FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

It is now well in to Term 3 and the weeks just seem to be flying by.

**Term 3 events**

**Royal Adelaide Show**

As you will know from the term planner, between now and the end of term there are a number of school activities in the next few weeks that the school has, for many years, been involved in. The first of these is the Adelaide Show. Once again we will have our Ag Team attending with both Mr Jurgs and Ms Low. Preparation for participation at the show has been going on now for several months. This year the team is taking both sheep and steers. As there is always a lot of school community interest in our involvement in the show, please note that the Sheep Judging will occur on Wednesday 10th September, and the Steer Judging on Thursday 11th September. If you are planning a day at the Adelaide Show you might like to choose either of these days and go along to support our students involved.

**Festival of Choirs**

The other big event in September is the Festival of Choirs, held at the Festival Theatre annually. This is a huge event and has been going on for over one hundred years. It involves primary age students, mainly in Years 5, 6, & 7 from across state schools and is held over two weeks. For several months now Mrs Wright has been training the group. This Tuesday 19th August the group went to Adelaide for a practice. They, along with several hundred students, will perform on stage on the evening of Wednesday 17th September. Information about the event has been sent to parents and caregivers of the students involved, as well as details of ticket purchase.

**Student Engagement**

Over the term and through the Newsletters, I have written about engaging students in their learning and setting goals for achievement. In monitoring this initiative I am pleased to say that there has been a genuine uptake by teachers and students across the school, particularly from the middle primary years upwards. Teachers are tracking students closely, having the conversations and directing students back to individual goals.

I was in the Year 4/5 Class earlier this week and spoke with individual students. Many students in this class have identified that knowing their times tables is critical to working effectively on mathematical problems. The strategies that they are using to get to automaticity are things like:

- Making and using table flash cards.
- Getting a parent/caregiver to test using the flash cards.
- Practising regularly at home or in the car.

Whilst these strategies might seem quite simple, it is the commitment to carrying them out that makes the difference. It is hard work, but it is the consistency that is important.

The Year 7/8 class gave me a quick snapshot of where they individually thought they were at in terms of working towards their goals when I was in their class last week.

On a scale from 0-5, with 5 being excellent, out of the students in class at that time:
• 1 student said between 2-3
• 9 students said at a 3
• 6 students said at a 4

I think this is rather good. The placement reflected student honesty in their reflection and in talking with the students they could see that mostly they were on track.

At the General Staff meeting this week I asked staff their opinions about how students are tracking at this point in the school year. The responses varied. There is an expectation at Meningie Area School that every student be successful. The feeling is that there still needs to be a fair pick up by students in this regard. There is no doubt that the issue of both attendance and lateness continue to be concern for some of our students. Without a doubt there is a strong link between poor attendance and student achievement. Very simply if your child/children are not regularly at school they do not progress at the same rate as their friends and classmates and over time the gap gets wider. You may think this does not matter so much in the early days. It does and it is at this point that the very foundations of learning are set in place. So please have a think about this. What is happening for your child/children? What is your child/children’s attendance pattern looking like? What kind of a future do you want for your child/children?

**Skyeisha Rigney**

I was delighted to read the article in last week’s *The Lakelander* about the outstanding success of Skyeisha Rigney on July 12th coming first in the Junior division of the Indigenous Marathon Project – The Deadly Fun Run Series Championships 2014 at Uluru. On behalf of the school community, congratulations to Skyeisha on a fantastic effort. This is the second time that Skyeisha has competed, running the 3km course in 13 minutes and 59 seconds. Well done.

**SSO Week**

Last week marked SSO Week. SSO stands for Student Support Officer.

We have many SSO workers at Meningie Area School in a variety of tasks and with varying roles and responsibilities across the school. The purpose of SSO Week is to bring to the school community’s attention the incredibly important part each and every one of the SSO’s has in the functioning of the school and in your child/children’s education. As well as that I have included other personnel in the school; Groundspersons, ACEO’s and bus drivers, and given a profile of each. On behalf of the teaching staff, students, Governing Council and parents our many thanks to all these people who contribute to the lives and education of Meningie Area School students.

**Coralie Qualmann:** Coralie has been at Meningie Area School for many years and has a wealth of experience. She is the Finance Manager, and is on leave for most of this term. Coralie works with the Principal, staff and Governing Council to set and manage the budget. As well as this she attends to administrative tasks inclusive of bookroom, uniform and student matters.

**Sharon Gibbs:** Receptionist, Front Office Manager, Personal Secretary and a range of other roles, including First Aid and the production of all student reports. Sharon is the first person most people see on coming into the school. Always a welcoming smile and no job too much to ask. Sharon deals with sick students, concerned parents and caregivers calmly and considerately. She keeps everyone informed and makes the place run smoothly.

**Sarah Chandler:** Receptionist, classroom support in the Middle/Senior School, data collection and entry, First Aid and lots of other administrative roles. Sarah, along with Sharon, is the voice on the end of the phone taking messages and making sure the school runs smoothly. In class Sarah supports students in their learning and works on programs of intervention, and maintains her skills through attending Training and Development in areas of Literacy and Numeracy.

**Catherine Burnett:** Catherine has recently joined the staff and has taken on the role of Financial Management, assisting Coralie Qualmann. Catherine brings with her a range of skills and knowledge that helps the place run smoothly and on track financially. She also works on some administrative tasks including data such as attendance.

**Russell Starr:** What would we do without Russell? His knowledge of Information Technology and the computer system within the school, both the curriculum and the administration aspects, means that issues are managed timely and effectively. Both staff and students enjoy access that other schools can at times only dream of.
Lorraine Williss: Lorraine has been at Meningie Area School for many years. In most recent years her experiences in world-wide travel have been used to our advantage as she has managed the detailed travel arrangements for both students at Meningie Area School as well as others who have participated on the Connecting Spirits which began in 2006. As well as that Lorraine arranges Parent /Teacher/Student interviews across the Middle and Senior School, and works in the Community Library.

Ali Jurgs: Ali works mainly in the Junior School with a number of students. Her specialist skills enable her to work on intervention programs that have been collaboratively developed with both teachers and district support staff such as guidance officers and speech pathologists.

Wendy Vandenbrink: Wendy has been at the school a number of years. She works mainly in the Junior school supporting students in their learning. This year Wendy has done training in QuickSmart Maths and is working with the Year 4/5 class to up skill. She is part of the MULTILIT team of which hearing students read daily is part of the program.

Karin Rebner: Karin works several hours a week supporting students to access and stay connected to their learning. She works closely with Isobell Koolmatrie ACEO (Aboriginal Community Education Officer) and teachers in the middle and upper primary. Karin has great art skills which we have as yet to really tap into.

Mel Treloar: Mel is working several hours a week to assist students in Senior School in a mentoring capacity. She brings with her skills in working with young people, and a knowledge of industry that helps keep students connected as they complete studies in chosen subjects. Mel also works in the Front Office from time to time.

Isobell Koolmatrie: Isobell is the ACEO (Aboriginal Community Education Officer). She works across the school and is a vital connection between students, parents and staff. She has a particular focus on attendance and engagement, and is part of the school team working on intervention. Additionally she liaises with outside agencies to support students in a number of ways so that they maintain connection with schooling.

Mary Strother: Mary is the Community Library Assistant, a role she has held for many years. She has a good understanding of community library users and is part of the Library Team led by Librarian Bernie Ryan that has transformed the library to the new One Card System.

John Hastings: John is and has been one of the Grounds Persons for many years. As well as making sure things run smoothly around the school from changing fluoro lights, managing rubbish, supporting the Agriculture Program, watering the grounds and mowing the town oval on a regular basis, he also drives one of the buses.

Geoff Halliday: Geoff is also a grounds person, who has been here for many years and helps John on a part-time basis in the agriculture department and on school grounds.

Judy Appelkamp: Judy drives the Raukkan/Narrung bus. She has been doing so for many years. Additionally she often transports students around the place to events such as camps, swimming carnivals, band events and almost any other event where a big bus is required.

Robert Warnes: Robert is employed as a bus driver through the contractor Stones. He has been driving for several years now on a number of runs and currently drives the on the Field-Coonalpyn Road.

Philip Gutewicz: Philip is also employed as a bus driver through Stones. He has only recently filled this position and has made Meningie his home.

SSO Week was celebrated at Meningie Area School with a morning tea in the staff room on Friday.

Once again on behalf of the school community I thank all our support staff for their time and dedication in working with your children- our students in providing opportunities and connection to community.

Monica Williams

NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

Governing Council has ordered a new piece of playground equipment to replace out of date pieces.

The installation of this climbing pyramid will be completed during a working bee at the school on Saturday 30th August at 9.00am.

If you are able to spare about 2 hours to help with its erection, it would be greatly appreciated.

Tools etc will be supplied but solid footwear would be required. If you can support us please call the front office so that we can organise numbers and equipment.
BANKSA STUDENT ACCOUNTS

$10 Gift Voucher for all new BankSA Accounts
For the start of Term 3, BankSA is offering all students who open a new Incentive Saver Account via the School a $10 Gift Voucher, which will be deposited into your child’s account once opened.
All children 12 years and under, who open an account with BankSA will also receive a Digger the Wombat Money Box, LittleSavers Calculator, LittleSavers Library Bag and a School Bank Wallet. LittleSavers is BankSA’s special saving club for kids and it’s all about having fun and learning how to save! Take a look at the LittleSavers website littlesavers.com.au
This offer is available until 26 September 2014 and is for new customers only. For more details or to collect a BankSA Application Pack, please call into the school office.

Jeans for Genes Day and Daffodil Day

Did you know 1 in 20 kids are born with a birth defect or genetic disease? The Captains are pleased to announce that as part of our Jeans for Genes casual day on the Friday of week 4 the school raised $176. Thank you for everyone who participated by wearing their jeans and donating a gold coin. This is a great effort for such a small school and your generosity will help fund research by the Children’s Medical Research Institute into birth defects and genetic diseases including cancer and epilepsy.

Did you know around 350 Australians are diagnosed with cancer every day? In the spirit of Daffodil Day, over the next week the Captains will be fundraising for the Cancer Council. The Cancer Council Australia is an organisation that funds research into cancer and provides patient support, information about cancer and advice on treatments. As part of our fundraising Daffodil Day pens and bulldog clips will be for sale in the front office for a gold coin donation and a yellow casual day on Friday week 6. We hope that everyone will come together to support the Cancer Council and help us get one step closer to defeating cancer.
Thank You,
M.A.S. Captains

YEAR 7-8 ENGLISH

The Year 7-8 class is continuing to study the use of literary devices used in texts. The class has read Alfred Noye’s famous poem, The Highwayman’ during their English lessons. As part of their class work they have modernised the poem, by using contemporary language and themes. The class worked in pairs to update one stanza (verse).

The wind was a stream of darkness among the blustery trees.
The moon was a ghastly ship sailing upon gloomy seas.
The road was a band of moonlight over the lilac field,
And the thief came driving –
   Driving - driving –
The thief came driving up to the old pub door.
He had a baseball hat on his forehead, a pile of bling at his chin,
  A hoodie of red wine colour, and trackies of dung colour,
  fitting like second skin,
  His Vans with laces stuck to his feet.
And he drove with a twinkle in his eye,
  His 44 Magnum shining,
  His dagger shining in the moonlight.
Over the stones he clanged and clicked in the dark hotel yard.
He tapped with his keys on the window but all was locked and barred.
He sang a soft tune to the window, and who should be waiting there,
But the owner’s black-eyed daughter,
Bess, the owner’s daughter,
   Braiding a dull-red love knot in to her long black hair.
And dark in the dark old pub yard an old paling creaked
When Tim the pub-hand listened. His face was white and freaked.
His eyes were sockets of madness, his hair a dirty blond,
But he loved the pub-owner’s daughter,
   The owner’s glossy red-lipped daughter.
Dumb as a dog he ear-wigged and heard the thief say -
“One kiss, my hot sweetheart, I am after a prize tonight, But I shall be back with the gold before the morning light. Yet if the police pursue me constantly, and torment me through the day, Then look for me by the moonlight”, Watch for me by moonlight, I’ll come to you by moonlight, the cops shall not stop me.

He rose upright on his roof. He could barely touch her hand. But she loosened her hair in the window. His face burnt like a scorpion chilli As the black force of perfume came plunging over his chest. And he kissed its waves in the moonlight. Hair, sweet black waves in the moonlight, Then he tugged at his gear stick in the moonlight, and drove away to the west.

He did not come in the morning. He did not come at noon. And out of the stunning sunset, before the rise of the moon, When the road was a gypsy’s ribbon, looping the gravel road, The cops came driving – Driving – driving – The cop car came driving up to the old pub door.

They said no word to the owner. They drank his ginger beer instead. But they strapped his daughter, and threw her, to the foot of her narrow bed. Two of them knelt at her window, with police stationed at her side! There was danger at every window; And hell at one dark window; For Bess could see, through her window, the road that he would ride.

They had tied her up to attention, with many a smothered laugh. They had stuck a gun beside her, with the barrel beneath her breast! “Now keep a look out!” and they kissed her. She heard her lover say – Look for me by the moonlight; Watch for me by the moonlight; Watch for me by the moonlight, though the cops will try to block the way!

She twisted her hands behind her; but all the knots held tight! She twisted and squirmed her hands until her fingers were wet with sweat and blood! They stretched and strained in the darkness, and the hours crawled by like years Till, now, on the click of 12am, Cold on the clock of 12am, The tip of one finger touched it! The trigger at least was hers! The tip of one touched it. She tried no more for the rest. She stood up to attention, the gun beneath her breast. She would not risk them hearing; she would not try again; For the road lay bare in the moonlight; Blank and bare in the moonlight;

And the blood in her veins, in the moonlight, hurt her to think of her lover’s death.

Vroom – vroom! Had they heard it? A car revving clear; Vroom – vroom in the distance? Were they deaf they could not hear it? Down the ribbon of moonlight, over the top of the hill, The thief came driving – Driving – driving- The cops stood to attention! She stood up nice and straight.

Vroom – vroom in the frosty silence! Vroom – vroom in the echoing night! Closer he came and closer. Her face was like a light. Her eyes grew wide for a moment; she drew one last deep breath, Then her finger moved in the moonlight, The magnum shattered the moonlight and warned him - with her death.

He turned and raced to the west; he did not know who stood there, With her head over the gun, drenched in their own blood! Not until dawn he heard it, and his face grew white to hear How Bess, the pub owner’s daughter, The pub owner’s black-eyed daughter, Had watched for her love in the bright moonlight, and died in the dark, dark, darkness there.

Back he spun like a madman, shouting a curse to the sky, With the gravel road smoking behind him, with his weapon brandished high. Blood red was his Ferrari in the golden sunset, wine red was his hoody, When they killed him on the highway, Killed him like a dog on the highway, As he lay in his blood on the highway, with the steering wheel supporting his head.

And on a cold wintery night, they say, when the wind is in the trees, When the moon is a ghostly ship tossed on the cloudy seas. When the road is a ribbon of moonlight over the purple land, A highwayman comes driving – Driving – driving – A thief comes driving, up to the old pub door.

Over the stones, he crunches and cracks, in the dark pub yard. He taps with his keys on the door, but all is locked and shut. He sings a song to the window, and who should be standing there, the pub owners dark-eyed daughter, Braiding a bright red ribbon into her luscious, long, black hair.
HELLO FROM ABBEY

I have been having so much fun during summer break. I went to Six Flags twice in one week then to Frontier City the following week. They are both theme parks similar to Movie World with Six Flags near Dallas and Frontier City in Oklahoma. I also went camping again to Lake Murray in Oklahoma with my friends Kylar and Ashlyn as well as her family and two other families.

I started my Raiderette practices, two weeks of Monday-Thursday, 9am-4pm constant dancing. Those two weeks were a major butt kicking workout, in which we learnt 8 different dances, 4 stand routines and worked on technique. We had our first performance for the year/season at Fan Fest which is an introduction for the Dance, Cheer, Football, Cross Country and Volleyball teams for the year. If you aren’t aware, generally the American school year begins at the end of August and concludes at the start of June.

This past weekend I went school shopping in Dallas with friends Ashlyn and Larry. I honestly think that is the only plus to having no school uniform, a reason to go shopping for new clothes! I also went to pick up my new schedule for the semester today and am pretty happy with it. I am taking Economics, Printing and Imaging Technology, English 4, Journalism, Piano, Spanish, Earth and Space Science and Dance Team! My first day back is Monday the 25th of August and I’m excited for it as I will be dancing at my first football game that Thursday!

MAS HELPS MEMORIAL PARK

Students from the Year 9/10 SOSE class helped plant new roses and rosemary hedges for the Meningie Memorial Park on the 7th August.

As part of the new Australian Curriculum in History, all students must study aspects of Australia’s involvement in the World Wars in Years 9 and 10. Students in our class are each researching a soldier who fought in the First World War, so that they can produce a narrative of that person’s experience, both during the their military service and, where possible, their life before and after the war.

To give the students some perspective on how the impact of World War 1 is still felt in the community they also took part in planting the new bed that will form the front border of the Memorial Park. This park is to be a community asset, and it is hoped that helping to plant will give the students a sense of ownership that they will pass onto their peers and younger students.

Many of the rosemary plants, which are derived from plants that originated on the Gallipoli Peninsula, were propagated at the school by last year’s VIP group as part of their work in developing a garden. The remainder were propagated by Orana Inc.

Next week the students will be travelling to Adelaide to visit a number of war memorials and significant sites and to see the “Lost Diggers of Vignacourt” exhibition at the State Library.

Mal Jurgs (Deputy Principal)
Consistent attendance helps increase the chance of a good job.

Meningie Area School

INTERMEDIATE Band Students

along with other Murraylands Music Students will be involved in a number of workshops and rehearsals, leading to a performance with Adam Page.

Performance prices, dates and times are advertised here.

As advertised on the poster, tickets are available from the Murray Bridge Local Government Centre (Murray Bridge Council).

20 tickets for the Evening Show are available from the Meningie Area School Front Office.

Please contact Meningie Area School if you have any difficulty purchasing tickets.

BEGINNER Band Students perform a FREE CONCERT with Adam Page at Mypolonga Town Hall 1pm Thursday 4th September, Week 7.