FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

We really are moving towards the busy end of term. Week 9 as our Term 1 calendar shows is report writing week. This means that while assessment is an ongoing process throughout the school year, students particularly in the Middle and Senior school may be completing pieces of work for subject teachers, so that reports that go home at the end of term reflect learning progress.

Governing Council AGM

Please be reminded that the Governing Council AGM is this Monday 21st March in the Meningie Area School staff room at 7.30 pm. This event has been advertised many times, with nomination forms for Governing Council in previous Newsletters. The local police will be guest speakers. Their topic will be a really informative session especially for parents and caregivers on Social Networking and E crime. We look forward to your company at this important event.

Meningie Athletics Day

Many thanks to the Meningie Community for the support and involvement in making the Meningie Athletics Carnival held at the Town Oval last Thursday 10th March the success that it was. As I mentioned in the last newsletter I was absent on the day due to Principal Inservice commitments, so sincerely thank Deputy Principal Mal Jurgs for overseeing the day and of course the staff in supporting him in this. As with most events, an enormous amount of work goes into preparation so that the day not only runs smoothly but achieves its aims and objectives. The long list includes the following.

- The grounds persons, both Mr John Hastings and Mr Geoff Halliday, as well as Mrs Judy Appelkamp who lined the oval and area for events.
- Mr Jack Rowe PE teacher in the weeks leading up to the day preparing students for events.
- Mrs Hood in supporting Jack in program development.
- The Coorong District Council in enabling us to use the facilities
- Mrs Tammy Marles and the Meningie Football Club in managing the catering
- The Pony Club in enabling us to use their grounds for parking.
- Parents for your support as chaperones and coming along to support your children
- Junior School Staff in organising and managing the Junior events
- Raukkan School students and staff for their involvement and participation
- Meningie Area School students for your participation and involvement in the spirit of competition.

Congratulations to the Albert team on winning the day. Well done and congratulations to all students, especially those who won in their age groups and or achieved personal bests. Please see report in this edition from Jack Rowe.

Murray and Mallee Leaders Residential

On Thursday 4th and Friday 5th March I attended the Murray and Mallee Residential Conference at Victor Harbour. Our region has a focus on improving non-fiction writing. Conference workshops looked at strategies to improve writing across the school, especially how to engage reluctant writers. As a staff we frequently engage in professional conversations that look at strategies to support all students in their writing, so some of the strategies presented were ones that we
already use. This was affirming. Having said that it is always good to add new ideas to our daily teaching practices. I look forward to working with the staff on developing further strategies as the year progresses.

**Principals as Literacy Leaders**

Last week I began the first two modules of work in the Principals as Literacy Leaders course. This is a two year commitment. Along with around 80 Principals from the Murray Mallee Region and the Limestone Coast, we met at Bordertown. The aim of the course is to develop the capabilities of school principals as ‘effective literacy leaders’. It is an exciting opportunity to be involved in this professional development that is being led by the work of Professor Neil Dempster, Professor of Education, Griffith University, and Deslea Konza, Associated Professor, Edith Cowan University. I look forward to sharing ideas and strategies with Meningie Area School staff and the school community.

**Interschool Athletics Day**

Interschool Athletics Day is at Karoonda this Wednesday 23rd March. A strong team of 73 students has been selected to represent the school on that day. There is an expectation that if your child/children has/have been selected that he/she will represent Meningie Area School on the day. Students who pull out of events put a lot of pressure back on their peers and weaken the team. It is a privilege to be selected to represent the school at Interschool Athletics, and we seek your support in encouraging your child to understand they are doing this for the school as well as for themselves. We look forward to strong representation on the day.

These students will be accompanied by a group of staff members with Mrs Hood leading the group. Additionally, several parents have volunteered their support, to act as referees and judges on events.

**All students not in the team are expected to be at school, where classes will continue with as little disruption as possible.**

Transport is provided by bus. A letter was sent out yesterday to the parents of all students involved. A prompt response about either students’ involvement or a requirement for a seat of the bus would be appreciated so that we can be well organised.

**Harmony Day**

World Harmony Day will be celebrated throughout the school this Tuesday 22nd March. A program of activities and events has been organised by the Junior School staff, with Anyupa Giles coordinating the program. A separate note will go home to parents and caregivers of classes involved.

**Friday Cluster day**

Today we hosted the Coorong Early Years Learning Community inservice day. 10 early years teachers from the Murray & Mallee were engaged in sessions throughout the day. The program has been developed by Mrs Wendy Starling and Mrs Judy Woolston, in conjunction with other teachers, and involves sharing of good practice, class observations and mapping of curriculum. Mrs Mason’s Home Ec students catered for the day.

**Team Sailing**

With the water back in the lake, sailing is once again a part of the PE curriculum. We have entered into Team Sailing this year, and a group of students, staff and parents led by Mr Vic Woolston are competing at Victor Harbor Thursday 17th and Friday 18th. We wish them well in this competition.

Monica Williams

**2011 IMMUNISATION PROGRAM**

The immunisation program for Year 8 students will commence on Wednesday 30th March (Week 9). Year 9 students will now have their immunisations on Wednesday 4th May (Week 1 Term 2) - this has been changed from Wednesday 6th April (Week 10).

Letters and immunisation forms have been sent home with students in Week 5. **Please return completed forms by Friday 18th March.**

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

Sharon Gibbs (Immunisation Coordinator)

**LUNCH ORDERS**

Some students are not putting enough money in their lunch order bags to cover the cost of what they have ordered.

Please make sure that you do put the right money in. If you need another price list sent home please contact the front office (this is a modified price list until the canteen returns to normal next term).

If you bring your child’s lunch order in after 9.30 am could you please take it directly to the Meningie Bakery and the lunch order will be picked up with the other orders by front office staff prior to 1pm.

It is hoped that everything will be ready to return to normal at the start of Term 2.
2011 IMMUNISATION PROGRAM

The immunisation program for Year 8 students will commence on Wednesday 30th March (Week 9). Year 9 students will now have their immunisations on Wednesday 4th May (Week 1 Term 2) - this has been changed from Wednesday 6th April (Week 10).

Letters and immunisation forms were sent home with students in Week 5. It was requested that forms be returned to the school today, however there are quite a few still to come.

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

Sharon Gibbs (Immunisation Coordinator)

MOTOR BOAT OPERATOR LICENCE

A marine officer from the Dept of Transport will be attending Meningie Area School on Tuesday 3rd May to conduct Motor Boat Operator examinations:

- 12-15 year olds SPECIAL PERMIT
- 16 and older FULL LICENCE

Community members are invited to join the Year 10/11 group sitting this examination if they wish to get their licence. Handbooks outlining the required rules, etc. are available from the school's front office. Please leave your name with the front office.

The marine officer will conduct a 90 minute lecture/PowderPoint presentation prior to the 30 minute test.

Vic Woolston

GOVERNING COUNCIL AGM
Monday 21st March
7.30 pm
MAS Staff Room

You are invited to the MAS Governing Council AGM on Monday 21st March at 7.30 pm in the staff room.

Nibbles/light supper will be provided.
Please give careful consideration to attending this meeting. Strong communities have strong schools and we need your input and support to keep strong.

Come and hear our local police talk on social networking sites e.g. Facebook. There are a huge number of issues emerging from this technology. Come and hear what these are and how you can help your child avoid the pitfalls.

Judy Appelkamp
(Governing Council Chairperson)

TAX FILE NUMBER APPLICATIONS

The easy way to get a tax file number....

The ATO, with the cooperation of schools, offers students aged 13 years or over the opportunity to apply for a tax file number (TFN) through school. This is a voluntary program and makes it easier for students to obtain a TFN.

Students need a TFN for employment, applying for Centrelink benefits, opening a bank account or deferring university fees.

Applying for a TFN through school is easier because students do not need to show identifying documentation to the ATO. The application form is available from the school, and students can complete it at home. The form requires information such as the student's name, address and date of birth. Students also need to provide the following details:

- Students born in Australia will need to provide their
  - birth certificate number, state of issue and year of registration, or
  - Australian passport number and date of issue

- Students born overseas will need to provide their
  - overseas passport number and country of issue, or
  - Australian citizenship certificate number and date of issue, or
  - Australian passport number and date of issue

It is important that the application form is completed correctly and in full, and signed by the student. All information provided on the application form will remain confidential.

The school will certify the application form by cross-checking against the information held on their records. Students are not required to show identifying documentation to school or the ATO.

Students will receive their TFN via a notification letter sent to their postal address within 28 days of the application being received by the ATO.

LOST:

A small jemmy bar was lost at the town oval on MAS Athletics Day last Thursday 10th March. If found please contact or call in to the school’s front office.
INTERSCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The Interschool Swimming Carnival was held at Coonalpyn Pool on Tuesday 22nd February in pleasant conditions. Despite the fact that we had to fill some events with younger competitors, due to lack of numbers in certain age groups, Meningie Area School was well represented by those who competed.

There were some fantastic individual results. Zac Vandenbrink broke two records in the Open Boys 50m Butterfly (31.19 – previous record was 32.23) and in the 50m Freestyle (28.44 – previous record was 29.93). Dylan and Zac Vandenbrink both won multiple races. Many Year 8-12 students also finished in the top three in one or more of their events and as a result were selected in the Upper South East Swimming Team. They were Mikayla Smart, Marni Hood, Zac Vandenbrink and Dylan Vandenbrink. These students competed in the SSSSA D Grade Championships at the Adelaide Aquatics Centre on Monday 7th of March, bringing home some great results and representing MAS and the USE region in fine fashion.

Thankyou so much to the parents who timed on the day. Their assistance enabled us to contribute to a successful carnival and at the same time keep the school open. Thanks also to the staff who provided excellent support on the day.

Jack Rowe (PE Teacher)

MAS SPORTS DAY

On Thursday 10th March, in cool conditions, students from Meningie Area School participated in a number of Athletics events at the annual school sports day. We were again fortunate enough to be able to hold this event at the town oval after a successful sports day held there last year.

Congratulations to all the students who participated. It was great to see so many involved in events and competing in such good spirits. The house captains also did a great job organising their relay teams. At the end of the day it was Albert House that took out first place.

Thanks must go to John Hastings, Geoff Halliday, and Judy Appelkamp for preparing the oval, Katrina Hood for setting up the scoring system on the computer (as well as a great deal of organising), Tammy Marles for coordinating the catering and Mr Jurgs and Mr Woolston for helping with setting up and packing up of the equipment. Thank you also to the teachers, SSO staff, parents and students who chaperoned, timed or scored on the day. Thanks also to Meningie Football Club for allowing us to use the town oval and for running the canteen. It was great to have so much support as it helped to make the day run so well.

Following are the results, list of records broken and individual medallion winners.

Jack Rowe (PE Teacher)

RESULTS:

1st Albert – 1668 points
2nd Coorong – 1318.5 points
3rd Bonney – 1178.5 points

INDIVIDUAL MEDALLION WINNERS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Old Record</th>
<th>New Record</th>
<th>Record Broken By</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U 9 Girls</td>
<td>Vortex Throw</td>
<td>13.76m (2009)</td>
<td>15.9m (2023)</td>
<td>Emma Marles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U 9 Boys</td>
<td>Vortex Throw</td>
<td>13.76m (2009)</td>
<td>23.42m (2023)</td>
<td>Jaiden Wilson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U 9 Girls</td>
<td>Javelin</td>
<td>13.76m (2009)</td>
<td>23.42m (2023)</td>
<td>Jaiden Wilson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U 10 Girls</td>
<td>Discus</td>
<td>19.15m (1991)</td>
<td>20m (2023)</td>
<td>Emma Marles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U 16 Girls</td>
<td>Javelin</td>
<td>23.8m (1988)</td>
<td>24.24m (2023)</td>
<td>Amber Gibbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U 16 Boys</td>
<td>1500m</td>
<td>5:41.91 (2007)</td>
<td>5:23.30 (2023)</td>
<td>Rhys Marles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RECORDS BROKEN:

Plastic drink container lids of any size.
We need 1000’s for our aquaculture shed so please collect your screw top lids and leave at the front office. Thanks.

Tim Eckert (Yr 12 student)
**CONNECTING SPIRITS 2012**

In the last newsletter I advertised a meeting for students and parents interested in Connecting Spirits 2012 to be held on the 16th March. Due to a number of the interested students participating in Team Sailing, I have moved that meeting to Wednesday 23rd at 7.30pm in the staffroom. If you are interested in attending and have not returned the form posted home to you please do so before the meeting or ring the school to let me know that you are coming. All students in Years 9, 10 and 11 are eligible to apply for a place and there is no obligation to apply if you attend the meeting.

Mal Jurgs

**BORDERTOWN LAMB COMPETITION**

On Wednesday the 16th March the Year 12 Ag class took a team of 5 lambs to the JBS abattoir at Bordertown for a competition with other South-East schools. The team had been chosen from the lambs that were born at the school last year, and this process was part of the assessment task that the students are working through. The main purpose of the day was for the students to get a better understanding of the end product required when selling lambs to market, which is the topic we are studying at the moment. The first part of the day was spent in the lairage where employees of the abattoir talked about the importance of preparation of lambs for sale or slaughter and how farmers can maximise their returns. Each team was judged for factors such as cleanliness of fleece, crutching, handling and skin value. There was also a competition for the students to estimate the average carcase weight of a mob of 150 lambs. The students were then taken through the plant where they saw how lambs were processed for export and the problems that can occur if lambs are not presented properly.

After the tour was finished the students were given quiz to see how much they knew about the lamb industry. When they had finished that we were treated to a chop and sausage lunch, followed by the results of the competition. Unfortunately we were the lowest scoring team, but considering we got 161 points and the winning team got 170 we weren’t too far away. We lost points mainly through having some lambs that were a bit too fat for the specifications and one of them having a small amount of grass seed damage. Jack Appelkamp was the winner of the carcase weight estimation competition as he had worked out they weighed 23.5kg when the actual result was 23.6kg. Well done, Jack. While we didn’t come home with any trophies this time the students had gained a much deeper understanding of the lamb industry and all found it a worthwhile experience, even if some of them have vowed never to work in an abattoir. They will now be required to assess a group of lambs for sale and work out the value of each of them.

Thanks to Hamish Jurgs for crutching the lambs before the competition, Anthony Pearce for the ram that sired the lambs, and the Eckert family for the mums.

**HOSTING A FOREIGN STUDENT**

Capture the spirit of family and friendship by hosting an international exchange student from Southern Cross Cultural Exchange.

- Introduce your family to another culture
- Make lifelong international friends
- Share our Australian culture and lifestyle

Southern Cross Cultural Exchange is seeking volunteer families to house high school students from Germany, Italy, Holland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland, Brazil, Columbia, Japan, USA and Spain. The students will be arriving in early July.

An information pack can be sent on request. It’s easier than you think and a fantastic experience for all!

Please contact:

Jenny Hanson  
South Australian Inbound Manager  
Southern Cross Cultural Exchange  
Ph: (08) 85561268  
Fax: (08) 85561278  
Toll Free: 1800 500 501
Are you interested??

This is a flyer to see if there are any parents or carers who might be interested in an information evening/afternoon to give helpful hints on reading with your child/children which is aimed at not only improving reading ability, but also spelling levels.

If you are interested please send back this sheet with the appropriate words ringed and your details so a time best suited to your needs can be arranged.

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I would/would not like to take this opportunity for information on helping my child to read.

An afternoon after school/evening would best suit me to attend the information session.

Name: ___________________ Contact No: ________________

Signature: ________________