PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

At long last our Web site has gone on-line.

In this envelope, along with the Newsletter, is a letter addressed to all parents and caregivers with our Web address. We wanted to ensure that all families have this information so have posted out this edition of the Newsletter. We are aware that the fortnightly newsletter does not always get home. From now you will be able to click on to the web address for Meningie Area School and find out the latest in news, events and reports.

The web site will not be static. It will be regularly updated and expanded so that families can be kept up to date. I appreciate the amount of work that has gone into the web site development over the past few months. Without the consistent work of Mal Jurgs in this regard we may still be waiting. Mal launched the site at Governing Council meeting Monday 12th May. Many thanks for your persistence Mal.

We are really keen to know if the web site provides both interesting and valuable information.

Constructive feedback is welcome so that we can make it a valuable communication tool.

NAPLAN

What a marathon week it has been for the students in Years 3, 5, 7 & 9. With the media attention that the first National Literacy and Numeracy tests have attracted this week, I am sure that everyone is aware of just what students have gone through.

Staffing

Congratulations to Vic Woolston who won the leadership position as Middle School Manager, which he took up at the beginning of this term. He will be in this contract role until the end of the year. For parents of students in the Middle School issues can be directed to Vic. One of his many responsibilities in this role is Student Behaviour Management. Vic has had to relinquish some of his teaching in taking up this role. Maureen Lewis has taken up some of Vic’s classes for the remainder of the semester. Additionally, both Maureen and Di March have picked up Denice Mason’s teaching commitments. Denice is on Long Service Leave until the end of the term and is doing some overseas travel.

Parent/Teacher Interviews

From Monday 19th May to Wednesday 21st May we are holding parent/teacher interviews for middle and senior school students. Some parents have requested an interview using the space provided on the report envelope and some teachers have requested interviews through Term 1 reports.

Letters have been sent home about interviews assigned to your child/ren and we asked that you reply by Friday 16th May. If you were not able to do this by Friday, please contact the teacher through a diary note to arrange a mutually convenient meeting time.

Monica Williams
GOVERNING COUNCIL

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome and thank all parents, staff and students who have nominated to be part of the Governing Council Committee for 2008.

Governing Council and Resources Meetings were held on Monday 12th May and the following were elected:

Chairperson – Judy Appelkamp
Vice Chairperson – Jeff Wright
Minute Secretary – Margaret Clarke
Treasurer – Committee members – Gill Biddle, David Eckert, Judy Pearce, Bev Thorpe, Wayne Wenske, Michelle Rowe, Marietta Botha, Margaret Clarke, Anyupa Giles, Monica Williams, Mal Jurgs, SRC Rep. and Mayor Councillor Roger Strother.

It is important to have parent, staff and student input as a school needs the support from all areas of the school community.

Mal Jurgs officially launched our new school website, and demonstrated its many options and opportunities to display many facets of our school community.

A small sub-committee was also formed to investigate and research strategies to better save, store and re-use water within our school for irrigation purposes, and apply for grants from the Commonwealth Government to support this project.

The next Governing Council Core Planning Meeting is on Monday 25th May at 8.00 pm and the next Resources Meeting is on Monday 16th June at 8.00 pm.

Judy Appelkamp, Chairperson

CONNECTING SPIRITS FUNDRAISER

Boobook Spice Blends

The current Connecting Spirits fundraiser is sales of ‘Boobook’ spice blends. Order menu/brochures will be sent home with students on Monday.

Simple to prepare, made from entirely natural ingredients and free from preservatives, colours or fillers, these should make some easy and warming dishes for the cold months ahead.

Prices are $5.50 per blend, or buy 4 or more and pay $5.00 per blend. Orders with payment are due back by Thursday 5th June (Week 6).

LIBRARY NEWS

Premier’s Reading Challenge

Parents! Premier’s Reading Challenge for students is continuing for another 3 years. Encourage your child to complete 12 books before September to be recognised for their next award.

The next three medals which will follow on from gold are:

- Premier’s Reading Challenge Champion Medal from 2008
- Premier’s Reading Challenge Legend Medal from 2009
- Premier’s Reading Challenge Hall of Fame Medal 2010

Keep up the reading! Remember, only 8 books need to be from the list; 4 can be of your child’s choice.

National Simultaneous Storytelling Day

Next Wednesday 21st May is National Simultaneous Storytelling Day. At 11.30 am our school is celebrating with all of Australia, reading Amanda Graham’s “Arthur”.

Arthur has been in paperback for 20 years. Our reading of Arthur will be followed by activities for Years R-5. Earlier, at 11am, the community is invited for a reading in the library. A 15 minute session will give the opportunity for mums to bring toddlers and preschoolers into the library and also check out our books, videos and toy library.

Margaret Clark, Teacher-Librarian

LOST PROPERTY

There are many and various items in the Lost Property department in the Junior School wet area.

Items include:

- Towels:
  - 2 x red
  - 2 x different multi coloured
  - 1 x brown
  - 1 x red, green and purple
  - 1 x cream and brown with a picture on it

- Jumpers:
  - Many school jumpers
  - 1 x greeny/brown knitted Billabong Size 14
  - Other jumpers

- Miscellaneous:
  - 1 x sleeping bag – brown, yellow and red
  - 1 x rash vest - Wave Zone Size 7
  - 1 x rash vest - blue Superman
  - Shorts
  - Hats (including a new slouch hat)

Items not collected by the 21st May will be taken to the 2nd Time Round shop to be for sale.
SCHOOL SPORT

SAPSASA Athletics Country Championships

Last term a number of students from Meningie Area School attended the Murray Mallee District Athletics Team selection day at Lameroo Regional Community School. Seven students from Meningie Area School were chosen to represent the Murray Mallee District at the Athletics Country Championships, which were held at Santos Stadium on Friday 9th May 2008. They were: Adele Pittendreigh (High Jump, Relay), Sam Sanders (Shotput), Marni Hood (High Jump, Long Jump, Relay), Rhys Marles (High Jump, Long Jump, 100m), Tamika Williams (100m, 200m, Long Jump), Alana Standley (Discus, Shot put) and Brigitte Botha (Long Jump).

All of the students performed credibly at the Championships with three students achieving a top three finish. Rhys Marles won a gold medal in the 13yr old boys High Jump with a leap of 1.53m and finished fourth in the Long Jump. Brigitte Botha improved her best in the long jump to 3.71m and snatched a bronze medal in the 12yr old girls Long Jump, just a few centimetres ahead of Marni Hood who finished fourth. Marni’s jump of 1.39m also won her a bronze medal in the 12yr old girls High Jump. Other students who performed well were Tamika Williams who came seventh in the final of the 13yr old girls 100m and 6th in the Long Jump, Adele Pittendreigh who come 7th in the 11yr old girls High Jump and Alana Standley who came 5th in the 13yr old girls shot put.

Overall the Murray Mallee district finished 11th. It is great to see so many students doing well in such a variety of events. Thankyou to all the parents who helped transport students to the venue and who officiated on the day. Your assistance ensured another successful day of sport.

8/9 Boys Knockout Football

On Tuesday 6th May 2008 the following Year 8 and 9’s from Meningie Area School combined with other Upper South East schools to play against Unity College and Murray Bridge High School in the first round of the 8/9 Boys Knockout Football Competition which was held at Murray Bridge.

Hayden Biddle, Ben Gibbs, Tim Halliday, Jarrad Thorpe, Josh Wright, Matt Miller, Mitch Reichelt and Dylan VandenBrink

The students played well in their first match against Unity despite having had no practice with each other before the day and were only narrowly beaten. Unfortunately several players from the USE team were unable to play in the second match due to injuries they sustained, which left the USE team a bit depleted. Murray Bridge were a strong side and went on to convincingly beat both the USE team and Unity and progress to the next round.

Thanks must go to Mrs Bev Thorpe and Mr Neale Biddle for transporting students to the venue and ensuring a successful day of sport.

Upper South East Cross Country Championships

On Friday 2nd May students from Meningie, Coomandook, Tintinara and Keith gathered at the Meningie Sailing Club to compete in the inaugural Upper South East Cross Country Championships. The competition was open to those students 10 years and older. It ran from the Sailing Club, down Hyde Avenue, past the Waterfront Motel where students turned onto the lakefront and run back along the beach to the Sailing Club. Those students doing the 3km then had to do an extra loop down towards the Lions Park.

Although numbers were down, Meningie supported the event very well and we had around 30 students participate. All in all it was a good day and the students were very well behaved. Some outstanding performances by the Meningie students were:

Maddison O’Connell – First 10 Yr Old Girls
George Angas – First 11 Yr Old Boys
Montana Wenske – First 11 Yr Old Girls
Amber Gibbs – First 13 Yr Old Girls
Caitlin Gemmell – First 14 Yr Old Girls

Kane Mason, Tessa Bagshaw, Dillion Gemmell, Sophia Flanagan, Dylan Richards, Brigitte Botha, Rhys Marles, Samara Gemmell, Dylan VandenBrink, Madison Wenske and Tim McKenzie-Campbell also came second in their respective age groups and Meningie won several team awards.

As a result of their performances some students will now be invited to participate in the South Australian Schools Cross Country Championships in Adelaide on Friday May 30th.

This event would not have run without the help of many people. The School would like to thank the Sailing Club...
for allowing us to use their facilities, Kim Bird, Kym-Lea Angas, Michelle Rowe, Angela Mason and Wendy VandenBrink for their assistance with officiating on the day, Sarah Chandler for looking after the Meningie Area School Team, Katrina Hood, Russell Starr and John Hastings for their work setting up and assisting on the day and Mal Jurgs and the Connecting Spirits team for providing us with a BBQ. The work of many ensured another successful day of sport.

Lisa Davis, PE Teacher

NEW ANGLES IN MATHS

Last week I had the opportunity to be involved in The New Angles on Mathematics Expo which was held on Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th of May 2008 at AAMI Stadium and The Lakes Resort at West Lakes.

The Expo was the culmination of the collective learning in the Maths for Learning Inclusion Program which has worked with 42 primary schools across the state, with approximately two hundred teachers and two thousand students over the last two and a half years.

The Maths for Learning Inclusion Program (M4LI) is a South Australian initiative aimed at improving maths curriculum and pedagogy particularly in the primary years. The program aims to improve the learning experiences and outcomes for all students but particularly those from low socio-economic and /or Aboriginal backgrounds. While the program focuses on years 3-5, our school and many others have successfully adapted across the early and middle years.

At the Expo, AAMI Stadium was the "home" site where each of the cluster had a room where they displayed various aspects of their learning in the projects and conducted various workshops.

The EXPO themes were:
All students achieving
Challenging and engaging curriculum
Professional learning communities
Improvement informed by evidence

There were also presentations featuring Dr Julia Atkin, Dr Thelma Perso, Dr Di Siemon, Professor Doug Clarke, Sandra Knox, and Matt Skoss,

As part of the M4LIMurraylands Cluster, Belinda Branford and I presented Workshops sharing successful, practical teaching and learning strategies. Belinda’s was on making maths games beyond snakes & ladders which impressed the learning inclusion team last year and are being displayed on the DECS website. I presented a session on running class, school and cluster based quizzes and how you can adapt a game such as Jeopardy to challenge student learning & information retention.

There was also a Maths in Practice Trail which provided opportunities to fill a show bag with Maths ideas and activities to take away and start using in their classroom immediately.

All teachers of mathematics found the Expo offered a range of relevant, engaging and challenging teaching and learning strategies to use in their classrooms.

Katrina Hood, Junior School Coordinator

Aus-kick has now started at the Meningie Football Oval on Thursday nights at 4.30pm. Register on the day. Cost is $35 and this includes a backpack and football. Any enquiries call Chris Rowett on 0429 161447.