FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

It is an extremely busy time of term with staff and students involved in a number of activities. Being absent myself with illness, it was disappointing to miss the Festival of Choirs earlier this week. I understand that it was a fabulous concert, with a great program of songs and dance.

We wish Denice Mason, Alana Butcher, Charlotte Wenske and Jo Orr (representing the Health Services) all the best as finalists in the Australian Rural and Outback Awards to be held in Canberra this Saturday evening 19th September.

Congratulations to Mal Jurgs and the Agricultural Show Team for their achievement at the Adelaide Show, particularly first place in the Steer competition.

My thanks to Mal Jurgs, Kathryn Hese and Katrina Hood for their leadership within the school over the last two weeks during my absence due to illness. We have had quite a few students tested as positive to Swine Flu over the term. The Government medical advice is to keep students home if they show symptoms, and as advised by the doctor.

NAPLAN Results

The school has received all student NAPLAN results and these have been posted out today to parents of the students who sat the tests in Year 3, 5, 7 & 9 during May.

On average Meningie Area School students progressed at a faster rate than their peers across the country. This is a pat on the back to our dedicated teachers and SSOs who support students, and is evidence that the programs and strategies that we have in place are working not only for students who struggle but also in advantaging those students at a higher level. As a school we are always looking at ways to improve student achievement with Literacy and Numeracy priorities in all areas of the curriculum.

School Uniform

Governing Council supports and encourages the daily wearing of the school uniform.

Of late some students have begun to wear an assortment of clothing that does not meet this expectation, in particular ugg boot and hoodies.

We seek parents and caregivers support in having your children dress appropriately for the school learning environment.

With summer approaching and the days really beginning to warm up the holidays might be a good time to take a look at uniform needs. Lake Albert Fashions has several items of school uniform for purchase, as does Second Time Round.

Short shorts are not a part of the school uniform, however a longer line black short is quite acceptable.

Enquiries can be made at Lake Albert Fashions about availability and purchase.
**SAPSASA ATHLETICS**

On Wednesday September 9th 2009 several students in Years 3-7 from Meningie Area School travelled to Lameroo to try out for the SAPSASA Murray Mallee Athletics team. These students were selected to attend the try outs based on their excellent results at our School Sports Day and the Interschool Athletics Carnival which were conducted earlier on in the year.

It was fantastic to see many of these students selected in the Murray Mallee Team. They will compete at Santos Stadium in the following events on the 16th October next term against other country regions.

- Jiye Hoad 10yr Boys 100m and Relay
- Hank Trevorrow 10yr Boys Shotput and Discus
- Emma Marles 10yr Girls Relay
- Brigitte Botha 13yr Girls Long Jump, High Jump and Relay
- Sam Sanders 13yr Boys Shotput

Thankyou to all the parents who helped transport students to the venue. Thanks must also go to those who officiated on the day and ensured a successful day of sport.

*Lisa Davis*

*PE Teacher*

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**YEAR 8/9 NETBALL**

The Year 8/9 netball tournament has been a success so far. The two combined classes have started the tournament off with a confident attitude and have also fulfilled duties that have to be done.

The captains of the three teams run through drills before the game starts as well as allocating positions to the team members.

The teams are:
- The Tropics
- Pink Unicorns and Fairies
- The Milo Monkeys

We have invited the two Reception/Year 1 classes to the games, which we hope they enjoy and also Mrs Williams. Anyone else who wishes to come and be a spectator may join us on Tuesday Week Ten at 1.45pm to 3.15pm, where the teams to go into the final will be decided, and on Thursday at 12.15pm when the final will be played.

The results so far:

**Tuesday 8/9**

- **Game 1**  Tropics v’s Milo Monkeys  
  Winner: Milo Monkeys
- **Game 2**  Tropics v’s Pink Unicorns and Fairies  
  Winner: Tropics
- **Game 3**  Pink Unicorns and Fairies v’s Milo Monkeys  
  Winner: Milo Monkeys

**Tuesday 16/9**

- **Game 1**  Tropics v’s Milo Monkeys  
  Winner: Tropics
- **Game 2**  Pink Unicorns and Fairies v’s Milo Monkeys  
  Winner: Pink Unicorns
- **Game 3**  Tropics v’s Pink Unicorns and Fairies  
  Winner: Pink Unicorns

After the first two weeks each team has won 2 games so next weeks games will determine the finalists.

*Tamika Williams*

*Publicity Officer*
This year the school entered 5 steers in the Royal Adelaide Show Led Steer Competition. They were Alcheringa Dimmy, a Limousin from Cameron and Yvonne Butcher, Ragnorak Dangerfield from Paul Cotterill of Mt Gambier, Seymour Vale Death Star, a Santa Gertrudis from Peter and Mandy Lintern of Tungkillo, Waterfront Dexter, a Simmental from R. Hodge and Partners of Tintinara and Wellington Lodge Darth Vader, an Angus from the MacFarlane family. Most of the steers arrived in early April and the Year 11 and 12 Ag class have been feeding, training and grooming the steers since that time. With a feeding regime that was developed with the assistance of Anthony Pearce of Meningie Fodder, all of the animals put on weight steadily over the next 140 days. With steers weighing between 500kg and 650kg, we went to the show with some cautious optimism. The larger steers were very well muscled and it is hard to get the fat cover required for the competition on this type of animal. Unfortunately both students who began working with Darth Vader left school during the preparation time and so Tim Eckert from Year 10 was recruited into the team at the last minute to take on the challenge of leading him in the show ground. The leaders of the other steers were Ben Halliday, Dylan VandenBrink, Alana Butcher and Bethany Jurgs. They were supported by Mel van den Drink, Judd Gibbs, Keith Rigney, Mitch Reichelt and Chris Biddle.

After the usual preliminaries of weighing, scanning and walking around the main arena in the Grand Parade, the steers finally went into the ring. Death Star and Darth Vader were in the same class, the 480 – 500 kg Heavy Domestic Class for School steers. After some consideration the judge saw fit to put Darth Vader in first place. It was very satisfying to once again bring a blue ribbon back to school, especially with a Wellington Lodge steer, who have provided us with a steer every year for almost 30 years, many of which have won prizes.

Unfortunately none of the other animals were placed and when the carcase results were announced a few days later there weren't any more ribbons for us. However, Darth Vader came a very credible 8th out 62 in the Heavy Domestic Schools class with 86 points out of 100. As predicted though, the other steers did not have quite enough fat for the specifications. None the less, it was a great learning experience for all of the students involved and they are looking forward to being involved again next year.

Thanks to all of the donors of steers, Harry and Michelle Ousley, David and Gwenda Eckert, Meningie Fodder, Greg and Erani Rowett and Deane and Bev Thorpe for their support.

Mal Jurgs
Ag Teacher
Junior Basketball

Basketball will commence on Friday nights mid October. Interested players are asked to submit their names to the Secretary by 30/9/09. We are hoping to run 3 divisions (Rec, 1 & 2 – beginners), (3,4 & 5 – middle school) and (6, 7 & 8 – upper school).

Please fill out the form below and return it with a parent’s signature.

NAME .................................................................
DATE OF BIRTH ......................................................
YEAR LEVEL ...........................................................
TELEPHONE NO .......................................................
ADDRESS ........................................................................
................................................................................
I give permission for my child to play basketball during the 2009/10 season starting mid October
................................................................................

Parent’s Signature

Under 21 Basketball

We are again running an Under 21 basketball competition starting mid October, either on Monday or Wednesday nights. Nominations are to be submitted by 30/9/09.

All enquiries, nominations etc. are to be directed to:

Wendy Mitchell
Box 363
Tailem Bend  5260

Phone: 85 723512 or mobile 0407 604110

Bedwetting

A new DVD based program, Bedwetting Cured, has been developed by Dr Mark Condon and Physiotherapist, Margaret O’Donovan. It outlines a successful program for parents to implement at home with their children.

For information and a free Bedwetting Fact Sheet please visit the website: www.bedwettinginstitute.com.au or phone 1300 135 796

ZooVentures & Zu-Fari

October School Holiday Program

ZooVentures for Kids at the Adelaide Zoo
Zu-Fari for Kids at Monarto Zoo

ZooVentures and Zu-Fari focus on making friends, learning lots and unique opportunities to meet with Zoo animals and their keepers. Children aged 6 – 12 (Adelaide Zoo) and 8 – 12 (Monarto Zoo) are cared for by two qualified teachers for a full day of fantastic Zoo experiences.

Run by the Adelaide and Monarto Zoo from 9:30am – 4:00pm on various weekdays during the school holidays. ZooVentures- $45/day, Zu-Fari- $55/day (including the bus trip up to Monarto Zoo). Positions must be booked by phone on 8267 2434. (They fill quickly!) Phone for more information or visit our web site. http://www.zoossa.com.au/education

SPORTSFEST 2009 (our 14th Year)
Coaching Clinics for students aged 5-15 years
At Princes Alfred College, Davenport Vale, Kent Town

Wed 30th Sept – Fri 2nd October 2009
Choose from:-  Cricket / Tennis / Basketball / Soccer / Combo

Emphasis is on skill development and maximum participation. We want all students significantly better equipped to enjoy and pursue sport for many years to come (low player/coach ratio, abundance of equipment, experienced and enthusiastic coaches).

Features:-
• FREE – Sportsfest 2009 McDonalds Voucher and Encouragement Award, Nippy’s juice,
• Combo – rotate sports every 45 mins, using modified equipment, (younger students)
• Sportswap – change to try another sport and game play (optional extra only)
• Cost of the 3 day clinics either 8.30am - 12 noon $140, or 8.30am – 3.30pm $190

www.acnsports.com.au

Phone 1300 134 154