Welcome back. The last few weeks have flown past and here we are again at the beginning of another school year. I do hope that all families had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year and that there was some time to spend together with families and friends in activities away from the daily routine. A warm welcome to new children and their families to the school and district, particularly those children who are attending school for the first time.

It is my pleasure to welcome new teacher Ms Sarah Lehmann to Meningie Area School. Sarah has a contract for Term 1 at this stage and is teaching students across Years 6/7. Sarah is a recent graduate in Middle Schooling and has specialised in Maths and Health & PE.

Parent /Teacher Acquaintance Night BBQ

As advertised on the large school notice board and in invitations being sent home through your child/children we are once again holding an informal Parent/Teacher Acquaintance night. The date is Wednesday 8th February here at the school.

This is an opportunity to meet and/or reconnect with your child/children’s teacher/s.

This event is fully catered, with water and cordial available for children. Parents may like to bring along their own drinks. For catering purposes please return your RSVP or contact the front office with numbers attending by Monday 6th February. We look forward to seeing families at our first event for the school year.

Refurbishment

During the holidays a program of asbestos removal and upgrade was made in the main Administration area. The sick room/time out space and small clerical office were completely gutted and rebuilt. New internal windows were put in, floor coverings upgraded and then painted. This work has given a fresh look to an area of the school that is used on a daily basis.

Work began on the Junior School Playground area. Over the summer break trees that posed a risk to safety were removed. Unfortunately the erection of the shade structure over the junior school play equipment was delayed and will be installed next week. We look forward to the completion of this initiative.

Hot Weather/Drinks

It has been a cool start to the school year, but I am sure there are still many very hot summer days to come. On days of extreme heat students generally have a recess break outside, but remain inside during lunch.

It is a good idea to send along a water bottle of cold water, so this can remain with the student while in class, hence reducing the amount of time going to and from the bubblers during learning time.
Year 12 Results

Congratulations and best wishes to our 2011 Year 12 students. Every student who stayed at school for the whole school year successfully achieved their SACE or equivalent. Most students have moved into either further study and/or employment. Tim Eckert is to be congratulated on his effort in achieving a perfect score of 20 for his work in Materials Products – Welding. Tim, along with his family and his teacher of the subject Mr Vic Woolston, will attend a recognition ceremony at Government House on February 14th. This is a fantastic achievement and well deserved.

New Regional Director

With the retirement of Mr Peter Chislett, our District of Murray and Mallee has a new Regional Director. Ms Alana Girvin has been appointed to the position. Alana will be making her first visit to Meningie Area School on Tuesday 14th February. This will be a brief visit, where she will be taken on a tour of the site as well as have discussions with the leadership team about our Site Improvement Plan and directions for the future.

Towards the end of last year the Department of Education released the Strategic Plan 2012-2016. Please find an A4 Poster of this plan within this newsletter. It identifies the focus of Education in government schools here in South Australia. A more detailed plan can be downloaded from the web, or alternatively contact the front office for a hard copy. This plan provided our district of Murray and Mallee as well as our school with direction over the coming years.

School Uniform

It is really good to see most students in school uniform. The wearing of school uniform is strongly supported by the Meningie Area Governing Council for the following reasons:

- It creates a sense of identity and belonging.
- It enables all students to be easily recognised in the yard
- It removes competition in wearing designer labels
- It helps create a safe environment as visitors are easily identifiable.

In addition, we seek your support in ensuring your child/children is/are appropriately dressed for participation in H&PE, which is a compulsory subject.

For reasons of OHS&W students need to be in lace up shoes. While slip on canvas shoes are very much in fashion, especially amongst middle/senior school students, they do not provide enough grip or support for students to engage in the types of games played and the skills being taught. Indeed towards the end of last year we dealt with a number of sports and lunchtime injuries that could have been avoided if appropriate footwear had been worn.

Mr Rowe and Ms Lehmann will be sending home a list of requirements for HPE that include participation for swimming as well.

Further to this students who are involved in Ag Science, Tech Studies, Home Ec and other practically based subjects need to have suitable footwear for the activities they are involved in. The canvas slip-on shoes do not provide adequate protection. If parents/caregivers have any problems with this please do not hesitate to contact me.

Allergies, Asthma and other Health Issues Requiring a Health Care Plan and/or Medication

A letter will be sent home next week to parents who have indicated via the Student Swimming/Aquatics Consent Form that their child has a health issue, with important information regarding the student’s medication and Health Care Plan.

Right Bite: Information for Parents

Evidence tells us that healthy, active children make better learners and the department is committed to improving the wellbeing of our children through healthy eating and physical activity programs. The enclosed Right Bite Newsletter 5 forms part of the ongoing support for the successful implementation of Right Bite as part of the educative approach to improving the health and wellbeing of our students.

Reminder of School Routines

Just a reminder that students should not be on school grounds before 8.30 a.m. A teacher is rostered on duty from this time until the bell sounds to begin the school day at 8.45 a.m. The school day finishes at 3.20 p.m. and buses leave at 3.30 p.m. Students who do not travel by bus should be picked up or make their way home promptly at the completion of the school day, unless they are participating in an arranged after-school activity, as there is no teacher on duty after the buses leave.

Monica Williams
Principal
Welcome Back! I must say that it is nice to be back and it has been terrific to see the enthusiasm in the children and staff.

There have been a number of students who have started at the school in my absence and I have been able to meet a number of them this week. We welcome our new Junior School enrolments for 2012: Reception – Marshall Clarke, Aaron Hamer, Ta-Leigh Hodder, Nadia Morley, Jasmyn Promnitz, Summer Kittelty. Yr 1 – Savannah Walker. I hope you have had a positive start to your schooling at Meningie Area School.

On a walk around the Junior School it is pleasing to see the organisation that has gone into preparing the room and resources for the students. Mrs Beth Cowan is undertaking a teaching placement in Mrs Starling’s 2-3 classroom and will also spend some lessons observing in the R-7 classes.

This term:

Miss Wilamowski’s Rec – Yr 1 class are looking at Zoo’s and have just finished constructing Tiger pictures.

Mrs Woolston’s Rec-Yr 2 class are looking at butterfly habitats and will be making a butterfly display in their design and technology lessons with Mrs Mason.

Mrs Starling Yr 2-3 class will be looking at ‘Our Bodies’ as part of their science and health lessons.

Ms Giles’ Yr 4-5 class will be responsible for the school flags and the kitchen garden in the Junior School, which was started last year by Mrs Wright’s Year 5-6 class.

As one of the Maths Facilitators for the Murray and Mallee District I will be working with our staff on the implementation of the Australian Maths Curriculum. There will also be opportunities for further professional development for teaching and support staff in this area throughout the year.

Some forthcoming activities:

8th Feb – Staff/Parent Acquaintance BBQ

15th Feb – MAS Swimming & Splash day at Coonalpyn Pool. (Rec – Yr 12) Notices have been sent home with more detail of this event.

6th-8th March – World Spelling, Maths & Science Days. Once registered students may log on to this at home. www.worldeducationgames.com

8th March – MAS Athletics Day. (More information will be sent home in the coming weeks)

Katrina Hood
Junior School Manager

‘IN THE PINK’

The Meningie under 15 cricket team are ‘in the pink’ all for a good cause. The boys are fundraising for the training of breast cancer nurses. The boys are aiming to raise $1,000.00 for this worthy cause. To aid them in this cause they are hoping you can help them reach their target by donating a gold coin.

Your donations can be sent to school with your children and the money will be collected. Alternatively you can make a donation to the front office of the school.

Training specialist nurses will make a huge difference to breast cancer patients.

Some alarming facts:

- “In Australia, approximately 30% of women diagnosed with breast cancer live outside a major metropolitan city?”
- The number of women diagnosed with breast cancer in Australia increased from 5291 in 1982 to 12,567 in 2007.
- There were 26 male deaths from breast cancer in 2007.
  (http://canceraustralia.nbocc.org)

The boys will be grateful for all donations, so please support their community spirit and dig deep for the Under 15 Strike Pink cricketers.

Kathy Quinn
Middle School Coordinator
MAS SWIMMING CARNIVAL

This year’s combined Swimming Carnival / Splash Day will be held on Wednesday 15th February at the Coonalpyn Pool. Information was sent home with Yrs 3-12 students this week. Further detailed information will be sent home with students prior to the carnival.

It is an expectation that all students attend the Swimming Carnival as it is a normal school day.

Please note that the Interschool Swimming Carnival is to be held on Monday 20th February 2012 at the Coonalpyn Swimming Pool. Information regarding this event will be sent home after our own Swimming Carnival.

AUSTRALIA DAY FUN RUN

The Meningie Progress Association would like to thank and congratulate the many Meningie Area School students and staff who took part in the 2012 Australia Day Fun Run. We had a record 185 participants this year. Some of you were successful in winning a medallion in your sections but we thank you ALL for taking part in a community event and hope that you enjoyed it.

Participating in and supporting community events is very important in keeping a community alive and happy. We would also like to thank the school for their support as they kindly allow us to borrow equipment every year.

We look forward to your participation in the very special event in 2013. This will be our 20th Australia Day Fun Run and it will be held on Saturday 26 January 2013. Keep this date free!

We have posted all the names and times of the participants of the fun run on our website so you can check your placings and times.

Go to: www.australiadayinmeningie.webs.com

Marianne Cunneen
Chairman; Meningie Progress Association, Australia Day in Meningie organising committee

HOUSE CAPTAINS 2012

House captain elections were held early this week in team meetings.

Congratulations to the following students who have been elected to lead their respective teams in sporting events this year:

ALBERT:
Megan Herrmann & Zac Vandenbrink (Captains)
Mikayla Smart & Matt Austin (Vice-Captains)

BONNEY:
Marni Hood & Jamie Thompson (Captains)
Amber Gibbs, Dale Appelkamp & Matt Walker (Vice-Captains)

COORONG:
Tamika William, Jake Shaw, Montana Wenske & Richie Nichols (Captains)

An Invitation

All students and families are invited to an informal Parent/Teacher Acquaintance Evening

When: Wednesday 8th February 2012
Where: Junior School Shelter
Time: 5.30 – 8.00 pm (approx.)
What: BBQ Tea
- All meat sausages & patties), salad & bread provided.
- Water, cordial and iceblocks for the children/students also provided.
- BYO drinks

Why: To meet informally with your child/ren’s teacher / new teachers and mix with other families.

We look forward to seeing you at our first event for the MAS school year.

SCHOLASTIC ORDERS

Scholastic brochures e.g. Lucky Book Club, will be sent home with students next week. Orders, with payment, can be made at the book room until Friday 17th February 2012.
The School Dental Service is available to children aged from birth up until 18 years of age at public dental clinics throughout South Australia. Dental care is provided by teams of dentists, dental therapists and dental assistants. For all toddlers and preschoolers dental care is free. Fees apply for primary school or high school aged students unless your child is the dependant of, or holder of, a current Centrelink Concession Card, Department of Veterans Affairs Pensioner Concession Card, School Card or Medicare Teen Voucher.

It is very important that children develop good dental habits early in life. Dental staff will talk to you about your child’s individual dental needs.

Contact details for the Murray Bridge South Dental Clinic are:
Phone – 85323051
Address – Joyce Street, Murray Bridge
Open – 8.30am – 4.30pm Mon-Fri

School Photo Day is Tuesday 14th February. Information sheets were sent home with students yesterday. PLEASE MAKE SURE STUDENTS ARE WEARING SCHOOL UNIFORM, ESPECIALLY JUMPERS AND T SHIRTS. Envelopes will be sent home with each student when they arrive at the school.

Team Sailing is an activity designed for students and adults to engage in physical activity and strategy. At Meningie Area School we have been involved with Team Sailing for over 10 years. This season Oliver Crossman is coaching our team.

We are looking for keen students who want to have a go. Please contact Oliver if you are interested.

Come and Try Sailing is held most Saturdays at the Sailing Club. If you see someone there, please stop and ask to have a try at sailing. We have a beautiful lake right on our doorstep; it seems a shame not to use it.

The Regional Team Sailing Regatta will be held in Meningie this term.

Information sheets were sent home with students R-2 earlier this week.

MILO in2CRICKET is a fun introduction to the game of cricket for boys and girls in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. It provides children with an enjoyable and safe environment where they can learn skills and play games.

Your nearest Centre will be run at Meningie CC, Meningie Town Oval, Narrung Rd starting on Saturday 4th February from 9-10am, cost $60

Every registered child receives an in2CRICKET Pack including bat, ball, t-shirt, bucket hat, backpack and some other goodies

To find out more details about your nearest Centre and to register for this season log on to www.in2cricket.com.au and type in your post code.

Any girls or boys aged 9-12 years old interested in participating in cricket can do so at the cricket nets at the town oval on Tuesday afternoons between 4 and 5.30 pm.

Phone Jim Secomb if any queries on 85 751868.

A relief cleaner is required for the school. A police clearance is necessary. Please call Yvonne Ritchie on 85 751630 for information.

Murray Bridge United Soccer Club invite all interested boys and girls to register for the 2012 Soccer Season. We also have a fantastic “Roo ball” program specifically for 3 year olds to Under 8’s.

When: Friday 17 February 2012
Anytime between 5 pm – 7 pm

Where: Murray Bridge United Soccer Clubrooms Beatty Terrace, Murray Bridge

Are you interested but can’t get there on that day – check out our website www.murraybridgeunited.com

You can register your interest online or get further information about the club. So why don’t you Come Play?