Welcome back. I hope that all families had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year and had time to spend together over the 7-week summer school holidays. Welcome to children and their families new to the school and district, particularly those children beginning school for the first time.

It is my pleasure to welcome several new teachers to the school. Mr Michael Walker; Teacher Librarian, Mr Jack Rowe; Health & Personal Development and Maths, Ms Yvonne Polka; German and English, and Ms Mercedes Poyu–Opitz who is teaching Mrs Starling’s class while away on leave until Week 5 of this term.

A short profile of these teachers will be included in this and the next newsletter.

Parent/Teacher Acquaintance Night

As advertised on the large school notice board and in invitations sent home this week with students, we are holding an informal Parent/Teacher Acquaintance night next Tuesday 8th February here at the school where you can get the opportunity to meet the new teachers, as well as teachers new to your child/ren.

Hot Weather / Drinks

We have had a great start to the school year. Students were well settled after the long break and coped with the extreme heat. On days of extreme heat students generally have a recess break outside, but at lunch time remain indoors supervised by staff.

With the upgrade to the school gym in full swing, access to water from the bubblers is slow. We encourage all students to bring along bottled water from home. Throughout the day water is available for topping up individual water bottles form the bubblers as well as in-class supplies.

Canteen

It is worth reminding parents and care givers that we do not have a canteen this term, and that lunches need to be

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**Cyber-Bullying**

During 2010, we worked closely with SAPOL to educate students across the school on the threat of cyber-bullying, and their rights and responsibilities. It is apparent still, however, that many of the grievances and conflicts that we have to deal with at school originate on-line, particularly through Facebook, usually out of school hours. We have developed our Computer and Internet Use Policy and our mobile phone policy in order to maintain a safe environment for your children in our school. However, we are not able to influence their behaviour outside of school. We ask for your support in two ways. The first is to support the school’s policies above and the second is to talk with your children about these issues and discuss with them strategies for dealing with them.

The Federal Government has launched a website, [www.cybersmart.gov.au](http://www.cybersmart.gov.au) which has resources for parents to help them in dealing with this issue. Many examples of cyber-bullying may be in breach of the law and if your child is being targeted by bullies through the internet or by text, it would be advisable to discuss it with the local police.
ordered at the beginning of the day. No recess is available. Information and a MODIFIED price list were sent home with most parents last week; however we have enclosed with this newsletter the information and a copy of the MODIFIED price list. Please do not order items that are not on the list e.g. Chicken fingers, wraps, etc.

Congratulations

Congratulations and best wishes to our 2010 Year 12 students. Every student who stayed at school for the year successfully achieved their SACE certificate and most have moved into further study or the employment they were seeking.

New Chief Executive

Last week the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, Hon Jay Wetherill MP, announced the newly appointed Chief Executive Officer, Mr Keith Bartley, who will take up the appointment later in the year. Mr Bartley is a distinguished educational administrator, with an extensive career in public education in England. In the meantime Mr Gino DeGennaro will continue as acting Chief Executive Officer. Last week copies of the document DECS Strategic Directions 2011 were sent to schools. In summary, this document outlines key directions and collaborative approaches for 2011.

In particular the document highlights the move towards a student centred funding model and towards the Australian Curriculum. This document is available at www.decs.sa.gov.au/strategicplanning. If you would like a copy and do not have ready access through a personal internet access, it can be downloaded at the Community Library.

School Uniform

It is great to see most students in school uniform. The wearing of school uniform is strongly supported and endorsed by the Meningie Area School Governing Council, because

- It enables all students to be easily recognised in the yard
- It creates a sense of identity and belonging
- It removes competition in wearing designer labels
- It helps create a safe environment as visitors are easily identifiable.

We ask that you support your child/children wearing the uniform. Please be reminded that students can wear shorts to school, however they need to be black and a longer leg style.

Monica Williams

Michael Walker: Introduction to the School Community

I feel honoured to be a member of the Meningie. Having recently moved from Jamestown, it has been pleasant to settle into such a warm and welcoming community. I know Meningie quite well as I spent most of my youth growing up in the South East in Mt. Gambier and in Keith.

I am excited to see what the year has in store and to play a role in the academic life of the students of Meningie Area School.

Always pleased to meet new people and always love a good chat along the way.

Michael Walker
Teacher Librarian

SCHOLASTIC ORDERS

Scholastic brochures e.g. Lucky Book Club, will be sent home with students next week.

Orders, with payment, can be made at the book room until Tuesday 15th February 2011.

HOUSE CAPTAINS 2011

House captain elections were held early this week in team meetings.

Congratulations to the following students who have been elected to lead their respective teams in sporting events this year:

**ALBERT:**
Dylan Vandenbrink & Megan Herrmann (Captains)
Alana Standley & Justin Smart (Vice-Captains)

**BONNEY:**
Jackie Gibbs & Tim Eckert (Captains)
Amber Gibbs & Kenny Richards (Vice-Captains)

**COORONG:**
Madi Wenske & Tamika Williams (Captains)
Hayley Shaw & Corey Ashenden (Vice-Captains)
MAS SWIMMING CARNIVAL

This year’s combined Swimming Carnival / Splash Day will be held on Wednesday 16th February at the Coonalpyn Pool. Information was sent home with Yrs 3-12 students this week. Further detailed information will be sent home with all students prior to the carnival.

It is an expectation that all students attend the Swimming Carnival as it is a normal school day.

Soccer - Come Play!

Murray Bridge United Soccer Club invite all interested boys and girls to register for the 2011 Soccer Season. We also have a fantastic “Roo ball” program specifically for 3 year olds to Under 8’s.

When: Friday 18 February 2011
Anytime between 4 pm – 8 pm
Where: Murray Bridge United Soccer Clubrooms
Beatty Terrace, Murray Bridge
Are you interested but can’t get there on that day – check out our website
www.murraybridgeunited.com
You can register your interest online or get further information about the club.
So why don’t you Come Play?

An Invitation

All students and families are invited to an informal Parent/Teacher Acquaintance Evening

When: Tuesday 8th February 2011
Where: Junior School Shelter
Time: 5.30 – 8.00 pm (approx.)
What: BBQ Tea
- All meat sausages & patties),
  salad & bread provided.
- Water, cordial and iceblocks for the children/students also provided.
- BYO drinks
Why: To meet informally with your child/ren’s teacher / new teachers and mix with other families.

We look forward to seeing you at our first event for the MAS school year.

Please advise the front office by Monday morning 7th February if you are attending.

YOUR VIEWS - Asthma and young people

Asthma Australia is interested in hearing young people’s ideas on how we can deliver information, key messages and services to young people with asthma.

We are looking to conduct a series of focus groups with young people aged 12-25 years (both with and without asthma). If you are interested in attending a focus group please call Robyn or Kelly on 8238 9300.

If you are unable to attend a focus group but would like to contribute your ideas by completing a short survey, please go to www.asthmasa.org.au.

For further information please contact:
Robyn, ACAP Coordinator for South Australia
Ph: (08) 8238 9301
Fax: 8238 9303
300 South Road Hilton SA
Or go to the website www.asthmasa.org.au

Danceation
Don’t stop believing

Tamika Williams is proud to announce the opening of her own dance studio. Held on Monday and Wednesday nights, at the RSL hall. For enquiries please contact Tamika on:
0439 546 624
Or 8575 1977