



Edition 9 – 11th June 2024

Contact Us 5664 7382

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

w: www.tarwinvalleyyps.vic.edu.au

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Farewell Mrs Smedley

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge our outgoing administration assistant extraordinaire, Janelle Smedley. Janelle has been a true asset to our school for the past 9 years. She started with the dual role of Education Support in the classrooms with a day in the office. In these early years she helped countless students with their learning always with her warm, fun but fair approach. With staff and parents, Janelle was always open and honest. She loved cutting to the chase and getting items sorted. This set of skills led to significant improvements in many of the behind the scenes work that goes on at our school. OHS policies and reports including asbestos removal, arborist works and the reduction of countless other hazards has created a safe environment that we all benefit from and should be thankful for in Janelle's work.

Janelle is a modest person who has preferred to slip away quietly from our school but it would be remiss of all her fantastic work if we didn't take a moment to stop, reflect and be thankful.

On behalf of the school community, we wish Janelle, Matt and their three kids all the best in the next phase of their lives.

Welcome

The school recently ran a recruitment process for a new Administration Assistant to replace Janelle. We are pleased to announce that Yvette Renden was the successful applicant and will be starting in the role in a few weeks. Yvette brings a wonderful skill set to this role and together with Kylie will start a new chapter in the administration of Meeniyan Primary.

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 12th June COB. Please **do not** send orders/money to school.

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

My middle girl is 6 months deep into high school. She is rocking up to school with her first ever device and is totally distracted by all of its shiny and possibility. Like all kids, she is also asking for a phone and she is asking if she can have snapchat. Unfortunately for my middle girl, this is not our first rodeo,

CALENDAR

Current 28/05 – 11/06

11th June - School Council, 6pm

Upcoming

12th June - Book Club orders due COB
13th June – Division Winter Sports, Soccer & Netball A

20th June – Division Winter sports Mixed netball

21st June - Trivia Night

27th June – Prom Excursion Whole School

28th June – Last day Term,
2.30pm dismissal

15th July - Term 2

17-19th Jul – 3/4 Camp Rumbug

19th July - Prep 100 days party

5th Aug - Student free day

23rd Aug - Book week dress-up day

12th Sep - Division athletics

19th Sep - School Concert

CAMP RUMBUG GR 3 /4 REMINDER

Thank you to those families who have returned forms and paid for camp.

The deposit was due on 31st May.

Please submit payment either by direct deposit, EFTpos at school or cash to the office asap, to secure your child's position at camp.



Andrew and I had a lot of conversations before she even got the laptop about what was and was not ok with this new thing in our lives.

The first Rodeo was tough, with my eldest. We were strict and we argued A LOT about how and when she could use her computer and later her phone. It was hard because most conversations lead to 'when can I...' 'all my friends have...' 'just 10 more minutes...' I spent a lot of time feeling like I was excluding her from all the conversations (group chats) her mates were having without her but I felt sick at the idea of letting her have the tech that I did not think was good for her.

She did not like me and I really missed her.

By the time she was 15 she was allowed to have a phone and at 16-17 we had to relax some of our rules around the use. It was really hard to witness the impact of what became excessive use and the ripple effect of this. And the group chats could actually be more exclusive when she was actually part of them. I asked my eldest who is now 21 to reflect on how I could have managed this better when she was younger and she said to me 'my sister is going to hate me for this, but mum- I am so grateful you made me hold off as long as you did, I wish you had of made it longer.' She explained that she did not like me for it at the time but can see why I did now.

It is the trickiest part of navigating parenting now but I always try to consider the trade-off. What is the trade off? Is it time in nature? Is it in the flesh conversations? What does she really need this tech for at 12 years old?

I heard a principal at a year 7 information night once say - please gift your child the first year of high school phone free. Give them a chance to make good connections with their peers in the flesh.

Donna Giliam, Primary Welfare Officer



Penguin Artwork

A selection of Year 5 and 6 students art work. All 50 penguins have been shipped off to Hobart to be part of the Mawson's Hut Foundation art exhibition. They wanted students to be creative and imaginative.

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 1st May and complete a registration form, nominating your kindergarten preferences. To be included in the first round of offer, you must register by 30th June. Scan the QR code or visit 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.