



**Edition 13 – 20<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

Contact Us: 5664 7382

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

w: [www.tarwinvalley.vic.edu.au](http://www.tarwinvalley.vic.edu.au)

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

At Meeniyian Primary, one of our key goals is to foster positive relationships. When we work with the students, we teach them the important ingredients in any relationship such as trust, empathy and gratitude. Conversely, we also talk about blame, how common it is in society and the danger it poses in relationships.

Brene Brown defines blame as 'the discharging of discomfort and pain'. I think we can all relate to times in our lives when we have blamed and been on the receiving end. When you were on the receiving end, did you respond in your best way or could you think of ways it could have been done better?

When we look to society for role models, they are often not so obvious. Australia's political landscape goes completely against the grain of what we are trying to teach in our school. Daily press conferences pointing the finger back and forth at each other. Blame.

Sports coaching is no different. Coaches have contracts but if the team doesn't have a great season the coach is the first to go. Blame.

At school we try to teach students that mistakes are a learning opportunity. That without mistakes, learning is impossible. We also teach them to support another person when they make a mistake, put your hand on their shoulder and offer them support.

In society, if there is an accident, how do we respond? Do we support the cause of the accident, try to improve it and work towards a better outcome? Or do we blame?

An Australian scholar recently visited a primary school in Finland and noticed the students at the top of some very tall trees. When he asked the Principal, "What would the parent say if a child slipped?" The Principal merely replied, "They would say to the child you have to be more careful next time!" Would this be the response in Australia?

The only way we are going to change this current cycle of blame is by owning it and recognising when we are all guilty of it. By educating our students about the dangers of blame we are taking a step towards a supportive society. Please support this mindset at home. Discuss issues, search for solutions and listen. I know it is more time consuming but the lessons you are teaching will have an impact far beyond your child.

**Gene Vander Zalm, Principal**

## CALENDAR

### Current 23<sup>rd</sup> July – 6<sup>th</sup> August

23<sup>rd</sup> Aug - Book Week Dress up day  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sept - School Council Meeting

### Upcoming

12<sup>th</sup> Sept - Division Athletics  
19<sup>th</sup> Sept - School Concert  
20<sup>th</sup> Sept - Footy Colours Day  
20<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **BOOK WEEK**

A reminder that our annual book week dress up day will be this Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August! This is a fun day for students and staff alike and a great chance to promote reading and a love of books!

### **BOOK CLUB**

Issue 6 Book Club catalogues have been distributed today. Please place all orders via the LOOP app on your phone, or via the Scholastic website by COB Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September. Please **do not** send orders into the school office.

\*We have been informed of a warehouse delay in processing the last order. Scholastic apologise for the delay and ensure us that they are working on getting this to us as soon as possible.

### **SPELL FINAL**

Four of our grade 5 and 6 students, Tessa, Sol, Sophie M and Lloyd recently competed in the Spell Final at San Remo. We would like to congratulate them all for their wonderful efforts.



### **WHEELCHAIR FOOTBALL**

The grade 5's and 6's participated in a wheelchair football clinic ran by the Richmond Football Club. They were taught skills and had a competitive game. It was a great opportunity for these students to see what life in a wheelchair is like playing sport.



## RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

*When I was in my 3rd year of uni I did my teaching rounds out in Luritja country in the NT. I spent that month living in my tent out in tiny remote community. I spent my evenings near a fire reading books and my days covered in red sand, working with ace kids.*

*After that month, with the red sand deep under my skin, I came back to my life in Melbourne and it felt suffocating. I decided I would take the following year off and go north, following the sun, there was no such thing as a 'gap year' back then. Instead what I was doing was viewed as 'dropping out', people just scratched their heads and said 'why would you do that when you are so close to done?'*

*But I did it and a year became 2 years and 2 years became 5. 5 blissful years in the sunshine. Exploring the country, my eldest daughter was born in the middle of that time and she learned to swim in tropical rivers, had a campfire as a tv and had spent many nights under a billion stars. Uni and teaching all came later but back then, life was mostly spontaneous, adventurous and gentle.*

*Last Thursday, the morning in my house was chaotic. By the time I got into the car my heart was racing, my jaw and my mind on overdrive as I rushed to Foster for band drop off and then here for breakfast club. Once the kids were out of my car, I started aching for those gentle days in the sun. The rivers, the campfires and that deep red sand.*

*I arrived in Meeniyah and I did something I hardly ever do. I bought myself a coffee. I saw Taya's little coffee van and knew that the hug, the conversation and that sunny little van would pause the chaos in my mind for a moment. Taya nodded to the cup of words on the counter and said 'choose one – if it says responsibility put it back and get another one'. I took out a word and it read '**gentleness**'.*

*And that word has been on bold in my mind ever since because I think I can create the gentle life of those wandering days right here, in my beautiful chaos. I can do this with pause and appreciation for where the wind has blown my wild lot in life.*

*I hope you can find gentleness in your busy, joy in your chaos and moments of pause to look at it all and smile.*

**Donna Giliam, Primary Welfare Officer**

### **MEENIYAN'S GOT TALENT**

Students led a talent show at lunch time on Thursday 15th August. They showcased an array of different talents including some singing, dancing, joke telling and played musical instruments. The quality was quite impressive! Well done to all those students who participated!

### **SCHOOL CONCERT**

This year's annual School Concert, "Space and Beyond", will be held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September at The Meeniyah Hall. There will be a matinee and an evening performance.

Tickets will be available in September from the school office.



Congratulations to Esme Boyle's family on the safe arrival of baby Myra!

## **JUMP ROPE FOR HEART**

This term at Meeniyan Primary School the students have been doing Jump Rope for Heart during PE! This year we had an audacious goal to see our student Heart Heroes at Meeniyan Primary School to log 40 hours of skipping throughout the program!

Students have been skipping approximately 30-45 minutes throughout PE lessons as well as any additional recess and lunchtime breaks when they were feeling jumpy (before/after school skipping was encouraged too!).

If you haven't already, you can register your child online, so they can receive the full benefits of the program and participate in online fundraising and log their skipping hours daily to reach their goal. Simply follow the link to get started- [www.jumprope.org.au/parents](http://www.jumprope.org.au/parents)

You can share their online fundraising page with family and friends to help raise money for this great cause. We will hold our school Jump Off Day tomorrow, Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August, this will mark the end of the program and is a chance for everyone to come together to skip and show off their newly learned skills.



## **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.