TERM 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 8</th>
<th>2nd December</th>
<th>5th Kindy Transition visit – all day</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>9th December</td>
<td>PRESENTATION NIGHT 7.00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th December</td>
<td>JUNIOR SCHOOL CHRISTMAS ASSEMBLY</td>
<td>9.30 – 10.30 am</td>
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<td>12th December</td>
<td>Last day of the 2014 school year</td>
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<td>Whole School Assembly 12.15 pm</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Students dismissed 2.20 pm</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Buses depart 2.30 pm</td>
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2015 TERM DATES
Term 1: Tuesday 27 January to Friday 10 April
Term 2: Monday 27 April to Friday 3 July
Term 3: Monday 20 July to Friday 25 September
Term 4: Monday 12 October to Friday 11 December

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

With only three weeks to the end of the 2014 school year it may sound a little premature to be writing about 2015. However, these days schools are highly complex organisations and at this time of the school year we are well down the path to 2015 planning so that we are prepared and ready to go as from day one 2015. Behind the scenes, we have been developing the school budget, and the Interim Budget 2015 was presented at the last Governing Council Meeting 2014 on Monday night. Senior school students have made subject selections, teachers are being allocated classes, Curriculum Resources have been ordered and some of the major projects considered. Additionally, teachers are currently analysing student testing data, measuring student achievement against the goals and targets for 2014 writing reports and reviewing strategies for next year.

At our training day on Monday we looked at two aspects in our work. The morning session facilitated by Jenni Lutze, Interagency Behaviour Support Coordinator for our Region, looked at planning for students in class for whom an adjustment for learning is required. The afternoon session led by both the Primary and Secondary Australian Curriculum Implementation Officers, inclusive of the Coorong Mallee region, led the staff in a workshop on Descriptive Report Writing, a feature of the DECD Reporting Policy. This session enabled staff to work together and develop skills related to our work. The feedback from staff with regard to both sessions was really positive and time well spent.

VOLUNTEERS AND DECD

I am sure that almost everyone connected with working in schools and the community, either in clubs or organisations, has a good understanding about Child Safety. In almost every situation there is now a requirement for a Criminal History Check. In the case of the school, to be a regular volunteer, such as in the classroom, on Governing Council, working in the Library, going on school excursions or camps, a DECD approved Criminal History Check
is needed. I understand that when this check is made, it is offences related to children that are being checked. It is not other offences such as license suspension or traffic offences. We very much want the involvement of parents and carers involved in our school in a whole range of ways. I understand the anxiety that this must cause, and it is a process that we all have to go through to make sure that both the school environment and the activities we provide for children ensure child safety. Application for Criminal History Check can be made through the school and can be collected from the front office. We encourage all parents to consider getting the certificate. This means for us that we can continue to offer a whole range of experiences for your child/children. I understand that it can now take up to four months to obtain as the demand is so high. Please give it due consideration. If you have any questions with regard to this please speak with either Sharon or Sarah in the front office or make a time to see me.

SCHOOL SWIMMING

I am pleased to advise that Mel Treloar will once again be taking the 2014/2015 school swimming program. A limited number of sessions are planned for Weeks 8 and 9 of this term, continuing early in Term 1 2015.

Over the next 2 weeks, in Week 8 and 9, swimming will be from Tuesday to Friday each week.

A program will be sent home with students. Please ensure your child has the appropriate gear for swimming.

Additionally, if the weather is inclement swimming classes will be cancelled.

POOL SUPERVISORS COURSE

We regret to advise school and community members that the Pool Supervisors Course, scheduled to be held yesterday, was cancelled due to new rules from DECD about the hire of all school facilities (including the pool). We received these details only a few days ago. At the moment it is unclear as to what further requirements will be needed in relation to child protection. We will be seeking a legal opinion from the Department’s legal team regarding liability. It is all the different scenarios which could happen that put us potentially in a non-compliant position. Therefore, the advice from the Manager of the DECD Swimming and Aquatics Unit was not to proceed with the hire of the pool until this is resolved.

As stated above, given that Criminal History Checks can take up to 4 months, it is not likely that the pool will be opened this summer.

Fortunately, January VACSWIM will not be affected as they have a contract with DECD.

THE YEAR 12 ASSEMBLY

The Year 12 final assembly was held last Friday 21 November. There will be further information in the next newsletter.

PRESENTATION NIGHT

We will be holding our annual Presentation Night on Tuesday 9th December in the School Hall at 7:00 pm. Awards will be presented from Year 6 up however, everyone is most welcome to attend. This is a formal school event, where student achievement is recognised and celebrated. All members of the school and wider community are invited.

This year we have a guest speaker and performer, Mr Adam Page, internationally renowned multi-instrumentalist, who will be performing with the band members from Year 5 to Year 10 (please see further article).

JUNIOR SCHOOL CHRISTMAS ASSEMBLY

The Junior School Christmas Assembly is the following day, Wednesday 10th December from 9.30 – 10.30 am, in the school hall. This will include items from each Junior School class, plus the presentation of certificates and the Year 5 students’ graduation. All parents/caregivers and extended family members are welcome to attend.

Monica Williams

ADAM PAGE

Adam Page is a multi-instrumentalist who hails from South Australia. He was even taught music in his early years by Mr Peter Longden (the current woodwind teacher at Meningie).

Adam has performed world-wide and performs on many instruments including Tenor Saxophone and Flute. One feature of his playing is electronic looping.
Meningie Area School Band has been very busy with a full program of performances this year. We have been part of a program with other Murraylands Schools working with Adam Page.

Students from year 5 – 12 have had the opportunity to perform with Adam in Mypolonga, and Murray Bridge. All of them have been enthused and inspired by his performance and attitude.

The major event for the year was a concert at Murray Bridge Town Hall with students from 6 other schools in the Murraylands. Our students performed well as part of the beginner and Murray lands Bands. Some of our ex-students (including Oliver and Ashlee Crossman) were part of the advanced band. This band performed original pieces as well as some standards.

As part of our End of Year Activities our school is hosting Adam Page for a workshop and performance for the Junior School students next Tuesday the 2nd December. The following Tuesday evening will be Presentation Night at school with Adam Page as guest speaker and performer.

2014 SCHOOL MAGAZINE

If you would like a 2014 School Magazine and have not paid yet, please pay to the Bookroom before Friday 5th December 2014 to secure your copy.

UNLIMITED FEET DANCE STUDIO EXAM STUDENTS

In August, Annabelle Mead and Kali Hincks completed their Royal Academy Grade 1 Classical Dance exam. The students began preparation for this earlier in the year with their Dance teacher. Extra dance lessons also helped prepare them for the exam. Results have returned from England, as this is where the examination results go for Moderation. Both girls did exceptionally well, passing with high marks both receiving a certificate, grade and medal. Congratulations girls!

SECOND HAND UNIFORMS

We are seeking donations of 2nd hand uniforms to be resold to parents/carers. Any uniform items you no longer require would be greatly appreciated.

CHOOKS FOR SALE

GET IN QUICK TO ORDER YOUR CHOOKS BEFORE THEY ARE ALL SOLD. NUMBERS ARE LIMITED.

CONTACT THE FRONT OFFICE TO PLACE YOUR ORDER ON 85 751106.

ONLY $14.30 GST INC.

VERY CHEEP CHEEP!!!!

VACSWIM

5 – 10 JANUARY 2015 MENINGIE AREA SCHOOL POOL

Royal Lifesaving will be running “Courage” and “Wonder” classes for children 6 months to 5 years of age. Enrolments also need to be made online for participation in this.
Contact Mel Treloar for more information.
SMOKED RAINBOW TROUT

for the past 6 months the Agriculture students have been growing one hundred Rainbow Trout in the school’s Aquaculture Shed. These have now been processed by Coorong Wild Seafood. We are selling the fish through the school’s front office. The cost will be approximately $40 per kg and each pack will weigh around 150 grams or $6 each.

FOR SALE

SMOKED RAINBOW TROUT

$40 per kg

Approx 150g per pack

i.e. between $4 and $8 each pack

Please pay and collect at the front office

LIMITED PACKS!

MILO in2CRICKET

MILO in2CRICKET is a fun introduction to the game of cricket for boys and girls from 5 to 10 years old. It provides children with an enjoyable and safe environment where they can learn skills and play games.

The Meningie Cricket Club at the Meningie Town Oval is running the program on Saturdays at 9am, by Richard Boscence.

The cost of the Program is $65 per participant. Every registered child receives an in2CRICKET Pack including bat, ball, t-shirt, bucket hat, backpack and some other goodies. Information sheets have been sent home with students. You can also visit in2cricket.com.au for further details.

LOCAL HISTORY FUNDRAISER

Copies of ‘A Diverse Land’ History of the Lower Murray Lakes and Coorong by Rob Linn are available from the Library for only $15 with all money going toward the Local History Collection in the Library. A Great Gift Idea.

LIBRARY HELPERS

Students are encouraged to apply for a Library Helper position in the Library. They will gain great skills and work experience. Open to all students yr 4 – yr 12. Training during set lunchtimes starting next year. Apply now with an A4 Resume and statement on why you would like the position. Applications open to end of term.

Bernie Ryan
Librarian

Try the LIBRARY CATALOGUE FROM HOME
www.libraries.sa.gov.au/coorong

SCHOOL HOLIDAY HOURS
ARE THE SAME AS USUAL EXCEPT WE ARE CLOSED MONDAY and lunchtime

CHRISTMAS CLOSURE
Sunday 21 December 2014
up to and including
Monday 12 January 2015
Children visiting and borrowing from the Library during the holidays will go into a free raffle for a book prize and select from a lucky dip

LIBRARY OPEN FOR ****EVERYONE****
9 – 5 Weekdays
10 – 1 Saturday

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YEAR 2/3 EXCURSION

This term, the year 2/3 class has been studying about the responsible use of Earth’s resources. On Friday October 31st, they visited Smiley's Car Wash and the new stormwater outlet to learn more about how water is used responsibly in Meningie.

Mr Matthew Hood showed the students around the car wash and explained how and why water is recycled and used many times.

Ms Sam Blight from Coorong Council explained how the stormwater outlet works and how it has improved the environment and quality of water entering the lake.

Thank you to the parents who accompanied us and helped us have a safe and fascinating morning. Some student comments about the excursion:

"It was an amazing experience being able to go into Smiley's water treatment area." Lucy
"It was fun." Addison
"I learned that they can use the water over and over again." Savannah
"I liked learning how the water is recycled and looking at the water tubs at Smiley's." Jace
"I learnt that plants can filter water." Mackenzie
"I learnt that there are lots of different animals living at the stormwater outlet." Kali

Beth Cowan (Class Teacher)

CHANGES TO THE SECONDARY SCHOOLS TAX FILE NUMBER PROGRAM IN 2015

We have received this information from the Australian Tax Office:

The Secondary Schools Tax File Number Program will not continue beyond 31 December 2014. This means that School TFN forms will no longer be processed beyond this date.

How students can apply for a TFN from 1 January 2015:

The Australian Taxation Office, in partnership with Australia Post, is making it easier for individuals to apply for a TFN. Students will be able to apply for a TFN online and have their identity verified through an interview at a participating Australia Post office.

Applying online is the fastest and most convenient way for students to get a TFN. More information on applying online can be found at ato.gov.au by searching ‘QC27248’.

Students who are unable to visit a participating Australia Post office will need to complete the application form Tax File number – application or enquiry for individuals form (NAT 1432). More information about lodging this form can be found at ato.gov.au by searching for ‘QC22604’.

Further information will be published it is made available to us by the ATO.

Sharon Gibbs (MAS Tax File Number Coordinator)
PRESENTATION NIGHT

When: Tuesday 9th December
Time: 7.00 pm start
Where: Meningie Area School Hall

Guest Speaker & Musician – Adam Page

“Come and help celebrate the achievements of our students”

• Graduation of Year 9
• Graduation of Year 12 students
• Subject Prize and Special Award Presentations
• Music and Band Performances
• Governing Council and Principal’s Reports

FORMAL PROCEEDINGS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A SHARED SUPPER

(If would be greatly appreciated if parents could bring a plate of)

JUNIOR SCHOOL CHRISTMAS ASSEMBLY

When: Wednesday 10th December
Time: 9.30 am start
Where: Meningie Area School Hall

Parents, friends and community members are invited to the Meningie Area School
Junior School Christmas Assembly which will be hosted by the Year 2/3 class

• Reception to Year 5 classes will present items
  • Presentation of R-5 certificates.
  • Year 5 Graduation
We hope to see you there!
Criminal History Checks for Volunteers
By Frankie Rodney

Despite being, at best, a confusing issue, the rules surrounding Criminal History Checks in South Australia, or ‘Police Checks’ as they are often known, keep changing.

School staff have long been required to undergo criminal history screening, but a 2006 review of DECD ‘Guidelines’ expanded to include volunteers. The Children’s Protection Regulations 2010 (SA) confirmed that certain organisations are required to ensure that certain employees and/or volunteers undergo screening by an authorised screening unit.

When the rules were first introduced, DECD would not accept police checks from any other sources. In 2012 we reported that those rules had changed, and that the Department would accept checks from other agencies such as DFEEST and the Catholic Education Office.

Well, the rules have changed again. The DECD now only accepts Child-Related Employment Screening Checks from the DSCI Screening Unit. Those checks, like most, consider National Criminal Record History Checks from the Commonwealth CrimTrac agency. Unlike other checks, they also consider a wide range of information from sources such as:

- SA government databases;
- publicly available information;
- information about alleged offences; and
- expanded criminal history information including spent convictions and circumstances.

“DECD now only accepts Child-Related Employment Screening Checks from the DSCI Screening Unit.”

Who needs a Criminal History Check?

The DECD ‘Guidelines’ and the DSCI website refer to volunteers who require a criminal history check as those in ‘prescribed positions’. In our public schools, volunteers & parents must have a criminal history check if any of the following apply:

- attending any overnight camps or billeting programs
- working one-on-one with children, or working in close proximity to children on a regular basis e.g. LARP music, drama etc.
- acting as a coach or manager of teams or groups of children
- working in resource centres, offices, canteens etc.
- serving on a Governing Council or its committees.

Why must Governing Councillors be checked?

Because Governing Councils make decisions and policies that affect the climate of care in our schools.

Who doesn’t need a Criminal History Check?

Checks are not required for one-off visits - such as sports days, working bees and whole of school events.

Who conducts the Criminal History Checks?

All checks are now conducted by the Department of Communities and Social Inclusion (DCSI) Screening Unit. They can be contacted on 1300 321 592. Alternatively, DECD has a Criminal History Screening Liaison Officer who can be contacted on 08 8226 0430.

How do I apply for a police check?

You apply through your principal or site leader, supplying the following documentation:

- a completed Child-Related Employment Screening form from DSCI
- 100 points of ID
- the principal or site leader is responsible for having Section D of the form completed.

The principal or site leader will forward the consent form to the DCSI Screening Unit.

What does it cost, and who pays?

For a volunteer, if lodged by a DECD site, the cost is $55.00. The school is expected to pay the first $15 and can then apply to be reimbursed by DECD for the balance.

How long does the check take?

Where the Screening Unit does not identify any risk requiring assessment, the turnaround time is approximately 20 business days.

If the Unit obtains information that requires further assessment, the application may take more than eight weeks to process.
Confidentiality

DECD maintains the process is confidential. The volunteer will receive notification as to the result of their screening. The school principal will also receive a copy of the notification.

It is recommended, however, that Governing Councils maintain a register of who has undergone a check and their expiry date to ensure updated checks are carried out on time.

All information regarding criminal history that is supplied to DSCI by CrimTrac is destroyed within three months of completion of the assessment.

Can I do anything if my application is rejected?

If you are unhappy with the decision made by the DSCI Screening Unit, you can apply for an internal review. You must do so within three months, as your check will not be kept on record longer than that period of time.

The Screening Unit will not conduct a review unless you provide a substantive reason for doing so, for example if you have new or additional information.

Do I have to get another check done for another school?

No. Your letter of clearance can be used at other DECD and childcare services. Private organisations may also accept these letters.

Can I use a police check I got from somewhere else?

No anymore. Only Child-Related Employment Screening checks through DCSI for all new non-teaching employees, volunteers, third party providers and University students are accepted.

People holding a clearance with a previously approved agency remain cleared until the expiry of their current clearance. Upon expiry, only a Child-Related Employment Screening check will be accepted.

How long does a check last before it expires?

Three years.

OSHC Staff & Volunteers

In our public schools, the Governing Council is the legal operator of Out of School Hours Care and Vacation Care services. As such, they must ensure criminal history checks of all new employees prior to their engagement. New and renewed contracts should contain a condition that the employee agrees to undergo criminal history screening when required by their employer, or at least every three years.

The Governing Council must also ensure that all volunteers in OSHC adhere to the same screening.

Visit the DSCI website for more information.
Meningie Christmas Pageant
Sunday, 7th December 2014

Think Feet First – Pedal, Scoot and Roll this Christmas

Kids, have you got your bike or scooter ready for the 2014 Christmas Pageant? OPAL are very excited to be co-ordinating the bike, scooter and pram section at the pageant this year.

Please, pre-decorate your Christmas wheels and arrive at the boat ramp next to Lions Jubilee Park at 12pm to register your details on the day and be in the running to win a ‘Safe Wheels’ Award.

Safe Wheels Award Criteria:
- Safest rider
- Best decorated bike, scooter or pram

The awards with $20 vouchers, will be judged and announced for the following categories:
- Under 10’s Girl and Under 10’s Boy
- Over 10’s Girl and Over 10’s Boy
- Adult

Kite Making Activity

OPAL will be running a kite making workshop after the pageant at the Meningie oval. Come along and join in the fun of creating a unique design and constructing your very own kite to fly.
Community Christmas Festival 2014
in the Football Clubrooms
after the Pageant on Sunday 7 December.

All clubs, groups, individuals or families are invited to enter
- A decorated Christmas Tree
- A Christmas door wreath
- A Christmas table centre and /or
- A handmade Christmas decoration.
- **Children’s entry** (pre-school or student)
  – A handmade Christmas decoration.

How does it work? **Entry is FREE**
What do we win? Nothing, but the glory of being the best.
How do we win? People’s choice!
The public will vote by filling in a form at the clubrooms and placing it in the box provided.
No money will be required.
You can enter one or all categories of this competition.
No need to register—just come and set up between 9am to 10am on **Sunday morning** in the Football Clubrooms.
Exhibits can be viewed after the Pageant.
Entries can not be removed before 3.30pm on Sunday 7 December.

Entrants may include a donation container in their display, however the exhibition will be unmanned and organisers can not be responsible for any damage or theft.