DIARY DATES:
TERM 1 2010

(WEEKS 9 & 10)

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<td>29 Mar</td>
<td>SSSSA Athletics</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Apr</td>
<td>Last day of term – School finishes at 2.20, buses depart at 2.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Apr</td>
<td>GOOD FRIDAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Apr</td>
<td>EASTER FRIDAY</td>
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<td>19 Apr</td>
<td>Term 2 commences</td>
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FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

In wonderful conditions for a sports carnival the Interschool Athletics was held at Meningie Town Oval, last Thursday 18th March. Thanks to the great cooperation between the school, Coorong Council and community clubs of Football, Netball and Pony, the preparation and organisation of the day in the weeks leading up to the event meant that we were well and truly prepared. Our students participated well. We took out the Handicap Shield, the Sub Junior Pennant, Intermediate Pennant, as well as the Male athlete of the meet Rhys Marles and female athlete Amber Gibbs. Congratulations to all who competed and made this a great day for Meningie Area School and one we are really proud of.

There are so many people who helped in so many ways. From the school this really included the lead up work of Lisa Davis, supported by staff, John Hastings, and Geoff Halliday, who lined the oval and field spaces. The group of parents and older students who helped with the erection of the MOCA tent, borrowed from the clubs, providing much needed shade for the school team and the local clubs who facilitated catering for the crowd and the Pony Club who once again enabled us to use their facility for car parking. Several students helped out on the day and are worthy of special mention. Dale Appelkamp who ran record sheets to officials, Hannah Pittendreigh, who raked the long jumps and Jake Marles who helped out selling drinks with the Football Club. Many thanks. Further details of the day can be found within this edition.

Reports and Interviews. Throughout this week and next, Junior school class teachers R-Year 4 are holding interviews. Information about these and how to make a time was sent out. As the progress folder does not go

home in Term 1 this is an opportunity to engage in discussion with your child’s teacher about how he/she is progressing in learning. Middle and Senior school reports will go home at the end of term Information about follow up interviews will be in the report envelope. These interviews will be in Week 3 next term.

Diagnostic Review. In Week 2 of next term, the school will be engaging in a DECS review of Literacy. This is a great opportunity to have a team of people gather wide ranging data over a three day period from staff, students and parents/ caregivers, analysed and then used to identify things we do well as well as areas that can be improved on. If you or your child/children are selected to be involved in this process, a letter will be posted home with the details and a permission to participate request form for your signature.

The Gym Refurbishment. Next term is shaping up to be quite a busy one that will require a lot of flexibility cooperation and understanding on the part of teachers and students in particular for us to achieve some of our goals particularly with regard to the gym refurbishment which is a Federal Government, Building the Education Program with funding to $850,000. Only late this week we have been advised that the refurbishment of the hall/ gym is to begin in the holidays and proceed throughout the term. This is a major disruption especially for PE lessons, Music, and preparation for our Production. For a short amount of time the school canteen will also be out of use. While we have been working with the project manager and architects since December last year, we have never been certain of a start date. Now that we know, it means that next week the last week of term will be a busy one shifting gear to other spots in the school. Indeed there may need to be adjustments to student learning programs, in particular the sport program. Preparation for the major production will continue and it is envisaged that the hall upgrade may be completed by Week 10 of Term 2. When it is finished, we will have a wonderful facility with improved acoustics, new toilets, and canteen as well as updated music suite.

Over this next week, and again throughout next term we will be talking with students about the developments, changes to routines and most importantly, the rules and expectations required of them with workers on the site. As you will appreciate there are a number of protocols required to be observed by both our selves, our students and workers particularly about safety, and out of bounds areas as the gym becomes a work site, and interaction rules with workers. All of these things are important and will require a high degree of cooperation for the hall to be refurbished in good time.

Student Learning. I read a really interesting article last weekend about parenting and it had me thinking that some of the things the author was talking about are the sorts of things we talk about as teachers with regard
to students and their learning. I thought I would share these with you.

- Regular routine in a child/adolescents life is critical. This might be difficult at times because family life is often busy, but regularity of meals, bed time, homework, and chores is important. It sets patterns and develops predictability.
- Apparently eating early in the night is important, and particularly for teenager. Getting a good nights sleep is important for the brain so that learning that occurred during the day is processed and stored and can be recalled at a later date.
- Foods containing caffeine such as coffee, chocolate and energy drinks, do not make for a calm life. These are particularly bad at night and can interfere with the quality of sleep.
- Limiting options about what a child/children can do and being firm about what you expect makes for an orderly environment.
- Viewing TV, DVD, playing computer games, being on the internet, Facebook and chat lines all add up to much activity, and make it difficult for children and teenagers to wind down.
- Having firm parameters about what you expect within the home will support young people as the boundaries are clear, consistent and predictable, and in the long run limit potential conflicts.

We too at school have set boundaries, expectations, and rules. This makes for an orderly environment in which everyone has the best opportunity to learn. The teacher is the one who establishes this in the classroom. There is an expectation that students come to school and know that they will be required to work within the boundaries set. Parents/caregivers can support us by making sure that children understand that cooperation is expected, that instructions are followed without fuss. I raise this because increasingly some students are challenging these givens that make up our Code of Conduct, and it is an area that will be the focus for work as we move in to Term 2.

Governing Council.
We have had the following nominations for Governing Council and thank those people for their commitment. Disappointingly, few people attended the AGM and missed the presentation of the learning opportunities teachers use to engage students through the use of interactive white board technology. This presentation by Wendy Starling, Katrina Hood, and Vic Woolston gave a comprehensive insight into how worthwhile Governing Councils investment of $40,000 has been and just how we are keeping pace with technology resources in this community.

Junior School Assembly.
With Ms Giles class facilitating the assembly last week, classes in the Junior School confidently shared aspects of their work for the term to a large audience of parents and grandparents. We saw a number of items, as well as a series of scenarios acted out by Ms Giles showing ways students can use the Grievance Procedure and how to deal with bullying behaviour. Many people stayed on for morning tea and then spent time observing classes. We thank you for attending and look forward to many more such opportunities.

It has been a busy term. We are glad that the holiday break is here. On behalf of the staff I wish you all a safe and happy Easter and look forward to seeing students back on April 19th refreshed and in tune for learning.

**STRANGER DANGER**

The school has received some reports of a man trying to force girls and women into his car. We ask that any incidents of this nature are reported to the police immediately. We also suggest that you revisit the concept of “Stranger Danger” with your children and, in particular, reinforce that they do not enter the car of anybody that they do not know. Teachers are doing this in their classes across the school and if you are able to reinforce the same message, hopefully your children will respond in the appropriate manner.

**INTERSCHOOL ATHLETICS**

This year Meningie Area School was the host school for the Interschool Athletics Carnival. It was held in hot conditions at the Meningie town oval on Thursday 18th March. Students from Meningie, Coomandook/Coonalpyn, Tintinara/Karoonda and Keith competed.

Meningie had a great participation rate with just about every student who was selected in the team turning up and competing on the day, which was fantastic to see. The Meningie relay teams also ran superbly. As a consequence Meningie did very well. They were third in the overall shield on 2764 points, just behind Kanara who were second on 2747 points. Keith won the day on 2852 points.

The handicap competition was also very close. Meningie won the handicap shield by a mere 10 points, just ahead of Kanara. Meningie also won the Sub Junior and Intermediate handicap pennants and were second in the Senior division.

There were also some outstanding individual performances on the day. Amber Gibbs and Rhys Marles won several of their events throughout the day and as a result of their outstanding and consistent performance achieved the female and male athletes of the meet.

Many other Meningie students also achieved one or more first placings and as a result of their performances at the Interschool Competition several Meningie students from Years 8-12 were chosen in the USE team to compete at Santos Stadium in the SSSSA C Grade Championships. They are: Amber Gibbs, Marni Hood, Brigitte Botha, Dylan Richards, Jace Stephenson-Hoad, Alana Standley, Kenny Richards, Rhys Marles, Zac Vandenbrink, Daveena Wilson, Matt Austin, Justin Smart, Madison Wenske, Dylan Vandenbrink, Chris Biddle, Josh Edson.

I would like to express a big thank you to the following people:
- All the SSO staff and teachers who helped officiate at the event.
- The Meningie Football, Cricket and Pony Clubs for organising the catering and allowing us to use their facilities.
- Geoff Halliday and John Hastings for lining the track on the oval and the surrounding area for field events.
● Gill Biddle who officiated at the high jump, Judy Appelkamp who was track Marshall and Gwenda Eckert who was a place judge.
● Russell Starr for his help setting up and packing up equipment.
● The parents who helped set up the shades, particularly Dave Eckert, Neale Biddle and Bert Botha.
● Dale Appelkamp and Hannah Pittendreigh who assisted teachers with officiating on the day.
● Katrina Hood for setting up the Sports Track and scoring system.

Your help ensured a successful day of sport.

Lisa Davis

SSSSA SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Based on results from the Interschool Swimming Carnival, Dylan Vandenbrink, Zac Vandenbrink, Rhys Marles, Oliver Crossman, Marni Hood and Hannah Pittendreigh were chosen as part of the Upper South East team to compete in the D Grade SSSSA Swimming Carnival at the Adelaide Aquatics Centre in the evening of Monday 1st March. The students performed admirably with the following receiving certificates:

Dylan Vandenbrink
- 1st Open Boys 50m Backstroke Div 2
- 1st Open Boys 50m Freestyle Div 2
- 1st Open Boys 4x50m Medley Relay
- 2nd Open Boys 4x50m Freestyle
- 3rd Open Boys 100m Freestyle Div 1

Zac Vandenbrink
- 1st Open Boys 4x50m Medley Relay
- 2nd U/15 Boys 4x50m Freestyle
- 2nd U15 Boys 50m Freestyle Div 1
- 3rd U15 Boys 50m Backstroke Div 1

Oliver Crossman
- 3rd U/16 Boys 4x50m Freestyle

Rhys Marles
- 2nd Open Boys 4x50m Freestyle

Out of 8 teams, the USE Boys team again came 2nd (on 527 points) to the Mid North and the USE Girls team came 4th (on 434 points). First was Xavier College on 546 points.

Well done to all students.

Lisa Davis (P.E. Teacher)

SAPSASA SWIMMING

Congratulations to Hugh Mason who won a Silver Medal in the 10 year old boys 50m Breaststroke at the SAPSASA Country Swimming Championships which were held on Friday 19th March. This is a great achievement, particularly considering that Hugh also competed in seven events at the Interschool Athletics Carnival the day before.

Hugh also made the final of the 10 year old boys 50m freestyle and came 6th.

As a result of his outstanding performances Hugh has been given an invitation to attend the Australian Primary School Swimming Championships in Brisbane later in the year.

Lisa Davis P.E. Teacher

GERMAN NEWS

Guten Tag, liebe Eltern!

Wie geht’s?

Term 1 is drawing to an end and I hope you’ve had fun practising some conversational German together with your children.

In tune with the spirit of the times I am sharing with you some commonly used Easter greetings:

‘Frohe Ostern’ or ‘Fröhliche Ostern’ (Happy Easter)

Bis später, Veruschka Crichton
In Week 8 of Term One, as a part of their Physical Education curriculum and assessment, the Year 11’s (Justin Smart, Sam Bird and Stuart Harper) were involved in a 2 day snorkelling camp held at the Port Noarlunga Aquatic Centre. Over the two days the students learnt how to perform various snorkelling skills, such as duck diving, underwater swimming, hand signals, rescues and mask clearing. All students were well behaved and enjoyed themselves. They also performed excellently in their practical assessment.

The fine and calm conditions were absolutely perfect for snorkelling. Visibility was high and students were able to snorkel on the sea side of the reef as well as the beach side. They were able to see a large variety of ocean wildlife including a number of species of fish, squid, a dolphin and a sting ray. Students also had the opportunity to feed schools of fish.

A big thankyou to Russell Starr for his help transporting students to and from the Aquatic Centre and Aldinga Holiday Park where the group were staying.

_Lisa Davis (P.E. Teacher)_

Tech Studies is very short of rags. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. With thanks,

_Vic Woolston_