



Edition 15 – 17th September 2024

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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

A critical element of being a successful student, a wonderful parent and a great teacher is understanding that we're generally wrong.

All of us are doing our best with what we currently have in terms of skills, knowledge and attitudes. When I first started teaching I used my 3rd year university science text books with a class of Grade 2 students! Until last week, I thought Bluey was a boy! And when my daughter was little and struggling to read I thought being hard on her and practising more was the solution. In every case I wrong.

Thankfully from each of these mistakes I was able to recover and do things a little less wrong in response.

Being wrong means change. Being wrong means improvement.

This, in a nutshell, is called life. Or at least what life should be. But somewhere along the way much of society became obsessed with being "right" about our decisions, our opinions and our lives.

1000 years from now, society will look back on our current time and smirk about how we are currently doing things. They will have the privilege of hindsight and the luxury of learning from the many mistakes we currently making and are yet to make.

As staff at MPS, we regularly remind each other to never dismiss the possibility you may be wrong and to share this with the students.

As parents, practice some uncertainty by asking yourself, "What if I was wrong about this?" Because I can tell you just like me and everybody else, you probably are.

Finally, share this with your child. By doing so you will teach them skills of the highest order such as critical thinking, self-compassion and wisdom.

Gene Vander Zalm, Principal

PYJAMA DAY

Don't bother getting dressed after a late night at the school concert - it is PJ day at Meeniyán Primary School! The Junior Action Team are asking for a gold coin donation for the day, with proceeds going to a Better Life for Foster Kids.

CALENDAR

Current 17th Sept – 1st Oct

18th Sept - Concert rehearsal day
19th Sept - School Concert
20th Sept - Pyjama Day
(Not Footy Colours as previously stated)
20th Sept - Last day Term 3 (2:30pm finish)

Upcoming

7th Oct - First day term 4
7th- 10th Oct - 5/6 swimming
8th Oct - 1/2 Grandparent's Day
11th Oct - Division basketball
14th- 17th Oct - Prep/1/2 swimming
22nd Oct - School Council meeting
24th Oct - PST open night
30th Oct - Kinder Parent info night
1st Nov - Stuart's Cup
4th Nov - Student free day
5th Nov - Melb.Cup day – Public Holiday
12th Nov - Grade 6 LSC Excursion Day
18th - 21st Nov - 3/4 swimming @ Toora
20th - 22nd Nov - Grade 5/6 Camp

It's not too late to pay your curriculum contributions for 2024.
\$160 per student,
+ \$20 per family
(voluntary grounds levy).
Payment can be made online to the school bank account, cash or card at the office.

Koorie Kids Art Workshop

On Monday the 9th of September grade 3-6 Koorie kids from Toora, Foster, Fish Creek, Meeniyah and Foster Secondary went to the art room at Foster Secondary College to make stories through painting with Annie-Rose Carter and Jason.

“My painting was about animals going to have a drink by the billabong, I used different symbols to tell this story. My mum was there because I was nervous but I wasn’t nervous at the end – I was happy”.

- By Scarlett Linke



SCHOOL COUNCIL

Another month goes by and we find ourselves at School Council talking about happenings and runnings during this past month. As we were all well aware we have had some hectic weather events occur which unfortunately damaged our buses, put our lights out and left us all with some clearing up to do. However, the school sustained very little in the way of destruction thanks in part to some good pruning and removal of a compromised tree earlier in the month. Gene believes (and we all agreed) that communication around these events is vital. These areas are being looked into, so keep an ear and eye out for further information regarding this. We had a visitor to the meeting, none other than our own school business manager Kylie Mitchell. One of the great things about school council is we get to look into every element and development of the school including its financial situation. Our own school council treasurer Brad usually gives us a run down each week of how and if the books have balanced for the past month. This is also accompanied by some pages of bank statements, financial statements, general ledgers etc... Now to be honest, as much as I love Brad, I tend to drift off during this time, but not now. Kylie and Brad both in turn explained what certain numbers meant, what to look for in deciphering the financial report papers, and generally dissolving the mystery that, for me at least, is the financial operating statement. We also looked at the progress that our kids are making in their learning this past month. With the key example being “daily review”, whereby work that has already been done is reviewed at set times in the future so as the kids don’t lose connection with the subject matter and become, overtime familiar and efficient with learning patterns. Another idea discussed is that of school uniforms. As we move through this year your child might well be out growing their uniforms, so instead of throwing away or passing on to MAC’s the school could be used as a collection point and parents can access these second-hand uniforms or donate all to MAC’s after letting the school community know so you are aware when MAC’s will have them. More about this will I’m sure come out via Compass.

Cheers, Andrew.

SWIMMING

Please note that Grade 5/6 will be doing swimming lessons in week 1 of term 4 and Prep/1/2 will be swimming in week 2. Permission slips were sent home last week and will need to be returned ASAP please so we can let Splash know the children’s competency levels etc.

The Grade 3/4’s will be swimming at the Toora Pool in week 7 of term 4 and will receive their permission slips at the beginning of next term.

This year there will be a fee of \$25 per student, except for the grade 6 students, who’s fees are covered by the Department of Education.

DIVISION ATHLETICS

A great day had by all our Division Athletes in Casey Fields on Thursday 12th September. Well done to all who competed, thank you for representing our school and your excellent sports-person-ship!



RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

Last year my daughter came to the dinner table and announced that she would like to shave her hair. My reflex response was 'Daisy, I really think you need to think about this for a couple of weeks and then make up your mind'. Annie-Jean said quickly 'Mum, would you have told Daisy she had to think about this if she was a boy?' and the answer to that question was no. I had always been so mindful to raise my girls to think they could do anything – regardless of their gender – however, my response to Daisy's question was gendered.

Lucky Annie called me out on it and we got the clippers out. Daisy's hair came off and she loved it all shaved off. It was great for swimming, she hated brushing it and did not have to anymore. I nearly wrote that it looked great but I am not sure that really matters!!

*Over the last few weeks for respectful relationships, we have been talking about gender stereotypes and the long-term impact of these. We know that boys can cry and girls can get muddy, anyone can have any career they apply themselves to and **everyone** deserves to be treated with respect.*

Donna Giliam, Primary Welfare Officer

SCHOOL CONCERT

This year's annual School Concert, "Space and Beyond", will be held on Thursday 19th September at The Meeniyah Hall. There will be a matinee at 1pm and an evening performance at 6:30pm.

Tickets are still available online until 6pm or from the school office until 4:30pm on Wednesday 18th September.

Please note the following important messages.

- All students are to bring their base costume to school in a named bag as soon as possible and hand it to their teacher, if not done so already.
- Students arrive at school in school uniform.
- If you are taking your child home straight from the afternoon concert, please notify your child's teacher so they know who is returning to school.
- Students will be sent home in their base costumes after the matinee performance. They need to return in their base costumes for the evening concert.
- Please remember students need safe shoes to wear on stage. Students in Years Prep to 2 must not have open toes or bare legs please!

*ALL students need to arrive at Meeniyah Town Hall 20 minutes before the evening concert starts at 6:10pm. Students need to walk to the back of the hall to get ready. We will be putting on costume accessories. Parents are to wait at the front of hall, unless they are helpers.

*Please show your tickets to Kylie or Yvette at the door. There are no allocated seats. - Enjoy the show!

Meeniyan
PRIMARY SCHOOL

PRESENTS

SPACE & BEYOND

THE 2024 SCHOOL PRODUCTION
A JOURNEY INTO SPACE AND BEYOND

THURSDAY 19TH SEPT

MATINEE 1PM

TICKETS \$10 ADULT \$5 CHILDREN

EVENING 6.30PM • TICKETS \$10

CHILDREN ON LAPS FREE

TICKETS FOR SALE ON TRY BOOKING

THE PRODUCTION RUNS FOR APPROX. 1 HOUR



<https://www.trybooking.com/CUPAB>

tickets go on sale Friday 30th August

Due to limited seating, we are restricting tickets to 4 per family at the evening session. We advise to bring grandparents and additional family members to the matinee session. Please be respectful of this when booking.

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

MDU CRICKET CLUB

The MDUCC Blasters season has it's registrations open for the 2024/25 season and we would love to see many kids come and join our great club as possible. The Blasters program is ideal for kids in 4 year old Kindergarten to Grades 2-3.

Sessions will run on a Thursday night from 4pm-5pm at the Meeniyah Recreation Reserve this year from October 17th - December 12th. Participants can be registered by clicking on this link:

<https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/register/e70b85>

The cost for the 9 weeks, participants pack, weekly afternoon tea and post session BBQ this year will be \$90.

We will also run the walking school bus from Meeniyah Primary School to the Rec each Thursday after school.

Any questions please contact Bec Browne on 0438 311 396.

The MDUCC will also participate in the local junior cricket competition starting from Under 11's and up. There will be a junior registration night starting at 4pm on Thursday October 17th for those interested.

For more information on the junior competitions please contact Tim Bright 0428 634 224.

DUMBALK NORTH TENNIS

On the 29th of September at 10:30am the Dumbalk North Tennis Club is holding an open day for all ages and abilities.

The Tennis Club currently have a B Grade but are looking for a possible C Grade as well.

The address is 31 Milford Road, Dumbalk North.

Any queries phone Andrew on 0490 808 171



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.