



Edition 16 – 15th October 2024

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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Each school has a set of values that underpin the day-to-day learning and wider decision making of the school. These values are often referred to as a 'vision'. At Meeniyán Primary, ours is simple, 'that learning is based on genuine relationships and community connections.'

Therefore, being a student at MPS is learning to engage with the community around us. Skills related to this practice include asking questions, listening, body language, observation, vocal tone and many others. Often, it is an opportunity for students to practice skills their parents have been reminding them of for years, in other cases the learning is brand new.

Each term our teachers plan a range of opportunities from a budget specifically set aside for connections. Our students have made connections via skype, mailed letters, excursions and visits to the school.

The preference is for face-to-face encounters where possible.

This term our community connections include: (whole school unless noted)

- Maths games @ Mirboo North (5/6)
- Sports events (5/6)
- Stuart's Cup
- Data collecting around Meeniyán (3/4)
- Graduation (6s)
- Transition Days
- 5/6 Camp
- Several guest speakers re: leadership (5s)
- Grandparents Day (P-2)
- Swimming
- Christmas Cakes (6s)
- Colour Splatacular
- Yr 6 leaders tour (info coming soon)

We are forever mindful that our students are the next generation. They will be our problem solvers, our workforce and our decision makers. We aim to give them opportunities to hone these skills and develop confidence in a range of areas. With each of these events we focus on the interactions that the students will be having as this is the glue that binds.

Gene Vander Zalm, Principal

REGIONAL ATHLETICS

Three of our students have made it through to Regional Athletics which is being held today (15th October) at Newborough. We wish Liam T, Joseph W and Blake T all the very best in their events!

CALENDAR

Current - 15th - 28th Oct

14- 17 th Oct	Prep/1/2 swimming
15 th Oct	Regional Athletics
16 th Oct	MAV Games Day (selected grade 5/6 students)
22 nd Oct	School Council meeting
24 th Oct	PST open night

Upcoming

30 th Oct	Kinder Parent info night
1 st Nov	Stuart's Cup
4 th Nov	Student free day
5 th Nov	Melb.Cup day public hol. (Student free day)
12 th Nov	Grade 6 LSC Excursion Day
18- 21 st Nov	3/4 swimming @ Toora
20- 22 nd Nov	Grade 5/6 Camp

HATS

A reminder that all students are required to wear a broad-brimmed hat at recess and lunch time in term 4 as per our Sun Smart policy. Please check that your child has a hat for school and it is named so they can locate it easily when they need it. Children without hats will be required to play in designated undercover areas.

DIVISION BASKETBALL

Representing the Waratah Cluster, five grade 5/6 students teamed up with three Fish Creek students to compete at the division basketball on Friday. The eight boys worked as a team magnificently. They focused on enjoyment, sportsmanship and trying their best, which all the students should be proud of doing wonderfully. They played two games on the day, against Cowes and Leongatha Primary Schools, which are schools of well over 500 students. Whilst the results on the scoreboard didn't go their way, the team fought hard and never gave up, really challenging the two teams for periods of the game. A great effort boys, well done!!!!



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.

GRANDPARENTS/SPECIAL PERSONS DAY

Thank you to everyone who came to the grade 1/2 Grandparents/Special persons day. The teachers, students and their visitors shared a wonderful morning together. Thank you for all the delicious food that families brought along to share, and to our guests for embracing the activities on the day. Well done to all the grade 1/2 students who were spectacular hosts to their special visitors, modelling our school values and going above and beyond to ensure everyone had an enjoyable morning together.



PARENT STUDENT TEACHER OPEN NIGHT

We are hosting a PST Open night for parents to come and see what their children have been doing in class. This will be open for families to come along from 3:30 - 5pm on Thursday 24th October.

GRADE 3/4 SWIMMING

Please note that the grade 3/4's will be swimming at the Toora Pool in week 7 of term 4.

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). All grade 3/4 students should have received their permission slips last week. These will need to be returned by Friday 25th October please.

SCHOOL CONCERT

This year's school concert "Space and Beyond" had fantastic attendance at both the matinee and evening performances and from all reports received, the crowd were very impressed with the student's performances and also with the work that had been put into the script, costumes, props and the production as a whole!

The concert raised a whopping \$3,483!! - Well done to Mrs Jackson and everyone involved!

BOOK CLUB

Issue 7 catalogues were distributed last week. Orders are to be placed via the LOOP app or the Scholastic website by COB Monday 28th October. Please **do not** send orders/money to school.



RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

Once, when I was googling one of my favourite ever humans 'Albert Einstein' I found that he once said this 'Common sense is the collection of prejudices acquired by age eighteen' This quote made me exhale with relief as I had always felt so uncomfortable with people stating something was 'common sense'. Like a collection of people thought the same way, I worried that it did not allow for people to challenge common thinking or common sense.

I grew up in a time when phrases like 'you run like a girl' or 'don't be such a sissy' or 'boys don't cry' or 'boys will be boys' or 'girls are just like that' were common phrases. These words made us think that girls could not run, boys should not cry or being a sissy was a bad thing or it excused shaming someone due to their gender.

This 'common' language expected boys to be hard and tough and this language silenced girls. Both our boys and girls had limits put on the things they could do with their lives.

This term our students have been learning about gender norms, gender stereotypes and equality. It is so exciting hearing the conversations around gender at our school. Boys AND girls can be leaders, girls AND boys can have long hair, girls AND boys can be a stay-at-home parent, boys AND girls can run, climb, play with Lego, play with dolls, play with trucks, play in the sandpit or build wonderful cubbies and that everyone belongs on the oval or the basketball court.

I get goose bumps thinking about the endless opportunities our kids have because they are humans, and they are not limited by the gender stereotypes which were once 'common' language.

Equality is for everyone.

Donna Giliam, Primary Welfare Officer

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 its 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.

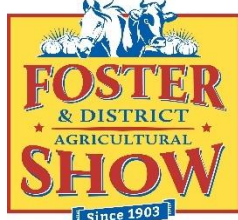
We will also run the walking school bus from Meeniyah Primary School to the Rec each Thursday after school.

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.

2025 FOSTER SHOW



"There's some new competitions on offer for the 2025 Foster Show and they take a bit of time to prepare for. For the first time we will host the Foster Show Calf Classic where kids and adults alike can bring along a calf they have raised and halter broken to exhibit on show day. If you haven't had any/much experience handling cattle, come along to our free handling training session to be held at the Foster Showgrounds on Sunday 10th November 2024 from 10am. No need to bring a calf to this workshop, just a supervising adult if you're under 16yo.

Giant pumpkin seeds are available now to plant for the 2025 Foster Show. It's best to get your seeds in ASAP if you plan to grow a big one in time for show day! Contact Renee on 0407 348 641 or Den on 0425 728 525 to collect some seeds and growing information. Last year's winner was a whopping 89.5kg, can you beat it?"

KIDS CHRISTMAS DRAWING COMPETITION

- Scan the code below and print out the entry form
- Let your child get creative
- Bring the (uncreased) masterpiece into Natural Living by 30 October
- One winner will be selected from each age group and their design printed on Christmas Cards
- **WINNERS WILL RECEIVE A PACK OF CARDS WITH THEIR DESIGN AND A PRIZE**
- Cards will be sold in our store
- Profits will go 

SCAN ME!



NATURAL LIVING
FOSTER

**The school office has copies of the drawing competition entry form if you can't print one at home.*



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.

SCHOOL SAVING BONUS

The School Saving Bonus will be rolled out in Term 4.

For government school students, the \$400 School Saving Bonus will be provided directly to the school.

Families will receive an email from the department with their \$400 School Saving Bonus information and access to an online system. Families can choose how to use and allocate the \$400 bonus – on school activities, to purchase uniforms or textbooks (not school stationery items), or a mixture of all three.

If families choose to allocate funds to school activities, they will do so via the online system. Families will determine the amount to allocate, and the funds will then be available for the family to use at the school for activities.

The parent/carer can advise the school of their intention to use the School Saving Bonus when giving permission for their child to attend or participate in an activity.

Some common examples of school activities for which the School Saving Bonus may be used include:

- school camps, trips, excursions and incursions
- swimming and sporting programs
- outdoor education programs
- graduations
- school uniforms
- textbooks (not stationery items or the classroom materials)

The School Saving Bonus cannot be used towards:

- activities required for the school's delivery of the curriculum
- curriculum contributions
- before/after school care
- locker hire
- classroom and homework materials
- formals or debutante balls.

Alternatively, the parent/carer can purchase uniforms and/or textbooks via an in-store or online purchase, with an approved supplier.

The bonus can be used to purchase second-hand items where the sale of items is managed by the school (that is, where the school is the supplier).

Generic uniform items, including shoes, can also be purchased through State Schools' Relief.

The bonus cannot be used for purchases at general retailers (for example, Kmart, Big W, Best & Less) or to support transactions between individuals.

Online access to the School Saving Bonus will expire on 30 June 2025. Any balance remaining at this time will automatically transfer to family accounts at the school for families to use toward school activities. Families and schools do not need to action this transfer.

Funds will rollover for use in future years if not all spent in 2025.

Families who have more than one child at the same school can combine their School Saving Bonus to use on one child or for a specific activity (for example, a camp). The School Saving Bonus cannot be combined across different schools and cannot be transferred between government and non-government schools.

Unused money from the School Saving Bonus will follow students transferring between government schools.

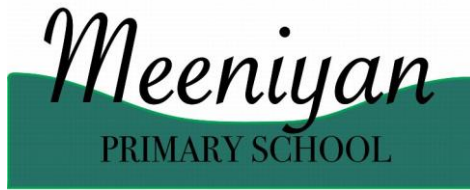
Where a student leaves the government school system any unused money can be transferred to a sibling at the same school. If there is no sibling, the funds can be retained by the school to support other students with educational costs.

IF YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION HAS CHANGED THIS YEAR:

Please complete the attached form and return it to school asap.

It is important we have your most up to date information to ensure the funds are directed to you promptly.

Should you have any questions, please contact Kylie at school on 5664 7382.



Family Contact Information - update

Date:

Student Surname: Student First Name:

Student Surname: Student First Name:

Student Surname: Student First Name:

Student Surname: Student First Name:

1. Parent/Carer Surname: Parent/Carer First Name:

Email address:

Mobile number:

Residential address:

2. Parent/Carer Surname: Parent/Carer First Name:

Email address:

Mobile number:

Residential address:

Please return the completed form to the office via email: meeniyah.ps@education.vic.gov.au, or hard copy. Copies of this form are available from the office.