FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

SAPSASA

Well done to the students from our school who have been selected to participate in the SAPSASA carnivals in Adelaide next week. They are:

**Netball:** Abbey Hood & Kaitlin McKenzie-Campbell

**Football:** Scott Biddle, Sam Sanders & Dylan Richards

Congratulations to Scott Biddle who was chosen as the Captain of the Football team.

NAPLaN

Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 sat the NAPLaN tests this week in Literacy and Numeracy.

As advertised in the last newsletter these tests were held over Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nationally. Students away on these days were given a catch up time on Friday.

Teachers had prepared students well for the test conditions and the type of tasks that they would be required to do. Students are to be commended for the way in which they worked within the test conditions and staff for their support and commitment in making sure that the students were well prepared.

NAPLaN reports to both parents and schools will be sent out in September of this year.

Homework

As advised in the last Newsletter we are trialling a Homework centre during lunch time on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday each week. Students who do not complete set homework as given by the teacher will be given a detention and be required to go to the room to complete the work. Students can also use the room voluntarily. So far many students have made use of this facility which is great to see.

Parent/ Teacher/ Student Interviews

A number of parents/caregivers and students participated in the scheduled interviews, although disappointingly, not all turned up to times as arranged. Thankyou to the parents/caregivers who contacted the office to apologise and or arrange alternative times. Teachers value interviews as a time to discuss with the parent and student a range of issues including the positives as well as strategies in maximising learning achievement. We encourage all parents/caregivers to make contact with us about your child/children’s progress at any stage of the year. So often a discussion between the student, parent and teacher can resolve/alleviate concerns and/or put in place strategies appropriate to your individual child. After all education is a partnership, and a students’ progress and success is enhanced by all of us working together.

REMINDER

3rd Workshop for Three Choices Effective Discipline for Children

Monday 18th May

DIARY DATES:

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>18 May</td>
<td>SAPSASA netball &amp; football carnivals in Adelaide - All week</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 May</td>
<td>Years 9 to 12 – Live performance at Space Theatre</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 May</td>
<td>3rd session of 3 Choices Workshop 6 – 8 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 May</td>
<td>Junior School Assembly 10.30 am</td>
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<td>20 May</td>
<td>Yr 8 Immunisations 10 am</td>
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<td>25 May</td>
<td>Core Planning meeting 8pm</td>
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<td>27 May</td>
<td>National Simultaneous Storytime</td>
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<td>27 May</td>
<td>Whole School Assembly 12.15 pm</td>
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NEWSLETTER 8
15th May 2009

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Parenting Workshop

Well over thirty parents have been attending the Three Choices Effective Discipline program that has been held in the Community Library over the past two Monday evenings. Annette Flanagan, through Centacare, has been facilitating the sessions. This is a joint initiative between the Child Care Centre, Meningie Kindergarten and Meningie Area School. The crèche, arranged by Gwenda Eckert and supported by Meningie Child Care, with April Gibbs and Donna Sparnon helping out, has been well attended and supported by parents. My thanks to these people. Also thanks to Brenda Blake for providing the light meal at each session. This has been really appreciated.

Monica Williams

DISCOVERING GERMAN IN HAHNDORF

On 6th May, students, parents and teachers from the Meningie Area School Year 3/4 class went on an excursion to Mount Barker and Hahndorf. As part of their German program the students ordered their recess in German at the Brezel Bakery in Mount Barker, and then went on a discovery trail through Hahndorf to explore the German language and heritage of the area. Highlights of the excursion included Brezel’s for recess, discovering names and dates in St Michael’s cemetery, finding out about Captain Hahn’s voyage to South Australia in 1839, and discovering some of Hans Heysen’s paintings in the Hahndorf academy.

The students were all enthusiastic and had a great time and were praised for their exemplary conduct by the staff at the Hahndorf Academy. As well as exploring Hahndorf’s German heritage, the students extended their German skills with everyone speaking German with staff at the Bakery and reading German around Hahndorf to fill in their fact sheets on the discovery trail.

Special thanks to all the parents who came on the trip, including Judy Appelkamp for driving us safely there and back.

Veruschka Crichton
German teacher

RECEPTION-YEAR 1 INVADE THE HOME EC CENTRE

Mothers of children in the Rec/1 Hart/Woolston classes were the lucky recipients of “Sugar and Spice” biscuits for Mothers Day. These children also published individual custom made cards from a computer.

The Home Economics Year 11 students oversaw 30 Reception/Year 1 students as they made their biscuits. Although the thought of 30 small children cooking at the one time seemed daunting, the exercise went amazingly well, with everybody having lots of fun and resulting in a fantastically worthwhile activity. It was so successful that it is planned to repeat the session each week.

This week our theme will be Space – the theme across the Reception/Year 1 curriculum for Term 2. This exercise encompasses learning across the curriculum for all students and is a valuable learning opportunity for the Year 11 students.

Learning while having fun is in line with current educational learning practice.

Katie sitting on an old chair in the main street of Hahndorf
On Friday 1st May in wet and slippery conditions students from Meningie, Karoonda, Coomandook, Tintinara, Coonalpyn and Geranium gathered at the Meningie Sailing Club to compete in the Upper South East Cross Country Championships. The competition was open to those students 9 years and older. It ran from the Sailing Club, down Hyde Avenue, past the Waterfront Motel where students turned onto the lakefront and run back along the beach to the Sailing Club. Those students doing the 3km then had to do an extra loop down towards the Lions Park.

Meningie supported the event very well and we had around 30 students participate. All in all it was a good day (despite the wet weather) and most of the students were very well behaved (although very wet by the end of the day). Some outstanding performances by the Meningie students were:

Hugh Mason – First 10 Yr Old Boys
Zac VandenBrink – First 14 Yr Old Boys
Jackie Gibbs – First 15 Yr Old Girls
Amber Gibbs – First 14 Yr Old Girls
Chris Biddle – First 16/Open Yr Old Boys

Rhys Marles, Emma Marles, Melissa Botha, Adele Pittendreigh, Dylan Sumner, Brigette Botha, Joe Bird and April Gibbs also came second in their respective age groups and Meningie won several team awards.

As a result of their performances some students will now be invited to participate in the South Australian Schools Cross Country Championships in Adelaide on Friday May 29th at Oakbank Racecourse.

This event would not have run without the help of many people. The School would like to thank the Sailing Club for allowing us to use their facilities, Kirsty Bagshaw and Wendy VandenBrink for their assistance with officiating on the day, Sarah Chandler for looking after the Meningie Area School Team and Katrina Hood, Russell Starr, Joel Overweel and John Hasting for their work setting up and assisting on the day. The work of many ensured another successful day of sport.

Lisa Davis (PE Teacher)
Last week the Year 10 class attended the Future Leaders Camp at Woodhouse as part of their Active 8 Program. The camp was attended by students from about 9 schools from across the state and metropolitan area, all working toward their Future Leaders accreditation. The purpose of the camp was for students working in groups to demonstrate team work and leadership skills through a number of activities including camp set-up, preparing and cooking a meal on an open fire, participating in a karaoke evening and undertaking a number of challenges such as orienteering with a GPS, archery and Frisbee golf.

Our groups quickly set up camp in an orderly fashion and sat back to watch other teams struggle with their tents. The next challenge was to produce a school banner, using only a white sheet and red textas, which said something about where the school is situated. Our banner featured pictures of pelicans, fish, reeds and other plants as well as cows, sheep and tractors. Each student also wrote their name on the banner. Following this the students needed to prepare a meal using an open fire. Each group was given an allocation of wood with which to make their fire and, while that was burning down to a good bed of coals, prepared their meal of mince meat and vegetables to be cooked in an alfoil container, and baked apples. Judges watched their every move and even tasted some of the final product. After cleaning up after the meal, all of the students got together for a karaoke competition. Stuart Harper worked hard to get his team mates up for a rendition of “Kung Fu Fighting” but didn’t get a place in the final judging.

After breakfast the following morning, each group rotated through a number of activities which included chariot racing, problem solving, Frisbee golf, sumo wrestling, archery, and GPS orienteering.

On successfully completing these, the awards were presented. All students did very well but Meningie Group 1 which included, Sam Bird, Tim Eckert, Stuart Harper, Jake Promnitz and Justin Smart did particularly well coming in equal second of all of the teams at the camp.

Both Miss Davis and I were very impressed with the way that all of the students behaved and participated in the activities, although perhaps we need some karaoke evenings in the town to help get rid of some of the stage fright.

Mr Jurgs

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**URGENTLY WANTED**

The Tech Studies workshop would appreciate donations of the following:

- rags
- empty 4 litre icecream containers
- empty 2 litre icecream containers
- large bucket icecream containers

These can be left at the front office or left at the workshop door in the car park.

Vic Woolston
Tech Studies teacher

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The *Think Climate Think Change* schools competition asks primary and secondary students to use their creative talents to answer the question: ‘What does Climate Change mean to me?’.

Competition winners will be flown to Canberra in August with a parent or guardian to share their ideas with Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, Deputy Primary Minister Julia Gillard and Minister for Climate Change, Senator Penny Wong as part of a special awards ceremony.

The competition opened on Tuesday 28 April 2009 and closes on Wednesday 24 June 2009.

Entries will be judged in 3 categories across grades 3 to 9. Students will be able to submit entries in a wide range of forms including short stories, poems, rap lyrics or artwork.

Prizes for each category are:

1st Place  Trip for 2 to Canberra including return airfares, 2 nights accommodation, the awards ceremony, a personalised tour of Parliament House and 2 tickets to Questacon the national science and technology centre.

   Nintendo Wii Console, sports kit and Wii Fit pack

   $1000 book voucher for the winner's school

2nd Place  16GB Apple iPod touch

3rd Place  8GB Apple iPod nano

Highly commended (3 per category)  

   $50 book voucher

Judging criteria will be based on creativity, originality and attention to the theme.

For entry forms and further information, see the front office or website at [www.climatechange.gov.au](http://www.climatechange.gov.au)