In my report at Presentation Night I focussed on the four key areas of the Meningie Area School Site Improvement Plan 2017.

- Engagement & Well-being
- Success for all Aboriginal Learners
- Quality teaching & Learning
- Secondary Education

In particular:
- The key strategies – What are the drivers?
- The evidence – What the data is telling us?
- Next Steps – 2013

A more detailed Annual report will be delivered at the School Governing Council Annual general Meeting to be held on Monday 18\textsuperscript{th} March 2013.

The achievements of our students and the school are reflected in the collaborative working relationships we have forged over the years, in particular that of Governing Council. I thanked Chairperson David Eckert for his support, governance and counsel over the year. We meet regularly before meetings every month to discuss issues and keep up to date with both the daily happenings and broader issues. I appreciate the work of Council and the active support they have shown throughout 2012, in making decisions relating to budget as well as policy and procedures.

Thanks must also go to my leadership team, Mal Jurgs Deputy Principal who is leading the Connecting Spirits trip through the countries of the Western Front.

To Kathryn Hese Senior School Manager, whose ability to manage senior secondary students with flexibility, and a can do attitude is evident in the data. Kathryn has re-won her position for the next five years.
Kathy Quinn. Manager of Middle School Wellbeing and Behaviour, has probably got one of the most challenging jobs in the school. Thank you for your support. Kathy has just re-won this position. Her ability to connect with students, work with parents and outside agencies is truly amazing.

Katrina Hood in her joint role as Junior School Manager and Maths Focus Teacher across the Coorong and Murray Bridge Cluster in the Australian Maths Curriculum means that the staff and students have up to date knowledge, and understandings. We are lucky to have her expertise. In 2013 Katrina will be continuing her role recently re-won as a focus person across the cluster of schools in Australian Curriculum. We continue to be well placed in the education arena.

Thanks must also go to Junior Primary teacher, Wendy Starling who is focus person in Junior School literacy. Wendy has led several initiatives over 2012 leading in to 2013. This is evident in the results we are seeing coming through the early years. Her work and that of the junior school was a focus at the State Education Conference held in the October school holidays where she presented our data.

To all the staff, which, without their commitment the achievements celebrated at Presentation Night on Tuesday evening would not happen. Thank you.

At this point I wish everyone a safe and Happy Christmas, New Year and holiday break.

Monica Williams

PRESENTATION NIGHT 2012

Meningie Area School Presentation Night was held in the school hall on Tuesday 11th December at 7.30pm.
It was fantastic to see so many parents, caregivers and friends help celebrate the achievements of our students;

- Year 9 graduation
- Year 12 Graduation
- Subject & Special Award Presentations
- Music & Band Performances
- Governing Council and Principal’s Reports

Evenings such as Presentation Night are only made possible with the generosity of our sponsors and of our guest speakers who gave up their time to share their experiences with both students and guests.

Our guest speakers for the evening were Jarrod Mickan and Aaron Martin attended Meningie Area School for all their schooling and achieved academic success during their senior years. After graduating from school both men then joined the Defence Forces and were able to relate to the audience how many opportunities and experiences this had opened up for them both and how much they enjoyed their careers. Aaron Martin graduated from Meningie Area School in 2000 and joined the RAAF in 2002. During this time Aaron carried out his Technical Trade Training to become an Aircraft Maintenance Engineer and completed a Certificate 4 in Aeronautical Maintenance Engineering (Mechanical) and was promoted to Corporal.

During his time in the RAAF Aaron travelled to the Middle East, USA, and around Australia on various missions and exercises. After serving for almost seven years, Aaron then retired from the RAAF and transferred his skills and qualifications to commence working in civil aviation as a Licenced Aviation Mechanical Engineer.

Jarrod Mickan also graduated from Meningie Area School in 2000 and after leaving school enlisted in the Royal Australian Corps of Transport were he still currently works as a Plant Supervisor for the 3rd Field Squadron in Warradale Barracks in Adelaide, organising and running training for the Army reserve and maintaining and co-ordinating the maintenance of the unit’s equipment.

Jarrod’s time with the Royal Australian Corps of Transport has led to many opportunities and he is also qualified and has completed the Special Forces Roping Course, Basic Parachute Course and Plant Operator Course. Jarrod has completed two more promotion courses and has been promoted to the rank of Corporal.

Jarrod has been on deployments throughout Australia, East Timor and Afghanistan.

Jarrod and Aaron encouraged current students to work hard during their time at school and to follow their dreams and to explore the many pathways to achieve their dreams. Both young men also reiterated just how vital it is to keep on learning throughout your working life and to grasp opportunities as they arise. We sincerely thank both Jarrod and Aaron for taking time out to share these experiences with us; it was very much appreciated and extremely interesting.

AWARD RECIPIENTS

MS Arts - Grace Withers
SS Visual Arts - Hannah Pittendreigh
MS Kungun Ngarrindjeri Yunnin - Shania Weetra
SS Kungun Ngarrindjeri Yunnin - Jake Shaw
MS English - Jessie Bland
SS English - Hannah Pittendreigh
MS German - Brenda Baldock
MS HPE - Holly Vandenbrink
SS HPE - Oliver Crossman
MS Mathematics - Brenda Baldock
SS Mathematics - Megan Herrmann
MS Science - Kobie Hood
SS Science - Alysha Eckert
SS Agriculture - Hannah Pittendreigh
MS SOSE - Jane Tiver
SS SOSE - Lauren Bagshaw
PLP Award - Alysha Eckert
MS Design & Tech - Tessa Bagshaw
SS Design & Tech - Alysha Eckert
SS Photography - Hannah Pittendreigh
MS Home Economics - Grace Withers
On Thursday the 20th December asbestos removal will be taking place across the school. On this date no-one is to be on school grounds at any time.

## TERM DATES FOR 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>29th January – 12th April</td>
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<td>Term 2</td>
<td>29th April – 5th July</td>
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<td>Term 3</td>
<td>22nd July – 27th September</td>
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<td>Term 4</td>
<td>14th October – 13th December</td>
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## STAFFING FOR 2013

As always at the end of the year, we have staff to farewell. Raelene Creed is leaving at the end of this week. Raelene has been at Meningie since 2006. As yet Raelene does not know where she will be. We do however, thank her for her time here at Meningie and wish her all the best in the future.

Sarah Lehmann has been here for 2012. Sarah does not know as yet what she will be doing for the first part of the new term in 2013. She is however having a baby in April. We wish her all the best, and hope to see her perhaps early next year doing some TRT work.

Thanks also must go to Yvonne Ritchie, who is retiring at the end of this year. Her tireless efforts as school cleaner over the years have been appreciated by all.

## CONNECTING SPIRITS 2012

At present the Connecting Spirits group is travelling through France and Belgium, visiting the Western Front and nearby battlefield sites of Amiens, Fromelles, and Ypres.

If you wish to follow the group’s daily progress please visit the website, [www.connectingspirits.com.au](http://www.connectingspirits.com.au) and click on the links to the 2012 trip. There is a blog as well as some photos for each day of the trip. It is well worth seeing some of the places and sites that the students are visiting. Mr Jurgs has informed us that the weather is extremely cold and the students are hoping to see snow before too long.

Mal Jurgs (Deputy Principal)
MATERIALS & SERVICE CHARGES

Materials and Services Charges will be posted out to families before school starts in 2013.

The Bookroom will be open for these charges to be paid either in full or part paid or School Card applied for on Thursday 24th January and Friday 25th January 2013 from 9.00am to 2pm.

Student stationary packs will be available to be picked up at these times. Uniforms will also be available at these times.

SCHOOL REPORTS

A reminder that school reports will be sent home with students on Friday 14th December, the last day of term. If your child is absent on this day then we will endeavour to send their report home with a sibling otherwise student reports may be collected from the Meningie Community Library during the holiday period.

SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE

The School Dental Service is available to children aged from birth up to 18 at public dental clinics throughout South Australia. Dental care is provided by teams of dentists, dental therapists and dental assistants.

Murray Bridge South Dental Clinic
Joyce Street, Murray Bridge
Phone 8532 3051
Open: 8.30 am – 4.30 pm

Please note: During the School Holiday period please refer to clinic answering service or clinic door note for opening hours and emergency coverage. For all after hours emergencies please call Healthdirect Australia on 1800 022 222

SCHOOL HOLIDAY SECURITY

Please be reminded that only those in an authorised capacity are to be on school grounds during the school holidays. Maintenance, building and annual cleaning work will be carried out by cleaners and contractors over the break. The library will be open as advertised and we ask that children are accompanied and supervised by an adult.

VAC Swim will be held between 3rd and 11th January.

We seek the support families and community members in reporting any unusual activity to either the local police on 131444 or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333000.

VACSWIM 2013

Please find the following information for the VAC Swim program this summer. Please note that the school does not organise VAC Swim as this is the responsibility of VAC Swim SA. We do however allow VAC Swim SA access to the school pool to run the program.

Please go online or phone VAC Swim to get further details of their holiday program in our area.

ASTHMA SA

With pollen levels reaching the moderate to high range over the summer period this can lead to dramatic and serious asthma attacks for those who do not carry their asthma medications. Asthma Foundation SA encourages children/people with asthma to:

- Ensure their Asthma Action Plan is up to date
- Take medications as prescribed by a doctor
- Where possible, avoid going outside on high pollen days
- Always carry your reliever medication with you

Please take the opportunity during the holiday period to ensure your child’s reliever medication is still in date and that your child’s Asthma Action Plan is still current, in preparation for the new school year.
LIBRARY OPENING HOURS

MENINGIE LIBRARY
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY HOURS

For the week 17/12/12 to 22/12/12:
Monday (17th Dec): CLOSED
Tuesday to Friday (18th to 21st): 10am - 1pm; 2 - 5pm
Saturday (22nd Dec): 10am - 1pm

CLOSED from 23rd December 2012, until 15th January 2013 for our Christmas Break.

The Library will REOPEN on Tuesday, 15th January at 10.30am as for Holiday hours.

We wish everyone a happy, safe and stressfree Christmas, and a Prosperous New Year in 2013.

On Thursday the 20th December asbestos removal will be taking place across the school, as previously mentioned, so the Community Library will also be closed on this date.

WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH EVERYONE A HAPPY AND SAFE FESTIVE SEASON AND HOLIDAYS

YEAR 6 AQUATICS CAMP

On the 14th and 15th of November 2012, the year 6 classes drove to the Aquatics Centre at Murray Bridge. We left the school at 8.40am When we got to the Aquatics Centre we got off the bus and got our name tags and stuck them on our life jackets.

The weather was sunny of the first day and on the second day it was windy and spitting.

We got split up into boys and girls groups. After we split up into our groups we did some activities. The second activity was really fun, it was Kayaking. We rafted up and our instructor Brett told us to run along the end of our Kayak and jump into the water. It felt like we were Ninjas running across water. It was pretty exhilarating.

When we did knee boarding I thought I was going to fall off straight away but I didn’t. We had two goes at knee boarding. One by ourselves and one go with a partner.

Knee boarding was really fun. I was really nervous up until I tried it. It was awesome.

Sailing in the Catamarans was the first thing we did. It was not a good day for it because the wind would come and go. In the catamaran was me, Jai and Colin.

When we went on the Catamarans, I was the skipper. There are 3 Jobs. The skipper and 2 Crew.

On the second day we went met up with Brett and got our life jackets on. We went small boat handling on the Rubber Ducky. We each had a go.

We drove the boat up the Murray and went to Sturt Reserve. It was packed with people so we went back and did a donut,
left and right then figure of 8. When we got back we went on a board walk. It was cool and there was a lot of carp.

Lachlan Waser

We got to choose out of the Catamarans or kayaks for our last activity on day 2. I chose the Catamarans. Kobie, Ashley and Lachlan were ahead of us and Jiyee and Jai were behind Sharnee and I. Us girls were coming second then Jai and Jiyee said they will beat us. We passed Kobie, Ashley and Lachlan and we bet both of them. I thought we were going to capsize but we didn’t luckily. Gena Mansfield

We had heaps of fun at Aquatics. Knee Boarding and Skiing were the best.

Jai Ling

Aquatics camp was very fun and all the things we did were great. I thought the sailing was the best because I have never done it before and it was a great experience. Kobie Hood

I think the best activity was knee boarding. One of the times I almost let go of the strap and nearly fell off. On our way back to school we got to eat lots of lollies!

Sharnee Gemmell

GOVERNING COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT 2012

Having attended the year twelve assembly back in November makes you realise how quickly the 2012 school year has gone.

Before writing this report I went onto the Meningie Area school website and again browsed through the school newsletters for the year to refresh my memory. It never ceases to amaze me the opportunities our children have throughout the year, and most importantly how our teachers and support staff manage to fit all these things into the years’ programme. There are many excursions and camps, with the Canberra and Connecting Spirits trips been our two major ones. I urge parents to continue supporting these events wherever possible, as it may seem students are just having fun out of school, when they are actually learning skills they don’t even realise. A great deal of work and organisation goes into these events and teachers are always heartened by a good response.

Again our school has offered many sporting opportunities throughout the year with many great results achieved.

Fund raising is always encouraged, whether it be for fun activities which benefit students or for more serious circumstances which affect all our lives in some way. I would like to acknowledge two of these, the first been Bridie Blake Burrows shaving her head for cancer, & raising a substantial amount of money a brave effort. The other was organized by a year 11 student Tamika Williams and students from her dancette classes, these students danced twelve hours non-stop raising money for breast cancer, the school supported both these events. It was a fantastic effort to see students help others not so fortunate as themselves.

Governing Council meets every month during school terms, continually looking and keeping in touch with our school and education department, supporting our principal and her team make decisions to move our school forward in a positive and happy manner.

Our principal Monica Williams puts great emphasis on high learning expectations of every student which means a lot of work goes into individual learning plans, especially in areas of numeracy and literacy. It was disappointing but not surprising to hear we missed out on funding for a new school. A great deal of time and effort by Monica and Governing council was put into preparing a detailed school brief. Our brief was highly commended but still very hard to convince them to invest money into a community that at this point has limited future growth prospects. Sometimes we are our worst enemy in that our good maintenance programme hinders us in receiving funding for a new school. They believe our school is in quite good order and with reroofing and few minor upgrades, reduction of classrooms as student numbers have fallen over the past few years, it will make our school more pleasant in the short term. Governing Council will never give up on sourcing funding for a new school, one that makes better use of natural light and ventilation with a more permanent look.

Governing Council has endorsed the upgrades this year to the junior school sandpit with shade. Its official opening in September was well received by students. Also a shade was erected over the junior school play equipment making it a very pleasant area for students to play in.

I like to thank the parents which came to our working bee in the redevelopment of the flag pole area. A huge thanks to Felicity Turner for the coordination with this project.

It was great to see our schools athletics day held back on our school oval, great work from our groundsman meant the oval looked fantastic. This made an enjoyable day for students, teachers, parents and caregivers. Governing Council along with staff members have conducted a sports review, so throughout 2013 we can expect some changes which will enable to keep our school sport competitions fair and competitive. Thank you to parents and caregivers who helped and supported students on the day.

Our Agriculture programme again has produced proud moments for our school. With the lead steer competition at the Royal Adelaide Show, one of our steers came second in the carcase section out of one hundred and sixty eight steers entered from other schools. This was a huge achievement for Mal Jurges and his agricultural students. With limited success in the ring, it goes to show that what looks good on the outside does not always reflect what is on the inside. Thank you to Meningie Fodders nutritionist & Meningie vet clinic for their support.

Another highlight for the Agriculture programme is the aquaculture shed, which has successfully produced trout. Thank you to students, community businesses and individuals, because of your help and support the trout was processed and sold, just another community effort we can all be proud of.

Our bi-annual events occurred this year. Firstly the stage 1 and stage 2 Formal in August held at the Cheese Factory was a memorable occasion for all students. Early in term 4 our school production “A mid summers night dream” was held in our school hall. A brilliant effort from junior and middle school students and everyone involved in making the performances go off without a hitch. Our Connecting Spirits trip which is currently in progress is another fantastic programme our school and community can be proud of.

Vic Woolston heads the sailing programme which gives our student the unique opportunity to be involved in such a tactful sport. Not every school has the advantage of such a great location as we do. With the success of our Australian Olympians, who knows Vic could be training our very own Olympic. Governing Council is a great way for parents, caregivers and community members to understand how our school functions, and we always welcome new members as this helps keep our ideas enthusiasm fresh.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all governing Council members for their commitment and support to the school, especially vice chairperson Felicity Turner for her support to me throughout the year.

Governing Council would like to congratulate our year 12’s on the completion of their studies here at Meningie Area School. We wish them every success in their future, whether it be further study or the work force. We hope you can always be proud you attended Meningie Area School.

Lastly one of the things spoken regularly at our meetings is school absenteeism and or lateness of arrival by students at the beginning of the day. As students, parents and caregivers may we make 2013 a high attendance year.

David Eckert, Governing Council Chairperson