



Edition 20 – July 12TH 2022

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Supervision Times: 8:15 Mornings Duty

3.20 -4:00 Afternoon Bus Duty

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Term 3 has always been my favourite term to teach and Term 3 2022 promises to be the best of them all.

My reasoning for enjoying Term 3 is simple:

- More time to go deeper with topics and develop understanding
- Students tend to be more settled and used to school routines
- Fewer assessments including NAPLAN and written reports
- And what might surprise you...days become gradually warmer and longer 😊

This year we have even more reason to be excited as it is the first time in three years that we will be spending Term 3 at school!

Over the holidays you may have heard several stories circulating about students in Victoria continuing to suffer significantly from the isolating effects of COVID ie. home learning. These sweeping statements are intended to grab headlines, but they are generally based on little substance. At a recent Victorian Principal conference, they shared several studies showing the complete opposite! These studies found that the majority of students are making excellent gains in their learning and that by the end of 2022 will be back to their expected level of learning. Sadly, these findings don't draw much attention and it is easier to focus on a minority. It is true that some of our more vulnerable students have had difficulties adjusting back into the routines of schooling. But it is also true that some of our vulnerable students have never been happier and are only getting stronger being surrounded by their fellow classmates and teachers.

I'm immensely proud of all our students and teachers and I'm proud of our approach. With an average class size of under 20, dedicated Teaching and Learning Specialist (Jo Healy) and dedicated tutor (Rob Robertson) we have set the foundations for success. Together they have worked their way through a very tricky period and are all the stronger for it.

Let's be absolutely clear, together we are on the right track. If you have individual needs or queries be sure to bring them up in your Parent Student Teacher Interview in a few weeks or make an appointment ASAP. Keep up the great work everyone 😊

Gene VanderZalm, Principal

PST MEETINGS

PST Meetings will be held on **Wednesday 27th July**. Classes run as usual on this day. Meetings during school hours will require parents collecting students from classes. Book you interviews at

www.schoolinterviews.com.au using the booking code **xjf93 (Bookings now open)**

Interviews are strictly 15 mins and spaces are limited. Parents can change their interview bookings, any time by re-visiting the www.schoolinterviews.com.au website, and using the event code above. Remember to use the same name and email address, you used when you made your original booking. *If parents/caregivers need guidance please ring the school on 5664 7382.*

CALENDAR

Upcoming

- 26th July** - School Council, 7pm
- 27th July** - Parent Teacher Meetings
- 29th July** - Prep 100 days
- 31st July** - Book Club orders close
- 23rd Aug** - School Council, 7pm

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

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

MPS Beanies for sale \$20 each



See order form at the end of the newsletter.

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

My favourite picture story book is called 'Rivertime' by Trace Bella. It tells a story of a young boy, Clancy and his Uncle Egg paddling down a river and stopping each night to camp. It is a story about slowing down and noticing nature. About sharing stories, about connecting and about switching off.

There is a moment in the book where Uncle Egg describes the moment he calls 'Rivertime' the moment when the river becomes almost still, the breeze only a whisper and the sun and shade are just right. A moment where one might notice everything around them but their mind is still and filled with gratitude.

Whenever I read that page of 'Rivertime' I am overwhelmed with memory, feelings which come with a North Westerly wind or a hay paddock at dusk or Waratah Bay on a hot Friday night or Tidal River at full tide.

The magic which makes childhood, the outdoors and long magic moments. I hope that you found some 'Rivertime' with each other and in nature over the winter break.

Donna Giliam, Primary Welfare Officer

BOOK CLUB

Book Club catalogues should be coming home with students later this week. As usual, please complete all orders via the app or online. Orders close

Child safety and wellbeing at Meeniyah Primary School: information for families and the school community

The Victorian Government has announced new [Child Safe Standards](#) to further strengthen child safety across organisations, including schools. The new standards recognise the critical importance of families and the broader school community in maintaining and promoting child safety and wellbeing.

MPS has reviewed and updated our child safety policies and procedures to ensure they meet the requirements of the new standards. These are available to view on our website.

We are committed to continuous improvement in our approach to child safety and wellbeing and welcome feedback from families and members of our school community on ways we can further strengthen our child safety policies, procedures and practices.

If you have any suggestions, comments or questions, please contact Gene VanderZalm

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

1-2-3 Magic & Emotion Coaching Program:

FREE online program for parents of children aged 2 – 12 over three Tuesdays, 9/8, 16/8 & 23/8 11.30am – 2.30pm. Bookings are essential, contact Mark Brookes, Uniting Gippsland 5662 5150 or Gippsland.leongatha.reception@vt.uniting.org

Meeniyah Primary School Beanie Order Form - (\$20 each)

Name _____

No. of Beanies _____

Total \$ _____



Payment method: Cash Cheque Direct Deposit (BSB: 063 518 Acc: 1007 1649)
(Please circle)

Rec

No. _____

Important Dates:

- Tuesda197th July Hot Breakfast 7.30
- 8.00am
- Make-your-own toasties every Thursday afternoon
- Wellbeing Wednesday (Kindness Letters)

Hopefully everyone had a restful break! Over the holidays I had the wonderful opportunity to work at a different school for their holiday program. It was awesome seeing how the other Our Patch programs in our area operate, and I am excited to incorporate some new things on our Meeniyen program that I have picked up from the other school!

Our Program Goal this week is for children to take increasing responsibility for their own health and physical wellbeing.

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

A few reminders for parents/guardians:

- 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.
- We would like to remind everyone about the hot breakfast for the Before School Care kids. This will be every Tuesday for the whole Term 3.
- I would like to also remind parents/carers that on our welcome table in the classroom there is a communication book where both parents/carers and your children will be able to write down any ideas, improvements or notes on the program.

Chloe Clarke, *Patch Leader*

Menu for 11/07/2022– 15/07/2022

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
BSC	Assorted cereals and wholemeal toast with spreads	Waffles with berries and maple syrup	Assorted cereals and wholemeal toast with spreads	Assorted cereals and wholemeal toast with spreads	Assorted cereals and wholemeal toast with spreads
ASC	Blueberry muffins with assorted fruit platter	Tacos and assorted fruit platter	Crackers and dip assorted fruit platter	Toasties with assorted fruit platter	Mini pizza muffins with assorted fruit platter



CHILD SAFETY STANDARDS WHAT WE EXPECT AT MEENIYEN 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.