FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

We come to the end of yet another really busy term for staff, students and families associated with Meningie Area School.

ADELAIDE SHOW RESULTS

Congratulations Mal Jurgs and the Senior School Agriculture students on the wonderful show results. We have been involved in the Adelaide Show for many years. The level of competition has increased significantly over the years so the results we got in both the led steer competition as well as carcas section were both outstanding achievements. For details refer to Mal’s report in this edition.

FESTIVAL OF CHOIRS

Last Tuesday 4th September, I, along with parents, grandparents and extended families, had the privilege of once again attending the Festival of Choirs at the Festival Theatre. Students in Year 5-7 have been training since early Term 1, learning a whole range of songs that were performed on the night. This is an incredible South Australian event that has been going now for over 100 years. The festival itself runs over several nights and involves both city and country students in the primary years of Years 5 to 7.

Accompanying the choir is the orchestra made up of students from primary schools around the state. Included in the program are both soloist and group performances by students in primary and specialist secondary music schools in the city. It was an absolutely fabulous night, and one that shows public schooling and the incredible opportunities students have to participate and the dedication of teachers across the state in bringing such an event together.

My congratulations to all the students who were involved and to Anne Wright who trained them.

NAPLAN

The NAPLAN results arrived in schools last week. Distribution to parents and caregivers is through the post. This was done this week. Accompanying the reports is a cover letter. The letter invites parents/caregivers to make a time to meet with the class or subject teacher to discuss your child or children’s individual report. This can be done by contacting either Sharon or Sarah at the front office who will make the arrangements. Over this next week teachers will have access to detailed information that will enable them to more fully analyse both our school, as well as individual performance and development over time. NAPLAN is valued data used at Meningie Area School to more fully individualise student learning and differentiate the curriculum.

STAFF

We welcome new Teacher Community Librarian Bernie Ryan to the Meningie School Community. Bernie has had many years of experience in working in the Public Library sector. We look forward to working with him over the next few months.
PRODUCTION 2012

The Meningie Area School stage production of “A Kidsummer Night’s Dream” will be staged on Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th October.

Throughout the term the Year 6 & 7 students have been busy learning lines and rehearsing parts ready for the big nights. The Reception to Year 5 classes have been learning their songs and actions. The stage is set up and practices have been occurring throughout this week in the hall.

With a holiday break between now and the performance it is important for students, especially the main characters, to remember their lines and or words and actions. Perhaps some help with this over the holidays by parents will keep students up to speed so that during the first week back the production practice times will be spent working on a polished performance. Information about costumes has been sent home as well as details about the purchase of tickets.

Monica Williams

MATERIALS & SERVICES CHARGES 2013

The School community is invited to attend the next Governing Council meeting to be held on 15th October in the school staffroom.

The charges will be discussed at this meeting.

Primary Materials & Services Charges will be $214 and Secondary Materials & Services Charges will be $284.

If you have any queries you are invited to this meeting at 8.30 pm or queries may be made in writing to the Chairperson.

FESTIVAL OF CHOIRS

On Tuesday the 4th September 2012, some year 5s, 6s and 7s went to Adelaide for the Festival of Music. When we first got to Adelaide, we all rehearsed our choir songs and this took us about 4 hours.

We were part of the first concert of the series so our rehearsal took longer as we had to get the lights, introductions and special effects right.

When we had finished rehearsing all of choir songs, we ate our packed lunch while we were walking to the Palace Nova Cinema in Adelaide. After arriving at the cinema we bought our tickets and then we bought our popcorn and drinks to eat in the movie. The movie was called “Moonrise Kingdom”. It was a funny, quirky and different movie.

After the movie we all walked through Rundle Mall. On our way to the Myer Food Court we saw some people singing and dancing as they did their busking. We finally arrived at the Food Court and bought the tea and drinks that we wanted. We all sat at the tables and ate our tea. One important lesson that we learnt was that if you buy your tea you don’t put it on your table and then walk away to get a drink, because a cleaning person might pick it up and out it in the bin....

Our next task was to walk back to the Festival Theatre. We went to our dressing room; Dressing Room 12, and did our hair and changed into our choir clothes. Then we left the dressing room and went into the hold; the room under the stage. Mr Mack (another teacher) warned us about some things that might be different at our rehearsal and told us that we couldn’t have phones on the stage while we were performing.

It was our time to go to the stage and we sat on steps from smallest to tallest. We were in our positions and the curtains came up. We started to perform-WOW! It was good.

Our favourite song was “Iko Iko.” When we had finished performing the curtains came down and we were sent from the stage back into the hold. We had to keep to the left hand side of the corridors backstage so we didn’t get lost or cause confusion. After a short talk we went back to our dressing room to collect our things and went into the foyer to meet the Meningie people who had come to meet us. Some people stayed in Adelaide, but most travelled back to Meningie by car. It was a late night!

A big thank you to Ms Blake, Ms Renae Marles, Mrs Hood and Mrs Wright for helping us on the day.

It was a great concert!

Sharnee Gemmell, Aimee Brooks & Georgina Tiver
4 steers and 18 students made their way to the Royal Adelaide Show last week to compete in the Led Steer Competition. Originally 5 steers were entered but our Angus from Wellington Lodge was not able to be led in time.

The steers were taken to Adelaide by Greg Rowett on Tuesday evening. After unloading the gear and getting the steers fed and watered in their stalls, we retired to Hamilton Secondary School where we stayed for the next two nights.

An early start on Wednesday morning began with feeding and watering the steers again, and cleaning and making the final touches to the school’s stand. The steers were then weighed and scanned for fat depth and eye muscle area. The rest of the day was busy with washing steers, an education program, the grand parade and O’Connor Team selection. Each breed society chose three steers to represent the breed in this competition. Our Red Poll, Moyle Park Gilbert, from Richard Daley at Jamestown was selected for the Red Poll team. Our Limousin, Roean Gary from Fred Evans of Willalooka and the Red Angus, Mentara Park George, from David and Gwenda Eckert were also considered carefully but only just missed out on a place in their respective teams. Our Santa Gertrudis, Golden Elm Vassilis, from Lila Marzac at Tintinara did not catch the eye of the selectors despite his glowing coat and finish.

At the end of the day the students enjoyed some time to check out the rides and the sideshows, before watching the fireworks and then heading back for bed. Thursday was an even earlier start, so that the steers could be prepared in time for the start of judging at 9am.

Amber Gibbs leading Vassilis and Oliver Crossman leading Gary were in the same class and the first to represent the school in the ring. Gary’s well developed muscle and fat cover caught the eye of the judge and he was sashed with the third place ribbon. Jamie Thompson led George two classes later and Alana Standley led Gilbert in the following class but neither grabbed the judge’s attention. We were happy to come away with a ribbon, and spent the rest of the day packing up and preparing the steers for the truck trip they were to take the following morning.

On Saturday night the results of the on-the-hook section of the competition were announced. We were very happy to find out that Gilbert came second in the school’s Heavy Domestic section, and even happier when we received the Heavy Domestic Reserve Champion Ribbon. This is the first broad ribbon that the school has won in the Led Steer competition. When the detailed results were released we found out that he was the second highest scoring steer out of the 189 steers in the competition. George was also the highest scoring Red Angus in the competition. Gary also scored well coming in at 26th out over 75 steers in the class, and Vassilis was twelfth in his class of about 25. Each of the steers scored maximum points for fat cover, which we need to thank Meningie Fodder for, and particularly their nutritionist, Steph, who checked on the progress of the steers throughout the lead up to the show.

The leaders all did very well in the ring and were ably assisted by Dale Appelkamp, Matt Austin, Sam Bird, Christina Brunbauer, David Bristow, Danielle Colmer, Marni Hood, Kaitlin McKenzie-Campbell, Richie Nicholls, Marcus Rowett, Jake Shaw, Jace Stephenson, Zac Vandenbrink and Brianna Wilson who made sure that the steers looked their best and that the stall was always well presented to the public.

Thank you to all of the sponsors and supporters of the team, especially the breeders who provided the steers, T&R Pastoral, Meningie Fodder, Meningie Veterinary Clinic, Hincks Rural Fencing, Coorong Ag Services and David & Gwenda Eckert. We would also like to thank Sasha and her team of helpers from the Young Limousin Breeders who helped the students develop their skills in preparing and leading the steers. The Angus will be taken to the Loxton Show in the next few weeks to compete there.

Photos can be viewed on the school’s website.

Mal Jurgs (Ag Teacher)

SCHOOL REPORTS

Reports for students in Years 6 to 12 will be sent home with students tomorrow.

If a student is absent on the day we will endeavour to send their report home with a sibling.

Other students will be able to collect their report from the Library during the school holidays.
**DRUMMING WORKSHOP**

On Wednesday 12th September the Year 8-9 students who are involved in the Drumbeat Programme in the school held a drumming demonstration for Ms Wilamowski’s R-1 class and some interested parents, caregivers and grandparents of these class members.

The year 8-9 students also arranged a morning tea after the session. Many thanks to those students who participated on the day and assisted in the setting up at the hall. Particular recognition must go to Makayla Stock and Brenda Balduck, whose organisational skills and forethought really made the whole event work well. Makayla received a special mention by AC Care members, Mark and Leah, who were most impressed with her vision of the bigger picture and her organisation.

On Wednesday 12th September I organised a Drumbeat session with Miss Wilamowski’s R/1 class. Parents were also invited to come along.

Morning tea was provided; fruit and cake were served, along with coffee and milo.

The Drumbeat session was a new experience for not only the younger students, but also for me and the other drummers.

We really enjoyed the drumming session and we hope you did too.

Makayla Stock (Year 9)

**CONNECTING SPIRITS 2012**

It is getting close to the time when Connecting Spirits 2012 leaves for the battlefields of Singapore, England, France Belgium and the Netherlands.

In the lead up to our departure there will be a workshop to give last minute advice on preparing for overseas travel and to make sure that everyone is aware of what will be happening.

Following this workshop we will be combining with the RSL to provide an evening of entertainment. The entertainment will start at 7.30pm when the students on the trip will be presented with their trip tops by the sponsors who provided them.

This will be followed by a presentation by Peter Goers and then the band “Backtrax” will play until late. There will be nibbles provided but we ask you to bring supper.

The cost will be $10 and will support the RSL Building fund. Tickets will be available at the Meningie Newsagency or at Lakeside Quality Butchers.

Mal Jurgs (Connecting Spirits organiser)

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**Meningie Area School Presents A KIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM THE MUSICAL**

Tuesday 16th & Wednesday 17th October

Meningie Area School Hall

7pm start

Songs & Music by David Billings, Rob Fairbairn, Mark O’Leehy & Kevin O’Mara

By Arrangement with Bushfire Press Pty Ltd

Tickets available from the front office

Children $5.00

Adults $10.00
EVERY CHANCE FOR EVERY CHILD

DECD have recently announced the release of a new discussion paper, ‘Every chance for every child’ [link: www.decd.sa.gov.au/docs/documents/1/EveryChanceforEveryChild.pdf] and invite parents, professionals, volunteers and others in our community, including children and young people, to contribute their views and ideas about how South Australia can become a better place for children, young people and families.

HELP MAKE SA THE BEST PLACE FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

The South Australian Government is embarking on a plan to make our state the best place in Australia to be a child and to raise a family.

We’d like all South Australians to join in an online conversation and share their thoughts on a range of topics relating to children and young people, parenting, education and family life and how we can work together to make a difference.

To participate in this online conversation, please visit [link: www.everychild.sa.gov.au] where you can read a discussion paper and follow the links to have your say! The online conversations will run until the end of October and you are all warmly invited to join in.

HEN S FOR SALE

As part of my Year 12 Community Studies project about business I will be raising and selling some ISA Brown Layer hens. They have been vaccinated and are beaked and will be ready to lay in late November.

They will be sold at $16.50 each (including GST). If you wish to buy any hens, please call the school front office on 85751106 to place an order. There are a limited number of hens for sale, so get your orders in quickly! They will be available for collection mid-November.

Richie Nichols (Year 12)

JUNIOR FOOTBALL PRESENTATION

Junior Football Presentation Night for U11s, U13s, U15s and U17s.

BBQ tea at the footy club on Friday 21st Sept at 6.00pm. Could all families please bring a salad to share. Adults $5, children $2, footy players free.

MISSING LIBRARY READERS

The school library recently conducted an audit and found that 700 readers and books had not been returned to school over the last 5 years.

It would be greatly appreciated if some of these were returned.

Could you please check at home to see if any can be found and return them as soon as possible.

Thankyou.

Library staff

School Holiday Clinics at Netball SA Stadium

2 and 3 October 2012

Have fun while learning new netball skills, drills and techniques!

- NetSetGO! Come and Try 5 - 7 Years
  Tuesday 2 October 2012
  6.00am – 11.00am
  Cost: $42.00
  Registration opens at 8.30am

- NetSetGO! Come and Try 8 - 10 Years
  Tuesday 2 October 2012
  2.00pm – 5.00pm
  Cost: $52.00
  Registration opens at 1.30pm

- NetballSkills! 11 - 16 Years
  Wednesday 3 October 2012
  10.00am – 3.00pm
  Cost: $72.00
  Registration opens at 9.30am
  Subway Lunch Included

Book Now!
Go to www.netballsa.asn.au or telephone 08 8238 0500. Registrations close COB 26 September 2012
MENTAL HEALTH EXPO
Friday October 12th 2012 - 10am to 3pm
Murray Bridge Town Hall
Free Family Friendly Community Event
Limited Transport available
For enquiries call Cathy 0439087523

- My Community – How can we help each other
- My Support – What is your pathway to services
- My Wellbeing – Be aware look after your mental health and wellbeing

At the Expo:
Performances, Guest speakers, food tasting, come & try mosaics, art exhibition from local community people, come & try activities, freebies & giveaways, relaxation ideas, hand/foot massages, interactive community painting, face painting & children’s activities, food available from Country Women’s Association’s Kitchen, Information about mental health & illness.

1. Aim of the event: To raise awareness about the impact of stigma and discrimination for people with a mental illness in the community.

2. To provide an opportunity for people in rural and remote communities to have an open discussion about mental illness and to have access to NGO’S and Government Organisations who provide mental health services and be provided with information about mental illness and mental health all in one space.

3. To create an opportunity to promote the mental health and emotional wellbeing of people within the community that is fun, entertaining and free from stigma.

4. To encourage event participation in an inclusive environment - eg Aboriginal, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse and Youth.

Description of the event:
The Mental Health Expo will help to raise awareness of the needs to improve mental health and wellbeing in the Murraylands and surrounding districts. The community will gain access to information, resources, speakers, workshops and be provided with a greater awareness of local services. Community will be provided with opportunities to speak with those in the similar situations to themselves as well as those who can support them as needed

In the Murraylands service providers from all sectors and community members partner to host a joint expo. Positive feedback from the 2011 event and published evidence support the need for greater community promotion and awareness to help reduce stigma associated with mental illness. The Mental Health Expo will provide an opportunity for all community members from local and outlying areas an opportunity to have one place where they can make connections and find information regarding mental health and mental illness in a safe, caring, friendly and non-judgmental environment.