



# School News



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## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

"An organisation is only as good as the people who live and work in it."

My wife and I joined Meeniyian Primary School as a Prep parent in 2008. At this time, we had just moved to Meeniyian for its location and beautiful scenery. We hoped the local primary school would be a nice fit for our four small kids. A place where they could be nurtured and supported. Thankfully this is exactly what we got.

From the earliest days, we realised there was a strong culture of inclusion that celebrated the individual. In 2010, when a classroom teacher position came up, I jumped at the opportunity to contribute to this culture. 8 years later, when the Principal position came up, I went for it, purely because I wanted to continue the legacy of those before me.

Across all these years, I have been fortunate to work alongside and observe quality people working at many different levels:

Our school council is committed to governing a well-oiled machine.

Each year, this group of volunteers oversees the performance of Meeniyian Primary and the big decisions that we make. They are selfless and impartial. Each time a new councillor joins, the baton is passed, and the tradition continues. Thank you.

Our parent connect group is the glue that binds us all. Each year, they provide on the ground support, assist students and families, and organise events that bring us all together. Thank you.

Finally, our staff. The school has a long tradition of employing people for their character. Each of our staff values strong relationships with the students over anything else. I'm proud to say the nurture and support I noticed so many years ago as a parent continues to thrive at Meeniyian and is the reason I would never work anywhere else. Thank you.

At Meeniyian Primary we are extremely fortunate to have quality people working at all levels. This can never be something we take for granted. We all have the capacity to contribute to this culture and all have licence to protect it. Thank you.

**Gene Vander Zalm, Principal**

## CALENDAR

### Current - Oct 29<sup>th</sup> – Nov 12<sup>th</sup>

30 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Kinder Parent info night
1 <sup>st</sup> Nov	Stuart's Cup
4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Student free day
5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Melb.Cup day public hol. (Student free day)
8 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Free dress day

### Upcoming

12 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Grade 6 LSC Excursion
18- 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov	3/4 swimming @ Toora
19 <sup>th</sup> Nov	School council meeting
20- 22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	Grade 5/6 Camp
29 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Colour Splatacular
2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	Student free day
10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Statewide transition day
12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Grade 6 Graduation

### **FREE DRESS DAY**

Grade 5P are running 160 laps of the basketball court each day for 12 days. Inspired by Need Brockmann, who recently ran 1600km in 12 days around a track in Sydney to raise money for homelessness.

On Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> November, we will be hosting a free dress day in support of Grade 5P's Uncomfortable Challenge. This will be day 12 of our challenge, and we would love to have an audience as we finish our laps! It would be great if you could support us on the day by bringing a gold coin donation. All donations go to Mobilise, a charity for Australian homelessness. If you would like, you could dress up as Need! Otherwise, wear comfortable clothing!

### **REGIONAL ATHLETICS**

Three of our students recently participated at Regional Athletics at Newborough. A big congratulations to Liam T, Joseph W and Blake T who all had outstanding results in their events! Liam placed 6<sup>th</sup> in shot (8.79m) and 7<sup>th</sup> in discus (23.37m). Joseph placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the 1500m (5.42.54) and 8<sup>th</sup> in the 800m (2.53.14). Blake placed 7<sup>th</sup> in the triple jump (7.55m) and 7<sup>th</sup> in discus (19.53m).

### **SCHOOL COUNCIL**

School council meetings are always a great place to learn more about the school's internal workings and share information on what the students and teachers have been up to. This meeting was no different. We learnt that it's been a busy and exciting start to the final term at MPS! Our Prep to Year 2 and Year 5/6 students completed their annual swimming lessons at Splash, showing resilience and teamwork. They navigated the bus, changerooms, and pool, making the program successful. In November, our Year 3/4 students will head to Toora Pool for swimming lessons.

MPS was also proudly represented at the inaugural MAV maths event at Mirboo North Primary School, where selected Grade 5 and 6 students competed and did well, upholding the school's values. Teachers and students are looking forward to participating again!

The grade 5 students have been lucky enough to hear from notable community leaders, including the CEO of South Gippsland Shire Council, in inspiring leadership talks. These sessions have been a fantastic opportunity for our future school leaders to prepare for what's ahead.

Finally, congratulations to everyone involved in the school concert! It was a joyous day and evening, and the students truly shone. The school also raised valuable funds toward our \$10,000 target for the year.

I hope you are having a good day.

***Kate Thomas, School Council President***

### **RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS**

*One of my favourite sayings is 'the limit of my language is the limits of my world'. I have often related this to literacy. To the power of reading, writing and communication. The more we read, the more we can understand about the world.*

*However, more recently I have started to think about this saying in relation to power, shared power, stolen power and relinquished power. Words have impact. Each week in our yarnning circles we have shared and equal power. When a child is sharing others need to hold the power for that person. If they interrupt, they are stealing the speaker's power and stealing power is silencing another's voice.*

*So, if our voices have power which can be held, stolen or relinquished. This means that what we SAY has power too. Often, we can brush words off by saying 'I was only joking' or 'I did not mean that' but the person on the receiving end of our words may not be able to shake those words off so easily. What we say can also*

be heard by many– I noticed this last night when my daughter was being coached in basketball – she was getting some positive and explicit feedback from her coach and the other players on her team started using that feedback also. This can happen with whatever we say – positive or negative.

We live in a part of the world where we have access to so many words, this means the limits of our worlds are wide and expansive and this is a privilege, what we do with that privilege and power matters, words matter.

**Donna Giliam, Primary Welfare Officer**

## COMMUNITY NEWS

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



### **BUDGIE - FREE TO GOOD, LOVING HOME.**

Please call Debbie if you are interested or have any questions, 0429 647 583

### **LEONGATHA CYCLING CLUB**

The poster features a photograph of four cyclists on a track. The Leongatha Cycling Club logo is in the top left corner. The main text reads 'COME AND TRY TRACK CYCLING'. Below this, it says 'Join the Leongatha Cycling Club at the Velodrome to try Track Cycling. For all ages 8yo +. All you need is a helmet and a drink bottle, the club can supply a bike. Free to come and try'. To the right, there is a calendar icon and text: '5:45PM - 7PM MONDAY NIGHTS STARTING 21 OCTOBER WEATHER DEPENDENT'. Below that is a location pin icon and text: 'LEONGATHA VELODROME 52 ROUGHHEAD ST (LEONGATHA RECREATION RESERVE)'. At the bottom, it says 'For more information, contact Steve on 0413 884 130'.



### 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.



Contractors who are engaged to work on school grounds 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.

## Dear Parents,

This Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November, we again celebrate our wonderful House Sports, the Stuart's Cup. This event is the highlight of the year for many in our school community as it carries a beautiful sense of community and is all about the participants. This year the day will once again run as a one-day fixture with all team and individual events taking place at the Recreation Reserve on the Friday.

Children are to wear a T-shirt/top in their house colour if possible – Wattle (yellow), Waratah (red) and Blue Gum (blue), Shorts (tracksuit/jacket if cold), suitable footwear and a hat.

9:20am - Classes will be walked down to the recreation reserve by staff, arriving at 9.50am in readiness for a 10.00am start.

Students will be seated in their house areas and will be able to join you for morning tea and lunch if you are able to attend. If your child goes home with you at the end of the sports, please notify the class teacher.

### WHAT IF?



If the weather is unkind to us, it will mean a cancellation of the event. We will take the weather and the forecast into account and make a staff decision at 8.30am. Please do not phone the school before 8.30am, we will post a News Item on 'Compass'. If the weather on the day is hot, the day's program will be modified. If you are unsure, send your children to school (prepared for the athletics and/or a normal school day) so that they will be ready if the sports go ahead.

### COMPETITORS REQUIRE:

T-shirt in their house colour - Wattle (yellow), Waratah (red) and Blue Gum (blue)

Shorts (tracksuit/jacket if cold)

Suitable footwear

Hat and Sunscreen (regardless of weather)

Something to sit on if the ground is damp

Morning tea, lunch, snacks

Water bottles .. able to be refilled at the ground

Optional coloured hairspray or zinc can be applied at home (only a small amount please)

### PARENTS:

You may like to bring folding chairs or rugs to sit on around the track. Please keep pre-school youngsters with you so that they are not near the running track. Students will be seated in their house groups and called for each event by their House Captains. They will be able to join you during the lunch break.



### OFFERS OF HELP PLEASE

We are seeking offers of help:

- Man a P-2 Tabloid activity – offer on the day
- Setting up house tents in the morning-let us know
- Check and wipe over toilets (yuck, but someone has to do it for the health and hygiene for students)  
Supplies, cleaning products supplied -let us know

**Gene VanderZalm**



Meeniyan Primary School

Colour Splatacular

Friday 29th November 2024



For the past two years Meeniyan Primary School has run a Colour Splatacular event.

This is a whole school event where the students dress in a white t-shirt and run around an obstacle course on the oval, whilst being sprayed with slime and coloured powder. The powder and slime are safe and non-toxic, if you need further information on what's in it - in case of allergies, please contact the school.

A team of parent volunteers help to set up the obstacle course and then spray the students. It's a fun day but it's messy and wet, so your child will either need a change of clothes or an old towel to go home with at the end of the day. Bus travelers should bring a change of clothes please.

**WHEN: Friday 29th November 1.30pm—3.20pm.**

**COST: \$5 entry extra \$5 for t-shirt and/or glasses**

*(This is a not for profit event, charges are to cover cost of materials only)*

You may already have a white t-shirt and glasses at home, if so please use those, we have limited items available for sale. Glasses are not vital, but some students prefer to wear them to protect their eyes.

Any questions, please contact the school on 5664 7382.

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes my child will participate in the Colour Splatacular. Entry \$5 per student.

**Optional:**

Yes we need a T-shirt. Size 6 8 10 12 14 (please circle)

Yes we need glasses

\$5 extra for glasses and/or t-shirt

Total

Please return forms and money to school **by Friday 1st November.**

Payments can be made to the school bank account BSB 063 518 ACC 1007 1649, EFTpos, or cash.

## **MEENIYAN / SOUTH GIPPSLAND LOCAL SUPPORT**

### **\*Salvation Army**

The salvation provide support for Housing, Family Violence, Youth Support and Food Relief.

Here is the contact details for our local Salvation Army

**Leongatha – Phone:** (03) 5662 6400

2 Long St, Leongatha VIC 3953

Food Relief: Tues & Fri 10am-2pm

*By Appointment*

**Wonthaggi - Phone:** (03) 5672 1228

149 McKenzie St, Wonthaggi VIC 3995

Food Relief: Mon & Thurs 10am-12pm

*Walk In*

**\*Anglicare Leongatha - Phone:** (03) 5622 8650

5A Church St, Leongatha VIC 3953

Anglicare provide different streams of support.

Community Services you need no referral, and they help:

Financial Counselling and Legal Services

For Family Services you usually need a referral from Orange Door to get help and support.

**\*UnitingCare Gippsland - Phone:** (03) 5662 5150

3 Church St, Leongatha VIC 3953

UnitingCare Gippsland is an organisation that is client based. You usually need a referral from Orange Door to get help and assistance. They provide family services for the parents and children. They also provide help with getting children to school. They provide parenting programs for parents. They have councillors that help with grief, depression, relationships, and family issues.

**\*Help & Hope** – Come and help yourself

Food Outreach corresponding fortnights

We offer food to individuals and families in need

**Equip Mirboo Nth** - Phone: 0491764650

1 Baromi Rd Mirboo Nth - **Collection of food: 1-3pm**

*And alternative week at*

**Equip Leongatha** - Phone: 0408305880

17 Michael Place Leongatha - **Collection of food: 1-3pm**

**\*Headspace – Phone:** (03) 5136 8300

Corner George Street and, 15 Hazelwood Rd, Morwell VIC 3840

Headspace is the National Youth Mental Health Foundation. They offer online and phone counselling services, our vocational services, and our presence in schools.

**\*Orange Door: Gippsland** Ph: **1800 319 354** / Email: [iga@orangedoor.vic.gov.au](mailto:iga@orangedoor.vic.gov.au)

**9am to 5pm Monday to Friday** (closed public holidays)

- 163 Princes Drive, Morwell 3840
- 36 Williams Street, Warragul 3820

**\*Orange Door help with giving support families in need. They resource and find you the right help.**

### **EMERGENCY NUMBERS:**

Lifeline

13 11 14

Suicide Call-back Service

1300 659 467

Kids Helpline (for young people 5-25)

1800 55 1800

Headspace (for young people 12-25)

1800 650 890