



# School News



Edition 19 – 26<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Contact Us: 5664 7382

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

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

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Last week the Victorian department of education released the 2024 School Performance Reports for every government school in the state. In this report they compile student academic performance data and student wellbeing data and then compare each school against 50 'Similar' schools across the state. After this, each school receives a rating (either High, Medium, Improving and Developing) based on Academic, Wellbeing and Overall Performance. We're very proud to announce (drumroll...) that Meeniy Primary scored ratings of High in each category!

Our students should be immensely proud of their hard work across the board. They give their best efforts on a regular basis and make Meeniy Primary what it is.

To all our families, thank you for supporting our students through all aspects of their learning. An important aspect where parents contribute is via student attendance. We are currently assessed as Medium and hope to move this to High in the coming years.

As a staff, we are particularly proud of the hard work we have put into turning around student maths performance across recent years. This was the area of learning where we saw our biggest improvements in 2024, just reward for our efforts.

In the coming weeks, students will complete end of year assessments for student reporting and we are sure they will again put in their best efforts. Congratulations to all the school community on a highly successful year.

*Gene Vander Zalm, Principal*

## SCHOOL SAVINGS BONUS

The School Savings Bonus of \$400 per student has landed in our school's bank account for use in 2025. You should receive the email from the SSB team soon (if not already) with your unique log in details to log into the portal and nominate where your funds will be spent.

Please see the attached flyer for further information and a handy little video on how it all works.

If you have any questions, please reach out to the team at [school.saving.bonus@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:school.saving.bonus@education.vic.gov.au), I've found them very responsive and good to deal with so far.

*Thank you, Kylie - Business Manager*

## CALENDAR

### Current - Nov 26<sup>th</sup>- 10<sup>th</sup> Dec.

26 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Colour Splatacular
2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	Student Free Day
2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	Book Club orders close
3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	Mary MacKillop CRC transition day
5 <sup>th</sup> + 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Bike ed (Grades 3-6)
7 <sup>th</sup> Dec	School bike ride (Grade 3-6)
10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	State-wide transition day

### Upcoming

12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Grade 6 Graduation
18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Grade 6 Pool Party
19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Last day of school for students - <b>3:20pm finish</b>
20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Last day of Term 4 (Student Free Day)

## **2025 CLASSROOM TEACHERS**

The classroom teachers for next year are as follows:

- Foundation – Ms Rush (Mon-Wed) and Mrs Guy (Thurs/Fri)
- Year 1 – Ms Sanders (Mon, Wed-Fri) and Mrs Anderson (Tues)
- Year 2 – Mrs Guy (Mon-Tues) and Mrs Russell (Wed-Fri)
- Year 3/4 – Ms Dixon
- Year 3/4 – Ms Smith
- Year 5/6 – Ms Dickie
- Year 5/6 – Mrs O'Brien
- Specialist teachers – Mrs Browne, Mrs Horkings, Mrs Jackson and Mr Reid.

## **ABSENCES**

As we are nearing the end of the year, you are reminded that **all** student absences (past, present and future) **must be explained** by the end of the school year! So please help by taking some of the load off the admin staff, by checking your child/children's attendance and lodging any absences via the Compass App or by phone or in writing to the school. Prior notification of absences for holidays, appointments etc are appreciated. If you would like any help learning how to do this, please don't hesitate to contact the office – 5664 7382.

## **COLOUR SPLATACULAR**

The Colour Splatacular will be held this Friday the 29<sup>th</sup> of November from 1:30pm to 3:20pm.

The Parent Connect group organized the T-shirt and glasses orders and distributed them to students yesterday (Monday). We still have some T-shirts available to purchase (mainly smaller sizes), but all the glasses have sold out.

We recommend sending your child/children to school on Friday with a clean change of clothing, an old towel and a bag for wet/dirty clothing!

## **SCHOOL COUNCIL REPORT**

As the end of the school year approaches, things power on in the classroom, with staff busily trying to jam the last bits of learning into the few remaining weeks, while juggling a heap of end-of-year activities. Meanwhile at School Council, things start to wind down a little, with our attention shifting to reviewing the year (nearly) gone, while also casting an eye to next year.

At the November meetings, the usual administration tasks were completed, such as reviewing and approving a bunch of Education Department policies and confirming the school budget for 2025.

The fun bit came a little later on, when we got to have a peek at the data from the Department's *2024 School Performance Report*. And what impressive data it was! The school has been able to hit the "High" level (the highest ranking possible) for the *Learning* category and the *Wellbeing* category, which is a great achievement. We also achieved a "High" rating for *Overall Performance* – three ratings of "High" for all three categories assessed.

To reinforce how impressive this is, Meeniy Primary School is one of only 9 out of 41 schools in total in the "similar schools" grouping to achieve a High ranking for *Learning*, and one of only 14 out of 41 similar schools to achieve it for the *Overall* category.

The one area that sticks out as having room for improvement is attendance, where we received a "Medium" ranking, not showing significant change to the previous year. However, while there is room for improvement in attendance, there is no doubt that overall, the report is an excellent result for the school and a credit to the staff and students for all their hard work.

Congratulations to all!

***Brad Kijlstra-Shone, Meeniy Primary School Council***

## **BIKE ED**

Bec Browne is a qualified Bike Ed School Program facilitator (Road Safety Education Victoria) and will be running a Bike Ed School Program for students in grades 3-6 next week, Wednesday 4th December to Friday 6th December at the Meeniyah Rec Reserve/Meeniyah Township/Rail Trail.

Families should have received a permission slip via 'Compass Events and Payments' last week. If not done already, please complete the consent for your child/children as soon as possible.

The program provides students with the opportunity to learn about safe riding behaviours, road rules and riding in a shared environment. Bike Ed uses practical lessons to ensure riders have the physical abilities to ride safely and independently.

It is a fantastic opportunity to promote physical activity, safety, and the enjoyment of getting outside and on your bike!

### **Required Equipment:**

- A bike in good working condition
- A helmet (mandatory for all students)
- PE appropriate clothing: School uniform and closed-toe shoes (no boots)

Please ensure that your child's bike is in good working condition. We will aim to check student's bikes prior to the commencement of the program on day 1 (Wed 5th Dec). If you need assistance with a bike check or repairs, please contact Mr Reid and we can look to organise a bike repair option.

\*If your child does not have a bike, please inform Mr Reid and we will look to organise a bike loan or a solution to ensure that every student has the opportunity to ride and learn.

We welcome parent volunteers to assist with the program as we will need some extra help on the instruction days and the Friday Ride. If you would like to help, please contact Mr Reid or Mrs Browne.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Mr Reid - [john.reid@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:john.reid@education.vic.gov.au)

<https://www.roadsafetyeducation.vic.gov.au/educational-resources/programs/bike-ed-new>

## **CRICKET CLINIC**

Last week we had a rep from the Melbourne Stars visit the school for 2 days to run cricket clinics for grades prep to 6 and promote participation with local Cricket Blasters and local clubs. During the students' PE lesson, Dylan Grandell (Melbourne Stars Rep) got all the kids involved and enjoyed the game with a range of skill activities and fun modified cricket games. The students had lots of fun, and it was a great chance for them to showcase their cricket skills and all-round abilities. Great job everyone!



## RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

*A few years ago, when I was teaching science, I was quickly trying to put 6 children into 2 groups for cooking – with a quick scan of the kids I said ‘one group girls and one group of boys thanks’, one of the students said to me ‘Miss Giliam, can we mix it up a bit? We are not that kind of school.’ How good is that? Gender unfairness or stereotypes do not serve anyone well and our young people know to challenge this when they see it.*

*Our kids know that boys and girls can be mates and girls and boys can work well together.*

*This term in our Respectful Relationships lessons we have been discussing gender and considering the ongoing impact of stereotypes e.g. ‘boys can’t cry’ or ‘girls need to be rescued’ or ‘girls have to play with girls and boys have to play with boys.’ This is important as stereotypes are a driver for gender-based violence understanding this has created a pathway into learning about ‘positive gender relations.’*

*This work is the pointy end of our RR classes as we talk about how violence might look in the playground or community. We also talk about what to do if we are in a situation as a victim or bystander of violence. We talk about equality and fairness for all and our kids are driving these conversations with wisdom, empathy and fairness. These wise young minds make me feel hopeful for a world free of violence.*

*These lessons are age appropriate but if they are bringing up any concerns for your child, please do not hesitate to make contact.*

**Donna Giliam, Primary Welfare Officer**

## BELEZA SCHOOL UNIFORM SALE

The Pakenham Beleza store is having a sale for Meeniyan Primary School families that will be running from Saturday 23rd of November to Saturday 30th of November. Families can receive 20% off Beleza-branded items during this sale period, so it's a great opportunity for families to prepare for the 2025 school year and save on some of those back-to-school costs.

**2024 VIP  
SALE**

**BELEZA PAKENHAM**  
7/99 BALD ROAD, 3810

**TRADING HOURS**  
Mon to Fri: 9:00am - 5:00pm  
Sat: 10:00am - 1:00pm

**SATURDAY  
23<sup>rd</sup> NOV TO  
30<sup>th</sup> NOV**

**20%  
OFF\***  
IN-STORE ONLY\*

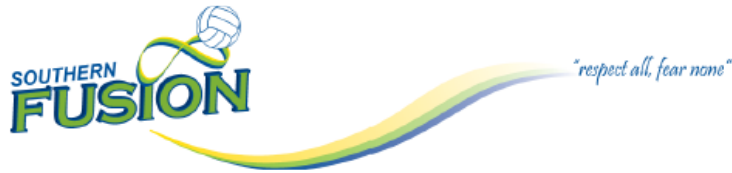
\*CONDITIONS APPLY

Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer, voucher or discount. Discount available on full priced Beleza branded items only. Applicable only for Meeniyan Primary School families.

# COMMUNITY NEWS

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

---



## REGISTRATIONS OPEN

### 2025 Southern Fusion Team Tryouts.

Southern Fusion aims to equip players with the requisite knowledge, skills, and understanding to prepare them for the Netball Victoria Development Pathway. Many of Southern Fusion's past players have developed these skills and knowledge to progress into various VNL Programs.

Matches are held on state-of-the-art indoor courts at Casey Netball Association.

Fusion conducts training sessions every Sunday morning at Meeniyah & District Sports Stadium.

The 2025 Monday Junior Autumn Season will commence February 3rd, and run through to June 16th (plus finals) with no games during the April School Holidays.

The 2025 Wednesday Junior Autumn Season will commence February 5th, and run through to June 18th (plus finals) with no games during the April School Holidays.

#### DATES

SUNDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 2024 SUNDAY 24TH NOVEMBER  
2024 SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2024

#### TIMES

UNDER 13'S GIRLS & BOYS @ 09:00AM – 10:00AM  
13&U age group (DOB 2013-2012)  
UNDER 15'S GIRLS & BOYS @ 10:00AM – 11:00AM  
15&U age group (DOB 2011-2010)  
UNDER 17'S GIRLS & BOYS @ 11:00AM – 12:00PM  
17&U age group (2009-2008)

#### VENUE:

MEENIYAN & DISTRICT SPORTS STADIUM

#### IMPORTANT:

- What To Wear: White Or Light Top With Dark Shorts
- Please Arrive 10 Mins Before With Water, Ready To Start Warmup
- Players Must Register Via The Online Form Below

#### PLEASE NOTE:

**PLAYERS MUST ATTEND A MINIMUM OF TWO TRIALS**

REGISTRATION LINK:

<https://forms.gle/WCNdJdMvB6mR595V8>



## CHILD SAFETY STANDARDS

### WHAT WE EXPECT AT MEENIYAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

- ❖ 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.