NEWSLETTER

Issue 2 15th February 2008

REMINDER

21st February: Interschool Swimming Carnival at Coonalpyn
School open for R-5 classes and Year 12 study room

DIARY DATES
February 2008
19th – Junior School Assembly 10.25 for 10.30 start
21st – Interschool Swimming Carnival 10.00 am
22nd – Open Boys Cricket
25th – Parents & Friends meeting 1.30 pm
25th – Governing Council AGM
27th – Parents as Career Partners Session

OUR PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

This week we welcome new staff member, Henry Gardner to the school as teacher in English and SOSE for Term 1. Henry is backfilling behind Kathryn Hese who is currently on leave. A recent graduate, Henry has had teaching experience in both country and city schools. He will be working mostly with students in the senior school, and will take responsibility for pastoral care as well as study supervision. We thank Maureen Lewis who has maintained classes over the past two weeks in these areas.

The swimming carnival and Junior School Splash day was held Wednesday 13th February at the Coonalpyn pool. The weather was a little cool to start with but that didn’t dent the enthusiasm of students. Many thanks to everyone who organised and participated in the day, particularly Ms Davis and Mrs Hood, who have spent the last few weeks organising the event. Thankyou to all the parents who attended and helped out with timing and Junior School events. We really appreciate the work that Michelle Rowe has put into the swimming programme here at the school over the past few years. It is very evident on a day like Wednesday. The students swim with confidence and style. Thankyou Michelle.

At the end of the day of competition it was Bonney who came first, Albert second, followed by Coorong..

Governing Council AGM

The Governing Council AGM is on Monday 25th February at the Sailing Club at 7.30 p.m. Governing Council is seeking new members to fill positions on the Council Governing. Council has an important role in the governance of the school by helping to set directions and the Budget. Having a strong Council that represents the broader community is therefore vital.

This year the following people will be continuing on Council, having been elected for two years.

Continuing in 2008:
Judy Appelkamp
Gill Biddle
Lisa Eastwood
David Eckert

The following parent/caregiver representatives complete a one year term, and can be renominated:
Michelle Rowe
Jeff Wright
Bev Thorpe

We ask that all parents and caregivers give thought to the role that you can play in your child/children’s education. At the moment there is room on Governing Council for four additional parent/caregiver representatives, in addition to the three people coming to the end of their term.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, you can complete the nomination form within this newsletter and return to Meningie Area School by Friday 22nd of February.

Photo Day

Thankyou to the small group of Parents & Friends who once again helped the photographers with Photo Day on Tuesday 12th February. It is a big day that requires a fair amount of organisation and management, so that the photos that you receive are great. The parents do a wonderful job ensuring that all students look their best. Almost all students were in school uniform. Indeed this is great to see that uniform is a high priority and we have most students wearing it regularly.

Term Planner

Attached is the latest term planner. Please note that there have been some minor changes/additions made.
Interschool Swimming Carnival

The Interschool Swimming Carnival is a day carnival this year to be held at the Coonalpyn Pool next Thursday 21st February from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm. Meningie is hosting the carnival this year. The arrangements for the day are as follows.

- Meningie Area School will be open for all students R-5, except those students selected for events in the carnival. The teachers of most of these classes will be on the school site.
- The Year 12 students not in Interschool may use the Study Room, to work for the day, particularly if they have an Open Access subject. This is an opportunity to get on with Year 12 work and it is expected that with a minimum of supervision students will use this time wisely. In the event of a student/students not complying, a phone call will be made to parents asking for the student to be picked up.
- Buses for the carnival will leave Meningie at 8.45 am and return by 4.00 pm. There is no charge for bus travel. However, please complete the Bus travel slip sent home with information yesterday, by Tuesday 19th February, so that we can have enough space available.
- All afternoon bus runs will operate, however they will leave Meningie Area School at 4.00 pm.
- Junior school students who normally travel by bus will be provided with after-school supervision in the library from 3.20pm to 4.00pm. If parents wish, they may pick up their children after school from the library.
- Entry to the pool for all Meningie Area School students has been paid by the school. Adult entry is $3.00 and for children under school age there is no charge.
- Please ensure that your child/children are appropriately organised for the day with:
  - Sunscreen
  - Bathers
  - Towel
  - Hat
  - T shirt/ shorts/ trackpants etc
  - Enough water and food for the day

The Coonalpyn Pool Committee will again be providing a BBQ Lunch as they did on Wednesday at our own carnival.

Principal

MAS SWIMMING CARNIVAL

On Wednesday 13th February Meningie Area School held their combined Swimming Carnival/Splash Day. Again it was a fantastic start to the year. Many students travelled to Coonalpyn and participated in a variety of swimming races, novelty events and water activities. All students participated in an appropriate manner and it was fantastic to see the support the students gave each other.

It was also pleasing to see the enthusiasm, encouragement and support that our senior students, particularly the House Captains, gave to our junior school students. We had great parental support, which helped ensure a successful day of sport. Bonney was our eventual house winner on 591 points, followed by Albert on 558 and Coorong on 309. The following students were successful in their age group:

**Sub-junior girls U10**

Winner  Maddison O’Connell (Bonney)
Runner-up  Shakira Marin (Bonney)

**Sub-junior boys U10**

Winner  Kane Mason (Albert)
Runner-up  Hugh Mason (Albert)

**Junior Girls U12**

Winner  Marni Hood (Bonney)
Runner-up  Abbey Hood (Bonney)

**Junior Boys U12**

Winner  Scott Biddle (Albert)
Runner-up  George Angas (Albert)
Dale Appelkamp (Bonney)

**Intermediate Girls U14**

Winner  Tamika Williams (Coorong)
Runner-up  Amber Gibbs (Bonney)

**Intermediate Boys U14**

Winner  Nick Rowe (Bonney)
Runner Up  Zac Vandenbrink (Albert)

**Senior Girls Open**

Winner  Brent Rowe (Bonney)
Runner-up  Michelle Crossman (Albert)

**Senior Boys Open**

Winner  Josh Wright (Coorong)
Runner-up  Dylan Vandenbrink (Albert)

**Records broken:**
Intermediate Boys 50m Breaststroke – Nick Rowe 46.12
(Old record 46.34)
Intermediate Boys 50m Freestyle – Nick Rowe 33.04
(Old record 33.39)
Senior Girls 50m Freestyle – Brent Rowe 32.38
(Old record 32.44)
Senior Boys 50m Backstroke – Dylan Vandenbrink 37.17
(Old record 39.07)
Senior Boys 50m Butterfly – Dylan Vandenbrink 34.86 (Old record 36.59)
Senior Boys 100m Freestyle – Josh Wright 1.06.47
(Old record 1.09.19)
Senior Boys 50m Breaststroke – Josh Wright 40.34
(Old record 40.88)
Senior Boys 50m Freestyle – Josh Wright 29.83
(Old record 30.85)

Congratulations to all students, parents and staff members for a successful day!

CONNECTING SPIRITS

The Bush Dance originally planned for March 8th has been postponed until later in the year.

SCHOLASTIC ORDERS

Last chance for Scholastic Book orders. Orders will still be taken at the bookroom first thing Monday morning. After that the orders will be placed with Scholastics and should be received back at our school within 2-3 weeks.

OPEN ACCESS

Unfortunately due to a lack of transport, we were not able to visit the Open Access College as planned on the 14th February. However, teachers from the College will be visiting our school on 29th February at 12.30pm to conduct an induction program for all Open Access students. Parents are welcome to attend.

Mal Jurgs
Deputy Principal

PARENTS AS CAREER PARTNERS

The Parents & Friends Association, in conjunction with School and Beyond Inc. is offering parents the opportunity to participate in an interactive workshop “Parents as Career Partners”.

This is a program tailored for parents with students in Years 9 to 12 which covers topics such as “How the world of work has changed”, “Assisting your teenager manage their career”. It will also give you an opportunity to learn how to use the Internet to explore career options. Further information will be sent out in the next few weeks, but if you would like to reserve a space on this course please ring the front office on 85 751106.

STUDENTS’ ENVIRONMENTAL WISH

What is your environmental wish?

This question was posed to students at the recent launch of the Student’s Environmental Wish (S.E.W.) project.

At a recent meeting of the Lower Lakes and Coorong Infrastructure Committee it was decided to replace the NO DAMN WEIR banners at the end of the township with a more positive message and one that created an awareness of the water crisis on our fragile environment. It was decided to challenge the students from Meningie Area School and the students from surrounding schools, Raukkan Aboriginal School, Tailem Bend, and Salt Creek Primary Schools.

At the project launch, Mr. Neil Shillabeer, chairperson of the Infrastructure Committee spoke to the students from Meningie and Raukkan about the purpose of the project and invited them to participate.

Guest speaker, Mrs. Pippa Cattanach, representing SA Murray Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board as the Lower Lakes Catchment Care coordinator encouraged the students to think about their impact on environmental issues, including:

Do you shower for longer than 5 minutes?
Do you use multiple wrappings for your lunch?
Do you turn off the lights when you leave the room?

She reminded students that everything counts and that one small voice can make a difference but it will be heard by many more if we stick together and tackle issues as a group or community. Already students at Meningie are working on slogans and posters with important and relevant messages about the impact on our local environment, economy and lifestyles.

The final stage of the project will be the replacement of the banners with a student voice. The Infrastructure Committee are looking forward to choosing a positive and purposeful message that reflects the environmental wish of our community.
Due to sickness the “Link Lightning” training day (scheduled for Sunday 17th February) has been postponed and rescheduled for 6th April.

Marilyn Watkins
Stadium Manager

SA DENTAL SERVICE

Parents of students attending the Tailem Bend School Dental Clinic:
The State Government is in the process of upgrading and consolidating South Australia’s public dental infrastructure to ensure that it complies with contemporary models of care and relevant standards and provides a suitable environment for clients and staff.

Part of the process of upgrading and consolidating these services involved the closure of a small number of clinics that are currently used on a limited basis or that are located on school sites that are part of broader plans in education.

It has been decided that the School Dental Service clinic at the Tailem Bend Primary School will be closed and amalgamated with our School Dental Service clinic at the Murray Bridge South Primary School. The closure will occur in February 2008.

It is expected that this relocation will result in minimal disruption to our services as patient records will be transferred to the Murray Bridge South clinic at the time of the closure. For children who currently travel to the Tailem Bend dental clinic it will simply be a matter of travelling to an alternate clinic close by.

SA Dental Service recognises that this may result in a degree of inconvenience for some patients and their families. We would like to assure you that our staff will seek to work very closely with your school in facilitating this transition process, in particular to ensure that any disadvantaged children or groups can still access their dental care.

Further information and details about the transition arrangements will be provided to all parents when a firm closure date has been determined.

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2008

Term One
Tuesday 29th January – Friday 11th April
Term Two
Monday 28th April – Friday 4th July
Term Three
Monday 21st July – Friday 26th September
Term Four

MENINGIE SCHOOL

PARENTS & FRIENDS

First meeting for 2008
Monday 25th February
1.30pm in the meeting room at the school

Please come along and help us support our students throughout 2008
ALL WELCOME!

Any queries Phone Gwenda Eckert 85 737084

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ENQUIRIES
T: (08) 8387 6036 M: 0414 499 669
E: unlimitedfeet@internode.on.net

MENINGIE AREA SCHOOL GOVERNING COUNCIL

Nomination for Election Form

I ………………………………………...(full name)
of …………………………………….. (address)

Nominate
………………………………………… (full name)
of …………………………………….. (address)

Signed: ……………………………
Date: …………………………

(Please note that parents may self-nominate)