OUR PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

After many days of extreme heat it was in near perfect weather that the Interschool Athletics Carnival was held at Keith on Wednesday 19th March. With a team of almost one hundred competitors we were highly competitive, with students performing well throughout the day especially in the relays. Some fifty students took advantage of the bus service, and it was fantastic to see both parents and grandparents coming along to support on the day. As well as this, a number of students not competing went along to support their peers and join in with the spirit of competition. Thanks to everyone for help and support in making this the success that it was.

Minister’s Visit
Invitations were posted out to all families at the end of last week with details about Minister Karlene Maywald’s visit to the school on Monday 31st March in the school gym. The purpose of the visit is to announce the winner of the banner competition and launch these banners. Many invited dignitaries and guests are expected as well as print and visual media. Our newly appointed Hills Murraylands District Director will be introduced and there will be a presentation of highlights from the 2007 Annual Report, as well as visual displays. Parents/caregivers will be able to collect a copy of the Meningie Area School Annual Report at the conclusion of the assembly. A nomination form for representation on Governing Council was included with the invitation. We are looking for parent/caregivers to take up positions on Governing Council and ask that you give it consideration. For more information about being on Governing Council, current Chairperson Judy Appelkamp would be more than happy to discuss the role of Governing Council within the school and the role of representatives.

Monica Williams
Principal

SAPSASA SWIMMING COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

On March 14th Maddison O’Connell, Kane Mason (Yr5), Tamika Williams and Zac Vandenbrink (Yr7) completed in the SAPSASA Swimming Country Championships at the Adelaide Aquatics Centre. They were selected in the Murray Mallee Team as a result of their excellent performances at the District day earlier in the month.

All students performed outstandingly at the Swimming Country Championships, competing in the finals in at least one of their events. Zac Vandenbrink was the best performed of the Meningie Area School students. He won a bronze medal in the 13 Year Old boys Butterfly. He also achieved a creditable 4th in the Backstroke and 8th in the 100m Freestyle. Kane Mason just missed out on the 10 year old boys Breaststroke final and came 8th in his Freestyle Relay. Tamika Williams and Maddison O’Connell were also members of the Freestyle Relay in their respective age groups. Both teams finished 4th. Well Done.

Lisa Davis (PE Teacher)

SE REGIONAL TEAM SAILING REGATTA

On the 13th March a team from Meningie travelled to Victor Harbour to compete in the SE Regional Teams Sailing Competition. The team was made up of Hamish Jurgs (Captain), Michelle Crossman (Vice-Captain), Josh Wright, Beth Jurgs, Oliver Crossman and Kaneta Marin. We competed against two Victor Harbour and three Kangaroo Island teams over 2 days.
We competed in 10 races during the Regatta and won 6, beating every team except the two strongest Kangaroo Island teams who won last year’s state titles.

The weather conditions were difficult, with strong winds that were constantly changing direction, making for challenging sailing.

Coming 3rd overall meant that we did not qualify for the championship competition at state level, but we will head to Port Adelaide in the middle of April to take part in the regatta fleet racing.

Overall we were pleased with our results, considering we had very little chance to train together due to low water levels in the lake.

Thanks to Mr Woolston for the effort and time that he put into coaching us.

Hamish Jurgs, Captain

2008 SCHOOL CARD DROUGHT ASSISTANCE INITIATIVE

The State Government School Card drought assistance initiative has been extended into 2008 to support families residing in Exceptional Circumstance areas that have been directly affected by the drought.

The locations of the declared Exceptional Circumstance areas are available at www.pir.sa.gov.au/pirsa/drought. To be eligible for School Card under this initiative, the applicant’s predicted combined income for the 2007/2008 financial year must be below the 2008 School Card limits as a result of either of the following factors:

- A family’s income being directly related to farming activities which have been affected by the drought;
- A family’s income being affected due to the loss of employment or a reduction in time/wages related to the drought.

In determining whether the applicant is below the School card limits, for 2008 any losses from farming activities can be applied to any gross earnings received from employment.

The 2008 School Card Drought Assistance application form (ED003DR) is available from www.decs.sa.gov.au/goldbook/. For further information telephone 1800 672758

BASKETBALL CLINIC

Link Adelaide Lightning are coming to Murray Bridge to run a training clinic for U10-U18 junior girl & boy basketball players on Sunday 6th April at the Murray Bridge Basketball Stadium, starting at 9.30am. Cost $5. Phone 85310755 for registration.

‘ON AIR’ ABC 891 MORNING SHOW

Students, ‘on air’ with David Bevan who was broadcasting the ABC 891 Morning Radio Show in Meningie, on 13th March 2008.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE

Southern Cross Cultural Exchange, an Australian not-for-profit, organisation specialising in international student exchange programs, is URGENTLY seeking volunteer host families for high school students scheduled to arrive in Australia in July 2008 from Germany, Austria, Italy, Sweden, Norway, Finland and Holland. Host families can choose from students staying for a range of either 3, 5 or 10 months and they all attend their local high school whilst they are in Australia. The main purpose of cultural exchange is to challenge youth towards international understanding and tolerance, encourage further learning, self knowledge and awareness - invaluable characteristics in today's world. We organise all the flights, schools, transportation, insurances and support systems. Call Southern Cross Cultural Exchange now toll free on 1800 500 501, visit www.scce.com.au or email scceaust@scce.com.au

SUCCESSION PLANNING

A free Succession Planning workshop for farming families will be held on Monday 7th April from 9.30am to 3.30pm at the Sporting Club, Langhorne Creek; a light lunch is included. Sustaining Families and Farms will provide you with practical hints & tips on working and sustaining a family business into the future. Contact 86672458 or email projectofficerpprhhs@health.sa.gov.au