TERM 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 6</th>
<th>29 May</th>
<th>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; Kindy Transition visit 8.45 – 3.20 pm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29 – 31 May</td>
<td>Salvo’s School Challenge</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 May</td>
<td>Library Board Meeting 4pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 May</td>
<td>Cross Country event at Oakbank</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week 7</th>
<th>5 June</th>
<th>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; Kindy Transition visit 8.45 – 3.20 pm</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 June</td>
<td>Music Rehearsal at Murray Bridge High</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 June</td>
<td>Music rehearsal &amp; Performance at Murray Bridge High</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 June</td>
<td>USE Basketball tournament at Keith</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 June</td>
<td>STUDENT FREE DAY</td>
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FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

We are at the half way mark of Term 2 and almost at the conclusion of the first semester. This means different things for both teachers and students across the school. In the middle and senior school the teaching program in most subjects will be coming to an end so students may have a number of assignments or assessment tasks to complete for end of term reports. This can be quite a stressful time for both teachers and students, especially where there have been long periods of, or inconsistent, absence from school.

QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

That “the learning environment devises programmes that demand hard work and challenge (from both teachers and students) without excessive overload” was just one of the indicators discussed at the recent Leaders Professional Development Meetings I attended last week at Renmark and affirms for me as the leader at Meningie Area School that we are on the right track in terms of effective teaching and high expectations. At almost every staff meeting throughout the term an aspect of the meeting is given to Professional Development. For some time our focus has been on the features of quality teaching and learning. What the indicators of an effective teacher are provoked much discussion two weeks ago, and challenges all of us to improve our craft as well as the achievements of students.

The teachers at Meningie Area School strive to provide programs that are meaningful, challenging and focused on having students build on their skills, knowledge and understanding. We have a whole school approach to Reading and Non–Fiction texts, and much of our work in Teacher Development is focused on these two areas of literacy. At a Middle / Senior School Staff meeting recently, we examined the kind of Reading tasks that we ask students to do across the curriculum in Year 6-12 and collected some data about this. When analysed, the follow four reading goals were identified as those that teachers most often see as the purpose of the reading activity in their subject.

- To understand, interpret and evaluate information (both literal and inferential) within the text be it a report, a visual text, a persuasive piece or an evaluation
- To extend vocabulary and build topic specific language
- To support understanding by looking at the text structure and the features of language
- To understand how visual images contribute to the meaning of text.

The most frequent types of tasks teachers are asking students to do are:

- To be able to skim and scan to find specific information in the text.
- To be able to read independently.
- To be able to use a range of reading strategies to be able to do things like read and predict.
To be able to engage with the text through discussion and specific follow up written activities.

Reading requires being able to do a whole range of things and the types of skills become more demanding and sophisticated as students progress through school as we expect. Every subject that students do at school requires them to engage with text of different kinds. This means that all subject teachers need to teach both general reading skills and the specific reading skills and literacy understandings in the subject that they teach. This is a big part of our work and the reason why so much professional learning is geared toward improving our understanding, as well as the different types of teaching strategies that can be used to increase student understanding and engagement.

Reading is demanding. It is the key to learning and achievement. Without good skills the curriculum becomes difficult, and it is just one of the reasons that being at school every day and engaging in learning is critical for success.

JOLLY PHONICS

I was really pleased to have Judy Wallace speak to me about the positive impact that she is noticing in the Junior School in relation to reading. Judy is a regular Relief Teacher here at Meningie Area School and has been for some years now. She takes classes from R-12 when required. Last week Judy arrived at recess just having spent the morning helping out in a junior class. She couldn’t wait to tell me the difference she was noticing in the young children, particularly in word recognition and reading fluency. I was thrilled to hear this. We know we are getting some fantastic results with this very explicit approach to reading through Jolly Phonics but it is great to hear it from someone like Judy who does not work with the students every day, but enough to see the impact. Thank you Judy.

REMINDER TO PARENTS

A reminder to parents that the Front Office is open from 8.30 am for both parents and students to deal with issues around payment of accounts, purchase of items from the Bookroom and to make general enquiries.

Students should not be on school grounds before 8.30 a.m. A teacher is rostered on duty from this time until the bell sounds to begin the school day at 8.45 am.

WORKING BEE
for the Butterfly Garden
Sunday 3rd June 2012
1pm – 3pm
at the school bus bay. Parents, carers and children are all encouraged to attend.

FUTURE LEADERS CAMP

Meningie Area School Year 10 students attended the Future Leaders Camp at Woodhouse in the Adelaide Hills from Thursday 10th to Friday 11th May. They were involved in various team building and outdoor activities as a part of the Southern Cross Challenge between themselves and four other schools; including building a fire to cook their own dinner, setting up and designing a banner for their campsite, rock wall climbing, mountain bike riding and orienteering. Two of our very own even played their hand at karaoke.

They worked well as a group to place equal second in the challenge. We used the opportunity to visit the Murraylands Careers Expo for students to investigate possible future study and work options. Well done to all students who attended and gave everything their best shot.
**MISSING**

A student’s brown RM Williams belt with a silver buckle is missing. It was taken from the boys’ change room in the hall last week during HPE lesson.

If you know who has it, please see contact the front office.

**STATE SAPSASA CARNIVALS**

Congratulations to Gena Mansfield, Emma Marles and Meshayla Shaw for their selection in the Murray Mallee SAPSASA netball squad. Congratulations also to Dwayne Shaw and Jai Ling for their selection in the Murray Mallee SAPSASA football squad.

These students have been playing in the State SAPSASA Carnivals this past week.

**SLOW DOWN AROUND THE TOWN OVAL**

There have been several reports of parents not heeding the 10km speed limit around the Meningie Town Oval.

This is a very dangerous habit, particularly on Thursday afternoons during football and netball training when there are small children darting about somewhat unpredictably.

Please pay more attention to your speed and your surroundings when driving around the oval area, you do not want an injured child on your conscience.

**DRINKING WATER SITUATION**

The bus bay area has been declared an out of bounds area due to students trampling the Butterfly Garden when they are getting a drink from the tank.

The taps on the tank are going to be locked.

Students will need to use the drink fountains, or bring a drink bottle from home.

**NATIONAL SIMULTANEOUS STORYTIME**

National Simultaneous Storytime, now in its 12th year, is promoted by the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA). It is a colourful, vibrant and fun event that aims to promote the value of reading and literacy, using an Australian children’s book that explores age appropriate themes and addresses key learning areas of the National Curriculum for years 1 to 6. Every year a picture book, written and illustrated by an Australian author and illustrator, is read simultaneously in libraries, schools, preschools, childcare centres, family homes, bookshops and many other places around the country.

This year’s story was “The Very Cranky Bear” by Nick Bland. Miss W's Reception – Year 1 class enjoyed the bright colours and heartwarming message the story told. Using modern technology, the story was read using a Smartboard, allowing every student to follow along with the story. For anyone interested in reading “The Very Cranky Bear”, there is a copy available for loan in the library.

Mr Walker

**AUSTRALIA’S BIGGEST MORNING TEA**

On Thursday, 24th May at recess, the Staff Association hosted a morning tea to raise money for the Cancer Council’s Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea.

The food was prepared by Mrs Mason’s 10/11/12 Home Economics students. They made an amazing array of mouth-watering delicacies that didn’t go to waste.

One in two Australians will be diagnosed with cancer before the age of 85. The money raised will help go towards funding projects to aide those who suffer or know someone who suffers from cancer.

To find out more, go to http://www.biggestmorningtea.com.au/

Staff Association
**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

**BAND – MURRAYLANDS**  
**BAND CONCERT**

The Students from year 6 upwards who have been learning an instrument will have the opportunity to perform at the Murray Bridge Town Hall on Wednesday 6th June.

The students will be perform with other students from other schools as well as the special artists “Marmalade Circus”.

**LIONS QUEST**

The *Lions Quest* is an international Pastoral Care Program run and operated by the Lions Clubs all over the world. The program is designed to cater for students from 5 years old all the way up to 18 years old.

The Lions Quest programs are designed to promote:-
- The positive potential of all young people
- Essential life skills and character development
- Personal and social responsibility
- Parents and family values as very important
- Caring adults supporting all young people everywhere

During term 1 Ms Giles and Ms Wright were sponsored by the local Lions Club to attend a training session in Adelaide. After a busy day they have been able to come back and work in their rooms as trainers with their classes. The Junior School program is called *Skills for Growing* and the Middle School Program is called *Skills for Adolescence*.

The work the students have completed in class is well received and the books and materials are logically set out and easy to follow.

Many thanks to the Meningie Lions Club for their sponsorship of this program, and for their interest and involvement in our school.

**Anne Wright**

**MATHS THINKING & LEARNING**

Ann Baker  
Tuesday 29th May will be the second of three visits by Ann Baker to Meningie Area School. Ann will be working with MAS primary staff and visiting teachers from the Coorong Cluster on mathematics thinking and learning. Her first visit in term 1 was very well received and the use of mental routines at the beginning of a maths lesson has been practised by many of our teachers. Ann is well known for her natural maths books and students in the UK have been using her strategies for a number of years. It is a great opportunity for our teachers to be involved in the workshops; to be able to share knowledge, resources and network with a variety of teachers.

An aspect of natural maths is that the students develop a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts. This is developed by questioning and creating problem solving tasks that are multi stepped or are open ended.

An example of this may be when looking at the use of four operations in maths.  
Q1. The answer is 20 what might the problem be?  

The student results will vary but they could include:  
addition problems 1 +19 =20  
subtraction 22-2 =20  
Multiplication 4 x 5 =20  
Division 100/5=20

Mary had 2 cats, each cat had 9 kittens. How many animals did she have altogether?  

Open ended questions provide the student with the opportunity to demonstrate both their thinking and mathematics skills.

**Katrina Hood**  
Maths Facilitator - Murray & Mallee Region
MISSING

Mr Woolston is missing an expensive mechanics tool used in the workshop (as pictured below)

The tool is called a tension wrench.

If you have information about this tool please let the front office know.

Reward for information or return!

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.

TAKE HOME A BIG BROTHER OR BIG SISTER BY HOSTING A SHORT TERM EXCHANGE STUDENT.

Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by hosting one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in July 2012 for a short term of only 3 months. Our international students from France, Germany, Italy, Austria Denmark, Norway, Finland and Sweden will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at www.scce.com.au, email scceaustr@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our little booklets of international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship!

Robert Lindsay
Inbound Program Manager

SOUTHERN CROSS CULTURAL EXCHANGE
Tel: +61 (0)3 9775 4711
Fax: +61 (0)3 9775 4971
Toll Free: 1800 500 501
Post: Locked Bag 1200, Mt Eliza, Victoria, 3930
Web: www.scce.com.au
email: robert.l@scce.com.au

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.
Proudly brought to you by the MAS Year 10’s
Supporting the Salvation Army RED SHIELD APPEAL

The Salvos’ School Challenge empowers students to support the vital work of The Salvation Army through fundraising for The Red Shield Appeal.

Students take part in the annual door knock or come up with a creative fundraising idea. Either way young people are assisting The Salvation Army in caring for people in need.

**TUESDAY**

**Bake Sale**
Reception - Year 12
Held at Recess in the Fern Area
*Prices - Nothing over $2*
Be quick as we may sell out

**WEDNESDAY**

**Casual Day**
Reception - Year 12
*Gold Coin Donation*

**JS Social**
Reception - Year 5
3:30-5pm @ School Hall
Food & Drinks available to purchase

**THURSDAY**

**MAS Cinema**
Reception – Year 7
Watching **Tom & Jerry** (Rated G)
Lunchtime in the JS Multimedia Room

Year 8-12
Watching **Bridge to Terabithia** (Rated PG)
Lunchtime in the Year 10 Room
*Pop Corn for Sale - $1.00*