



**Edition 1 – February 7<sup>th</sup> 2023**

Contact Us 5664 7382

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

w: [www.tarwinvalley.vic.edu.au](http://www.tarwinvalley.vic.edu.au)

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Welcome back to the new school year everyone. The start to this school year has been amazing and for the first time in years feels like the pre-COVID years. Students and staff are all well rested and able to focus in a clear and calm manner. In time we may forget the burden of issues related to COVID but right now the start between this year and the previous two is like chalk and cheese.

### Attendance

Student attendance suffered a significant drop between 2020-22. In 2023 there will be a state-wide push to reverse this trend. Previously the average number of absence days at MPS in a year was around 11 days per child. In 2022, the average was nearly 22 days with 38% of students having more than 20 days. This equates to students missing on average more than 1 week of school per term. Studies have shown that once a child misses more than 10 days in a year there will be a negative effect on their learning.

Therefore, at MPS, all staff will be working together to help support families keep students in the classroom. They can't learn if they are not here. We will be following up on unexplained absences on a daily basis and when students have missed multiple days within weeks and across weeks, teachers will be checking in to see how we can get them back to school. To support us all turn the tide on absences, please log any absences on Compass with an explanation. If you use 'Parent Choice' please add a further comment to indicate the reason for the absence.

## **NEW STAFF AT MPS**



Samantha Bush  
5/6



Eloise O'Brien  
3/4



Bridget Rush  
1/2



Gemma Dixon  
1/2



Celeste Amenta  
Art



Melissa Horkings  
Science



Julie Newton  
Student Support



John Reid  
Student Support



Haylee Russell  
Student Support



Taneka Roffey  
Student Support



Abby Schreurs  
Trainee

## **CALENDAR**

### Current 7/2 – 21/2

- 8<sup>th</sup> Feb** - Swimming trials Yrs 3-6
- 10<sup>th</sup> Feb** – NO LUNCH ORDERS
- 15<sup>th</sup> Feb** – District Swimming
- 16<sup>th</sup> Feb** – Welcome Evening
- 19<sup>th</sup> Feb** – Book Club orders close
- 21<sup>st</sup> Feb** – School Council, 7pm

### Upcoming

- 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb** – Parent Teacher Interviews
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb** – School Photos
- 13<sup>th</sup> Mar** - Labour Day (pupil free)
- 15<sup>th</sup> Mar** - NAPLAN commences
- 21<sup>st</sup> Mar** - School Council AGM, 7pm
- 31<sup>st</sup> Mar** - Waratah Sports
- 6<sup>th</sup> Apr** - Last day Term 1

### NEWSLETTER ITEMS

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

Bread & Pickles will be closed this Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> February

Lunch orders will not be available

*Gene VanderZalm, Principal*

## **2023 CURRICULUM CONTRIBUTIONS**

Thank you to those families who have paid their 2023 Curriculum Contributions. Payments can be made either by Direct Deposit into our account or cash/EFTPOS at the office. The contribution amount for 2023 is \$150 per child and \$20 per family for voluntary grounds levy.

## **SCHOOL PHOTOS**

School photos will be taken on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February by Foon's Photography, Wonthaggi. Please ensure all children are in correct uniform on this day. Each child will be given a photo envelope to take home which will need to be returned with payment before photo day. Children who do not return their envelopes will still have their photo taken for inclusion in class photo. **Photographs of family siblings can be taken at your request.** Envelopes for the sibling photos are available from the office and should be returned separately to individual packs.

## **HATS**

It is Department policy that all children are to wear a hat outside during recess and lunch until 1<sup>st</sup> April. Any student without a hat will remain undercover during these times.

## **MACS DONATION**

Thanks to our wonderful MACS volunteers, we have received a cheque for \$2212.81. MACS is one of our major fundraisers and this can not be achieved without volunteers. If you have a few hours a week, a fortnight or a month to staff the MACS store which in turn, provides financial support to our school, please email the office [meeniyansps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:meeniyansps@education.vic.gov.au)



## **BOOK CLUB**

Issue 1 Book Club catalogues have been distributed today. Please place all orders by 19<sup>th</sup> February via the LOOP app or the Scholastic website. If you would like more information on how to order from Book Club, please email [Janelle.smedley@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Janelle.smedley@education.vic.gov.au) or phone 5664 7382.

## **SCHOOL'S PRIVACY POLICY**

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the [Schools' Privacy Policy](#).

Please take time to remind yourself of the school's collection statement, found on our website [[tarwinvalley.vic.edu.au](http://tarwinvalley.vic.edu.au)].

For more information about privacy, refer to: [Schools' Privacy Policy — information for parents](#).

Meeniyans PS Beanies available for purchase from the office.

\$20 each - Order form at the end of the newsletter.



## **CONSENT AND CONTACT DETAILS**

Local travel consent and Chaplaincy consent forms are attached to today's newsletter. Please complete and return to school by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February.

*Local Travel Consent* - It is a legal requirement that we collect local travel consent for every student at the beginning of each year. This allows your child/ren to walk around the township of Meeniyans with their teachers eg. sports days at the Rec Reserve.

*Chaplaincy Consent* – Consent to work with the School Chaplain in a class or small group settings (student support - non religious)

New students will **not** need to complete these as it was covered in their enrolment form.

It is the responsibility of our parents/carers to ensure that school has your most up-to-date contact details. If you have a new address, phone number or email address and have not communicated this with the office, please email [meeniyansps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:meeniyansps@education.vic.gov.au).

### **Student Free Days 2023**

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> Mar - public holiday  
Monday 24<sup>th</sup> Apr – curriculum  
Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> Apr – public holiday  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June - curriculum  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June - public holiday  
Monday 14<sup>th</sup> Aug - curriculum  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Nov - curriculum  
Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> Nov – public holiday  
Monday 27<sup>th</sup> Nov - curriculum

## **WEEKLY ASSEMBLY**

Parents/carers are invited to join us on a Friday afternoon at 3pm for our Weekly Gathering on the basketball court (or shared space if it's raining). We will send out a message early each week to parents of students who will be receiving an award at the gathering.

## **FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES**

We understand that some families may experience financial difficulty and offers 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 28/01/2023 who have never claimed the CSE Funding should request a 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.

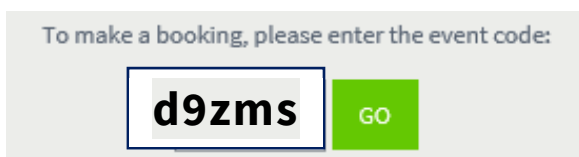
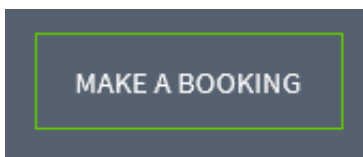
## **PST MEETINGS**

PST Meetings will be held on **Wednesday 22nd February**. Parents will need to collect their child from class for their interview.

Parents of Prep students are not required to book their child an interview via this platform. You will receive information from Claire Guy in relation to this.

Bookings can be made at [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au)

- 1.
- 2.
3. Follow screen prompts



Interviews are strictly 15 mins and spaces are limited. If you require more time, please contact your teacher directly to make alternative arrangements.

Parents can change their interview bookings, any time prior to the closing time, by re-visiting the [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) website, and using the event code. Remember to use the same name and email address, you used when you made your original booking.

## **BREAKFAST CLUB**

Guess what? Breakfast club is back on! **Breakfast club will run for students from 8:30am- 9:00am each Thursday**. If you're a jam maker, we would love some donations of jam or if you would like to make a donation and are not sure what, we are always in need of butter!

## **PARENT CONNECT GROUP**

The Parent Connect Group was created to bring parents from Meeniyen Primary School together on a social level, creating friendship's and as a means to assist the school where fundraising and/or event planning can take place. It's all in the name of fun!

The last half of 2022 was highly rewarding for both parents and the school as it was also the first uninterrupted period the group could come together. The Parent Group are still aiming to raise funds for the construction of the Covered Outdoor Learning Area. Last year the Meeniyen Ball and the Colour Splatacular Fun Run were two epic events that got the fundraising off to a great start, but there's a long way to go.

Our first meeting is on Tuesday 14th February at 2.15pm, meeting at the school office steps. The meeting will finish in time for school pick up. Toddlers welcome.

We would love to welcome in new families. Come and have a laugh and get involved in whatever capacity you choose. The group will meet throughout the year to discuss and plan upcoming events. We might meet for a coffee catch up or pizza and drinks at Trulli. Lots of fun and lifelong connections to be made. We hope to see you on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> at 2.15pm!

For further information you can contact Sheree on 0437076953

## RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

When I was 12 my parents separated and from then on I lived one week with my mum on her farm and one week with my dad on his farm. At times this was a real juggle. There were times I really missed one of my parents and there were MANY occasions where I had a shoe or some other important item at the wrong place but as time passed, we learned more about being organised and also celebrated our new way of being a family.

My mum chose to have NO T.V. – to start with no one could believe it, including me. I argued that ‘everyone else has one, why can’t we?’ ‘How am I supposed to talk to the kids at school about Degrassi Junior High if I don’t have a T.V?’ ‘How will I fit in?’

When we realised that Mum was not going to change her mind about a T.V we learned to live with this. My siblings and I were always playing games, either cards, board games or big messy outdoor games, like mudslides and dam villages. We learned instruments and read books, often the same ones over and over. We argued, resolved the arguments and argued again. We got tired and would curl up with a book or draw or argue! Our house was always filled with kids, and no one seemed to care if we did not know what was happening on Degrassi.

At the time I thought that mum was limiting my life by limiting my screen time but in reflection I can see that she was giving me more life, more adventure, more opportunity for creativity and community.

And this is why as an adult, I have never had a T.V, my kids have grown up without T.V and very limited screen time. They are re-hashing the arguments I made for more screen time in the 90’s and while I understand how they feel, I know if they have more screen time that the trade-off is not worth it.

Navigating screen time is one of the toughest parts of parenting for our generation but balance is essential. Less time on screens gives our kids more time for adventure, creativity, connection and community.

*Donna Giliam, Primary Welfare Officer*

## COMMUNITY NEWS

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

### **MDU Junior Football 2023:**

All players (boys and girls) are invited to join us for our 2023 junior football season.

Age groups: Under 14 ½, U12 and U10

Trainings: All junior teams will train at the MDU football oval every Thursday evening.

Registration night: Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March, 5pm at the oval

Stay tuned for more information on when training will start etc. And make sure to follow us on Social Media to keep up to date with us.

For any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact **Dave Trotman** on 0418 589 805. We hope to see some new and familiar faces join us for a great year at MDU!



### **1-2-3 Magic & Emotion Coaching Program:**

Free live Online program for parents of children aged 2 to 12. Tired of yelling and nagging? With this program we will discuss resolving difficult behaviour in children aged 2 -12. Learn how to discipline without arguing, yelling or smacking, how to handle challenging behaviours strengthen your relationship with your child and much more.

When: 11.30am – 2.30pm March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>

Cost: FREE but bookings are essential

Contact: Uniting Gipps. 5662 5150 or e:Gippsland.leongatha.reception@vt.uniting.org



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.

**Meeniyani Primary School  
Beanie Order Form  
(\$20 each)**



Name \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Beanies \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Rec No. \_\_\_\_\_

# 2023 LOCAL EXCURSION & TRAVEL CONSENT FORM

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Year Level \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Year Level \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Year Level \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Year Level \_\_\_\_\_

"I grant permission for my child/children to participate in excursions within the local township during 2023 as required." NB: for excursions outside our local area a permission form relating to the specific activity/day will be sent home.

"I authorise the teacher in charge of the excursion to consent, where it is impracticable to communicate with me, to the child/children receiving such medical or surgical treatment as may be deemed necessary, including requesting an Ambulance, the cost of which will be my responsibility."

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Parent/Guardian)

Date \_\_\_\_\_



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Principal: Gene VanderZalm

7 February 2023

## NATIONAL SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM CONSENT 2023

Dear Parents,

This year we will be continuing with the National Chaplaincy Program (NSCP) at Meeniy Primary School. The program will support and strengthen existing student wellbeing programs and introduce a number of new projects that operate under the ELEVATE framework of:

- Connecting with young people and school communities
- Building up positive values and resilience in young people
- Empowering young people to transform their school and community

The Chaplain will work in classes and with groups of students on various projects within and beyond the school to develop skills and understandings in Civics and Citizenship, Interpersonal, Personal Learning, resilience and leadership. The program will strengthen and extend current programs and intentions.

The program is funded by the Federal Government and administered by the State government. The program operates under the governance of the school including the administration of the program. Any questions, queries or concerns now or in the future, can be directed to me.

The program operates on a voluntary basis so parents are required to provide consent for their child/ren to participate in the program and projects. Please note ongoing, individual or spiritual work will require a separate consent form if the need arises.

Parents are asked to consider the program and return the annual consent form below.

If you have any queries regarding the role or programs, please contact me and I will be happy to detail the chaplaincy further.

Yours sincerely,

Gene VanderZalm

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## NATIONAL SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM CONSENT 2023

I consent

I do not consent to my child/ren participating in the Meeniy PS School Chaplaincy program in 2023.

Child 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Child 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Child 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Child 4: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_