



# School News



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## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Special thanks to Mr Harris for holding the fort during my long-service leave absence over the first four weeks of term. My family and I had a tremendous break holidaying and volunteering in Cambodia. A great opportunity to clear the mind and gear up for the second half of the year.

### Staff training

All the classroom teaching staff have been undertaking a range of specialized training in recent months. Particularly in the area of Maths. With such a young and energetic staff, we are fortunate to have a crew who are so dedicated to improvement. We look forward to their extra learning reaping benefits for our students in the years to come.

### Toilet Update

The long saga of replacing our student toilets seems to be finally coming to an end. Due to the disruption this switch will cause, they are likely to be installed over the summer holidays ready for the 2024 school year.

### Farewell Mrs Opray and Welcome Mrs Mitchell

Special thanks to everyone who popped their head in to wish Allyson all the best in retirement. 38 years working for our school was a tremendous effort and we wish her all the best. Mrs Kylie Mitchell is our new Business Manager and is fitting in beautifully. Kylie will be dropping into classrooms and assemblies in the coming weeks to get to know everyone. When you get the opportunity, please say g'day and introduce yourself 😊

### Amphitheatre

The school's new amphitheatre is almost complete, please pop along to a Friday Assembly (weather permitting) so we can showcase this new area and get you to try out our new seats for parents and carers.

### Attendance

One of the first things I did upon returning from leave, was check our student attendance figures. Pleasingly, we have had some outstanding improvements in recent months. This is a credit to the dedicated efforts of both parents/carers and teachers. We still have some students who desperately need to improve their attendance and we will continue to work on strategies to turn this around.

*Gene VanderZalm, Principal*

## BOOK WEEK DRESS UP DAY

This Friday is Book Week dress up day. Students are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. There will be a parade of each class on the basketball court first thing in the morning, parents are welcome to stay and watch.

## BOOK CLUB

Issue 6 Book Club catalogues have been distributed today. All orders are to be placed via the LOOP app or online at the Scholastic website by CoB Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August. Do **not** send orders/money into school.

## CALENDAR

### Current 22/8 - 5/9

**22<sup>nd</sup> Aug** - MPS Concert tickets on sale

**25<sup>th</sup> Aug** - Book week dress up day

**31<sup>st</sup> Aug** - Book club orders close

### Upcoming

**13<sup>th</sup> Sep** - School Concert,  
Matinee 1.30pm  
Evening 7.00pm

**14<sup>th</sup> Sep** - Division Athletics (selected students)

**15<sup>th</sup> Sep** - Last day term 3,  
**2.30pm dismissal**

### Term 4

**2<sup>nd</sup> Oct** - Term 2 commences

**9<sup>th</sup> Oct** - P-2 swimming program commences

**16<sup>th</sup> Oct** - 3-6 swimming program commences

**17<sup>th</sup> Oct** - School Council, 6pm

**19<sup>th</sup> Oct** - PST Open Night (TBC)

**20<sup>th</sup> Oct** - Trivia Night

**31<sup>st</sup> Oct** - Year 6 uniform orders due, 9am

**3<sup>rd</sup> Nov** - Stuart's Cup house sports

**6<sup>th</sup> Nov** - Student Free Day

**7<sup>th</sup> Nov** - Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday

**14<sup>th</sup> Nov** - School Council, 6pm

**27<sup>th</sup> Nov** - Curriculum Day (pupil free)

### NEWSLETTER ITEMS

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

## **SCHOOL PERFORMANCE**

Information on our 2023 school concert was sent out with our last newsletter. Tickets are now available to purchase using the order form at the end of the newsletter. We would like to give every family the opportunity to attend the performance, therefore, there will be a limit of 4 tickets per family for the evening performance. If there are tickets available the week of the concert, a Compass note will go out to families opening ticket sales up to those who have already purchased their 4 tickets but wish to purchase more.

Students will need to wear 'country clothing' for the performances. It could be farmer, stockman, cowboy/girl, Aussie animal inspired or bush ranger to name a few ideas.

## **PARENT CONNECT GROUP MEETING**

The Parent Connect Group will meet at school next Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> August @ 2.15pm. Items to be discussed include, the Trivia Night, Garlic Festival and the Colour Run. The group would love to welcome new families who wish to come along and get involved in helping with ideas and organisation for these events in any capacity they can. If you would like to help your school, make new connections and have a great time doing so, please come along next Tuesday.

## **BELEZA UNIFORM SHOP**

The Pakenham store will be operating 'Winter trading hours' from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August through to the beginning of Term 4. Trading hours will be Mon – Fri 9.30-4.30 and Saturday 10.00-1.00.

## **RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS**

Last year my daughter Lola got an ADHD diagnosis, she was 19 years old and with the diagnosis came clarity and relief. My Lola was the sort of child who was in the trees or fixated on a project (until she wasn't) or would get lost in time and never know where her shoes were. As her mum, I am possibly wired up in the same way, so we rolled along with her projects and mine, her lost shoes and my missing wallet and we climbed the trees together.

One of the characteristics of ADHD is impulsivity, doing things without fully thinking things through. With Lola we never know what is coming next and one day this 'impulsivity' came in the form of a large 4-year-old dalmatian named Cruise whom she rescued from a chain where he worked on a puppy farm. I was so cross with her, she was living in a share house in Brunswick and only had just enough money to survive, it was in the middle of the 2021 lockdowns, and she did not really have a secure job – how on Earth was she going to look after a large bouncy dalmatian?

But she did and when she couldn't, I did. He slept on the girl's beds, he ran the trail with me each morning, he followed me everywhere around the house and made me feel loved – until his 'rescuer' Lola visited, then he would forget me and not leave her side. He was big, loving and filled up so much of our lives.

A few weeks ago, Cruise was diagnosed with cancer and on Sunday night we had to say goodbye to our big boy forever. Cruise taught me a lot, he taught me that my daughter's choices may seem outlandish, but I need to trust her judgement, he reminded me that love is easy and that everyone has a champion, and his was a short 19-year-old without a secure job. He taught her to smile in the lockdowns and that her decision making was better than she thought!

*Donna Giliam, Primary Welfare Officer*

## **2023 VicSpell Competition**

Congratulations to our four Year 5/6 students who attended the VicSpell zone final at Cowes last week. They did an amazing job competing against students from a large number of schools across South Gippsland. Sol and Winnie finished 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in the Year 5 section and James and Taylor finished 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the year 6 section.



# Prep 100 days

I had lollies and my mum came to the one hundred day party. *Zahra*

I had cupcakes with Darcy. *Jett*

We had lollies at our one hundred day party and cupcakes. *Claire*

I did one hundred laps of the fitness track. *Darcy*



\*Special thanks to our parent and grandparent helpers for classroom help and to our buddies who helped us run 100 laps!

## 2023 SCHOOL CONCERT TICKETS WEDNESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> September - MEENIYAN TOWN HALL



### ***AN AUSSIE BUSH CONCERT***



#### **MATINEE PERFORMANCE – 1.30PM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Ticket/s @ \$5 per seat \_\_\_\_\_

Please find enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_ cash or

Direct Deposit Rec No. \_\_\_\_\_

#### **EVENING PERFORMANCE – 7.00PM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Ticket/s @ \$10 per seat\* \_\_\_\_\_

\*limit of 4 tickets per family

Please find enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_ cash or

Direct Deposit Rec No. \_\_\_\_\_

# COMMUNITY NEWS

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

## **Ausbike Tour of Gippsland Learn to Ride Program:**

AusCycling will be running a free AusBike Skills session for kids 5-12 years old on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August from 11am – 2pm at the Phillip Island GP Circuit (following the final stage of the Tour of Gippsland NRS).

AusBike's fun activities are designed to empower kids with the competence and confidence needed to enjoy life on a bike. The Taster Skills Session will give families an initial trial session of the program and information on where they can take part in the full AusBike program near them. To register for the AusBike session – scan the QR code and click on the AusBike link on the Entries page.



## 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.