FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

We certainly are at the busy end of the year. Year 12 students have now completed their final exams and assessments, and all teachers are into final assessment and report writing. Student reports will go home with students on the last day of term which is Friday 10th December. If your child is absent on the day, you will be able to collect their report from the library during the holidays, however it will be closed on Saturday 18th December after 1pm and will reopen on the morning of Tuesday 11th January 2011.

END OF YEAR FUNCTIONS

Presentation Night is in the last week of term Tuesday 7th December and this year is to be held at the Sailing Club commencing at 7.15 pm. The MOCA tent is being set up with seating, and displays will be in the main part of the club rooms. Presentation Night is a Middle and Senior School formal function where student achievement and success throughout the year is acknowledged and celebrated. We are fortunate once again to be supported by local clubs, businesses and individuals who sponsor book prizes and thank them for their ongoing support of the school. As this is a formal school function students are expected to be in school uniform. We look forward to this event, and sharing our 2010 achievements with our school community.

The final Junior School Assembly will also be held at the Sailing Club this year, on Wednesday 8th December commencing at 10am. We hope our Junior School families are able to join us for the last formal event of the school year.

SCHOOL HALL

Finally after months of inactivity, progress on the refurbishment of the school gym has begun in earnest. It might not look like much is happening, but inside the power tools are to be heard, and the cement trucks have been coming and going this week. With the hot weather the doors have been open to the hall and we have been able to peer inside and see that things are on the move. It is hoped that the date of completion will be April 2011.

STAFFING

Congratulations to Ms Lisa Davis, who has won a teaching position at Aberfoyle Park High School. Lisa has been a member of Meningie Area School staff for the last six years. In that time Lisa has developed a comprehensive Health and Physical Education program at the school, organised sporting opportunities for students right across the school, and managed both our own Athletics and Interschool Carnivals. On behalf of the community I thank Lisa for her commitment and professionalism over the years and wish her well in the next stage of her teaching career.

Congratulations to Ms Veruschka Crichton. Veruschka has taught German across the school for the past eight years. Veruschka has won a teaching position at Blackwood High. Students over the years have learnt a lot about the language and culture of Germany. Veruschka introduced the German sports, which Meningie students have participated in for the past few years.

Congratulations to Mrs Margaret Clarke. Margaret has won a Teacher Librarian position at Mitcham Girls High. Margaret has managed the Community Library and taught across the school for the past three years.

We are fortunate to have both Ms Elyssa Freeth and Mrs Margaret Hart teaching at Meningie again next year. Elyssa has won a permanent position as Art / Photography and Margaret will be teaching in the Junior School.
Teacher recruitment for next year is still happening. Recently Mr Jack Rowe, a graduating teacher, won the position of Maths and PE. Jack will join the staff in early January 2011. He will visit the school during week 9.

We hope to be able to announce further positions in the last Newsletter of the year, particularly who our new Teacher Librarian and German teachers are.

**UNIFORM**

I seek parent and caregiver support in having your child / children in correct school uniform. We have a number of summer options, that include longer line school shorts. These can be purchased through the front office, and of course retail outlets of your choice. Short shorts are not acceptable.

Some students are coming to school in an assortment of footwear. I particularly draw your attention to this for safety reasons. For Middle and Senior School students closed-in shoes are a requirement in some work spaces.

I take this opportunity to say farewell to Berta and Marietta Botha and the girls, Brigitte, Melissa and Almari, who leave the school at the end of this month and move to Queensland. Berta has been an active member of Governing Council since the family moved here from South Africa, three years ago. We will miss your family support and involvement and thank you all for the contributions you have made at Meningie Area School. All the best and good fortune as you embark on your next venture.

**CONNECTING SPIRITS**

A very excited group of students and adults flew out of Adelaide Airport last Saturday to begin their tour of the Western Front. A most recent email has advised us that all is well and things are going to plan. If you would like to follow the group and their journey you may do so at [www.connectingspirits.com.au](http://www.connectingspirits.com.au)

Monica Williams

**VACSWIM**

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.

On behalf of the year 10 SOSE class we would like to thank all the students and parents who kindly donated to our cause to help the children in Pakistan who are affected by the floods. Last week there were many fundraising events which occurred including crazy hair day, fried rice lunch, lolly jar competition and the selling of popcorn at recess time. Thanks to everyone’s fantastic support we managed to raise $577.44.

We encourage all parents and their children to come to the lake celebration this Saturday at the Lion’s Park to get their child/children’s face painted. All funds continue to go to our cause.

Year 10 SOSE class

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**PaCSS NEWS**

**LAST MEETING FOR 2010**

**Monday 6th December at 2pm**

**School Meeting Room**

**Uniforms**

- 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*
SPARE CLOTHES

We are in urgent need of spare clothes; especially girls or boys long pants or shorts, in the Junior School.

If you are able to help out with any clothes your children may have grown out of and no longer need, please drop your donation into the front office any time during office hours.

Anything would be very greatly appreciated.

CHILD BEHAVIOUR & PARENTING

Assessing child behaviour and parenting accurately is vital if the issues that parents are concerned about today with regards to their children are to be adequately addressed. The Parenting and Family Support Centre at the University of Queensland has developed a new questionnaire to assess various child behaviour and parenting strategies and experiences. We are seeking parents of 2 to 12-year-old children to share their thoughts in an online survey, which takes approximately 15 minutes to complete.

Please visit the website at http://exp.psy.uq.edu.au/parentingsurvey to find out more and take part in the survey.

Renee Fletcher B.PsSc(Hons)
Research Assistant to Dr. Alina Morawska
Parenting and Family Support Centre
School of Psychology
University of Queensland
St. Lucia 4072
Ph: 3365 9186 Email: r.fletcher@psy.uq.edu.au

The next YMCA Seasonal Camp will be held at YMCA Glenhaven Park. Summer Camp will run from Monday 17th to Friday 21st January 2011 in the school holidays.

The camp is open to children aged 7 – 14 and the cost is $320 per child.

For information and bookings, please call 8528 2250, email lauren.cecchi@ymca.org.au or visit www.sa.ymca.org.au.

Spring and Asthma

Spring may be one of the most beautiful times of the year however, for many of the 200000 South Australians with hayfever and asthma it can be a nightmare.

Spring not only heralds the arrival of warmer weather but it also marks the start of the pollen season. High pollen in the air can be a major trigger.

Visit our website for the latest pollen count.

www.asthmasa.org.au

The highest amount of pollen can be found in the air between 6am and noon. Each day, samples of the air are analysed to gauge how much pollen is airborne and whether the level is considered high, moderate or low.

Low = 0-49/cubic metre of air
Medium = 50-99
High = 100-149
Extreme = 150+

What if the Pollen Count is High?

If the count is estimated to be high, then it is important to be prepared. People with asthma should have their reliever medication readily available at all times and schools and preschools should keep Asthma Emergency Kits easily accessible.