



Edition 2 – February 20<sup>th</sup> 2024

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## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Last week a colleague with close to 40 years' experience teaching in schools made an interesting observation, 'You know, I don't recall in all my years teaching a time when students had days off school because of natural disasters and the power going out....yet in the last few years this has happened twice!' And if we throw in the COVID interruptions, we have certainly had a different landscape to adjust to in recent years.

I want to use today's report to outline the school's position in case we have any blackouts/natural disasters in the future:

1. Communication – where possible, a staff member will get a message out on Compass to alert families as to our next steps. Regardless of communications, the school is generally kept open for those who need it unless there are safety issues with the school. Even if the school is kept open, we would like families to consider the needs of their child. Students with serious medical conditions should not be at school when communications are down as the risks are too great.
2. Buses - Like the school remaining open, buses will continue to operate whilst it is safe to do so. We were fortunate, that roads around Meeniyan were cleared relatively quickly. If the buses cannot operate, our bus service or the school will contact affected families.
3. Learning – after these events we weigh up who is at school and adjust our learning accordingly. Last week, we ran a modified program for the 20 or so students who attended. The modified program often combines students from different classes ie Prep-2, 3/4 and 5/6; and students enjoy a mixture of fairly general reading, writing and maths activities. Teachers pause their normal program until school returns to normal or the majority of students are back.

Special thanks to all those who pitched in last week to clear debris, check in on others, spread communications and provide support. As hard as the week was, I appreciated being part of a community where so many pitched in to help others. Personally, I had my extended family from Mirboo North spend the week with us due to their roof peeling off. Thankfully everyone is fine and the house will be rebuilt. Be kind and calm to yourself and others and generally things turn out ok.

*Gene VanderZalm, Principal*

## PARENT CONNECT GROUP MEETING

Our Parent Connect Group will hold their first meeting for the year on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> of February, at the Meeniyan hotel for lunch (lunch at your own expense) at 12.30pm. They would love to see new faces so If you are keen to meet new people, help the school where possible and have a fun time while you're at it, come along and join the PCG next Tuesday. RSVP Tamara on 0497 647 320 by Friday. 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

## CALENDAR

### Current 20/02 – 05/03

**20<sup>th</sup> Feb** - School Council, 6.30pm

**23<sup>rd</sup> Feb** - District Swimming @ Toora  
(selected students)

**21<sup>st</sup> Feb** - No preps

**21<sup>st</sup> Feb** - Parent, Student, Teacher  
Interviews

**22<sup>nd</sup> Feb** – School Photos

**27<sup>th</sup> Feb** - Parent Connect Lunch, 12.30

**1<sup>st</sup> Mar** - Division swim @ K'burra  
(selected students)

### Upcoming

**11<sup>th</sup> Mar** – Labour Day (student free)

**14<sup>th</sup> Mar** - Regional swimming

**21<sup>st</sup> Mar** - Yr 1/2 dinner / Yr 2 sleepover

**28<sup>th</sup> Mar** - Last day of term 1, 2.30pm  
dismissal

### **Have you given consent /paid for:**

- Year 1 Dinner
- Year 2 Dinner/Sleepover

### **Have you returned:**

- Local Travel & Excursions consent slip
- A photo of you for our photo wall

## **CHANGE OF DATE - STUDENT FREE DAY**

Change of date from April 26<sup>th</sup> to  
Monday April 22<sup>nd</sup>

## **SCHOOL PHOTOS THIS THURSDAY**

Please ensure your children are in correct uniform and that all photo envelopes have been returned with payment to school by Wednesday 9am.

## **PST MEETINGS**

PST Meetings are tomorrow. You will need to collect your child from class for their interview. Bookings can be made or amended at [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) using the code **bnc8z**.

## **SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

Nominations for the annual School Council elections will open on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February and close at 4pm on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March. We have 3 x 2 year parent vacancies. If you are interested in representing the parent / carer body in making long term decisions and directions of the school, please show your interest by being on School Council. Nomination and self-nominations forms are available from the office or the MPS website.

What is a School Council?

- ✓ a legally formed body that is given powers to set the key directions of a school
- ✓ the major governing body of the school
- ✓ plays an important role in school accountability and improvement processes
- ✓ endorses the key school planning, evaluation and reporting documents

What it does:	What it doesn't do:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Establish the broad direction and vision of the school within the school's community</li><li>▪ Participate in the development and monitoring of the school strategic plan</li><li>▪ Develop, review and update school policies</li><li>▪ Approve the annual budget and monitor expenditure</li><li>▪ Maintain the school's grounds and facilities</li><li>▪ Enter into contracts (e.g. cleaning, construction work)</li><li>▪ Report annually to the school community and to DET</li><li>▪ Generally stimulate interest in the school in the wider community</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Manage the school</li><li>▪ Make operational decisions</li><li>▪ Employ ongoing teaching staff with no fixed date for termination</li><li>▪ Represent sectional interests</li><li>▪ Renew the principal's contract or hire and fire the school principal</li><li>▪ Determine class allocations</li><li>▪ Discuss individual issues between teachers and students and/or parents</li></ul>

## **RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS**

The storm last week took us by surprise. It tore through our landscape and now many are standing in the debris wondering what to do next? And, where to start?. What I have noticed about the natural reflex of our community is – 'where to start?' Is an outward glance and a follow up question of 'who needs help?' 'How can I help?' This makes me feel ever so grateful to live in such an area. I always feel cocooned with the blanket of community.

Sometimes I get nervous around the word gratitude. I worry that is becoming a catch phrase and starting to become used without thought – however this week, the word gratitude is everywhere around us. People noticing what they have rather than what they don't have, 'I had a shower – it was the best' 'A mate loaned me a generator now we can keep our freezers going' 'our neighbours spent hours helping clear our driveway'.

And while it is valuable to notice the things that we have, rather than what we don't it is also important to be gentle with ourselves and each other.

Please reach out to our wellbeing team if you need a chat or you think your child might.

*Donna Giliam, Primary Welfare Officer*



## **Meeniy Primary School Beanie Order Form (\$20 each)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Beanies \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment method:  Cash  EFT  Direct Deposit (BSB: 063 518 Acc: 1007 1649)

Rec No. \_\_\_\_\_

## Bread & Pickles Lunch Order Menu

### Sandwiches

White, Wholemeal or Wrap	\$6.00	Roll \$5.50
❖ Ham & Cheese		
❖ Salad – Lettuce, Tomato, Cucumber, Cheese, Beetroot, Mayonnaise		
❖ Curried egg or Egg & Mayonnaise		
❖ Vegemite / Jam / Honey		

### Hot Food

Ham & Egg Roll	\$6.00	
Chicken Schnitzel Burger (with lettuce & mayo)	\$8.00	
Hamburger (lettuce, cheese & sauce)	\$8.00	
Pizza:	\$7.00	
❖ Chicken, pineapple, cheese		
❖ Ham, pineapple, cheese		
❖ Ham & cheese		
Fried Rice	\$7.00	
Hot chips	\$3.00 ½ bag	\$5.00 full bag
Chicken Nugget	\$1.20 each	
Teriyaki Nugget	\$1.50 each	
Mini Dim Sims	\$1.00 each	
Potato Cake	\$1.60 each	
Homemade Sausage Roll	\$5.50	
Homemade Beef Meat Pie	\$9.00	
Hot Dog in Roll	\$5.50	sauce 0.50c

### Cold Food

Salad	\$5.50
Fruit Salad with seasonal fruit	\$6.00
Cookie (enquire for available options)	\$4.00
Slice	\$5.50

### Drinks

Nippys Milk Flavours	\$4.00
Pop top / Water	\$3.50
Iced Tea	\$4.50

### Term 1 & 4 only

Zooper Doopers	\$1.00
Frozen Orange	\$0.20 per slice

**All orders to be placed (in person or phone) before 10am.**

**5662 0281**