FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

Congratulations to all students, and particularly Albert House, for their participation and success in the Meningie Sports Day held last Thursday 5th March at the town oval. Feedback has been really positive from staff, students, parents and the community about the day with comments such as:

- there seemed to be more student involvement
- students were excited about the day
- it was easier to chaperone students around
- spectators felt they could see events easily
- there was a really positive feel about the day.

The decision to go the oval then appears to have been a good one. It did take some organisation and I thank everyone who was involved in this, both in the days leading up to sports day as well as those on the day. In particular I thank parent and community volunteers as well as the Football/ Cricket and Pony Clubs who really made it possible. Without volunteer help we would not been able to run many of the educational events and activities which students are involved in, with sports day being just one of them. Your response in making this a great day is appreciated. Results from the day are within this edition.

Our Deputy Principal Mal Jurgs officiated on Sports Day, as I was in attendance at the inaugural Murray and Mallee District Leaders Conference. As you are aware, new districts were formed across the state during 2008. This conference was organised to bring together all site leaders within the new district and develop processes and make decisions about how we can work together and meet the educational expectations required to improve learning needs for our students. As the new district encompasses sites from Murray Bridge to Renmark, and Mannum to Tintinara there are many considerations and challenges. I was elected on to the executive committee for our cluster of schools and will be part of a group that will help to initiate and implement strategies to assist this.

Interschool Athletics Carnival

Interschool Athletics Carnival is at Coomandook on Wednesday 18th March. This involves students from Year 3-12. All students are expected to attend as either a competitor or a spectator. (Year 3 students not participating are expected to attend school). Indeed as many as 80 students have been selected to represent the school on the day. Students have been selected as a result of their performance at our own sports day and may only be in one or two events. Their participation is just as important as a student competing in many more. We will only be as competitive as the team we send and this is an opportunity for students to challenge themselves and compete at another level. If not, then what is the purpose of having Interschool Sports. Over the years we always have students pulling out at the last minute. This makes it difficult on the rest of the team as well as staff organising our involvement. I seek all parents in supporting us with this and ensuring your child is at Coomandook on the day involved in the events for which he/she has been
selected. Interschool Athletics day is a school day and we expect Meningie students to be involved as competitors or spectators at Coomandook. Information regarding this has been sent home with your child. In particular this letter contains information about being selected in the team, travel by bus and important bus times. Please note the following arrangements and details about Interschool Athletics Carnival at Coomandook.

The Interschool Athletics Carnival is a day event to be held at the Coomandook Area School next **Wednesday 18th March from 9.30 am to 3.00 pm.** The arrangements for the day are as follows.

- **Meningie Area School will be open** for all students R-3, except those students selected for events. The teachers of most of these classes will be on the school site.
- **Buses for the carnival will leave Meningie at 8.30 am and return by 4.00 pm.** There is no charge for bus travel. However, please complete the Bus travel slip which was sent home with information Wednesday, by Friday 13th March, so that we can have enough space available.
- **All afternoon bus runs will operate, however they will leave Meningie Area School at 4.00 pm.**
- Junior school students who normally travel by bus will be provided with after-school supervision in the library from 3.20pm to 4.00pm. If parents wish, they may pick up their children after school from the library.
- Please ensure that your child/children are appropriately organised for the day with:
  - Sunscreen
  - Hat
  - T shirt/ shorts/ track pants etc
  - Enough water and food for the day or money to purchase same.

Coomandook Area School will be providing food and drink stalls on the day.

**Building the Education Revolution**

I have included a letter from the Federal Government explaining the funding for Building the Education Revolution. Along with Deputy Principal Mal Jurgs and Governing Council Chairperson Judy Appelkamp, I attended several meetings explaining the funding and what it may mean for Meningie Area School. This is a fantastic opportunity for us to receive much needed funding to upgrade and improve our facilities.

In consultation with DECS Facilities Officer, and in discussions with both staff and Governing Council, we have decided to refurbish the Gym according to the $850,000 funding we are to receive. The **School Pride** program provides $125,000 funding to refurbish and renew other existing facilities around the school. The Resources Committee compiled a list of these at last Tuesday 10th March meeting. The timeline for submission is very short with **National School Pride** submissions due in this week.

If you have any suggestions about the refurbishment of the Gym, you might like to contact either myself or Mal Jurgs at the school, or Judy Appelkamp, with your suggestion in the next few days. This submission needs to be made by Friday March 20th.

**Team Sailing**

A small group of students and parents have gone to Victor Harbor with teacher supervisor, Anne Wright this Thursday and Friday to compete in Team Sailing. Practice leading up to this event has been challenging with insufficient water in the lake. We wish them every success, and a great experience.

**Teenagers and Alcohol**

We have enclosed the 2nd of a series of fact sheets providing information about alcohol and the developing child. This fact sheet is titled “Alcohol, Teenage Parties & the Law”.

Monica Williams

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**Connecting Spirits CD Launch**

The Connecting Spirits CD featuring music written and performed by 2006 tour members Rita Lindsay and Flo Bourke will be held at the Irish Club, Carrington St, Adelaide on the 22nd April, at 7.00pm. Tickets are $20 each and include food, introductory drinks and a complimentary copy of the Connecting Spirits 2006 book. Proceeds from the night will be used in our Youth Leadership Program for the 2010 trip. Presentations of photo montages will also be made to relatives of soldiers commemorated on the 2008 tour. Please contact Mal Jurgs at the school for more information.
GOVERNING COUNCIL

............what is Governing Council???

It’s a committee where parents and/or carers, combined with the Principal, Deputy Principal and other staff members, have an active role in supporting and making positive decisions that will support our children’s education in our local community Area School.

We meet once per month, with sub meetings of Resources and Core Planning meeting once per month as well.

Governing Council extends an invitation to all parents/carers to consider, and maybe to nominate, joining this committee (see nomination form below).

We also wish to invite all parents/carers to an assembly on Thursday 26th March at 12.15 pm where the 2008 Annual Report will be presented and the new nominated Governing Council will be acknowledged.

Parents/carers will all be invited to a light lunch ably supplied by Denice Mason and her Senior Home Economics students.

The following parents have completed their two-year nomination:

- Judy Appelkamp
- Gill Biddle
- David Eckert

and with the early retirement of Bev Thorpe and Michelle Rowe, it leaves only the following parents:

- Berta Botha
- Wayne Wenske
- Jeff Wright

to complete one more year on Governing Council. There are at least 11 positions that need to be filled, so we are looking forward to your nomination.

---------------------------------------------

MENINGIE AREA SCHOOL
GOVERNING COUNCIL

NOMINATION FOR ELECTION FORM

I………………………………………………of………………………………………………..
(full name) (address)

Nominate:
…………………………………………………..of………………………………………………..
(full name) (address)

Signed:……………………………………………………Date:……………………………………..
(Please note that parents/carers may self-nominate)

PLEASE RETURN TO THE FRONT OFFICE BY FRIDAY 20TH MARCH 2009
You may have heard about the Commonwealth Government’s economic stimulus package and Building the Education Revolution initiative. This will have a direct positive impact on all South Australian schools.

The key elements of the Building the Education Revolution are:

- **Primary Schools for the 21st Century**: $12.4 billion across Australia to build or renew large scale infrastructure in all primary schools, special schools and R-12s (primary component), including libraries, halls and indoor sporting centres.

- **Science & Language Centres for 21st Century Secondary Schools**: $1 billion to build up to 500 new science laboratories and language learning centres in secondary schools that can demonstrate both need and readiness, and capacity to complete construction by 30 June 2010.

- **National School Pride**: $1.3 billion across all Australian schools to refurbish and renew existing infrastructure and build minor infrastructure of up to $200,000 subject to the size of the school.

Projects under the **National School Pride** program eligible for funding include:

- Refurbishment of buildings;
- Construction or upgrades or fixed shade structures, covered outdoor learning areas, sporting grounds and facilities;
- Green upgrades (water tanks), insulation (but not air-conditioning or heating);
- Specialised infrastructure support for students with disabilities or special needs;
- Installation or purchase of ICT facilities and equipment which are not covered by any part of the Digital Education Revolution funding (Years 9-12).

The timeframes for major works to commence are extremely tight with 20% to be started prior to June 2009, 40% by July 2009 and the remaining 40% by December 2009. With this in mind, DECS is developing a priority list of major works for each school and there will be limited opportunity to comment on the proposal. Our school will be asked to nominate our school’s top priority maintenance works and this will be provided to the Commonwealth for consideration.

**Junior School News**

This has been an extremely busy term with swimming and athletics carnivals being held over the past few weeks. There were a number of junior school students who performed exceptionally well at our carnivals and were rewarded with selection to the interschool teams. Congratulations. I also acknowledge the year 3 students who participated competitively in the two carnivals for the first time. It is sometimes daunting performing in events when you haven’t had much opportunity to practise. Well Done.

Lastly a big thankyou to the parents, grandparents, carers and friends who have supported the students and the school in these events.

**Junior School Assembly**

Dear Parents/Care givers/Extended family members

You are invited to the Meningie Area School R-6 assembly and morning tea on Tuesday March 17th at 10:15am in the school hall.

Our classrooms will be open between 11:30am and 1:00pm for our visitors to see what we have been learning this term.

We hope you can come.

From
The Junior School Team

RSVP by Monday 16th 2009
To the Front Office or phone 8575 1106

**Junior School Interviews**

This term the Junior School teachers will be providing student feedback via a parent/teacher interview. It is important that you make a time to meet with your child’s teacher as progress books will not be sent home for term 1. Further information regarding times will be distributed in a note with the students in the next week.

Katrina Hood
Junior School Manager
SPORTS NEWS

SAPSASA Swimming
Due to their outstanding performances at the school swimming carnival the following Year 4-7 students were chosen to compete in the SAPSASA Murray Mallee Swimming Trials at Lameroo on Wednesday March 4th.

Lauchlan Brown, Brad Promnitz, Sam Sanders, Scott Biddle, Holly Vandenbrink, Maddison O'Connell, Coco Karriem, Tessa Bagshaw, Abby Hood, Alysha Eckert, Mikayla Smart and Brigitte Botha. All of these students swam superbly, with many finishing in the top three in their respective events. Holly swam exceptionally well and was chosen in the Murray Mallee team.

She will compete in the 10 yr old girls freestyle relay at the SSSSA Swimming Carnival at the Adelaide Aquatic Centre on the evening of Monday March 27th against some of the states best swimmers.

A big thankyou to all the parents who helped transport students to the venues and helped officiate on the day.

SSSSA SWIMMING CARNIVAL
Based on results from the Interschool Swimming Carnival, Beth Marsson, Michelle Crossman, Megan Smart, Hannah Pittendreigh, Jackie Gibbs, Josh Wright, Oliver Crossman, Zac VandenBrink, Dylan VandenBrink and Ben Halliday were chosen as part of the Upper South East team to compete in the SSSSA Swimming Carnival at the Adelaide Aquatic Centre on the evening of Monday 2nd March. The students performed admirably with the following receiving certificates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Runner up</th>
<th>Winner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U9 Hugh Mason</td>
<td>Tom Lewis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U10 Celia Cowan</td>
<td>Aleisha Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U11 Tyson Natt</td>
<td>David Wilson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U12 Melissa Botha</td>
<td>Emma Marles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U13 Alysha Eckert</td>
<td>Kyale Rigney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U14 Brigitte Botha</td>
<td>Tessa Bagshaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U15 Sam Bird</td>
<td>Clinton Walker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U16 Hannah Pittendreigh</td>
<td>Gracie Ayres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Josh Wright</td>
<td>Dylan Richards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Alex Lightfoot</td>
<td>Marni Hood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Mitchell Wenske</td>
<td>Amber Gibbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Mitch Reichelt</td>
<td>Jackie Gibbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Mitch Reichelt</td>
<td>Michael Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Mitch Reichelt</td>
<td>Madison Wenske</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Mitch Reichelt</td>
<td>April Gibbs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

INDIVIDUAL MEDALLION WINNERS:

- U9 Hunters
- U10 Hunters
- U11 Hunters
- U12 Hunters
- U15 Hunters
- U16 Hunters
- Open Hunters

RECORDS BROKEN:

- U9 Boys
- U10 Boys
- U9 Girls
- U10 Boys

 toch out first place.

Thanks must go to Miss Davis and Mrs Hood for their organisation of the Sports Day and Mr Hastings, Gary Adams from Coomandook, Jeff Halliday, Mal Jurgs, Neale Biddle, Jeff Wright and David Eckert for preparing the oval. Also thankyou to the teachers, SSO staff, parents and students that chaperoned, timed or scored on the day and the Football and Cricket clubs for allowing us to use the town oval and for running the canteen and providing a barbecue. It was great to have so much support as it helped to make the day run so well.

Following are the results, list of records broken and individual medallion winners.

RESULTS:

1st Albert – 1637.5 points
2nd Coorong – 1470.5 points
3rd Bonny – 1388.0 points

Became clear our school oval would not be in a suitable condition to do so.

Well done to all the students who participated. It was great to see so many involved in events and competing in such good spirits. At the end of the day it was Albert House

Lisa Davis
PE Teacher

MAS SPORTS DAY
On Thursday 5th March, in mild conditions, students from Meningie Area School participated in a number of Athletics events at the annual school sports day. We were fortunate enough to be able to hold this event at the town oval after it

Based on results from the Interschool Swimming Carnival, Beth Marsson, Michelle Crossman, Megan Smart, Hannah Pittendreigh, Jackie Gibbs, Josh Wright, Oliver Crossman, Zac VandenBrink, Dylan VandenBrink and Ben Halliday were chosen as part of the Upper South East team to compete in the SSSSA Swimming Carnival at the Adelaide Aquatic Centre on the evening of Monday 2nd March. The students performed admirably with the following receiving certificates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Old Record</th>
<th>New Record</th>
<th>Record Broken By</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U9 Boys</td>
<td>1500m</td>
<td>6.53.00s (1999)</td>
<td>6.33.09</td>
<td>Tom Lewis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U10 Boys</td>
<td>Foam</td>
<td>16.66m (2007)</td>
<td>21.11m</td>
<td>Hank Trevorrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U9 Boys</td>
<td>Foam</td>
<td>11.30m (2007)</td>
<td>13.76m</td>
<td>Jonathon Schmerl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U13 Boys</td>
<td>Javelin</td>
<td>29.75m (2007)</td>
<td>31.66m</td>
<td>Dylan Richards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U14 Girls</td>
<td>Javelin</td>
<td>19.13m (1991)</td>
<td>20.01m</td>
<td>Amber Gibbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U10 Boys</td>
<td>Shotput</td>
<td>7.58m (1991)</td>
<td>7.68m</td>
<td>Hank Trevorrow</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Out of 8 teams, the USE Boys team came 2nd (on 517 points) to St Ignatius (on 534 points) and the USE girls team came 6th (on 329 points). First place was Tatchilla on 558 points.

Well done to all students.
Over the years many Australian High School students have enjoyed having a brother or sister for a few months from another country.

It is a great opportunity for students to learn that there is a world of variety and opportunity waiting for them – different languages, foods, sports, customs, and perhaps an overseas visit to look forward to later on.

Southern Cross Cultural Exchange is seeking volunteer host families to host international high school students arriving in July 2009 for stays of 3, 5, and 10 months. We would greatly appreciate your support by including the following paragraph of information into your next school newsletter, or pinned to a notice board, placed on your website or included in any appropriate communication to parents or staff.

Southern Cross Cultural Exchange, an Australian not-for-profit organisation specialising in international student exchange programs, is seeking volunteer host families for high school students scheduled to arrive in Australia in July 2009 from Germany, Italy, France, Holland, Austria, Spain, Sweden, Norway, Denmark Finland, Japan, Brazil, Canada and the USA. Host families can choose from students staying for a range of either 3, 5 or 10 months and they all attend local high schools whilst they are in Australia. The main purpose of cultural exchange is to challenge youth towards international understanding and tolerance, encourage further learning, self knowledge and awareness - invaluable characteristics in today’s world. We organise all the flights, school enrolment, transportation, insurances and support systems. Just imagine your son or daughter having a brother or sister for a few months from another country. It’s a great opportunity for Australian students to learn that there is a world of variety and opportunity waiting for them – different languages, foods, sports, customs, and perhaps an overseas visit to look forward to later on.

To enquire, call Southern Cross Cultural Exchange now toll free on 1800 500 501, visit www.scce.com.au or email scceast@scce.com.au

Robert Lindsay
National Business Development Manager
SOUTHERN CROSS CULTURAL EXCHANGE

National community group Young Media Australia (YMA) wants parents of junior primary aged and preschool children to know about its new package Choosing Fright-free Fight-free Viewing: a resource for parents of children under seven. The package consists of a 5 minute DVD and accompanying booklet, and is currently being distributed through the primary education sector in South Australia (both government and independent), kindergartens, child care and early learning centres and Playgroup SA. The DVD is suited to be viewed by individual parents or in group settings, and is available from the Meningie Community Library.

As part of this project, YMA has also developed a list of about 200 titles of non-violent media, that is, media where there are no instances of people deliberately hurting other people. The list was created by a team of three media reviewers, all qualified in child development, who reviewed hundreds of DVDs, TV programs and video games. Primarily intended as a web resource, the initial list (printed in the Choosing Fright-free Fight-free Viewing booklet and available as a two-page stand alone document) is a snapshot in time of some titles that parents could look for to avoid violent product.

Many of the titles reviewed as non-violent media are available in SA public libraries as well as the usual rental and retail outlets.

For more information about this exciting initiative, or any other information about the impact of the media on children, go to the YMA website www.youngmedia.org.au, or phone the YMA Helpline on 1800 700 357 (freecall).

A pair of ladies sunglasses – dark with swirly patterns on the arms.
If you think these may be yours, please claim from the front office, or send your child in to collect with a note from you.