



School News



Edition 17 – October 31ST 2023

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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Change is always filled with mixed emotions. Undertaking the different timetable trial over the past two weeks has opened our eyes to different possibilities and at the same time, presented us with a range of different challenges. We now need to switch back to our original timetable to get a bearing on what aspects of both systems worked best for us all. The trial has shown us the following:

Positives:

- The general consensus amongst the teachers has been that the students are more settled with less lost time due to transitions. They also felt that students were more engaged in their learning.
- Specialist teachers have loved the fact they get mini breaks in between classes and feel better prepared for each lesson.
- Playground issues have reduced due to the more regular shortened recess breaks...basically less time for things to go awry.

Negatives:

- The shortened 15 minute recesses make it very difficult to catch up with a student or colleague, have a snack, go to the bathroom and have a rest. Over the two weeks, teachers have employed a range of little time savers which has helped.
- Similar to the last point, certain yard duties mean staff have either no break or a whole school day with no rest of more than 15-20 minutes. This is fairly tiring when you have 20 odd students under your guidance for the rest of the day.

We will conduct a proper review of the trial timetable with staff and students in the weeks ahead before making any permanent changes to our timetable going forward.

Toilets

Finally, the new student toilets will be installed over the summer holidays. This process will begin on Monday December 18th when they remove our current student toilet block. We need to get this head start for the new toilets to be completed for the start of the 2024 school year. As I wrote a few weeks back, normal classes, class parties and student reports will all wrap-up by Friday December 15th. We understand there may be some students still attending school on December 18th and 19th, but hopefully not too many as these students will need to use the staff toilets for these two days.

Gene VanderZalm, Principal

JUNIOR ACTION TEAM (JAT) NEWS

For the next month, Meeniyian Primary School students will be putting together Acts for the JAT to judge. It will be sectioned into Grade levels and the overall winner gets a mention in the newsletter bragging rights!

Junior Action Team

CALENDAR

Current 31/10 – 14/11

- 31st Oct - Year 6 uniform orders due, 9am
- 31st Oct - P-2 Bug Blitz session @ Meeniyian Community Garden
- 3rd Nov - Stuart's Cup house sports
- 6th Nov - Student Free Day
- 7th Nov - Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday
- 14th Nov - School Council, 6pm

Upcoming

- 27th Nov - Curriculum Day (pupil free)
- 5th Dec - School Council, EoY
- 7th Dec - Yr 6 Graduation
- 12th Dec - Statewide Transition Day
- 13th Dec - Final assembly with school awards
- 14th Dec - Yr 6 Pool Party
- 15th Dec - Class parties
- 15th Dec - Colour Run
- 19th Dec - Last day for students
- 20th Dec - Last day Term 4, Pupil free

2024 CURRICULUM CONSUMABLES

Attached to today's newsletter is the information regarding the supply of Curriculum Consumables (books & requisites) and the Grounds Levy for 2024. It can also be viewed on the school's website and will be saved under the star icon in Compass for future reference. The Curriculum Consumables contribution has been set by School Council at \$160 per child and the grounds levy at \$20 per family. Families are invited to pay these via Compass or by direct deposit. Cash or EFTPOS payments can be made at the school office. Compass Payments offers a service to pay in a lump sum, or via instalments if that suits best. Please find attached a quick reference guide on how to access this feature in your Compass portal. Please contact Kylie if you need assistance with payments.

As per last year:

- Stationery items will be delivered directly to classrooms
- Teachers will check and distribute supplies in the classroom
- Any items that need naming will be sent home on the first day
- Annual information updates and consents will be sent home early next year

TRIVIA NIGHT

A very, very big thank you to Tamara and our Parent Connect Group for their organisation of our recent Trivia night. Thank you also to the parent/carers and wider community who came along and made the night such a huge success, raising \$2,900 and many people are already looking forward to next year's event! Of course, there are many people to thank; Brad and Jenneke for their incredible hosting of the evening, Fiona Curran for the entertainment and those who donated goods and services to our silent auction:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Trulli's | • Mika and Max | • AW Smith & Sons |
| • Linxcrete | • Pandesal | • Meeniyen Pharmacy |
| • Nice Stack of Books | • Catherine's Hair Techniques | • Mika and Max |
| • Rebecca Browne (LTLA) | • Meeniyen Store | • Meeniyen IGA Local Grocer |
| • Turning Point Yoga | • AG Warehouse | • Meeniyen Hotel |
| • Lacy Jewellery | | • Willow Crossing Pet Salon |

Look out for photos of the evening later in the newsletter.

COLOUR FUN RUN

In preparation for this year's Colour Run, we are taking orders for white t-shirts & sunglasses. If you still have these items from last year you are welcome to use them and there is no need to repurchase unless you would like to do so. For those who have not participated in the Colour run previously, students are asked to wear a white t-shirt on the day. This can be one you have at home or for \$5 you can purchase a plain white shirt using the order form further down in the newsletter. Rainbow sunglasses are also available to purchase for \$5, or again, feel free to bring some from home just to avoid anything getting in your eyes while running the course.

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

I can't think about my daughter's 17th birthday without getting really emotional. It was her hardest ever year of school, she was in year 11 and was undiagnosed with ADHD. In year 11 the assessments get really tough, and it became more difficult for her to slip under radars or charm people with her good humour. This was also the year her solid friendship group changed over night and she found herself incredibly lonely.

My gorgeous girl started to spend less time with us and more time in her bedroom and I missed all the fun and sparkle she would bring to our lounge room, kitchen and sunny backyard!

On her 17th birthday – she did not want to risk inviting anyone over, in case they did not come.

The thing is, there is always someone.

Lola had 3 friends who had always been there, maybe in the background but always there. So, I called them and asked them to our family dinner on her 17th birthday and they all showed up. They dragged her out of the cocoon she had created in her room and laid in the sun giggling on the trampoline while I cooked dinner and wiped some tears of relief of my cheeks.

My daughter is home from Hobart this week so last night we had an early 21st birthday dinner for her and at the last minute she invited the same 3 girls (now women) to our family dinner and they fell into their lifelong conversation, with lots of laughter and love.

There is ALWAYS someone.

Donna Giliam, Primary Welfare Officer



As part of the Grade 3/4 creative writing program, students wrote, illustrated and published junior picture story books.

The completed books are currently on view in the Nice Stack of Books store in Meenyan for the next two weeks....

Call in when you are passing by and see the outstanding work our grade 3/4 students

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club Starfish Nippers 2023/2024 Program:

The Starfish Nippers program is designed to provide a safe and inclusive beach experience for children of all abilities. The program offers young children with a disability an opportunity to develop essential water safety skills, gain confidence in the ocean environment and learn basic surf life-saving techniques. It promotes physical activity, teamwork and a sense of community withing the surf life-saving culture.

To ensure the program suits each participant, we work on adapting the program to each individual's needs and requirements.

Sessions will run from 9am – 12pm on Dec 27, 28, 29, 30 and Jan 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 at the Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club. Email: starfish@isllsc.org.au for further information.

Colour Run T-shirt & Sunglasses Order Form

(orders to be returned by Tuesday 31st October)

Items \$5 each

Student/s Name:

T-shirt size

Sunglasses

Total enclosed \$ _____

(cash preferred)



CHILD SAFETY STANDARDS WHAT WE EXPECT AT MEENIYAH 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.



The Colour Splatacular Fun Run Is Back!

Dear parents and carers,

On Friday 15th December Meeniyen Primary School will be hosting the most colourful day of the year.

The Colour Splatacular Fun Run is an **opt out** event. This is a whole school event where parents and carers are encouraged to come along to enjoy the fun and volunteers are most welcome.

An obstacle course will be constructed on the school oval and students will need to negotiate their way through the course via colour powder shooting stations and sliming galore from our colourful volunteers. For waiting participants, a round robin of activities will be held nearby.

All measures have been taken to ensure this event is safe for all students. However, if your child has a skin or respiratory issues parent/carers should consider their participation carefully. The colour powder is made up of 98 per cent corn starch and 2 per cent food colouring; making it non-toxic, biodegradable and gluten free. The water-based slime is very safe and non-irritating for skin and eyes. Staff will do their best to aim the colour powder and slime toward the torso. However, ducking into incoming powder and slime, or wind, may cause it to land onto your child's face or hair. **Sunglasses are encouraged and are available for \$5.00.** Ingredient listings and toxicology risk assessments are available from the office at school.

On the day of the Fun Run students are asked to wear a plain white T Shirt along with any other clothes suitable for getting really messy in on the day. **T Shirts are also available for purchase for \$5.00 each. See the attached order form for sunglasses and T Shirt's.**

More information will follow as we close in on December.

For further information please feel free to contact Tamara Symington on 0497647320 or ridingtwisties@gmail.com, or you can contact the school office.

The count down is on!!!



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w: tarwinvalley.ps.vic.edu.au



Principal: Gene VanderZalm

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Meeniy Primary School is looking forward to a great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Meeniy Primary School's voluntary financial contributions for 2024.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian curriculum and we want to assure you that all contributions are voluntary. Nevertheless, the ongoing support of our families ensures that our school can offer the best possible education and support for our students, by inviting parents to contribute via the Curriculum Contribution. We want to thank you for all your support, whether that's through fundraising or volunteering your time. This has made a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer.

Within our school your financial support has allowed us to organise and coordinate the best possible programs outside of the traditional teaching and learning classroom structure. These financial contributions assist us with the ability to provide additional resources giving our students opportunities that are above and beyond what is required in the standard curriculum and what is provided for by Government funding. Curriculum Contributions allow us to provide subsidies for some of our camps, excursions and sports days, together with our swimming program; as well as additional resources for Music, Auslan, Wellbeing & PE Programs. In past years we have been able to update our resources within our Literacy & Numeracy, Mathematics and Technology areas, all due to Curriculum Contributions from families. All of these programs running alongside the traditional classroom teaching are imperative so as to provide an effectively balanced and rigorous overall education for your children.

For further information on the Department's Parent Payments Policy please see a one-page overview attached.

Yours sincerely,

Gene VanderZalm
Principal

Kate Thomas
School Council President

Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
<i>Classroom consumables, materials, & equipment</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Classroom – pens, pencils, textas, glue sticks, writing, graph and scrap books, highlighters, folders, display books, scissors, rulers – delivered to school in January and distributed to students on the first day of school</i> <i>Art – paint, crayons, canvas, glitter, coloured paper, glue, card, wool, material, wood, beading</i> <i>Science/ Mathematics – numeracy blocks, calculators, books, stationary</i> <i>Literacy – book boxes, class sets, novels, readers</i> <i>Sports – equipment, sports</i> <i>Auslan – books and folders</i> <i>Library – books, subscriptions</i> 	\$125
<i>Online Subscriptions</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Mathletics</i> 	\$18
<i>Curriculum Activities</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Cultural Performances (2 per year)</i> 	\$17
<i>Curriculum Consumables</i>	\$160

Other Contributions

Meeniyan Primary School continues to welcome a voluntary grounds levy, used to support our Grounds & Playground maintenance. In the past this has supported a gardener, which reduces the need for parent/guardian working bees.

Other Contributions	Amount
<i>Grounds Levy – Per Family</i>	<i>\$20.00</i>

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Meeniyan Primary School offers a range of items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students and are above and beyond what the school provides in order to deliver the Curriculum. These are provided on a user-pays basis.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	Amount
Sport – swimming & athletics, winter sport, cake decoration, pool party etc.	\$TBC
Camps, sports and excursions to be scheduled (Year Prep – Beach Excursion, Yrs 2/3 Dinner & Sleepover, Years 3 – 6 camps.	\$TBC
<i>Extra-curricular Items and Activities</i>	<i>\$TBC</i>

Financial Support for Families

Meeniyan Primary School understands that some families may experience financial difficulty and offers a range of support options, including:

- the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund to **eligible Health Care Card Holders** (this fund cannot be used for Curriculum Contributions)*
- Individual Payment Plans*
- State Schools Relief*

Families who have a valid Health Care Card at the beginning of the school year 29/01/2024 who have never claimed the CSE Funding should request a form from the office.

Any family who successfully claimed in 2023, your details will roll over into 2024, unless your card is no longer valid or your details have changed.

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, contact:

Gene VanderZalm Ph: 03 5664 7382 | Email: gene.vanderzalm@education.vic.gov.au OR

Kylie Mitchell Ph: 03 5664 7382 | Email: kylie.mitchell2@education.vic.gov.au

Preferred Payment methods –

- *Credit Card payment via Compass Billing (information sheet attached)*
- *Direct deposit to the school's bank account Commonwealth Bank 063 518 / 1007 1649*
- *Eftpos facilities available at school*

Cash or card payments can be made directly to the school office from now.

* Please note we now have Credit Card/EFPTOS facilities at school for your convenience.

**PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO THE PAYMENT SLIP BELOW TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE
AFTER PAYMENT HAS BEEN MADE**

PAYMENT SLIP:

FAMILY NAME _____

Curriculum Contributions: No. of children _____ @ \$160 per child \$ _____

Child's Name: _____ Year Level _____

Child's Name: _____ Year Level _____

Child's Name: _____ Year Level _____

Child's Name: _____ Year Level _____

Grounds Levy @ \$20 per family \$ _____

TOTAL PAYMENT FOR 2024 \$ _____

Paid By (please circle): Direct Deposit / Cash or Card to School/Compass Billing

PARENT PAYMENTS POLICY

ONE PAGE OVERVIEW

FREE INSTRUCTION

- Schools provide students with free instruction and ensure students have free access to all items, activities and services that are used by the school to fulfil the standard curriculum requirements in Victorian Curriculum F-10, VCE and VCAL.
- Schools may invite parents to make a financial contribution to support the school.

PARENT PAYMENT REQUESTS

Schools can request contributions from parents under three categories:

Curriculum Contributions

Voluntary financial contributions for curriculum items and activities which the school deems necessary for students to learn the Curriculum.

Other Contributions

Voluntary financial contributions for non-curriculum items and activities that relate to the school's functions and objectives.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students and are above and beyond what the school provides for free to deliver the Curriculum. These are provided on a user-pays basis.

- Schools may also invite parents to supply or purchase educational items to use and own (e.g. textbooks, stationery, digital devices).

FINANCIAL HELP FOR FAMILIES

- Schools put in place financial hardship arrangements to support families who cannot pay for items or activities so that their child doesn't miss out.
- Schools have a nominated parent payment contact person(s) that parents can have a confidential discussion with regarding financial hardship arrangements.

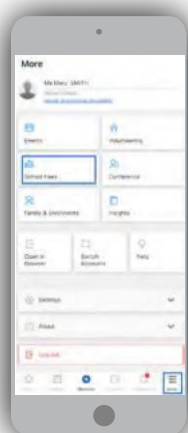
SCHOOL PROCESSES

- Schools must obtain school council approval for their parent payment arrangements and publish all requests and communications for each year level on their school website for transparency.



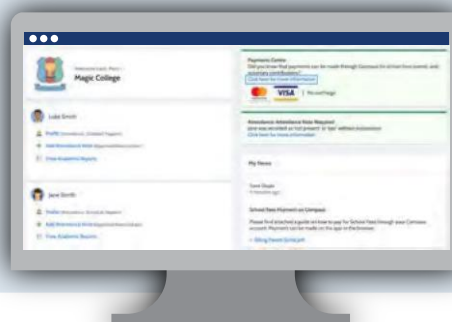
A Parent's Guide to Billing

A step by step guide to take you through paying your school contributions through the Compass App or Browser.



Compass App

Select
'Contributions'
from the 3 Bars /
Side Menu



Web Browser

Click the 'Payment
Centre' Banner on
your Home Page
& select School
Fees.

Handy Tips & Tricks

- ✓ You can access your payment history via Cog icon > My Payments.
- ✓ All transactions will send a receipt to your email.
- ✓ Access your Events & School contributions all in the one place.
- ✓ Chip away at your fees, whenever suits you.
- ✓ Choose from a number of instalment options

Goodbye cash handling!

The Compass Payments Centre allows you to pay anytime, anywhere - reducing foot traffic and contact in the school office.





A Parent's Guide to Billing

2024 School Contributions

STEP 1
Agreements

STEP 2
Questions

STEP 3
Payment

Football Academy - James ARNOLD Hogwarts Football Academy	\$ 5000	\$5,000.00	
Curriculum Contribution - James ARNOLD Curriculum Contribution	\$ 500	\$500.00	Remove
Curriculum Contribution - Phoebe ARNOLD Curriculum Contribution	\$ 500	\$500.00	Remove
Library Fund - James ARNOLD Library Fund donation/contribution Contribution / Donation	\$ 75	\$75.00	Remove
Library Fund - Phoebe ARNOLD Library Fund donation/contribution Contribution / Donation	\$ 75	\$75.00	Remove

Payment Method

New credit card

1234 5678 9012 3456

Parent Name

10 / 27

123

☒ Save this card

Payment

Amount to pay

\$6,150.00

☐ Pay in full now

☐ Pay using unallocated funds (\$100.00)

☒ Pay in contributions

Term

Your card will be billed on these dates

Due on 30 January 2024

\$1,537.50

Due on 15 April 2024

\$1,537.50

Due on 15 July 2024

\$1,537.50

Due on 07 October 2024

\$1,537.50

We use CompassPay.com as our payment processing gateway. In clicking the relevant "Confirm and Pay" button to the right, you agree for your credit card to be charged by CompassPay.com on behalf of your school. In processing a transaction with us, you agree to our website and payment policies available at <http://compass.edu.au/policy/>.

Complete your Contributions

Each contribution/payment will detail whether this is a standard or donation fee, and can be adjusted, to chip away at each amount.

You'll always be able to access Payments Centre, so you can come in and pay again at any time, anywhere.

Choose your Payment Method & process payment

Once you're happy with the amount chosen, you can choose to pay in full or via instalments. You'll see the instalment options set up by the school - with the relevant dates and charges. This will direct debit your card on those given dates.