & 4 Bug Excursion
- ❖ Year 5 & 6 Quantum Excursion

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- ☺ **Sam H** for excellent listening and focus during learning time.
- ☺ **Blake H** for his amazing determination and dedication towards his reading.
- ☺ **Alby P** for excellent integrity with his attitude to learning French.
- ☺ **Flynn N** for working hard to engage with his learning tasks and creating his best piece of writing.
- ☺ **Indie H** for always being kind and thoughtful in and out of the classroom.
- ☺ **Benjamin L** for consistently demonstrating honesty, persistence and kindness in the yard.
- ☺ **Amelia W** for having a wonderful attitude during all maths sessions.
- ☺ **Lucas M** for providing fantastic and thoughtful discussion during reading.

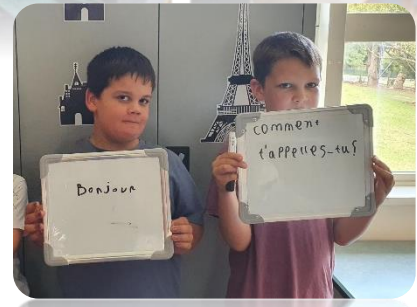
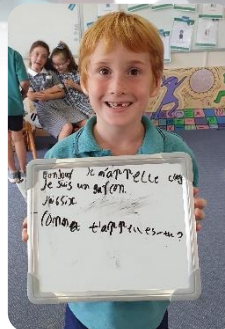
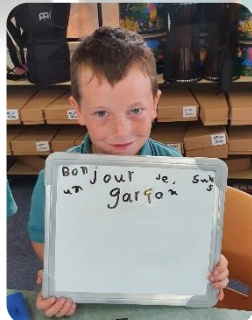
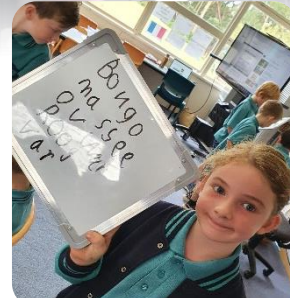
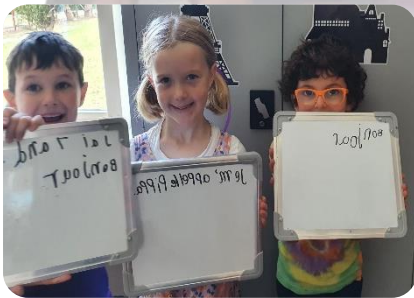
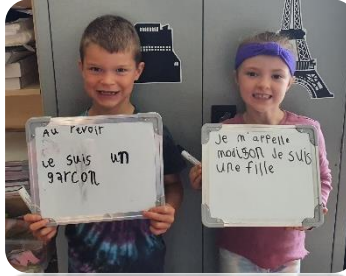
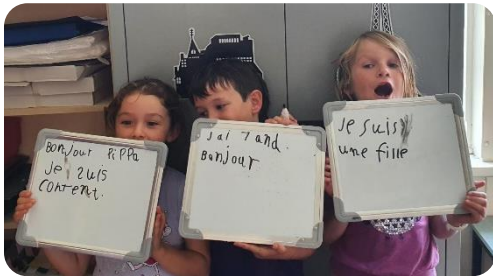




French with Grade 1's



Our Year 1 students have been learning about everyday expressions in French and doing a fabulous job writing, reading and saying them.



RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

When I was younger, more energetic and quicker with a joke- I worked in Broome as a bartender. I worked the 10am to 4pm shift in a colourful little front bar. In that job I had so many conversations with so many characters. I never thought what I was doing behind the bar was having an impact on anyone's day to day life. Until, a few years after that job was just a twinkle in my memory, I bumped into one of my old customers while in Alice Springs. He said, 'I always felt invisible and so lonely at that time in my life'. He explained that he had gone through some traumatic events in the years before. He said that whenever he walked into the that colourful front bar that I had made him feel human and seen. All I ever did was listen to him, smile and learn his name.

I wept as he told me his story and will never forget how easy it was to make him feel important.

I thought about this person on Friday as the staff at Meeniyah spent the day learning about how trauma can impact the kids we teach, their families, the people we work with and so many around us. This was a moving and challenging professional development and a timely reminder that so many around us have struggles and battles which we don't know about.

There are so many supports available for people who have lived through traumatic times or events, but the first step is the easiest to get your hands on.

Be kind and listen – even when it is hard to do so. You never know how much you might impact someone's life just by listening and making them feel seen.

Please reach out if you are having a hard time or know someone who is. There are so many things we can do for you here at school.

Donna Giliam, Primary Welfare Officer

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

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.

Stony Creek Junior Football and Netball:



WANT TO GET *active*
and learn some new skills in junior football/netball
ATTENTION ALL BOYS & GIRLS!!
U9's | U11's | U13's  
We would love your family to join our club for 2022 season
Please contact for more info: **Mark Le Page** (Football) 0459 839 111
Alison March (Netball) 0438 224 468 | **Dale Gilliate** (U9-U11-U13) 0417 096 456
Matt Linke (Auskick) 0421 466 545 | **Caitlin Goodwin** (NetSetGo) 0409 662 444

Foster Carers Needed:

Could you foster a child? We urgently need Foster Carers in your area. Enquire now on how you can help change a child's life. To have your questions answered or to obtain a flyer please get in touch via phone, email or look us up online. Ph: 1800 932 237 e: info@keyassets.com.au w: canifoster.com.au or keyassets.org.au

Leongatha NetSetGo:

Our 2022 program starts on Saturday 30th April at the LDNA netball courts. Girls and boys aged 7 or older can participate and all participants receive a NetSetGo pack. Our 45 minute program includes warm up, skill development and modified netball games.

Registration Link <https://netball->

[registration.worldsportaction.com/userRegistration?organisationId=bc03d189-ba52-46ee-9b7a-2515377327d1&competitionId=97a1d1a3-cbb1-40a5-9e8f-90a2d506471a](https://netball-registration.worldsportaction.com/userRegistration?organisationId=bc03d189-ba52-46ee-9b7a-2515377327d1&competitionId=97a1d1a3-cbb1-40a5-9e8f-90a2d506471a)

For further information, please contact leongathaanddistrictnetball@gmail.com

Mt Eccles Netball Club:

2022 Netball training starts Thursday 17th March from 4pm – 6pm at LDNA courts. We welcome players from all over South Gippsland. U11's and U13's 4-5pm and U15's and U18's 5-6pm.

The season runs from April to September with all games played at same times on Saturdays at the one central location. For queries and registration information, contact the club at munteccles@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page or phone Barb Challis 0403 047 902.



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.