FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

The weather was certainly unseasonal last Wednesday 23rd of March when our Interschool competed at Karoonda. Braving wet and cold conditions our team of over 73 students supported by staff and parents competed well. While we did not bring home any of the shields or pennants this year, there were many fine examples of personal bests and broken records. Please see articles in this issue.

HARMONY DAY

Harmony Day activities were celebrated across the Junior School last Tuesday. This event was coordinated by Ms Anyupa Giles with the assistance of the Junior School staff. The day began with all students gathering in the Junior School shelter area, before being divided off into mixed age groups. Working on a rotation system all students got to experience a cultural aspect from a number of countries. There was Spanish Dancing, Irish Cooking, Danish card making, singing and dancing from New Zealand, Aboriginal carving, African Drumming and the hands of Harmony. A real highlight for me was the really caring and supportive way in which the older students worked with their younger siblings and children transitioning from the Kindy. Many thanks to everyone involved in a highly successful and fun day.

BUS SAFETY

Of late I have had our school bus drivers speak to me about the speed at which vehicle drivers overtake a stationary school bus in which children are either getting onto or off of. All our school buses, including those operated by a contractor, carry a large sign on the back indicating the symbol of a child and number 25. By law, a driver must not exceed 25km/h when passing in either direction, a school bus that has stopped for the purpose of setting down or picking up children. We seek your support in telling others. We believe that our school community parents and caregivers are aware of this law but not all drivers. Please spread the word.

Meningie Library will be CLOSED on this Saturday 2nd April 2011, due to asbestos on the school grounds. Persons are not permitted on the school grounds during the weekend of 2nd to 3rd April 2011, for Occupational Health and Safety reasons. Please keep this in mind for your safety.
NAPLAN (National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy)

The NAPLAN is a nationally developed program commissioned by the Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood development and Youth Affairs (MCEECDYA)

- NAPLAN tests are administered simultaneously across Australia and will be held at Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 on May 10th, 11th & 12 this year.
- The aspects of literacy assessed are reading, writing and language conventions (including spelling, punctuation and grammar)
- The aspects of numeracy assessed are number, algebra, function and pattern, measurement, chance and data and space.
- NAPLAN tests are another way of finding out what students can and cannot do so that support can be provided.
- Students do not have to learn specific skills for the NAPLAN tests, but they are given opportunity to become familiar with the style of testing and ways of showing their answers to question in lessons leading up to the tests.
- NAPLAN individual student reports show the achievement of an individual student in a series of bands against national minimal standards and a range of achievements for the middle 60% of students in Australia.
- NAPLAN individual student reports are expected to be ready for distribution to parents/caregivers in September.

As a school we find that the information NAPLAN gives us is important in our teaching and learning. We can use the information to target specific teaching and use it to look at intervention strategies for students at risk. It is a valuable tool and a process we encourage all of our students to participate in at Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

GOVERNING COUNCIL

The Governing Council AGM was held last Monday 21st March. Despite being widely advertised over the past few weeks attendance was poor. Daniel Moriarty from SAPOL was guest speaker and spoke about Cyber-Bullying and social networking. The information he gave was very informative for parents as well as teachers, as we are increasingly challenged by new ways of communicating and strategies to keep both our children and ourselves safe. I take this opportunity to thank Daniel for his time as our guest speaker.

I am pleased to welcome three new parents to Governing Council; Mrs Josie Lord, Ms Felicity Turner and Ms Zoe Moriarty.

Our first meeting of the new Council will be this next Monday evening April 4th, where election of office bearers will take place.

We really are moving towards the busy end of term. Week 9, as our Tem 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.

Please remember that if your child is absent on the last day of school, their report will be kept at the library to be collected from there during the holidays if you so wish.

Monica Williams

MISSING CLOTHING

Could parents/carers, especially those of Junior Primary students, please check cupboards, bags, etc. for any school uniform items that might have another child’s name on them?

There are new articles disappearing weekly from the school. Could you also instruct your children to look at their jumpers when they put them on to see if they have the right one?

Introduction to the School Community:
Jack Rowe

Only having graduated from Flinders University last year, I was lucky enough to be given the opportunity to teach Math and Phys Ed at Meningie AS from the start of this year.

Straight off the bat, the MAS staff have been incredible in guiding me throughout the start of the year, particularly with the challenges faced with school, and interschool, sports days and swimming carnivals. As one can imagine, the first 9 weeks or so have become somewhat of a blur, however, an experience that will serve as a true highlight is the welcoming nature of the school staff, students and local community – for this I’m both very thankful and grateful.

Hobbies and interests of mine include playing footy and cricket, kayaking, bike riding and running. I’m looking forward to the remainder of the term, and the rest of the year ahead.
STOP PRESS!!!

LATENESS

Lateness of students has once again become an issue at the school. There is a core group of students who are continually arriving late to school, often only by 5 to 10 minutes. This morning there were 17 students late for school between 8.45 and 9.00 am, and a further 3 who came in much later who are regularly late.

The school day begins at 8.45 a.m. It is important that students are here by this time and in class. At the start of the school day all classes have Home Group. This is a time when the teacher and students go through the daily routines. When students are late it makes it difficult for them to be ready and well prepared. There is no doubt that poor attendance and lateness impact on both individual and group learning. We all need to work hard on this, so that all students have access to positive learning outcomes.

SCHOLASTIC ORDERS

Scholastic Sale brochures were sent home with students earlier this week.

Orders and payment can be made at the book room until Tuesday 12th April 2011.

USE YR 8/9 KNOCKOUT CRICKET

The 8/9 Upper South East cricket team lost to Glossop on Thursday 24th March. It was a tough day for cricket, with more cold, windy and at times, wet conditions.

In a low scoring match, Glossop make 104 from their 30 over’s. The USE boys bowled and fielded very well (taking some really good catches) to keep them to this score.

Unfortunately, we could only manage 81 in reply.

Best with ball: Sam Sanders 2/23, Gus Livingstone 1/9, Harry Gilbertson 1/11.

Best with bat: Scott Biddle 19, Harry Gilbertson 13, Tyson Kennett 13 not out.

The boys worked really well as a team and supported each other throughout both games.

Ben Holbrook (Tintinara Area School USE rep)

LOST:

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

INTERSchool ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

The 2011 USE Interschool Athletics Carnival was held in cold, wet and blustery conditions at Karoonda on Thursday 23rd March. Students from Meningie, Coomandook/Coonalpyn, Tintinara/Karoonda and Keith competed.

Meningie had a reasonable participation rate with most of the students who were selected in the Meningie team turning up and competing on the day. Due to the conditions however, the long jump, triple jump and high jump were cancelled early in the meet. The competition was quite close with only 300 points separating 1st and 3rd. Keith won the day on 2278.5 points, Kanara came 2nd with 2098.5 points, Coomandook finished 3rd with 1966.5 points and Meningie was 4th with 1766.5 points.

The handicap shield was won by Coomandook, with Kanara coming 2nd, Keith 3rd and Meningie 4th.

There were also some outstanding individual performances on the day with several students achieving one or more first placings. 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: Marni Hood, Tamika Williams, Amber Gibbs, Rhys Marles, Matt Austin, Kenny Richards, Clinton Walker, Trae Rigney, Adele Pittendreigh, Mikayla Smart, Hannah Pittendreigh and Dylan Vandenberg.

A big thank you to all the staff, parents and teachers who helped officiate at the event.

Jack Rowe (PE Teacher)

MEMORABLE MOMENTS

Interschool Athletics this year was held at Karoonda Area School and the weather was very challenging. The wind and rain certainly challenged everyone there: athletes, students, teachers, parents, caregivers and helpers alike. As the teacher doing the marshalling in the house bay, I realize how difficult getting out in the cold and competing was for students. Most students participated well and encouraged the efforts of others.
There were many memorable moments during the day. Some that I particularly was encouraged by were the efforts of Kenny Richards running the 100 and 200 metre events. Kenny won the Open Boys 100 metre event and was a ‘dead heat’ for winning the 200 metre race. Another senior student who worked as an outstanding example to others was Hayley Shaw. Hayley travelled to Karoonda to compete in one event, and she also volunteered and competed in many more events, as other students didn’t show up, competing competitively and fairly. Many thanks to Hayley and students like her for being a positive part of the Meningie Area School community and having a go.

One highlight of the day was the history-making relay of the Intermediate boys. To my knowledge, this was the first relay team consisting of four Aboriginal boys that won a relay race at Interschool. Congratulations to Kyale Rigney, Liam Rigney, Clinton Walker and Trae Rigney on their outstanding runs. The boys ran a motivated and fast race for Meningie Area School. All of these boys competed in their events and were a great example to others in dedication and determination. Congratulations to Mikayla Smart for winning the 200 metre and so qualifying for the Upper South East team. Tamika Williams and Marni Hood also qualified for the Team in the U16 100 metres and the High Jump respectively. Amber Gibbs qualified for the 400 metre, 800 metre and high jump on the day also. Well Done!

Due to the weather most jumping events were cancelled for the day, so school athletics day results from all of the school involved were used to pick the secondary Upper South East team for SANTOS. Congratulations to Clinton Walker for qualifying for the team in the Triple Jump and High Jump. Other team selections will be made known to the students and their families shortly. For Primary School Students, SAPSASA selections will be made by Mr Rowe and these notes will be arriving home soon to those students who have been selected.

Many thanks to the students, teachers, parents/caregivers and supporters in making the day a success - even though it was cold and wet.

Anne Wright

**YEAR 5/6 SCIENCE**

In Science this term Mrs Wright’s 5/6 class has been cooking, doing weaving, doing frog craft, and planting. With the planting the first thing that we did was dig up stinky worms that were in cow manure from Mrs. Wright’s dairy farm. Then after getting down and dirty the class was ready to plant the plants. Mrs. Wright went to some plant shops and bought big garden beds, tiles and seedlings. The seedlings were watermelon, silver beet, onions, passion fruit, turnips, corn, beetroot, lemons, rocket, beans, peas and even more.

Then we went up to the AG block and got some straw and compost which the grounds-man Mr. Halliday helped us get. Now our seeds have sprouted and the garden is looking very colourful.

Also the worms are going well and once every two days they get fed scarp from our class and the classes nearby, and they get the cloth on top of them wet every two days as well.

**By Brittany (Year 6)**

**STUDYING PLANTS**

This year the year 5/6 class has been studying plants. We have been doing many activities.

We have been growing seeds in cotton wool in the classroom we made soup, spaghetti, with tomatoes. We made a garden but first we had to go to Mrs. Wright’s farm to collect worms to get good soil. Then we got tubs beds at the plant shop but the groundsman was helping us then we went to the ag block to get tools like a rake, shovel to level the garden so we can put seeds in it and we sit up into 5 groups so we get heaps of vegetables then we put the soil and the worms in each tub and Mr. Halliday helped us with that and then we put the seeds plants in there and now there getting bigger we have a sprinkler in there so we can water them but one person from our class gets to do that and Mrs. Wright gives us seeds for treasure picks and we also done science experiments with a plant and when that got bigger we planted it in the garden to see if it gets bigger.

**By Dwayne Shaw (Year 6)**

In our 5/6 science class we have been making a veggie garden.

First we chose a spot and prepared it. Then Mrs Wright ordered some tubs to put the cow manure in. When the tubs came, we placed them into groups of five. After that, we went up to the Ag shed and got a trailer full of cow manure. We got all the cow manure and filled up the tubs. Then the next science lesson we had we got in a bus and Miss Hood drove to Miss Wright’s farm. When we got there we all filled up four buckets of worms so make a worm farm. We filled up all the buckets of worms and came back to school. We put a piece of cardboard under a tub and then tipped the worms in. We split into five groups and went out there and started planting some seeds. There was some sweet corn, strawberries, snow peas, beetroot, beans and watermelon. After we planted, we walked back up to the shed and got some big handfuls of hay and spread it all over the ground. Mrs Wright ordered some leaf foot paths. Now we are all waiting for them to grow. In class Emma, Brittany, Sharnee, Aimee and I made some spaghetti, because our class picked a whole bunch of tomatoes from our shed and washed them. Emma and I gave some to Miss Giles. This term has been really fun in science and looking forward to next term.

**By Aleisha Williams (Year 6)**
SUPERANIMATION/CLAYMATI
ON HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

Create your own super hero tale! Come and learn how to create your own short films using animation, claymation and mobile phone techniques. Films will be based on the idea of developing your own superhero character and tale.

Guest artist professional animator and film maker Fiona Perceval (AFTRS) will lead intensive holiday workshops in editing, character and set model making, sound design, and story boarding.

Ages: 7 – 13 + years
When: 18-21 April, 10-4pm
How much: $15! (You’re crazy!) per day
Where: RYT, Renmark Insitutue, 54 Ral Ral Ave, Renmark
Contact: 08 85863437 or admin@ryt.org.au to book your place.

TEAM SAILING

It was our pleasure to host the Regional Schools Team Sailing regatta on Thursday and Friday 17th and 18th March at Victor Harbor.

We are particularly biased about the benefits of this sport but it is worth reciting these to you. This sport is a great leveller in that it allows boys and girls, rich and poor, to compete equally. It involves team work, communication, tactics, physical skill, courage, sacrifice, cooperation and healthy competition.

It brings kids from the Region together where they are able to compete safely, meet others with similar aspirations and goals, and test themselves against their peers.

In particular we all recognised that the Meningie students were raw beginners in this event due to circumstances way beyond their control. That they were willing to take a leap of faith and come to this event is a great testament to their courage. They were beaten on the score board but not in the contest.

We hope that they had a wonderful time, learned heaps and can act as the pioneers of the next generation of sailors from your school. I think the key word here is pioneers. They have the opportunity to do something unique and that is to lead the way for others. Not many of us can truly say “we were the first” but these kids can do that.

Good luck to them and to Vic and to all of the staff for a successful return to water.

Barry Jagger
Victor Harbor Sailing Club

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 hose 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