FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

Welcome to the start of Term 4 and what promises to be a very busy term of nine weeks. Please refer to our Draft planner in this edition, for events as programmed.

We welcome Mr Kieran Jaensch to Meningie Area School who is taking over classes from Mr Vic Woolston who is on leave. Kieran is an almost local person. His family are from Murray Bridge, and Kieran has played football in most recent years for Myponga, hence he is known to some of our senior school students. Kieran graduated at the end of September from Flinders University.

We are really pleased to have Kieran here for the term and hope his time at Meningie Area School is a great experience as he moves forward in his teaching career.

A warm welcome to all students recently enrolled at Meningie Area School, along with parents and caregivers, particularly our Reception students who began their schooling this week. These students are Addison Mammone and Lachlan McManus.

UNIFORM

With a change in the weather at last it is timely to remind students and families of our summer uniform. We seek your support in your children wearing uniform as endorsed and supported by Governing Council. For summer this means that students wear

- Maroon Polo style T-shirt (white Year 10-12)
- Black pants/shorts (long style shorts only)
- Maroon/white Meningie Area School summer dress
- Maroon V-neck school jumper
- Closed style shoes
- Maroon school hat

We are really impressed with so many students in uniform. Being in uniform creates a sense of belonging enables us to easily identify students in the yard.

Both new and second hand uniform items are available through the Book Room here at school daily. Please ask for Coralie. Additionally PaCSS, who manage the order and purchase of school uniform, periodically advertise open sessions when uniforms are on display and orders can be taken.

At the end of last term Gwenda Eckert and Brenda Blake met with a group of Middle and Senior School girls to look at design and selection of a suitable style summer school short for the girls. Work on this is proceeding.

We thank you for your cooperation.


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<th>Week 2</th>
<th>Term 4</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>24 Oct</strong></td>
<td>Resources meeting 7.30 pm followed by Governing Council meeting 8.00 pm</td>
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<td><strong>26 Oct</strong></td>
<td>Year 8 Immunisations 10am</td>
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<td><strong>27-28 Oct</strong></td>
<td>Stage 1 Biology Camp to Victor Harbour</td>
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<td><strong>27 Oct</strong></td>
<td>Visit by Defense Forces 12.15pm (Yrs 10 to 12)</td>
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<th>Week 4</th>
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<td><strong>7 Nov</strong></td>
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<td><strong>7-9 Nov</strong></td>
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VISIT TO SCHOOL DAVID RATHMAN

David Rathman is the Executive Director of Aboriginal Students and Family Services and Students With Disability. At my invitation David, along with members of Murray and Mallee Aboriginal Education, visited the school on Tuesday of this week. I was keen for David to visit and become familiar with the excellent programs we have here at Meningie Area School and the focus we have on student improvement and achievement. His visit has come closely after our recent Validation, so David heard much about the literacy and numeracy programs that we focus on, support for students with disability, senior secondary pathways and student well being programs. David got to take a walk around the school. Along with the team he got to meet several members of staff and conversed with students. The time went quickly with so much to discuss, but David has said he will drop in more often now as he travels between here and schools in the South East.

A BUSY TERM 4

Students and teachers are well in to work as the term kicks off. As I walk around the classes students are settled and on with the business of learning. Some of the observations made in my travels these past few days include the following:

- Ms Wilamowski’s class are doing work on puppets this term. An amazing puppet theatre was built by Carly’s father over the holidays and painted by her. It is awesome. The children in the class are really excited and we look forward to seeing lots of creative ideas come from this work including lots of oral language opportunities.
- Mrs Wright’s Year 5/6 class have been busy putting in lots of physical work in their Vegetable Garden. It is right outside my window so I can not miss the changes that are taking place as garden beds are restored, paving completed and new seedlings established. We should have summer produce in the weeks to come.
- Year 12 are in the final stages of their school year. The atmosphere in the study room is quite focused and it is great to hear from teachers that students are using time wisely.

More about classes in the next edition

EDUCATION BRIEF

During the holiday break several members of Governing Council and Meningie Kindy Governing Council participated in a workshop to look at developing an up to date submission for application for new school facilities. The session was facilitated by Felicity Turner who is the Vice Chair of Governing Council. With her skills in Workshop Facilitation Felicity was able to keep the group focused and at the end of the night the group had come up with lots of ideas, and a plan to use in writing up the submission. The submission is due in to DECS by 31st October. A draft submission will be looked at the next Governing Council meeting to be held Monday 24th October.

Governing Council will look at the Validation Report at its meeting on Monday 24th, after which I look forward to sharing both commendations and recommendations in newsletters over the coming term.

Monica Williams

Garden Gate Fun

The Junior School have decided to join in the community fun and “Decorate a Garden Gate”.

We have decided to decorate the Princes Highway fence by weaving colourful fabrics through the railings.

To do this we require donations of any fabric pieces you have – old sheets, curtains, jeans, t-shirts, etc.

At the end of the display all fabric will be bagged and donated to “2nd Time Round” to sell for rags.

So, please start sending in your donations over the next 2 weeks – we will cut them to size and watch our creation grow.

Alternatively, you might decide to join in the fun at your home. See The Lakelander for details.

If you have not paid for a 2011 School magazine and want one please pay $16 to the bookroom by 5th November.

2011 SCHOOL MAGAZINE
YEAR 8 IMMUNISATIONS

The final course of the 2011 Year 8 Immunisation Program will be held at the Meningie Medical Centre on Wednesday 26 October. Students will travel by school bus to the clinic, and will be accompanied by Mr Jurgs and Ms Palka.

If your child is participating in this program but will not be attending the school on Wednesday, please contact the clinic to make your own arrangements for immunisation.

MILO in2CRICKET PROGRAM

MILO in2CRICKET is a fun introduction to the game of cricket for boys and girls in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. It provides children with an enjoyable and safe environment where they can learn skills and play games.

Your nearest Centre will be run at the Meningie Cricket Club, Meningie Town Oval starting Saturday 12th Nov at 9am, by Brad Biddle – phone 0421 369607.

The cost of the Program is $60 per participant. Every registered child receives an in2CRICKET Pack including bat, ball, t-shirt, bucket hat, backpack and some other goodies.

See the enclosed information sheet.

COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND UPDATE

The Meningie Oval Playground Support Group or MOPS group for short, is a sub-committee of the Meningie Progress Association with the specific task of fundraising and organising the construction of a suitable and approved playground for the whole community as well as visitors to our town at the Meningie Town Oval.

The group which was formed in August 2010 has raised more than $14,000 in twelve months with the support of this community as well as some businesses from Tailem Bend and Murray Bridge.
Each piece of playground equipment chosen and the ‘floor plan’ was selected for a particular reason by a panel of people from the wider community who have taken specific interest in the project and have attended the public meetings. The equipment, the ‘floor plan’ as well as a descriptive reason behind each choice can be viewed at a display currently in the Bank SA branch at Meningie. The project has been submitted to the Coorong District Council and is in the final stages of approval. The playground, once completed will be owned and maintained by the Coorong District Council and the position of the playground has been chosen by the Coorong District Council. The twenty metres square site at the Meningie Community Town Oval is to the north of the double row of trees, north of the netball courts and east of the oval. This site has been chosen with consideration to the safety of children, its accessibility to Narrung Road and West Terrace for locals and visitors, accessibility to the cycle park and all six clubs in the area, room for family activities including a table and seat picnic area and the room for possible expansion at a later date (e.g. a skate park etc.).

The Cost of the playground in total, including all the equipment, soft fall and fencing will be in excess of $60,000. There are a number of pieces in the playground that are in a smaller price range that businesses or families may consider donating. Any donated items will have a plaque placed on them to acknowledge the donor. A list of items and the prices can be viewed at the Meningie Bank SA or on the website; www.meningieovalplayground.webs.com or contact Marianne Cunneen for more information.

The first of the last three events for 2011 will be held on Friday October 28. This will be a Halloween Disco at the Uniting Church Hall. The committee have opted not to hold the street trick or treat this year, so if you have children calling, they will not be from this event. Children up to and including 7 years of age are invited to a disco from 4.30 to 6.30 while children from 7 to 12 years of age are invited to the second disco from 7 to 9 pm. These age groups are flexible to cater for the needs of multi-child families. There will be drinks and snacks available and the music will be provided by ‘Count Dance-ular’. All children are encouraged to dress up as there will be prizes for best dressed. Parents are welcome to stay and help supervise. Once inside, children will not be permitted to leave the building without a parent, so you must pick your children up and not let them find their own way home.

The second event will be the Carp-arama to be held on Sunday 13 November at the Sailing Club. The event will begin with a fishing competition followed by a carp throwing competition, lunch and activities courtesy of the Coorong District Council Sports Activity Library for the whole family in the grounds outside the club. There will be snacks and drinks available.

The final event for the group for 2011 will be the Christmas Tree and Table competition/display held in conjunction with the Progress Association Christmas Pageant on Sunday December 4. For information on the project and the fundraising events, go to www.meningieovalplayground.webs.com.

If you would like to help with any of the events, contact Marianne Cunneen on 0437 320 779 or any committee member.

FAMILY FUN FAIR

The Food, Fun and Family Fair is an event for the whole community.

It will be held in the northern end of the Lion’s Jubilee Park on Friday 4 November between the hours of 4pm and 9pm.

Children are encouraged to attend after school, providing a responsible adult accompanies them.

A circus workshop will get underway at approximately 4.30 pm and there will also be a jumping castle. Children can have their faces painted too. These activities are free.

Elmo and a very special ‘Fairy’ will be walking around the park saying hello to everyone.

There will be helium balloons, lolly bags, lucky dips, glow sticks and games for the children; all reasonably priced.

The Meningie division of the South Australian Ambulance Service will be in attendance with a display vehicle and plenty of people to chat with and there may even be an appearance by ‘Paramedic Pete’.

There will be music, a spectacular ‘wishing well’, plenty of food and drink (no alcohol) and a lot of fun for all the family.

This event is an initiative of the Meningie Garden Club and is proudly supported by Coorong District Council, Meningie Progress Association, MMCEN, Meningie Area School and a lot of people keen to see this event succeed.