



Edition 1 – February 6th 2024

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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Welcome to all of our new families and our returning ones. From all accounts the summer break, although cool, was a welcome break for our students and staff.

All our new students including the preps have settled in beautifully. Mrs Guy quickly realised on the first day that the students were ready to get into some literacy learning and dived straight in. This is a credit to our families, the kinder and our transition program for the preparation they have provided.

We also have two new teachers working with us this year. Both attended our planning days in the lead up and have settled in quickly. Ms Finley Smith is in 3/4S and Mrs Melissa Anderson in 1/2SA on Fridays.

Welcome back to Mrs Jo Dunlop who is now teaching AUSLAN and Mr Joh Reid who is taking our PE classes for the year. We are delighted with our staff of 2024. Their dedication to meeting the needs of their students is a credit to them 😊



The school was a hive of activity for the last few weeks of the holidays where a number of school infrastructure projects neared completion. The new student toilets have been a welcome addition. There are a few finishing touches still to be completed with final completion by the end of February. The school painting facelift is much the same with the front of the school due for completion by February. It's amazing the difference this coat of paint has made. The oval now has drainage upgrades that we expect to benefit from in the winter months. Four new classroom TVs were installed across the school and our new phone system swap over is underway, again hopefully completed by February. Our school gardener, Donna Robinson, did a lovely job of upgrading the horseshoe garden and rejuvenating the other gardens around the school. If you have an interest in gardening and would like to volunteer from time to time, please let the office know and we'll give you a call with any little jobs that Donna needs a hand with.

If you haven't already, take a walk through the school ground at some stage and take it all in.

Gene VanderZalm, Principal

SCHOOL PHOTOS

School photos will be taken on Thursday 22nd February by Foon's Photography, Wonthaggi. Please ensure all children are in correct uniform on this day. Once the photo envelopes arrive, each child will be given their envelope to take home. This will need to be returned with payment **before** photo day. Children who do not return their envelopes will still have their photo taken for inclusion in class photo. **Photographs of family siblings can be taken at your request.** Spare envelopes and envelopes for the sibling photos will be available from the office. Sibling envelopes should be returned separately to individual packs.

CALENDAR

Current 6/02 – 20/02

- 7th Feb** - No preps
- 8th Feb** - Yr 5/6 Wilson's Prom excursion
- 12th Feb** - Swimming sports trials Yr 3-6 (students who opt-in only)
- 13th Feb** - Maths Night, 5.30pm
- 14th Feb** - No preps
- 16th Feb** - Yr 3/4 Wilson's Prom excursion
- 16th Feb** - Yr 6 Leaders - Leadership Day
- 23rd Feb** - District Swimming @ Toora (selected students)

Upcoming

- 21st Feb** - No preps
- 21st Feb** - Parent, Student, Teacher Interviews
- 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
- 28th Mar** - Last day of term 1, 2.30pm dismissal

Have you given consent /paid for:

- 5/6 Prom Excursion
- 3/4 Prom Excursion
- 3-6 Swimming Trials @ Toora
- National Young Leaders Day (Yr 6 school leaders)
- Year 1 Dinner
- Year 2 Dinner/Sleepover

MEENIYAN PRIMARY MATHS EVENING

Ever heard - "Well, I was never any good at maths so..."

Ever thought – 'Why are we doing reading every night but never any maths?' or 'I wonder how I can support my child with their math learning?'

Ever seen – How a primary school teacher actually teaches maths in 2024?

If one or more of these questions have hit the mark, then we have the night for you!

We hope you can join us on Tuesday the 13th of February at MPS in the 'Shared Space' for our 'Meeniy Primary Maths Evening'. The evening will begin at 5.30pm and conclude at 7.00pm. This event is tailored for parents and caregivers, aiming to foster a positive attitude towards mathematics. Childcare (for school age students) will be provided by some staff in Room 1 for anyone who needs to bring the kids along. Throughout the evening, we will share valuable strategies on making mathematics engaging at home with your child, answer any questions you may have regarding mathematics and delve into interactive games designed for easy integration into your daily routine. We look forward to an enriching and enjoyable evening focused on enhancing mathematics experiences for both you and your child. Please RSVP on the form below to help us plan aspects of the evening.

Rest assured that you won't be any asked any maths questions that you're not comfortable answering. The night is more about coming and building confidence.

CONSENT AND CONTACT DETAILS

A Local travel consent form is attached to today's newsletter. It is a legal requirement that we collect local travel consent for every student at the beginning of each year. This allows your child/ren to walk around the township of Meeniy (within 5km) with their teachers eg. sports days at the Rec Reserve. Please complete and return to school by Friday 9th February. *Note: New families / students do not need to complete this form as it was covered in their enrolment form for this year.

If you need to update any contact details ie: phone number, address, email or emergency contacts, please contact the office to do so.

2024 CURRICULUM CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you to those families who have paid their 2024 Curriculum Contributions. Payments can be made either by Direct Deposit into our account or cash/EFTPOS at the office. The contribution amount for 2024 is \$160 per child and \$20 per family for voluntary grounds levy.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

We understand 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.

BOOK CLUB

Book Club catalogues have been distributed today. Orders must be placed using the Scholastic's **LOOP app** or via their website. Orders close 15th Feb. For more information on ordering Book Club email Janelle.Smedley@education.vic.gov.au.

WEEKLY ASSEMBLY

Parents/carers are invited to join us on Friday mornings at 9am for our Weekly Gathering in our amphitheatre (or shared space if it's raining). Teachers will send out a message early each week to parents of the students who will be receiving an award. This week's gathering (Friday 9th) will include the badge presentation for our 2024 school leaders.

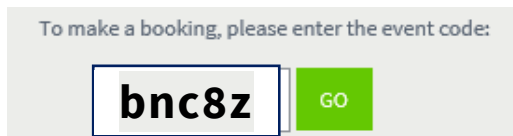
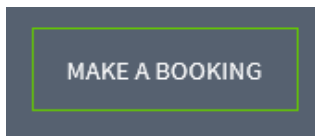
PST MEETINGS

PST Meetings will be held on **Wednesday 21st February**. Parents will need to collect their child from class for their interview.

Parents of Prep students are not required to book their child an interview via this platform. You will receive information from Claire Guy in relation to this.

Bookings can be made at www.schoolinterviews.com.au from 3.15pm today.

- 1.
- 2.
3. Follow screen prompts



Interviews are strictly 15 mins and spaces are limited. If you require more time, please contact your teacher directly to make alternative arrangements. Parents can change their interview bookings, any time prior to the closing time, by re-visiting the website, www.schoolinterviews.com.au and use the event code. Remember to use the same name and email address, you used when you made your original booking.

SCHOOL'S PRIVACY POLICY

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the Schools' Privacy Policy.

Please take time to remind yourself of the school's collection statement, found on our website.

For more information about privacy, refer to: Schools' Privacy Policy — information for parents.

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

When I was a child I would picture myself as a mother. I would picture this calm and gentle human, who would always listen, who would always play and who would feed my children treats often. I imagined school mornings to be a peaceful contrast to my own childhood which involved a high-speed trip down Dollar Road each morning in mums red falcon while shovelling my toast in, brushing my hair and hoping that there were 2 shoes in the car.

Turns out that mornings in the Giliam-Rodda house are pretty much the same as the mornings of my childhood! We all go to bed with good intentions and wake up dishevelled. I pat myself on the back when both children have 2 shoes on and matching socks are a bonus!

But, they make it out the door and once they are out, the world is theirs. I watch them walk or run down the hill ready to take on everything that comes their way and trust the gorgeous humans who teach them each day to bring them words, numbers, stories, adventure and all the other magic that school offers.

A focus for our school is attendance. We want your kids here – if they are here we can give them all the wonderful that school is and the doors that education open for them.

Some days are harder than others to get out that door and some problems are bigger than the bumpy hair or odd sock problems. Talk to us, we can help!

Donna Giliam, Primary Welfare Officer

Maths Night Expression of Interest

(return to school office ASAP)

Parent name _____

We will be attending the Maths Night _____ (number of adults attending)

Important Dates for 2024

Term 2

15th Apr – First day Term 2
16th Apr – Somers Camp
25th Apr – ANZAC Day (student free)
26th Apr - Student free
29th Apr - District Athletics @ Foster
10th May - Yr 5/6 Winter Sports commence
15th May - Cross Country
23rd May - Division Cross Country
7th June - Student free
10th June – Public Holiday
28th June – Last day Term 2

Term 3

15th July – First day Term 3
17th – 19th July – Yr 3/4 Rumbug Camp
19th July - Prep 100 days party
25th July - Parent, Student, Teacher Interviews (TBC)
12th Aug – Student free
23rd Aug - Book Week Dress up Day
12th Sep - Division Athletics
20th Sep - Footy Colours Day
20th Sep – Last day Term 3
School Concert (last week of term)

Term 4

7th Oct – First day Term 4
7th Oct - 5/6 swimming week commences
14th Oct – P-2 swimming week commences
1st Nov - Stuart's cup
4th / 5th Nov – Student free / Melb Cup Day
18th Nov - 3/4 swimming week commences
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 / students last day
20th Dec – Last day of term 4 (student free)

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Stony Creek Junior Netball:

Junior preseason training is returning. To register your interest and give SCFNC an idea of numbers, please scan the QR code to the right. Training commences Thursday 1st Feb, U11's 4-5pm and U15's & U17's 5-6pm. NetSetGo will start Term 2.

Everyone is welcome, players wishing to be part of the club in 2024 are expected to attend training. If you're unable to attend training, please contact the club. Team announcements on 29th Feb.



Australian Camps Association (ACA) – People Outdoors, Camps for People Living with Disability:

People Outdoors, a program of the ACA, was established in 1989 to provide outdoor recreation for people of all ages living with disability. Our programs include two-night weekend through to four-day residential camps held during the school holidays. Our participants are looked after by our team of disability support workers for the duration of camp. So, if you'd like the opportunity to experience the social and developmental benefits of adventure outdoors, please contact our team on 03 9863 6824 or visit our website for more information – <https://www.peopleoutdoors.org.au/our-programs/upcoming-program>



Questacon Science Circus:

A FREE pop-up Science experience like no other is coming to Leongatha on Saturday 2nd March. Come along to spin yourself dizzy, test your reflexes, explore your fingertips under the microscope and watch some of our spectacular science shows. With over 30 hands on exhibits, the circus is a fantastic STEM day out for the whole family. The circus will be at the SPLASH in Leongatha, running from 10am – 4pm. While it is a free event, you will need to book your place. Allow 1-2 hours and children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult at all time. Book your free ticket at bit.ly/QSCVIC24-Tickets



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.

2024 LOCAL EXCURSION & TRAVEL CONSENT FORM

Student’s Name: _____ Year Level _____

Student’s Name: _____ Year Level _____

Student’s Name: _____ Year Level _____

“I grant permission for my child/children to participate in excursions within the local township during 2024 as required.” NB: for excursions outside our local area a permission form relating to the specific activity/day will be sent home.

“I authorise the teacher in charge of the excursion to consent, where it is impracticable to communicate with me, to the child/children receiving such medical or surgical treatment as may be deemed necessary, including requesting an Ambulance, the cost of which will be my responsibility.”

Signed: _____ (Parent/Guardian)

Date