



Edition 34 – November 8th 2022

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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Colour Splatacular

Special thanks to all our families for your amazing fundraising efforts for this Friday's Colour 'Splatacular' Fun Run. We don't quite know what to expect from the day but what we do know is that it will be messy and fun! Our parent extraordinaire Tamara Symington has done a tonne of work in putting the whole event together, so we look forward to getting behind her and her trusty team of helpers on Friday. If you can lend a hand, I'm sure Tamara will have job for you, so please reach out to either Tamara or the school.

Lunchtime Fete

Meeniyan Primary is once again fundraising for the Cambodian students who attend the ODA school in Siem Reap, Cambodia. In 2018, we were fortunate to host two ODA teachers at our school via a network of supportive people including Meeniyan's very own Marty Thomas from Moos. The following year, my family had an amazing experience when we visited the ODA schools, teaching them English and helping in any way we could.

The ODA students come from very poor backgrounds and suffer many hurdles in achieving an education. ODA provides a free education to these students and relies on fundraising to cover costs. One of the main costs is a uniform which is mandatory in Cambodia. Each uniform, which includes clothing, shoes and a mosquito net (to prevent malaria) costs \$32. As a school, we will be holding a lunchtime fete for students on Tuesday 22nd November. We hope to raise enough money to provide uniforms for 10 ODA students. If the majority of our students can bring \$5 each we will achieve this goal and maybe some more. In return, each child will be able to attend school in Free Dress and take part in a range of fun activities during lunch. On top of this they will receive a range of yummy treats. We hope you can get behind this worthy cause and support the 5/6 SPARC students who have organised the event alongside our School Chaplain Ms Gardner, as they try to make a difference for some very needy children.

Gene VanderZalm, Principal

YEAR 6 CHRISTMAS CAKES

Fay Sinclair has once again kindly offered to conduct Christmas Cake Decorating lessons with Year 6 students, commencing on Tuesday 22nd November. Students will need to provide a fruit cake (up to 15cm in diameter) and pay a fee of \$12 (**cash only**). The cake can be store bought or homemade and must be brought into school with the money by Friday 18th November.



BOOK CLUB ISSUE 8

Book Club catalogues will be sent home in the coming days. All orders must be placed via the LOOP app or online via the Scholastic website by 24th November. This is the last book club order for the year and there is as always, the option when placing your order, to select 'GIFT ORDER'.

SHOE BOXES WANTED

If anyone has any shoe boxes laying around at home that they would be happy to donate to school, please send them in to Mrs Guy and the Grade Preps.

CALENDAR

Current 8/11 – 15/11

10th Nov - 3-6 swimming consent due

11th Nov - Colour Splatacular Run

14th Nov - 3-6 Swimming program commences

15th Nov - School Council, 7pm

Upcoming

22nd Nov - Yr 6 Christmas Cakes

22nd Nov - Yr 6 Xmas cake/money due

22nd Nov - Lunchtime Fete

25th Nov - Prep beach excursion consent and payment due

24th Nov - Book Club orders due

1st Dec - Prep Beach Excursion

6th Dec - Kinder kids Transition Day

6th Dec - School Council EOY

8th Dec - Year 6 Graduation

13th Dec - State wide transition day (Please note new date)

19th Dec - Final Day for students

20th Dec - Final Day for staff

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

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

GRADE 6 GRADUATION

Grade 6 Graduation / Farewell – Thursday 8th December

5.30pm - meal for students and staff in the Supper Room at the Meeniyan Town Hall

7.00pm - formalities (speeches and presentation of gift) all MPS families are invited to attend

A note with further details will be sent home with Year 6 students in coming weeks.

2023 CURRICULUM CONSUMABLES

Attached to today's newsletter is the information regarding the supply of Curriculum Consumables (books & requisites) and the Grounds Levy for 2023. The Curriculum Consumables contribution has been set by School Council and will remain at \$150 per child and the grounds levy will remain at \$20 per family. Families are invited to pay these either by direct deposit directly into our school bank account or cash / eftpos* the school office. (*eftpos payments made at the office will incur a 1.4% surcharge)

As per last year:

- Stationery items will be delivered directly to classrooms
- Teachers will check and distribute supplies in the classroom
- Any items that need naming will be sent home on the first day
- Annual information updates and consents will be sent home early next year

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

It is Sunday afternoon, and I am still on a high from the Stuart's cup on Friday! I LOVE sports days and often find myself moved to the point where I have a tear in my eye!

So many little pictures keep coming to my mind. Our grade 5/6 kids approaching this day like a warm memory, scooping up the younger kids with excitement, encouragement and enthusiasm – just like the older kids did for them when they were younger. Our house captains leading with without inhibition and getting the job done with a smile on their faces.

Our gorgeous, wonderful, multi-tasking, exercise queen Bec Browne surrounded in a sea of sun-smart Prep-2s getting ready for the tabloid sports. The contagious language she uses that just makes everyone want to participate.

Our parents jumping in with clipboards and smiles, adapting, juggling and cheering! The middle of the oval a maze of chairs, pre-schoolers, picnic rugs and connection!

And Heather McCaughan dressed in red, yellow and blue- presenting the Stuart Cup in memory of her son Stuart as we continue to honour Stuart each year with colour, inclusion, sport and fun.

Donna Giliam, Primary Welfare Officer

STUART'S CUP

The lead up and the morning of Stuart's Cup was a little touch and go with the weather and the amount of illness that we have been experiencing as a school community. In true Meeniyan Primary School style though the Stuart's Cup was a fabulous day celebrated by all who could make it. There was a great atmosphere on the oval and it was so lovely to see the spirit of this tradition alive as we remember Stuart in a fun and high energy day.

As a staff we are so proud of the can-do attitude of all our students for having a go at everything they were asked to, especially those who had to fill gaps when we were down on a few numbers. Also a special shout out goes to our house captains for all their hard work and organisation in both the lead up to the day and during the day itself. A final big thank you goes out to everyone who helped with the setting up, cleaning, running events, and for everyone coming along to support our students. It really was heart-warming to see all students doing their best for their team and the support from their families was fabulous.

Finally, a big congratulations to Waratah on their narrow win.

If you have any feedback, please let me know. We already have a big list of things that went well, and things to add on or change to make it even greater next year.

Mrs Browne, Rebecca.Browne@education.vic.gov.au

LOST PROPERTY

We have a very large number of uniform items in our lost property baskets at school. Students are asked to have a look through and claim anything that belongs to them. Parents are welcome to come in and take a look through our two lost property baskets located in the shared space and the foyer of the Heritage building.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



- 😊 **Riley B** for his kind nature and always giving all learning tasks his best effort.
- 😊 **Eliza H** for perseverance with her French PSB (picture story book) on dog breeds.
- 😊 **Josie S** for showing great leadership qualities when organising Stuart’s Cup.
- 😊 **Nathaniel O** for his fantastic attitude towards swimming lessons.
- 😊 **Nate G** for a very positive “go get em” attitude to French.
- 😊 **Destiny W** for pride in her work and participation in French.
- 😊 **Hudson G** for a “can do” attitude. Major work accomplished in French.
- 😊 **Olive S** for participating in French, taking chances and answering questions.
- 😊 **Tessa T** for an exciting attitude to completion of her picture story book.
- 😊 **Flynn N** for applying himself in French to learn about months of the year.
- 😊 **Nakayla J** for the kindness she shows toward others. Nakayla is always ready to offer help.
- 😊 **Ayme D** for stepping outside her comfort zone to give a “Thank You” on behalf of MPS for our Coal Creek visit.
- 😊 **Sam N** for perseverance in learning French cooking words.
- 😊 **Jacob A** for excellent focus on completing his face in French with labels.
- 😊 **Tarkyn Z** for listening intently to feedback and using it to improve his writing structure.
- 😊 **Jacob A** for trusting his swimming teacher and having a go.
- 😊 **Benjamin L** for thing like a mathematician to systematically record and solve number patterns.
- 😊 **Blake P** for analysing and exploring working backwards as a strategy to solve a worded problem in maths.

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

MDUCC Cricket Blasters:

The MDU Cricket Club Blasters 22/23 program is on again and we are looking forward to running 8 weeks of or fun cricket skills and games.

This year the program will start on Thursday Nov 17th and will have its last session before Christmas on Dec 15th. Sessions will recommence on Thursday Feb 2nd until Feb 16th. The on-field aspect of the program will run from 4pm until 5/5:30pm.

Junior Blasters (ages 5-7) is for kids new to cricket, to learn the skills to play cricket through fun game based activities.

Master Blasters (ages 7-10) sessions go slightly longer starting with skills and finishing sessions with short games of cricket in a fun and social setting.

There will be a small snack before each session and a sausage sizzle after for participants and families. There will also be a walking school bus organised from Meeniy Primary School each week. Participants will need to be registered for this by contacting Rebecca Browne 0438311396.

If you would like any more information on this program, you can use the same contact details above or email rebeccabrowne86@yahoo.com.au

Hope to see you at the Meeniy Recreation Reserve Oval on November 17th!

Colour Splatacular T-shirt Order Form

T-shirts are \$5.00 each (cash preferred)

Student/s Name:

T-shirt size *

Class:

Total enclosed \$ _____

*Available sizes: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18



The sand excavators at Meeniy Primary School!



SPARC FETE



STUDENT LED FETE

- Lucas: Cookie Store
- Rose: Lemonade Pop-Corn
- Angus: Jelly-Bean Count
- Josie: Face Painting
- Caycee: Throw Toss Game
- Sienna: Nerf Target Practice
- Seamus: Basketball Throw
- Makayla: DIY Store

\$5.00 DONATION
FREE DRESS & FETE STORES

All money raised will go to Cambodian students who attend the ODA school in Siem Reap. The money will go towards the students informs - which includes clothing, shoes and a mosquito net (to prevent malaria)



TUESDAY 22ND NOVEMBER LUNCHTIME @
MEEINYAN PS



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.

Important Dates:

- *Martial Arts Specialist Program runs from 4-5pm Every Tuesday until 22nd November.*

Last week our goal was for children to become aware of fairness. We did this through lots of group activities like board games and baking. We have explored the veggie garden this week, using the veggies we found and creating some delicious new recipes, quiches and homemade chicken strips being a favourite for everyone!

We have been collecting lots of recycled materials to create art with. Children have been busy making creations out of bottles, leaves and yogurt pots.



A few reminders for parents/guardians:

- Hats are now required in term 4 for before and after school care when the UV rating is over 3.
- Sunscreen will be applied more regularly, but if your child is sensitive to sunscreen, make sure you pack them one in their bag that they can use so they don't miss out on the fun outside.
- Parents/guardians please be aware to book your child in or cancel their booking prior to the session starting.

Menu and activities for 7th November – 11th November

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
BSC	Assorted cereals or toast	Egg and bacon cups	Cheese omelette	Assorted cereals or toast	Assorted cereals or toast
ASC	Chicken and cheese pitta	Sausage rolls	Yogurt, granola and berries	Ham and cheese pinwheels	Raspberry muffins
Activities	Cloud dough	Karate Tuesday	Group games outside	Sand art	Footy Friday

For bookings or enquiries don't hesitate to call our Customer Care Team

1300 018 310 info@ourpatch.education

Paige Da Costa- 0427 992 220



**DOUBLE
THE FUN!**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

You and your family are truly amazing! It is wonderful to share that our student online fundraising was a huge success. We are now so much closer to our goal to build a covered outdoor learning area thanks to you.

It is fantastic to see the spirit and enthusiasm that was displayed in supporting our school. Of course, the true highlight will be the smiles on the student's faces as they tackle their Colour Splatacular School Fun Run this coming Friday. This is also when the total amount raised will be announced. What an effort !.

On Friday students are asked to wear their white T Shirts and clothes suitable for getting messy. It is a good idea to pack a spare change of clothes, shoes and a towel for after the event. Parents may want a sheet or towel on their car seats for the trip home.

Morning learning will start as normal on Friday. Students will have a BBQ lunch earlier than usual before they assemble on the school oval at 1:30pm. All student families are most welcome to join us for the afternoon festivities. If you would like to volunteer to assist on the course please let yourself be known to the colourful volunteers on the day. Beware colour and slime will be prevalent. It's going to get messy!.

More smiles to come! Your incentive prizes have been ordered and are on their way! They will arrive shortly and be distributed to students accordingly.

Again, our most sincere thanks for your support and fundraising efforts. We couldn't have done it without you!

Gene VanderZalm,
Principal

Tamara Symington,
School Council Member and Parent Connect Group Member



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Principal: Gene VanderZalm

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Meeniy Primary School is looking forward to a great year of teaching and learning in 2023. We would like to take this opportunity to advise you of Meeniy Primary School's voluntary financial contributions for 2023 and why they are so valuable to our school.

Each year, the Victorian government provides us with enough funds to deliver a comprehensive education. These funds cover most aspects of a child's education and all management costs required by the school. However, the budget does not include funds for student's materials and equipment, nor does it cover money for curriculum activities or subscriptions such as Arts performances and Athletics. To cover these costs, schools are allowed to request an annual voluntary contribution from parents/guardians.

The voluntary contributions that you provide ensure that our school can continue to offer the best possible education for your child. With over 150 students at Meeniy Primary, the financial impact of these contributions is significant. The contributions help us to provide additional resources that are above and beyond what is required in the standard curriculum and what is provided for by Government funding. They also buffer us from unforeseen events. In 2023, Meeniy Primary will no longer be home to the MARC library program due the student population growing too big in recent years (must be under 120 students). With its departure goes a library of amazing books and resources. Our school will not be compensated for this change, instead, we will need to begin accumulating a library of books and other resources over the coming years so our students can have the rich literary experiences they once gained through MARC.

We understand the voluntary financial contribution is a significant amount of money. We offer different payment options to suit your needs. We appreciate every dollar that we receive and utilise every cent to enhance the education of our students. Regardless of these payments, schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian curriculum and we want to assure you that all contributions are voluntary.

For further information on the Department's Parent Payments Policy please see a one-page overview attached.

Yours sincerely,

Gene VanderZalm
Principal

Kate Thomas
School Council President

Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
<i>Classroom consumables, materials, & equipment</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Classroom - pens, pencils, textas, glue sticks, writing, graph and scrap books, highlighters, folders, display books, scissors, rulers – delivered directly to school and distributed to students on the first day of school</i> • <i>Visual Art – paint, crayons, canvas, glitter, coloured paper, glue, card, wool, material, wood, beading</i> • <i>Performing Art – instruments, props</i> • <i>Mathematics – numeracy blocks, calculators, books, stationary</i> • <i>Science – stationery, experiment consumables</i> • <i>Literacy – book boxes, class sets, novels, readers</i> • <i>Sports – equipment, sports</i> • <i>Library – books, subscriptions</i> 	\$120
<i>Online Subscriptions</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mathletics (\$15)</i> 	\$15
<i>Curriculum Activities</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Cultural Performances (2 per year)</i> 	\$15
<i>Curriculum Consumables</i>	\$150

Other Contributions

Meeniy Primary School continues to welcome a voluntary grounds levy, used to support our Grounds & Playground maintenance. In the past this has supported a gardener, which reduces the need for parent/guardian working bees.

Other Contributions	Amount
<i>Grounds Levy – Per Family</i>	\$20.00

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Meeniy Primary School offers a range of items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students and are above and beyond what the school provides in order to deliver the Curriculum. These are provided on a user-pays basis.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	Amount
Sport – swimming & athletics, winter sport, cake decoration, pool party etc.	\$TBC
Camps, sports and excursions to be scheduled, including but not limited to Year Prep – Beach Excursion, Year 1 & 2 Dinner/Sleepover, Years 3 – 6 camps.	\$TBC
<i>Extra-curricular Items and Activities</i>	\$TBC

Financial Support for Families

Meeniy Primary School understands that some families may experience financial difficulty and we offer a range of support options, including:

- *the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund to **eligible Health Care Card Holders** (this fund cannot be used for Curriculum Contributions).*
- *Individual Payment Plans*
- *State Schools Relief*

Families who have a valid **Health Care Card** at the beginning of the school year 27/01/2023 who have never claimed the CSE Funding at Meeniy Primary School should request an application form from the office.

Any family who successfully claimed in 2022, your details will roll over into 2023, unless your card is no longer valid or your details have changed.

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, contact:

Gene VanderZalm Ph: 03 5664 7382 | Email: gene.vanderzalm@education.vic.gov.au OR

Allyson Opray Ph: 03 5664 7382 | Email: allyson.opray@education.vic.gov.au

Preferred Payment methods –

- **Direct Deposit** – This is our preferred method, directly into our school bank account. This is the most secure method, giving you an immediate receipt and alleviates the need for students to bring cash to school.

Our bank details are as follows:

Account Name: Meeniyan Primary School

BSB: 063 518 (Commonwealth Leongatha)

Account No. 10071649

Please make sure you put enough detail on the reference field so we know who you are (remember we have multiple families with the same last name)

- **Cash/Cheque** to the school office in a sealed envelope with family details written on the front. Cash payments can be made directly to the school office.
- **EFTPOS** at the school office - Please note a 1.4% surcharge will be applied to over the counter payments, and 1.7% for payments made over the phone.
- **BPAY** – details available on your family statement (by request)

PAYMENT SLIP:

FAMILY NAME _____

Curriculum Contributions: No. of children _____ @ \$150 per child \$ _____

Child's Name: _____ Year Level _____

Grounds Levy @ \$20 per family \$ _____

TOTAL PAYMENT FOR 2023 \$ _____

PAYMENT TYPE (Please circle): **Direct Deposit** – Preferred / Cash / Cheque / EFPTOS

DIRECT DEPOSIT Receipt Number: _____