



Edition 5 – April 4TH 2023

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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

With several major projects on the go around the school I'd like to provide an update on where each of them are at:

Amphitheatre – We have been waiting several months for shade sails to be constructed over the area. Thankfully this happened last week and we can now move on to the final stages of landscaping. We anticipate the area will be finalised by May.

School Library – now located in the Shared Space, the school library is partly operational. We have received a large order of books and have some dedicated volunteers barcoding and contacting many of the texts. If you would like to help with contacting, please let us know. The new shelves and other furniture for this library is due to arrive in early Term 2 so the library should be fully functional by May.

Before-and-After-School care – as many of you would know, our school care provider ended their contract with the school in early March. This was quite a shock for the school as we thought we had a guaranteed service for 3 years. In response, the school will now acquire a minibus to ferry our students to and from the Leongatha PS service. We have many details to sort still but are hopeful the service will return by Term 2.

Basketball Court cover – after several quotes in excess of \$300k we have been advised to await an education department grant to fund the majority of the project. The \$23k we have raised towards this project will be included in our grant submission as the department looks fondly on grant submissions that include a co-payment.

Water Feature – Gonzalo completed the Bunyip just a few weeks back and now the area is fully functional apart from the fact the reservoir is dry! With some rain forecast in coming weeks, hopefully the Bunyip will have water flowing from his mouth soon 😊

Cricket Pitch – The school has been looking at replacing the cricket pitch surface for some time and have recently applied for a grant to complete the project. Fingers crossed.

If you would like to support any of the above projects or have ideas for future projects, please let me know.

Gene VanderZalm, Principal

CALENDAR

Current 4/4 – 2/5

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

4th Apr - 3/4 Camp instalment & forms due

5th Apr - District Athletics

6th Apr - Easter Hat Parade

6th Apr - Last day Term 1, 2.30pm dismissal

24th Apr - Term 2, Pupil Free Day

25th Apr - ANZAC Day (pupil free)

Upcoming

3rd - 5th May - 3/4 Wilson's Prom Camp

16th May - MPS Cross Country

23rd May - School Council, 7pm

24th – 26th May - 5/6 Melbourne camp

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



Crazy Hair / Free Dress day

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

My daughters are making family trees for school.

I love family trees, I remember my mum drawing the most beautiful, neat little family tree when I was a young girl, the names carefully written on each of the strong branches which represented my family. It hung in the lounge room on the farm until mum moved to her own farm and she took the family tree to the house we lived week on week off with her in.

It did not hang in either of our houses after that and was put safely into storage, a changed story that we were not sure where to hang anymore.

I have since tried many times to draw a beautiful tree of my family but there are so many branches now, my parents both re-partnered and with that I ended up with 4 more siblings, my aunts and uncles separated and re-partnered, and so did I! The branches go EVERYWHERE and there are so many names and last names that make up the family tree of my children.

Annie-Jean and I have decided we are going to get to the bottom of this and draw a tree to represent our massive family in the best way possible.

We could have looked online and used a family tree generator to assist but instead we spent Sunday afternoon with my aunty and uncle in their house in Nererna. We ate fruitcake, drank coffee and soda-stream in the house that I used to visit as a child, they showed us photos and told us stories of our family migrating from Friesland and of life in that faraway land. We both left buzzing and filled with the stories of our family and feeling connected to a land both of us are yet to visit.

The family tree is still a work in progress but the conversations and stories we are learning while connecting with our old people is good for the soul.

Donna Giliam, Primary Welfare Officer

SCHOOL COUNCIL REPORT

Everything has its seasons, and School Council is no different, with the Annual General Meeting coming around every March. This year, the Meeniyān Primary School Council AGM saw a baton-change between a few members, farewelling Rhys Livingstone and Melissa Horkings from Council, and welcoming Jack Piper and Andrew Watt as new parent representatives.

Rhys and Melissa have made valuable contributions in their time on School Council and the rest of the councillors would like to thank them for their contribution. Melissa is obviously still around the school, as a parent and in her new role as science teacher at MPS, and Rhys will no doubt continue to be heavily involved in Parent Connect and volunteering for any and every school activity which arises.

Kate Thomas continues in her role as School Council President, and Katrina Benson as Vice President, with the remainder of the Council made up of Sarah Mitchem, Katrina Markley, Tamara Symington, Rebecca Browne, Peter Harris and me (Brad Kijlstra-Shone) as Treasurer. Without parents, teachers (and sometimes even other community members) putting their hands up, there wouldn't be a School Council; so, thanks to all those who offer their time.

One final thing: as many of you are aware, the Parent Connect group has been fundraising for a cover for the basketball court at school. The school has recently received a couple of quotes for the work, and it is fair to say that they have come in *considerably* higher than anticipated. The upshot is that we are unlikely to be able to raise enough funds as a school community to be able to fund the cover on our own, so will instead look to Department of Education grants to fund the basketball court cover when they next roll around.

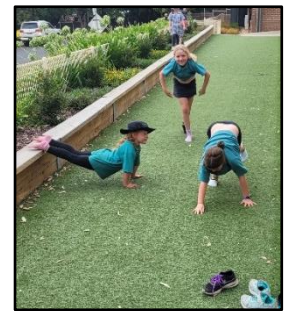
However, it is important to know that the funds raised so far will be used to co-fund the basketball court cover, which will certainly help with obtaining the grant. And it gives us the opportunity to look at other projects and targets for this year's fundraising. Stay tuned for more on that!

As previously, if you ever have questions about anything to do with School Council, want to share your thoughts, or are curious about being involved, feel free to contact any current councillor mentioned above – we'd all be happy to chat.

Brad Kijlstra-Shone, Meeniyān Primary School Council



Here's a look at what's been happening around the playground during lunch time.....



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.

LSC Year 7 Information and Open Morning:

Monday 8th May – 9am start beginning in the Performing Arts Centre (PAC). Students will assist with directions (as you arrive). All Grade 4, 5 & 6 students and families welcome.

Meeniyau Auskick:

Register now for AusKick 2022! Ages 5-12 yrs. Season begins Monday 1st May and runs for 10 weeks. Sessions run from 4 - 5pm, with Walking School Bus available to lead kids to Meeniyau Rec Reserve after school.

Register via link: <https://www.playhq.com/afl/register/b5be19> and be sure to join the Meeniyau AusKick Facebook page to stay up to date. For further information contact Steve Trotman on 0438 762 068 or to add your child to the Walking School Bus contact Emma Trotman on 0448 438 610

Meeniyau Good Friday Service:

Meeniyau Christian Fellowship are holding a Good Friday Service in Tanderra Park on Good Friday (7th April) at 10am. The service will be followed by Hot Cross Buns and an Easter Egg hunt for the children.

FREE Online Cybercrime Session for Parents:

Marnie Lyons from VicPol and Alisha Gilliland is running an online session for parents to discuss cybercrime and being safe online. This event is free for parents and will be held on Tuesday 2nd May from 7.30pm – 8.30pm.

Topics covered include; the cybercrime squad and what they do, Cybercrime current trends, Social media and online spaces that young people access, Common misconceptions around online cyber safety, How to support young people to stay safe online, How you/young people can report online cyber issues and top tips for adults/parents/carers.

To register <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/gippsland-centre-against-sexual-assault-prevention-education-calendar-tickets-518243017817>

Access via link provided to registered participants 2 days ahead of the session

Good Friday Appeal – Kids Day Out:

On Friday 7th April (Good Friday) the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre will be transformed into a children's wonderland of carnival rides, giant inflatables, craft activities, music, dancing, sports, food and much more.

The event runs from 10am – 5pm and entry is free. The donations and proceeds from its paid activities helping The Royal Children's Hospital give sick kids the best possible care.

Leongatha NetSetGo:

The 2023 program starts on Saturday 29th April. The 45-minute program includes warm up, skill development and modified netball games.

Where: LDNA courts (behind the velodrome)

Who: girls and boys aged 5-10 years can participate

Registration: <https://registration-netball.squadi.com/userRegistration?organisationId=bc03d189-ba52-46ee-9b7a-2515377327d1&competitionId=2d395ea1-ac03-498c-915b-3e321a30ea12>

All participants receive a NetSetGo pack! For further information please contact:

leongathaanddistrictnetball@gmail.com

PROFILE OF THE WEEK



Julie Newton
Student Support

What were you doing before coming to MPS?

ES at Mirboo North Secondary College

What are you looking forward to this year at MPS?

Enjoying the students at MPS

Where did you grow up?

Warragul

One word to describe you would be...

Introverted

What is something you have always wanted to try?

Surfing

What was your favourite bedtime story as a child?

Made up fantasy stories

What is your favourite past time?

Yoga

What is your favourite holiday destination?

Coastal or bush non-touristy destinations

