FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

STAFF TRAINING DAY Monday 5th September

Teachers and SSO staff who work in the class rooms spent Monday looking at Non-Fiction Texts from an R-12 perspective. Much of the day was spent working with Ruth Pfeiler; Regional Curriculum Consultant. A focus on Non Fiction Texts is both a priority on our Site improvement Plan and that of the Murray/Mallee Region. Staff engaged in lots of discussion, examined a range of texts and looked at literacy tasks that we ask students to do. The Australian Curriculum was also examined in the areas of History, English, Maths and Science. This day provided staff with a great opportunity to look at the latest research and methodologies so that our students can benefit. Don Mackie; DECS Legal and Legislation, spoke to the staff on the issue of managing difficult parents. This was an interesting and informative session, particularly in relation to our own safety and that of the students in our care. Whilst we live and work in a community that is respectful of our expectations it is always useful to know what actions can be taken if and when required.

Our thanks to Gwenda Eckert and Brenda Blake-Burrows (and her daughters) for catering for our staff on the day. Thanks also to the following people who helped provide food for the catering: Melanie Treloar, Kirsty Bagshaw, Felicity Turner, Ally Mead and Louise Sanders.

COMING EVENTS

Please be reminded that the official opening of the BER Project Refurbishment of the school hall is next Friday 16th September. We look forward to sharing this celebration with both the school and wider community. For catering purposes can you please contact the front office and let us know of your attendance.

CANBERRA TRIP

Several students in Years 9 to 11 will be going on the Canberra trip in Week 9 of this term. This trip has been a long time in the planning and correspondence with details about the trip has been going out at regular intervals. One focus of the trip centres on the Australian War Memorial and links with our Connecting Spirits Project on World War 1 and Australian involvement in theatres of war.

StepUP

A few weeks ago there was an article in the Lakelander about a youth event to be held at Murray Bridge on 22nd and 23rd September. The event is focused on educating, inspiring and exciting young people about their future career possibilities. To be held at the Murray Bridge North School Hall facility, it is organised by the Step Up Foundation and is supported by Rotary, The Station, DECS, RDA, Local Government, Volunteers and other sponsors. Some 650 local youth will be involved in the two-day event. We have been allocated 24 places for Year 9 students. Further information about the event and the program will be posted out to the parents of Year 9 students early next week.

JUNIOR SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

We hope you can join Junior School students and staff on Monday afternoon at 2.00pm for Assembly. You will have an opportunity to see what learning has taken place in the last few weeks. The assembly will be run by Mrs Wright’s
class. Don’t forget the Book Week Parade dress up theme.

GOVERNING COUNCIL SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY GRANT

It was very exciting to receive a letter from Paul Caica (Minister for Environment and Conservation) last week advising that an application submitted for a community grant to establish a native butterfly garden at Meningie Area School was successful. This $7,000 grant application was the initiative of Governing Council. Many thanks to Felicity Turner for her work in developing the brief. Work has already begun on the area identified for the garden. It is the bus bay area along side the hall. Trees have been removed, the area levelled and soil and mulch added. Early next week Felicity, along with a group of parents and the Junior school classes, will plant out native garden species as the first stage in this upgrade.

ADELAIDE SHOW

Once again the school entered steers in the Royal Adelaide Show Led Steer Competition. 17 students from years 10, 11 and 12 participated and all worked very well toward the presentation of the 4 steers. The school was successful in obtaining a third place ribbon in one class with the Angus steer led by Oliver Crossman and donated by Wellington Lodge. Tim Eckert will do a full report, including the generous support that the team received from a number of people and companies, in time for the next newsletter.

ARBURY PARK

Thank you to all parents and caregivers for your support in having your child / children attend the Arbury Park experience last week. By all accounts staff and students had a fantastic time. Please refer to the article in the next issue of our newsletter.

COMMUNITY SPORTING SUCCESS

Congratulations to Courtney Rigney, who on Saturday night won the Under 11’s Best & Fairest in the River Murray Netball Association.

Courtney is a member of the Under 11 team who will be playing in the Grand Final at Murray Bridge this Saturday. Good luck to all the girls. Our best wishes also to the Under 15 boys’ football team who will be playing in the Preliminary Final this Saturday at Murray Bridge.

Monica Williams

5-A-SIDE SOCCER

On Tuesday 23rd August, students from Meningie Area School travelled to Coomandook to participate in the annual Upper South East 5-A-Side Soccer Carnival. They competed against teams from Karoonda, Coomandook, Keith and Tintinara. Although the competition was open to Year 8-10’s, the Meningie teams only consisted of Year 7, 8 and 9 students. Participants were:

Girls: Shania Weetra, Tessa Bagshaw, Kristen Ayres, Makayla Stock, Maddison O’Connell, Adele Pittendreigh, and Danielle Colmer.

Boys: Lauchlan Toohey, Brad Promnitz, Marcus Rowett, Sam Sanders, David Bristow, and Tristan Fraser.

Both teams participated exceptionally well and their skills improved as the day progressed. Although, the results didn’t fall the way of the teams, there were brilliant displays of teamwork, participation and sportsmanship – MAS was well represented on the day.

Many thanks must go to Mrs Judy Appelkamp for driving the students to and from the venue and helping out throughout the day.

Jack Rowe
(PE Teacher)
Looking for machinery or equipment, or have surplus items to dispose of? The Meningie Cheese Factory Museum is holding a Machinery and Equipment Clearance Auction on Friday 16 September 2011. The Auction is to help raise funds to purchase the premises that the Museum presently occupies.

For further details, check out our listing on www.farmclearingsales.com.au or contact any of the following:
Peter Ancell – 0427 553 241
Peter Saint – 0428 755 026
Steve Wake – 0428 787 218

Australia's national sail training ship Young Endeavour is now accepting applications for youth to join eleven day voyages departing between January and June 2012. Young Australians aged 16 to 23 can apply for the ballot at www.youngendeavour.gov.au until 30 September 2011. No sailing experience is required.

A voyage in Young Endeavour is an amazing experience, and a unique opportunity for youth to develop teamwork and leadership skills through a world recognised organisation. The current ballot includes voyages along the eastern coast of Australia, which will be crewed by youth from around the country.

During each voyage youth crew learn the skills to successfully sail a square rigged ship. They climb the 30 metre mast, set and furl sails, and maintain a 24 hour watch on the bridge. They also learn to navigate, take the helm, keep lookout and help the chef in the ship’s galley.

Once they have learned these skills, each youth crew will take command of Young Endeavour for 24 hours, and on their last day at sea will host a local group of youth with special needs, sharing their new found knowledge and experiences.

18 year old Hannah Richards of Blackburn, Victoria completed a voyage from Hobart to Sydney in February, and says it was one of the best things she has ever done. "Young Endeavour pushes you outside your comfort zone. It challenges your expectations and teaches you about your own strengths," says Hannah. "I met new friends from all around Australia and now constantly recommend a voyage in Young Endeavour."

17 year old Errol Zanos travelled all the way from Wagait Beach in the Northern Territory to join the youth crew and sail Young Endeavour into Sydney in July. He applied after hearing about a mate's amazing adventure, and says, "I will always remember climbing aloft at night and furling the sails. As well as learning how to sail a tall ship, my time aboard Young Endeavour has improved my teamwork skills and my self esteem."

Since 1988 the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme, in partnership with the Royal Australian Navy, has provided challenging training voyages for over 11,000 young Australians in the tall ship Young Endeavour. The specially designed program delivered aboard the ship increases the youth crew's self awareness, develops teamwork and leadership skills, and fosters a strong sense of community spirit.

For more information please visit www.youngendeavour.gov.au, or contact our office to obtain posters for your school.

Young Endeavour Youth Scheme
1800 020 444
mail@youngendeavour.gov.au
Meningie Area School Community

extends an invitation to parents, carers & families for the Celebration of the Re-Opening of our Refurbished Hall

on

Friday 16th September 2011

at

1.45pm for a 2pm start

followed with afternoon tea and a walk through the refurbished Hall

RSVP Friday 9th September 2011 by phoning 85751106 or email info@meningieas.sa.edu.au

You are invited to attend the
MENINGIE AREA SCHOOL’S 2011 BOOK WEEK DRESS UP PARADE

Monday 12th September, 2011 at 2.00 pm
(Junior School Assembly)

Your child can come dressed as your favourite person from a book, TV, movies or a person from a different country.

This year’s theme is One World, Many Stories and as there are many stories told across the world today, Mr Walker has decided to allow everyone to dress up in their favourite character. There will be prizes for the following:

Best Costume (Boy and Girl)
Best International Costume (Boy and Girl)
Most Dedicated Class
Best Teacher and Parent Costume