FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Welcome back to what promises to be a short and very busy term. We welcome especially our new Reception students who began their schooling in Mrs Woolston’s class this week. These students are Lachlan Brooks, Alexis Hicks, Chase Rigney and Tiannah Short.

Our Year 12 students are now into their final weeks of secondary schooling. In the next few weeks they will be completing courses, and many will be undertaking exams. The last day for the Year 12 students is Friday 30th October. To celebrate their completion we will be holding the annual Year 12 Assembly. This is an opportunity for the whole school community to acknowledge their contribution to the school and wish them well as they complete their final classes.

It has been wonderful to see the continuation of wet weather throughout this week. For both students and teachers this has meant that we have spent most of the day inside. Despite this, students are really settled in class and getting on with the work that has been programmed.

A number of maintenance programs are currently in progress. The Commonwealth School Pride funding has enabled us to carry out work on tiling the school pool, and repairing immediate surrounds. This work is due for completion before the commencement of the Term 4 swimming program.

In addition we are in the process of turning the current text book storage area into a teaching space for Health Support Services. For this to happen, the Library has undergone some changes. We ask for your understanding when visiting the Library over the next few weeks as Library staff face the massive task of rearranging resources. When completed this renovation will enable resources to be more easily accessed and better planned utilisation of space.

Great News & Achievement
The Health Pathways Program was placed in the top 3 from 250 entries Australia wide at the inaugural Australia Rural and Outback Awards ceremony recently in Canberra. Congratulations to all involved. See Article Page 4

2010 Planning
Education Department Schools are funded in such a way that it means we need as accurate as possible numbers of students to allow us to plan and budget for 2010. This includes:

- The number of teaching staff we can employ
- The number of Student Support Officers we can employ to support students in their learning.
- The number and types of subjects we can offer to students, both face to face and through Open Access.
- The amount of funding we can put into resourcing the curriculum. This means things like textbooks, computer technology, junior school equipment, playground equipment, library books, interactive whiteboards and sports equipment.
- The number of hours we can employ Grounds Persons to maintain the school grounds and Agriculture facility.
- The number of hours we can employ a Community Library Assistant; a resource from which all the community benefits.

As each student impacts upon this funding, we would appreciate if you could notify us of any changes to your child/children’s enrolment as soon as possible so that we are well placed to make informed decisions in the best interest of all our students and the community.

Monica Williams
On the 20th September 12 students from Years 9 and 10 departed from the airport for Canberra. After a brief stop-over in Melbourne, we arrived to be greeted by our bus driver Ray who would be with us for the next three days. He showed us some of the highlights of Canberra on our way to our hotel. We settled into the Gold Creek Resort for the night. The following morning we started at Parliament House with a role play of getting a law passed through the House of Representatives where Oliver acted as Prime Minister, Sam as Minister for Defence and Mikey as the Sergeant at Arms. We were then given a tour of both houses.

Next stop was the Australian War Memorial. This included a session with a guide who shared some of the stories from World War 2 that related to particular articles on display. We then went to the Hall of Honour where we found the names of those of our relatives and members of the community who had made the ultimate sacrifice. A poppy was placed next to each name that we found. After some more time spent looking at the displays we moved on to the National Gallery of Australia. Here our guide showed us some of the more controversial pieces of art, such as "Blue Poles" and the "white" paintings. Some of the students found these paintings quite challenging, but they invoked some discussion both in the gallery and on the bus afterward. From here we went to the Telstra Tower on the top of Black Mountain. This gave us a great view over the whole of Canberra and beyond. As we made our way back to the motel for tea, Ray gave us a snap quiz on the places we had seen that day with a prize for all correct answers.

The students in front of Parliament House

After tea that night we ventured to an ice skating rink for a few hours of fun. Some of the students had obviously done this before and were quite graceful across the ice, while others were less experienced and it was an achievement to get around the rink without falling over. On our way there the sky opened up with a thunder storm and a huge rain which washed all of the dust away.

Wednesday was our final day and our first stop was the Australian Institute of Sport. Here we had the opportunity of playing a few games on some world class facilities, such as volleyball, indoor soccer and European handball. We were then given a tour of the facilities and were able to see some of the athletes in training including some very young gymnasts, who had spent 4 hours training before heading off to school for the day. We also had some time on some simulation machines including cycling, rowing and throwing cricket balls. This was a pretty energetic way to fill up 3 hours and we made our way to the city centre for lunch and a bit of shopping before going to the Royal Australian Mint to see where our money is made. After a video presentation and a look around the displays, we made our way to the airport with one last quiz from Ray. Due to the dust storms in Sydney and Brisbane our flight was delayed but not enough to be a real worry and soon we were on a direct flight back to Adelaide.

It was a busy but interesting 3 days and the students were all enthusiastic about the trip on their return. They all strongly recommend it to those who have the chance to go in 2011.

The next morning we had an early start at the Electoral Education Centre where we were given information about the electoral process and about our electorate. This included a "mock" election for our favourite fruits, which demonstrated how preferential voting worked. From here we made our way to Questacon, which is full of hands-on displays featuring scientific principles. These included a free fall slide which gave the sensation of zero gravity for a brief instant. Other highlights included a huge Tesla Coil which regularly created a lightning bolt. During our time in there a huge dust storm moved into Canberra, making everything look tinged with brown.

Our next stop was the National Portrait Gallery which houses a huge range of portraits of Australians from all walks of life, including Casey Stoner, Ned Kelly, Princess Mary of Denmark and Deborah Mailman to name just a few.

We were then given a quick talk and tour of the Royal Military College at Duntroon. Unfortunately there was a lot of field training occurring at that time so we didn't get to see much of the cadets, but there is a lot of history and tradition associated with this place. We went to a lookout above the College but the view was limited by the dust in the air. The students were impressed by the cadets who rode their bikes up to the look out, which is also the site of the Australian Artillery Monument, but even more impressed by the female cadet who ran up twice while we were stopped there. With some time up our sleeves we went to the Floriade Flower Festival for an hour. There was enough variety there to keep most of us interested for the full hour and plenty of ways of spending some money, including some souvenirs for mum.

We made our way to the airport with one last quiz from Ray. Due to the dust storms in Sydney and Brisbane our flight was delayed but not enough to be a real worry and soon we were on a direct flight back to Adelaide.

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The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit their National Capital as part of their civics and citizenship education. As a result the government through the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate (PACER) scheme contributed toward the cost of this trip for each student. We would like to thank the Australian Government for their support of this excursion.
Mal Jurgs, Deputy Principal

MATHS IS FOR EVERYONE

Last term was certainly a busy one in the Maths classes. All the students from Junior School to Senior School were involved in Maths in one way or another.

The Year 5, 6 and 7 Maths classes shared a lesson a week for a Maths Jeopardy Lesson. The students were divided into groups and the competition was fierce. The winners of the Term 3 Year 5, 6, and 7 were Brigitte, Montana, Alysha, Maddi, Coco and Breane.

Similarly, the Year 8 and 9 students also had a Jeopardy Competition and the winners for Term 3 were Megan, Amber and Alex.

A special feature of the term was that students in the Middle School participated in a Quiz Day and we had a great time of quiz mastery and challenges. Mrs Hood worked out the questions and all students from Years 5-9 were part of the day.

The winning team was ‘THE BLANKS’ (Marni, Abbey, Jake and Caleb); and the second team was ‘THE BRIGHT SPARKS’ (Gracie, Alysha, Kia and Katie).

Anne Wright, Maths Teacher

MAS SCHOOL SOCIAL

‘HIPPIES AND HILLBILLIES’

On the last day of term the Senior Students organised socials for the students from Reception to Year 12. At 4pm the quadrangle was filling up with lots of groovy chicks, funky dudes and jumping hillbillies and their very helpful parents for the Junior Social. After much dancing, game playing and running around an exhausted group of tired chicks, exhausted dudes and walking hillbillies went home.

The Senior Social then started with another bevy of groovy ladies and dashing gentlemen dancing the night away to the DJ music.

Many thanks to the students who organised and supported the night.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK ORDERS

Catalogues for Scholastic Books (e.g. Lucky, Arrow, Wombat, Star, etc) have been sent home with students this week.

Orders (with payment) can be made at the book room until the end of Monday 26th October.
AUSTRALIAN RURAL AND OUTBACK AWARDS UPDATE

An update on the article published last term...

Meningie Area School was recently proudly represented by students Alana Butcher and Charlotte Wenske, Jo Orr (representing the health services) and myself in Canberra at the inaugural Australian Rural and Outback Award ceremony.

Health Pathways programmes have been successfully operating within the senior school for almost 10 years and through the Australian Rural and Outback Awards was recognized as a highly successful programme in the Business and Training category. The programme, which includes Pathways to Nursing, Health Support Services Cert II and more recently Allied Health Assistance Cert III, was placed in the top 3 from over 250 entries Australia wide.

A gala presentation dinner was a great finale to an exciting day with Charlotte enjoying her first plane flight on a beautiful clear day via Sydney!

Although we did not bring home the trophy the experience was invaluable. We met people from all over rural Australia from as far as Tasmania to the Pilbara.

The category winner was from Quirindi, a chaff company in rural NSW who have built up their industry to contract local farmers to grow the produce, provide training to staff and contracts to other services such as transport thus responding the challenges of a rural community suffering from ongoing drought.

The adventure was made complete by a sightseeing tour of Canberra on Sunday with particular time spent at the Australian War Memorial, Parliament House and Floriade.

This award provides a great opportunity for rural programmes to be recognised for their interest and commitment to building stronger communities and brighter futures.

Denice Mason
Health Pathways Teacher

2009 MENINGIE SHOW

The Meningie Show, to be held on Sunday November 1, is now only 3 weeks away. The Meningie Show Committee have put together a booklet this year containing all the entry forms and information for competitions at the Show. There are many opportunities for school students to participate in the competitions with sections in the equestrian, photography, cooking, arts and crafts and garden produce competitions as well as participating in mini motorcycling. As some competition entries need to be in well before the show, it would be wise to get your booklet as soon as you can. The books are available at various locations around Meningie and at the school front office.

Marianne Cunneen
Meningie Show Committee

Sharing your thoughts on parenting

Share your thoughts and ideas about parenting and programs to support parents, as part of a project conducted by the Parenting and Family Support Clinic (PFSC) at the University of Queensland. We are looking for parents of a 2-10 year old child to complete a survey and view some short videos about parenting programs P. The study is available online at: https://exp.psy.uq.edu.au/engagement. Alternatively if you reside in the Brisbane metropolitan area, you can complete the study at the PFSC by contacting Faye Nitschke (Email: faye.nitschke@uqconnect.edu.au or Ph: 07 3365 7307).