FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

The term is well and truly in full swing, with teaching and learning programs underway. It is good to see students engaging in learning programs and making the most of lesson times. Our new Homework policy was implemented this term, and apart for a few students, most appear to be working within expectations. I note that we still have a few students arriving late and remind parents and caregivers that the school day begins at 8.45 am with home group. This is a most important beginning to the school day, where the daily bulletin is gone through, the class roll taken, lunches organised and general teacher/student interaction occurs. We seek your support in having your child/children arrive in good time to start the school day.

STOP PRESS!!

Congratulations to Zac Vandenbrink who won the Male Swimmer of the Meet at the Interschool Swimming Carnival on Tuesday 22nd February 2011.

Well done Zac!

Hall Refurbishment

Behind the walls of the hall much progress is taking place on the refurbishment of the hall interior. I had a guided inspection last week with Templeton Project Manager, Pauline Bastain and can say that the project is on track to be completed at the end of the Term 1. Of course this can change if various hold ups occur, but when I was there the painters were in, the canteen cupboards had been installed, air conditioning units had been installed, and work was very advanced on the insulation of the walls and roof. Governing Council is currently considering a date and suitable event to celebrate the opening of the refurbished facility.

A view of the new kitchen/canteen

An interior wall of the hall showing the air conditioning vents
Sports Day

Meningie Athletics day is this Thursday 10th March at the Meningie Town Oval. Please see further information within this edition, as well as notes home from P.E. teacher, Jack Rowe.

Please note: parking is in the Pony Club grounds, and catering is to be provided by the Meningie Football Club. Please see price list within this newsletter.
As I will be at a Principal’s in-service day, Mal Jurgs is the main contact in regard to this event and on the day.

Monica Williams

Yvonne Palka: Introduction to the School Community

Hallo. Mein name ist Yvonne Palka und ich komme aus Deutschland. I was born in a town in Poland called Tychy and moved to Kiel in Germany when I was 6 years old.

After completing my German and English Teaching Degree in Nürnberg, I decided to come to Australia for one year to teach German as a second language.

Last year I was teaching at Glenunga International High School and Lockleys North Primary School. The year 2010 is over and I’m still here; that shows how much I love this country and the people here.

Moving to Meningie was a big adventure for me, as I have never lived in a country town before. But I really enjoy living in this beautiful town and teaching at Meningie Area School.

2011 IMMUNISATION PROGRAM

This year’s immunisation program for Year 8 and 9 students will commence on Wednesday 6th April.

Letters and immunisation forms have been sent home earlier this week with students. Please return completed forms by Friday 18th March.

If you have any queries, please contact the front office or the Coorong Medical Centre.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

A reminder that school photographs will be held on Wednesday 16th March. It is important that all students are appropriately dressed in their school uniforms on this day; especially school jumpers and t-shirts. Envelopes should be handed to the photographer on the day, correctly filled in and with money enclosed.

BOTTLE DONATIONS

We require donations of the water bottle pictured below to use as drums for the upcoming Harmony Day celebrations on Tuesday 22nd March. If you are able to help, please deliver to the front office or contact the school on 85 751106 and we will pick them up from you.

CONNECTING SPIRITS 2012

The highly successful Connecting Spirits 2010 trip is over, and the participants have had reunions and continue to talk to anyone who will listen. Please see our website at www.connectingspirits.com.au to discover more about the trip.

Planning has begun for Connecting Spirits 2012, and we will be looking for interested students in Years 9, 10 and 11 who would like to travel to Singapore, England, France and Belgium to commemorate soldiers who lost their lives in the service of our country. To help you decide whether this is appropriate for your child, we are having an information evening on Wednesday the 16th March at 7.30 pm in the school staff room.

The topics of the evening will be the proposed itinerary, expectations on students, expected approximate costs and general information about travelling overseas with a school group.

I will send a flyer home to all students in the target year levels but if you interested in attending please call the front office and leave your name. If you are interested but unable to attend on that evening, please contact me and I will send an information package home for you to read.

Mal Jurgs
Connecting Spirits Project Manager
Meningie Area School
Athletics Day

Next Thursday 10th March, is our R-12 Athletics Day. Once again it will be held at the Meningie Town Oval. Buses will run as usual.

Sports Day Arrangements

Start Of Day:
- Bus students arrive at oval
- All students are to be at oval by 8.50am and report to Home Group teachers for roll call
- BLOCK 1 events begin at 9am – students will move from one event to the other with a chaperone and age group
- JUNIOR SCHOOL R-2 events will be located in the middle of the oval concluding at approximately 11am – all Junior School students will be bussed back to the school after this for normal lessons

Refreshments, Shade & Toilet Facilities:
- The Meningie Football Club will be providing refreshments on the day. The canteen will be open from 9.00am and will be selling pies, pasties, sausage rolls, salad rolls, drinks, ice blocks, tea and coffee.
- There will also be a BBQ lunch available.

Prices are as follows:

- Pies/pasties $3.50
- Sausage rolls $2.50
- Salad rolls (ham or chicken) $4.50
- Cans of drinks $2.50
- Powerade $4.00
- Flavoured milk drinks $3.00 sml $4.00 lge
- Zooper Dooper Iceblocks $0.60c
- Donuts $2.50

BBQ
- Steak sandwiches $4.00
- Sausage in bread $2.00

(Coleslaw & onion included in price)

- Outside toilets are available, as well as toilets inside the clubrooms. Access to the toilets inside will be through the clubrooms. However the clubrooms are not available for general use during the day. Scorers and First Aid only will use this facility.
- Some shade will be erected in front of the football clubrooms. Parent and community spectators may like to bring along personal shade and seating.

Parking:
- Emergency and authorised vehicles only will be allowed on the oval grounds throughout the day. Please observe this and respond to the signage.

- Parent/community parking will be in the Pony Club grounds.
- The direct gate from the Pony Club to the oval will be closed at 9am just prior to Block 1, after which, people will need to walk around. The javelin events are located close to this area, and for safety reasons, the gate will remain closed and we ask that people do not access the oval area by climbing the fence. Signage reminding people of this will be erected.

End Of Day:
- At the conclusion of the day the buses will leave from the oval to return to school, pick up R-2 students before commencing on the usual bus journey.
- Non-bus students will be dismissed and may go home from the oval.

Thank you to the parents and caregivers who have advised via return slip from notes sent home last week that they are able to help out with timekeeping etc throughout the day. However, more help is urgently required if you are able to do so. The nature of this Sports day encourages high student participation, and is structured to maximise this.

Many thanks to the Coorong District Council, Meningie Football Club and Meningie Cricket Club who have made it possible for the school to access the premises and facilities. Making this happen has been a result of the goodwill and generosity of the community.

Junior School

There will be a Junior School Assembly on Wednesday 30th March (Week 9) commencing at 10.25 am at the Uniting Church Hall. A reminder note will be sent home to parents prior to the day.

We welcome new Reception students: Connor, Lucy, Brendan, Karlia and Zeke, to Meningie Area School

Football Training

Training for the Under 11’s and Under 13’s will commence on Thursday 10th March at 4.30 pm.
GOVERNING COUNCIL

REMINDER: The Governing Council committee will hold its Annual General Meeting on Monday 21st March 2011.

We invite parents to consider nomination for Governing Council (nomination forms are included within this article). This gives you the opportunity to work with other parents and staff who strive continually to improve and make Meningie Area School a great and positive Public Education Centre for the whole of our Meningie Community.

Judy Appelkamp
(Governing Council Chairperson)

AUSTRALIAN SCHOLARSHIPS GROUP

The Australian Scholarships Group (ASG) is a not-for-profit friendly society; dedicated to helping parents nurture the education dreams they have for their children by offering them a proven and proactive way to fund their future education.

While supporting parents in financial stewardship is at the core of what we do, we take a holistic approach to developing the full potential of children. With this in mind, ASG has developed A Parent's Guide to Early Learning. This free e-guide is filled with information to help encourage a child’s learning from infancy through to preschool. The e-guide is free to download from www.asg.com.au/learn.

LEARN ABOUT YOURSELF!

As Marcel Proust, a late 19th century novelist, wrote: “the real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes”. Host an international high school student in July through Southern Cross Cultural Exchange and prepare to be amazed at the way this unique opportunity helps your family to become closer, to understand themselves better and to see the world in a new light.

Carefully selected students will arrive in July for one or two semesters from Europe, Scandinavia and Japan. They will attend a local secondary school, are fully insured and have their own spending money.

Call S.C.C.E now on 1800 500 501, email scceaust@scce.com.au or visit our website (www.scce.com.au) to be part of this rewarding experience.

Robert Lindsay
National Business Development Manager

SOUTHERN CROSS CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Tel: +61 (0)3 9775 4711
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Toll Free: 1800 500 501
Post: Locked Bag 1200, Mt Eliza , Victoria , 3930
Web: www.scce.com.au
email: robert.l@scce.com.au

MENINGIE AREA SCHOOL GOVERNING COUNCIL

NOMINATION FOR ELECTION FORM

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

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

Signed:…………………………………………
Date:………………………

(Please note that parents/carers may self-nominate)

PLEASE RETURN TO THE FRONT OFFICE BY FRIDAY 18th MARCH 2011

Free dental care for all toddlers and preschoolers

The School Dental Service is available to children aged from birth up until 5 at public dental clinics throughout South Australia. Dental care is provided by means of dentists, dental therapists and dental assistants.

For all toddlers and preschoolers dental care is free.

The School Dental Service recommends children have their first dental visit at around 1½ to 2½ years old.

Free apply for primary school or high school age children unless your child is the dependant of, or toddler, or a current Centrecare, Generations or Ag hemingway Dental Voucher.

It is very important children develop good dental habits early in life. Dental staff will talk to you about your child’s individual dental health needs.

Contact your local South Australian Dental Clinic to make an appointment for your preschooler.

The contact details are: Meningie Area School Dental Clinic
PO Box 196
Meningie SA 5243
Phone: 83320931
Address: Joyce Street, Meningie
Open Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.15pm