FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

Last Friday 16\(^{th}\) September the official opening of the school hall brings to a close the almost 18 month Building the Education Revolution Refurbishment Project. It was fantastic to see the community response to our invitation to attend the celebration, along with official and invited guests. I wish to once again acknowledge the commitment and work of former Chairperson of Governing Council, Judy Appelkamp, for her dedication in seeing the project through to the end, and coordinating the Official Opening over these past few months.

The afternoon proceedings began with the Year 4/5 Giles class chaperoning official and community guests to their allocated seats. The programme, led by a group of Year 9 students, showcased many of the programs that students participate in here at school. Displays set up in the hall featured areas of study, the band played and the Year 5/6 choir sang. Official speeches were made by Mr Gazzola MLC, representing the Minister for Education, Mr Jay Weatherill, as did Governing Council Chairperson, Mr David Eckert. Mrs Williams read an apology letter received from the Honourable Chris Evans, Federal Education Minister, who was an apology.

Presentations and acknowledgement were given to both Mrs Judy Appelkamp, for her work on the BER Project, and to representatives from Templeton Construction; MS Pauline Bastiaens and Mr Olu Deyaolu who undertook the completion of the project.

We were honoured to have the local Aboriginal Women’s Choir sing several songs in Ngarrindjeri, led by past Meningie Area School student Rita Lindsay. I was able to announce that the proposed naming of the hall Tarndaipulun Pulgi, which means place of movement in Ngarrindjeri, has received approval by the appropriate Ngarrindjeri Elders and DECS. A plaque is to be commissioned and put up in the hall at a later date.

The official proceedings concluded with two current students, Felicia Hartman and Tim Eckert, opening the curtain to the plaque just inside the main hall doorway, and with official guests, parents and community members attending afternoon tea that had been prepared by Mrs Mason and the Year 5/6/7 students. Most people took the opportunity to look around the new facilities as well as view the work of students on display.

Outside the hall one could not help but notice the work that has begun on upgrading the garden area. As mentioned in the last newsletter, Governing Council recently received acknowledgement of the success of a grant to develop a Butterfly Garden in the bus bay area. Thankyou to the NRM and Governing Council parents and representatives for swinging into action and getting the first stage of this project completed for the official hall opening, with the help of students from Years R-3 who planted out the plants. Thanks to the Coorong & Tatiara LAP who covered the cost of all of the plants that we needed to purchase for this initial planting.

On the southern end of the hall wall is a mural. This is the work of the current Year 9 Art class and teacher Ms Freeth. It ably depicts the uniqueness of our environment and the links between the school and community.

I sincerely acknowledge the work and support of all the staff; inclusive of teachers, SSO’s, ACEO’s and Grounds person’s, a number of community people, and MAS students in making this a day to remember.
VALIDATION

Next Tuesday 27th September is Meningie Area School Validation day. All DECS schools in South Australia participate in a Validation day once every three years, whereby a panel of people comprising the Regional Director, (in our case Mr Peter Chislett), Mr David Eckert (Governing Council Chairperson), 2 Principals from similar schools (Mrs Lesley Murray from Coomandook and Mr Peter Ryan from Karoonda), Regional Office staff inclusive of Mr Noel Kneebone (Regional Effectiveness Coordinator), Ms Sally Wright (Aboriginal Education) and 2 members of our staff, Mr Jack Rowe (teacher) and Ms Isobell Koolmatrie (ACEO), meet over the school day and hear and see presentations from a number of members on our staff who talk about the things that are happening at our school. While many staff members have been involved in work leading up to this day, the main presentations will be made by the following staff on topics that are priorities of our Self Review and reflected in our site priorities.

- Ms Monica Williams – Focus Shared Leadership
- Mrs Wendy Starling - Focus on Learning in the Junior School
- Ms Kathy Quinn - Attending to Culture, Student Well Being and Engagement
- Ms Kathryn Hese - Setting Directions/Structure of and opportunities for success Senior School
- Mr Mal Jurgs – Community Engagement.

We are looking forward to this opportunity in showcasing once again the Educational opportunities and achievements of students, the work of teachers and the community partnership and links we have developed and expanded.

FESTIVAL OF CHOIRS

Yesterday, Thursday 22nd September, Mrs Wright and members of the year 5/6 choir went to Adelaide to perform in the Festival of Choirs. It is a long day, with students leaving at 7.30am to get to Adelaide to begin rehearsal with the 500 strong choir made up of students from many schools whose turn it was to perform on the Thursday night program. The performance is the culmination of months of weekly practice. Thankyou to Mrs Wright for her work with this dedicated group of young singers and to the parents who supported in providing transport to Adelaide on the day. We have been lucky enough to hear from the choir several times over the year; the most recent occasion being the official opening of the school hall refurbishment project, and have seen their progress and development.

CANBERRA TRIP

It has been a hectic week for the group of Year 9 and 10 students and support teachers in Canberra this week. Led by Mr Jurgs, along with Mr Walker and Ms Freeth, this excursion is the culmination of two years of planning. A priority of this event is the unit of work Civics and Citizenship, featuring visits to the War Memorial and links to the other major project at our school; Connecting Spirits.

END OF TERM

As we work toward the Term 3 holiday break it is timely to mention a few things. It is a busy time for the whole school, most particularly students in Year 12, as they work towards final assessment and exam preparation. We have been hit by staff sickness as well as commitments to camps and excursions that have been on our yearly planner. Hence over the past few weeks there have been many classes that have been taken by both relief teachers and general staff for whom the subject is not their specialist field.

Reports for students Year 6-12 will go home at the end of the term. Reports not given out on Friday (due to student absence) can be collected from the Library during the school holidays.

NAPLAN results have been posted out to families this week. There is an accompanying letter explaining the NAPLAN, and an invitation to make an appointment with the appropriate class or subject teacher to discuss the report. Much has been made in the Media about NAPLAN results here in South Australia, and how the students in this state have not achieved as well as those in other states.

From a Meningie Area School perspective, I am particularly pleased with student progress over time. While there were many individual outstanding results a real highlight was the writing results in Year 9 which were above the National average.

Monica Williams

STOP PRESS

Congratulations to the Year 5/6 choir students for a fantastic performance last night!
This year the school entered 4 steers into the Royal Adelaide Show Led steer competition. The 4 consisted of Wellington Lodge Franklin, a black Angus; Seymour Vale Fritz, a Santa Gertrudis; Moyle Park Fergus, a Red Poll and Gene-T Freddy; a Red Angus. The steers were led by Oliver Crossman, Jackie Gibbs, Tim Eckert and Jack Appelkamp. They were supported by Jake Promnitz, Sam Bird, Justin Smart, Michael McKechnie, Richie Nichols, Dylan McKenzie-Campbell, Matt Austin, Alana Standley, Zac Vandenbrink, Jamie Thompson, Tamika Williams, Marni Hood and Amber Gibbs. We received the steers late April and the year 10, 11 and 12 Ag classes have been feeding, training and grooming the steers since then. Using the 15% show steer finisher mix made by Meningie Fodder, the steers steadily put on weight for the 150 days. With the steers weighing between 350 and 520kg, they covered a wide range of weight classes resulting in no 2 animals in the same class.

Normally the steers need to arrive at the showgrounds on the Tuesday evening. However, Meningie travelled down early Tuesday morning to help the show committee clean out the stalls and help set up for the school show steers. This then allowed us to get our steers tied up and settled in before the rush came in that night. So for the leaders and 2 supporters, Tuesday consisted of cleaning out stalls, feeding and washing the steers so that they could be clipped later that night.

With the scanning, weighing, Grand Parade, O'Conner trophy and the junior judging, Wednesday was a very busy day. First up was the scanning and weighing, followed by the junior judging. This is where all the schools come together and listen to a speech presented by a cattle breeder. During this speech he brings in four differently shaped steers of one breed and each student has to place them in order of what they think is the best, to the worst. This was followed by the Grand Parade and the O'Conner trophy, which unfortunately Meningie did not get any placing's in these events.

We had an early start Thursday morning with the start of the on the hoof judging. This was the time that the steers and the leaders had to look their best, so with everyone pitching in, this was soon achieved. Jackie Gibbs and Fritz were first up at 10am, followed by Tim Eckert and Fergus, then Oliver Crossman and Franklin before it was Jack Appelkamp and Freddy's turn. We were happy to come out with a third which was won by the Black Angus, led by Oliver Crossman. This was then followed through to the carcase judging presented on Saturday night, which we were proud to discover that we had picked up another ribbon with the Black Angus winning the best Black Angus carcase. As predicted though, the other steers did not have enough muscle to meet the specifications of their weight class.

Overall, even though we did only win one ribbon, Meningie presented the steers, the stall where the steers were tied up and themselves to a very high standard and should be very proud of that.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Wellington Lodge, Moyle Park, Seymour Vale and Paul Cotterill for supplying the school with the steers; we could not have done it without your support. Also I would like to put out a huge thank you to our sponsors, T&R Pastoral, Meningie Fodder, Meningie Vet Clinic, Hincks Rural Fencing, Landmark Meningie, Lake Alex Dairy, Coorong Ag Services and Vandenbrink Transport for the load of saw dust.

Tim Eckert
Show Team Manager

When it comes to relationships and sexual health, you and your family are the most important source of information for your children. More than anyone else, your beliefs and values will help shape your children's views on what's right and what's not, so long as you let them know where you stand.

One aim of the Relationships and Sexual Health program delivered to students in years 5 to 10 is to increase their confidence to ask questions and develop skills needed to seek out accurate information. However, it's important not to wait for your children to ask questions but use opportunities to have conversations as they arise.

One such opportunity may be while students are participating in their school relationships and sexual health program. Why not ask them about the course content, help them with their homework and have a discussion about how different this is from when you went to school!

Some tips

It's OK if you don't know the answer – you cannot know everything and together you can find out the answer. See below for suggested information sources.

It's OK to feel uncomfortable – you may feel awkward if you didn't speak to your parents.
about relationships and sexual health, but it gets easier!

*Talk it like it is* – by being open and honest you will create the foundations for ongoing discussion and position yourself as their ‘go-to’ person.

There is a common misconception that talking about sex will make young people want to have sex. However, research has found quite the opposite. The more accurate information a young person has, especially when presented in a positive way, will help young people to develop healthy values, and delay having sex until a relationship feels respectful and safe.

**Suggested sources of information**

SHine SA resources and services:

www.shinesa.org.au

‘Talk it like it is’ and ‘Friendships and dating’ (disability focused) – for copies call 8300 5312.

SHine SA Sexual Healthline: 1300 883 793

(Nurse operated. Available 9am – 1pm Monday to Friday)

Talk Soon, Talk Often – great new resource for parents and carers developed in WA. Google the title to download booklet.

www.cyh.sa.gov.au over 600 factsheets for children, teenagers and parents

www.yoursexhealth.org.au a great website for young people on all topics of relationships and sexual health.

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**YEAR 8/9 9-a-side FOOTBALL CARNIVAL**

On Wednesday 14th of September, Year 7, 8 and 9 students participated in the 9-A-Side Football Carnival held by Sturt FC at Imperials Oval. The sunny conditions proved perfect for quality football as both the Meningie AS boys’ and girls’ teams were super competitive throughout the day.

The boys’ team only had 6 Meningie AS players, however, each of the other schools involved showed great generosity in balancing up the numbers by lending us some of their players – an exercise that proved costly for one of the Murray Bridge sides as Meningie were 5-goal victors on that occasion. The girls’ team, however, had an excellent representation with 13 girls eagerly donning a guernsey.

Highlights throughout the day included: Lauchlan Toohey’s miracle snap goal from the boundary in only his second game of Aussie Rules; Dylan Richards piercing through the midfield with relative ease; the tenacious defending of Montana Wenske, Erin and Adele Pittendreigh; and, of course, the sensational upset in the final round where the Meningie girls’ team reversed a 4-goal half-time deficit to win by 5 points against Unity College.

An enormous thank you to Judy Appelkamp for again driving the bus on what was an excellent day of footy in the sun.

Jack Rowe
PE Teacher

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**CANBERRA TRIP REPORT**

This week 15 students from Years 9 and 10 spent 3 days exploring the nation’s capital, Canberra, on a Civics and Citizenship Camp. During the trip the students visited Parliament House, where they saw the Senate and House of Representatives, as well as having the opportunity to role play the process of passing a bill through the House of Representatives.

Zac Vandenbrink performed well as the Prime Minister, while Marni Hood took to the role of Speaker of the House with gusto, ably assisted by Jace Stephenson as the Sergeant at Arms. All students took part in the discussion on the provision of free public transport for all Australians.
We then moved down the hill to Old Parliament House, where we visited the Prime Minister’s office and saw how the approach to security was much more relaxed then than it is now. We also had the opportunity to role play the passing of the bill to allow for Conscription in 1964, with once again all students taking an active part in their prospective roles.

After lunch we visited the Australian War Memorial, where we had a tour of some sites of interest followed by free time to quietly walk around the memorial and to reflect on the sacrifice made by Australians in war. Some students were able to find the name of relatives on the Roll of Honour.

A quick visit to the National Capital Exhibition and the Telstra Tower lookout rounded off day one.

The next day started early at the Electoral Education Centre where students learned about our method of voting and the leading role that Australia has played in the development of democracy in the last 150 years.

We then spent time at Questacon where students were able to participate in a number of hands-on activities involved with science and technology. This was followed by a tour of the National Gallery of Australia, where a number of the students’ understanding of art were challenged.

After lunch we visited the Royal Military College at Duntroon, where Staff Cadet Dave Fuller showed us the “Seven Wonders of Duntroon” including the bell that never rings and the stairs that lead to nowhere.

That evening the students and Ms. Freeth tried their skills at ice-skating.

The following morning saw us at the Institute of Sport, followed by a trip to the Royal Australian Mint to see how our coins are produced.

After lunch we drove past many of the Embassies and High Commission located around Canberra and also saw “The Lodge”. We then went to the National Portrait Gallery which was our final visit before flying back to Adelaide.

The three days were busy and by the time we got home there were some very tired students, but overall I think they enjoyed their time away and have a greater understanding of how our government works. Thanks to Ms. Freeth and to Mr. Walker for their support on the trip.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit their National Capital as part of their civics and citizenship education. To assist parents in meeting the cost of this excursion the Australian Government has contributed funding of $60 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate (PACER) programme toward the travel expenses incurred. This contribution will be paid directly to the school now that the excursion has been completed.

Mal Jurgs
Deputy Principal

Scholastic catalogues were sent home with students last week.

Orders, with payment, can be placed at the bookroom or front office up to the end of Tuesday 27th September.

There will be Uniform Shop open day on Wednesday 28th September from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm.

Summer dresses Sizes 4 to 16.

Unisex black shorts are available in sizes 6 to 12.

We are currently looking in to shorts for Middle and Senior female students.

Notification will be sent out when these are available to order.

Second hand and sale items are still available.
The Meningie Football Club Junior Football Presentations are to be held tonight (Friday 23rd September) from 6pm at the Football Clubrooms. Please bring a salad to share.

**ARBURY PARK CAMP HIGHLIGHTS: YEAR 6**

My top 3 highlights at Arbury Park were:

1. We had a tiny fire but it was still cool and it kept us warm. We played charades, told stories and told jokes. Some people chose to stay inside and watch ‘Diary of a Wimpy Kid’.
2. I liked the food there. We had breakfast, morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea, dinner, dessert and supper.
3. We searched for crystals and we played a mission: survival game.

Tuakana Wharerua

Arbury Park Outdoor School.

The 3 highlights I liked were the midday meals, looking for quartz, and night times. They set out the table. They had hamburgers, salad rolls and spuds with all our choice of fillings and sauces. Through the days we went on a tramp to find quartz crystals. Not many of the quartz pieces were fully crystalized quartz crystals.

During the night we either had a choice of 2 things; movie or camp fire. We had to be in bed by 10:30pm. I chose the last 15 minutes of my time up at the camp fire. The rest of the time I was watching the video.

Jayden Ayres

At camp there were three main highlights on the trip.

Highlight number one was a huge hill at camp. At Arbury Park it’s really hilly and there was one really big hill by the dormitories. It was so much fun running down it because it’s like a rush when you run down and you can’t stop yourself.

Highlight number two was they ate so much. After every activity we ate. There was a lot of yummy, healthy food and a lot of fruit and water. Normally I don’t have much to eat but those few days I had tons to eat and it was healthy.

Highlights number three was that they did some cool activities. Like a game called the ‘Web of Life’ that was the best game and there was a different game called ‘Mission Survival’. That was great as well.

I think camp was awesome and I would love to do it again.

Holly Vandenbrink

On camp the first day we got there we did activities. We got put into three group’s: cockatoos, dingoes and kangaroos. We played all sorts of games. All of the groups were taught how to eat the right foods and survive with no food or water. We got told stories.

The second day we played a Mission Survival game where we had to carry a liquid across fake quick sand. We had to make a bridge. My group was Aleisha, Taylor, Brittany, Jayden, Lachlan, Kiera, Tuakana and Dwayne. We had to go through quick sand, then a spider web, and we had to make our own bridge with three ropes and a pole. Eventually we finished our mission survival.

On the last day the best thing that day was we went for our last walk through a river and to see some animals, but we did not see any animals, only a frog. Then we had to go home. It was a long bus trip home.

Emma Marles