



School News



Edition 14 – September 5TH 2023

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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Facebook is coming....

The school has experienced a period of change this term and we thank our school community for the patience and kindness they have demonstrated. It is our continuing goal to improve communication channels and make it easier for parents and carers to keep in touch and up to date with what is happening in their child's learning.

From early next term, the school will open a Facebook page to help share information, news and photos from the school's day to day operations. The benefit of using Facebook is that families receive updates on the same day. Like many other schools, by 2024, we will transition our school newsletter to once per month. Producing the newsletter is very labour intensive and we feel we can communicate most effectively using the combination of Compass, Facebook and the monthly newsletter. We will continue to use Compass for important notices/forms and the school newsletter for a rounded operational update.

Special thanks to the many parents and carers who continue to come in and introduce themselves to Kylie, who embraces getting to know everyone. It is already obvious that we are so very lucky to have recruited Kylie as she is full of great ideas and more than happy to support everyone 😊

Change in 56BD

Sadly, we bid farewell to Ms Bush who has been working 2 days per week in 56BD but we wish her all the best in her new venture. Replacing her will be Andrew Murray who many from the community will already know, as his partner Jess runs the dance studio down at the Rec.

Gene VanderZalm, Principal

PARENT HELPERS FOR CONCERT SET UP

We are looking for parents/carers who can help set up the hall next Wednesday morning before the concert. This would involve putting out chairs and putting posters up around the hall. If you are able to help, come along and meet Tanya Jackson at the Meeniyan Hall at 9am.

SWIMMING PROGRAM

Details about our Term 4 swimming program have gone home today. Payment and consent are required via Compass in order for your child/ren to attend which went live this morning. There is no cost to students in years 5 & 6 and if your child has CSEF or family credit, this has been allocated already. In these instances, only consent is required on Compass. A form indicating your child's competency level has also gone home. This along with payment/consent will need to be completed by **Tuesday 3rd October** (but the earlier the better) as numbers will be sent to SPLASH at 9am on Wednesday 4th October.

LSC 2024 YEAR 7 ENROLMENTS

Parents of Year 6 students attending Leongatha Secondary College next year would have received an email last week with enrolment details. This email included your username details and a link to completing the online enrolment form. If you have not received an email, contact LSC on 5662 4333.

CALENDAR

Current 5/9 – 3/10

- 8th Sep -- PJ Day – gold coin donation
- 13th Sep - School Concert,
Matinee 1.30pm
Evening 7.00pm – students
to arrive at hall 6.30pm
- 14th Sep - Division Athletics (selected
students)
- 15th Sep - Last day term 3,
2.30pm dismissal
- 2nd Oct - Term 2 commences

Upcoming

- 4th Oct - Swimming payment consent
due via Compass
Competency level due to
office
- 9th-12th Oct P-2 swimming program
- 16th-19th Oct 3-6 swimming program
- 17th Oct - School Council, 6pm
- 19th Oct - PST Open Night (TBC)
- 20th Oct - Trivia Night
- 31st Oct - Year 6 uniform orders due,
9am
- 3rd Nov - Stuart's Cup house sports
- 6th Nov - Student Free Day
- 7th Nov - Melbourne Cup Day Public
Holiday
- 14th Nov - School Council, 6pm
- 27th Nov - Curriculum Day (pupil free)
- 5th Dec - School Council, EoY
- 7th Dec - Yr 6 Graduation
- 12th Dec - Statewide Transition Day

CLASS OF 2024 UNIFORM

It is that time of year when our Year 5 students need to decide on their quote for their "Class of 2024" uniform and get ready to place their uniform orders. The information/order form for the Grade 6 uniform will be sent home on Tuesday 3rd October with the newsletter. At that time, sample sizes will be on display in the office foyer for students to try on. It is important to think about sizing & quantity required for the whole of 2024 as this will be the one and only order with the company. There can be no exchanges or further orders placed next year.

BUSH DANCE CONCERT

This year is a less formal and more audience interactive concert. Students will still be singing in classes and as a whole school as well as providing some historical country insights and humour and of course we will be dancing!

We are very excited to have 'Begg to Differ' playing live music for the evening performance. Phil Begg will be calling the dances so you do not need prior knowledge to join in. Dances will include The Heel and Toe Polka, The Stockyard, Strip the Willow and The Drongo.

The matinee concert will not have a live band. Students will sing to backing tracks and the audience will be seated to watch the performance.

We understand that the younger students may be very tired after a day and night of performing and may arrive at school a little late the following day. If you are concerned about a later, mid-week night for your Prep or Grade 1 child/ren, you can take them home early from the evening performance if you wish. Preps will perform their song very early in the concert so if you don't intend on staying for the concert, feel free to collect your child straight after their class song.

If you are taking your child home after the matinee performance, please ensure you let their teacher know before you leave the hall.

Students are encouraged to wear 'country clothing'. That could be farmer, or stockman, or cowboy/cowgirl, famous bush poet, Aussie Animal inspired, Bushranger, to name a few ideas. No sports jersey's or movie/super heroes costumes etc.

Doors will open to the audience at 1.10pm for the matinee performance and 6.50pm for the evening performance. **IMPORTANT** - Please have students at the hall for 6.30pm as they will do a brief rehearsal with the band prior to doors opening.

With one week to go, this is the last chance to buy your tickets. An order form is attached to the newsletter.

BOOK WEEK DRESS UP DAY



Grade 1/2RR



Grade 3/4S



Future Architects and Engineers at work!

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

On Monday mornings the students stand in grade order on the basketball court, the preps closest to the heritage building and the grade 5/6 kids closest to the oval. This morning I scanned the crowd like I do every Monday morning, getting some eye contact and Monday morning smiles.

The kids were singing the Anthem, a flock of birds squawked above, the sun was shining and all of a sudden, I felt my eyes well up. As I scanned the students, I realised how quickly they move from the prep line up to the grade 5/6 line.

I looked at the grade 6 kids and I remembered them in prep, with oversized uniforms, missing teeth and all the excitement and enthusiasm which comes with starting school and now here they are with only 14 more weeks of primary school and then out in the bigger wider world.

So, grade 6s before you fledge, I ask you please pause and take in all of the last bits. Cherish your moments as leaders, your moments with the younger kids, take the time to walk around the school which has nurtured you for the last 7 years and notice the little things. Remember the times things went well for you and when they didn't and remember what you did to work things out.

Cherish these last weeks with your teachers, who really care about you and are sad to see you go but are also excited for you and all the adventures you have to come!

Take it in, now is a time that will not come again.

Donna Giliam, Primary Welfare Officer

SCHOOL COUNCIL REPORT

School Council gathered together again on the 22nd of August. This month our agenda covered an array of topics from the new Tic Tok restrictions to the updated sun protection policy. The updated sun protection policy is available on the school website for those who would like to see it. In regards to the Tic Tock restrictions, Gene will give more details to that in due course.

It was great to hear that there is finally some progress with the toilets. The long-awaited new facilities are to be installed during the summer holidays. It will be such a welcome and long overdue new addition to the school.

The parent connect group have been approached by the Garlic Festival Committee in regards to our possible involvement in the event. By helping out at this event, our school would be financially rewarded. Members of the committee agreed this is a great opportunity and are seeking parents/grandparents/family members of the school to express their interest. It would only require an hour or two of your time. If you are willing or able to help please contact the school or the parent connect group.

As always we were presented with an insightful and informative visual curriculum report. This tends to always be a highlight as we love to see what is being taught and discussed amongst the years. From our preps who have been visiting local businesses to get a better sense of community to the grade 1/2 who are learning about friendships/gratitude. The 3/4 have been exploring the concepts of gender stereotypes and finally the 5/6s who have been busy creating businesses some of which include face painting and cupcakes. As you can see, our kids are being taught such an board range of topics and lessons that will help them throughout life.

The science report always makes us wish that science was that fun when we were young. Always so creative with her lesson plans, this month's highlight was grades 1/2 using Oreos to create eight lunar phases of the Southern Hemisphere.

Finally we can't forget P.E. Bec reported that gymnastics has been a winner across all age groups. The Prep-2 have been busy developing their confidence in their basic skills, while 3-6 are focusing on gymnastic movements. Next is Volleyball where Prep-2 will concentrate on catching and throwing, and 3-6 will be focusing on teamwork.

The final discussion of the night was Naplan. Overall, the school results were on par with the network/similar schools in the area. While there is room for improvement in some areas, we found slight improvements in others.

As always if you have any questions regarding School Council please contact the school or one of the council members and hopefully we can help.

Katrina Neeson

DIVISION ATHLETICS

Good luck to Hannah, Harriet, Liam and Joseph who will be representing MPS when they compete in the Division Athletics at Casey Fields in Cranbourne next Thursday.



Sol and Olive played (with Fin) at the Meeniyan Tavern Night on Saturday 2nd September. They played a traditional piece called "Ragtime Fiddles" - Olive and Sol on cello and Fin on violin. After months of rehearsals they played so well, and received thunderous applause!

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Anyone for Tennis?

The Fish Creek Tennis Club are looking for players for the upcoming 2023/24 season. They enter 3 teams of juniors into the Mirboo North and District Junior Tennis Association (MNDJTA) summer competition. The season kicks off the first Saturday of Term 4 and then takes a break for the summer holidays, resuming again at the beginning of Term 1 2024. Games are played Saturday mornings and generally conclude by 10.30am. Locations include Fish Creek, Leongatha, Mardan and Mirboo North. If you are interested in playing or knowing more, contact Rachel Sands on 0428 873 192

Fishy Stories Writing Challenge:

There are only 2 weeks left for interested students to get their story into the Fishy Stories Writing Challenge. Go to <https://www.fishystories.org/writing-challenge> to enter your story or to find more information.



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.

2023 SCHOOL CONCERT TICKETS
WEDNESDAY 13th September - MEENIYAN TOWN HALL



***AN AUSSIE BUSH
CONCERT***



| MATINEE PERFORMANCE – 1.30PM | EVENING PERFORMANCE – 7.00PM |
|---|---|
| Name: _____ | Name: _____ |
| _____ Ticket/s @ \$5 per seat _____ | _____ Ticket/s @ \$10 per seat* _____ |
| | *limit of 4 tickets per family |
| Please find enclosed \$_____ cash <u>or</u> | Please find enclosed \$_____ cash <u>or</u> |
| Direct Deposit Rec No. _____ | Direct Deposit Rec No. _____ |



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Principal: Gene VanderZalm

2023 SWIMMING PROGRAM @ SPLASH

Year P-2 students:

| Monday 9 th October | Tuesday 10 th October | Wednesday 11 th October | Thursday 12 th October | Friday 13 th October |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | X |

Year 3-6 students:

| Monday 16 th October | Tuesday 17 th October | Wednesday 18 th October | Thursday 19 th October | Friday 20 th October |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | X |

NO LUNCH ORDERS ON SWIMMING DAYS

COST

Years Prep - 4 – the cost is \$33 per student for the 2023 swimming program.

Year 5/6 – NO cost. Students in Years 5 & 6 will be funded by the Department of Education.

Consent and payment is due by COB Tuesday 3rd October, as final numbers are submitted to SPLASH on Wednesday 4th October @ 9am.

Please complete consent and payment via the Compass event '2023 Swimming Program'.

South Gippsland 'SPLASH' employs Austswim trained staff to conduct the lessons and is responsible for their wages regardless of student absences. For this reason, they operate with a refund policy *where a student must miss two or more lessons and provide a medical certificate in order to claim a refund.*

Swimming lessons will be held each afternoon in the main pool at SPLASH.

- 12.30pm - 1.00pm (group 1)
- 1.00pm - 1.30pm (group 2)
- 1.30pm - 2.00pm (group 3)

Students not in the pool will be supervised in the adjacent stadium for a sports session.

Students will depart from school at 11.45am and return by 3.15pm. Students will be given time at school to eat an early lunch and change into bathers under their clothes before leaving for Leongatha. This should save time and ensure lessons get off to a prompt start. After their lesson, students will change out of their bathers before returning to school.

Please complete and return the attached Competency Level Tuesday 3rd October.

COMPETENCY LEVEL

| Student Name | Entry Octopus | Entry Sardine | Entry Salmon | Entry Tuna | Entry Dolphin | Entry Shark | Beyond |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|------------|---------------|-------------|--------|
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |

Competency Levels

✓ Select the competency level based on achievement of the previous levels.

For example: Tommy can do all the skills in Octopus and Sardine levels so he is Entry into Salmon level

Entry in Octopus Level

- Minimal experience in Aquatic Environments
- May be able to submerge and blow bubbles
- Is confident participating in group activities

Entry into Sardine Level

- Is confident moving through the water unassisted (no floatation aids) with feet clear of the bottom.
- Independent back and front float
- Able to submerge and blow bubbles
- Torpedo for 3m
- Kick with an aid front and back for 5m

Entry into Salmon Level

- Is able to swim freestyle and backstroke for 5m
- Is confident on their back with feet clear of bottom
- Is confident and comfortable in an Aquatic environment.
- Has some knowledge & understanding of pool safety rules
- Body is in a streamline position
- Able to torpedo for 5m
- Kick with an aid front and back for 10m

Entry into Tuna Level

- Is comfortable & confident in performing continuous sequenced activities that include floating, maintaining an upright body position in deep water, swimming in deep water & confidently, returning to the edge and exit safely.
- Understands & displays a degree of caution and patience in the aquatic environment.
- Is confident and comfortable recovering an object from chest depth water
- Is able to competently undertake freestyle and backstroke for 12m
- Is able to demonstrate a survival backstroke kick and a breaststroke kick with aid for 5m

Entry into Dolphin Level

- Is comfortable & confident in performing continuous sequenced activities over an extended period that include increased endurance in both distance and time, a high level of confidence & comfort in deep water, fitting a personal floatation device (life jacket) while maintaining an upright body position in deep water for an extended period of time
- Displays a high level of motivation to improve personal aquatic skills
- Undertake competently, freestyle, backstroke, survival backstroke and breaststroke.

Entry into Shark Level

- Has experienced simulated open water environments in a pool environment
 - (seaweed, currents, escape from a simulated danger)
- Fully clothed, including socks and shoes the student is very comfortable & confident in performing continuous sequenced activities over an extended period that include increased distance and time, floating, sculling, treading water, open water simulations, HELP technique and survival strokes.
- Readily provides detailed information and explanation of personal water safety and survival in a variety of aquatic environments.
- Is very confident and comfortable in performing two types of non contact rescues & can readily explain the personal safety considerations for both.
- Is very active in contributing to class activities-
- Displays a high level of skill in problem solving in a group setting
- Readily displays taking responsibility for own actions and behaviour
- Undertake competently, freestyle, backstroke, survival backstroke, breaststroke and sidestroke