FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

Reconciliation Week

Last Thursday 27th May marked the beginning of Reconciliation Week. The Year 5, 6 and 7 classes went to Murray Bridge for the day to be a part of the celebrations. Mal Jurgs and Anyupa Giles attended the Aboriginal Veterans’ Commemorative Service which was held at the South Australian National War Memorial on North Tce. in Adelaide. See articles within this edition of the Newsletter.

Attendance

I have sent out individual letters to the parent/caregivers of students whose attendance is of concern. Attendance on a daily basis for all students is expected unless the student is ill or has been suspended. There seem to be quite a few students right across the school who are developing patterns of poor attendance or lateness. If you have a concern that your child has a reluctance to attend school on a particular day, it is important that you contact the teacher or the appropriate sub school manager so that we can work with you to develop strategies to assist your child to engage in the full curriculum.

If your child is in:
- Rec - Yr 5 the person to contact is Ms Katrina Hood,
- Yrs 6 - 9 the person to contact is Mr Mal Jurgs,
- Yr 10 –12 the person to contact is Ms Kathryn Hese.

High Energy Drinks

I wish to draw to your attention that we know of a number of students attending school after drinking, or having drunk at school, high caffeine energy drinks such as Red Bull.

The value of such high caffeine drinks is to stimulate the nervous system. Advocates proclaim their ability to prolong energetic activity. These are precisely the opposite effects that are required in a classroom setting. Drinking these before and during school leads to hyperactivity and sabotage of any hope the student has to stay on task and apply themselves with uninterrupted concentration to their studies. Hyperactivity and aggressiveness begins a negative cycle of behaviour that affects all students through class disruption and could possibly have serious consequences for an individual student.

These products have NO place at school. Should any student choose to consume these products at school or come to school affected by them, they will be sent home (after a phone call is made) until the effects wear off.
We ask parents for their support in indicating to students that part of their role as a student is to present themselves at school in the best possible way to have a successful day.

**School Production**

The school musical production ‘Surprising Old King Cole’ will now be held at the Tailem Bend Town Hall for one performance only on Monday 21st June.

There has been no further progress with work in the school gym and so we have booked the Tailem Bend Town Hall. The construction company Candetti, responsible for work on the gym, is financially supporting the school for the hire of the Tailem Bend Town Hall for both the performance on Monday 21st June, the full day dress rehearsal on Friday 18th June and practice days on the 2nd and 9th of June.

Transport costs to and from Tailem Bend over the practices and performance will also be met by Candetti for students.

Details are as follows:

**Friday 18th June**
Whole day practice and dress rehearsal at Tailem Bend Hall for students R-7 plus Yr 10/11/12 Home Economics students – students’ transport will be hired coaches and school buses.

**Monday 21st June**
Main performance ‘Surprising Old King Cole’
Time of performance is 7.30 pm.
Students to be at Tailem Bend by 6.30 pm.
Limited transport is available – 50 seat bus.

Tickets can be purchased as from Wednesday 9th June from the school bookroom and the Raukkan Council Office (see Carolyn Rigney).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adults</th>
<th>Students</th>
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Transport – bus reservation (priority given to students).

**Monica Williams (Principal)**

**SCHOOL BACK PACKS**

School back packs are available from the school book room for $37.00.

**PARENTS & FRIENDS**

Parents & Friends has a new name. We are now called PaCSS – Parents and Carers School Support.

Join us for our next meeting on Monday 28th June at 2pm in the meeting room.

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**SCHOOL CLOSURE**

A STUDENT FREE DAY has been approved by DECS on Friday 11th June. This day is to allow all school staff to update their BELS First Aid training. This day coincides with the Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday on Monday 14th June.

**YR 5/6 SOSE: HEROES**

In Term 2 our class of Years 5 and 6 started doing homework and projects on people we think are heroes or our personal heroes. Some of our class think dads, mums and even Albert Jacka are heroes. We have learnt a lot and are proud to learn about different kinds of heroes.

**Lachlan Brown (Yr 5)**

David Unaipon was born in 1872 and he died in 1967. He was born in Point McLeay Mission. They call it Raukkan now. He was a famous and proud Ngarrindjeri man who believed there was a similarity between Christian and Ngarrindjeri values. He preached widely and tried to improve the education of Aboriginal people.

**Shania Weetra (Yr 6)**

David Unaipon was a famous person, because he was the first Aboriginal (Ngarrindjeri) man to be on a fifty dollar note and he was our first published Aboriginal writer. He is my hero because he was from Raukkan, he was creative and he was a proud Ngarrindjeri man. Quote from $50 note: “I think I may claim to be the first, but I hope, not the last – to produce an enduring record of our customs, beliefs and imaginings” David Unaipon.

**Regae Love (Yr 6)**

Libby Trickett is an awesome swimmer and she is brave to go into the races and the water. She wins all the swimming races. It is awesome. Libby Trickett has got talent and she is muscley from swimming. She has worked hard in her career of swimming.

**Courtney Rigney (Yr 5)**

On the 21st April Hamish Jurgs came to speak to us about World War 1. He told us that Albert Jacka was his hero. Albert Jacka was a soldier in WW1 and was awarded the Victoria Cross and the Military Medal. Hamish showed us that Albert Jacka was brave, compassionate, a great role model and would do anything to help others – A HERO.

**Jayden Ayres & Hugh Mason (Yr 5)**

Rita Lindsay came to speak to our class about Ngarrindjeri soldiers. She showed us a PowerPoint about local
Ngarrindjeri soldiers and then she sang a song and played her guitar.

In our class we identified many people we admire and can look to as role models. Thankyou to Hamish and Rita for coming in to help us in our class.

(Yr 5/6 class)

GERMAN SPORTS AWARDS

During the assembly on 20 May 10 we were fortunate to have Freddy Schwarz-Docen, the South Australian Representative for the German Olympic Sports Federation, officiate over the ‘Sportabzeichen’ awards. We would like to thank him for his contribution to the German sports program at Meningie AS.

The awards ceremony was a very successful event which highlighted the hard work and achievements of the year 3, 4, 5 and 6 students who participated. Bronze awards went to those students who participated for the first time and who achieved the standard set by the German Olympic Sports Federation, Silver awards went to those who successfully participated for the second time, and those students who successfully participated for the third consecutive year received Gold awards.

The ‘Sportabzeichen’ is currently run worldwide with more than 23 million people participating in 78 countries. It was started in Germany in 1912, following the Olympic Games in Stockholm, and is suitable for ages 8 to 80+. It was first run in SA in 1996 and is currently implemented by Lockleys North PS and Meningie AS.

The program is designed to raise interest in physical activities and promote a healthy and active lifestyle. Students are encouraged to reach a set standard in five disciplines depending on their age and gender. The disciplines include swimming, long distance running, sprint, long jump and throwing. As well as supporting physical activities, the program promotes German language learning across the curriculum and raises the students’ literacy skills in German. Students are able to learn and practise their German in and outside the classroom.

This year, Wendy Starling’s 2/3 class and Anyupa Giles’ 3/4 class are participating in the program which culminates in our German Sports Day in term 4. On that occasion older students, who previously participated, will be given the opportunity to join us.

We are all looking forward to this event and will be working hard towards our goals in the terms leading up to it.

The 2009 award winners were:

Bronze:  
Aimee Brooks, Katie Ashenden, Aleisha Williams,  
Holly VandenBrink, Jonathan Schmerl, Tyson Carter, David Wilson, Kyale Rigney, Dwayne Shaw and Danielle Colmer.

Silver:  
Billie Carmichael, Emma Marles, Hugh Mason,  
Melissa Botha, Dylan Richards, Scott Biddle, Jace Stephenson-Hoad and Brigitte Botha.

Gold:  
Tessa Bagshaw, Adele Pittendreigh (Gold 4) and  
Mikayla Smart (Gold 4).

Well done. A fantastic achievement!

Veruschka Crichton (German teacher)

GERMAN NEWS

Liebe Eltern (Dear parents),

Today, we’re looking at some polite phrases to use in conversations. Here are some examples:

Doing someone a favour:  
Responses to a favour:

‘Bitte schön.’ (‘Here you go.’)  
‘Danke schön.’ (‘Thank you.’)

or ‘Bitte.’ (‘Thanks.’)  
‘Danke.’ (‘Thank you.’)

You might like to finish off your conversation with:

‘Das ist ok.’ (‘That’s ok.’)  
or ‘Kein Problem.’ (‘Not a problem.’)

Viel Spaß! (Have fun!)

Veruschka Crichton (German teacher)
MAS SPORTS NEWS

SAPSASA Football and Netball

In Week 5 of Term 2 Abbey Hood, Brianna Wilson, Adele Pittendreigh and Maddison O’Connell participated in the 2010 SAPSASA State Netball Carnival and Jake Marles the SAPSASA State Football Carnival. All students were selected in the Murray Mallee teams based on their good performances at the trials earlier on in the term.

Adele and Abbey were a part of the Murray Mallee Division 2B Netball team. Their team did particularly well winning 7 games out of 9 convincingly and they only just lost the other 2 games, both by less than 5 goals. Overall their team finished 3rd on 23 points behind Whyalla on 27 points and Murraylands on 25 points.

Brianna and Maddison competed in Division 4B. They won a couple of matches, but also had some hard fought matches that they narrowly lost. Overall their team finished 7th.

In the Football Carnival Murray Mallee was represented in Division 3. Jake’s team did exceptionally well winning 7 out of 9 games. They finished equal second on 23 points with Barossa & Light and Western. The Lower South East won the division on 27 points.

Well done to all these students.

Open Boys Football

On Thursday 20th May Chris Biddle, Dylan Vanderbrink and Matt Austin played in the Upper South East (USE) Open Boys Football team against Eastern Fleurieu School in the first round of the Open Boys Knockout Football competition. The game was played at Coomandook and consisted of students from Keith, Coomandook, Karoonda, Tintinara and Meningie.

Unfortunately the USE team were just defeated 11.11 to 10.11. After the first quarter they were five goals down. However, they fought back and out scored Eastern Fleurieu for the remaining three quarters. USE even hit the lead with 5 minutes left in the game, but Eastern Fleurieu kicked two late goals to steal the game. To their credit the USE boys never gave up and still had a few chances to tie the scores, but they just ran out of time.

It was a good effort by the students, particularly since they hadn’t had a chance to play or train as a team prior to the game.

SAPSASA & SSSSA Cross Country

On Friday 28th May six primary students from Meningie Area School travelled down to Adelaide to compete in the School Sport Cross Country Championships, which were held at Oakbank Race Course in overcast, but generally fine conditions.

Participating students were: Tessa Bagshaw, Jiye Hoad, Aleisha Williams, Sharnee Gemmell, Jonathan Schmerl and Hugh Mason.

The best performing of the Meningie students was Jiye who finished 31st in the 11 Year Boys Division 1 race against some highly trained athletes. Hugh also performed well in the 10 Year Boys Division 1 race finishing 45th in a field of almost 200 competitors. Most of the other students finished somewhere just inside or just outside the top 100 competing in Division 2. Some of the fields, particularly for the younger age groups, had over 250 competitors in them so to achieve a top 100 finish was a great effort.

SASI Country Athlete Awards

During term one I gave several Meningie Area School students an application to apply for a SASI Country Athlete Scholarship.

Congratulations to Jackie Gibbs who applied for and has successfully been selected as a 2010 SASI Country Athlete Award Winner. She is one of only 52 athletes from South Australian country regions to have been selected to receive an award this year, in recognition of her performances and selection in events in her sport of motocross.

As a winner of this award Jackie will receive a certificate, an invitation to attend a SASI Talent Development Day and a grant of $650 to assist her in attending training and competition opportunities.

Well done Jackie.

Lisa Davis (PE Teacher)

SAPSASA Football

Jake Marles went down to Adelaide for SAPSASA in Week 5 for footy. He was part of a team of students from other schools in the region.

Before going down there were training sessions at Peake. They selected twenty people from the forty that came to training.

In Adelaide the team had to meet at the oval at nine in the morning. When they got there they got changed and went and played. They had 2 forty minute games each day, except Friday when they played one game. They won 7 games and lost 2, and came second overall!

by Jake Marles (Yr 7)
**RIVER MURRAY YOUTH COUNCIL**

**Bethany elected River Murray Youth Council Chair**

A desire to see the Lower Lakes once again filled with water motivated Bethany Jurgs to join the Lower Murray River Murray Youth Council (RMYC).

Bethany, who is a Year 12 student at Meningie Area School, was voted 2010 chairperson for the Lower Murray RMYC during this month’s meeting. Bethany replaces well respected 2009 chair Chloe Sinclair from Coomandook Area School, while John Fazakerley from Cornerstone College was elected vice chair.

Facilitated by the South Australian Murray Darling Basin Natural Resources Management (SA MDB NRM) Board, the Lower Murray RMYC encourages students in years 8 to 12 to become environmental ambassadors.

“SA MDB NRM Board NRM education coordinator Pippa Cattanach captured me when she told the class to close their eyes and imagine the lake three years ago when it was full and thriving,” Bethany said.

“I imagined myself when I was younger meeting my friends at the park for tea with our families then going for a swim in the lake afterwards.

“Imagining it then, when it was just starting to lose water, was enough to get me worried.

“She then asked us to imagine it in 10 years and I optimistically told her I imagined the lake full again.

“This got me thinking about what I could actually to do turn my dream into reality, so I decided to join the River Murray Youth Council.”

Bethany said she was looking forward to “getting things started” for 2010.

“All the schools are putting a great effort into their action plans and I am really looking forward to seeing the efforts that people across the state have put in at the upcoming South Australia Kids Teaching Kids conference,” she said.

According to Bethany, meeting new friends, increasing confidence and participating in learning activities are some of the highlights of being involved in the RMYC.

SA MDB NRM Board NRM education coordinator Jodie Sommerville said she looked forward to working with Bethany during the year.

“Bethany will represent the group, leading them on tours and field trips and she will also chair and organise RMYC meetings,” Ms Sommerville added.

Lower Murray RMYC meetings are held every six weeks, with field trips and tours in between. For more information contact Jodie Sommerville at: jodie.sommerville@samdbnrm.sa.gov.au.

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**BLUE LIGHT DISCO**

**FRIDAY 2nd JULY**

**7PM – 10PM**

@ COONALPYN HALL

$3 ENTRY AGES 5-17

LOCK IN EVENT – DRINKS & FOOD AVAILABLE

**THE SCIENCE EXPERIENCE**

A three day hands on practical science program will be conducted for students in years 9 and 10 at tertiary institutions in 2010. This a Rotary Youth Services Project, supported by the Australian Science Teachers Association. The cost is $110, but Rotary Clubs may sponsor students to attend. For further information please contact your local Rotary Club or [www.scienceexperience.com.au](http://www.scienceexperience.com.au) Early application is advised.

**ZOOVENTURES & ZOO-FARI**

ZooVentures for kids at the Adelaide Zoo (for children aged 6-12) and Zoo-Fari for Kids at the Monarto Zoo (for children aged 8-13) focus on making friends, learning lots and providing unique opportunities to meet with zoo animals and their keepers. If you are interested in these activities during the school holidays positions must be booked, as they are very popular, phone 82672434 or visit the website on [www.zoossa.com.au/education](http://www.zoossa.com.au/education).
REMEMBERING INDIGENOUS SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

Last week I was fortunate to be invited to attend the Aboriginal Veterans’ Commemorative Service which was held at the South Australian National War Memorial on North Terrace in Adelaide.

This service was held to acknowledge and remember the service of Indigenous soldiers and other service personnel who have volunteered for our armed forces. Aboriginal soldiers have served in all of the major conflicts that Australia has been involved in since Federation. It should be remembered that until 1967, these men and women did not have the right to vote and were also subject to many other restrictions that were not placed upon people of other races, and yet they were still prepared to sacrifice their lives in defence of this country. In fact, early in World War 1, Aboriginal men were not allowed to enlist but many lied about their ancestry to fight for “King and Country”. This was a very moving ceremony and a highlight for me was to see 10 year old Anzac Lochowiack lay a tribute at the base of the memorial. Anzac is a descendant of Arthur Thomas Walker who fought at Gallipoli and on the Western Front, where he was killed at Mouquet Farm in August 1916. Arthur is one of the four Ngarindjeri soldiers that we commemorate on our Connecting Spirits trips. Arthur had a son who was born on April 25th 1915 and was named Anzac in honour of his father’s service and sacrifice. Anzac himself went on to serve during the 2nd World War. Every generation since that time has had an “Anzac” named in memory of these men and young Anzac is the 5th one to hold that honour.

The Service was followed by a morning tea for Aboriginal Veterans and their families and friends, which also featured the launch of an education pack released by Reconciliation SA, called “Forgotten Heroes: Honoring the Service and Sacrifice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples”. This education resource gives students the information they need to research indigenous soldiers and also to gain a better understanding of Australia’s involvement in conflict. The resource pack refers to the Connecting Spirits webpage in a number of places as a resource for students to use. It is pleasing to know that the work that we have done is being recognized by others and will reach out well beyond our own communities. The artwork on the cover of this pack was produced by Anyupa Giles’ sister, and Anyupa was recognized, as the custodian of this work, for giving permission for it to be used.

Commemorative Services for indigenous soldiers were first held across Australia 4 years ago, but South Australia is the only state to have kept the ceremony going. I hope that we continue to lead the way and recommend that all who have the opportunity attend this service in the future.

Mal Jurgs (Deputy Principal)

RECONCILIATION DAY

On 27 of May my class and I and also the year 5/6 class went to Murray Bridge to celebrate Reconciliation Day. After we got to school, we got our bags and headed to the bus and found a seat. After we found a seat we took off. We first arrived at Tailem Bend we stopped to look at the Town Hall for the production then took off again. When we finally arrived at Murray Bridge, we stopped at a park called ‘Sturt Reserve’. We had recess and played on the playground. We left after about 30 minutes we finally got to John Dohler Hall. Once we got to the hall I found out that it was my old Dance School. When we got there, there was a concert with a girl singing ‘Super Girl’. There were activities like badge making, feather flowers, jenga blocks, hand prints and a concert. Julia and I made a lot of badges (about 3 or 4) we also did hand prints and watched the concert. There were kangaroo patties and chicken patties (we both had chicken patties) and chocolate cake for lunch. Helium balloons and all. Then at the end of the day we packed up and left to go back to Meningie.

by Jemma Williams (Yr 6)

It started when we (the yr 5/6 class and the 6/7 class) received a note to go to Murray Bridge for Reconciliation Day at the John Dohler Hall on the 27th of May. We went there by bus.

First we went down to Sturt Reserve on the playground to eat our recess and to stretch our legs. I also went on the exercise equipment which was pretty cool.

Second we arrived at the John Dohler Hall and we walked around to the entry and sat down to watch the concert. The person who was singing has a really powerful voice.

Third, Alex and I went to the badge making to make some badges, but in the end I made 3 badges. Then I caught a glimpse of my friend Katherine (Kathy). We both sat down to watch 8 Aboriginal ladies doing a dance.

Fourth I met my auntie Mel, so I started hanging around with her then the BBQ was ready and Auntie Mel and I got a patty each. I had a kangaroo patty, and Auntie Mel had a chicken pattie.

Next we had chocolate cake to celebrate Reconciliation Day. That is when I did the hand painting, I asked auntie Mel if she would like to but she said no.

Last I said goodbye to everyone and I walked to the bus and waited to get on the bus then I talked to Tessa for the rest of the trip home.

by Brenda Baldock (Yr 6)