FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

NAPLAN

This year’s NAPLAN tests for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 & 9 will be held during week three of Term 2, on Tuesday 12, Wednesday 13, and Thursday 14th May and administered by class teachers. The NAPLAN is a nationally developed program commissioned by the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment and Youth Affairs and is administered in all schools across Australia.

The aspects of Literacy that are tested are: reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation. The aspects of numeracy tested are number, space, measurement, algebra, chance and data.

This year there are a few changes to the running of tests which include

• Only one test book per day for each student
• Catch up tests for absent students will occur only on Friday May 15th.

During the first two weeks of Term 2 teachers will be familiarising students with the NAPLAN tests and the way to show their answers to questions during the tests.

Later in the year, usually around September, each student will receive a report which will be sent home to parents through the school. The results of your child’s achievement will be shown in a series of bands against national minimum standards and the ranges of achievement for the middle 60% of students in Australia.

Students with special needs will be given assistance to access the test within the guidelines set out. A formal exemption may be granted for some students who have severe intellectual disabilities or who are recent arrivals in Australia from non-English speaking backgrounds. Please contact the school if you require further information.

Student Reports Middle/Senior School

End of Term reports will go home with your child on Thursday. With the short week, reports will not be available until after lunch on Thursday, and will be distributed to classes. If your child is absent on Thursday a sibling is able to collect their report from the Front Office immediately after the bell. Alternatively, reports can be collected from the Library throughout the holiday break.

Please note that your child’s report will have a letter regarding Term 2 parent/teacher/student interviews. We seek your support in sending the requests back on the first day of term so that all interviews can be arranged efficiently and in time for Week 2/3.

Parenting Workshops

Within this Newsletter edition there is a flyer regarding a series of Parenting Workshops to be held here at Meningie Area School beginning Monday 4th May from 6-8p.m for three weeks, on Monday nights.
Centacare is running this course and it is being promoted by Meningie Child Care, Meningie Kindy and Meningie Area School. This is a great opportunity to look at parenting issues and develop strategies to work with children aged 2-12 years of age. There are already a number of people who have expressed interest in attending, so get in and reserve a place in the course to avoid disappointment.

A creche sponsored by Meningie Area School Parents and Friends will be available. A light tea will be available for both children and parents attending the course.

**Student Attendance**

At the end of every term we recognise the students who have Perfect Attendance throughout the term. This means that they attend school every day and/or are involved in a recognised school activity such as a sporting event.

Our records show that the following students had Perfect Attendance in Term 1.

- Chloe St John Year 2
- Tegan St John Year 3
- Holly Vandenbrink Year 4
- Kyale Rigney Year 4
- Abbey Hood Year 6
- Adele Pittendreigh Year 6
- Erin Pittendreigh Year 7
- Zac Vandenbrink Year 8
- Oliver Crossman Year 9
- Tim Eckert Year 10
- Jake Promnitz Year 10
- Dylan Vandenbrink Year 11
- Michelle Crossman Year 12

Congratulations to all these students. As we know, attendance contributes to student academic and personal success at school.

In addition, a further number of student’s attendance was near perfect. Of these, 32 students were from classes in the Junior School, 21 in the Middle School and 10 in the Senior School.

**Homework**

Meningie Area School has a Homework Policy as outlined in the Information Book. Homework is set to enable students to reinforce concepts being taught, complete assignments and learn to work within time lines, and develop study skills. Collected data shows that many students are not doing or completing set homework. We believe not attending to homework it has a real impact on subject grades at the end of the term. A real focus next term is going to be on homework throughout the Middle and Senior School throughout the term. A lunch time Home Work detention session will be run in the computer room. This means students will have to stay in and work on incomplete tasks. Alongside this, we will give students the opportunity to choose to stay in and complete tasks. This will enable students who work after school, attend sports practice or do not have access to computers at home a time and space to attend to homework responsibilities.

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**Agapanthus bulbs**

If you are interested in giving away Agapanthus bulbs see the Groundspersons (John or Geoff) at Meningie Area School.