FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

Term 3 Ends
The ten weeks of this term have flown by and the students depart on Friday for a well earned fortnights break. School recommences Monday 13th October. When we return it’s full on to the end of the year. We have finished the Term with the Year 10’s away at Millicent on Camp this week. Also on Tuesday our Concert Band and some of our Choir performed with the Australian Girls Choir at Murray Bridge. This is a fitting “grand final” for both these groups who recently brought great honour on themselves through quality performances and behaviour at the Schools Music Festival in Adelaide.

NAPLAN Results
The results for the numeracy and literacy assessments for Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students have been sent home to their parents/carers by mail. We will be spending considerable time analysing the results in the near future to guide our planning for next year. However, some of our early analysis reveals some very positive results as well as highlighting individual students who need serious help. One telling statistic is the grading given to the PROGRESS of a student in the two years between

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Maths High</th>
<th>Maths Ave.</th>
<th>Maths Total</th>
<th>Lit. High</th>
<th>Lit. Ave.</th>
<th>Lit. Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These figures are pleasing in that they show progress is being made. Often some of our higher performing students who did well two years ago achieved an “average” progress rating because their previous results were high and they were able to maintain that good result. Until we can get 100% in all totals we have work to do but it is pleasing we are making progress.

Show Success
The recent Royal Adelaide Show delivered recognition for one of our students in an area away from agriculture. Everyone at school congratulates DANIEL POYNER from Year 12 on his success in the Photography Exhibit. Daniel was judged the winner of the Year11/12 Special Effects (black & white) Class with a photo he submitted to the Open Access College as part of his course work.

Daniel’s winning photograph
School Uniform
With the summer term approaching it is timely to ask all parents/carers to send students to school appropriately attired in our school uniform which is detailed on the green sheet sent home with this newsletter.

Please note that enclosed shoes are essential in practical areas and we recommend them throughout the school. Thongs are not acceptable at any time.

All uniform items are available from Lake Albert Fashions in the main street of Meningie. Second hand uniform items are available from 2nd Time Round in the main street of Meningie.

School Holidays
School holidays are often a time when damage is done to school property. If you see anyone behaving suspiciously in the school grounds please contact the local police (85751202).

Ronald Pratt

AUSTDRIVE STUDENT DRIVER AWARENESS PROGRAM

We are once again giving students at Meningie Area School the opportunity to participate in a driver awareness program designed to increase their awareness of their own capabilities and limitations as drivers.

Austdrive has been an extremely successful driving program at many schools in our State, and the results speak for themselves. Going beyond the scope of any learner training previously done, the Austdrive program training meets each young driver at their level and is designed to give young drivers a realistic view of their actual abilities (as opposed to what they think they can do). The course focuses on practical driver awareness, resulting in a true perspective; not the one their peers have given them. Prevention is better than cure when lives are at risk.

The theory is designed to be as interesting as possible, with the learning emphasis on fun and interactive participation. It will also assist all learners and P-platers with their upcoming training or Hazard Perception Tests.

The practical exercises are conducted on safe closed roads in student’s own vehicle (so they have familiarity and understanding of the cars they are driving). This is not an “advanced driving course” – these have been found to be counter productive, especially for young drivers. Instead Austdrive makes all driving exercises relevant to an actual public road, not a race track.

Topics discussed include:
How much do you know about driving?
How much do you think about driving?
How thorough was your Learner training?
Basic car dynamics and control skills
Emergency braking
When two wheels are off the bitumen
Safe steering
Wildlife dangers
Understanding speed, fatigue, alcohol, Peer pressure
Safe following distances
Car modification (what’s real and what’s not)
Observation techniques
Emergency collision avoidance

Normally this course costs over $200, however AustDrive offer it to schools at a much reduced rate and we have been sponsored by the Coorong Road safety Committee and the local Lions Club so that the cost to students is only $30. Students will need their own vehicle if on their “P” Plates and a supervising driver for the day as well if they are on their “L” plates. I have given notices to the students in Years 11 and 12, but if your child has their “P” or “L” plates and you would like them to do this course please contact the front office.

Mal Jurgs

CANBERRA TRIP 2009

You may recall that last year we offered students in Years 9, 10 and 11 the opportunity to participate in a trip to Canberra. While on this trip students undertook a number of activities that supported their learning in the area of “Civics and Citizenship” with visits to the “Old” and “New” Houses of Parliament, the Australian War Memorial, the Mint, the National Museum, the High Court of Australia, and the National Portrait Gallery. Visits to the Questacon Science Centre, The National Gallery and the Australian Institute of Sport provided interesting insights into other areas of the curriculum.

We would like to continue to offer this opportunity on a biannual basis as part of a program of activities that increase our students’...
awareness of their own, and our national, identity in a global framework.

At the moment we are seeking expressions of interest from students currently in Years 8, 9 and 10 who would like to take part in this excursion this time next year. The expected cost will be between $800 and $900. I have given forms to all students in those year levels but if your child didn't receive one and you are keen for them to participate please contact the front office for a copy.

Mal Jurgs

Meningie Area School Led Steer Report
2008

This year the Year 12 Ag Class prepared 5 steers for the Royal Adelaide Show Led Steer Competition. Unfortunately one of the steers, “Seymour Vale Claus”, a Santa Gertrudis that was donated by Peter and Mandy Lintern from Tungkillo, lost one of its milk teeth a week before the show and was therefore ineligible for the competition. These things happen and luckily we had an extra steer that Matt Eckert could use to lead at the Show. This steer was a South Devon, “Dukes Flat Campbell”, which came from Peter Colliver of Cooke Plains. The other steers were; an Angus, “Wellington Lodge Cyril” from the McFarlane family, led by Ben Gibbs, a Limousin, “Pebby Range Chutney”, from Sandra Keightley at Tungkillo led by Hayden Biddle, and a Simmental, “Waterfront Carl”, from Matt Parker of Tintinara, led by Hamish Jurgs.

The boys with their steers

We began preparing the steers in April, providing them with a carefully managed diet, thanks to the help of Anthony Pearce of Meningie Fodder, and hay provided by David and Gwenda Eckert. They were given nose rings, with help from Harry Ousley, and the students began the process of training the steers to lead and to get used to being handled and groomed. We constantly monitored their weight gains and growth rates to ensure that they would meet the target live weight and fat depth requirements for the competition. As each animal was targeted at different categories, they each needed to be treated slightly differently, providing extra challenges for the students in terms of their feeding regimes.

After almost 5 months of work, we were ready for the show. Once again the steers were trucked to the showgrounds with the support of Greg and Erani Rowett and all the gear that goes with them was loaded onto the school trailer. We arrived at 7pm and by 9pm the steers were settled into their home in the Beef Cattle sheds and had been watered and fed. On Wednesday morning the steers were once again fed, watered and taken for a walk while their bedding was freshened up and smoothed out. After this they were weighed to determine which class they were to be allocated to. They were also scanned with an ultra-sound to determine their fat depth and eye muscle area. The stewards were also very careful in checking for missing teeth, so we wouldn’t have got away with taking Claus. After this, while the Year 12’s were involved in a steer judging competition, the Year 10’s, Melanie van den Brink, Dylan van den Brink, Stephanie Sanders and Bethany Jurgs, washed the steers (with shampoo supplied by Meningie Landmark). They were then dried and groomed ready for the Grand Parade. After successfully getting around the main arena without any dramas, each of the steers were taken to O’Connor Team selection. This competition pits breed against breed, and each breed needs to nominate the three steers that it thinks will best represent the breed in both the on-hoof and on-hook judging. This can be an arduous process as the breeders try to work out which steers they will pick and the boys had to stand with their steers for up to an hour while the deliberations occurred. Both Carl and Campbell were closely considered for selection in their respective teams and only just missed out in the end. The day ended with yet more feed and water, and a quick tidy up of their bedding.

The next morning was judging day, so after being fed and watered again the steers were given a thorough wash and clean, and were then blow dried and styled before being fitted with leather
show halters and lead ropes, which had been polished the night before.

Chutney was the first to enter the ring in the first of the school led steer classes for lightweight domestic steers weighing 355 – 410 kgs. The judge was impressed with his huge eye muscle area and, even though his fat depth was slightly under the categories’ requirements, placed him in third position. This cheered us all up with the first ribbon in a few years and we still had three more steers to go. Cyril was our next steer and was in the sixth school class for Heavy Domestic Steers 480 – 505 kgs. He had perfect fat cover for this category, but the judge decided not to award him with a ribbon. Four classes later and it was Campbell’s turn. His scan said that he only had 7mm of fat on his rump, and for an Export Steer he needed 12mm, but all of those who had looked at him closely thought that he had a bit more than that. The judge agreed with them and thought that he was a well muscled steer that would “hang up” very well and put him into second place. Carl was in the last class of the day, The School’s Export Steer 600 – 695kgs. Carl’s scan suggested that he had only 8mm of fat on his rump, but like Campbell, many thought that he was carrying more than that, and the judge liked him enough to give him third.

So at the end of the day we had three ribbons from 4 steers which is a real achievement as this competition is getting tougher and tougher each year as more and more schools participate in the program. There were even 2 schools from Victoria this year.

After being judged “on the hoof”, the steers were trucked to the T&R abattoir at Murray Bridge to be slaughtered and judged “on the hook”. The results of this competition were announced on the last Saturday evening of the show. This is when we saw the final results of all of the work that had been put into the animals. The classes for this competition were much larger. In the School’s Heavy Domestic class there were 41 entries. Wellington Lodge Cyril came in at a credible 9th in this class, which was a pleasant surprise for the whole team. Unfortunately, Chutney had a very high dressing percentage of 63% and therefore weighed too much for the Lightweight Domestic class, where he would have scored more points, but he still managed to be in 20th place out of 41.

In the school’s export class we did even better. Waterfront Carl scored 82.6 points, putting him in 5th place out of 62 steers in the class, and 13th out of all 171 steers in the competition. Campbell came 40th in this class with 74.7 points.

Unfortunately we didn’t receive any ribbons but were satisfied with our results.

Well done to the 4 boys who did a great job of leading their animals with very little prior experience, and well done also to the Year 10’s who learnt a great deal about preparing cattle for showing in a very short time. They are now all enthusiastic about being involved again next year.
John Munro, at Julie Reece’s house. The purpose for the meeting was to give Rita and Flo some feedback on the 4 songs that they had each written which were inspired by their experiences with Connecting Spirits. Both Eric and John were impressed with what they heard and have encouraged the girls to produce a CD. They will need to raise about $12000 to do this so we will start fundraising soon to support them achieve that goal.

Archibald Allan Scott and William Bennett

After a recent article on William Goldfinch, the feedback I received has lead me to write in each newsletter about some of the local soldiers we are commemorating. This week I have decided to focus on Archibald Scott and William Bennett, as these two men were killed in the Battle of Fromelles. This battle made headlines earlier in the year when the mass grave of 170 Australian soldiers was discovered in Pheasant Wood near the town of Fromelles.

This was the first major action involving Australians on the Western Front. Australian forces had been arriving in France from Egypt, where they were based after the evacuation from Gallipoli, for a few months, but were being sent to the “nursery” area in the French Flanders area where there was very little serious action.

On the 1st of July 1916, British forces launched the “Battle of the Somme”. This was meant to take pressure off of French forces around Verdun and to make a large movement into German occupied territory. This battle quickly bogged down into bitter trench warfare with little gains being made.

There was concern that the Germans would send reinforcements from Flanders south to further bolster their forces in the Somme, so it was decided to launch an attack to “tie down” the Germans and prevent this movement.

The attack at Fromelles was hastily planned and poorly equipped, and came very close to being called off, but regardless of this men from the 5th Australian Division and 61st British Division attacked on either side of a feature known as the “Sugarloaf Salient” on the night of the 19th July, 1916. The attack began just before dusk and due to the flat nature of the land the German forces had a good view of the battle field.

The 60th Battalion was one of the attacking battalions for the 15th Brigade and was on the right flank of the Australian attack, closest to the salient. This salient allowed German machine gunners to fire directly down no man’s land along the line of attacking soldiers. As soldiers from the 60th Battalion made their way across toward the German lines, they were cut down by machine gun fire like a scythe through a crop of wheat. Of the less than 1000 men from the battalion who went into battle that night, 757 were casualties, including 354 killed, 1 of whom was Archibald Scott. 25 more of these men died of their wounds in the next week. Others would succumb weeks or months later. The battalion took almost a year before it was able to function in battle again.

Archibald Scott was born in Strathalbyn but grew up in Meningie. He enlisted in Melbourne and was therefore a member of the 60th Battalion, which was a Victorian battalion. He had told his parents that he was going to India to collect some horses but instead had signed up and gone to war.
man’s land. 103 men from this battalion were killed that night, including William.

William Bennett was born in Bristol, England and moved to Australia at the age of 23. He gave his occupation as Ply Packer when he enlisted at the age of 25 years and 10 months, and apparently was living in the rectory of St. John’s Church with a Mr Arthur Blair Walter who was a missioner. His parents stated that he was working for the SA Railways.

Very little was told of this battle to the Australian public. It did not capture attention like Gallipoli, Pozieres or Villers-Brettoneux. However the night of the 19th – 20th July 1916 is the bloodiest night in Australian military history. Approximately 2000 Australian men died that night. 1299 of them have their names on a memorial at VC Corner near Fromelles. These men have no known grave. This is because after the battle most of the dead were left in no-man’s land. While the German and Australian soldiers agreed to an amnesty so that the dead and wounded could be collected, the British Officers did not agree and prevented this from occurring. Despite the ban Australian’s did go out to collect as many of their mates as they could. One was a Sergeant Simon Fraser, who rescued many wounded men and inspired a memorial statue called “Cobbers”, which is located near to battlefield. As Sgt Fraser was carrying a wounded soldier back to his lines another lying in a shell hole called” Don’t forget me, Cobber”. The trench lines did not change much in this area during the war so it was not until after the armistice that the remains of those who were killed could be retrieved. By this time they could not be identified and the bodies of 410 men were buried in a mass grave at VC Corner Memorial Park. Others were buried in cemeteries in the area in graves simply marked “Known unto God”.

A number of Australian soldiers did make it past the German lines only to be forced back later, and the bodies of those who were killed behind the lines were collected by the Germans after the battle, their Identification Discs removed and they were apparently buried in mass graves. Their ID discs were returned to England and this information forms the basis for the names of the 170 men buried at Pheasant Wood.

Mal Jurgs

MUSIC STRONG AT MENINGIE AREA SCHOOL

Term 3 of 2008 our Band and Choir with the help and support of our Music Teachers had the opportunity to perform and show their varied talents and skill.

The Meningie Area School Band was formed by combining the Middle and Senior School Bands due to student numbers. Every Wednesday of each Term Band members have had various individual lessons with most Band members learning more than one instrument. After school on Wednesdays the Band came together to practice new and varied pieces of music under the guidance and support of Mr Sean Hickey and Mr Peter Longden.

After Term 1 being a ‘bit of a hit and miss’ with practices due to swimming carnivals, sports days and SAPSASA. Term 2 and 3 saw the band members take the challenge to ready themselves to perform at three major functions Strathalbyn Band Festival on Sunday 10th August, Festival Theatre Wednesday 10th September at 6pm and on Tuesday 23rd September at Murray Bridge High School, where they had the opportunity to perform with Murray Bridge High School Concert Band and Murray Bridge Community Band. This combined band then gave an outstanding performance in accompanying the all Australian Girls Choir in an Abba Medley, and I am Australian.

Our Choir of eighteen students from years 5 and 6 have also been working hard with many lunchtime practices under the guidance of Mrs Anne Wright. These students performed at the Festival Theatre for the South Australian Public (Primary) Schools Music Festival on Wednesday 10th September at 7.30pm. This festival runs for a fortnight and a choir of 455 students perform at each concert and are made from a combination of students from the city and country and over the twelve performances over 230 public primary schools are involved from throughout South Australia. Many families took this opportunity to watch their
children perform and where awestruck at the professionalism of the whole evening.

Six of our 18 choir members took the opportunity to join Tailem Bend Primary, Murray Bridge South, Murray Bridge North, Mypolonga Primary and Jervois Primary to perform four of their songs from the Primary School Music Festival at Murray Bridge High on Tuesday 23rd September. The two songs Koolori and I am the Earth the combined Primary student gave a beautiful performance of these songs under the guidance of Chris Hogden. The highlight of the evening for these young students was their performance of the songs Melting Pot and Feel when the Australian Girls Choir joined them on stage and supported their performance of these two songs.

Our Band and Choir members have had an experience they will take with them into their adult life. The opportunity for both groups to perform to large audiences at the Festival Theatre the same night and then for the Band and Choir members to perform with the All Australian Girls Choir with such professionalism will be a memorable highlight of student years.

Staff, students and all families can be rightly proud of our students and or children’s magnificent effort and professionalism throughout 2008.

Kane started off the debate with a very impressive intro first of all saying welcome to the principal Mr Pratt and Ms Freeth. Kane then started the debate off. His speech went like this…..

Welcome to the year 9 SOSE debate on behalf of Molly, Jack and myself I would like to welcome Mr Pratt and Ms Freeth to the show.

The topic we will be debating about today is whether or not China should have been allowed to host the Olympics considering its human rights abuse and pollution issues.

Just a summary I’d like to give: in 1949 Mao Tse Tong lead a cultural revolution in which he shattered the old traditions of China and adopted communism from Russia. His aim was to replace the feudalism with communism. He then formed the Peoples Liberation Army. This army then went around China to free the slaves. Their way of doing this however, was not peaceful. They killed the previous land owners. They then went to Tibet to do the same. The Tibetans were freed from their slavery conditions but were then subject to Mao Tse Tong’s communistic ways. The army never left. They Tibetan people were re-enslaved by the people who had just supposedly freed them. The Dali Lama the Tibetans rightful political leader was forced to go into exile in India and Tibet has been victim rule and terrorism ever since. The most recent crackdowns on Tibet were in the months leading up to these Olympics.

The Olympics are a sign of unity and peace. They should be hosted by a country which shows these attributes, not a country with a human rights record like China’s. Another reason is China’s mass pollution. In times where global warming is such a major issue the privilege like holding such a major even like the Olympics should have been given to a country which is proactive with its policies and implementation concerning the world green house gas emission. These are some of the many reasons China should not have been given the privilege of holding the world’s finest event: The Olympics.

This was a good start by Kane. He was then backed up by the second speaker Jack Appelkamp who presented lots of facts about the terrible situation in China. Jack highlighted points about the pollution in china and the human rights abuse issues. He stated many facts including these; that the Chinese bribed and threatened many members of the Olympic committee in the lead up to the games; China is home to 16 out of the 20 most polluted cities in the world and that the Olympics are a sign of unity and peace, they should have been hosted by a nation which shows these attributes, not a country with a human rights record like China’s. He also stated that although some people think sports and politics should not mix we believe that they have to. Sport is something that nearly every country has in common there for it is a great communication tool and when the need arises this tool should be implemented.

Molly finished off the debate by summarising her teams position and arguing against the oppositions key points.

YEAR 9 ACTIVITIES

Cultural Studies

The year 9 class in cultural studies were having a debate on Tibet verses China, or as we know it, why China shouldn’t have held the Olympics.
She argued against Amy’s point that the conflict in Tibet was a western myth saying that something as proven as the Tibetan conflict could not possibly be a myth. There is overwhelming evidence on the internet, newspapers and first hand accounts which point to disharmony in Tibet. Sonny made the point that China had made an effort to control its pollution in the lead up to the games. Our team answered back saying that the efforts towards cleaning up the pollution was a minimal approach to a big problem and that it wouldn’t continue after the world’s attention is taken away from China.

The task of preparing a debate was an interesting one. We found lots of information about the situation in China and have all improved our public speaking skills.

By Molly, Kane and Jack

**Home Economics party for little kids**

In our year nine Home Ec class this term we were given an assignment. The aim of this assignment was to organise and run a party for the reception students. The parties were to have various themes such as football, farm animals and fairies. We started off by making the cake and the cookies. The next day we started collecting prizes for the party games we were going to play with the younger students. The games were pass-the-parcel, musical chairs, chasey. Simon says, football kicking competitions and follow the leader. We went and got the younger children from Mrs Woolston’s and Mrs Newby’s classes. They then sat down and ate some cake and cookies. Tim, Stuart and Nathan’s group first played chasey and the winner won a toy animal. This was followed by musical chairs and then pass-the-parcel. Amy, Madi and Caitlin’s group played pass the parcel, Simon says and follow the leader the winners of these games won lolly bracelets. The last group was Nick, Justin and Kane’s group. The boys conducted a football kicking contest in which three students kicked the same length so we had a kick off to determine who won, in the end the winner was Harry Simmons closely followed by Henry Turner. Harry won a football for his great effort. This group also played pass the parcel to finish the day off. We had loads of fun playing with the kids and hope they enjoyed it too.

By Stuart and Nick

**MILO in2CRICKET**

A fun introduction to the game for 5-9 year old girls and boys! It provides children with an enjoyable and safe learning environment where they can build their confidence, development new skills, play games and make new friends.

All registered participants will receive a MILO in2CRICKET Kit which includes a bat, ball, t-shirt, bucket hat, sticker-stumps, activity booklet, sachet of MILO and certificate.

The Program is run at clubs and schools throughout South Australia during Term 4 and Term 1 every season.

To find out where your nearest Centre is log onto [www.in2cricket.com.au](http://www.in2cricket.com.au) or contact MILO in2CRICKET Coordinator, Alice Johnswood on 8300 3838 or ajohnswood@saca.com.au
Early in term 3 the year 9’s have been organising oral presentations. The aim of these orals was to teach our English teacher, Mrs Lewis, how to do something new. Joe Trevorow and Sonny Summer started off the day with two basketball techniques. Following them was Jack Appelkamp’s pancakes and Josh Edson’s tricks on his push bike. Next off was Molly Flanagan who gave Mrs Rowe a facial using a homemade banana, honey and yogurt mixture. After an exquisite facial Mrs Rowe undertook a lovely makeover by Emily Poyner and Loren Ashenden. Next were Kane Pratt and Nick Rowe demonstrating the games, chess and checkers. Justin Smart then taught the class the basics of football and showed the class a range of football equipment and uniform. After that was Duncan Lucieer making tasty spaghetti bolognaise using his grandma’s special recipe whilst this was in progress Madi Wenske showed the class horse tack such as a bridle and saddle. She then explained to the class how it is used. Jake Promnitz then demonstrated simple cricket techniques to the class. Stuart Harper came next showing the complicated process of making a paper crane using origami. Coming towards the end of the orals was Caitlin Gemmell who instructed the class how to make apricot and coconut balls. Amy Bland followed Caitlin with an excellent PowerPoint slideshow explaining how to groom a horse and each and every brush was shown.

It has been an educating experience and we have all learned numerous things about various topics.