FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

Next week beginning Tuesday 15th May and concluding Thursday 16th May students across Australia in years 3, 5, 7, & 9 will sit the National Assessment Program Literacy & Numeracy (NAPLAN). In the weeks leading up to this students at Meningie Area School have engaged in a number of tasks and activities in preparation for the type of tests they will sit. In particular there has been a focus on the Non – Fiction writing. This is an argument. Teachers have made sure that students have had opportunity to learn about understand the structure of this genre, and the language features used in this kind of writing. Non – Fiction writing is a focus of literacy development both here at Meningie Area School as well as across the Murray and Mallee region.

Past NAPLAN tests and resources developed have been used by teachers to give students practice in time management as well as skill in understanding the types of questions that they are required to do.

NAPLAN data provides parents, students, and teachers with useful information to more closely differentiate the learning for students and inform teachers work. We seek parent and caregivers support in making sure that your child or children are at school on these days to sit the tests, and arrive in good time. Every effort will be made to provide catch up sessions for children who may be away on a given day. This will be done so that it complies with NAPLAN guidelines.

Staff Development

A constant feature of our work as teachers is Training and Development. As you are aware the implementation of the new Australian Curriculum has begun, and teachers are using it this year in English, Maths, Science and History. Training for teachers takes many forms, including whole school student free days, meetings of clusters of teachers across the district or at state level and sessions at our own site after students leave at the end of the day.

Katrina Hood is Maths Facilitator for the Murray Mallee Region working mainly with the Coorong and Murray Bridge Clusters. As well as working with our teachers here at Meningie, Katrina works with schools in the region in Math Curriculum. On Friday 8th June, the first of our Student free days, Katrina will lead teacher training and development in Maths. We are fortunate to have Katrina working in this capacity, with our staff and students benefiting from her expertise and opportunities in developing skills.

Throughout this term, and as part of our staff meetings on a Tuesday night, staff will continue to work on topics that relate to our Site Improvement Plan. Topics such as use of data from test, and non – fiction writing will be a feature of these sessions.

Parent Teacher student Interviews

Thank you all parents and caregivers for your prompt return of Middle/ Senior School report envelopes. This has enabled Mrs Lorraine Williss to organise interviews quickly. Information has gone out in the post. We seek your response, so that changes can be made where necessary. Interviews are seen by teachers as an important part of the reporting process, and to keep in contact with parents and caregivers.
**TAX FILE NUMBERS**

Students who are planning on working part-time during the holidays are reminded that they will need to apply for a TFN before the end of Week 6, otherwise they may not get their TFN before they start work.

Please see the school front office for a form.

Sheree Johns  
Client Education & Assistance | Waymouth | ME&I  
Australian Taxation Office  
Phone: (08) 8208 1263 Facsimile: (08) 8208 1600

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**WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL DAY**

**Friday 18th May**

Why it's good to walk to school?

*It’s Fun – you can meet friends and see things you would miss in a car.*

*It’s good for the environment.*

*It’s a healthier alternative than driving.*

- Cars are responsible for nearly one fifth (1/5) of household greenhouse gas emissions.
- Half of all car journeys are only 3km.
- Walking just half (1/2) km everyday to school saves about 500kg of greenhouse pollution every year.

Did you know that one step uses 200 muscles! and you use 17 to smile. So walk to school smiling.

**Please remember the following**

Cross the road at the designated school crossing

Stop – Look – Listen and Think before you cross the road

Hold onto an Adult's hand when crossing the road

Walk don’t run.

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**DANCE-A-THON**

On Friday 25th May the senior girls of Danceation from Meningie and Coonalpyn will be participating in a 12 hour fundraising Dance-a-Thon for the McGrath Foundation. This will be held at the Meningie Lions Park from 6:00am to 6:00pm. Please feel free to come and support the girls. Any donations will be greatly appreciated. These girls are dancing for a good cause as there are people being diagnosed with some form of cancer in our local community and the surrounding districts. So let’s support the McGrath Foundation together. Hope to see everyone there.  

Tamika Williams

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**SOUTHERN CROSS CULTURAL EXCHANGE**

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

Southern Cross cultural Exchange is seeking volunteer families to host high school students from France, Spain and Italy. The French students arrive on the 10th June and the Spanish and Italians arrive on the 14th July. All students are coming for 11 weeks. Hosting can be fun and you will make some child on the other side of the world very happy that you have chosen them.

The benefits of hosting include:
- Introducing your family to another culture
- Making lifelong international friends
- Sharing our Australian culture and lifestyle.

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  
Phone: 08 8556 2208 or toll free 1800 500 501  
Fax: 08 8556 2209  
Email: jeh1313@bidpond.net.au

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**PREMIERS ANZAC PRIZE**

Every year 8 South Australian students from Years 9 and 10 are chosen to represent the state at the Anzac Day ceremony in Villers-Bretonneux in France. The students involved also have a tour of the Western Front which is a shorter version of what we do with Connecting Spirits. To be selected for this honour students must prepare a presentation on a World War 1 service person from South Australia. For more details you can see Mr. Jurgs or go to the website - www.decd.sa.gov.au/teachingandlearning/pages/Anzac/anzacprize/. I am happy to provide support for any student who wishes to participate in this project.  

Mr. Jurgs
2012 marks the centenary of the birth of Alan Turing, noted for his significant contributions to mathematics and computer science. Turing is remembered particularly for leading the code-breaking teams of Bletchley Park during World War II and the subsequent cracking of the Enigma Code. This year, National Mathematics Day activities focus on codes and code breaking.

Here is one for you to try:

1.  ง๑ ง๒ ง๓ ง๔ ง๕ ง๖ ง๗ ง๘ ง๙ ง๑๐ ง๑๑ ง๑๒ ง๑๓ ง๑๔ ง๑๕ ง๑๖ ง๑๗ ง๑๘ ง๑๙ ง๒๐ ง๒๑ ง๒๒ ง๒๓ ง๒๔ ง๒๕ ง๒๖ ง๒๗ ง๒๘ ง๒๙ ง๓๐ ง๓๑ ง๓๒ ง๓๓ ง๓๔ ง๓๕ ง๓๖ ง๓๗ ง๓๘ ง๓๙ ง๔๐ ง๔๑ ง๔๒ ง๔๓ ง๔๔ ง๔๕ ง๔๖ ง๔๗ ง๔๘ ง๔๙ ง๕๐ ง๕๑ ง๕๒ ง๕๓ ง๕๔ ง๕๕ ง๕๖ ง๕๗ ง๕๘ ง๕๙ ง๖๐ ง๖๑ ง๖๒ ง๖๓ ง๖๔ ง๖๕ ง๖๖ ง๖๗ ง๖๘ ง๖๙ ง๗๐ ง๗๑ ง๗๒ ง๗๓ ง๗๔ ง๗๕ ง๗๖ ง๗๗ ง๗๘ ง๗๙ ง๘๐ ง๘๑ ง๘๒ ง๘๓ ง๘๔ ง๘๕ ง๘๖ ง๘๗ ง๘๘ ง๘๙ ง๙๐ ง๙๑ ง๙๒ ง๙๓ ง๙๔ ง๙๕ ง๙๖ ง๙๗ ง๙๘ ง๙๙

2.  ง๑ ง๒ ง๓ ง๔ ง๕ ง๖ ง๗ ง๘ ง๙ ง๑๐ ง๑๑ ง๑๒ ง๑๓ ง๑๔ ง๑๕ ง๑๖ ง๑๗ ง๑๘ ง๑๙ ง๒๐ ง๒๑ ง๒๒ ง๒๓ ง๒๔ ง๒๕ ง๒๖ ง๒๗ ง๒๘ ง๒๙ ง๓๐ ง๓๑ ง๓๒ ง๓๓ ง๓๔ ง๓๕ ง๓๖ ง๓๗ ง๓๘ ง๓๙ ง๔๐ ง๔๑ ง๔๒ ง๔๓ ง๔๔ ง๔๕ ง๔๖ ง๔๗ ง๔๘ ง๔๙ ง๕๐ ง๕๑ ง๕๒ ง๕๓ ง๕๔ ง๕๕ ง๕๖ ง๕๗ ง๕๘ ง๕๙ ง๖๐ ง๖๑ ง๖๒ ง๖๓ ง๖๔ ง๖๕ ง๖๖ ง๖๗ ง๖๘ ง๖๙ ง๗๐ ง๗๑ ง๗๒ ง๗๓ ง๗๔ ง๗๕ ง๗๖ ง๗๗ ง๗๘ ง๗๙ ง๘๐ ง๘๑ ง๘๒ ง๘๓ ง๘๔ ง๘๕ ง๘๖ ง๘๗ ง๘๘ ง๘๙ ง๙๐ ง๙๑ ง๙๒ ง๙๓ ง๙๔ ง๙๕ ง๙๖ ง๙๗ ง๙๘ ง๙๙

Monday afternoon the 7th of May we planted seedlings and seeds in our garden in the Junior School area. Justin Brooks and I planted carrot seeds. The other groups planted brussel sprouts, cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower seedlings. Jake Ashenden and Dylan Gubbin planted carrot seeds too. The bell for home time went while we watered our vegies.

In the mornings the garden managers are checking our plants to see if they need to be watered, if the plants or the weeds are growing and any bugs are crawling in our seedlings. 

Dylan Gibbs - 4/5 Giles
BUTTERFLY GARDENING

Have you noticed the changes in front of the School Hall?

Last year, the school was fortunate enough to receive an NRM Community Grant to establish a native Butterfly Garden in this area. The project aims to create a native habitat that encourages the presence of up to 8 different butterfly species. The eastern side of the bus bay was planted down in September last year with the assistance of the Coorong LAP, Junior Primary Classes and several staff, parent and community volunteers.

The next section (the western side) is due to be planted down in the coming weeks. We are organising a working bee soon where we hope to plant out the remaining area, and put some paths through the garden to retain accessibility to the flagpoles. We are also hoping to update some of the fence/screen areas around the front of the school hall. The date for this will be advised (once the area has been cleared and fill added) through either the school newsletter or a note home, and we hope that everyone can bring a shovel, come along and help out in finishing this project.

To learn more about butterfly gardening, the school has purchased a book and DVD on “Attracting butterflies to your garden”. It has been made available to borrow through the community library.

PARENTING SUPPORT IN 21ST CENTURY

Are you a parent? Do you use social media? If so we want you!

The researchers at The University of Queensland are interested in finding out parents’ preferences for parenting information and support, and their use of different information sources including online support and social media like Facebook and Twitter. The survey is part of a research project designed to find ways to improve information and advice services for parents. Participation will be anonymous and data will only be accessed by the research team.

If you are a parent who is willing to share your thoughts we’d love to you to participate in this study! For more information or to participate go to http://psy.uq.edu.au/21c

YOUNG ENDEAVOUR YOUTH SCHEME

The Young Endeavour Youth Scheme is accepting applications for Australian youth to join voyages in the sail training ship Young Endeavour between July and December 2012.

A voyage in the Young Endeavour is an exciting and unique experience for youth to develop skills for life. The internationally recognised development program increases self-awareness and confidence, develops teamwork and leadership skills and fosters a strong sense of community amongst participants.

No sailing experience is required and all young Australians aged 16 – 23 can apply. Further information on voyage dates, ports of call, voyage fees and eligibility is available at www.youngendeavour.gov.au
**ASTHMA FOUNDATION NEWS**

Prevalence of asthma is known to be significantly higher for people living in regional areas and South Australia has the highest rate of hospital admission for asthma per capita in Australia.

The Asthma Foundation SA strongly recommends that people with asthma, who have been prescribed a puffer, should always be taking their medication through a spacer. This will ensure a better delivery of the medication in to the lungs.

A spacer is a clear plastic container with a mouthpiece or mask at one end and a hole for a puffer at the other.

When a puffer is used directly into the mouth, it can increase the local side effects of inhaled steroids in medications, because more of the medication will stick in your mouth and throat.

If someone is having trouble breathing, using a spacer will enable them to get up to 90% more medication in to their lungs.

For more information call the Asthma Foundation SA ‘Breathe Better’ Information Line on 1800 645130.

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**MENINGIE CHEESE FACTORY MUSEUM**

The members of the Meningie Cheese factory Museum think that there should be more emphasis on helping our young people know about the past - how grandma and Grandpa coped with things in their time and used the appliances and or methods of the day.

Accordingly the Museum is concentrating on some of these things at this years Open Day, which is part of History S.A. Month in S.A.. Just how did Grandma do the washing and ironing, heat the water, cut hair and many, many other seemingly ordinary tasks? How did Grandpa shave, or did he simply let his hair grow and trim with scissors occasionally?

Some of the above will be demonstrated (with live models) on Sunday 27th May 2012 at 3, Fiebig Road, Meningie; the old Cheese factory site.

The volunteers want young people to come and observe what they see and hear about all these processes. School children of any age and any school are invited to come to the Open Day.

As an incentive entry is free for all students on the day and additionally a complementary certificate of Junior Membership of the Museum for all attendees will be issued. This is valid from 1.7.12 to 30.6.13.

The day begins at 10.30am and a cup of soup awaits your arrival.

Bring Dad and Mum, Grandma and Grandpa too, if they are able and perhaps some of their memories will be stirred.

It is good not to miss an opportunity like this to experience some of the past.

*John Boundy, Publicity Officer*

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**LOST**

If anyone finds a Cisco silver flip camera, could they please return it to the school front office. It will be marked with a Meningie Area School barcode and engraved. It may be still be in a blue camera bag.