Swine Flu

Late yesterday a parent of one of the Junior Primary students advised that her child had been confirmed as having Swine Flu. Another parent called this morning to advise of a second child with confirmed Swine Flu. We appreciate these notifications and thank parents and caregivers for keeping us informed. Please refer to the general letter addressed to parents within this Newsletter edition. (see notice Page 5)

Staffing

Ms Raelene Sherwin is taking Long Service Leave as from Monday 10th August until the end of Term 3. She is due back here at work at the beginning of Term 4. Ms Sherwin’s position has been advertised through DECS, and we have been working with DECS to secure a suitable replacement.

We welcome Mrs Karen Schmerl who has joined the staff as a Student Support Officer. She will be working two days a week, and will be supporting students in the Junior school. Karen has worked at Meningie Kindy for sometime and brings skills in working with young children.

Pastor Terry Natt is to retire at the end of this month. For over 10 years now Terry has been a part of the school community in the capacity as Chaplain. He has been an invaluable support in our school and we will certainly miss him. A farewell Assembly is to be held on Wednesday 19th August at 1015 am. We invite and welcome all parents and members of the school, past and present to this assembly, and join us for morning tea at the conclusion. (see notice Page 4)

Staff Training & Development

A reminder that next Friday 14th August is a Student Free Day. Staff will be engaged in Training and Development here at Meningie Area School. The day will be facilitated by Bev Jones who is a Curriculum adviser in DECS. She will work with us in increasing our understandings of:

- Planning and Programming
- Collecting and effective use of Data
- Inclusive Assessment.

The day promises to be very useful and informative for teachers right across the school R-12 and of practical application.

Student Recognition

I take this time to thank and congratulate Bethany Jurgs on being a fine ambassador for Meningie Area School, representing us in a number of recent forums. As you can read in this edition, Bethany is actively involved in Environmental issues. She took part in a forum held at the Cheese Factory on 2nd July and was one of five panellists who addressed a convention of the Natural Resource Management Board, with an audience of about fifty people. The facilitator, Annabelle Horner from ABC Country Hour, then invited Bethany to participate in a similar exercise live on radio on the 16th July. It was wonderful to receive a letter acknowledging Bethany’s contribution and involvement and the confidence in which she conducted herself.
CSIRO Visit

As you can read in this edition Vic Woolston arranged for the CSIRO to visit here last Friday 31st July. Classes from Year 5 -9 were timetabled into sessions. I caught the end part of the afternoon in the hall The presenter was really engaging and certainly had the attention and interest of his student and teacher audience. Thanks Vic for organising the day.

MASA Annual Student Quiz Night

Meningie students were once again involved in the Maths night held this week at Coomandook. This is held annually and we have participated in this event over a number of years. A great experience for our students, thanks to Mr Jurgs and Mrs Wright for supporting the students in preparation as well as on the night.

On Wednesday night an active busload of secondary students travelled to Coomandook to take part in the annual maths quiz night. True to tradition they came loaded up with all of the essentials for the quiz night including drinks and lollies.

This year 5 teams attended- one senior (years 11 and 12) and four junior (year 8,9 and 10). The students performed well with the Senior Team winning the General Knowledge Section for the Senior Division.

It was great to see students doing maths, working together and having fun. Thanks to Mr Jurgs and Mrs Wright for their time on the night.

MATHS JEOPARDY

On Friday the students from year 5, 6 and 7, and years 8 and 9 join together for Maths Jeopardy competitions. The Jeopardy game has been adapted from the old TV quiz show format that some parents and grandparents may remember.

The categories include Space, Measurement and Number as well as special interest categories created by students. Each question has a different value and the game board is eagerly watched for the double or nothing bonus points. Ask your child if they are in Years 5-9 about the big Jeopardy Game, they may even be able to give you some sample questions.

WANTED – A DRUMMER

Students from year 7 to 12 practise music at Lunchtime on Tuesday under the guidance of Mr Rod Williams and Mr Peter Longden. We are looking for a drummer who can come in to assist us at rehearsals from 1:00 to 1:40 pm on Tuesday. Please contact the school if you able to help.

CSIRO VISIT TO MAS

On Friday 31 July 2009 the CSIRO’s “Lab on Legs” visited our school. While here, they presented an interactive science program with the theme “MINI CHEM”.

Alana, Marni and Samara

Megan, Amber, Madi and Hannah

Jake, Mike, Tim and Oliver
This program covered chemical reactions, gas collecting, distillation, chemical tests, acids and bases, electrolytes and much more.

The Year 5, 6, and 7 students carried out a number of experiments themselves working in pairs.

The CSIRO Science Education Centre create a dynamic interactive forum within which students can take a hands-on role. Their program engages students in eye-opening interactive science research.

After lunch Years 5 – 9 students gathered in the hall to experience the show “Blown Away” which featured an introduction into the properties of gases and demonstrations on the states of matter.

The CSIRO visit was funded by the Drought Relief program.

Vic Woolston

RIVER MURRAY YOUTH COUNCIL

This is my second year as a member of the River Murray Youth Council and I am enjoying the many opportunities that come with being a member. The Council is made up of interested secondary students from schools across the Lower Murray area. We meet once a month at the Natural Resources Management Centre in Murray Bridge and during these meetings we have activities, discussions and plan events for the future. In the last few months I have been able to enjoy a variety of activities and information as part of this group. The group spent a day bushwalking in the Monarto Zoo while we decided who was to become the chairperson. After hours of activities and planting trees the vote was called and Chloe Sinclair, a Coomandook Student, was voted as the Chairperson and I was voted as Vice.

As part of this year’s Group we were invited to attend the South Australian Youth Environment Conference. The conference involves kids teaching kids activities where students from different schools organised a performance to show some of the other students there. This experience was what first made me decide that I would like to work in the environmental field as I understood how people can love working to save the Murray and our future. I learnt a range of different facts and was able to save two turtles. This year it was held at the Adelaide Convention Centre where there was plenty of room for all the activities. We were visited by famous sports players, actors and singers to tell us that we should keep trying to get our voices heard because we are important for the future. Being involved in the RMYC has lead me to meet people that have been able to help me get closer to where I would like to be by the end of my schooling years. As members of the group we are working closely with the National Resource Management Board. Last month the NRM board held a dinner at the Cheese Factory to take time to talk about how they could attract new members to the board; as part of their new ideas they invited a few of the people connected to the board to become a panel of people that radio host, Annabelle Homer, would ask questions about how they are involved. Ian Walton and I were asked to represent the RMYC on the panel as Ian is a mentor and I am a member. The night went over really well and the panel were asked to come to Adelaide to be interviewed on radio. Ian, Sara Bray, a former Chair of the RMYC, and I went to the ABC studios in Adelaide where we were featured on the Country Hour which is broadcast right across South Australia. I have had an amazing time in the RMYC but this was the most rewarding experience of all.

After being involved in this year’s conference it was decided that our group would also travel to Canberra for the International Environment conference that will be in October this year. As part of working as a team we would like to do some fundraising around our communities and in our school to help us finance our flights and accommodation. I have really enjoyed my involvement with the RMYC and have made friends from a variety of schools around the state while doing something positive for our environment. I would strongly recommend any students interested in the future of the River Murray to join the RMYC next year.

Bethany Jurgs (Yr 11 student)

9-a-side Football

On Wednesday 29th July in wet and rainy conditions Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 students from Meningie Area School competed in the River Murray High Schools 9-a-side Football Carnival at Johnstone Park in Murray Bridge. Although the competition is usually open only to Year 8 and 9 students Meningie had to recruit some Year 7 and 10 students to ensure we could fill teams in each age group. Each team competed against teams from Unity College, Murray Bridge High School and Mannum Community School.

The teams were:

Year 8 Boys: Zac VandenBrink, Jake Shaw, Corey Ashenden, Rhys Marles, Waylon Wenske, Jamie Thompson, Dylan Richards, Scott Biddle and Sam Sanders.

Year 9 Boys: Dylan McKenzie-Campbell, Joe Bird, Oliver Crossman, Matt Austin, Jake Holmes, Michael McKechnie, Justin Smart, Jake Promnitz, Nathan Ayres, Stuart Harper.

The best performed of the Meningie teams was the Year 8 boys who finished the competition equal first with Unity College. This was quite exceptional considering they had no players on the bench and their team also included three year 7 students. They had three wins, beating the Murray Bridge 2 team on a forfeit, Unity College by 2 points and Mannum by 8 goals. They narrowly lost their match against the Murray Bridge 1 team by 5 points. All the boys played superbly and credit must be given to coach Chris Biddle who showed great leadership qualities and had his team working together soundly.

The girls also played well. They were initially apprehensive about tackling, but through the encouragement of coach Sam Bird, improved steadily with each game. They won 3 of their 6 matches and narrowly lost several of the others.

In the Year 9 boys competition Meningie found the going tough particularly against the strong Murray Bridge and Unity sides. Things were made even harder for coach Dylan VandenBrink in the last game when a couple of Meningie players sustained injuries. Fortunately, players from the Year 8 team were able to fill in. Best players for the Year 9 team were Matt Austin and Justin Smart.

Thanks must go to Mrs Appelkamp for driving the bus and scoring and to Russell for his help supervising students.

Lisa Davis (PE Teacher)
7 August 2009

Dear Parents,

I am writing to let you know that a student has been diagnosed with the H1N1 virus.

They of course will not return to the school until they are cleared by their doctor. For other students and staff, the South Australian health authorities have advised that there is no need to stay away from school unless they develop flu-like symptoms, or on the advice of their doctor.

There are however some people who will have underlying health conditions or be in one of the vulnerable categories – pregnant women, people with morbid obesity and people with chronic illnesses.

Anyone in a ‘vulnerable’ category should consult with their doctor about what is best for them at this point.

Monica Williams
PRINCIPAL
Book Week is the longest running children's festival in Australia, celebrating its 64th birthday in 2009. The dates for Book Week this year are August 22nd - 28th.

The theme in 2009 is... Book Safari.

We will be having our biannual Book Week Dress Up Parade this year during the week’s celebrations. Dress up and come as your favourite book character. Prizes will be awarded to the most original boy and most original girl costumes. Start thinking about your costume now! Look for the date of the Parade in the next newsletter, and ask grandparents and friends to keep that week free if they’d like to come along.

Asthma & The Flu

It is important for all people with asthma to be vigilant this winter because all colds and flu can trigger asthma or worsen asthma control. In children, the common cold virus is implicated in approximately 80% of exacerbations.

Influenza is an infection affecting the airways and is much more serious than the common cold. Symptoms include fever, headache, muscular aches, sore throat and dry cough which often develops quickly. Statistics from the National Asthma Council indicate that influenza causes up to 40,000 hospital admissions, 1.5 million days off work and 1,500 deaths each year.

People with asthma should:

- See your doctor for a flu shot if you have severe asthma
- Always carry your reliever medication
- Continue to take preventer medication regularly
- Update your Asthma Action Plan with your doctor and follow it if you get a cold or flu
- Avoid exercise if you have a cold or flu
- Know what to do in an asthma emergency

Further information about asthma can be obtained at www.asthmasa.org.au or by phoning 1800 645 130

COONALPYN LUTHERAN PARISH

INVITES ALL INTERESTED PEOPLE

TO A WORSHIP SERVICE

TO FAREWELL

PASTOR TERRY NATT

SUNDAY 30TH AUGUST 2009, 10.30AM

AT COONALPYN TOWN HALL

followed by a pooled lunch &
Social get together