I hope that all students and their families had some time to spend together over the July holiday break after the hectic schedule that Term 2 was. As we begin the new term, I take this opportunity to welcome new students and their families in Ms Hart’s Reception/Year 1 class, as well as students across the school.

In walking around classes right across the school this week, it has been pleasing to see students settled and focused on their learning. Most students are in uniform, and are dressed appropriately for the winter weather. As most PE classes will be outside this term, making sure your child/children have clothes to change into for PE is necessary. The oval and playground grass has been really wet this week, so it might be a good idea to have a second pair of shoes to change into on days when there is a PE class.

Bully Audit

At the end of last term all students across the school participated in our Bully Audit. The information is currently being collated and will be used by staff to address issues arising, as well as develop strategies to support student understanding of bullying behaviour and strategies to deal with bullies. We know that bullying occurs for a whole range of reasons and in lots of different way. Making bullies aware of their behaviours and helping them to develop more acceptable ways of relating with their peers and teachers is just as important as supporting victims in developing strategies to manage their emotions and responses. Making our learning environment safe and inclusive of all is something we take very seriously, so Anti-Bullying strategies and managing harassment make up much of the work we do in Pastoral Care and Well Being programs.

Student Reports

Reports were sent home at the end of last term. I hope that over the holidays you had the opportunity to look at your child/children’s achievement in subjects as well as reflect on the comments made by teachers in the various subject areas. Teachers may have requested an interview. There are many reasons as to why an interview is requested, and we seek your support in attending interviews arranged along with your son/daughter. Additionally, you are invited to indicate that you would like a meeting with one or several teachers, and we encourage this. Mrs Willis is in the process of arranging interviews for students in classes from Year 5-12. She will contact parents/caregivers about this over the next week.

Student Attendance/Lateness

Most students attend school regularly, if not every day. This is excellent, and it is so often reflected in their school achievement. Being at school, daily and on time, helps to develop personal skills such as time management, organisation, punctuality and belonging to a group. When a student comes into school or class late, he/she will often miss the daily bulletin, and often the introduction to the learning within the lesson. This situation makes it difficult for the student. He/she then has to play catch-up. Having your child/children at school on time can go a long way in helping set up the right conditions for them to be most successful. So this term we would like to see a real decrease in the number of students who sign in late at the front office. Just a reminder the first bell goes for Home group at 8.40am.

Community Involvement

We often talk about the importance of building community connections, and how much the school relies on the community and the community relies on the school. It is important for our students to see these connections and understand that this is both their school and their community. We do get involved in community projects when and where we can. In the week before the school holidays, Mrs Hood, along with several classes of students, constructed tree guards that are being used by Orana Melaleuca and other community groups in planting out trees. During the holidays, students involved in Connecting Spirits...
and their families spent a day planting out trees just north of Meningie. They planted 2000 trees in one day as well as making 1500 tree guards. The proceeds from this day will help with some of the costs of the trip for these students.

This week the Year 6/7 class and the Year 10 class have each spent a day each planting trees with members of the Meningie Progress Association to support their fundraising efforts. The students all worked very well and were a credit to the school. The Progress Association really appreciated their efforts in helping them to plant their 2000 trees in just under 2 days.

Hopefully in a few years time these students will be able to look toward Warrengie Point and see a lush green hillside that they can be proud to have played a part in establishing.

Oliver, Michael and Richie planting trees at Warrengie

SCHOLASTIC ORDERS

Scholastic brochures were sent home with students earlier this week. Orders with payment can be made to the bookroom until Tuesday 3rd August (Week 3).

MEET THE WRITERS

On Tuesday the 22nd of June, 10 students from Meningie Area School who were: Tessa Bagshaw, Melissa Botha, Jemma Williams, Brenda Baldock, Adele Pittendreigh, Aleisha Williams, Caitlin Lord, Lauren Bagshaw, Alysha Eckert and Erin Pittendreigh went to the Adelaide Convention Centre. We were accompanied by Mrs Eckert, Mrs Lord and Ms Quin. Why? We were attending the Meet the Writers convention. Once we all got there we had recess and were split into 2 groups of 5 which were: Me, Melissa, Adele, Erin and Alysha. Our group was accompanied by Mrs Eckert. The other group was made up of: Aleisha, Jemma, Brenda, Lauren and Caitlin. They were accompanied by Ms Quin and Mrs Lord.

Our first speaker we went to was James Maloney who was a keynote speaker. This meant we were all in this big room together with around 75 other schools. James Maloney was particularly interesting with his theory that all writers are nosy. To grasp a great character he tries to think inside the mind of the character. After James finished we split up into our groups and headed to our second speaker. My group went to Janeen Brian. We were late so we couldn’t all sit together. Janeen told us some interesting facts about her like:

- When she was young she had no intention of being a writer
- She specializes in poems
- To get inspiration she goes back to her memories
- Her book “The Silly Galah” was chosen for a family prison program
- She wrote a book set in her home town
- Her “Heart Book” that she has written is “Where does Thursday go?”

Then it was question time. Here are some of her stimulating responses to a few questions:

How do you fight writers block?
Well I suppose one you could move on to other project. Then when you feel like it you can come back to it. Two you can force yourself through it, just keep thinking you know you can and you will be fine. Three go for a walk or in my case go feed the chickens - just do something to keep your mind of it for a while. Four come back to it later unless your defusing a bomb there is no need to panic.

How long does it take to write a book?
In a box there is no set time for a book to be written it could take months or even years!

Next all the groups met in the lounge area to decide where to go next. My group decided to go to David Harris. We got there early so we had a nice chat with him. He is very spontaneous I soon found out.

Some facts about David Harris:

- He likes to follow Paul Jennings theory for writing a book where you don’t start at the beginning.
- His new book will be titled “Night Of The Dark Moon”
- He always abides by the “Writer rules” which are: Action, Speech, Thought and Image

There wasn’t enough time for questions but I managed to ask David a question before we left which was:

Who would you say is your favourite author or inspiration?
To which he answered Christine Harris (his wife, although he does love her books)

Then it was time for our keynote speaker and speaker altogether Alice Pung. All the groups hurried into the conference room. Once we took our seats Alice begun. Now some facts about her:

- Unless I heard wrong Alice studied James Maloney books
- She specializes in “Auto-Writing"
- She kept a diary for special occasions
- She gets most of her stories from life

Her two torments where:
- 1. Going to highpoint shopping centre with her so called “Ronald McDonald” perm
- 2. Not having a cabbage patch doll

Then the day ended but I say “Day well spent”

Tessa Bagshaw (Yr 6)
An updated canteen price list was sent home with students on Wednesday.

Prices will take effect from Monday 26th July 2010.

If you missed out, please contact the front office.

**LEARN TO SHEAR**

TAFESA are conducting a number of 5 day Introduction courses in shearing and wool handling across the state, starting on the 26th of July 2010 through to the 27th of August 2010.

Topics include the modules from Certificate II in Shearing, National Code: RTE20403; and Certificate II in Wool Handling, National Code: RTE20303

If any year 10, 11 or 12 Agriculture students would like to attend please call Roseworthy Campus on 8303 7777 as soon as possible as places are limited.

**Travel:** Students are to find their own transport to and from the school

**Dates & Locations:**
- 9th - 13th of August 2010 Karoonda
- 9th - 13th of August 2010 Langhorne Creek
- 23rd - 27th of August 2010 Ki Ki

**Start / Finish Times:**
- Monday 9am-5pm
- Tuesday – Thursday 8am-5pm
- Friday 8am -3pm

**Equipment:** Shearing Handpiece, Combs & Cutters (if possible)

Come along and enjoy the fruits of being trained by the best!

Be quick to book in as places are limited!

**Contacts:** Roseworthy Campus
Telephone: 8303 7777

Greg Pittaway
Telephone: 8303 7697
Mobile: 0417 825 548

**JUNIOR GOLF COACHING**

WHEN: Commencing Sunday 5th September 2010 at 10.00 am and each following fortnight thereafter.

WHERE: At the Meningie Golf Club

WHO: All welcome - some golf clubs are available for use

**Contact:** Trevor Rasheed 0408824070, Dean Bagshaw 0409679054 or Cathy Harvey 85754255.

Wear a mouthguard at play, to keep the dentist away

Every year thousands of people, including young children, are treated for dental injuries that could have been avoided or minimised by wearing a protective custom-fitted mouthguard. Sporting accidents are one of the most common causes of dental injury.

People of all ages, who are involved in sports and activities where there is a risk of contact to the face, should protect their teeth with a properly fitted mouthguard.

**Why do you need a mouthguard?**

*Damaged or dislodged teeth, broken jaws and cut lips can be sustained when participating in contact sports. A mouthguard helps absorb and spread the impact of a blow to the face that might otherwise result in an injury to the mouth or jaw.*

Dental injuries may result in time off school or work to recover, can be painful and disfiguring, and may involve lengthy and expensive dental treatment.

The cost of an injury to your teeth or jaw far exceeds the cost of a custom-fitted mouthguard.

**When should I wear a mouthguard?**

Mouthguards should be worn whilst playing and training for any sport that could involve contact to the face. It is essential to wear a mouthguard while playing football, and also while playing any other sports where there is a chance of being hit in the jaw or head. These sports include hockey, netball, baseball, basketball and even skateboarding and skiing.

**Other mouthguard tips**

- The Australian Dental Association strongly recommends investing in a custom-fitted mouthguard from your dentist
- Have your mouthguard checked by your dentist every 12 months for optimal fit and protection
- Keep your mouthguard clean and store it in a rigid container, away from heat to ensure it maintains its shape

**Next issue – ‘Which type of mouthguard should I wear?’**

Information supplied by the Australian Dental Association