As we come to the end of Term 1 it is good to reflect on where we are at. From my perspective as the Principal it has been an amazing term. Right from day one there has been a great feel about the school. The students at Meningie Area School know that they are here to learn and that we have high expectations that they will do their best.

A culture of high expectations does not happen by accident, we have been working to develop this over many years. The most important influences on a school come from the expectations of teachers, parents and the community. These are some of the things that support high expectations at Meningie Area School:

- **Attendance**: Every student needs to be at school or engaged in a school based program every day. Our data this term shows that there has been some real improvement in this regard, but it is an area that we all need to keep working on.
- **Use of Data**: Teachers use a range of testing instruments to identify the learning needs of students and use strategies to best engage them in their learning. Over the next two weeks we are conducting regular testing in Maths, Reading Comprehension and Spelling. This information will be compared with the last results and show what learning progress every child is making, and what needs to be a focus for improvement.
- **Student engagement in class**: There is an expectation that students at Meningie Area School are respectful, cooperative and take responsibility for their own learning. The homework policy endorsed by Governing Council supports regular homework, and we seek parent support in this.
- **Uniform**: Most students wear uniform at Meningie Area School. This is a great achievement. It says lots of things about the student, family and school. It says that parents support the school in building a culture of shared identity, and that students and families are proud to be a part of the school community. Students are readily recognisable when they represent the school at both sporting and academic events. I have had many comments and phone calls this term from outside of the community with positive comments about how our students have conducted themselves.
- **Intervention**: Students do not all learn at the same rate. Many students in our school need extra support to help them achieve their best. Sometimes students go out to work with a support teacher, at other times a support person may work with them in the classroom. What is really important is that students receiving extra support are here at school to get it.

**NAPLAN (National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy)**

The NAPLAN is a nationally developed program commissioned by the Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs (MCEECDYA)

- NAPLAN tests are administered simultaneously across Australia and will be held at Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 on May 10th, 11th & 12th this year.
- The aspects of literacy assessed are reading, writing and language conventions (including spelling, punctuation and grammar)
- The aspects of numeracy assessed are number, algebra, function and pattern, measurement, chance and data and space.
- NAPLAN tests are another way of finding out what students can and cannot do so that support can be provided.
Students do not have to learn specific skills for the NAPLAN tests, but they are given opportunity to become familiar with the style of testing and ways of showing their answers to question in lessons leading up to the tests.

NAPLAN individual student reports show the achievement of an individual student in a series of bands against national minimal standards and a range of achievements for the middle 60% of students in Australia.

NAPLAN individual student reports are expected to be ready for distribution to parents/caregivers in September.

As a school we find that the information NAPLAN gives us is important in our teaching and learning. We can use the information to target specific teaching and use it to look at intervention strategies for students at risk. It is a valuable tool and a process we encourage all of our students to participate in at Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

NAPLAN testing will be conducted on Tuesday 15th, Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th May 2012.

School Visit

Garry Costello , the Head of Schools for the Department of Education and Child Development, is visiting Meningie Area School next Wednesday 4th April, late in the afternoon. While here, Garry will meet with a group of Senior School students and a group of teachers. The focus of his visit will be conversations with students about what they find interesting about their school and what they think is important to their future, as well as discussion with teachers about the positive attributes in working at Meningie Area School and the challenges we face and strategies we have to work through them. We look forward to Garry’s visit. A report related to this event will be in the first Newsletter Term 2.

Thursday 5th April is the last day of Term 1 before we break for the Easter School Holidays. School concludes at 2.20pm, with buses leaving at 2.30pm. I have been advised that ‘Russell Rabbit’ will be here sometime early Thursday morning and will visit the classes distributing Easter Eggs. ‘Russell Rabbit’ has become an iconic character here at Meningie Area School and makes a stop here on the Thursday before Easter.

On behalf of the staff I wish the school community a great Easter and wonderful holiday break. It is probably our loveliest time of the year, weather-wise, so I hope it stays that way and everyone has some quality time to share with children, family and friends.

Monica Williams

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**PARENT COMPLAINT POLICY**

**Parent guide to raising a concern or complaint**

We all expect quality and expert care and teaching for your child in order that they achieve their potential. Working together will give us the best chance of solving a problem that may arise during your child’s years in preschool and school.

We also recognise that at times things may go wrong. If you have a concern or a complaint, we want you to let us know. It’s important to learn from mistakes or misunderstandings so that we can improve your child’s experience and learning, and also improve processes where possible.

The first step in working through a complaint is to talk to your child’s teacher, and then the director or principal if you still are not happy.

Ask at the front office for a copy of the school/preschool’s Parent Guide to Raising a Concern or Complaint brochure. Steps guiding how complaints should be made are explained in the brochure.

Use this guide to help you think through what you are concerned about and how to resolve the matter respectfully and effectively.

**About complaints or concerns**

This information may be helpful in explaining what a complaint is:

A complaint may be made by a parent if they think that the school has, for example:
- done something wrong
- failed to do something it should have done
- acted unfairly or impolitely.

Your concern or complaint may be about:
- the type, level or quality of services
- the behaviour and decisions of staff
- a policy, procedure or practice

Sometimes a complaint is about something we have to do because of State or federal law. In such cases we are able to talk to you about the matter and help you understand the requirements and why they exist.
If you’d like more information please phone Monica Williams (Principal) or visit the Department’s website at www.decd.sa.gov.au/parentcomplaint or email DECD.parentcomplaint@sa.gov.au. There is also a Freecall number 1800 677 435.

**BULLYING NO WAY!**

A new website and mobile phone app will help students and parents address bullying in schools.

The Bullying No Way! website and the Take A Stand Together mobile app, to be launched by federal School Education Minister Peter Garrett to mark the National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence, will help address the problem.

But Mr Garrett warned that ongoing education and action was needed. “Bullying is a very serious issue, with research showing that one in six students are bullied weekly and one in four students are bullied at least once over a period of a few weeks,” he said.

“These tools will show students and parents how to identify and deal with bullying and will include educational games and videos, which touch on the newest form of bullying; cyberbullying.

**WORLD WATER DAY**

March the 22nd was World Water Day – this year the Lakes Hub sponsored a day of activities at the Meningie Area School with the aim of increasing the awareness of water quality, quantity, flora and fauna in the River Murray and Lower Lakes region.

The Eastern Fleurieu School – Milang Campus, The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Primary Industries & Resources of SA (PIRSA), the South Australian Murray Darling Basin - Natural Resource Management Board (SAMDBNRM) all contributed with fantastic activities enjoyed by 120 reception to year 7 students of the Meningie area school.

Activities included -:

- The water cycle - The basic structure of water and the 3 forms of its existence - the solid form as ice, liquid form such as rainwater and the gaseous state as fog or vapour.
- The influences of water quality and how pH and salinity affect our flora and fauna
- How native fish, turtles etc are threatened by alien / introduced species
- Interactive sessions with live native fish, crustaceans and turtles.

The overall message that came from this day was that there is a critical need for fresh water for inhabitants of this planet. 97% of the Earth’s water is saline or salty. More than 2/3 of fresh water is locked up in ice at the poles of the planet. From that amount, only a small portion is actually available for freshwater for critical life needs. Streams and wetlands are the veins and kidneys of the world. Clean water is needed to sustain life of all kinds – human, flora, fauna, insects etc.

We must understand and protect our water systems to ensure water security.

The Lakes Hub would like to thank Christine Jackson and Amanda Vivian (Milang Campus) Gemma Cunningham and Nikki Brookman (DENR), Jonathan McPhail (PIRSA) Harry Beauchamp (MDBNRM) and the Meningie Area School, in particular Mal Jurgs, for hosting this day and giving many young people the opportunity to further understand the importance of our precious waterways.

Lou Mawson Lakes Hub Coordinator
VISIT BY THE SA PRIMARY SCHOOLS STRING ORCHESTRA

On Monday 19th March, the 46 members of the Primary School Strings visited our school. They arrived with their bus, ute and trailer and their many musical instruments and support crew at about 9:30am.

After a quick break, they had a warm up and tune up. The Reception to Year 7 students were then treated to a very enjoyable concert. As part of the concert the year 6 and 7 students joined in - that made 76 students all playing for one piece- a magnificent sound.

Mr Longden and Mr Williams, also, came on the day and some of us had our lessons on Monday instead of Tuesday.

We thank the SAPSSO for coming to our school as part of their South East tour and hope that the students from here would have all learnt new things by playing with and/or listening to the Orchestra.

Mr Longden and the Band members playing with the SAPSSO

MAS SPORTS DAY

On Thursday 8th March, students from Meningie Area School participated in a variety of Athletics events at the annual school sports day. This year we returned to the school oval for the athletics meet under perfect conditions.

Congratulations to all the students who participated. It was brilliant to see so many involved in events and competing in such good spirits. The house captains also did a great job organising their relay teams. At the end of the day it was Coorong House that took out first place, at least 10 years since last winning the event.

Thanks must go to John Hastings, Geoff Halliday and Sarah Lehmann for preparing the oval, Katrina Hood for setting up the scoring system on the computer (as well as a great deal of organising), Judy Appelkamp & Rosie Reichelt for coordinating the catering and Mr. Jurgs and Mr. Woolston for helping with setting and packing up the equipment. Thank you also to the teachers, SSO staff, parents and students that chaperoned, timed or scored on the day. It was great to have so much support as it helped to make the day run so well.

Following are the results, list of records broken and individual medallion winners.

RESULTS:
1st Coorong – 1560 points
2nd Albert – 1440.5 points
3rd Bonney – 1378.5 points

INDIVIDUAL MEDALLION WINNERS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Runner Up</th>
<th>Winner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 9 Boys</td>
<td>Ben Schaefer</td>
<td>Henry Turner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 9 Girls</td>
<td>Charlotte Treloar</td>
<td>Tiarne Ling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 10 Boys</td>
<td>Dylan Gibbs</td>
<td>Noah Gubbin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 10 Girls</td>
<td>Aislin Aspel</td>
<td>Lucy Waser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 11 Boys</td>
<td>Dylan Gubbin</td>
<td>Jai Ling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 11 Girls</td>
<td>Bridie Blake-Burrows</td>
<td>Melisia Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 12 Boys</td>
<td>Samuel Rigney</td>
<td>Lochie McPherson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 12 Girls</td>
<td>Gena Mansfield</td>
<td>Aleisha Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 13 Boys</td>
<td>Dwayne Shaw</td>
<td>Jyiye Hoad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 13 Girls</td>
<td>Emma Marles</td>
<td>Jane Tiver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 14 Boys</td>
<td>Liam Rigney</td>
<td>Kyale Rigney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Under 14 Girls</td>
<td>Tessa Bagshaw</td>
<td>Britany Rigney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Under 15 Boys</td>
<td>Clinton Walker</td>
<td>Matthew Walker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Under 15 Girls</td>
<td>Danielle Colmer</td>
<td>Gracie Ayres</td>
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<tr>
<td>Under 16 Boys</td>
<td>Jace Stephenson</td>
<td>Dylan Richards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Under 16 Girls</td>
<td>Mikayla Smart</td>
<td>Marni Hood</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open Boys</td>
<td>Matt Austin</td>
<td>Rhys Marles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Girls</td>
<td>Megan Herrmann</td>
<td>Amber Gibbs</td>
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RECORDS BROKEN:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Old Record</th>
<th>New Record</th>
<th>Record Broken By</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Girls 9</td>
<td>400m</td>
<td>1:27.20</td>
<td>1.42</td>
<td>Tiarne Ling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls 9</td>
<td>Foam Javelin</td>
<td>10.48</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>Tiarne Ling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys 10</td>
<td>Foam Javelin</td>
<td>21.11</td>
<td>21.7</td>
<td>Jaiden Wilson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys 13</td>
<td>Shot Put</td>
<td>11.61</td>
<td>11.65</td>
<td>Hank Trevorrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys 15</td>
<td>Shot Put</td>
<td>11.25</td>
<td>11.65</td>
<td>Matthew Walker</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Jack Rowe (PE Teacher)
SSSSA SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Based on results from the Interschool Swimming Carnival, Marni Hood and Zac Vandenbrink were chosen as part of the Upper South East swimming team to compete in the D Grade SSSSA Swimming Championships at the new Marion Aquatics Centre on Wednesday 29th February. Both students performed very impressively; each receiving certificates for the following performances:

**Marni Hood**
1st U16 Girls 50 m Breaststroke Div 2
1st U16 Girls 50 m Freestyle Div 3

**Zac Vandenbrink**
2nd Open Boys 100 m Freestyle Div 1
2nd Open Boys 50 m Backstroke Div 1
2nd Open Boys 50 m Butterfly Div 1
3rd Open Boys 50 m Freestyle Div 1

Out of 10 teams, the USE Boys team came 5th (on 518 points) and the USE Girls team came 3rd (on 564 points). First was Xavier College for both the Boys and the Girls competitions on 663 and 639 points respectively.

Well done to Marni & Zac for a great day of swimming.

Jack Rowe (PE Teacher)

BORDERTOWN LAMB COMPETITION

On Wednesday the 29th March members of the Year 11 and 12 Ag class took a team of 5 lambs to the JBS abattoir at Bordertown for a competition with other South-East schools.

The team had been chosen by the students from the lambs that were born at the school last year, and this process was part of the assessment task that they are working through.

The main purpose of the day was for the students to get a better understanding of the end product required when selling lambs to market, which is the topic we are studying at the moment.

The first part of the day was spent in the lairage where employees of the abattoir talked about the importance of preparation of lambs for sale or slaughter and how farmers can maximise their returns. Each team was judged for factors such as cleanliness of fleece, crutching, handling and skin value. There was also a competition for the students to estimate the average carcase weight of a mob of 500 lambs.

We then went to the skin store next to the abattoir to see how the skins are treated once they have been taken off of the lambs.

The students were then taken through the plant where they saw how lambs were processed for export and the problems that can occur if lambs are not presented properly.

When they had finished that we were treated to a chop and sausage lunch, followed by the results of the competition. We came third out of 6 teams this year, with some very good lambs. While all of our lambs met the weight and fat cover specifications, unfortunately one had pleurisy and another had ecchymosis, which cost us 10 points and at least 2nd, maybe 1st, place.

While we didn’t come home with any trophies this time, the students had gained a much deeper understanding of the lamb industry and all found it a worthwhile experience, even if some of them have vowed never to work in an abattoir. They will now be required to assess a group of lambs for sale and work out the value of each of them.

Thanks to Hamish Jurgs for crutching the lambs before the competition and driving students and lambs to the abattoir and Anthony Pearce for the ram that sired the lambs.

I would also like to acknowledge the commitment that JBS Australia makes to this competition and the work of Dale Cameron and his staff at the abattoir. Very few meatworks allow visitors on to their floors and this provides students with a fantastic opportunity to see how the work they put into raising lambs pays off.

Mal Jurgs (Ag Teacher)

*Oliver sorting lambs out reading for Bordertown*
PIANO LESSONS

If any students are interested in learning to play the piano, please contact Ashlee Crossman on 0437743169 or 85755054.