FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

Term Three is rapidly drawing to its conclusion. It is the “fullest” term each year with a ten week uninterrupted run of fifty teaching days. It’s also the coldest term of the year and traditionally the unwelcome host to the “flu season.” Like our community in general, this year we have been affected quite severely by sickness but I am proud to report that the students and teachers combined have kept focussed and got on with the job in a positive spirit. With the first rays of spring, sinus’s dry, the school atmosphere is really positive and we are about to share the rewards of the “hard yards” throughout the winter months. These include:

- **Last week up to 20 students in the Junior School were involved each day in Literacy and Numeracy Problem solving activities at lunchtimes. Capably organised by Mrs. Hood the activities gained momentum throughout the week and it was a great sight to see children engaged in these each lunchtime.**

- **The Choir and the Band ventured to the Adelaide Festival Centre last Wednesday night and did the school proud. The Band played in the foyer at the commencement of the night’s combined choir whilst our choir performed as part of the mass choir. Their excellence and thoroughness came from weeks of practice and my congratulations to Mrs Wright and all involved.**

- **This is the "grand final" for the Agricultural Studies students who went to the Show this week. Offering Agricultural Studies is one characteristic that defines Meningie Area School and the team of Hamish Jurgs (Waterfront Carl), Ben Gibbs (Wellington Lodge Cyril), Matt Eckert (Dukes Flat Campbell) and Hayden Biddle (Pebbly Range Chutney) are doing more than competing in the Led Steer Competition. They are keeping the tradition of MAS going in a dynamic way. This year Year 10’s Bethany, Dylan, Melanie and Stephanie join Mr. Jurgs as support to the presenting team.**

- **In Week 9 the Year 11’s are spending three days bush walking with Mr. Woolston and Mrs. Hood in the Coonalpyn Range, Mt Boothby area. This will practically test the theoretical knowledge they have gained throughout the Term.**

- **Week 10 sees the Year 10’s on Camp at Millicent. A feature has been their requirement to be involved in the planning of their food so it will be interesting to receive feedback on the depth of their ability to plan ahead. We have discussed previously how critical the ability to plan will be in the achievement of SACE for these students in the ensuing two years.**

**2008 School Community Opinion Surveys**

In the next few days most parents will receive a letter in the post inviting them to complete the satisfaction survey of our school. The letter directs you to a website on which you may complete the survey. If you do not have access to the website please contact Sharon Gibbs at school on 85751106 and she can provide you with a hard copy and reply paid envelope to complete the survey. The survey is important to the impartial collection of information on how you see our school performing and to assist with future planning. Replies must be received by 17 October 2008.

**National Numeracy and Literacy Test Results. (NAPLAN)**

I have been notified that the individual results from the 2008 Tests will be available late next week. The school is obliged to check the tests against our records and they will be sent home to parents on either Thursday 18 September or Friday 19 September. These are the results for the National Numeracy and Literacy Test that Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students sat for earlier this year.
Postscript
I was really impressed the other day when I saw some work done by Mrs. Woolston’s Reception-Year 1 Class. They had done some really intricate ceramic work and had then recorded that in their books in a very attractive and crisp way. Well done to her students. There may be some very pleased parents/carers when they see the work.

Ronald Pratt

CONNECTING SPIRITS
Quiz Night
18th October at the Football Clubrooms.
$10 per person - up to 10 persons per table.

Limited tables available get in early to avoid disappointment. Contact the school to book. More details to follow in the next Newsletter.

Website
The Connecting Spirits website has been made public and can be visited at www.connectingspirits.com.au

ARURY PARK CAMP
30 July to 1 August 2008

Web of life
Arbury Park situated in Adelaide Hills, was the Outdoor Education School that the year six, sevens and eights were visiting for our camp. Wednesday passed and Thursday arrived. After lunch a particular event happened that I enjoyed. It was called the ‘Web of Life’.

First we all were to be seated at the logs. Peter the instructor told us all the rules and Miss Davis chose the fastest girls and boys from each year level to be the carnivores, the rest were herbivores. Veronica was natural and Miss Davis was man made disasters.

We then found ourselves in the boundaries of the playing field where we could see some containers. These containers were used for the herbivores food (green container) and water (blue container). Carnivores ate the herbivores, not food in the container.

I could see Veronica in the corner of my eye as I ran behind a tree. We had started the game. Matt (a Carnivore) was coming for me. I tried to hide but it was too late. He took one of my lives. All the herbivores started with eight lives, but in a few minutes lots were lost.

The game depended on secrecy, and that’s exactly what I had in my mind. I would run when no one was looking and hide in the most suitable places for this type of game.

The highlight of this game was when I sat in a thorn bush for some time wondering what hurt so much.

This was interesting and an exhaustive game to play. With lots of peers around, it was good to play a game depending on each others help.

By Tamika Williams

Freshwater life
On the first of August at Arbury Park, down at the ponds and wetlands was where my group learnt about freshwater life. My group consisted of year 8’s by the name of Hannah, Matt, Amber, Samara, Braden, Michael, Jake and myself. This activity was memorable to me because I got some first hand experience at discovering freshwater life.

After breakfast it looked to be a fun day. We acquired nets, buckets and containers and went down to the wetlands to collect some
microscopic life. First Mr Woolston showed us how to use the nets to be able to find the most insects and then how to put what you had caught into the container. Finally it was time to begin. We all found lots of tadpoles and lots of other little bugs.

As it had started to hail we went back up to the lab to study what we had collected. We looked at the tadpoles, wrigglers, some tiny arachnids and lots of other insects.

Once it had stopped raining we went to the pond and once again started to collect more insects. I had just found the biggest tadpole I had ever seen and also a dragonfly lava, and had just put my net back in the water when I slipped into the pond! My left shoulder and both of my legs got drenched. I then had to trudge all the way back to my dormitory to get some dry clothes!

When I was finally dry, I met up with the rest of the group back up at the lab to continue looking at the things we had found. My tadpole and dragonfly lava looked even larger on the big screen!

It was really good to find out what lives in the ponds and wetlands. Even if I did get soaked, it got me even closer to all of the insects that live in there. Me falling in the pond was definitely the highlight of this activity.

By Megan Herrmann

**Web of Life**

On Wednesday the year six, seven and eight classes went on a camp to Arbury Park which is at Bridgewater in the Adelaide Hills. At Arbury Park the teachers came up with some games and activities for us to do.

The game that I found the best was the web of life. Everyone was prey except Matt, Amber, Brigitte, Sam and I because we were the predator’s. Our job was to catch all of the prey as quickly as possible (without letting them get any life, food or water cards) and make them give you a life card. However, there were also natural disasters and human construction and they would only have to point at you and then you would have to give them one of your seven life cards.

At the end of the game after one and a half hours everyone had to count up how many life, water and food cards they had and convert them into points to see who had won the game. Natural disasters and human construction won the whole game by a lot, followed by the predators, Matt, Amber, Brigitte, Sam and I and then all of the prey.

The game was great fun and exciting to play. After we had finished playing the game we all went to see Pratty who had slid down a hill and got a stick that had jabbed into his knee and cut it open.

I think the “Web of Life” was the best part of the camp because the whole group got to do it and we didn’t have to split up into groups!

By Rhys Marles
JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

This term we welcome the following new students: Tia Bernie Ling, Henry Turner, Phoebe Kartinyeri and Samuel Pratt to Mrs Woolston’s class, Penny McManus and Kiara Kartinyeri to Ms Newby’s class, Shanae Kartinyeri to Mrs Starling’s class and Kadesha Kartinyeri to Miss Giles class. All students have settled in and we wish them well with their schooling.

Footy Clinic & Kick around Australia

On Wednesday 6th August former Sturt player Colin Casey and 2007 Under 19 player Daniel Herbert visited the reception – Year five classes to run a football clinic teaching students the basics of kicking, handballing and marking. Whilst the sessions were well received by the student and they actively participated, the weather was not kind and rain meant the kicking skills had to be limited. This session was a good opening the Kick around Australia event that was held the following day.

The Year 6 students ran a Kick Around Australia challenge for the Reception – Year 5 classes. The activities included a longest kick, most handballs in 5 minutes, kick to kick, and handball accuracy. The year six students were responsible for supervising each activity and recording the results, they teamed up with the Reception & year one students and had a whole lot of fun. Congratulations to the year six class for taking up the challenge and working responsibly with our Junior School students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tom Lewis Yr 3/4 G 50m</td>
<td>Tessa Bagshaw Yr 3/4 G 40m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hugh Mason Yr 2/3 Starling 41m</td>
<td>Amber Mazzone Yr 2/3 Starling 25m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dillon Gemmell Yr Samuel 5 55m</td>
<td>Abbey Hood Yr 5 Samuel 45m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Turner R-1 Woolston 35m</td>
<td>Tori-Lee Rigney R-1 Woolston 23m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dillan Mitchell R-1 Newby 32m</td>
<td>Brigitte Lewis R-1 Newby 13m</td>
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Olympic Day

On Friday 08/08/08 the Junior School held an Olympic Day of their own. Previously each class was split into 5 groups and then combined across the year levels to form an Olympic team/country. Each Junior School staff member chose a colour from the Olympic rings and a country that had that colour predominantly in their flag as the country they would represent. We had Brazil, Germany, Israel, Italy and Trinidad & Tobago. The students were required to find out information about that country and prepare for the opening ceremony.

On the day students participated in have a go sessions in the morning and then the actual competition in the afternoon. Each student was required to participate in at least one individual event and two team events. The events included One legged flamingo, Coin toss, Air soccer, Sock hockey, Hurdles, Boomerang throw, Bottom shuffle, Bean bag throw, 3 legged race, Tunnel ball and Baton relay. There were many exciting events and results but the Olympic record for the day goes to Year 2 student Celia Cowan in the one legged flamingo she stood on one leg for almost 42 minutes, she was followed closely by Dillon Gemmell (year 5) in 41 minutes. A fantastic effort and one that I would not have been able to do.

Winners were presented with a laminated medal and a paper flower and had their photo taken on the dais.

Yr 5 students and Mr Samuel pictured with Colin Casey and Daniel Herbert

Each class has a comprehensive list of the challenge results but here are a few results from the Longest Kick:

Team captains on the dais

Overall it was a fantastic day and a big thankyou to the parents who came to support us and the year six
students who acted as Olympic marshals and volunteers.

**Literacy & Numeracy Week**
1-7th September 2008

During this week there were a variety of activities and challenges held for Reception to Year 12 students at lunchtime.

Students played maths games and tried their skill with the Tower of Hanoi and Solitaire puzzles. It was pleasing to see students mixing and working together. The children also had the opportunity to try some of our new literacy games and found *Spikey Mikey* (a game about syllables) to be most entertaining.

As part of the L & N week, the Year 6 students made their own Tower of Hanoi. They combined their mathematical measuring skills with their technology skills to make the wooden game and then in their literacy lessons complete a procedural text of instructions on how to actually make the game. The students had to rely on their note taking and memory to complete this task as during the making process all instructions were given verbally or through demonstration. Some of their completed games can be seen in the front office.

&Mikayla (yr 6) and Megan (yr 11)&

At the end of the week we held a Numeracy Trail (Thursday) and a Literacy Trail (Friday). The students found it entertaining and insightful to go around the school answering a series of questions or looking for special things to collect. The students were able to work by themselves, in pairs or small groups. Well done Jayden Ayres (yr 3) for guiding many of the students in Ms Newby’s reception - one class through the trails.

Overall the week was a great success and the students had fun while learning a variety of literacy & numeracy skills.

&Students making their Tower of Hanoi & Solitaire puzzles&

**Junior School Reporting Term 3**

The format for reporting in term 3 is work samples in the student’s progress book and an optional interview. This interview can be either parent or teacher requested. If a teacher would like to request an interview with a child’s parent/caregiver contact will be made shortly by the classroom teacher.

If parent/caregivers wish to request an interview could they please place a note in their child’s diary with some suitable times/days or contact the school via the front office.

&Students completing the 9 letter word challenge&

Kobie and Lachlan (Yr 2)
**Delta Dog Safe**

On Tuesday 9th of September Mandy Lee from the Delta Dog Safe program visited the R-5 classes to discuss the importance of child safety around dogs. The sessions were informative and well received by the students.

**Life Education**

From August 27th – 29th Nina from Life Education visited the students from reception to Year 7 to run sessions on making choices and being healthy. Nina worked really hard within her sessions to provide the students with fun and challenging activities. The information was well received and some of our students are now participating in the Healthy Harold challenge (to eat healthy for 30 hours & exercise for 30 minutes) We hope they continue on this healthy path.

**School Magazine**

It is getting close to that time of year again. If you did not pay for a school magazine at the start of the year and would like to do so please see our Front Office staff. Cost $16.00. Final numbers are needed by the 30th October, after this date you will miss out.

Katrina Hood  
Junior School Manager

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**STOP PRESS!!!**

**Led Steer Competition**

Our Led Steers did very well at the Royal Adelaide Show this week, obtaining 1 2nd place and 2 3rd places.

Well done to Mal and the Year 10 and 12 students who participated and spent many hours preparing the steers.

More details in the next newsletter.

**Panadol**

A friendly reminder to parents: Please don’t send Panadol or any other medication to school with your child to be kept in their possession whilst at school. Panadol, etc. (with your child’s name on it) may be sent from home and kept in the medication drawer in the front office for when your child needs it.

There have also been incidences recently where students have been giving Panadol to other students. This definitely should not be occurring and is a huge safety issue.

**Visitors**

For safety reasons if visiting the school for any reason, please remember to present yourself at the front office before entering further into the school grounds or into the buildings.

Also, classrooms are to be accessed from the outside doors, not the passages inside the buildings which are for staff access only.