



Edition 35 – November 22ND 2022

Contact Us 5664 7382

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

w: www.tarwinvalley.vic.edu.au

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

At Meeniyan Primary, we have a team of staff willing and ready to help families with all sorts of different issues. If we don't get it right on the first occasion, I can guarantee we won't stop trying until we do. And this is what life is all about. A series of problems that come our way and our ability to navigate our way through them.

As we move into the final four weeks of term, I'd like everyone to take a moment to reflect on the year and consider how they want to finish off the year.

We all know that 2020 and 2021 were years of bunkering down and avoiding the dreaded COVID virus. 2023 was meant to be the year when everything switched back to normal and we all proceeded as we did pre-COVID. However, as the weeks and months went by, we all started to realise that 2023 was a different beast. 'Had we become less resilient in dealing with the ups and downs of life?' Or 'Were we exhausted from this feeling of having lost something over the previous two years?' Either way, within our school community, it has been my observation that this beast has resulted in higher anxiety. Anxiety is silently destructive, and the most difficult attribute is that it is extremely difficult to self-diagnose.

Therefore, as we move into the final four weeks of the year, I'd like us to all keep it simple simply focus on kindness.

Be understanding. Remind yourself and your children that not every other person is like you or them and that this does not make them bad, just different. Anxiety has a tendency to drive us crazy with fear and worry. Instead, breathe deeply. Remind yourself that you are one person out of billions on a tiny planet, in a distant corner of the universe, where there are billions of other problems popping up every day. Take walks to clear your mind and discuss matters openly with people you trust. When discussing matters, avoid using blame. Blame is merely a product of inner discomfort and/or pain.

When we minimise the anxiety, we tend to find more positive resolutions and results for all, not to mention providing a great example to our kids. Give compliments, thank yous and apologies. And if your kids are having an issue, tell them that it will all be fine, we just need to work our way to a solution. 😊

Our thoughts are with Mrs Smedley

Unfortunately, our Admin extraordinaire, Janelle Smedley, fractured her ankle and leg last weekend and will be out of action for a number of weeks. We wish her a speedy and pain-free recovery.

In the meantime, the school admin area will be short staffed. Although we will do our best to keep up with phone calls and emails, I would encourage all families to contact teachers and myself directly via email so we can minimise this demand. All emails are available on the school website and via Compass.

Gene VanderZalm, Principal

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 (Dress code neat casual)

7.00pm – formalities - speeches and presentation of gift, in the main hall. All MPS families are invited to attend.

CALENDAR

Current 22/11 – 6/12

22nd Nov - Yr 6 Christmas Cakes

22nd Nov - Lunchtime Fete

24th Nov - Book Club orders due

25th Nov - Prep beach excursion
consent and payment due

1st Dec - Prep Beach Excursion

6th Dec - Kinder kids Transition Day

6th Dec - School Council EOY

8th Dec - Year 6 Graduation

Upcoming

13th Dec - State wide transition day

15th Dec - End of Year assembly,
2. 30pm

19th Dec - Final Day for students

20th Dec - Final Day for staff

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

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

END OF YEAR AND FINAL DAY FOR STUDENTS

Our end of year assembly will be held on Thursday 15th December at 2.30pm where we will hand out our school awards etc. Official classes finish on Friday 16th December. On this day, Year 6 students will sign shirts and we will have a farewell assembly (students and staff only). For any students attending on Monday 19th December, it will be an organisational day ie; cleaning and moving furniture.

SCHOOL COUNCIL REPORT

As we begin to wrap up the year that was 2022, a recurring topic is the construction of the new toilet facilities. Though tenders are now closed the funding available for this project does not meet construction quotes. Therefore the V.S.B.A are reviewing funding availability. There's hope yet for 2023!

Council members were treated to a Curriculum report PowerPoint Presentation by Jo Healy. The report also included pictures from the Coal Creek excursion for Grades 1 and 2 followed by Grandparents Day where activities for both the young and old were thoroughly enjoyed followed by morning tea. Afterwards, a brief school grounds tour between rain showers provided a great opportunity to showcase all that the school offers.

Other highlights from the meeting included the fact that annual school fee's CAN be paid now for the new year. This offers that extra layer of flexibility in the hope that the uptake of paid voluntary school fee's will increase as these funds are such a critical component in providing for students throughout their school year.

The Splatacular Fun Run was by all accounts a great success. Adults and children alike had a wonderful time and the enthusiasm shown by parent volunteers provided the entire day with a joyous environment. The Parent Connect Group came together beautifully to make the day happen. The fundraising itself for the Covered Outdoor Learning Area provided great discussion. Whilst the Fun Run is most likely going to take a spot on the 2023 calendar, the fundraising platform was reviewed encouraging a shift to ensure a greater return of profit to the school to achieve the fundraising goal.

Tamara Symington

School Council Member and Parent Connect Group Member

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

My eldest daughter is a wild, curious and beautiful soul. As a little kid, while other kids were playing games with their trucks, dolls and cubby houses, my daughter was making up her own, lost deep in her imagination. People would be puzzled and say to me – is she talking to herself? I would reply 'she is just playing her game' and just let her play.

And that is how she rolled through life, beating to her own drum, doing things in the most curious ways. I can make this sound magic, because to me, her mum mostly is. How she did life worked for her and it worked for me.

But then school happened and for my daughter understanding people was hard, being understood was hard, she was hyper-sensitive to rejection, writing made her freeze, maths made her panic, and she was often so lonely.

So, she started being ill, tummy aches, earaches, she dragged out whopping cough for as long as she could. I struggled to get her out the door most mornings and once I finally did, she would pull the saddest face at me as the bus pulled away. As she got older, this got worse, we tried everything. Everything! From discipline to sticker charts to RDOs, wellbeing plans, a psychologist, we moved states, she moved schools and still – school was tricky.

From the outside looking in it might have looked like we were not doing anything, I could write here about the judgement, the social isolation and the loneliness I would often feel as a mum because I felt all those things; but the reason I don't need to focus on this is because of the people who did not judge, instead they invited us in for a cup of tea and a play. The bosses who gave me a moment to get myself together after a rough morning, the other mums who said - 'let's go for a walk after drop off', the friends who cherished and loved my daughter for her quirks, the teachers who gave the extra bit of love, who celebrated her uniqueness and celebrated her growth.

When I look back at those years, I remember to never underestimate power of a smile, a cuppa and a chat.

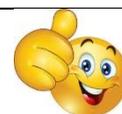
Also, by the way – my daughter is now creative, wonderous, empathetic adult who surrounds herself with the most curious and interesting people – and she also drops cakes and flowers to people when they are sad!

We can be what we have seen, kindness is contagious!

Donna Giliam, Primary Welfare Officer

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 😊 **Rose S** for being a brilliant and patient leader during Stuart's Cup practice.
- 😊 **Liberty M** for using known strategies when reading her books. Excellent accuracy!
- 😊 **Cooper L** for the confidence and positive attitude he shows, both in the classroom and out in the playground.
- 😊 **Tyler H** for using peer feedback and the class Success Criteria to improve his persuasive writing structure.
- 😊 **Noah P** for demonstrating resilience and giving his best effort at Stuart's Cup.
- 😊 **Scarlett L** for being very kind and helpful to others always.
- 😊 **Charlotte H** for being a terrific leader in the lead up to and on the Stuart's Cup.
- 😊 **Stacey J** for taking the initiative to organise games after school, being fair and encouraging all involved.
- 😊 **Alanah H** for asking questions and actively participating in our learning focus.
- 😊 **Huey H** for his focused attitude while completing learning tasks.
- 😊 **Sofia E** for her amazing hard work and pride for her poster on wolves.
- 😊 **Hamish G** for his persistence and enthusiasm during the colour 'Splatacular' fun run.



HOUSE POINTS	THIS WEEK Wattle & Waratah	OVERALL Wattle
---------------------	-----------------------------------	-----------------------



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.



Congratulations
*to Fergus and family on the
arrival of Zoe*

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Southern Fusion Netball Club 2023 Autumn Trials:

The selection process for the Autumn/ Spring 2023 season is open.

When / Where: Sunday 4th and 11th December at the Meeniyam Sports Stadium

Time: U13 – 10.30-11.30 U15 – 11.00-12.00

U17 – 11.30-12.30

Clothing: wear a white or light top with shorts. No skins or leggings.

Register your intention to trial at:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1UOZg456StLKwUoGVoeqChFdxg8lqqoE1un-oblHSuk/edit>

For further information please contact Leonie on 0400 153 092 or info@southernfusion.com.au



Players will compete on indoor courts on Wednesday nights at Casey Netball Association's Casey Stadium. The Autumn season runs from February-June and the Spring season runs July-November (no play during the school holidays). Scheduled training sessions are held on Sundays at Meeniyam Sports Stadium.

Meeniyam CWA

Christmas Bake sale

Christmas Cakes and Puddings
500gm \$15. 1kg \$30

Shortbread
100gm \$5. 200gm \$10. 400gm \$20

Phone orders now
Marilyn 0408 647 327
Faye 56 624 907 or
Email cwavicmeeniyambranch@gmail.com

Pick up MDU Football Club Rooms
26 November 2022
10 am - 1pm

Important Dates:

- Martial Arts Specialist Program runs from 4-5pm Every Tuesday until 6th December.

Last week children have been busy exploring outside after all the rain! We have moved our bodies with lot's of Just Dance and getting our hands dirty with slime and art's and crafts. Exploring, digging and building in the sandpit has been a favourite from all children this week.

Our goal was for children to feel safe, secure and supported. We did this through mindfulness colouring, talking as a group about our day/weekend and many group activities.



Menu and Activities for 21st November - 25th November

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School Care	Cereal or toast	Egg and bacon sandwiches	Choc chip pancakes	Fruit toast	Cereal or toast
After School Care	Berry Oat muffins	Zucchini, carrot, tomato and bacon quiches	Hawaiian pizza wraps	Pasta bake	Toasties
Activities	Group Scavenger Hunt	Karate Tuesday	Mini Olympics	Christmas tree painting	Cooking

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.

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**



SATURDAY 18th FEBRUARY, 2023 9 - 4 pm

Hello School folk. After almost 3 years, the Meeniyán Garlic Festival will be back in town! Meeniyán will welcome thousands of visitors for the 5th Garlic Festival, held at the Recreation Reserve – a unique community event to showcase the fantastic produce of our region through dozens of food, produce, veggie, garden and craft stalls.

The festival is set for a revival and will need a host of volunteers on the day and in the 3 set up days prior. **This advice is an early call out for volunteers for the Festival.** We have adopted a new community support model similar to that in the Meeniyán Op Shop; for every hour of help, volunteers will earn 1 volunteer point for their nominated local community organisation to receive financial support. Volunteering could be an excellent opportunity to raise money for the Meeniyán Primary School.

Positions are as follows and require a 1 to 2 hour commitment; all volunteers will get free entry to the festival. Volunteers with a variety of skills are needed, including helping out with the *Free and Fun Kids Activities* listed below:

Mini golf - 2 volunteers per hour, hand out golf clubs and balls.

Billy Cart time trials - 3 volunteers per hour, receive a stop watch and record the time it takes for the participant to go around the track, one volunteer to manage the queue.

Practice Billy Cart area - 1 volunteer per hour, hand out billy carts to participants and encourage giving it a go.

Temporary tattoos - 2 volunteers per hour, very social spot! Help assist festival goers with putting their tattoos on.

Activity Information Tent - 1 volunteer per hour. A sit down job, encourage people to have a go of the activities, manage the garlic jar guessing game.

Veggie sculptures - 2 volunteers per hour. Assist makers of sculptures with getting the veggies they need to make their creature, clean up after the messy ones!

Other areas of help needed are at the gate entry, setting up on the three days prior and packing up on the day.

This event shines a spotlight on Meeniyán, attracts visitors to the town and raises funds for community groups and projects – come on board and support our wonderful little town.

Please call Sally Gorman at 0458 751 052 OR Nicki Bell on 0412 99 33 61 if you can help. Thanks in advance! We look forward to hearing from you.