



Edition 3 – March 7<sup>TH</sup> 2023

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## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Sometimes in life you just need a reset.

For some time now the staff and students have had a few issues with our school assemblies. We all agreed that the Friday assembly should be a showcase to share with our parents and school community. However, our student leaders and teachers were having difficulty managing the student audience. We felt they were restless and wanted to understand why.

So earlier this week, we decided to come together and get some student feedback on how we might improve our assemblies. The students were straight on to it. Ideas flowed from their mouths and pens so easily, a nice reminder of why student voice is so critical in a school.

One of the key areas the students would like to improve are the transitions between items. They felt that students became easily bored when nothing was happening, or something was repeated too many times. Another change they would like to see is bringing some variety to assemblies, so it isn't the same every week. Revamped House chants, return of the Happy Bucket and musical performances all relevant possibilities.

All these ideas are valid and easy to rectify, however we'll need a few weeks to get them right. It is for this reason that the Friday assembly will be 'closed for maintenance' for the next two weeks. The school will relaunch our refreshed assembly format on March 24. In the meantime, student awards will continue but be presented in the classroom at a convenient time for parents/carers and the teacher. Birthday celebrations will take place at our whole school shared lunchtimes.

*Gene VanderZalm, Principal*

## CAMP NOTES

Notes have gone home today for the 3/4 Wilson's Prom Camp and the 5/6 Melbourne Camp. Please ensure you read all information and return the Expression of Intent and deposit (if required) by the date noted on the forms. Forms must be returned even if your child is not attending camp. For CSEF balances, please contact the office.

## BOOK CLUB

Issue 2 catalogues have been distributed today. All orders must be placed via the LOOP app or scholastic website by Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 9am.

## LOST PROPERTY

Although we are less than two months into the school year, our lost property baskets are overflowing. If your child is missing uniform items or lunch containers etc, please take a look through these baskets. One is located in the shared space and one is in the foyer of the heritage building. At the end of each term, the lost property is sorted and anything that does not have a name on will be donated to MACS.

## 3-6 ATHLETICS

Thank you to those families who have returned their Waratah Athletics reply slip. We do need families to return these even if you are not using the bus. There is a box to tick to say that you are taking your child with you.

## CALENDAR

### Current 7/3 – 21/3

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

17<sup>th</sup> Mar - 5/6 Camp EOI due

20<sup>th</sup> Mar - Book club orders close 9am

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

21<sup>st</sup> Mar - 3/4 Camp EOI & deposit due

### Upcoming

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

31<sup>st</sup> Mar - Waratah Sports Yr 3-6

4<sup>th</sup> Apr - 5/6 Camp deposit & forms due

4<sup>th</sup> Apr - 3/4 Camp instalment & forms due

5<sup>th</sup> Apr - District Athletics

6<sup>th</sup> Apr - Easter Hat Parade

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.

## **YEAR 1 DINNER / YEAR 2 SLEEPOVER**

Excitement is growing among the students in anticipation for the Yr 1 Dinner / Yr 2 Sleepover on Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Please see the table below regarding meals on Thursday and Friday.

	<b>Year 1 Students</b>	<b>Year 2 Students</b>
<b>THURSDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> March</b>		
<b>Recess and Lunch</b>	Bring recess snack and lunch from home	Bring recess snack and lunch from home
<b>Afternoon Tea</b>	PROVIDED	PROVIDED
<b>Dinner</b>	PROVIDED	PROVIDED
<b>FRIDAY 24<sup>th</sup> March</b>		
<b>Breakfast</b>	Eaten at home before school	PROVIDED
<b>Recess snack</b>	PROVIDED	PROVIDED
<b>Lunch</b>	PROVIDED	PROVIDED

\*Consent and payment for the Dinner / Sleepover is due Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March and is to be completed via Compass.

## **SCHOOL COUNCIL REPORT**

School Council is back in the swing of things refreshed and excited to see what 2023 has in store for Meeniyan Primary School.

It's fantastic to hear what a great start that the children have had, particularly our 25 new preps. Pete gave us an informative overview of all of the classes and their term one learning plans. It was noted that the children are particularly responding well to the new Science classes and are having a brilliant time with various scientific experiments.

Unfortunately, the plans for the toilet block are still delayed due to an application for further funding. Although disappointing, we will be writing to our local state MP for support, in the hope of speeding up the process. In other ground developments the shade sails that will cover the new amphitheatre will be installed in late March/ early April.

Another welcome addition to our school is the new library. New furniture and books have been purchased and we are looking forward to seeing the growth of this invaluable part of the school.

We were very excited to hear of the parent connect group plans for the year. Once again, they have some incredible events arranged for throughout the year, starting with the Easter raffle and hat parade. Please look for further details in upcoming newsletters and try to support these events, as they play a huge role in our fundraising for the proposed roof over the basketball court.

Expressions of interest to join the School Council are open and close today at 4pm. If you are interested in joining please contact the office/Gene. It's a great way of becoming more involved in the school community only requiring one evening a month.

Finally we discussed the Welcome Evening. This year's turnout was a little disappointing perhaps due to the extreme weather or even timing of the event. We would love some feedback if this is something that you think you would like to continue on into the future.

Overall it looks to be a fantastic year. We can't wait to see the developments, growth and activities ahead of us at Meeniyan primary school.

*Katrina Markley Neeson, School Council Member*

## **PARENT CONNECT GROUP**

The first Connect meeting took place on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February, drawing in some new faces which was a really great start to the year. We now have one in five of all M.P.S families involved with the purpose to connect, getting together both on a social and school fundraising and event organising basis.

Our aim for the first meeting was to put in place the events for the year, locking in dates, adding some fun to the school calendar as well as plans to raise some funds for the Covered Outdoor Learning Area.

On the last day of Term 1, an Easter Hat Parade, Easter Raffle and Colouring Competition will take place. For later in the school year a whole school Disco is on the cards for Term 3 followed by an adults only Trivia night in October. The Year 6 Graduation early December is a lovely annual occasion the Connect Group look forward to and by popular demand the fabulous and outrageous Colour Splatacular Fun Run again to send the year out with a high at the end of Term 4. Loads of fun times ahead!!!

The next meeting will be today, Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March. We will meet at 2:15pm at the Office.

*Tamara Symington, Parent Connect and School Council Member*

## **RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS**

Whenever we go on a road trip the drive there always seems to take longer than the drive home.

My sister has a theory on this: the drive to the new place and the new adventure is new for our brains, our brains need new things to stay excited and engaged in life - SO if we do more new things THEN our lives feel longer and more fulfilled.

My sister's wisdom came to mind when Mr V and I met with our Year 6 students to talk about assemblies today. We asked the kids to voice their ideas on what the purpose of assembly is, what is and isn't working in assemblies and what could we introduce to the assemblies to make them more interesting.

School is a balance between safety and risk taking, listening and sharing and a perfect place to cultivate and create new ideas. I am always impressed at the understanding the young people I work with have of their world and the ideas they bring to the table. It is very exciting to think where they are going to take our assemblies for 2023 and onwards. If they can revamp assembly in primary school – imagine what they will be capable of as they grow!

It is such a privilege to be on a 'road trip' with the MPS kids and I can't wait to see what they think of next!  
*Donna Giliam, Primary Welfare Officer*



## **PROFILE OF THE WEEK**



**Abby Schreurs**

Trainee

### **What were you doing before coming to MPS?**

I completed Year 12 last year

### **What are you looking forward to this year at MPS?**

Getting to know the students and working with them

### **Where did you grow up?**

Garfield and Venus Bay

### **One word to describe you would be...**

Outgoing

### **What is something you have always wanted to try?**

Sky Diving

### **What was your favourite bedtime story as a child?**

The Magic Faraway Tree

### **What is your favourite past time?**

Going to the beach and spending time with my family and pets

### **What is your favourite holiday destination?**

Vietnam or Airlie Beach

Students in Grade 3/4O enjoyed listening to the bass guitar played by Max and Mr Reid.

## Interschool Equestrian Event

A few weeks ago on a sunny February day, Winnie in Grade 5 and Laura in Grade 2, got up super early (5am!) to make the trek all the way over to Sale for their first ever Interschool Equestrian Competition! Both riders and their parent helpers didn't really know what to expect or how the day would run. Turns out it was super fun day, and the girls had a ball.

Each horse and rider had to choose 6 events to go in. Including some fun games, riding classes with judges, as well as jumping.

Winnie on Twista, competed in a bending race (where you are timed to race around poles stuck in the ground), a mug race (where you move a mug to move between poles whilst riding your horse), an obstacle course (where you have to achieve things like pushing a giant ball with a stick whilst riding your horse, and move a hessian bag full of noisy cans between drums) + jumping competitions and more.

Laura riding Spook achieved a 2<sup>nd</sup> place in both the bending race and her jumping round. As well as some ribbon placings in her classes of Ridder, Pleasure Mount and Ridden Mount. The obstacle course was lots of fun and something Laura had never done before.

Both girls (and parents) as well as their trusty steeds went home super exhausted from a full day of riding. The girls should be super proud of the way they conducted themselves and represented their school whilst out competing. They will definitely be going again.

If there are any other horse riders in the school, we would love you to join our team at the next Interschool Equestrian Event.

*Sarah J*



## 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.

## Bass Coast Kinship Carer Support Group:

Are you caring for a child or children because a family member or friend is unable to? Would you like to meet others who are in a similar situation? All Kinship Carers are welcome and morning tea will be supplied.

When: The second Tuesday of each month 10am – 12pm.

Where: Ventnor Recreation Reserve

RSVP for catering: Anita 0475 740 927

## Meeniyah and District Volleyball:

We are having 3 practice nights on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> March and 5<sup>th</sup> April at the Meeniyah Stadium at 7pm. If you are interested, come along and try it out. There is not charge for the practice nights.

Age will depend on skill level but most likely to start at Grade 6 and up. All levels of players welcome, past and new.

If enough people are interested, the Comp will possibly start the second week of school term (date to be confirmed). For further information contact: Shane 0427 647 219 or Jess 0439 102 481.

## The Great Fete – Inverloch PS:

Inverloch Primary School are inviting everyone to join them for their upcoming Fete on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March. The fete runs from 10am – 3pm and will include food and entertainment stalls. Event info @inverlochkpsfete

## 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: Stay tuned for training start date. 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

For any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact **Dave Trotman** on 0418 589 805.



## Stony Creek Junior Netball Training:

Junior netball training is underway @ 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



## Fishy Stories, Prom Coast Festival –

### Hidden Talents Writing and Illustrating workshop:

This is a free event held at the Fish Creek Hall on 12<sup>th</sup> March from 11am – 2pm. Event includes Craig's Illustration Workshop from 12.30 – 2pm, Michael's Writing Workshop from 11am – 12nn and Readings from the 2022 Writing Challenge Writers from 12 – 12.30pm.

**FISHY STORIES GOES TO THE PROM COAST FESTIVAL 2023**  
FISH CREEK HALL. MARCH 12TH. 11AM-2PM. FREE EVENT.

**Craig's Illustration Workshop**  
**DRAWING A STORY**  
12.30pm to 2pm

The illustration workshop is about the questions and choices an illustrator faces when composing a drawing, and modeling a way to start working it out. Where to begin? What to keep in mind? What to include? What to conceal? Plus tips for bringing a picture to life with movement and expression, humour and drama.

**Michael's Writing Workshop**  
**HIDDEN STORIES**  
11am to 12noon

When we start looking for our story we often wonder how to find it. This workshop will give you ideas on how to find that spark. Then we'll take that spark, and by asking questions about that idea, we'll take you to the beginning of your story. You'll leave the workshop busting to get home and finish it!

**NATIONAL CHILDREN'S WRITING CHALLENGE**  
**READINGS FROM 2022 WRITING CHALLENGE WRITERS**  
To inspire those who will enter the 2023 Writing Challenge.  
12noon to 12.30pm.

**11AM - 2PM**  
**SUNDAY 12TH MARCH 2023**