FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

YEAR 12 ASSEMBLY

The final Year 12 school assembly was held last Friday 11th November. As has become a tradition, a PowerPoint presentation was shown that featured all of the students in the Year 12 class of 2011 and this year it had been prepared by Tamika Williams. The presentation featured photographs of the students over the years and was a bit of a trip down memory lane for their parents and teachers, some of whom remember when they first started school as 5 year olds. Ms Hese spoke briefly about the Year 12 group and in particular focused on how different Year 12 is today with the many different pathways students can take in establishing a career. This is most certainly true of the Year 12 2011 group. For some students this has meant completing a range of subjects that can lead them on to TAFE or University. For other students they have worked to complete certificates that lead into traineeships or apprenticeships. In appreciation of her work and support Caitlin Gemmell and Madi Wenske presented flowers and a signed token of the students’ appreciation to Kathryn Hese.

It was wonderful to see parents and other family member of Year 12 students, who at the conclusion of the assembly enjoyed a shared morning tea. Thankyou to Ms Hese for her organisation of the day, but equally the support that she and all teachers have given to the Year 12 students this year and throughout their schooling. On behalf of the school community I wish all the students well in their final assessments and exams and hope that these results lead them to their chosen career pathways.

Our Year 12 Assembly was planned to coincide with Remembrance Day. Dylan VanDenBrink, one of the students who went on the Connecting Spirits trip in 2010, led the formalities, including the minute silence. At the conclusion of the assembly, Tamika Williams and Marni Hood carried the wreath down to the Statue of Remembrance and placed it along with others that had been laid at the earlier community ceremony.

BLACK AND DEADLY

Last Friday evening I had the pleasure of attending the Black and Deadly awards at the Murray Bridge Town Hall. This is the second year that these awards have been celebrated and have been established in the area to acknowledge Aboriginal students completing their Year 12 in a range of schools, as well as the transition of students from Year 7-8.

I would like to thank Ms Isobell Koolmatrie (ACEO) for her work over the past weeks in organising students and parents from Meningie in attending this event and in supporting the organisers of the event.
The evening was sponsored by local organisations and businesses including the Meningie Hotel, Peter Hood Holden, Smiley Car Wash and the Coorong District Council.

There were several guest speakers, including Mr Peter Chislett, Regional Director, Murray and Mallee, along with several musical items presented.

Although we had no Aboriginal students in Year 12 this year, it was really interesting to hear the aspirations of those completing Year 12 in the other schools represented. Certainly one of the underlying messages that came clearly through on the evening was just how important it is to be at school every day.

**GOVERNING COUNCIL**

The last meeting of Governing Council was held last Monday evening, 13th November. It was resolved that the following projects will be funded out of the budget and work commence on:

- The construction of a large shade over the Junior School Playground to cover existing equipment. This is to be ready for the new school year 2012.
- The construction of a new sandpit in the Junior School play area.
- The installation of a new sound system in the recently refurbished school hall, hopefully to be ready for presentation night 2011.

Information packs will go out to families in the latter part of the January school holidays inclusive of school fees, correspondence and information relevant to the start of the school year.

**POOL OPERATORS COURSE**

The Meningie Area School Pool is the property of the Minister. As a school we are required to manage the pool in such a way that complies within given regulations. We can hire the pool out to the community. For this to happen, the pool can be hired by a trained Pool Supervisor who has a current certificate. A Pool Supervisors course will be run here on Monday 5th December, from 1.30 - 3.30 pm and 3.30 – 5.30 pm. This is being conducted by Royal Surf Life Saving. Anyone 18 years and older is able to do this course. The cost of the course is $35.00 paid on the day to the instructor. Please contact the front office to register your name by close of business Monday 28th November.

Please note that the Pool Supervisors certificate is only valid for twelve months.

**INTERNAL DATA COLLECTION ROUND 2**

The Data Collection team began the second round of internal testing this week. Students from Years 2 to 10 undergo testing this week, Week 6 and Week 7. All students undergo testing in Torch (Reading Comprehension) Patmaths (Mathematics) and Westwood (Spelling). These tests, which are held twice a year in May and November, show us the improvement that students have made and help teachers in setting curriculum directions for students.

**BOYS UNIFORM**

As we move into summer it is evident that many of the boys are wearing shorts to school. Boys are reminded that they too, along with the girls, need to be in black long line shorts as endorsed by Governing Council. We thank parents/caregivers in supporting us with this.

**STAFFING 2012**

The school budget is based on the number of students we have in the school and of course this has an impact on the number of teachers and student support officers that we employ. To help us in our planning can you please advise Monica Williams (Principal) or Coralie Qualmann (Finance Officer) if your child/children will not be at Meningie Area School next year. Thankyou.

Monica Williams

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**CASUAL DAY**

On Thursday 24th of November 2011, the year 8/9 class is holding a Casual Day. We are raising money for the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal to go along with the $250 we have already raised through having a stall at the Family Food Fun Fair that was held on Friday 4th November. It will also go towards our volunteering section of the Duke of Ed. Award. A gold coin donation will be greatly appreciated as there are many less fortunate children that all wish to celebrate Christmas as we do. So we encourage all students to wear their favourite clothes to school on our casual day, however we remind you that the normal rules for safety e.g. footwear and the length of shorts, remain the same.
THANK YOU

A big thank you to Jamie and Tom Gibbs who have baled hay in three of the school’s paddocks. They worked against the clock to get it done in time before the rain came, and we now have 67 round bales ready for the stock next year. Well done and thanks again.

AQUATICS CAMP

On Wednesday our Year 6 class went to Aquatics camp. Mrs Hood drove the bus up there. When we got there we got changed into our bathers and got into our groups. Holly and I went to the boys’ group to make it even. My group had to go get wet suits and life jackets on to do the first activity. First we went knee-boarding, we all had a turn by ourselves. Holly went first and fell off, so then I went and I didn’t fall off. Then Tuakana went and he fell off twice, Lachlan and Dwayne made it the whole way without falling off, Kyale and Hank wouldn’t go so they went together and Hank fell off.

After knee boarding we went sailing on the catamarans. I was the skipper so I had to swap sides every time we went to turn. Hank and Holly were the crews. We had to do zigzags across the river.

Next we went Kayaking. I went with Emma. Everyone else went by themselves except for Renae. She went with Cathy one of the instructors.

By Aleisha Williams (Year 6)

On the next day we did canoeing and we went a fair distance. At half way we made a raft and we played a swap seat game. It was pretty hard and it was pretty funny.

After that we did small boat handling. They were only 15ccs but we still had fun. Finally, we did knee-boarding again and, again, I fell off twice!!! But the third and fourth and fifth time, I actually made it on my knees!!! All up, it was pretty fun!

By Tuakana Wharerau (Year 6)

On Wednesday our year 6 class went to aquatics camp. We didn’t stay overnight but when we got there we all got ready then went straight into sailing catamarans. It was fun in our group. Our group was Chelsea, Britanny, and I.

For our second activity our group was Britanny, Chelsea, Katie, Renee, Keira, Meshayla and I. We went to knee boarding. At knee boarding I fell off once and then did a whole lap and Meshayla didn’t fall of once on her first try. She did really well.

By Emma Marles (Year 6)

NATIVE FISH WEEK

On Wednesday, our year 6 class went to aquatics in Murray Bridge. First up, we did knee boarding and I fell off twice. Then, the third time, I tried doing it on my stomach and I made it. It was fun and I got a lot of water in my eyes.

After that, some of us sailed the catamarans and it was fun. They weren’t very fast, because we didn’t have the main sail up, but it was still alright. We had to do zigzags up and down the River Murray and the other team cheated because they were pulled by a guy in a speed boat.

We also did sit-ons. We went through dead trees and willow trees and we made a raft at the end.
On Wednesday, the six Year 5’s went to Milang for Native Fish Week. We did 5 activities and we split into groups. I was in the Bony Bream group.

First, my group tested the water of Lake Albert, Lake Alexandrina and the Coorong. Then we split into groups and tested the waters and wrote it on a piece of paper.

Secondly, we played fish chasey and learnt about the bad fish.

Thirdly, we went and played a treasure hunt game for fish and we found all of them.

Then, we went to the turtle shed and looked at the fish.

Lastly, we watched a movie called 60 minutes.

At the end, we had a BBQ and then we went home.

I found it a good experience to find out lots about the water and the fish.

By Lochie McPherson (Year 5)

Where: Meningie Area School
When: Wednesday 5th December
Time: 1.30 – 3.30 pm or 3.30 – 5.30 pm
Cost: $35.00
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 28th November.

Schools in the Murray and Mallee region are seeking volunteers to assist in the Community Mentoring Program.

Develop a relationship with a child (10-14 years of age) through a range of activities that you and your mentee would like to do together.

Playing games, art/craft and chatting etc
One hour a week to make a difference.
⇒ Make a difference in a young child’s life
⇒ Make new friends
⇒ Make a real difference to the future of your own community
⇒ Learn new skills

Life experience is the only qualification you need. Would you like to know more about the program?

Information Session
Monday 21st, Tuesday 29th of Nov and Tues 6th Dec
6.30pm to 7.30 pm
DECS Regional Office Murray Bridge
20 Beatty Terrace
Contact Luke Wilson to make a booking to attend a session and for catering and venue purposes
Mob: 0457 764 318 luke.wilson4@sa.gov.au
Scholastic catalogues were sent home with students earlier this week.

Orders, with payment, can be placed at the bookroom or front office up to the end of Tuesday 29th November (week 7).

**Year 12’s leave Meningie Area School 2011**

The Year 12’s left school on 11/11/11.

To celebrate their end of Year 12 at Meningie Area School the school held an assembly for them. The students are Caitlin, Justin, Jack, Sam, Saskia, Dylan, Tim, Madi, Jake, Stuart, Jackie and Claire.

We wish them good luck in the future as they step into the real world outside of school grounds

by Jemma Williams (Year 7)