FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

The winter weather is really starting to have an effect. Several staff have been away over the past week and we notice high absenteeism amongst the students. What continues to concern me is the number of students who come to school without a jumper. The class rooms are really cold in the morning until the heaters take effect. The rooms can then become really warm, jumpers are often taken off. Students are continuously being reminded to put on warm clothing as they leave the class room. We seek your support in reinforcing this and checking that your child / children are dressed for cold winter days when they leave home, particularly the younger ones.

VOLUNTEERS IN SCHOOLS

Education and care programs play a significant role in child protection and there are many positive strategies being adopted in the Department of Education and Children’s Services to support child wellbeing. We provide a number of programs through out the school that welcome and indeed require the support of volunteers for them to run. We value the time that parents/ caregivers and members of the wider community contribute to the life of Meningie Area School. These include support on camps, classroom reading programs, excursions, sporting events, and other extracurricular activities.

It is now a requirement that all volunteers be screened if they engage in any of the following

- Overnight camps/school sleepovers/ billeting
- Working one to one with other people's children (eg. LAP, music, drama, coordination skills etc)
- Acting as a coach, or manager of teams, or groups of children or young people.
- Working in classrooms, library offices, canteens etc.
- Accepting a position on a school governing councils, management committees, boards or subcommittees.


If you envisage volunteering as a parent /caregiver in any of the above or already volunteer in the school on a regular basis please register your interest at the front office so that DECS Criminal History Screening forms can be made available.

If you have any questions with regard to this please contact either Mal Jurgs or Monica Williams, or visit the website above.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

Please find an updated copy of the Meningie Area School Grievance procedure in this newsletter. It includes processes for students, parents/ caregivers and members of staff.

I seek your support in using the process as outlined and encouraging your children to do likewise. We take very seriously issues of grievance, and thoroughly investigate
issues of concern. What we seek is that reasonable time is given for a grievance to be investigated. All members of staff including both myself, Deputy Mal Jurgs, Kathryn Hese and Kathy Quinn have a range of responsibilities including teaching, and are not always immediately available. Please contact the Front Office and arrange a time to meet or speak with the appropriate staff member.

**ASSEMBLY MONDAY 6th JUNE**

As you are by now aware, after many months the newly refurbished Meningie Area School Gym/Hall is now open and being used by the canteen and all classes. The music room has commenced use by our music teachers and is now also being used by classes.

On Friday 20th May, Mrs Appelkamp took class groups of students through the Hall with teachers and showed them the new facilities.

On Monday 6th June, we are going to hold a Hall Opening Assembly. This is not an Official Opening but a school celebration. This will include the opportunity for parents and the wider community to attend the assembly. Following the assembly, a tour of the hall and refreshments will be provided. A sausage sizzle lunch for students will also be provided.

When you have an opportunity to see the extensive refurbishing that has taken place and the thought that has gone into it you will appreciate the length of time taken and see that it has been worth the wait.

**PERSONAL LEAVE**

I am taking leave as approved by the regional Director Peter Chislett as from 14th June until the end of the term. Mal Jurgs will be acting Principal. The position of Acting Deputy has been advertised internally and will be advised in the next newsletter.

**BULLY AUDIT**

The Collation of data from our recent Bully Audit is almost complete. As advised in the last newsletter it provides us with a lot of information. In particular students who are identified as being bullied and those identifies as bullies.

Monica Williams

**SAFETY ISSUES REMINDER**

- No parking in the school teacher carpark, particularly the loading zone which is used for delivery vehicles only
- Please come through the front office when coming into the school, even if it is only for a short visit, such as dropping off lunch for a child.

- We remind parents/ caregivers that students are not to be on school grounds before 8.30 am when staff duty commences.
- Parents and students are asked to use the school crossing when moving across North Tce coming into and out of the school. (Please find attached information sheet on Children, Schools and Traffic.)
- Parking restrictions apply along the Princes Highway. We seek your support in observing this, particularly at the end of the day with buses leaving.
- Wearing school uniform daily enables the school community to know who our students are.
- Energy drinks have no place in our school. As well as this we do not sell soft drinks at our canteen, and ask that they are not supplied from home, or purchased on the way to school.
- All students who wish to carry a mobile phone, are required to along with parent/ caregiver to have signed the mobile phone policy and comply with the agreement.

Thankyou, MAS Management

**SOUTHERN CROSS CULTURAL EXCHANGE**

Southern Cross Cultural Exchange URGENTLY needs families for a German boy, German girl, Spanish girl and 3 Spanish boys arriving in Adelaide on 9th July for 11 weeks. These children are all between the age of 15 and 17 and will attend high school in the area you live. You do not need to have children the same age for you to host, or even have children at all.

These students are waiting anxiously in their countries hoping for news that I have found them a family.

If your family could possibly help I would be very grateful and I know you will be putting a very big smile on a child’s face on the other side of the world.

Time is now running out so if any families are interested I can be contacted on 0885 561268 or via email jeh1313@bigpond.net.au

Jenny Hanson
South Australia Inbound Manager
South Cross Cultural Exchange
ATTENDANCE & LATENESS DATA – WEEKS 4 & 5 OF TERM 2 2011

WEEK 4

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ABSENT: 4 20 4 16 2 24 2 19

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CAMEO ‘CARS 2’ COLOURING COMPETITION

The Cameo Cinema at Murray Bridge is holding a colouring competition. Simply colour in the drawing and forward your entry to the Cameo Cinema by Saturday 16th June 2011. The competition is open to children under 14 years of age. Prize winning passes in age categories will be forwarded immediately after judging. The judges’ decision will be final.

You can collect an entry form from the front office. Only one entry per child will be accepted.

RED DAY

On Friday 27th May 2011 Year 10 students of Meningie Area School Marni Hood, Alana Standley and Tamika Williams with the support of others held a RED DAY at school. This will assist the students in their PLP subject as well as achieving their Duke of Edinburgh. The day involved all students from Reception to Year 12, encouraging the school community to be involved in activities and raising money for the Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal.

The day consisted of various activities including a Red Casual Day for all Reception to Year 12 students; a Bake Sale at recess and lunch selling muffins, pop corn, biscuits, honey crackles and hot Milo; a Design Competition for students in Reception to Year 6, who were asked to design and draw a picture of helping and giving in a shield; Red Badge Making for Reception to Year 3 students and a Lolly Jar competition which invited students from Reception to Year 12 to guess the number of lollies inside.

The students organised advertising by distributing posters with events and costs as well as information on the Salvation Army and envelopes for collection. They sent letters home to parents regarding the day’s events and used the school bulletin to relay information.

The day was a huge success with many students and teachers filling the school with red by wearing their reddest casual clothes, buying the yummy food prepared by the Year 10 girls at the recess and lunch bake sale, warming up with hot Milo at lunch, having a guess at the number of lollies in the jar and designing fantastic shields and great badges. We would like to make special mention to the Junior Primary classes who participated in the Red Casual Day the best.

Some students are also involved in the annual Door Knock for the Red Shield Appeal, as well as collecting donations around the town using collection jars. Please continue to dig deep and help them help others.

We have invited a member of the Salvation Army to attend our assembly at Meningie Area School on Monday 6th June 12:15pm to accept a cheque for the Salvation Army from the students. The winners of the Shield Design and the Lolly Jar activities will be awarded their prizes and the final funds raised will be announced. Please feel free to attend.

We would like to thank the Meningie Area School students, teachers and community who have been incredibly helpful and generous.

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

At this week’s Governing Council meeting it was decided that the school should re-establish an Agricultural Advisory Committee. It is sometime since such a committee existed and it was seen as something that could enhance the school’s program and also develop closer links between the school and the community. The committee would consist of any interested parents or community members and would meet approximately twice a year. The role of the committee would be to look at the existing infrastructure and make suggestions for improvements or changes, discuss courses and how these reflect the local context, develop links between community resources and the curriculum and to organise working bees etc to enhance the school’s resources. Please ring the front office to register your interest if you wish to be part of this committee. I will set a first meeting date when the number of those interested is known.

Mal Jurgs
**CONNECTING SPIRITS 2012**

Plans are well underway for the next Connecting Spirits trip at the end of 2012. Students who have already registered their interest are now being asked to register for this trip. If your child is in Year 9, 10 or 11 and would be interested in travelling to the Western Front to commemorate World War 1 soldiers please contact me asap for more information or see our website at www.connectingspirits.com.au. If your child is not registered by June 17th it may not be possible for them to join later.

**CANBERRA 2011**

Notes have recently been sent to parents and caregivers of students who have paid a deposit to attend this year’s trip to Canberra in September. Unfortunately some students have decided not to attend as they have left school. Therefore there are some places available for any students in Years 9, 10 or 11 who may wish to attend. Priority will be given to those in Year 10, those in Year 11 who have not attended before and Year 9 students. If you would like your child to attend please contact me at the school as soon as possible.

Mal Jurgs

**PRE-SERVICE TEACHERS**

We have Pre-Service teachers completing their practicum training in the school during this term. They are Coadette Low, who is working in the Science and Ag classes for 5 weeks, Lisa Rigney, who is working in Art later in the term, and Beth Cowan who is working in the Junior School. We hope that they all enjoy their time working at Meningie Area School and wish them every success with their studies.

**YOUNG ENDEAVOUR**

Australia's national sail training ship Young Endeavour is now accepting applications for youth to join eleven day voyages departing between September and December 2011. Young Australians aged 16 to 23 can apply for the ballot at www.youngendeavour.gov.au until 05 June 2011. No sailing experience is required.

A voyage in Young Endeavour is a challenging adventure at sea, and a unique opportunity for youth to develop teamwork and leadership skills through a world recognised organisation. The current ballot includes voyages departing from Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania, which will be crewed by youth from around the country.

During each voyage youth crew learn the skills to successfully sail a square rigged ship. They climb the 30 metre mast, set and furl sails, and maintain a 24 hour watch on the bridge. They also learn to navigate, take the helm, keep lookout and help the chef in the ship's galley. Once they have learned these skills each youth crew will take command of Young Endeavour for 24 hours, sailing the ship along the Australian coast. On their last day at sea they will host a local group of youth with special needs, sharing their new found knowledge and experiences.

19 year old Kirsty Reaks, of Rye, was elected youth crew captain on her voyage from Devonport to Geelong in January. “Being elected captain of a multi-million dollar ship was absolutely exhilarating. What I wanted was a challenge, and the responsibility and adrenalin I experienced in Young Endeavour were amazing. The problem solving skills, teamwork, the friendships, and working with so many different people in a small space has been a fantastic life experience which I would recommend to every single young Australian.”

Since 1988 the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme, in partnership with the Royal Australian Navy, has provided challenging training voyages for over 11,000 young Australians in the tall ship Young Endeavour. The specially designed program delivered aboard the ship increases the youth crew’s self awareness, develops teamwork and leadership skills, and fosters a strong sense of community spirit.

For more information please visit www.youngendeavour.gov.au.

Jennifer Reilly
Marketing Manager
Young Endeavour Youth Scheme
Tel: 1800 020 444 (toll free)
Fax: 02 9359 3591
Web: www.youngendeavour.gov.au

Gold Award – 2010 Prime Minister’s Award for Excellence in Public Sector Administration
**HOLOCAUST PROJECT**

World War 2 was an unforgettable event, especially for the Jews; World War 2 began in 1939 and ended in 1945. By the end of the war, about six million Jewish people were killed. Most Jews were taken to concentration camps/death camps, where they were slaves or killed. Many others were also shot, stabbed and even tortured. All of this was because of the notorious murderer Adolf Hitler. Hitler destroyed thousands and thousands of Jewish buildings, including synagogue’s (Jewish churches).

The 7/8 class from Meningie Area School are trying to collect six million bread tags because the Jews who were put in concentration camps didn’t get fed very much, and were often starved. So we are asking for the communities around to help us collect the bread tags.

By Brenda (Year 7)

Many people died in World War 2. Most of them were Jews. 6 million died in concentration camps as they were starved to death and taken to the gas chambers as they were tricked into thinking they were having a shower. They were stripped off and shaved, many were shaved and cramped that bad they could not move and soon found out what was happening and were terrified. After they were gassed they were taken and buried in a big whole or burnt. Hitler destroyed many countries and buildings.

The Year 7/8 class from Meningie area School are collecting bread tags to represent the 6 million Jews who died in World War 2. So we ask the community around us to collect as many bread tags and bring them in. Thankyou for helping us.

By Jemma (Year 7)

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**AQUACULTURE SHED PROGRESS**

We have made some real progress this year toward having the aquaculture shed up and running. Students are working on this through a subject called Integrated Learning at Year 12 and through Agriculture at Year 11.

We have the system running, with water circulating through the main tanks into a swirl filter to remove heavy solids. From there the water passes into a storage tank from where it is pumped into a bio-filter, which removes ammonia from the water. Bio-filters rely on bacteria which convert ammonia to nitrites which are then converted by other bacteria to nitrates, which are much less harmful. These bacteria need a place to live and this is where many of you have helped by supplying soft drink caps. Commercial aquaculture units often use “bio-balls” which are plastic balls with spikes all over them. These provide lots of surface area for the bacteria to live on but cost considerably more than our budget could afford. Cheaper options include the soft drink caps or oyster shells.

While we have had a lot of support with the supply of bottle caps we need over a cubic metre, which is a huge number. We are still going to use the caps that have been supplied for small student projects, however, we have decided to access oyster shells for the main commercial tanks.

Thankfully we were able to get these from Cappo Seafood on Glen Osmond Road, with a big thanks to Lincoln for keeping them aside for us to collect.

I also need to thank my father, Ian Jurgs, for running around and organising the collections. The students are now cleaning the shells which will then be put into onion bags ready to be placed into the filter boxes. Once this has been completed the whole system will be bleached and rinsed ready to start growing fish.

At the moment we have a number of yabbies in a large aquarium which we hope will soon start to produce offspring. We are also considering buying some trout fingerlings to grow over winter.

Mal Jurgs (Agricultural Science Teacher)

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**RESEARCH PROJECT IN AGRICULTURE**

One of the aspects of the new SACE that is a significant change from the past is the introduction of the Research Project at the Year 12 level. Students choose an area of interest and pose a question that they then research and answer for themselves.
One of our students, Tim Eckert, chose to focus his question in the area of agriculture. His focus question was “How do I renovate a pasture paddock” and is using a paddock in the school’s ag block to answer this question. The paddock has been irrigated for many years and has been used to grow lucerne for the past 22 years. With the low levels in the lake, irrigation ceased about 4 years ago and since then the lucerne had died off and couch grass has taken over.

Tim developed a plan to renovate this paddock, including researching different methods of cultivation, spraying, conducting soil tests and researching possible crops that could be planted.

After spraying out the paddock, the next job was to determine the best way to cultivate the paddock. With a thick covering of couch grass, conventional methods and the school’s equipment were not suitable. Tim contacted Roy Hincks, who was able to provide a mouldboard plough which turned the soil over completely, burying the couch under about 30cm of soil.

Roy then supplied a set of power harrows which were used to level the soil in preparation for sowing.

Matthew Howlett from Coorong Agri-Services helped Tim with soil testing and the results were used to determine the best fertiliser applications which were then supplied and spread by Swan Brothers.

Tim then accessed a combine from his grandfather and sowed the paddock with Maritime barley to grow as a hay crop. Now that Tim has finished renovating the paddock, he is writing up the results of his investigation and evaluating how well he has achieved the desired outcomes and how well he has worked on his project.

This is just one of the many areas being explored by our Year 12 students this year.

MINI/JUNIOR DEBUTANT PRESENTATION

The Meningie Oval Playground fundraising effort has reached a milestone by raising the first $10,000 towards its goal to construct a playground at the Meningie town oval.

This is a great achievement considering no grant funding has been forthcoming as yet and this amount is solely due to the generosity of this whole community. An application has been made to the Coorong District Council to commence with the laying of the soft fall and construction of the fence, so that equipment can be added as the funds become available. In the mean-time, the fundraising efforts continue with the next event to be held on Sunday 19 June. A Mini/Junior Debutante Presentation will be held in the Meningie Bowling Clubrooms at 3pm. This should be a spectacular sight and should not be missed. Children from around two to ten years of age will be dressing up and strutting their stuff for those present. The couples of mixed or same gender or individuals will be presented to a special guest of honour. This will be followed by an old fashioned afternoon ‘high tea’.

If you have any children who would like to be involved or would like to help in any way, contact Mandy Cunneen on 0409095982 or Marianne Cunneen on 0437320779 to register. Participation is free and tickets will be available at the door.

The theme of the presentation will be snowflakes, the children may wear any colour they like and a photographer will be taking photos which will be available after the event.