



Edition 12 – 6th August 2024

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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Special thanks to all those parents who have already completed the Parent Opinion survey using the link currently posted on Compass. If you haven't completed it yet, please jump on as every opinion counts.

Connect Group

At Meeniyán Primary we have a group called 'Connect' that is made up of our amazing parents, carers and guardians. This group formed about 4 years ago and has coordinated and supported all sorts of great events and fundraisers for the school community including Colour Runs, Trivia Nights, Graduation (every year), a Meeniyán Ball, Bike Rides, Holiday Camping, Car Boot Sale, Garlic Festival, School Concerts, Student Disco, Movie Nights and many more. Without them, Meeniyán Primary would not be the vibrant fun-loving place it is. What I always love is that at many of these events, the children of these volunteers are also there learning a helping hand and learning what it means to volunteer and be part of a community.

The group runs fairly independently of the school, has its own messenger chat and semi-regularly has catchups (often with toddlers) at either the school or a local coffee shop to consider ways of helping the school. The group understands that everyone is very busy and people help out where they can.

Right now however we need to do a bit of a membership push as we have noticed that participation in our Connect Group is waning. We are missing many of our newer families and cannot afford to do so...with 98 families we're just not that big.

At the moment, Andrew Watt has taken over the reins as chief spokesperson from our past coordinator Tamara Symington. However, this is a temporary role for Andrew as his youngest child enters Grade 6 next year. I strongly encourage anyone who wants to get the most out of their child's primary schooling with an eye on making our school a fun and exciting place to contact Andrew and join the group. Andrew's number is 0490 808 171.

Car Boot Sale

Congratulations to our Connect group on their organisation of their inaugural Car Boot sale. The weather held off long enough for all sellers to show their wares and from what I hear, some made a few bucks passing on goodies and their unwanted bits and pieces. Many school community members and other guests passed through in what was a relaxed and fun vibe.

Gene Vander Zalm, Principal

CALENDAR

Current 23rd July – 6th August
12th Aug - Spell Final @ San Remo

Upcoming

23rd Aug - Book Week Dress up day
27th Aug - School Council Meeting
12th Sept - Division Athletics
19th Sept - School Concert
20th Sept - Footy Colours Day
20th Sept - Last day Term 3



A friendly reminder to please record your child's absence on Compass if they are not at school. If you are unable to login to Compass, you can email or phone the office.

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

School council met on 30/07/24 we had a look at a code of conduct for school councilors document to be signed next meeting. The state government has given funding for a mental health in primary schools initiative. MPS is ahead of the game as a teacher is already in this role however extra funding is a bonus. The state government also recently announced they had purchased land opposite the school (the former uniting church) and plan to build an early learning centre. At present details are scant we are waiting for the government to visit the area to give more information and answer any concerns. Gene and others are watching this space closely and meanwhile maybe as a community we can think what would best serve us. NAPLAN and the school survey data were discussed, the results of both reflect a great culture within the school.

Jo Gammon

MPS Olympics Day

The whole school participated in the 'MPS Olympics Day' on Monday the 29th of July. The students were divided into multi-age teams with each team representing a different country. They were encouraged to wear their country's colours and had made flags to go along with their outfits. The day was all about teamwork, participation, having fun and celebrating the spirit of the Olympics! Team Japan finished the day 1st place, with India in 2nd place and Spain finishing 3rd place.



PILLOW CASE PROJECT

"Pillowcase Project" visited 3/4 today to help students think about emergency preparedness. They each created their own special pillowcase decorated with items they would pack in it if there was an emergency. Many thanks to the Red Cross for delivering this project to Meeniyan P.S.



Prep future architect/engineer, Ellie Horkings showcasing her "House" creation during cooperative play.

SPELL FINAL

Four of our grade 6 students will be travelling to San Remo for the Spell Final on Monday 12th August. We wish Tessa, Sol, Sophie and Lloyd all the best!

GRADE 1/2 COAL CREEK EXCURSION

On Wednesday 31st of July, grades 1 and 2 visited Coal Creek to experience how past generations once lived.



SCHOOL CONCERT

This year's annual School Concert will be on Thursday 19th September at The Meeniyah Hall. Mrs Jackson has been very busy putting it all together, but is still looking for volunteers to help with her props, costumes etc. Workshops will run here at the school later in August and into September, or you can work from home if that suits you better. Volunteer registration forms were sent home with the last newsletter. If this something that you can help with, please return a volunteer registration form or pop into the school office.

PARENT/CAREGIVER/GUARDIAN SURVEY

Just a friendly reminder, that our school is conducting the annual Parent / Caregiver / Guardian Opinion Survey and is seeking your feedback. We have only had 17 out of 94 families complete the survey thus far. The survey is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of families' perceptions of school climate, student behaviour, and student engagement. Your opinions will contribute to identifying areas for improvement and professional development needs in the school, to target school planning and improvement strategies.

The survey can be accessed using the link and instructions mentioned in the below attachment. It should take about 20 minutes and will be open online from Monday 29 July to Friday 30 August 2024.

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

When my dad was a teenager he did a lot of work on different farms in the area, hay carting, roustabouting, mustering, milking and fencing. This work took him to a farm on a big hill in Dollar – the moment he laid eyes on this farm he knew that this was the place he wanted to live one day.

The year he turned 31 he bought the farm on Dollar Road and 3 days after they moved – I was born. As a kid Dollar Road seemed to feel really far from everywhere, even more so when I was a teenager. I learned to drive on Dollar Road, the bitumen would only run up the middle of the road, if I met with another car I would have to hold the steering wheel tight as I dropped off into the gravel on the side – this all made Dollar Road feel even further from everywhere.

But in reality, I knew nearly everyone along that road and we were connected by a long stretch of bumpy road taking us from Dumbalk to Dollar. If mum or dad were late for the bus, someone would give me a lift to the end of our driveway, if someone needed something from Leongatha they could ask someone who was 'going in' to pick it up for them and we always waved when we bounced off the side of bitumen into the gravel to let someone through.

In hindsight, growing up on Dollar Road taught me about community, about how to ask for help and how to offer it – all without a mobile phone!

For Respectful Relationships we are learning about who we can go to for help; at home, at school and in the community.

Donna Giliam, Primary Welfare Officer

COMMUNITY NEWS

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



join the party

Don't miss the 5-week party full of fun and footy in Term 3! There's a new party on every week to enjoy at your All Girls NAB AFL Auskick Centre!

INVERLOCH ALL GIRLS

TERM 3 AUSKICK

Inverloch Rec Reserve
Fridays 5:30pm
Starting 23/08



play.afl/auskick

Leongatha Joey Scouts

Term 3 Program 2024

Time: 4.30-5.30pm

Wednesday night (unless noted otherwise)

Scouts is a Youth-Led, Adult Supported movement.

Outdoor Adventure Skills focus: Bushcraft, Bushwalking, Camping

Leaders:

Dianne "Koala" Hancock 0410 514 824

Kim "Kookaburra" 0427 842 498

Melissa Ricky

Group Leader: Karrie Whitten



CHILD SAFETY STANDARDS

- ❖ 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.