



Edition 3 – March 5th 2024

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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Term One is always my favourite term.

Students get a fresh start in a new year level with new classmates and most of the time, a new teacher. They have so many different and exciting things to learn about. From classroom expectations, different social groups and of course, the new year levels curriculum.

First term also provides opportunities for extra curriculum activities when the weather is generally nicer, such as swimming sports and athletics days.

Again, there are so many learning opportunities that can come from these days. A lot of the time it is learning within, and understanding what motivates oneself intrinsically. From the swimming sports we have already seen many examples of this. We have students who have goals they set themselves, such as beating times or trying to qualify for the next stage and beyond.

We also have a wonderful culture at our school where students motivate each other. Again, there are countless examples of where this was on display. Examples of students cheering each other on, or peers who motivated another to simply attend the swimming sports and give it a go.

In a couple of weeks our Grade 3-6 students will get the opportunity to test themselves again, this time at the athletics day at Foster. Some will go to try and qualify for the next stage or to beat personal best times, whilst others will go for a social day with their mates. Either way, there will be many things our students will learn that day, especially about themselves.

Pete Harris, Learning Specialist

3-6 ATHLETIC SPORTS

A form went home with students last week for the Athletics day in Foster on Friday 22nd March. We encourage parents to come along to the sports and enjoy the day watching your children compete. If you are attending, we would appreciate you driving your children with you to the Foster Secondary College oval as seats on the bus are limited.

For those who are not able to take their children, a bus is available at a cost of \$10 per student. To secure a seat on the bus you will need to return the form with payment by Friday 8th March. Anyone who has not returned their form by that date, will need to organise private transportation. Red singlets will go home with students the day before the sports. This is to be worn over a white t-shirt on the athletics day.

JAT FUN DAYS

On Fridays for the rest of term 1, the Junior Action Team (JAT) will be selling Zooper Doopers for \$1 each. All funds raised will go to the Mirboo North school or the swimming pool.



EASTER RAFFLE

Our Parent Connect Group are organising an Easter Raffle and Parade for the end of term. Information on both of these events will go home with students later in the week. Tickets and raffle donations must be at school by Tuesday 26th March, with the raffle draw and parade taking place on Thursday 28th March (last day of term).

CALENDAR

Current 05/03 – 19/03

- 11th Mar** – Labour Day (student free)
- 11th Mar** – Book club orders close COB
- 12th Mar** - Somers Camp fee due (selected students)

Upcoming

- 19th Mar** - School Council AGM, 6pm
- 21st Mar** - Yr 1/2 dinner / Yr 2 sleepover
- 22nd Mar** - Yr 3-6 Athletic sports @ Foster
- 26th Mar** - Easter raffle tickets & donations due to school
- 28th Mar** - Easter parade, 9am
- 28th Mar** - Last day of term 1, 2.30pm dismissal

Term 2

- 15th Apr** – First day Term 2
- 16th Apr** - Somers Camp
- 22nd Apr** - Student free
- 25th Apr** – ANZAC Day (student free)
- 29th Apr** - District Athletics @ Foster
- 10th May** – 5/5 Winter sports
- 14th May** – School Council
- 15th May** – MPS Cross Country
- 23rd May** – Division Cross Country
- 31st May** - 5/6 Winter Sport
- 6th June** - Regional Cross Country
- 7th June** - Pupil Free day
- 10th June** – Monarch's birthday Public holiday
- 11th June** - School Council
- 13th June** – Division Winter Sports
- 28th June** – Last day Term, 2.30pm dismissal

SOMERS CAMP

Yesterday we drew the names of four boys and four girls to attend Somers Camp. If your child was successful, they would have brought a note home in their bag yesterday. We thank all 21 students who expressed interest and wish we could have sent all.

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

I learned to drive on Dollar Road, among many of the pointers my dad gave me during our lively driving lessons, the one that remains the clearest was “if you see a blue ‘Sunbird’ or your mum running late for the bus, move off the road. Don’t attempt passing – just pull over until either one has passed!”

Every second week, I was a passenger in that car hurtling down Dollar Road. Every second week I was part of the chaos of getting out the door and I would like to say things are different in my house now, but they are not. Because our after-school life is so busy I am thinking about dinner while I am making lunches, getting kids up, asking them to do their jobs, hanging out washing, reminding kids of the sports gear they need for the afternoon. We are chasing the clock all morning – always starting with the best intentions of getting out the door on time, usually ending like things did this morning.

My middle girl is used to walking across the road to school – often arriving just before the bell. Now, in high school catching a bus has put a bit of time pressure on her! Our mornings usually end up with me pointing at the clock and telling her the time really loudly and then telling her that I should already be at work – she leaves, I leave and both flustered. This morning was no different but as I hurtled down Old Waratah Road I saw her ‘running late for the bus’ – slowly walking down the road pulling the petals from a flower and scattering them. I got to the end of the road and saw the bus already at the bus stop and then looked back at my ‘flower girl’ in frustration. I did a u-turn and raced her to the bus – again telling her the time and chasing the clock all the way to school.

On the way to work I pondered on all of this rushing and stressing in the mornings and wondered what does this do to us? I thought about my daughter and while she needs to have strategies for managing time, it is also fair to consider the pause she took in her morning with a mindful stroll and a flower.

Donna Giliam, Primary Welfare Officer

SCHOOL COUNCIL REPORT

Well, well, before you know it the school year starts and we are off on some adventures. This year has already had some drama with a day off for a natural disaster. A very short but intense storm which disrupted our journey home with some widespread tree loss heavy rain and lost power. Thankfully our school only lost some small branches and were soon cleared away with those hanging branches made safe.

At our recent first School Council meeting Gene and Pete talked to us about how the school was settling down for the year ahead and how the learning programs were starting and being received.

Coming back this year we see a brand new toilet block which apart from a few hiccups is, on the whole working very well and has been gratefully received. The school numbers are 160 students from 100 families and as you already may have been made aware class space is at a premium.

One great thing which was passed at the meeting was the approval of the recommendation for the relocation of the Buffalo bus stop from a rather dangerous bend to a more quieter side road. This was unanimously passed. A continuing concern however is that the absence rate is still very high continuing from last year. The reasons are probably many and varied and some are still yet to be discovered but it is of some concern. I know our family has approached illness with much more caution since covid. I believe that we are hopefully going to be more pragmatic and realise that kids like adults spread germs readily throughout the day as this is one way our bodies build immunity to help fight off illness.

On the whole it looks like being a very exciting year ahead and I look forward to hearing more at our next School Council meeting. Might I just welcome all new families to the school and ask that if you would like to be involved with the school in any way, please don’t hesitate to contact either the school or anyone you might know involved in the parent connect group. All help big or small is always welcome.

Andrew Watt, School Council

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Australian Government Mobile Service Centre:

Visit the Mobile Service Centre to find out about Australian Government payments and services for rural families, older Australians, students, job seekers, people with disability, carers, farmers and self-employed people.

When: Wednesday 20th March, 9.00am – 4.00pm

Where: opposite Moo's Café (old roadhouse) in Meeniyah

For more information, go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/mobileoffice

Hook in2 Hockey Program:

Are you looking for a new sport to try? Learn more about field hockey at our 6-week Hook In2 Hockey program

- Designed for beginners aged 5-12
- New skill targeted each week
- All equipment provided
- Leads in the winter junior competition

Where: Latrobe Synthetic Sports Field, Mary Grant Bruce Drive, Churchill

For more information please email juniors.lvha@gmail.com.

Mount Eccles Netball Club:

2024 Netball Training starts Thursday 7th March at the LDNA netball courts. We welcome players from all over South Gippsland. Junior training on Thursday nights: U11 & U13 4-5pm, U15 & U18 5-6pm.

Season: April to September with all games played at same times on Saturdays at the one central location.

For queries and registration information contact the club on mounteccles@gmail.com or visit the clubs facebook page 'Mount Eccles Netball Club' or ph Barb Challis (president) 0403 047 902.

MDUFNC Junior Footy:

**JUNIOR FOOTY
REGISTRATION NIGHT**

We are very excited for the CGJFL Junior Football Season to kick off for 2024! We will be holding a Meet the Coaches/Information/Registration & Pie Night for all players and their parents.

ALL NEW PLAYERS AND FAMILIES WELCOME!

- Thursday the 21st of March
- 5pm at the MDU Social Rooms
- Free pie and drink for the kids
- Boots & Merch Swap
Bring anything that no longer fits & swap it for the next size up
- Age Groups
Under 10, Under 12, Under 14 & Under 16

For any enquiries please contact
Dave Trotman on 0418 589 805

FOSTER SHOW ART COMPETITION

Well done to all of our students who entered their artwork in the Foster Show. A special congratulations to prize winners, Oscar, Astrid and Fox.



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.