PRINCIPAL’S REPORT:

Dear Parents/Carers,

My name is Iain Love and I have been appointed as Principal of Meningie Area School for the next five years.

I have spent the past four years working in the northern Flinders and fell in love with the beautiful ranges and the dry and arid north. After only two weeks in Meningie I am already a convert! The town and the people whom I have met are welcoming and our surroundings are stunning. I look forward to getting to know and understand the aspirations, history and culture of our area and its varied communities.

My previous leadership roles have been varied and have included working as a principal in the British International, International Baccalaureate and South Australian education systems. My most recent position was as Principal of Leigh Creek Area School where I successfully led the school on a journey which saw significant improvement to student learning outcomes in a wide range of areas.

I would like to acknowledge the work of our previous principal Monica Williams, who it is clear has led the school through a process of effective change and worked with the school community to improve learning outcomes for our students. This was borne out most recently by the positive school review process undertaken by the Department of Education last year.

My role will be to continue to lead the site improvement journey, working closely with the school community to identify new opportunities and initiatives to support each of our students in developing the
attitudes, skills and understandings to help them successfully manage their transition through school and prepare them for their post school future in a time of exponential and significant change. As I say to students, teaching and learning is our core business and our key role is to support them and challenge them to be the very best that they can be.

It is particularly important to me that I gain a deep understanding of our communities so that I can build an awareness of the strengths, opportunities, needs and challenges which face our students and their families. I have been working with staff to learn about the successful initiatives and programmes which have been run over the last few years and will be taking the time to gain first hand experience of these over the course of the year.

Over the last week I have been getting to know our students personally as well as reviewing the data on their learning. This week, as well as engaging with students around the school, I have travelled on two of the bus routes with students and have enjoyed the opportunity of chatting to them and gaining an understanding of the areas in which they live and the challenges that distance from school places on both them and their families. Next week I plan to travel on the remaining two bus routes.

We have two new teachers this year: Sarah Wilson who will be taking Art and Photography in the Middle and Senior School, and some Junior School NITT lessons. Sarah comes to us from a teaching position in Tumby Bay. Sarah Lehmann (Beare) has returned to Meningie Area School to teach Science and HPE. Welcome to both teachers.

On Tuesday evening between 5:30 and 7pm there is an opportunity for us to get together as a school community for a BBQ. I look forward to meeting as many parents as possible and I would welcome the opportunity of getting to know you. I am on duty before school starts on Tuesday through to Friday so please feel free to come and have a chat as I walk around or contact Sharon Gibbs in the front office if you would like to make an appointment to see me.

I am excited by the opportunity to lead Meningie Area School over the next five years and look forward to working with students, teachers, parents and the wider community to ensure that we continue our journey, moving from being a very good school to becoming an outstanding school.

Iain Love, Principal

Use the library from home!
• www.libraries.sa.gov.au/coorong

Parents and friends

Drop in to the library and make use of the free wifi and touch screen computers or just relax and read a book in a comfy chair. Read the Advertiser and check out current issue magazines. Loads of DVDs are also available to loan so if you are looking for something to do or want to find out how to get what you want from libraries around the State we can help at the library. If you haven’t been to the library for a while get your kids to show you around after school one day. Printing, photocopying, faxing and other services are also available.
**BUSES**

We are in the fortunate position of having increasing numbers of students on some of our bus runs. However this does create some issues as these buses approach their capacity for carrying students to school. One of these is that there are not enough seats available for kindy children to be brought in on kindy days. We are in discussions with DECD Transport and the owners of the contract bus runs about how we can meet the needs of these families within the department’s policies.

The other issue is that in the past students not normally on bus runs go home with friends for sleep overs etc or catch the bus to go to a place of employment. When there are plenty of spare seats this is not an issue, and all that is required is a note from the child’s parent or caregiver asking for approval to ride on the bus for that particular day. This note needs to be signed by me or another manager shown to the bus driver before getting o to the bus.

However if there are not any spare seats, students not normally riding on the bus do not have a right to a seat and they may not be allowed on to the bus by the driver even if they do have a note. This is particularly the case on our Coonalpyn Rd. / Field bus run. If you would like your child to ride on this bus for a one off event, please make contact with me prior to the day so that we can make sure that there will be a seat available. It is quite possible that there will be no space available and you will need to find an alternative means of your child getting to their friend’s place or employment.

Mal Jurgs
Deputy Principal

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**PaCSS Group**

(Parents and Carers School Support)

Next meeting

**Wednesday 17 February 2016**

**2.00pm**

All parents/carers/grandparents of students attending the school are welcome.

Meetings are held in the cultural room. Sign in at the front office on arrival and you will be shown/directed to the room if you are not sure where to go.

It would be great to see some new faces at the meeting.

Enquiries to Mandy Cunneen
0409 095 982 or

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2016 Smiley Dance Registration will be held on 12th February at Peter Hood Holden from 3 – 4.30 pm.

Dance classes will resume on 15th February.

Further enquiries please contact me via email:

[Abby-hood@hotmail.com](mailto:Abby-hood@hotmail.com)
Scholastic Book Clubs: The Term 1 Scholastic Book Clubs brochure (which is now condensed into one easy to read booklet) was sent home with students early this week. Parents may continue to order and pay in the traditional way i.e. at the bookroom by cash, cheque or credit card, or may use the new ‘LOOP’ (Linked Online Ordering & Payment) platform now provided by Scholastic Australia on their website. Orders will close on Wednesday 17th February 2016.

Introducing

Book Clubs LOOP
for Parents

LOOP is Scholastic Book Clubs Linked Online Ordering & Payment platform for Parents.

If you want to pay by credit card for your online Book Club order, LOOP makes it easy! It eliminates the need for paper order forms plus your online order is submitted to the school safe and sound.

Log-in to www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP or download our iPhone and iPad app from the App Store or get it on Google Play for Android.

- For a quick start, just click on ORDER in the top menu or REGISTER first to save your details for next time
- Select your school and your child’s class
- Add your child’s first name and last initial (so the school knows who the book is for)
- Enter the item number from the Book Club catalogue
- You can order for multiple children at once if they attend the same school
- All orders are linked directly to the school for submission to Scholastic. Books will still be delivered to your child’s classroom if you order by the close date
- There’s no need to return paper order forms or payment receipt details to your school!

For a quick how-to-order video, log-in to www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP and click on HELP in the top menu.
SCHOOL PHOTO DAY

School photo day is Monday 22nd February 2016. We are proud that the country’s leading school photographer, MSP Photography will, once again, be taking our school photos.

Please make sure students are wearing school uniform, especially jumpers and t-shirts. Please buy any uniform items before this date if required.

ID photos will also be taken on the day. **Cost $5.50**, payable to the bookroom by Thursday 18th February. Year 10-12 students are advised to have an ID photo taken, but other students are optional.

Information and individual student photo packs will be sent home with students in the near future. As we have a limited number of family envelopes, these must be collected from front office.

**Correct money must be brought on the day** (as we do not keep change here) placed in the envelopes then given to the photographers on the day. However, **On-Line Ordering**, where parents are able to select their preferred package online, **IS A NEW OPTION** and makes it much easier for our parent community.

In 2016 the range of options available to you online has increased. As well as the option to download a Low Resolution image for a smartphone, parents now have the option to purchase a **High Resolution Digital Download** of their child’s image and **Family/Sibling packages will also be able to be ordered online!**

An added incentive for our families is that MSP now offers a 10% discount for all family orders above $90.00 a family. For any enquiries, please feel free to contact MSP phone 8391 3951 or email msp@nuimage.com.au

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**Tuning in to Kids**

Emotionally Intelligent Parenting

A free six session parenting program for parents of children aged 2-6

Meningie RSL. Fridays 10am-12noon.
Commencing 4th of March

Would you like to learn how to:
be better at talking with your child?
be better at understanding your child?
help your child learn to manage their emotions?
help to prevent behaviour problems in your child?
teach your child to deal with conflict?

Tuning in to Kids shows you how to help your child develop emotional intelligence. Children with higher emotional intelligence:

- have greater success with making and keeping friends
- have better concentration at school
- are more able to calm down when upset or angry
- tend to have fewer childhood illnesses

Emotional intelligence may be a better predictor of academic and career success than IQ!

To Book, contact:

Tallebudgen Community Centre
141 Railway Terrace
PO Box 203
Tallebudgen 5540 SA
Ph: 08 8572 3513  Fax: 08 8572 4813

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Communities for Children
Murraylands

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**AC Care**

Anglican Community Care Inc. | ABN: 53 440 438 445 | Charity Licence CCP1186
Web: www.ac-care.org.au | Email: CommunitiesForChildren@ac-care.org.au
Communities for Children is funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services.
Dear Parent/Caregiver

Welcome to the 2016 school year. I hope this year will be a successful one for you and your family.

This year teachers at your school will be working with your son or daughter to help your child learn and make as much progress as possible. Your school will be keen to work with you to ensure that your son or daughter is successful academically, socially and developmentally.

Every day at school matters for this development so it’s really important that your child is attending school to get the most out of their education.

While we all know it’s important, it isn’t always easy to support children with their schoolwork. On the back of this letter are some ideas and resources I have found helpful to date with my kids, or have been recommended to me by other parents. I hope they are useful for you.

Schools welcome your involvement in your child’s education, and if you have any questions, please ask them. As you know, kids learn best when parents/caregivers and schools work together.

If you are able, I encourage you to get involved in your child’s school – whether it is through the governing council or volunteering at school events. To make it easier for you to volunteer, the government has recently made some changes to the screening clearance process if you volunteer to support your child at school. Please contact your school if you would like further information in relation to these changes, or visit the website at www.decd.sa.gov.au.

I am proud of the high quality education that we provide in our schools. A strength of our public schools is our community involvement, and working together we can continue to make your school even better.

Yours sincerely

Susan Close
Minister for Education and Child Development

27/01/2016

Minister for Education and Child Development
Minister for Higher Education and Skills
Level 19, 51 Hindley Street, Adelaide SA 5000 | GPO Box 1583, Adelaide SA 5001 | DX 126 Adelaide
Tel 08 8226 2233 | Fax 08 8226 1551 | Email minister.close@sa.gov.au | ABN 60 168 461 578

Students with a GROWTH MINDSET challenge themselves to grow
If your child is in Reception to Year 7:

Simple things you can do to support your child:

- Ask your child what they have been learning in class and link it to activities you do around the home
- Put up times tables posters around the house and talk positively about science and mathematics with your child
- Try to read with your child every day or read the same novel as your child so you can discuss the story together
- Encourage your child to share their drawings and projects with you
- Provide a comfortable space at home for your child to do homework and support them to complete it on time

Some helpful resources:

- The curriculum your child will be following this year:
  http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/
- Ideas for helping your child with numeracy and literacy:
- An app to help you unlock your child’s learning potential:
- Parent easy guides, including dealing with peer pressure:
- A wide range of parenting information, including healthy eating and creative play ideas:
  http://raisingchildren.net.au/school_age/school_age.html
- Ideas for outdoor play in SA:
  https://natureplaysa.org.au/
If your child is in Year 8 to Year 12:

Simple things you can do to support your son or daughter:
- Talk to them about current affairs and ask them how it links to their learning at school
- Talk positively about science and mathematics and encourage them to ask for help if they need it
- Read the same book as them so you can discuss the story, themes and characters together
- Encourage them to share their creative projects with you
- Provide a comfortable space at home for them to do homework and support them to complete it on time
- Encourage them to use their diary effectively to manage their time and stay on top of deadlines

Some helpful resources:
- The curriculum for Years 8 -10: http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/
- The curriculum for Years 11-12: https://www.sace.sa.edu.au/
- An app to help you unlock your child’s learning potential: https://www.learningpotential.gov.au/high-school
- Parent easy guides, including living with young people: http://www.parenting.sa.gov.au/
- A wide range of parenting information, including talking to teens: http://raisingchildren.net.au/teens/teens.html
ALL STUDENTS AND FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO AN INFORMAL PARENT/TEACHER ACQUAINTANCE EVENING FOR A BBQ TEA TO MEET WITH YOUR CHILD/REN’S TEACHER/S AND MIX WITH OTHER FAMILIES.

All meat, salad, and bread is provided.

Also provided are water, cordial and iceblocks for the children.

Adults BYO drinks.

When: Tuesday 9th February

Time: 5.30 – 7.00 pm

Where: Junior School Shelter

There will be a short presentation by Sarah Sutter from Nature Play SA during the evening

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RSVP to front office by Monday 8th February

Family Name: ____________________________

Number attending: _______ children _______ adults
Students with a GROWTH MINDSET challenge themselves to grow