

Calendar



April

Friday 27th

Working Bee (4-6pm)

May

Friday 4th

Winter Sports (Yr 3-6)

Friday 18th

Winter Sports (Yr 3-6)

Principal's Report

Hi everyone, I hope everyone has had an enjoyable week so far.

As you would be aware the Meredith RSL held their Centenary Anzac Day Ceremony yesterday. This year I was honoured to accept the responsibility to read out the prologue for this year's service. Despite having the opportunity to speak in front of large audiences in the past, I must admit I was quite nervous standing up in front of the local community on such an important event. I would like to congratulate Freya Jones, James Parkinson and Olivia Murfitt who did an amazing job during their readings. I would also like to thank Kym Ivory and all our students who joined in to sing "I am Australian". David Jones mentioned during the service that it would be a good idea for the local community to hold a special Remembrance Day Ceremony later in the year to mark the centenary when WW1 officially ended. I certainly think this is something as a school community we could support.



MVA Cross Country

This week I was sent the official results of the MVA Cross Country that was held last week. Congratulations to Torah Munday, Brodie Wells and Madelyn Thompson who have all made it through to the next round of competition to be held in Geelong on Wednesday May 9th.

Parent and Friends Morning Tea

We had a great turn out last week for our parents and friends morning tea last Friday. Each week I plan to raise a question for the group to discuss over a cuppa. Last week the group looked at what events they would like to see the school running to engage more with the local school community. Lots of ideas were shared and Kristy Cochrane had an opportunity to share back these ideas with School Council last Monday. We certainly appreciate the feedback and support, and hope more people can attend this week to contribute their ideas.

Just a reminder the morning tea group meet straight after assembly each Friday. This week James Knight (School Council President) will be coming along.

Senior Citizens Lunches

I mentioned last term that Kylie Miller is planning to finish her role this year in coordinating the Senior Citizen Lunch Program that has been run by the school for a number of years now. Kylie has been doing a wonderful job, however as her youngest child has now left the school it is unfair for us to expect Kylie to continue in this role in representing the school. To start the hand-over process we are looking for a number of parent volunteers to assist Kylie this year to learn the routine so the school is able to service this program from next year.

We thought it would be best to start a roster, so that the same people are not expected to commit each time. Julie Hine has offered to assist in coordinating a roster for the remainder of the dates this year.

If you are able to help out for any of the following dates, please let Julie know. A copy of the roster will be updated on the window of the school office.

MEREDITH SENIOR CITIZENS LUNCH 2018 PARENT HELPERS		
Dates	Name	Contact number
May-14	1	
	2	
May-28	1	
	2	
Jun-25	1	
	2	
Jul-23	1	
	2	
<i>Christmas in July</i>	3	
	4	
Aug-13	1	
	2	
Aug-27	1	
	2	
Sep-10	1	
	2	
Oct-08	1	
	2	
Oct-22	1	
	2	
Nov-26	1	
	2	
Dec-10	1	
	2	

Please contact **Julie Hine** on **0449 925 883** for more information

School Principal Update

The staff and school council have recently been updated with the current situation around Christian Brown’s position at Meredith Primary School. Please refer to the school council report for more details.

School Working Bee



We are planning to hold another short working bee this **Friday (April 27th) from 4pm – 6pm**. Food and drinks will be supplied for all the workers. Last term we had a fantastic turnout and we would appreciate your help again to make sure this well supported.

We are looking at moving some sand around to improve the sandpits around the school, as well as installing a new long jump pit. We are also planning to finish of the back deck as well as dig some holes to plant lots of trees and shrubs in the garden.

Please let us know if you can make it.

Smiles on Site

Meredith Primary School is collaborating with Smiles Onsite to promote healthier, happier smiles at our school! This incredible service is being offered for **FREE** under the federal government's Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS), and comes along with the chance to grab some amazing prizes.



The Smiles on Site van (see image) will be onsite during the last week of this term.

All students will be given a consent form to bring home so that they can participate, and also so that they can go in the draw to win prizes!!

How does it work?

The Child Dental Benefit Schedule grants all eligible parents with \$1000 worth of Medicare towards dental per child, over a two-year period. Eligible parents should receive a confirmation letter; however if you are still unsure, Smiles Onsite can check for you on completion of their consent form.

Can I make use of this service if I'm not eligible?

Of course! Smiles Onsite can do almost everything that your local dentist can do on board there state-of-the-art mobile Clinic. If you would like them to see your child for a scale and clean, fillings, fissure seals etc., these services can be offered with NO GAP payable.

This service is a great opportunity to get kids into the habit of good oral hygiene, and we hope you're as excited about it as we are!

You can fill out the dental consent form for your son or daughter by inserting this link on the web browser -

<https://form.jotform.co/80848500209859>

If you have any further questions about this program or your eligibility, please contact Smiles Onsite directly on 1800 276 453.



That is it for this week; I hope everyone has a great weekend!

Shane Sachse
Acting Principal

Student Achievement Awards





Prep/1

Ned Bubb

For his magnificent manners and attentive listening

Will Loveday

For his wonderful manners and attentive listening

2/3

James Nolan

For fantastic work during maths

Dylan Parsons

For working well during reading

4/5

Tiana Corstorphan

For working well on her persuasive writing

Mitchell Patti

For putting extra effort into his mental maths tasks

5-6

Dakota Cordie-Dare

For her great work in persuasive writing

Phelan Van Der Veen

For his work on his ANZAC Day soldier portrait



8th – 10th May – NAPLAN

You would be aware that our Grade 3 and Grade 5 students have their NAPLAN assessments coming up soon. Teachers have been doing a great job in preparing the students for these tests, the important thing you can do as parents is reassure your child that everything will be ok and all they need to do is try their best. A big factor that influences poor performance is anxiety. Healthy eating and good levels of sleep leading up to the tests will ensure your child is well prepared. There are many resources on the web that can assist students in taking these types of tests; here are a few different strategies you can discuss with your child:

- When answering multiple-choice questions, cross out the answers you know are definitely wrong.
- Underline the important key words in each question to help you understand what the question is about
- Think about your answer first, does it make sense?
- Try not to waste time on questions you are finding hard, move on to the next question and come back to the harder ones at the end.
- Make sure you work is neat.

Families will receive an information flyer about these tests over the next couple of days.

4th May – Winter Sports

All grade 3-6 students will be competing in the district Winter Sports program on the 4th and 18th of May. Students have already selected their preferred sport and will be doing some training at school to help prepare them for this competition. This year the event will be held at Bannockburn College. Permission forms will be sent home next week.



Book Club

Orders are due back to school
by Monday 30th April

SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE – 26TH APRIL 2018

Principal Update

Recently I received an update from the Department of Education in relation to the ongoing leadership of Meredith PS and Christian Brown's position as principal at our school. It is with mixed emotions that I am now able to formally advise the school community that Christian Brown is no longer Meredith PS Principal. He has agreed to step down from the position of principal with 18 months of his 5 year contract remaining.

Christian Brown was appointed by a panel as principal of the school several years ago after long time principal Doug Cations resigned. Whilst we were sad to see Doug leave, this was to be a new beginning for the school, an opportunity for the right leader to make our school an even better learning environment where families wanted to send their kids to school. Sadly this was not the case. Instead we have spent three and a half years lobbying the department of education for change at our school. It has taken many meetings, letters, phone calls, sleepless nights and discussions for change to be implemented. It has been a huge burden on staff, me and our acting principals, Brian Reynolds and Shane Sachse both of whom I must highly commend for their care and understanding during these turbulent years.

This news signifies the end of a period of unrest and uncertainty at Meredith PS and now gives us the opportunity to move forward and thrive.

In the coming weeks the position of principal at Meredith PS will be advertised and a selection panel will be formed consisting of the school council president, a staff member, a parent rep from council and a principal from another school along with department rep Phonse Crawford. Phonse will oversee the selection and interview process. It is hoped that the new principal will commence term 3. This is an exciting time for our school and signifies a positive change that we have so desperately been striving for.

I need to take this opportunity to thank the staff of MPS. They have truly showed their absolute dedication to our kids through their professionalism and the way in which they have conducted themselves during some very trying times. It is testament to them that our kids and our school was and is still thriving.

Thanks also to those families who stuck by MPS, believing that better days were ahead. I know it has been difficult at times to remain positive and I thank you for your support even when I was not able to discuss matters in any great detail. I too many times wanted to give up! But I am a firm believer that if you feel in your heart that something isn't right, you need to do everything in your power to make it right! And that's exactly what we have done.

I am personally relieved that this is now behind us and that we can move forward with confidence knowing that Meredith PS has a bright future ahead.

President Update

This year I have stepped down from the role of school council president, a position which I have held for several years and thoroughly enjoyed. I am extremely passionate about supporting our school however I can, but my work within the department of education dictates that whilst I am able to continue as a school council member, I am unable to hold an office bearers position including president. I will continue on council for 2018 as an active general member and consider nominating for council in 2019 when my 2 year elected period is up.

Thank you sincerely to everyone for your kind support and encouragement over the years. I really do appreciate it and it's what has kept me motivated when times were a little rough.

Staff members and Shane have also been a fabulous support and I have thoroughly enjoyed working with them.

I wish new president Jimmy Knight all the very best for 2018 and look forward to supporting him and other council members wherever possible.

Regards

Stefania Parkinson



AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST MORNING TEA PRESENTS

High Tea

*At St Joseph's Parish Hall
Lawler Street, Meredith*

Our guest speaker is Hailey. Born in Geelong and now living in She Oaks, she was offered a scholarship to the Australian Defence Force Academy, graduating in 2007. Hailey served 8 months in Afghanistan and retired from the Army in 2017 reaching the rank of Captain.

Date: Thursday 17th May 2018

Time: 10.00 am

Cost: \$25

Come along and support this worthy cause. Great prizes, good fun, a delicious high tea, champagne & fruit punch.



Australia's
Biggest
Morning
Tea



GET INTO GOLF

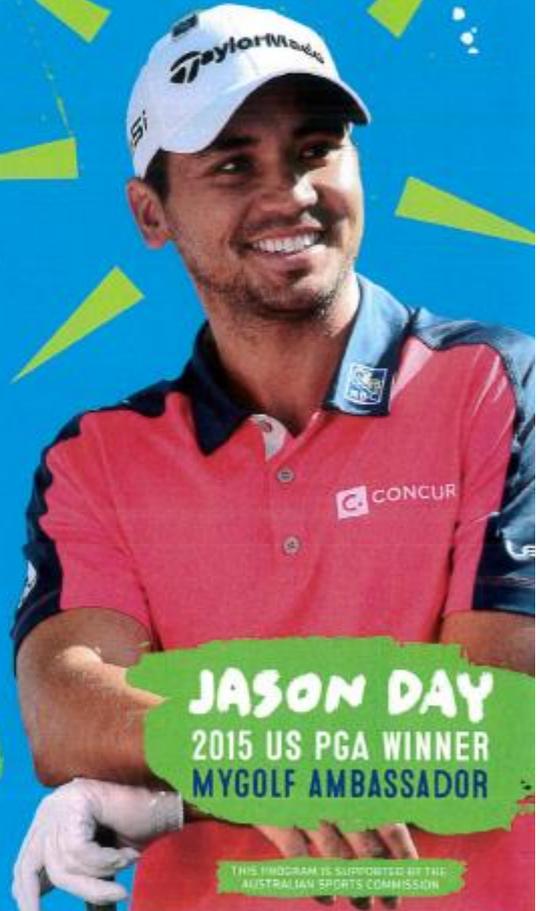


MyGolf is Australia's introductory golf program for 5 to 12 year olds.

The program runs over 6-10 weeks and introduces kids to golf in a safe and healthy environment.

Participants learn new skills, make new friends and most importantly, **have fun!**

REGISTER NOW AT
MYGOLF.ORG.AU



JASON DAY
2015 US PGA WINNER
MYGOLF AMBASSADOR



THIS PROGRAM IS SUPPORTED BY THE AUSTRALIAN SPORTS COMMISSION

Meredith Golf Club
4 Week MYGolf Junior Program
Starting Sunday 29th April, 6th,
20th and 27th May
Time : 4:00 - 5:00 Cost : \$20.00
(\$39.07 including participation pack)
Bookings : MYGOLF.ORG.AU