



Edition 8 – March 22ND 2022

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Supervision Times: 8:15 Mornings Duty

3.20 -4:00 Afternoon Bus Duty

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

So what do you want for your child's *education*?

Stop and ponder that for a moment, it is important.

What generally guides the answer to this question is our values. If you value *examination success*, you will be hoping your child builds knowledge and skills in the core subjects of reading, writing and maths. These areas provide the basic skills that we know are critical to so many subjects later in schooling, as well as life skills we can depend on. If you value *social success*, you will be hoping that your child is able to develop an extensive social network, develop social skills such as being able to hold a conversation. An ability to present in front of audiences and develop a whole host of social skills such as empathy, honesty and humour. Others would be hoping for *creative success*. The ability to create ideas and worlds that interest and inspire, to find solutions and possibilities to complex issues.

Some of you may select one of these but my guess is that most parents wish for a bit of each. But is this the message we give our children? When reports come home, do we highlight the child's success at collaborating with others or do we focus primarily on the core areas? Schools are guilty of this too. Governments set targets for the core areas which ultimately flows down to schools and the goals they set each year. This model alienates many students for many reasons; some because they struggle to sit and listen for long periods as life has taught them to be highly distractible; some because they don't have the support networks, such as home reading, that these areas require. If this is the only focus of an education then we will be alienating these children from learning, which is a far scarier proposition. We also know that *examination success* is not enough. "High achievers in these areas often struggle with the inability to grapple calmly and intelligently with genuinely difficult challenges. They love to be successful and go to pieces when they cannot be. Instead, we need to cultivate learners with a confidence and capacity to be a good learner." (Claxton, 2018).

At a time when we have missed so much schooling it is easy to fall into the trap of focussing primarily on our core subjects. Let's make sure as parents and as educators that we consider all the wonderful things we can learn in and out of school, and that our students have the right attitudes to take them far beyond what we can possibly teach them.

Gene VanderZalm

LOST PROPERTY

We currently have a very large number of items in lost property. This includes clothing items and food containers. If you are missing items, please have a good look through our two lost property baskets over the next few days. As per our usual end of term procedure, anything that remains uncollected in the last week of term and has no name will be donated to MACS.

CALENDAR

Current 22/3 – 29/3

23rd Mar – Yr 3/4 Bugs Excursion

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

24th Mar – Athletics form/money due

Upcoming

1st Apr - Yr 3-6 Athletics

7th Apr - District Athletics 3-6

8th Apr – Last day Term 1
2.20pm dismissal. -
Buses will run 1hr earlier

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 confirmed consent for..

- ❖ Year 3 & 4 Bug Excursion
- ❖ Year 3- 6 Waratah Athletics

VOLUNTARY CURRICULUM LEVIES

Thanks to those families who have paid the 2022 Voluntary Curriculum Levy.

We cannot stress how important this Voluntary Curriculum Levy is to the running of our school programs. To date, our contribution rate is sitting around the 50% mark (down from 83% this time last year). In real terms this equates to just over \$10,000 less income in 2022 compared to previous years. These voluntary financial contributions assist us with the ability to provide additional resources to what is provided for by Government funding.

If you haven't made a voluntary contribution yet and would like to, it's never too late. Payments can be made at any time via Direct Deposit into our school bank account (Meeniy Primary School | BSB 063 518 | Account Number 10071649) or by cash at the office. The 2022 voluntary curriculum levy is \$150 per child and a \$20 per family voluntary grounds levy is also invited.

ENTERING STUDENT ABSENCES ON COMPASS

There are two different processes for absences on Compass (quite confusing I know but hopefully the following will make things clearer).

1. If your child is going to be absent from school all day, then parents are asked to log in to Compass and add an attendance note. This will flow straight through to the class roll.
2. If your child is attending school but they are arriving late, leaving early or departing for just part of the day eg. for an appointment, then parents must come into the office and use the Compass Kiosk to sign their child in/out. In these instances, please do not use Compass attendance notes. These notes create inconsistencies within our system when your child does then arrive or depart.

If you have any questions regarding this process, please phone or email meenian.ps@education.vic.gov.au

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

I read a phrase in a book recently, I have no idea where I read it, but it has sat with me for days.

'You can't see the landscape when you are in it'

I read that little line I let it sink in. These were the words I had been looking for to describe so many situations in life. My mum had always called it 'the whirlwind' but I like the idea of a landscape more.

I think about the difficult 'landscapes' I have ended up in, those chaotic times of life where the days are drama packed and the nights are restless. Pondering over a problem or an issue over and over and trying to come up with some sort of resolve or clarity.

I remember listening to my own parents during and after their separation and thinking 'just stop – you have already said all this stuff to each other. Just stop, we don't want to listen to it anymore'. They were in the landscape and could not see it from the top of the mountain like I could, they were trapped in the same perspective and the habits they had made over the years.

Then, little old me, who stood on top of mountains and thought I had my parents all figured out ended up in her own landscape of a separation – and by golly did I roll around in a whole lot of repeated arguments myself. I am sure there were others on mountains looking at my landscape thinking 'why doesn't she just do this? Or that?' Oh, and we shan't forget those long days and nights navigating raising my gorgeous teenage daughter and the blurry landscape we lived in for years!

It is so hard to look at things objectively when you are in the 'landscape or the whirlwind'.

One thing that helps, when you are in a blurry landscape is to get help. I am not sure how I would be functioning without the fabulous counsellors I have seen over the years. They are a non-judgmental ear and are distanced from emotional attachment to you, this means they can support you in seeing the landscape you are in.

There are lots of services out there to support you in the most magic and most challenging love story you will ever be part of – parenting!

Please if you feel like you need someone to talk to reach out.

Donna Giliam, Primary Welfare Officer

LOST GLASSES

A student has lost their glasses - they have a pinky/peachy coloured front with red and black on the arms. If found, please return to 3/4P.



YEAR 1 DINNER / YEAR 2 SLEEPOVER

Excitement is growing among the students in anticipation for the Yr 1 Dinner / Yr 2 Sleepover on Thursday, 24th March. Please see the information later in the newsletter regarding meals on Thursday and Friday.

	Year 1 Students	Year 2 Students
THURSDAY 24th March		
Recess and Lunch	Bring recess snack and lunch from home	Bring recess snack and lunch from home
Afternoon Tea	PROVIDED	PROVIDED
Dinner	PROVIDED	PROVIDED
FRIDAY 25th March		
Breakfast	Eaten at home before school	PROVIDED
Recess snack	PROVIDED	PROVIDED
Lunch	PROVIDED	PROVIDED

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 😊 **Cooper L** for being a sensible and thoughtful leaning partner.
- 😊 **Alby P** for his enthusiasm everyday in every learning opportunity.
- 😊 **Charlie C** for consistently showing 'grit' with all set tasks.
- 😊 **Joseph W** for consistently showing kindness and empathy to others both in and out of the classroom.
- 😊 **Louie T** for giving every learning task his best effort and always with a smile too.
- 😊 **Katie B** for always trying hard and wearing a smile everyday to school.
- 😊 **Nico KS** for his positivity and kindness towards those around him. It is always infectious, it doesn't go unnoticed Nico!
- 😊 **Angus C** for showing integrity in French with a positive attitude.
- 😊 **Jacob T** for upholding expectations in French with his application to learning. So positive!
- 😊 **Braydon P** for consistently demonstrating integrity in his social choices.



HOUSE POINTS

Last weeks winner: Wattle

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Meeniyau Auskick:

Register now for AusKick 2022! Ages 5-12 yrs.

Season begins Monday 2nd May. Sessions start at 4pm, with Walking School Bus available to lead kids to Meeniyau Rec Reserve after school.

Register via link: play.afl/auskick and be sure to join the Meeniyau AusKick Facebook page to stay up to date.

Further enquiries: Steve Trotman PH:0438762068

Or add your child to the Walking School Bus: Emma Trotman PH:0448438610

Stony Creek Junior Football and Netball:

Want to get active and learn some new skills in junior football/netball – Attention all boys and girls!! We would love your family to join our club for the 2022 season.

For more info, contact:

Mark LePage (football) 0459 839 111

Alison March (netball) 0438 224 468

Dale Gilliate (U9-U11-U13 football) 0417 096 456

Mat Linke (Auskick) 0421 466 545

Caitlin Goodwin (NetSetGo) 0409 662 444



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.