FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

Good teaching involves the ability to get students to understand the relevance of something they are doing. This is called understanding the CONTEXT of something. It involves knowing why it is important, why it has happened and who it affects. Most importantly, it involves making connections between one thing and another. This week at school Ms. Hese organised a Year 10/11 School Health and Well Being Day. On Friday the Year 9’s had a workshop to learn about how they will have to have a Personal Learning Plan when they are doing the SA Certificate of Education in Years 11 and 12. Both of these activities involve the students needing to think about why they do things, how they do them and what the long term value is. If they can do this, then the studies they do at school hopefully make more sense.

Each week there many of our students are undertaking practical activities that will help place their learning in CONTEXT as well. When I go to the supermarkets I am often served by our students. I know others have part-time work in catering and other retail outlets. They’ll tell you they do it for pocket money but it is a practical introduction to the realities of work. Similarly our students doing “pathways courses” such as nursing are being placed in an environment where they can be stimulated to use their formal learning and apply it.

Our job at school is to provide a rich curriculum and encourage an academic rigor that demands persistence amongst our students and rewards resilience as each student thrives to improve their personal performance. For us as teachers we need to model this ourselves. Current “news” is that the teaching of History will be compulsory in schools and there is to be a greater emphasis placed upon the mechanics of teaching English. This will present challenges for teachers over the next few years to demonstrate that what we provide is both quality and current.

For parents, as the essential educator, role model and champion of their child’s learning, the challenge is clear. It’s never too young to start. Take an interest, encourage reading and ask questions about what your child is doing and be positive about their achievements.

A successful Year 12 begins in Reception for teachers; it begins at birth for a parent.

Some Important Dates

On Wednesday 29 October we will be farewelling our current Year 12’s at an Assembly immediately after lunch. This will be held in the School Gymnasium and parents are most welcome to come. It’s a great occasion and nearly as important to the youngest Reception as it is to the Year 12’s. It’s a tiny step in putting their school life in CONTEXT.

Please DO NOT forget two really important events that may occur in Week 3:

School Closure Days: The school will be CLOSED all day on FRIDAY, 31 October. This is the day of the re-opening of the restored Church at Raukkan and many of our staff and students will be involved.
Industrial Action: The school will be affected by industrial action on the morning of THURSDAY, 30 October. School will commence at 12.15 pm. Please note that students travelling on buses will be need to be at bus stops 3½ hours later than normal. A reminder notice will be sent home early next week.

Farewells and Welcomes

From the beginning of Week 4 Mrs Katrina Hood will be on leave for the remainder of the 2008. Her teaching duties are to be undertaken by Mrs Sue Lyons. Sue is an experienced teacher who joins us with an extensive background in teaching. Lately she has been working in Adelaide and has also done some work with UniSA at the Magill Campus. Best wishes to Katrina and her family on their upcoming break.

We are also fortunate to welcome Kathy Abdulla to our school as the Aboriginal Community Education Officer. Kathy’s role will involve extensive home-school liaison and the support of students’ progress.

Ronald Pratt

REMEMDER

As part of our school’s commitment to your child’s welfare we need to clearly define the hours when we take responsibility for your child’s safety at school. This is called ‘Duty of Care’. The school provides duty of care between the hours of 8.30am to 3.30pm each day. A teacher is on yard duty from 8.30am. Please ensure that your children do not come to school before that time.

The school day begins with the first siren at 8.45am, as students go into Homegroup until 9am when Lesson 1 commences.

The school day concludes at 3.20pm, with buses leaving at 3.30pm. A sub school manager is only on duty at the end of the day until that time.

STUDENTS HAVE EARLY SUCCESS

Last term you may have read that Melissa Brown and Harry Simmons entered the Wakakirri National Story Writing competition?

Wakakirri offers six categories for children across Australia to showcase their skills against other children of similar ages. Each year there is a signature word to use or base stories on; this year it was ‘Tap’. Unfortunately there is no category for junior primary students so Melissa and Harry entered in the primary section of the Story-Writing category.

In the first two terms this year our class had ‘Water’ as our theme. In conjunction with water Melissa wrote her imaginary story about our lake and dripping taps, while Harry wrote about a dog being run over. Last week their Certificates of Participation, Story-Writing Assessment Certificates and the Judges’ Score Sheet arrived outlining their success.

For the Story-Writing Assessment Certificate Melissa received Silver for Story, Silver for Delivery and Silver for Sustainability Rating and was complimented on a ‘great story with a very important message about the value of water’. Harry received Silver for Story, Bronze for Delivery and Bronze for Sustainability Rating and was complimented in ‘a fantastic story for someone so young – very imaginative’.

These two students are to be congratulated on their efforts, especially considering their ages. Well done Melissa and Harry!

STOP PRESS!!
DETAILS FOR ENTRIES IN THE JUNIOR CRAFT AND COOKING SECTIONS OF THE MENINGIE MINGLE ARE AVAILABLE IN THIS WEEK’S EDITION OF THE LAKELANDER AND AT THE SCHOOL FRONT OFFICE.

REMEMDER: Please encourage your children to wear a hat during break times at school. If Junior School students do not wear a hat, they are required to play under the sheltered areas during recess and lunch times.
MATERIALS & SERVICES CHARGES

The school community is invited to attend the Governing Council meeting to be held on 10th November at 8.30 pm in the staff room re ‘Materials & Services Charges’ for 2009.

Charges will be $194 for Reception to Year 5, $230 for Year 8-10 and $240 for SACE students.

You are invited to attend at this time or express your views in writing to be presented at this meeting.

ATTENDANCE AT MAS 2009

If your child is not returning to Meningie Area School in 2009, and is in Reception to Year 11 this year, please inform the Principal in writing.

SCHOOL MAGAZINE

Orders for the 2008 school magazine close on 30th October. Please pay $16 to the bookroom by 30th October, if you would like to receive a magazine at the end of the year.

NARRUNG SCHOOL HISTORY BOOK

The Narrung School History Book has finally been completed and is available for only $50 and $8 postage. Please contact Michelle Langton at Raukkan Aboriginal School on 85740042. Ordered books may also be collected at Meningie Foodland.

MENINGIE AREA SCHOOL & SWIMMINGSA AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

As the hot weather starts to set in it is nearly time to put on our bathers and dive back into the pool again. This Term we will be running the After School Swimming Program again and will be a shortened program with just 4 weeks of sessions. This Term will be the 8th Term that the program has run and it has been a great success with our young swimmers improving their technique, skills and confidence. The program is for children who can already swim (at least one lap of our pool) and would like to develop their skills.

The program will run two ½ hour sessions per day from Tuesday to Friday. These sessions will be at 3:25pm and 3:55pm and will begin in week 4 on Tuesday November 4. There will be one assessment session on Wednesday, October 29th at 3:30pm, so that new swimmers can be put into the correct session for their skill level. The cost of the program will be $6 per session, making the 8 lesson block $48, which is to be paid within the first week and it is recommended that swimmers attend two sessions per week, as this will help them to acquire and put into practice their newly learned skills.

If you think that this program is suitable for your child please fill out the registration of interest form sent home with your child and return it to the front office as soon as possible. If you want more information please call Michelle Rowe on 0403 535 680, if there is no answer please leave a message and she will get back to you. You can also email Michelle at northspots@optusnet.com.au.

VISIT BY GOVERNOR GENERAL

It was a great experience to be invited to meet the Governor General on Saturday. She was very nice to talk to and she was not what I was expecting.

The Governor General talked to Bethany and I of general interests and our Connecting Spirits trip in a month’s time.

We were also privileged to be asked to sit and have lunch with her.

Michelle Crossman (Year 11)

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 or contact MILO in2CRICKET Coordinator, Alice Johnswood on 8300 3838 or ajohnswood@saca.com.au.
NOORLA YO LONG CAMP TERM 3

On Monday 22nd of September our class got up at the crack of dawn to travel to Millicent. We arrived at Noorla yo Long Blue Light Camp and met our leaders Des, Dan and Tracey. They took us to play some team building games. One of these required us to get into pairs and walk through a maze blindfolded whilst the other partner guided us through and calling out directions without saying ‘left’ or ‘right’.

We then pitched our tents, cooked a barbecue and watched a movie. We then went to bed.

In the morning one of the groups cooked some delicious bacon and eggs. Once the dishes were done we put on some uncomfortable harnesses and helmets and headed towards the abseiling tower!

Everyone jumped off the first height, even though there was a cranky magpie swooping us! Most people then had a go at the 20metre tower which was even more exhilarating and certainly got us out of our comfort zone onto the groan zone and ended up in their growth zone!! We then moved on to the high ropes course and everyone put in a good effort.

That night we all sat around the campfire and talked about the day.

On the last day of our camp we packed up our bags and got ready to go. At 9am we headed to Beachport surf beach and most of us had a go at surfing (many for the first time) Not everyone stood up but we had a really good time. We then returned to camp to finish packing and say our goodbyes. We had a great time and brought back some skills that we will have for the rest of our lives including healthy living, self confidence, effective leadership, problem solving and making positive life choices.

Year 10 students

FAMILY SUPPORT DROUGHT RESPONSE SERVICES - CENTACARE

This new service will deliver personal and family counselling and support services to individuals, families and communities experiencing social and emotional hardship resulting from the drought. The service has a whole family approach and aims to strengthen families and minimise damage to family relationships.

It will also extend beyond the farming families to include individuals and families in small business or communities affected by the economic downturn as a result of the drought.

Male or female counsellors are available to visit families or, families are welcome to visit our new office in Murray Bridge at Level 1, 55 Adelaide Road to discuss their support needs.

This is a FREE and confidential service.

Ph: Centacare, 8531 8888 - Ask to talk to a Drought Response Counsellor.

AUST DRIVE BEGINNER DRIVING COURSE

On the 22nd October 15 of our students participated in a Beginner Driving Course run by the Australian Diving Institute. This is a course designed for drivers on their “L” and “P” plates and aims to increase both their awareness and skills in handling a motor vehicle. There is also a focus on developing an appropriate attitude to being behind the wheel of a vehicle. The course was generously sponsored by the Coorong Road Safety Committee and the Meningie Lions Club, which has made it accessible to a greater number of students and also allowed it to be run in Meningie. We are sure that the skills, knowledge and, perhaps more importantly, the attitudes that this course will instil in our young drivers will serve them well, long after they have left school.