Parent/Teacher Acquaintance Evening
Thank you to all the parents and carers who made time to attend the evening on Tuesday 9th February. It was a great opportunity for me to meet you and find out about your student(s) as well as deepen my understanding of the Meningie and wider area communities.

Sarah Sutter from Nature Play SA spoke to students, teachers and parents about the advantages of unstructured outdoor play and an immersion in the natural environment.

Feedback to date has been positive and we plan to continue to explore opportunities for creating outdoor spaces which enable students to experience elements of risk taking, challenge and engagement in unstructured play within an environment which meets all the safety requirements.
**Swimming Carnival**
Thank you to all the parents who supported their students at the Swimming Carnival at Coonalpyn. It was a wonderful day and it was great to see the enthusiasm and commitment shown by all the competitors whether they had a chance of winning or not!

A great deal of work goes into the organisation and smooth running of a swimming carnival and I would like to express my thanks to all staff, but Katrina Hood and Sarah Beare in particular, for all their hard work on this event.

See the results later in this newsletter.

**Feedback from the Parents and Carers Meeting**
I met with the Parents and Carers group on Wednesday. We had a wide ranging discussion which included

- Considering a phone messaging app which would allow parents and teachers to communicate more easily on day to day matters
- Considering changes to the school jumpers

Once more information has been gathered the group will contact myself and Governing Council to explore these initiatives further.

We also discussed ways in which our school could become more involved in community events. I am keen to explore this so please let me know if you have any ideas for how we might expand our involvement in this area.

Many thanks to the group for all their hard work on behalf of our students. If you are interested in being part of the group please contact Mandy Cunneen on 0409095982.

**Literacy Initiative**
Supporting students develop the key literacy skills and understandings is essential for them if they are to be able to engage productively in their learning and post school life. As part of a Partnership initiative a group of our teachers and myself attended an excellent training on the Fountas and Pinnell “Levelled Literacy Intervention” which we will be implementing later this term.

The programme has been implemented in many countries around the world and the research on its effectiveness in supporting students is clear.

The programme is designed to support students who need support in reading and comprehension so that they are able to engage in research and manage the literacy demands of the subjects which they are learning.

We will be contacting parents of students who will be undertaking this programme later this term

**Term Learning Overviews**
Later this week you should be receiving learning overviews from each of your student(s)’ Homeroom teachers. These are designed to give you a clear overview of what teachers will be working with your student(s) on over the course of the term.

We are trialling a number of formats for presenting the information to you and would appreciate feedback from parents on how useful you find these as well as giving us ideas for improvement.
**Donations**
Many thanks to Swan Brothers for their ongoing support for our school. Their donation of fertilizer to support our agriculture programme is appreciated and will support us in offering effective programmes for all of our students involved in this key area.

*Iain Love, Principal*

**NEW TEACHER PROFILE**

My name is Sarah Wilson and I am the new Visual Arts and Photography Teacher at Meningie Area School. I grew up in Waikerie and lived there until I left High School and moved to Adelaide for study. I completed a Bachelor of Visual Arts in 2012, specialising in Painting & Drawing and minoring in Ceramics. I then completed a Masters of Teaching at the University of South Australia. I enjoy all things related to Art, and have an interest in working with a variety of media’s and mediums. I am currently in my second year of teaching.

I am very excited to be working in Meningie and looking forward to seeing the artworks that the students of MAS will produce.

**REMINDER ABOUT SCHOOL ROUTINES & EXPECTATIONS**

At this time of year it is timely to remind parents and caregivers of organisation arrangements that enable us to carry out routines easily.

**Front Office:**

The Front Office is open from 8.30 am for both parents and students to deal with issues around payment of accounts, purchase of items from the Bookroom and to make general enquiries. The office closes daily at 4.00 pm.

**Punctuality:**

The school day begins at 8.45 a.m. It is important that students are here by this time and in class. At the start of the school day all classes have Home Group. This is a time when the teacher and students go through the daily routines. When students are late it makes it difficult for them to be ready and well prepared. Both lateness and absenteeism are issues that we are really focusing on this year. There is no doubt that poor attendance and lateness impact on both individual and group learning. We all need to work hard on this, so that all students have access to positive learning outcomes.

**Duty of Care:**

Just a reminder that students should not be on school grounds before 8.30 a.m. A teacher is rostered on duty from 8.30 until the bell sounds to begin the school day at 8.45 am. The school day finishes at 3.20 p.m. and buses leave at 3.30 p.m. Students who do not travel by bus should be picked up or make their way home promptly at the completion of the school day, unless they are participating in an arranged after-school activity, as there is no teacher on duty after the buses leave.
**School Crossing:**

The school crossing is on North Terrace and we remind the Meningie School community to use this at all times when crossing the road. Parents and caregivers, please note the parking signage along North Terrace. Some parking is quite temporary, and needs to be observed as indicated. Parents of new students may not be aware that there is to be no parking on the Princes Highway side of the school from 8.30 – 9.30 am and in the afternoon from 3.30 – 4.30 pm.

**Parking near school bus bay:**

Parents are reminded that parking near the school bus bay on Princes Highway is prohibited, both in the morning and the afternoon during drop off and pick up times. Please read the Parking Signs for details.

**School Car Park:**

In the interest of child safety, we wish to remind all parents, carers and grandparents not to use the staff car park (including the library spaces) as a drop-off and pick-up zone **at any time**, unless in circumstances when they might be collecting a sick child from the front office.

Thanking you in anticipation of your understanding and support of this.

**Messages:**

Please try to avoid leaving messages with the front office staff for your child after 3pm. With only 1 person on duty quite often, it is extremely difficult to give the messages out as this means leaving the office unattended, which is not an ideal situation.

**School Uniform:**

We had such a great response to the sale of uniform items prior to students beginning school this year that we ran out of several items. An order was placed with our provider and should be arriving soon. A notice will be placed in the newsletter when this happens.

Students should be wearing school uniform at all times. Governing Council is responsible for setting uniform policy and encourages the wearing of such for a number of reasons including:

- Students look like they belong to Meningie Area School and readily fit in.
- Safety as readily recognised in the school and on excursions.
- It is designed to meet student needs and ready access to activities in the curriculum.
- It reduces competition and the wearing of expensive and/or designer clothing.

Whilst the current fashion trends are for women and girls in particular to wear short denim and/or colourful shorts, such are not appropriate in a school or most work spaces. Most of our middle and senior school students engage in various forms of work related to school or the community. Many employers have strict dress codes relating to safety and appropriate work place clothing. **As a school we are no different.** We expect from students consideration about what is appropriate and safe. This applies to boys as well.

We seek parent support in this. Often a sensitive issue for teachers to discuss, we ask that you ensure your child/children are dressed for their main work environment, that is school, and set a high standard throughout the school.
In the first instance if your child is inappropriately dressed, a note will be sent home seeking your support in the matter. If there is no change in his/her dress code we will contact you and ask for the student to go home and change. In the event of you not being available and/or because of distance the student will be asked to change into a pair of more appropriate shorts and/or pants kept for such occasions by the school. I am sure you can appreciate this is something we would rather avoid. We are, however, committed to maintaining high and safe standards in the school environment.

**Pre-loved uniform items:**

We always welcome the donation of pre-loved uniform items (and other clothing) to be used as spare clothing, or re-sold to parents/carers at a greatly reduced price. If you have anything that you no longer require, please drop in to the front office.

**Newsletter and Emails:**

The school newsletter is a publication which contains lots of useful information and is the main method of getting this information to parents and carers, so it is very important that you read your fortnightly newsletter.

If you have previously given the school your email address, you should be receiving this newsletter via email. A hard copy has been sent home to all other families. If you have not got what you would prefer i.e. either hard copy or email, please let the front office know. The newsletter is also put on MAS website at [www.meningieas.sa.edu.au](http://www.meningieas.sa.edu.au).

**INTERSCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL**

The Interschool Swimming Carnival is this Thursday 25th February at the Coonalpyn Pool. Congratulations to the students who have been selected to be part of the Meningie Area School Interschool Swimming Team.

Students in the squad have been advised and transport arrangements made. All squad members have also been advised of swimming practice times. Only the squad, with a small group of teachers, is going on the day. **It is a normal school day for all other students and they are expected to be at school.**

**STUDENT ID CARDS**

If your child would like to order an ID Card it’s not too late! Just pay $5.50 to the front office before this Friday 26th February to order a card for your child.

**PACSS INFORMATION**

Would you like to be involved in the school but don’t want to go on Governing Council? Then the parent/carer group; PaCSS, might be just for you. PaCSS meets once or twice each term and is an opportunity for parents to hear about issues, events at the school and to ask questions of the Principal/Deputy or other school guest speaker. In the past this group has also been involved in school uniform changes, fundraising and other events at the school. A representative from the School Governing Council will be on the group to provide a mechanism of communication between the two bodies. If you would like further information please contact Mandy Cunneen on 0409095982.
Students with a Growth Mindset understand their brain is a muscle and you have to work it.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL 2016

Congratulations to Kungari (Swans) House who won the Meningie Area School Swimming Carnival with a total of 564 points. No:ri (Pelicans had a good result with a total of 400 points. The following students were the medal winners:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Laps</th>
<th>Record</th>
<th>Holder</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Previous</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SUB JUNIOR (U10) GIRLS:</td>
<td>Ella Swan (Kungari)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Elin Fischer (Kungari)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUB JUNIOR (U10) BOYS:</td>
<td>Peter Kartinyeri (No:ri)</td>
<td>Harry Terwell (No:ri)</td>
<td>Jacobe Griffiths (Kungari)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUNIOR (U12) GIRLS:</td>
<td>Jessica Turner (Kungari)</td>
<td>Quinn Dalton (Kungari)</td>
<td>Jasmine Hockey (Kungari) Lauren Parsons-Averay (No:ri)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUNIOR (U12) BOYS:</td>
<td>Jace Ridley (Kungari)</td>
<td>Dion Kernick (Kungari)</td>
<td>Jack Saint (Kungari)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTER (U14) GIRLS:</td>
<td>Charlotte Treloar (No:ri)</td>
<td>Tiarnie Ling (Kungari)</td>
<td>Alyssa Wilson (No:ri)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTER (U14) BOYS:</td>
<td>Ben Schaefer (Kungari)</td>
<td>Henry Turner (Kungari)</td>
<td>Riley McNicol (No:ri)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SENIOR (U16) GIRLS:</td>
<td>Holly Vandenbrink (No:ri)</td>
<td>Aleisha Williams (No:ri)</td>
<td>Gena Mansfield (Kungari)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SENIOR (U16) BOYS:</td>
<td>Kobie Hood (Kungari)</td>
<td>Lachlan Brown (Kungari)</td>
<td>Tom Schaefer (Kungari)</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There were many new records set at the 2016 Swimming Carnival, as follows:

Students may bring their medallions into the front office before this Friday 26th February to be sent away to be engraved.

LOST PROPERTY FROM SWIMMING CARNIVAL/SPLASH DAY

There are several towels and a pair of Haviana thongs in the front office which came back from the Coonalpyn Pool last Friday. Please come to the front office if you think anything might belong to one of your children.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUBS

The orders have been placed with Scholastic Book Clubs and should arrive in the next fortnight. Once received and sorted, orders will be sent home with children. If missed out with your order it’s not too late to do it online through the LOOP. Just follow the procedure outlined in Newsletter 1 and log onto www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP.
The next Connecting Spirits project is planned for April 2017. Students who are in Years 9 – 11 this year are able to participate in this potentially life changing experience. They will travel to Singapore, the Somme in France, and Ieper in Belgium visiting battlefields that Australians fought on during both World Wars, and pay tribute to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice at their gravesides and memorials.

Students will develop a deeper understanding of the history of these conflicts and the role that Australian soldiers played in them. They will also develop empathy for the hardship and suffering that men and women on all sides of the conflict underwent as they lived and died in the trenches of the Western Front during the First World War.

We will then travel to England where we will spend ANZAC Day in the tiny village of Sutton Veny, joining with the students from the local school as they pay tribute to the 143 Australian soldiers and nurses buried in the churchyard next door. The students will also have the opportunity to act as tourists, seeing the sights and discovering the cultures of places such as Singapore, Paris, Amiens, Ieper, Brugge and London.

This is a great way for your child to experience overseas travel in a safe and supported way with staff who have experience leading over 15 such trips between them.

The anticipated cost for the 3 week tour including flights, transport accommodation and most meals is about $7500.

If you are interested in exploring this opportunity further, please contact Mal Jurgs for an expression of interest form and details on payment plans etc. There will be an information evening planned later this term for further details and information.

Keep your kids smiling

Have you received a letter from Medicare about the Child Dental Benefits Schedule? The School Dental Service is a Child Dental Benefits Schedule provider.

Dental care is FREE for ALL babies, pre-schoolers and most children under 18 at the School Dental Service.

Please call now for an appointment.
Murray Bridge School Dental Clinic
Phone: 8531 9300
Students with a Growth Mindset understand their brain is a muscle and you have to work it.

CENTACARE COUNSELLOR

My name is Sharon Young and I am a Family & Relationship Counsellor with the Drought Assistance Program at Centacare for the Coorong Council Area.

This program is Federally Government funded to help individuals and families in rural areas manage tough times. Counselling is sometimes a bit of a mystery, but think of it as a toolbox where you can learn skills to cope with a range of issues at different times in your life.

This is a FREE service and, whilst I can be seen in an office I can also do outreach to your home or an informal area like a café or park, meeting in another township if you would prefer?

The Coorong Council have kindly provided me with an office in the following locations:
Mondays – Meningie from 1.30-4.30pm
Tuesdays – Tailem Bend from 1-4pm
Thursdays – Tintinara from 12-3pm

Please feel free to contact me on 0417 548 915 to make a time to meet up.

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Centacare
Coorong Drought Assistance Program
Is inviting you to attend a

Women’s Wellbeing Workshop

Where: Community Health Centre, 2 South Tce, Meningie
When: Friday 11th March 2016 from 9.30am -12.30pm
Cost: FREE and Morning Tea will be provided.
Come along to learn how to relax and find some nourishing ways to look after yourself, and your family, as well as have a lot of fun in the process!

RSVP: If you are interested in attending this event or require further information please contact:
Jess or Sharon at the Murray Bridge Centacare office on 8531 8888
Additional Information: Numbers are limited.
Lake Albert Golf Club Inc.
‘One in All in Golf’

Junior Golf Coaching Clinics Come and Try Days
Commencing Wednesday 9th March 2016 from 3:30pm - 5:00pm for 8 weeks

Lake Albert Golf Club is holding free clinics for young people aged 5 - 17.

We are hoping to attract participants from:

Meningie Area School
Tintinara Area School
Raukkkan Aboriginal School
Coonalpyn Primary School
Coomandook Area School

We have a fabulous, picturesque golf course, an accredited Community Coach and volunteers who have appropriate child-related clearances.

We welcome parent and teacher involvement at these clinics and help at any would be fantastic. Even join in to learn a bit about the game!

We would like to have an idea of participant numbers, as OPAL will be providing drinks and snacks.
Please email, phone or text your details to:

Lisa Doolette
0437 247 481
peterlisa@internode.on.net

Look forward to having a hit with you!

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BRIDGE HOOPS

Term 1 Bridge Hoops will commence on
WEDNESDAY 2nd March – 4th April 2016
AT
5.00 PM – 6.00 PM
COST : $30 for 6 weeks

Emphasis will be on development of individual and
team skills for all participants.

Please bring a size 5 basketball if you have one
and a named water bottle.

Registration forms available on the MBBA website
or at the stadium.
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