



School News



Edition 20 – December 12TH 2023

Contact Us 5664 7382

e: meeniyan.ps@education.vic.gov.au

w: www.tarwinvalleyps.vic.edu.au

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

2023 has been a year of many achievements at MPS. After the restrictions of previous years, it felt like the first time we were unhindered and able to focus on our core purpose of teaching and learning. Academic and survey data across the school is all heading in the right direction and we are excited to get into our plans for improvement in 2024. Special thanks to our School Council and the Connect Group for the support they have provided the staff and students. Last week's Graduation was an amazing send off for our Grade 6's and thanks to the Connect group the Hall looked a treat.

Final day of classes

A reminder that due to the toilets being removed on Dec 18, we will be wrapping up formal classes on Dec 15. A security fence will be installed around the toilet area this weekend and will stay up for most of the summer break. We understand that some students will need to still attend due to parent work commitments on Dec 18 and 19, these students will need to share the staff toilets. Dec 20 is a student free day.

School Works

As well the toilet installation the school will be a busy place with other jobs being completed over the summer break. Much of the outside of the school is being painted and given a long overdue facelift. Drainage lines will be installed across the oval and some garden beds will be upgraded.

We wish all our families a happy Christmas and safe and relaxing summer break.

Gene VanderZalm, Principal

CLASS OF 2024 UNIFORM

There has been a delay with size 14 polo shirts. Whilst a limited number of these shirts are due to arrive with the bulk of the order this week (fingers crossed), a small number of them are on back order and due to arrive late January. These should therefore be here for the students on their first day next year. All other items that arrive at school this week will go home with students on Thursday with the understanding that they are not to be worn or brought to school for any remaining days this year.

YEAR 5/6 EXCURSION EARLY TERM 1

As it is a very busy time when students return to school in the new year, we wanted to give parents a heads up about an excursion in the second week of term one for our 5/6 students. This will be on Thursday 8th February. It is an opportunity for students in the senior school to foster bonds and camaraderie, to engage in team building activities and enjoy a hike against the magical backdrop of Wilson's Prom. The cost for the day will be \$10. Notes will go home on the first or second day of term.

UNEXPLAINED ABSENCES

As the school year winds to a close, we ask parents/carers to log into Compass and update any absences your child/ren have had throughout the year that have not been accounted for.

To do this, login to your child's home page, scroll down until you see *Attendance: Attendance note required*. Click on the blue link which will bring up any unexplained absences for the year, which you can then update accordingly ie: medical, holiday etc.

CALENDAR

Current 12/12 – 20/12

- 12th Dec** - Statewide Transition Day
- 13th Dec** - Yr 6 students @ LSC for 2nd transition day
- 14th Dec** - Yr 6 Pool Party
- 15th Dec** - Class parties
- 15th Dec** - Colour Run
- 15th Dec** - Last official day of classes
- 19th Dec** - Last day for students
- 20th Dec** - Last day Term 4, Pupil free

SCHOOL LIBRARY BOOKS

A reminder to return any library books that you have at home so that we can stocktake ready for the new year.

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

I love the Meeniyah Hall, it has woven into so many of the magic events of my life, from my own school concerts as a kid and history repeating as I watch your kids perform in there, my parents and grandparents kicking off their shoes for the Meeniyah dance and playful trivia nights, gigs and then the times when the community hold each other at a wake.

On Thursday we gathered at the Meeniyah hall to weave our Grade 6 student's history into the walls. The kids came dressed for the occasion, one child even wore a pocket watch! They stepped into the supper room, which our parent group had transformed into every Grade 6 kids dream – with lights, and dinner and deserts and a photo wall. The adults sat with these gorgeous young humans and shared a meal and reflected on the years we had shared together.

And then the families came and we shared speeches, stories and wiped tears of pride off our cheeks.

Grade 6's, you will fledge and then you will fly! Over the years, we will bump into your parents and we will ask about you and will delight in the wonderful people you have grown into. So, enjoy your flight and remember you will always have a landing pad back here, in Meeniyah where your story is embedded in our walls.

You will be missed class of 2023.

Donna Giliam, Primary Welfare Officer

CLASS OF 2023



Important Dates for 2024

Term 1

30th Jan – First day of school for students (Tuesday)
31st Jan - Preps do not attend school (PEAP assessments)
7th Feb - No preps
8th Feb - Yr 5/6 Wilson's Prom excursion
12th Feb - Swimming sports trials Yr 3-6 students @ Toora
13th Feb – Maths Night
14th Feb - No preps
16th Feb - District Swimming @ Toora (selected students)
21st Feb - No preps
21st Feb - Parent, Student, Teacher Interviews (TBC)
22nd Feb – School Photos
1st Mar - Division swim @ K'burra (selected students)
11th Mar – Labour Day (student free)
21st Mar - Yr 1/2 dinner / Yr 2 sleepover (TBC)
28th Mar - Last day of term 1

Term 2

15th Apr – First day Term 2
25th Apr – ANZAC Day (student free)
26th Apr - Student free
7th June - Student free
10th June – Monarchs Birthday holiday (pupil free)
28th June – Last day Term 2
Other Term 2 events – Yr 5/6 Winter sports, Cross Country

Term 3

15th July – First day Term 3
17th – 19th July – Yr 3/4 Rumburg Camp
25th July - Parent, Student, Teacher Interviews (TBC)
12th Aug – Student free
20th Sep – Last day Term 3
Other Term 3 events – Yr 3-6 Athletic sports @ Foster, School Concert

Term 4

7th Oct – First day Term 4
7th Oct - 3-6 swimming week commences (TBC)
14th Oct – P-2 swimming week commences (TBC)
1st Nov - Stuart's cup
4th Nov – Student free
5th Nov – Melbourne Cup (pupil free)
20th -22nd Nov – Year 5/6 Ballarat Camp
2nd Dec - Student free
12th Dec – Yr 6 Graduation
17th Dec – Statewide Transition Day
19th Dec – Yr 6 pool party
19th Dec – students last day for 2024
20th Dec – Last day of term 4 (student free)

*Please note dates may be subject to change. Any changes are noted in newsletters and on Compass.



Our recent Wellbeing Day began with a whole school sing along with Jenneke on her ukelele.



DEAR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS,

WE ARE EXCITED TO SAY THAT WITH A LITTLE OVER A WEEK REMAINING UNTIL THE COLOUR SPLATACULAR FUN RUN, THE ANTICIPATION IS BUILDING!

ON THE DAY FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER, STUDENTS CAN WEAR THEIR WHITE T SHIRTS WITH ANY CLOTHES AND SHOES THAT YOU THINK ARE SUITABLE TO BE COVERED IN COLOUR POWDER AND SLIME. GRADE 6 STUDENTS CAN WEAR THEIR SIGNED TSHIRTS TO SCHOOL AND CHANGE PRIOR TO THE EVENT.

THIS EVENT IS AN OPT OUT EVENT. ALL MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO ENSURE THIS EVENT IS SAFE FOR ALL STUDENTS. HOWEVER, IF YOUR CHILD HAS SKIN OR RESPIRATORY ISSUES PARENTS AND CARERS SHOULD CONSIDER THEIR PARTICIPATION CAREFULLY.

THE COLOUR POWDER IS MADE FROM 98 PER CENT CORN STARCH AND TWO 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 POWDER AND SLIME TOWARDS THE TORSO. HOWEVER, DUCKING INTO ONCOMING POWDER AND SLIME, OR WIND, MAY CAUSE IT TO LAND ONTO YOUR CHILD'S FACE OR HAIR. SUNGLASSES ARE ESSENTIAL FOR STUDENTS ON THE DAY. INGREDIENT LISTINGS AND TOXICOLOGY RISK ASSESSMENTS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE.

MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD HAS THEIR WHITE TSHIRTS AND SUNGLASSES AND A CHANGE OF CLOTHES AND A TOWEL FOR THOSE GETTING ON THE SCHOOL BUS.

VOLUNTEERS PLEASE BE AWARE THAT YOU TOO WILL MOST LIKELY WEAR A GREAT DEAL OF THE SLIME AND POWDER SO A CHANGE OF CLOTHES FOR YOU SHOULD ALSO BE CONSIDERED. IF YOU WISH TO VOLUNTEER BUT NOT GET DIRTY WE DO HAVE SOME ACTIVITIES YOU CAN ASSIST WITH DURING THE EVENT.

SET UP FOR THE COLOUR RUN WILL BEGIN ON THE SCHOOL OVAL AT 8AM. FOR ANY VOLUNTEERS THAT WISH TO ASSIST PLEASE COME ALONG AND BRING A PIECE OF REALLY COLOURFUL CLOTHING LIKE TUTU'S, COLOURFUL BANDANA'S ETC.

THE EVENT WILL BEGIN AT 2PM AND FINISH AT NORMAL SCHOOL FINISH TIME 3:20PM. PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING ALSO FOR CLEAN UP.

GET READY FOR THE BRIGHTEST DAY AT SCHOOL!

THE PARENT CONNECT GROUP



- ❖ 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.

