PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Here we are at the end of term 2 already. Half way through the year, more than that for our Year 12 students.
Mrs Williams returns to school from the beginning of next term, so this is my last week as Acting Principal. While it has been a busy and interesting 3 weeks, I want to thank all of the staff for their support, especially Ms. Hese and Mrs. Quinn for taking up some of the extra load that has resulted.
As it is the end of the first semester all students from Years R to 12 will be bringing home reports at the end of school on Friday. You may notice some changes in the format of some of our reports, particularly in the R to 4 classes. This is to bring them into line with the requirements of the Australian Curriculum. I am sure that you will find the changes provide you with the information you need to follow your child’s progress at school. If you still have questions or want to get further detail, I urge you to make an appointment for a parent teacher interview early next term. You can do this by indicating your wish for an interview on the return letter in Years R–4 or on the yellow envelope for Years 5 to 12 and returning that to school after the holidays.
To be successful at school requires a partnership between the student, their parents/caregivers and the school itself. The more information that we can provide each other the better the chances of our students achieving to their potential at school and subsequently the years beyond.
As the Australian Curriculum continues to be implemented throughout the school, it is worth noting that part of this is the introduction of A to E grades across the nation. In the lower years these grades are substituted for the descriptive words; excellent, good, satisfactory, partial and minimal. This is a measure put in place so that school’s report to parents consistently regardless of which school in which state your child attends. These grades reflect your child’s progress against the Achievement Standards for each Learning Area. The grades are applied differently from what many of us would have experienced when we were at school. A “C” is equivalent to your child achieving at a satisfactory standard, while an “A” indicates excellence. To achieve this a student must provide evidence of learning that would put them significantly ahead of what would be expected at that year level, e.g. 12 months or more ahead of their peers. It is no longer sufficient for students just to complete all of the assessment tasks to a high standard; to achieve an “A” they must go further than would be expected. For this reason you will see a lot of “C’s” on the reports, indicating that your child is meeting the requirements of the
course that they are working in. Having said that, I believe that there are a number of students who are cruising through their schooling, and not pushing themselves to get that higher grade of which they are capable. Perhaps now is the time for those students to reflect on what they have achieved in the past, and what they hope to achieve in the future and make sure that the two line up. Now is the best time to make the changes needed, rather than regret missed opportunities in the future.

On the theme of developing a partnership between the school, its students and their parents/caregivers, I attended the first meeting of the re-invigorated Parent and Caregivers School Support (PaCSS) group meeting on Wednesday afternoon. It was great to see a good number of new faces eager to participate in the life of the school. There is an article later in this newsletter referring to their next meeting, and it would be great to see as many new members of this group as possible.

Finally I hope you all have a safe and happy holidays and that all of our students return to school refreshed and eager to start learning on the 20th July.

**NAIDOC stands for National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee**

On the 5th – 12th of July 2015, Celebrations are held around Australia each year to celebrate, History, Culture, and Achievements of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander People. Each year there is a Theme, this year it is “We all stand on Sacred Ground, Learn, Respect & Celebrate”. It highlights Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Peoples strong connection to the Land and Sea. It pays respects to Country and to honour those who work tirelessly on preserving the Land, Sea and Culture and to share the stories of many sites of significance or sacred places with the Nation. This theme was chosen as this year is the Anniversary of the “Handback” or Uluru to its Traditional owners, the Anangu people, on the 26th October 30 years ago.

The week is not only celebrated in Aboriginal Communities but within Government Agencies, Schools, Local Councils and Workplaces. During the first week of School Holidays keep an eye out on Community Events around Celebrating this Special time, there will be Flag Raisings, Marches, Performances, and much more.

**Isobell Koolmatrie (ACEO)**

**A Message from Alex and Makayla**

My Name is Makayla Field and I have spent the last three months here in Meningie as part of the Rotary Australia New Zealand Student Exchange. I would like to thank the community for making me feel welcome and also Meningie Area School for hosting me. A big thank you to the McPherson and Elbourn families for having me stay with them and introducing me to the Australian culture. I have had a great time and seen many different and exciting things in South Australia. Thank you for making me feel at home and I hope to be back one day.

Makalya Field from Carterton on the North Island has just spent the last 3 months as part of the Rotary Exchange in Meningie with her host sister Alex McPherson. On the 20th of June Makayla along with Alex returned to New Zealand where Alex will spend 3 months with Makayla and her family. Alex will attend school at Karanu College with Makayla (Pictured)
WELCOME TO PARENTS & CARERS SCHOOL SUPPORT GROUP (PACSS)

This group has been reformed with the first meeting having been held at the school this Wednesday. A small but enthusiastic group of parents met and agreed that this group needs to continue to be available for all parents and carers of students at the school.

At this meeting a number of issues/projects were brought forward that will be explored in detail at future meetings. As well as how often PaCSS will meet, time, location and reporting of the group. It was decided that the PaCSS group will have a Coordinator rather than a Chairperson, to keep with the informal feel of the meetings. Minutes will be taken but this will be done by someone who is attending the meeting, not a set person. Mandy Cunneen and Kirsty Ridley will share the Coordinator role and will also be the Governing Council representatives.

PaCSS will meet twice a term with the next meeting agreed to be **2.00pm, Wednesday 5 August 2015** in the school cultural room and is open to any parent/carer of students at the school to attend. It would great to see some parents from Middle and Senior School come along as those who attended the first meeting were parents of Junior School students.

Some of the subjects brought forward for further discussion and investigation at the next meeting included:

- Trial of a Parent Suggestion Box and/or online form on the school website
- Parent information sessions on Jolly Phonics and Maths
- School Uniform
- Information Pack for new families about the school

More details will be in next terms newsletter.

JUNIOR NETBALL COACHING CLINIC

The club is hosting a free netball coaching clinic on Monday 6th July (first Monday of school holidays).
This is available to everyone! You don’t have to be playing netball this year to attend. So come along and have some fun with friends while improving your netball skills!

**Session times will be**

10:30am to 11:30am – Minis and NetSetGo

12:30pm – 2:30pm – Under 11’2 & Under 13’s

3:00pm-5:00pm – under 15’s & Under 17’s

Toasted sandwiches and soup will be available free of charge and drinks & coffee available to purchase.
The Coaching Clinic will be run by Natasha Hertel who is a senior player in our club. Natasha has played at a high level and will bring knowledge and new skills to our Junior teams. Natasha will be assisted by other senior players and coaches.

We encourage all players to attend these valuable sessions. Please RSVP to your coach or

**Jo Williams on 0418 855 962** by Friday 3 July
Early Years literacy

Over the past semester, the reception students have been working very hard at learning the sounds from Jolly Phonics. In Term 2, the focus for the class has been on learning to read, sound out, and write simple words like CVCs.

A CVC is a word that begins and ends with a consonant, and has a vowel in the middle.

The first words most children will learn to write in reception are CVCs – mum, dad, dog, cat etc.

The Jolly Phonics class have been working hard using a variety of different ways to learn how to write CVCs.

Miss W
SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN

Activities at the Library
Mums, Dads, Grandparents, carers. Bring the kids along on Tuesdays during the School Holidays to the Library for Story time and fun.

Story time Tuesday 7th July 10 - 10.30
......followed by

![Madagascar](image)

21 minute DVD Madly Madagascar (G) 10.30 – 11.00

Story time Tuesday 14th July 10 – 10.45 followed by activity
Children must be supervised by their guardians at the sessions

Check out the Meningie Library Facebook page

MINIONS

Colouring in Competition available at the Library with prizes and a free family movie pass to win
More information on things to do during the holidays is available at the Library
Students with a Growth Mindset are life-long learners.