FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

Remembrance Day Service

On Thursday 11th November our school community gathered for a short assembly in the area between the staff room and the library just before 11am to acknowledge Remembrance Day and the lives of soldiers lost, not just in World War 1, but all wars. Jack Appelkamp played the Last Post and the Rouse, and several of the students leaving on the Connecting Spirits Trip performed roles with readings, the flag raising and the laying of the wreath. As well as this the whole Year 6/7 class went down to the War Memorial to attend the RSL service at which Abbey Hood and Brad Promnitz laid a wreath on behalf of the school community.

Swimming Teacher Rescue Award

Just a reminder to people who booked into the Royal Surf Life Saving Course to be held here Wednesday 17th November, that the cost of the course is to be paid direct to the trainer, Ms Anne Price at the start of the session and is $35.00.

Bushfire Policy

The school has been assessed as a safe refuge area in the event of a bushfire. If a bushfire does threaten Meningie, the school will be used as a refuge.

If fire is known to threaten a bus route, the bus concerned will be held at the school until clearance to release it is received from the C.F.S. We will attempt to inform the families concerned of the situation and the action being taken.

In the event of a major bushfire in the district, children will be cared for at the school until it is safe for them to be taken home. Children will only be released to the care of their parents/guardians or to a person named in a letter signed and dated that day by a parent/guardian while the school is in a state of bushfire alert. It is strongly suggested that children will be safer at school than travelling through a bushfire-affected area.

Parents are encouraged not to drive to the school to collect children while the emergency lasts, because this exposes them and their children to increased risk.

Connecting Spirits

All the very best to our Connecting Spirits group of students and staff, leaving next Saturday 20th November. May you travel safely, and enjoy the experience. We look forward to hearing from you over the three weeks that you will be away.

Monica Williams

CHOOKS FOR SALE

The Year 10 / 11 Ag class is raising laying hens which will be ready to lay eggs in late November. They are hybrid laying hens and will be mainly brown with some white speckling. The cost will be $18.70 inc GST which is about $5 cheaper than similar birds in Adelaide. There are about 20 left for sale and they normally sell very quickly. Please contact the front office to place your order.

Mal Jurgs
Hayfever & Asthma

It is that time of the year when hay fever and asthma are at their worst. Can you please ensure that your children have either given their puffer and spacer in to the front office or carry it in their bag everyday when attending school? Please let front office staff know of any changes to your child’s health or health plans.

Did you know?

- Asthma is one of Australia’s most widespread chronic health problems.
- Asthma affects over 2 million Australians.
- 1 in 9 children and 1 in 10 adults have asthma.
- In 2007, 385 Australians including 40 South Australians died from asthma.

Asthma Foundation of South Australia

German Sports Day

Sportsmanship wins out on fifth German Sports Day

On Thursday, 28th October, the 2/3, 3/4 and 5/6 classes as well as students from the 6/7 and 8 classes participated in their fifth German Sports Day. The events this year have included long distance running, sprints, long jump, distance throwing, and swimming. All students should be commended for the enthusiasm, commitment and sportsmanship they brought to the competition in which everyone made a great effort. Many students qualified for their bronze, silver and gold medals, which will be awarded in term 1, 2011, and all will receive a participation award. This is a tremendous achievement for which all students deserve credit. Many students have been practicing for the competition for the last three or four years and surpassed their personal best on the day.

The day was well attended, with Freddy Schwarz-Docen, the representative of the German Olympic Sports Federation of Australia, and a supportive group of parents and grandparents. Also present were the class teachers, Wendy Starling, Anyupa Giles and Brenton Budarick, as well as our SSOs Karen Schmerf, Renae Egan and Russell Starr, and the German teacher, Veruschka Crichton, and the Middle and Senior School PE teacher, Lisa Davis. Ms Davis ensured that the events were run to a high standard and her contribution was much appreciated by everyone. Russell started all the races throughout the day and many thanks go to him for his unswerving support. The event ran through the morning and afternoon and everyone persevered in achieving their own personal best on what turned out to be a warm and sunny day.

We would especially like to thank Monica Williams for supporting the program from the outset, and Freddy Schwarz-Docen who has worked with Veruschka Crichton over the last five years to run the program.

Veruschka Crichton (German teacher)

PaCSS News

Last Meeting for 2010

Monday 6th December at 2pm
School Meeting Room

Uniforms

Now available
Polo shirts $26.00
Jumpers $28.00
Backpacks $37.00
Other items are also available

Uniform Shop
Will be open on
Tuesday 30th November
2.45 – 3.20 pm

Enquiries at the front office any time

Staff Morning Tea

Kia Rigney-Wilson and Saskia White prepared a delicious morning tea for staff as part of their Life Skills lessons on Wednesday. They had made mini quiches, sausage rolls, banana and raspberry muffins, chocolate cupcakes and also served sliced watermelon. The girls did an excellent job and many of the staff made appreciative comments.

There was a small donation for staff participating in the morning tea and Kia and Saskia have managed to raise $35 towards KAHM 4 KIDS, which will go towards supporting the children and their families recently devastated by the floods in Pakistan; a fantastic effort by both girls.

Kia pictured with the delicious morning tea
The vacation water safety and swimming program, SA Water VACSWIM will be conducted at Meningie Area School from Tuesday 4th until Friday 7th January 2011 – forms are now available at the front office.

Enrolment Day will be conducted on Monday 3rd January 2011 from 12 noon to 2pm at the school pool.

For information contact Sarah Wright on 0408 573128.

ABC3 DIGITAL ARTS AWARD

Year 6 student Tessa Bagshaw has been named as one of the finalists for the ABC 2010 CLI Digital Art Awards. She entered a digital image she created using Photoshop based around the theme of “My Favourite Place…”

Tessa Bagshaw’s image Meditation Garden

“My favourite place is my meditation garden which is in the lily area of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens. I like to go there because it is quiet and tranquil and there is no one I know there. When I'm in my meditation garden I just think. No stress. No hassles.

The whole world just seems to stop; there is no one there except me and the lilies. So that is why the lily area in the Botanic Gardens is my favourite place and why I decided it was worthy to be my entry for the CLI digital arts competition.”

Congratulations Tessa!

CONNECTING SPIRITS FARREWELL

It is fast approaching the departure date for the third Connecting Spirits trip to the Western Front. The students have completed their soldier research and are getting excited about their trip.

Last Saturday evening a farewell event was held at the Gumeracha Memorial Hall. Each member of the tour group was presented with their trip jumpers, which were kindly donated by the Wanderibby Feedlot, as were our polo tops, and the raincoats, which were donated by the Lake Alex Dairy. Garry Appelkamp represented the feedlot, while the coats were presented to each member by Tim Whitford, whose great uncle was one of the first of the 250 missing soldiers from Fromelles to be identified.

Tim spoke about his work with Lambis Englezos to convince the Australian Government to support a “dig” in the Pheasant Wood area to search for these missing soldiers. Tim became interested in the story of the Battle of Fromelles, when as a young boy he first told his grandmother that he wanted to be a soldier. The colour disappeared from her face as she told him that soldiers go to war and disappear, just as her brother had all those years ago. He did become a soldier and researched the battle in which his uncle was lost, and while stationed overseas, spent time walking around the battlefield. Then he saw a TV program about the battle and the school teacher who was looking for the lost soldiers. Tim rang Lambis straight away and they formed an alliance to work together to help solve the mystery. When the first survey of the area was undertaken with metal detectors, the most convincing piece of evidence found was a good luck medal; issued by the Shire of Alberton in Gippsland. Tim’s uncle was the only soldier from that shire involved in the battle of Fromelles, so not only did they have evidence that Australians were likely to be buried there, but also that Tim’s uncle was there as well. The bodies were eventually recovered and buried earlier this year. Tim’s family, especially his grandmother was overjoyed when they received the phone call telling them that the remains of their long lost relative had been found and identified. Tim’s grandmother died a month after finally knowing the last resting place of her brother.

Flo Bourke, who has been on both of the previous trips, performed two of the songs that she has written inspired by the story of the lost soldiers of Fromelles.

Steve Hicks, the principal of Birdwood High School acted as auctioneer at a fundraising auction to help gain some extra funds for our trip.

A huge thank you to our generous sponsors, especially Perry Gunner with help from Ron Nankivell and Chris and Di Williams. It was a great night and the excitement is building with just over a week until we leave. You can follow our progress on the website www.connectingspirits.com.au.

Mal Jurgs
It is estimated that 21 million people are homeless in Pakistan due to the recent flooding. This estimation is almost the population of Australia. Pakistan is located in South-West Asia where they continuously receive monsoonal rains during the summer months. The population of this country is 170.6 million.

KAHM 4 KIDS is an organisation created by our Year 10 class. Our goal is to raise funds to support the children and their families devastated by the recent Pakistan floods. We will be donating our money raised through World Vision. We will raise our funds through several fun activities planned for all students across the school that will be clarified in the coming week. We hope that you and your child/ren will support our cause.

These are the events coming up in Week 6:

Monday-Friday: LOLLY JAR
50c a guess or 3 guesses for $1

Tuesday-Thursday: POPCORN
$1 per bag

Wednesday: CRAZY HAIR DAY
Gold coin donation

Friday: FRIED RICE LUNCH
$4 – order forms will be sent home early in Week 6

Thankyou, the Year 10 class