In fantastic weather for a swimming carnival, Meningie hosted the Interschool Swimming meet for 2008 last Thursday at the Coonalpyn Pool. Breaking with tradition, a day event was held this year, and was extremely well supported by all schools who participated. Whilst we did not win in any of the pennant age groups or trophies, we were runner up in the outright shield. We presented a strong team of swimmers, who competed both enthusiastically and stylishly. As I have said many times, our students swim with style and confidence. This is a direct result of the effort put into our school swimming program and swim club by Michelle Rowe, whose passion for the sport is beginning to take shape in our students.

Congratulations to Brent Rowe. Brent was the female swimmer of the meet winning all of her races.

Thankyou to all students who competed, parents who supported the day as spectators and as time keepers, staff and students who spent the day as spectators. It was great to see our school so well represented.

On Monday evening 3rd March, secondary students who won events at Interschool Carnival will join with winners from other schools at the carnival, and compete in the South Australian Secondary Schools Swimming in Adelaide.

Additionally a team of primary students travelled to Lameroo for SAPSASA selection. The following Meningie students have been selected: Kane Mason, Maddison O’Connell, Zac VandenBrink and Tamika Williams.

**Governing Council AGM**

A disappointing number of parents turned up on Monday night for the Governing Council AGM. Despite wide publication and canvassing by current representatives, few attended.

As a consequence Monday March 31st has been selected on which to present the 2007 Annual Report to the community, the 2008 Budget, and an opportunity to meet the newly appointed HillsMurraylands District Director David Jolliffe. David has been invited to the school on this date, which will coincide with the presentation of students Environmental Wish Project. This will be an opportunity for the school community to meet him and for David to get an understanding of the issues we face in the current economic climate.

Please put this date in your diary. Further details regarding this event will be advertised in the next newsletter, and via regular school communication channels.

Monica Williams
Principal
PARENTS AS CAREER PARTNERS

Unfortunately we were unable to hold our “Parents as Career Partners” session on Wednesday night. We have rescheduled the session for the 26th March at 7pm in the Senior School Computer Room, so if you are able to attend on that evening, please leave your name at the front office. If you had already indicated that you were attending last Wednesday’s session, we will assume that you will be able to come to the session on the 26th March.

Mal Jurgs
Deputy Principal

INTER-SCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The Interschool Swimming Carnival was held at Coonalpyn Pool on Thursday 21st February in fine conditions. For the first time it was held during the day rather than in the evening. Meningie Area School had good representation in all age groups and although Keith Area School again dominated the competition Meningie Area School had some good results. We were second in the Intermediate division and third in both the Sub Junior and Intermediate divisions. Overall we finished second on 1495 points behind Keith who won the overall shield and were third in the handicap competition.

There were some fantastic individual results. In particular, Brent Rowe performed outstandingly. She achieved five firsts and broke 3 records in the Open Girls 50m Butterfly (34.60s), the Open Girls 50m Backstroke (38.70s) and the Open Girls 50m Breaststroke (43.05s). She also won the Female Swimmer of the meet.

Josh Wright also performed highly at the carnival. He broke the Open boys Breaststroke record (38.89s) and won two of his four events. Nick Rowe, Zac VandenBrink and Hannah Pittendreigh also came first in one or more of their events and even though came Dylan VandenBrink came second in all four of his events, he had some strong competition and swam faster than some of the existing records. Brent, Josh, Nick, Dylan and Hannah have all been selected in the Upper South East Swimming Team along with Tim Halliday, Michelle Crossman, Bethany Marsson, Ben Halliday and Steph Sanders who finished in the top three in at least one of their events on the night. They will compete at the Adelaide Aquatics Centre on Monday 3rd March.

Thanks must go to all the parents, staff and students who provided excellent support on the day.

Lisa Davis – PE Teacher

OPEN BOYS KNOCKOUT CRICKET

On Thursday 22nd February the Upper South East Open Boys Cricket team played against Murray Bridge High School at the Meningie Town Oval in the first round of the Knockout Cricket competition.

The Meningie boys who played were: Hayden Biddle, Matt Miller, Jarrad Thorpe and Ben Gibbs. Other representatives in the team came from Karoonda Area School, Tintinara Area School and Keith Area School.

The enthusiasm and commitment of the boys was exceptional, but they were beaten convincingly by a strong Murray Bridge side. Murray Bridge scored 137 runs and bowled Meningie all out for 53. Unfortunately no one scored particularly well with the bat, with just Ben Gibbs making double figures. Their bowling was better. Matt Miller was the best of the Meningie players taking 2 wickets for 22 runs off 5 overs. Hayden Biddle also took 2 for 27.

Thanks must go to Daniel Poyner and Hamish Jurgs for scoring and Mr Neale Biddle for umpiring on the day. Your help was greatly appreciated and ensured a successful day of sport.

Lisa Davis - PE Teacher

OTHER SPORTS NEWS

On Friday 15th February Nick Rowe played in the first match of the Year 10 Twenty 20 Cricket competition at Karoonda as a member of the Upper South East team. Unfortunately the USE team lost.

Congratulations to Marni Hood and Tamika Williams who have been chosen in the SAPSASA Murray Mallee softball team. They will compete in Adelaide against other regions of South Australia in several weeks time.

Congratulations to Kane Mason, Maddison O’Connell, Zac VandenBrink and Tamika Williams for making the Murray Mallee SAPSASA Swimming team. They will compete in Adelaide on the 14th March at the Country Swimming Championships.
Last Tuesday, the Year Five class was in charge of the first Junior School assembly for the year, each class contributed an interesting piece that involved an area of learning they have been involved in.

Miss Newby’s Reception/ One class displayed colourful butterflies while they sang a song about butterflies.

Mrs. Woolston’s Reception/ One class displayed and talked about their healthy food pie graphs and taught us what food we should eat the most of and the least of.

Mrs. Starling’s Year Two/ Three class learnt the Australian anthem and sang it with pride to the school assembly.

Mrs. Giles’ Year Three/ Four class showed how they have been learning their times tables by displaying posters and singing multiplication songs.

My class, the Year Five’s spoke about the Weir and the problem of lack of water as apart of the Murray Wish Project. Some students displayed their draft posters.

Thank you to all class teachers, students and helpers that made the first assembly a success.

Mr. Samuel

Family Life S.A. will be visiting Coomandook Area School on Thursday 6th March 2008 to conduct family-based sexuality education sessions, and our school community is invited to participate. Please contact Coomandook school for further information on 85733007.

Years 2,3 & 4: Children & Parents 6.45pm
‘How We Began’ begins with the family – different families, different mixtures. Explains conception – egg, sperm, where they come from, sexual intercourse, how the baby is born. Suitable terminology is used so that children have the appropriate vocabulary to discuss the topic of reproduction.

Years 5-7: Children & Parents 8pm
‘Puberty Clues’ builds on the earlier session. Establishes a wider vocabulary and presents the physical changes of puberty.

ADMISSION: Full Programme $15 per family ($11 School Card holders).
Part Programme $11 per family ($9 School Card holders)

HOMEWORK HELP

South Australian Public libraries provide free access to online resources such as Australia & NZ Reference Centre, Your Tutor, Ask Now! & Health & Wellness resource Centre. Next time your child has a problem with their school work or needs up to date information these online resources may help. You can log on from home but will need your child’s library membership number. Log on to www.libraries.sa.gov.au and follow the prompts.

TAX FILE NUMBER APPLICATION

The Australian Tax Office has a school program whereby students can apply for a Tax File Number through the school. This is much easier than doing it when they have left school.

Letters and forms were sent home yesterday with Year 9 students which will need to be returned by Friday 7th March if possible, however any student can apply.

Please see Sharon at the front office if your child is not in Year 9 and you would like to apply for a TFN.

Mal Jurgs
Deputy Principal