Industrial Action

Classes will be as normal Tuesday 17th June. The site is not taking Industrial Action.

Winter Days

It was nice to have an extra day this past weekend. I hope that families were able to spend some time together and enjoy some rest and relaxation. The rain was welcome. Let’s hope that it is the start of a wet winter.

Speaking of winter while the days in the last few weeks have been sunny and mild the mornings have been very cold. As a staff we continue to be concerned at the number of students who arrive first thing in the morning without jumpers. The room heaters are put on to take the chill off the rooms, and then are turned off later in the morning, keeping the rooms at a comfortable working temperature. We ask for your support in making sure that all students are appropriately dressed for the winter ahead, including older students. Besides with the cost of electricity, both economically and environmentally we all need to work on this.

As many of you may know I am taking leave for the next two terms. We have recently sold our Aussie Red Dairy Herd, and after milking cows for the past 38 years John is taking a break. We have been invited by the German Angler Association to visit Germany, and will be attending the European Red Dairy Conference in Tallinn, Estonia. John and I will stay on to visit friends throughout Europe, Scandinavia and Russia.

At the moment the District Director David Jolliffe is working through the process of selecting an Acting Principal. In the first instance the Deputy Principal has the option to take up the role, however Mal Jurgs has chosen not to take up the option due to the number of Curriculum and extra Curricula commitments he has responsibility for, including the Connecting Spirits trip at the end of the year.

Student Free Days

The District Director David Jolliffe recently approved the following Student Free Days as endorsed by Governing Council. The first of these days is Friday 20th June. The day will be a Training and Development for staff in the New SACE. In particular the sessions for middle and senior school teachers will be focused on a part of the SACE requirement known as the Personal Learning Plan (PLP). During Semester 2 the PLP will be trialled with the Year 9 class. This group of students will be the first group who will work within the New SACE structure.

The Training and Development conducted on the day will be facilitated by the New SACE field officer for our school Helen Whelan.

While Middle and Senior staff are involved in these sessions Junior School staff will focus their time on Literacy, particularly the First Steps course.

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Monica Williams
VALE DARCY PERKINS

The school community has been saddened by the news that Darcy Perkins, a coordinator and Maths teacher at Meningie Area School from 1990 to 1997, passed away last Monday, the 2nd June, after a battle with cancer.

Darcy will be remembered with affection by many past students, and has often been described by them as “the best Maths teacher I ever had”.

After leaving Meningie Area School, Darcy worked at Lameroo Regional Community School as Middle School Coordinator, and later as Deputy Principal. He retired from teaching at the end of 2006 but spent much of 2007 undertaking relief teaching at Lameroo. He continued to run his farm at Parrakie.

Late last year he was diagnosed with cancer of the stomach. Unfortunately the treatment he was undertaking was not able to halt its growth and he spent the last week of his life in the Mary Potter Hospice.

Darcy had a private funeral last Friday, 6th June. A memorial service is to be held on the 13th June at the Geranium Uniting Church at 4 pm.

The school will be holding a small celebration of Darcy’s life and contribution to Meningie next week at which donations to the Cancer Council on his behalf will be accepted. Please contact the school office for details early in the week.

NEW COMPUTERS COMING

During first term the school developed an application for the Federal Government’s National Secondary School Computer Fund. This fund is a key component of the Digital Education Revolution Initiative announced during last year’s federal Election campaign.

We were happy to receive the announcement yesterday that we were one of the successful schools in Round 1 of this project. This funding will provide us with 34 new computers, which will include 20 desktops to replace those in the Senior School Computer Room, and 14 laptops. The school has budgeted to purchase a further 6 laptops so that we have a set of 20 that can be used around the school.

This is in addition to the new computers that were placed in the Junior School Computer room during Term 1. The school also plans to install a wireless network so that students can access work from anywhere within the school using our laptops.

Plans are also underway to develop the multimedia room with a Smart Board interactive whiteboard.

It is expected that next year we will upgrade the computers in the Middle School Computer Room and further develop the technology available for students throughout the school.

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

A large number of the Junior School staff, as well as Kindy and Child Care, will be attending the First Steps Speaking & Listening training being held at the school on Thursday’s from 4-6 pm.

The training course is 12 hours long and will greatly benefit the students at Meningie Area School.

Katrina Hood (Junior School Coordinator)

SAPSASA & SSSSA CROSS COUNTRY

On Friday 30th May six primary and secondary students from Meningie Area School travelled down to Adelaide to compete in the School Sport Cross Country Championships, which were held at Cheltenham Race Course in fine conditions.

Participating students were: Dylan VandenBrink, Nick Rowe, Chris Biddle and George Angas, Tessa Bagshaw and Keith Weetra.

The best performing of the Meningie students were Dylan and Chris who came 48th and 61st respectively. Although most of the other students finished outside the top 100 they all competed in Division 1. Some of the fields, particularly for the younger age groups, also had over 250 competitors in them so to achieve a top 100 finish was a great effort.

Lisa Davis (PE Teacher)
YEAR 8/9, 10 & OPEN GIRLS NETBALL

The first round of all the Girls Knockout Netball competitions were played on Tuesday the 3rd June in fine conditions. The Year 8/9 team battled it out against Unity College, Murray Bridge HS, Karoonda and a combined Keith and Coomandook team at Coomandook, while the Year 10 and Open Girls teams played at Coonalpyn. Those who participated for Meningie were:

Year 10: Sophie Vivian, Stephanie Sanders, Melanie VandenBrink, Charlotte Wenske, Chloe Padman, Bethany Jurgs and Lyticia Weetra.
Open: Dana Wilson, Brent Rowe, Brooklyn Wenske, Megan Smart, April Gibbs, Britney Ashenden and Alex Lightfoot.

Unfortunately, due to illness and school commitments, Meningie had only just enough players to make a full team in all age groups, which made it difficult for the girls as they became tired in the later games. However, the girls battled on and although they lost most of the games, many were only lost by a few goals. The Open Girls were the only team who managed to win a game, beating the combined Keith and Coomandook team by one goal.

Thankyou to Louise Sanders for coaching the Year 10 girls team, Michelle Rowe for coaching the Open Girls team, Helen Poulish for umpiring and Katrina Hood for coaching the Year 8/9 girls team, umpiring and driving the bus to the venues.

YEAR 5 EXCURSION

Last week the 5th June was World Environment Day. To help commemorate the day, the year 5 class and Mr Samuel, with the much appreciated assistance of Megan Hood and Mr Armin Sched (thankyou very much!), travelled to the Adelaide Botanic Gardens to participate in the activities that were planned for school students.

After a smooth early departure time at 8.45 am, we arrived in Adelaide a little before 11 am. We were lucky to arrive when we did because we were the last group to see Wilbur the Koala that was visiting from Cleland National park.

As a group we walked around the Botanic Gardens, visiting many stations that were set up to educate us about our fragile environment and how we can help preserve it.

The highlight for most students was the pond in the glasshouse that had lots of small fish in it that came and nibbled at your fingers.

Before departing back to Meningie, we stopped at the Norwood Bowling Centre and played a couple of games. Overall we had a great day, filled with opportunities that we often don’t get to experience.

Our thanks go to Camp Coorong for the loan of their bus, and again for Megan Hood and Armin Sched for assisting – without them the day wouldn’t have happened.

Mr Marty Samuel (Year 5 teacher)
Melissa Brown and Harry Simmons have entered the Wakakirri National Story Writing Festival again this year.

Harry and Melissa are both Year 1 students in Mrs Woolston’s R-1 class.

The festival promotes knowledge about the world around us and how we can all share in positive impacts. This year the signature theme is ‘tap’.

Here are their stories:

Once upon a time there was a person named Jo. Joe had a pet dog called Roxi.

One day they went to the playground where they found a pond. Near the pond they saw something; it was a daisy. Jo looked in the pond but there was no water. Roxi ran around the other side of the pond and found a tap. This gave Jo an idea. She thought that if she turned the tap around she would be able to fill up the pond.

There was also a hose so Jo got the hose and turned on the tap but the tap was too stiff. Jo tried for half an hour and then gave up. Roxi came and jumped on the tap but the water still didn’t come because the tap was so old.

Jo went to check the tap after a few minutes but the tap was still not working because a long time ago the tap was left dripping to try and fill our lake, Lake Albert, which is at the end of the Murray River. Lake Albert was drying up because of a long drought and eventually the tap lost all its water.

Jo had an idea. If she went home and got some buckets and filled the buckets with rain water, perhaps she could fill the lake up again. Jo went to the lake and tipped the water in but it didn’t fill up because there wasn’t enough water in the buckets. So Jo thought about it and thought that if she wished for rain it might come.

Jo said to Roxi, "Do you want to play on the swings."
"Yes," replied Roxi.

They went to the swings and they played on the swings for most of the day. They went home and drew pictures of the dried up lake. Roxi and Jo got tired so they went to bed. Roxi dreamed about the lake filled with water because it had been raining so much. Jo dreamed the same thing.

In the morning it was raining!

Roxi and Jo went to the lake; they took a whole to get there.

Jo and Roxi were so surprised. The lake was full!

The End

Story by
Melissa Brown
Age 6
Year 1

Once upon a time a dog was lost out in the cold. The dog ran across a road and a car driven by an old man ran over it.

The old man in the car stopped the car, hopped out and picked the dog up. The dog felt like it was tapping as if it was cold. The man took the dog home.

The man named the dog Stanley.

Stanley the dog was a very nice dog. The man took Stanley to the museum but a robber came and stole Stanley. The old man rang the police but the robber got away but not before Stanley bit the robber on the bottom.

Stanley badly injured the robber allowing the police to catch him. The robber was put in jail.

The End

Story by
Harry Simmons
Age 6
Year 1
**PINOCCHIO**

This year’s school production of ‘Pinocchio’ will be held on Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd July (Week 10).

Tickets will be Adults $6.60 and Children $4.40. They will be available to purchase from the bookroom from Wednesday 18th June (Week 8).

**MAS SACE SCHOOL FORMAL**

On Friday 20th June our bi-annual School Formal happens. The glitz and glamour of the formal with the beautiful ladies, well groomed gentlemen and flash cars is coming to Meningie. The Cheese Factory is the venue and the cars will start arriving at 6.30 pm. You are welcome to come and watch the arrivals.

**RECEPTION/ONE EXCURSION**

The Reception/One Newby and Woolston classes went on an Environmental Study Excursion to look at habitats and the impact of the drought on Lake Albert and our local environment.

As part of Math, children did surveys of different animals and insects they observed through a tally chart. Back in the classroom, as part of English, children wrote a recount about the excursion. In SOCE children observed (Science) the habitat of various animals and insects. Ongoing learning will be looking at why some of the habitat is dying and what the repercussions are for our local area.

The excursion was a great success, partly due to the supportive parents who accompanied us. Thankyou!

Hence these wonderful photographs taken by Emma Simmons.
Recounts from Ms Newby’s class

Cameron

This morning we walked on the beach of Lake Albert to look at the local environment. We saw pelicans, ibis, ducks, Murray magpies and seagulls. We need more water for our lake.

Our Walk
This morning we walked on the beach of Lake Albert to look at the local environment. We saw pelicans, ibis, ducks, Murray magpies and seagulls. We need more water for our lake.

Brandon

Our Walk
This morning we walked on the beach of Lake Albert to look at the local environment. We saw lots of pelicans and we also saw crested ibis and seagulls. We need more water for our lake and it is sad that we don’t have more animals.

Elia

Drought Reach

Has the drought affected you and your family?

The Women's Information Service is inviting women to attend a free Drought Reach session here in June.

Learn more about services that can help you and your family make it through the tough times.

- Sessions will talk about wellbeing, money and things that affect you
- Connect with women in your community
- Lunch will be provided
- Child care options will be available

DROUGHT REACH is coming to MENINGIE
Monday 16th June - 10:30am to 3pm
The Cheese Factory - Menindee Museum Restaurant

For further information contact the
Women’s Information Service
on toll free 1900 189 158
Recounts from Mrs Woolston’s class

By Mitchell

R-1 Excursion  12 - 2 = 10
Last Friday we went on a walk to Lake Albert. We went to look at what the drought had done to the lake and the animals.

By Ronelle

By Samuel

12-6-08  R-1 Excursion
Last Friday we went on a walk to Lake Albert. We went to look at what the drought had done to the lake and the animals.

By Melissa