



Edition 2 – February 21<sup>ST</sup> 2023

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## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

As author Eric Wilson once stated, "To be human is to be beautifully flawed."

While not every flaw is beautiful, they are a part of being human. Some flaws we accept as a quirk or bad habit. Some, we can learn and grow from.

Most adults would look back on a time in their life when they didn't treat another person very well. Sometimes these behaviours may have been a one-off, at others, it may have been repeated.

As great as the start to the 2023 school year has been, I'd like to take a moment to define 'bullying' so we can be clear on what it is and isn't. I haven't been made aware of any bullying incidents this year but I still hear students use the term inaccurately and it is important we have the same messages coming from school and home.

There is a new nationally agreed definition of bullying which all Australian schools now use:

*Bullying is an **ongoing and deliberate** misuse of power in relationships through **repeated** verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that intends to cause physical, social and/or psychological harm. It can involve an individual or a group misusing their power, or perceived power, over one or more persons who feel unable to stop it from happening. Single incidents and conflict or fights between equals, whether in person or online, are not defined as bullying.*

This definition is important because it separates' a) one-off incidents that are not very nice to b) repeated incidents where power is misused. Both incidents need to be addressed without question. However, how we deal with each incident may be quite different.

At MPS, we use a restorative approach with most issues; We speak with the students involved about what occurred, how each person felt and what needs to be done to restore feelings to the way they were before. In the case of bullying, we would spend more time working with students around how power was misused and how we are going to put a stop to it. Power issues can relate to the age, size and shape of students but they can also be attributed to social status, emotional intelligence and prejudices.

Teachers will make contact with parents and carers immediately following serious incidents and bullying issues. It is important we are all on the same page with a clear understanding of the facts. If you would ever like clarification over any incident, I encourage you to contact your child's teacher first and then either myself or one of the other supporting staff.

**Gene VanderZalm, Principal**

## CALENDAR

### Current 21/2 – 7/3

**21<sup>st</sup> Feb** – School Council, 7pm

**22<sup>nd</sup> Feb** – No Preps

**22<sup>nd</sup> Feb** – Parent Teacher Interviews

**23<sup>rd</sup> Feb** – School Photos

**24<sup>th</sup> Feb** – Division swimming

### Upcoming

**13<sup>th</sup> Mar** – Labour Day (pupil free)

**15<sup>th</sup> Mar** – NAPLAN commences

**17<sup>th</sup> Mar** – Dinner/sleepover consent & payment due

**21<sup>st</sup> Mar** – School Council AGM, 7pm

**23<sup>rd</sup> Mar** – 1/2 dinner & Yr 2 sleepover

**31<sup>st</sup> Mar** – Waratah Sports

**5<sup>th</sup> Mar** – District Athletics

**6<sup>th</sup> Apr** – Last day Term 1, 2.30pm dismissal

### NEWSLETTER ITEMS

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

Meeniyan PS Beanies available for purchase from the office.

\$20 each



## **SCHOOL PHOTOS**

School photos are this Thursday. Please ensure all children are in correct uniform and that your child's photo envelope has been returned to school with payment. 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 sibling photos can be collected from the office and should be returned separately to individual packs.

## **YEARS 3-6 ATHLETICS**

A form has gone home today with students in years 3-6 for their Athletics day in Foster on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March. We encourage parents to come along to the sports and enjoy the day watching your child/ren compete. If you are, we would appreciate you driving your children with you to the Foster Secondary College oval rather than sending them to school to catch the bus as seats are very limited.

For those who are not able to attend, a bus is available at a cost of \$15 per student. To secure a seat on the bus you will need to return the form with payment by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Anyone who has not returned their form by this date, unfortunately, will not have a seat on the bus and will need to organise private transportation.

## **CONSENT AND CONTACT DETAILS**

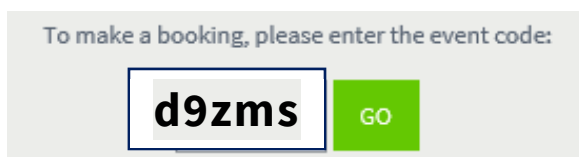
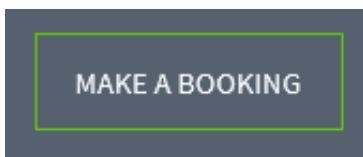
Thank you to those families who have returned their Local travel consent and Chaplaincy consent forms that were attached to the last newsletter. If you have not yet done so, please complete and return to school ASAP. If Local travel consent does not get returned, your child/ren will remain at school with another class if their class leaves the school grounds. It is a legal requirement that we get local travel consent from parents at the beginning of each school year.

## **PST MEETINGS**

A reminder that our PST Meetings are **tomorrow**. If you have not booked your interview time you can still do so by following the instructions below.

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

- 1.
- 2.
3. Follow screen prompts



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.

## **RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS**

My little sister Sally is one of those people who just splash sunshine wherever they go. She is quick with a laugh, a compliment and easily puts herself in the shoes of others. She is a scientist; she is excellent at sport and also a talented artist. From the outside looking in, it would look like Sally is fearless, but she is not.

When she was little, without fail, EVERY TIME a new opportunity was presented Sally would meet it with PAINFUL indecision. It hurt for her to make the choices and it hurt to watch it.

If, for example, the opportunity was to jump off a rock into a river, she would stand at the top for so long, then come down and then go up again, then come down. In the meantime, everyone would have finished swimming and would be wet, cold and ready to go home and Sal would still be deciding.

Most often, Sally would make the choice to 'opt in' and the 'opt in' was usually without regret. She would jump in the river, run the cross country, enter the art show, go on the camp, apply for the leadership role or take on the maths challenge. These opportunities did not come without 'bumps' or disappointment but with these 'bumps' she learned and grew and became braver and braver as she grew older.

These days Sally takes risks every day, she travels and often lives in a little sailing boat with her partner and funny little dog. She opts into everything, not without anxiety but lives without regrets.

*Donna Giliam, Primary Welfare Officer*



The future shop sellers, road workers, architects, builders, construction companies and structural engineers of Meeniyan!

## Yoga with Mrs Deering



This week Mrs Deering treated Prep to Year 6's with a relaxing session of yoga in the Shared Space! The students did all kinds of stretches and had a great time. *Written by Sam, Year 6*



## 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.

# 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

## Meeniyan Community Plan:

28<sup>th</sup> February 5.30 p.m. at Meeniyan hall - **FREE BBQ TEA**

This is your invitation to attend the Meeniyan community plan update, and we need your input to shape Meeniyan into the future.

Start thinking about what is needed to enable our town to continue to be there strong and healthy for the future. What is your vision for your club, group, or as an individual looking forward???

We are here to help put it in writing and remember it is always easier to get grants if it's documented.

Not all projects happen but MEENIYAN has achieved so much in the last 10 years.

We look forward to seeing everyone YOUNG AND SENIOR on the 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 5.30 p.m. at Meeniyan, Free BBQ TEA make sure your club, group is represented and a great night will be assured.

If you have any questions please contact Fay Sinclair 0428644354 dnfsinclair@dcsi.net.au

If you have any dietary requirements please let us know for catering purposes and it would also be great if you let us know how many members from your club/group will be attending. Can't wait to see you on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb.

## Leongatha Junior Table Tennis:

Leongatha junior table tennis is commencing weekly training and games on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 4-6pm. All welcome and the first session is free. \$5.00 per session after that. Just come along to the Table Tennis Shed in the Leongatha Recreation Reserve- 52 Roughead Street Leongatha, everything is provided.

Contact Dom 0478 616 756 Website: <https://www.revolutionise.com.au/leongatha/>

## Stony Creek Junior Netball Training:

Junior netball training is starting this Thursday, February 23rd @ the Stony Creek Netball Courts.

4:15pm: Under 11's & Under 13's

5pm- Under 15's & Under 17's

All welcome so please grab a drink bottle and come along for some Netball fun and fitness.

Any questions or further information contact: Kaila Hutchinson- 0400549314 or Caitlin Burge- 0400604626

