



Edition 8 – May 28<sup>th</sup> 2024

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## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

One of the key elements of a primary education is preparing our students for life. Along with reading, writing and math there are a whole host of different attitudes, skills and knowledge that every student engages with at MPS. Our school Value of Diversity – refers to the fact that we value diversity of everything. From the genres of books we read to the people we interact with, our students are taught to embrace difference.

This term, we are thoroughly enjoying our theme of 'Connecting with our Community'. It feels like every week our students are interacting with different members of the community, broadening their horizons, asking lots of questions and most importantly, connecting.

Connections so far have included:

- Year 6 gnocchi making session with Francesco at Trulli's
- 'Long Walk' celebration of accepting diversity with lunchtime 'Long Walk' and baked potato lunch
- Year 3-6 craft sessions with the Meeniyan Men's Shed
- Year 5/6 Cyber-safety talk from Wonthaggi Police
- Year 5/6 Winter Sport sessions with Fish Creek and Tarwin Lower Primary Schools
- Year 3/4 excursion to Melbourne exploring the history of the city
- Prep-2 Responsible pet ownership session
- Year 3-6 cross country running around the Meeniyan Rec (and between caravans 😊)
- ANZAC Day march

Still to come this term and later in the year:

- Year 6 Science lessons at Leongatha Secondary College
- Fine dining and etiquette session at Avonlea, Meeniyan
- Whole school NAIDOC celebration at the Prom with Fish Creek Primary
- Year 1/2 Coal creek excursion
- Year 3/4 and 5/6 school camps

With each activity, it is important to acknowledge that other people have given their time to make each event possible. This is a key element for our students to realise when being part of a community. That good times are often dependent on the generosity of others therefore, do your part by pitching in and always say thank you 😊

*Gene VanderZalm, Principal*

## BOOK CLUB

Issue 4 catalogues were distributed last week. Orders are to be placed via the LOOP app or the Scholastic website by Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June COB. Please **do not** send orders/money to school.



## CALENDAR

### Current 28/05 – 11/06

- 29<sup>th</sup> May - 2025 Prep Info night, 5pm
- 31<sup>st</sup> May - 5/6 Winter Sport Playoffs
- 6<sup>th</sup> June - Regional Cross Country
- 7<sup>th</sup> June - Pupil Free day
- 10<sup>th</sup> June – Monarch's birthday Public holiday
- 11<sup>th</sup> June - School Council, 6pm

### Upcoming

- 12<sup>th</sup> June - Book Club orders due COB
- 13<sup>th</sup> June – Division Winter Sports
- 21<sup>st</sup> June - Trivia Night
- 28<sup>th</sup> June – Last day Term, 2.30pm dismissal

### 15<sup>th</sup> July - Term 2

- 17-19<sup>th</sup> Jul – 3/4 Camp Rumbug
- 19<sup>th</sup> July - Prep 100 days party
- 5<sup>th</sup> Aug - Student free day
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug - Book week dress-up day
- 12<sup>th</sup> Sep - Division athletics
- 19<sup>th</sup> Sep - School Concert

## LITTLE LONG WALK

Over \$380 was raised for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation from our Little Long Walk day, helping to put books in first language into schools.



An incredible job by our Junior Action Team!!

Thank you to Creamy Valley Potatoes for donating the potatoes and to Trulli's who volunteered their oven space and cooked them for us. Also, thank you to the parent helpers who helped with food prep, serving and clean up.

## **COOKING AT TRULLI'S**

As Part of Meeniy Primary schools 'Engaging Communities Program', the students in Grade 6 spent the day at Trullis restaurant in Meeniy Primary learning how to make authentic Puglian Gnocchi with Napoli sauce. Under the expert guidance of Francesco and Claudio Laera the students created a magnificent lunch. During the workshops the students learnt about the traditional methods on how to make Gnocchi and the importance of the "Slow Cooking" approach used throughout Italy.

As well, Francesco and his brother Claudio spoke about their upbringing on their family farm in Puglia Italy. This was an outstanding experience for all the students. At the end of the session all the students were treated to a wonderful homemade Trulli Gelato.



## **SCHOOL COUNCIL REPORT**

The sorts of things discussed at School Council meetings can vary dramatically: from the mundane tasks of approving administration documents and ticking off Department of Education requirements, through to more interesting chats about society-wide issues and the role of education in addressing them.

However, even the seemingly boring admin tasks can also be quite revealing and give us as outsiders a fantastic appreciation of the brilliant work being done by the staff and leadership team at Meeniy Primary School. The staff are constantly looking at the needs of students, drawing on data from attitudes to learning surveys, NAPLAN and direct observations and testing of students.

The school is not only trying to improve the educational outcomes of students, but also set the kids who come through Meeniy Primary School up to be connected, resilient and respectful individuals. This comes through in documents like the Annual Implementation Plan, which could just be seen as a box-ticking exercise required by the Education Department, but is used by the school to actively see how the school can improve what they are doing across a number of priority areas.

I encourage anyone who would like to learn more about how the school operates, wants a peak behind the scenes, or wishes to get involved in helping the school out to consider joining the school council the next time the opportunity arises. Even the boring bureaucratic stuff can be quite revealing and interesting!

*Brad Kijlstra-Shone, Meeniy Primary School Council*

## **RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS**

It has taken me a number of attempts to try and find the right words for this weeks newsletter. To choose which part of our 'Little Long Walk' to 'find the story'. The story could be in the leadership our JAT showed setting up the event, the planning through to the heavy work. The story could be around community and how staff and parents gave their time to cook and dish up spuds, stamp lap cards and walk with the kids! The story could be in all sports colours flashing about promoting tolerance, acceptance and care.

Or the story could delve deeper and consider the patch of Earth where this event occurred. The story could consider what this patch was like 50 years ago, 100 years ago, 250 years ago or even as far back as 60,000 years ago. Making our little long walk – a mini little speck in the events of the patch of Earth and those who belong to it. The story could consider how our little mini speck could have any impact at all – could it? Could a heap of kids eating spuds on the retaining wall and walking in circles on this precious patch of Earth actually be like a stone dropping in the creek rippling into something bigger?

Imagine what all these kids might do with the ripples?

Imagine the conversations they might start.

And imagine the conversations they might challenge.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to this patch of Earth which feeds, warms and grows my children and those who have cared for this patch of for thousands of years – thank you.

*Donna Giliam, Primary Welfare Officer*

# Grade 3/4



## COMMUNITY NEWS

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

### Kindergarten Registrations Now Open:

To register your child for 3yo or 4yo kindergarten next year, visit the South Gippsland Shire Council website from 1<sup>st</sup> May and complete a registration form, nominating your kindergarten preferences. To be included in the first round of offer, you must register by 30<sup>th</sup> June. Scan the QR code or visit [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/kinder](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/kinder)



South Gippsland  
Shire Council

For more information, please call 5662 9200 or text your details to 0447 965 850 and we will call you back.



### 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.