(from the principal’s desk)

Today we held the Year 12 Final Assembly. Somewhat of a tradition now, this celebration marks the end of secondary schooling for most of the Year 12s. Time was given in the program to recognise the journey the class has taken as well as a montage of photographic images projected to the audience. At the conclusion of the assembly the Year 12’s enjoyed a morning tea in the study room with parents and invited guests. We wish the Year 12 students every success in their immediate completion of schooling and will get to do so more formally at Presentation Night on the 11th December.

Acknowledgment was made with regard to Remembrance Day. Deputy Principal Mal Jurgs, along with students participating in the up and coming Connecting Spirits, contributed to the assembly, with Alana Standley playing the Last Post. A minute’s silence was observed. Remembrance Day is this Sunday November 11th.

Data Collection Round 2, 2012

Over the next three weeks our second round of data is being collected in Westwood Spelling, Torch (Reading) and Patmath. This includes students right across the school from Reception to Year 10. Students sit tests, the information is collated and data used to measure student academic growth as well as identify areas for intervention.

Year 12 Moderation

This next week, both Mal Jurgs and Kathryn Hese will be out of the school for several days working on year 12 Moderation. They are both state moderators; Mal on the assessment of Agriculture and Kathryn on the assessment of English. These days in Adelaide are the culmination of several very busy months in which they have been marking work across the state. We are fortunate to have this level of expertise in the school.

Parent Program

Please see the flier in this edition relating to the parenting workshops, Three Choices Effective Discipline for Children 2-12. This is an initiative of Centacare, and I am pleased to be able to highly recommend the course. A very similar program was held here several years ago and was both well attended and valued. The focus is on developing and strengthening relationships with children. If you have the chance to attend it is well worth it. As I remember there are lots of ideas and strategies for all parents and caregivers.

Monica Williams
THANK YOU FROM THE LIBRARY!

Thank you to the mum who recently returned a number of overdue library items checked out to her child (and others) after a search through her house. Can all parents please be inspired to return any items that they can find at home belonging to the library?

Bernie Ryan Teacher/Librarian

MORE THANK YOU’S

There are a few more thank you’s that I need to add from last newsletter.

Recently the Year 11 and 12 class travelled to the Wanderibby Feedlot to undertake a Steer assessment task. Thanks to Ron and his staff for providing us with 4 steers that the students could assess and rank for their practical assessment. I would also like to thank Jason Schulz who came along to provide the students with some valuable information and to act as over-judge for the task. The students really appreciated his knowledge and the way in which he communicated that with them.

I also need to thank Matt Howell and Hamish Jurgs for shearing the sheep this year. They came in on a Sunday afternoon and completed the job. That is one less thing I need to organise before I leave for Connecting Spirits. Thanks guys!!

Dave Vandenbrink dusted off the big round baler and baled two paddocks of hay for us, which should cover most of our needs for the coming year. As well as this he organised a load of small square bales for us from Mike Griggs, which he then baled and delivered to the school. That should provide us with the feed necessary for the preparation of next year’s steers for the Royal Show.

Mal Jurgs (Ag Teacher)

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

This evening the Year 7 and 12 Aboriginal students from around the Murray Mallee region will be attending the “Just Too Deadly Awards” at the Murray Bridge Town Hall.

This event is held each year to recognise the Graduation and Achievements of the Aboriginal students from these classes.

This is an encouragement and confidence boost for all children involved. We wish them all a congratulations and our support for the years to come.

Our ACEO, Isobell Koolmatrie, and the Year 4/5 teacher, Anyupa Giles, and the following Junior school students: Felicia Hartman, Thomas Pearson, Coen Pearson, Caylee Hartman, Kirsten Hartman and Ronelle Clarke, are also attending on the night to perform in the Rritjurukar Choir and dance in language.

SCHOLASTIC ORDERS

Orders can be made to the front office or bookroom until Wednesday 21st November. This will enable orders to be received before the end of term.

YEAR 4/5 GARDEN

Justin, Mitchell and I grew carrots that we shared with our class at Brainfood time. The carrots grew weird because they were too close to each other or maybe we didn’t put the seeds in right. The little ones tasted sweeter than the bigger ones. Today we picked and ate the last of our carrots so that we have room for the other plants to grow.

About 2 weeks ago we had planted a Black Cherry Tomato, a Sweet Chocolate Mini Capsicum, lettuce and apple cucumber seedlings.

Dylan Gibbs (Year 4)
MIDDLE SCHOOL REPORT
WRITING – YEAR 7

The year 7 English class have been working with Mrs Quinn on Report Writing as part of the English curriculum they are covering this term.

Salt Creek – by Harry Tiver (an excerpt)
Highway 1, the Princes Highway is the gateway to the Coorong and the Lime Coast. A leisurely 2 1/2 hr drive from Adelaide’s CBD lies the small township of Salt Creek, population of nine. The township is steeped with history which goes all the way back to the 1800s.

In 1847 - the "Salt Creek Inn" was a licenced pub, stage coach stop and post office, having accommodation for travellers, a stable, stock yards and a good supply of drinking water, from a well near-by. The "Inn" has been known as the "The Overlander", "The Traveller’s Rest" and "The Squatter’s Arms."

Between 1856 & 1862 Salt Creek was the scene for two well-known murders to take place, which were committed by "Malachi Martin", who was acquitted for the first murder of William Robinson but found guilty for the murder of Jane Macmanamin and was hung on 24th December 1862.

In 1966, the "National Parks" took over the property and it became part of the Ranger’s residence. The present owner of the Inn is Bill Brown.

There are two Chinese wells built in the Coorong area. These were built in the early 1850’s by Chinese immigrants who set up camps along the Coorong road to serve over landers on their way to the Victorian goldfields.

"Chinamans Well" is situated 16km south of Salt Creek, and can be reached by a 1.3 km unsealed access road. A step back in time, this area has a unique place in the local history of the gold rush days. It’s believed that the well was built in about 1856. The curved limestone blocks and the sandstone cap on the top of the well were obtained from nearby quarries.

During the 1850’s - 1870’s the shipping trade through the River Murray and Lakes area was large. The Coorong waters at this time became an extension of the shipping network and in the 1870’s Captain Kruse sailed his schooner "Punkari" to Salt Creek once a week with chaff, building & fencing materials etc. and taking wool, salt, and fish, back from the Coorong area.....

Raukkan – by David Wilson
Raukkan is a small community with a population of 100 people. Raukkan is situated on the shores of Lake Alexandrina in the southeast of South Australia. There is a lot of history at Raukkan. Raukkan used to be called Point McLeay and was set up as an Aboriginal mission.

Meningie – by Hank Trevorrow
Meningie is a small town situated in the south of Australia. Meningie is on the edge of Lake Albert and is also near the famous Coorong National Parks and next to the world heritage Coorong beach.

Meningie is an Aboriginal word for mud and there is a little town next to Meningie called Raukkan and that used to be the mission for the Ngarrindjeri. Meningie is on a busy highway called the Princes Highway and in the school holidays the highway is extremely busy as it carries traffic to many tourist attractions.

One of the major attractions is Camp Coorong which is a camping place for school camps and tourists so they can have a rest and if they wanted to learn about the land and bush tucker they could go on a walking trail through the bush. Also Camp Coorong has a museum about Aboriginal people.

In 1940 the barrage got put up in the middle of the Coorong and Lake Alexandrina because Lake Alexandrina and the Coorong used to flow together but the barrage stopped the sea water into the fresh water. Also there are two more barrages near Meningie.

Coonalpyn – by Renae Camac
My home town is located in South Australia and in the Murray Mallee district two and a half hours drive from Adelaide. Coonalpyn is a small town with a population of only 30-70 people. There are lots of houses and farms and animals. The farms are extremely large.

In my farm we have lots of paddocks and run cows, bulls, calves, steers, yearlings, ewes, rams, lambs and wethers. We also own another farm just out of Coonalpyn in Bulindi. Also on our farm we breed sheep and cows for killing.

The school is great but is quite small and after year seven you have to move to Coomandook or Meningie Area Schools. The kindy is very small and has less than 23 kids in it. The sports are rare and sometimes hardly any sports at all. About two years ago the tourists stopped coming and the shops closed down due to the drought.

But since the drought has come back lots of people have been coming back and the town has become more popular.
Salt Creek – by Jane Tiver
Salt Creek is a small town with a population of nine. Salt Creek is situated in heart of the Coorong on the Princes High Way in the Upper South East.

Salt Creek is a little community with lovely people. We did have a school with only seven students. We have no sports but a lot of tourism and farming. There is a shop called The Road House.

The school started around the 1890s. At that time it had around 40 to 50 students going to the school. Over time the school shrank to a seven student population. The school closed permanently in 2011 through the Christmas Holidays.

In Salt Creek there are a lot of farms, but they are all grazing farms. There is one farm “Bonshaw” that has 4000 acres of land.

The lakes, walks and the Oil Rig attract the tourists to come to Salt Creek to look around, and to stay at Cotton Inn. There is a lot of wild life in the town so that attracts all the tourists too.

Raukkan – by Eunice Mark
Raukkan is a small community situated on the edge of the Lake Alexandrina. Raukkan is home of the well-known church which is represented on the fifty dollar note. The traditional language of Raukkan is Ngarrindjeri and is still spoken to this day.

Raukkan is surrounded by paddocks in which the Raukkan cows are kept. Not many people work on the farm but they keep the farm healthy and productive. There is a small shop in Raukkan that opened a few months ago in this year 2012. It’s not very big but is put to good use by the community as well as tourists.

Every year Raukkan participates in a sports carnival in November. They play netball and football and Raukkan has won 4 times in a row. The carnival also includes other teams from all over South Australia. It is great fun and many of the Raukkan teenagers who are 14 years old and over compete. Raukkan is also going to have a festival on the 24th of November.

Raukkan also has a Youth Group that involves activities at Raukkan and out of Raukkan. In September school holidays on the last week the Youth Group and I went on a camp held at Eden in New South Wales.

Raukkan is a nice and peaceful place to live; I always enjoy myself down there!

Meningie – by Aleisha Williams
Meningie is a wonderful small town situated approximately 100km from Adelaide in South Australia. During the last 3 year drought Meningie suffered, not only losing the water but the population has dropped. Meningie has a population of approximately 1200.

Meningie has been known to be a wonderful place for tourists to stop and admire the area. Meningie has a lovely caravan park that tourists can stay at or at the motel down the main street.

The fishing industry suffered when the drought appeared. A lot of fisherman had to sell their fishing licenses and find other occupations. But now that the water is back a lot more people fish at the lake on the jetties or from Browns Beach.

Meningie used to be the largest dairy industry area per head of population in Australia. When Meningie got hit by the drought we went from approximately 22 dairies that drew water out of Lake Albert to 4.

This community has a childcare centre and a kindy that the kids learn new skills from the kind and helpful staff members. The population at the school is pretty low compared to other schools. We have roughly 180 people from reception to year twelve. In our school we have a lot of opportunities that other schools don’t usually do. We do Sailing, HPE, Choir, Sports Day, Splash Day, Swimming lessons, Band and have the agriculture block; which have both cattle and sheep.

Meningie is right next to the Coorong. The Coorong used to be a traditional place where the early Aboriginals would live, eat and sleep and still some of it is sacred for them. It is a harsh place where Mother Nature shows her true strength. It was the scene for the famous story book and movie, ‘Storm Boy’.

Meningie is a small town but people that live here are strong; we have learned to make the best of the land and have persevered through the tough times of the drought. Now with the new Meningie Waters being built and new industries starting up Meningie will be a better place and I think it will grow.

Meningie – by Lachlan Brown
Meningie is a country town living near Lake Albert and Lake Alexandrina, with the Coorong only 20 kilometers from Meningie and Adelaide only 200 kilometers south. The main industries of Meningie are fishing and farming/cropping. The fishermen use the lower lakes and the Coorong to catch their fish. Cropping is also a main industry around Meningie’s general area.

During the 3 year drought the town, surrounding areas and school all suffered dramatically. Before the drought there were about 250 kids that
attended Meningie Area School, and during the drought at least half of them left. The drought also affected the towns social life there was NO swimming, NO fishing, NO boating and not much wild life as all the birds and animals left to where the water was.

Meningie has all the things the townsfolk need to survive and live comfortably; it has a kindergarten, school, vet, hospital, two banks, police station, IGA, Foodland, fashion shop, two hairdressers, second hand shop and lots of sports and social clubs. Meningie relies on the River Murray to flow down to give our lakes some water and with water comes fish and the wildlife. With irrigation not as much water gets through the lower lake system as we would like. The lower lake system also has an increasing problem with introduced European carp. The carp have a massive impact on the native fish species because they have to compete with the carp. Carp make the water murky and dirty so the native fish species have a hard time searching for food.

Meningie – by Holly Vandenberg

Meningie is a small town located South of Adelaide beside Lake Albert and just down the road from the famous Coorong. It is surrounded by farms and scrub lands.

There are many industries in the town including farming, tourism and fishing. When the drought struck Meningie it devastated everyone. Farmers did not have enough water to water their crops and let their livestock drink. Fisherman had to travel far out to catch the few fish there was and without our beautiful lake tourism was down and a lot of people struggled to make a living. A few people couldn’t make a living anymore and moved out to find better land and start again; but then the water started to come back and so did the good times. The drought was over and nothing was better than having our lake back. Farmers and fisherman felt huge relief with the water but even now, approximately three years later, the lake is still not back to the way it was (it is much more saltier and still not as high as it used to be). It attracts tourists from around the world and has beautiful scenery and is a perfect habitat for birds, fish, insects and our amazing Australian mammals including emus and kangaroos.

Because of the small population there is only one school. This school is full of opportunities including sailing for PE, Sports Day, Splash Day, swimming lessons and an agriculture block. Meningie is a town full of sports teams including the Netball and Football clubs, (the Meningie Bears) a sailing club, a bowls club and a tennis club.

Meningie might not be the biggest town or the fanciest but in this small town people are thriving. Through the worst of times to the times of plenty country people carry on with their head held high, and at the end of the day we are proud to live in Meningie.

Raukkan – by Keira Walker

Raukkan is a small community based right on the edge of the Lake Alexandrina. Raukkan is forty two kilometres out of Meningieand about 180 kilometres south east of Adelaide. This small community was originally a small mission that was setup to look after local clans and it was founded in 1849. The traditional language of Raukkan is Ngarrindjeri and it is still spoken to this day.

Raukkan is almost completely surrounded by paddocks in which the Raukkan farm cows graze. Not many people work on the farm but there are enough to keep the farm going. There is also a small shop in Raukkan, it is not very big and was started recently. The shop is called the Raukkan General Store.

Raukkan has a very interesting history including David Unaipon. He was born on Raukkan and he was a very clever man and invented many things. David Unaipon was the first Aboriginal man to attend university. David Unaipon is pictured on the fifty dollar note along with Raukkan church.

The population of Raukkan is approximately 130 people; this number changes throughout the year. Around three years ago Lake Alexandrina had a drought, it was so bad that it took a long time walking to be able to reach the water’s edge. The drought lasted for three years and drove most of the wildlife away.

Last year the Raukkan youth program started for all kids from the ages of 12 to 25. The activities that we participate in are always really good. We recently came back from a camp to New South Wales, it was really fun. When we first started we did things like paintballing and go-karting. I enjoy myself every time we go on a youth trip.

Every year in October the Raukkan football and netball teams participate in the Aboriginal Carnival. People can only play in the Carnival if they are over the age of fourteen. The carnival is always good fun to go and watch and Raukkan has won four times in a row before but lost in the last two years. In November on the seventeenth the young aboriginal girls from all over S.A. play in a development carnival that ranges from girls aged ten to seventeen.

Raukkan constantly has visitors and tourists that come to learn more about the area. They have been coming more frequently to see the church and visit our little shop that has been very successful since it started. There is a festival coming up in November 24th, which anyone can attend.
Meningie – by Katie Ashenden

Meningie is a small town situated in South Australia and in upper south east. It is a small town with a small population and it is in front of a beautiful lake named Lake Albert. It is one and a half hour drive from Adelaide on the Prince Highway.

The main points of interest are tourism. Tourism is a way that people can see Meningie and visit new places like the lake and so they can do water sports, fishing and camping. There are many places that you can go camping especially along the Coorong.

The Coorong is a place that you can enjoy yourself and be treated right and it is a welcoming place with good camping grounds.

The three main industries are farming, tourism and fishing.

Raukkan – by Taylor Long

Raukkan is a little community right by Lake Alexandrina, located 42 kilometres from Meningie. Raukkan is located in South Australia, 180 kilometres south east of Adelaide. Raukkan at first was called Raukkan then it was changed to Point McLeay, then originally back to Raukkan.

Raukkan community has a famous history in it. David Unaipon was a famous inventor, who was born at Raukkan, and he was the first Aboriginal person to go to university. David Unaipon is on the $50 note next to the Raukkan church.

Raukkan has a small shop called Raukkan General Store it has only been there for a little bit of time. Raukkan also has a little school called Raukkan Aboriginal School, there are approximately 16 students who go to Raukkan Aboriginal School.

Every November there is an Aboriginal Carnival, when all different types of cultures come together and play football and netball against each other. It is really competitive playing but is awesome to watch. After the carnival there is a netball carnival for the development of young Nunga netballers.

Raukkan has a Ngarrindjeri learning system going on for tourists if they want to learn Ngarrindjeri.

Have your Say: new Numeracy and Literacy Strategy – Birth to 18

You are invited to have your say about a new Numeracy and Literacy Strategy – Birth to 18 for South Australian public preschool and school communities.

The proposed strategy is outlined in a new paper to support community discussion released by the Minister for Education and Child Development, Grace Portolesi.

Parents and families understand and value the importance of children developing numeracy and literacy skills. Being able to read, talk, write and spell and to understand and use maths knowledge and skills are essential for active participation in our society.

The strategy will build on the many successful achievements and programs that work in our preschool and school communities.

Encouraging parents and educators to work together to develop these important foundational skills for children is central to the proposed strategy.

Based on research, the discussion paper includes six key drivers:

1. All children benefit from a great start
2. Families and communities play a key role
3. Supporting every child to be successful
4. Teachers make a difference
5. A focus on numeracy and literacy leadership
6. Achieving high numeracy and literacy standards

These drivers work together to renew our combined efforts and resources to improve these skills for children and young people in our school/preschool community. The new strategy will be introduced from the 2013 school/preschool year.

You are invited to visit http://saplan.org.au/yoursay before 30 November or email DECD.NumeracyandLiteracy@sa.gov.au to contribute your views and ideas or email numeracyandliteracy@sa.gov.au.

Copies of the paper are also available at (our school/preschool) or visit www.DECD.sa.gov.au.
POOL SUPERVISORS COURSE

Where: Meningie Area School
When: Monday 19th November
Time: 3.00 – 6.00 pm
Cost: $40.00 (payable to the instructor)
Who: Any person who is over the age of 18 years

Please note: As a requirement of hiring the Meningie Area School Pool, a Pool Supervisor’s qualification must be current (a certificate is only valid for 12 months)

Please contact the front office at Meningie Area School on 85 751106 to register your name by close of business Monday 12th November.

‘Opportunities Beyond the City’

COONALPYN SWIMMING POOL ATTENDANT (CASUAL)

The Coorong District Council is seeking a suitably qualified person to attend the Coonalpyn Swimming Pool on a casual basis during the 2012/13 pool season.

Essential qualifications include RLSA Bronze Medallion, and a current First Aid Certificate. Experience and the ability to communicate with the public are also essential to be able to perform confidently in the role.

All the details to apply for this exciting opportunity are now available by visiting www.coorong.sa.gov.au

Emailed, faxed or posted applications will be accepted until 5.00pm Wednesday 14 November 2012.