Students with a Growth Mindset use set-backs to improve their skills.

As difficult as it is to believe, next week marks the midway point in Term 1. At this stage, classes are well settled, programs well underway and teaching and learning is the focus and reason for being at school. Students with identified needs are working with support personnel in class and on intervention programs as determined by their individual needs and learning plan.

There is no doubt that Governments at both National and State level are very clear that all students need to be at school and engaged in their learning. A huge amount of pressure is on schools to ensure that this is the case. Equally, the responsibility is with parents/caregivers. It is neglectful of parents not to send their children to school regularly. The school has a range of strategies that it uses to support attendance and works with families in this regard. The Department for Education and Children Development employs an Attendance Officer to support families get back on track when attendance is poor. Across the state DECD had a target of 94% attendance by the end of 2014. We fell short of this once again with an overall attendance rate of 85.9%. Of course we had some classes throughout last year with fantastic attendance that was sustained, as our regular data in the newsletter showed, but not good enough across the site.

All too readily students stay away, and for reasons that are not good enough. Last week’s Interschool Carnival was a good example of this. Despite making it clear that we were only taking the Interschool Swimming Team of 28 students to Coonalpyn and a small number of staff, the attendance at school on that day was terrible. This was particularly so at middle and senior school level. In effect we had teachers here at school with classes where most students were away. I am not sure what the thinking of students is here, but we run a lot of extra curricula activities through the school, and we don’t cancel classes because a few students are going to an event.

For teachers to get through the new Australian Curriculum at each year level the teaching and learning has to happen in a way that is sequential and meets students’ needs. I am sure that all parents and caregivers want their child/children to get the most advantage possible from being at school. For this to happen we all need to be on the same page and moving in the same direction. Attendance counts.

PARENT PARKING

Last week it was brought to my attention that the recently marked parking spaces on North Terrace are narrow. Taking measurements showed inconsistency. We contacted Coorong District Council with our concern. The Council supports our concern and is taking action to address the issue.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK
INDUCTION OF MENINGIE AREA SCHOOL CAPTAINS/ VICE CAPTAINS

On Friday 6th March at 10.30 am the 2015 School Captains and Vice Captains will be inducted at an Assembly in the school gym. At the assembly they will be presented with their badges, and recite the Oath. At the conclusion, along with invited guests, they will attend morning tea in the Library. All parents and caregivers are welcome to attend the assembly. If you would like to stay on for morning tea please contact Sharon at the front office by end of Wednesday 4th March for catering purposes.

Monica Williams
Principal

SCHOOL PHOTOS:
Monday 23rd February

Student behaviour was exceptional while they patiently waited to have their photos taken and thank you to the staff for taking interruptions to their program in their stride.

Photo taking flowed smoothly with the invaluable help given by Vanessa Mammone, after the photographers solved the problem with the lighting. We greatly appreciated Vanessa’s assistance.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Congratulations to the choir members who were able to sing as a small group at the Carols before Christmas last year. Annabelle Mead, Abbey Selby and Jessica Turner all sang beautifully as they represented their school on the night. Well done girls!

CHOIR 2015

Once again the students from Meningie Area School have the opportunity to be part of choir. As part of their music program students will be singing and learning some great songs and performing in Adelaide and Murray Bridge…. Keep your eyes peeled for more information

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

Sunday 1st March 2015 is Clean Up Australia Day. If you would like to Volunteer please register at Boat Ramp, Lions Jubilee Park at 9.30am on Sunday 1st March 2015. It is normally a couple of hours.

MAS ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

This year’s Year 3-12 Athletics Carnival will be held in Week 7 on Wednesday 11th March at the MENINGIE AREA SCHOOL OVAL. This is a normal school day and all students are expected to attend, as all students can participate in all events, and are encouraged to do so.

Our Athletics Carnival will run along similar lines as last year’s event, with individual events and team relays. Students will be competing individually and as part of their team (No:ri Pelicans or Kungari Swans).

All students receive house points for participating. The focus of the carnival will be on individual participation and team effort.

This year the 400m, 800m and 1500m events will be run prior to the athletics carnival. The 400m race will be on Friday 27th February, 800m on Tuesday 3rd March and 1500m on Friday 6th March. All events will commence with the Year 3 and 4 students at 9 am. Please make sure students bring appropriate clothing and footwear.

RAN TRAINING
(Responding to Abuse & Neglect)

When: Tuesday 17th March 2015
Time: 10am-12pm and 1pm-3pm
Where: Venue to be advised
   (in Meningie)

This FREE course is organised by the Meningie Kindy

Some snacks will be available for a small fee.

Priority will be given to Kindy and Governing Council Members and then Parent and Community Volunteers

People can register their name and details with Emma Swan
chappyel@hotmail.com or on 0417 809 469
Students with a Growth Mindset use set-backs to improve their skills.
Students with a Growth Mindset use set-backs to improve their skills.

Captain of the winning team: Kungari Swans

Senior School
Acknowledgements & Achievements
by Kathryn Hese
Kathryn.Hese802@schools.sa.edu.au

Now that the dust has settled a little after a very busy start to 2015 in the Senior School there is time to reflect on the year that was. This was done with a great deal of pride and personal satisfaction as so many students achieved outstanding results in so many ways.

Firstly, Meningie Area School can boast 100% SACE completion, meaning that all students that had the potential to complete the SACE actually did complete it. This in itself is an outstanding achievement and something that is not usually done, ranking us above the overall state completion rate of 94.36%.

For students that were looking for an Australian Tertiary Entrance Rank (ATAR) to enable them to be considered for University courses we once again had some outstanding results. In fact two students, Alysha Eckert and Lauren Bagshaw, scored above 94 and this was without the inclusion of bonus points, of which they were both entitled. Such high scores ensured these students a wide range of course choice and both have decided to take up offers from Adelaide University in 2015. Zac Van Den Brink successfully combined his School Based Traineeship work with University Entrance subjects and he too has been offered a University place in 2015 at the University of South Australia. Alysha Eckert was also invited to exhibit her very impressive work at the 2015 SACE Board Art Show.

The other very pleasing statistic is the number of students that have been able to combine VET learning with their SACE learning to successfully complete two or more qualifications. This year the percentage of students who completed their SACE who would not have done so without gaining credits through the recognition arrangements for VET in the SACE is 28.57%, and the State percentage is a meagre 16.78%. This is great testament to the amount of learning opportunities given to students at Meningie Area School, both on site and through regional connections. At the moment students can study the Certificate 1 in Information and Digital Media, the Certificate 11 in Rural Operations/Agriculture, the Certificate 1 in Education and Skills Development and the Certificate 11 in Health Support Services all at the school as part of the regular school timetable and at no extra cost to the student.

This year we have decided to trial the Certificate 11 in Community Activity which is aligned to the senior Physical Education curriculum and many community based activities and sports. When demand permits we also have arrangements with training providers to allow students to take part in the Certificate 1 in Automotive in our on-site technology workshop.

Before closing I would also like to acknowledge other students like Zac Byrne, Dale Appelkamp, and David Bristow who worked through Work Experience blocks, School Based Traineeships and Apprenticeships, and are now taking up offers of employment due to their dedication and solid relationships built with local employers.

I wish the 2014 Year 12 student cohort all the very best in the future and invite them to keep me up to date with their achievements along the way.

Class of 2014
Is your son or daughter taking up the Challenge in 2015??

If so, please ensure they fill in their student reading records as they read their books, gets them signed off as they go and please make sure your child hands it in to their teacher or the school contact person before: Friday 4 September.

The Challenge is to read a minimum of twelve books in total.

- Reception to Year 7: eight of these books are to be from the Challenge booklists, available on our website and four of their own choice and these can include class novels and research texts.
- Years 8 and 9: students read four books from the Challenge lists and eight of their own choice and these can include prescribed texts, research texts and any other texts from their research or studies.
- Years 10 to 12: students read twelve books of their own choice, and these can include prescribed texts, research texts and any other texts from their research or studies.

Student reading records are available from your child’s teacher, from the school contact person, who is usually someone in the school library (ask your child’s teacher) or download from the website.

Your son/daughter can also Rate a Read, by reviewing the books that they are reading and send this in to us. A winner wins a book prize every month and their first name and school are posted on our website. Also, we have a student blog section for both primary and secondary students to post and share thoughts about the Challenge and books that they are reading – encourage your son/daughter to have a go.

You can see what other students are reading, by looking on the booklist at the Top 10 Likes for each reading level.

We have updated the website to address: students, teachers and staff and the families page. Check it out for some great ideas.

Don’t forget the GreatStart website, developed to support families with ideas and activities to help make the most of everyday learning and events, especially important in the first five years of their life:

‘We know families are busy so we have ideas for activities that you are already doing, ideas that may be new and will only take a few minutes and others that will take longer. We have also included extra information for you if want to learn more about the literacy and numeracy that your child will be developing and how this will link to learning in later life.

We will continue to add new ideas and activities, including ideas to connect to particular events or occasions. We are also keen to hear from you on the site; how you went, what worked or other ideas that we can share with other families.’

Enjoy the Challenge.

Yours Sincerely,

Carmel Jones
Manager, Premier’s Reading Challenge
Department of Education and Children’s Services
Level 2 West, 31 Flinders St, Adelaide, 5000
Phone 08 8226 2006
Mobile 0421 584 016
Fax 08 8226 2005
Email: carmel.jones@sa.gov.au www.prc.sa.edu.au

---

**MENINGIE KINDERGARTEN & PLAYGROUP**

**AMBROSE GOLF DAY**

**Sunday 8th March 2015**

**Hit off from 10am at Middle Rotunda**

- 9 Holes - $10.00 per person including lunch
- 18 Holes - $20.00 per person including lunch
- Lunch for spectators - $6.00
- Kids with paying adult receive a FREE sausage sizzle for lunch
- Teams of four can register or we can put you in a team.
- No sticks, no worries.
- Let us know and we can help you sort this out.
- Cart Hire may be available.

Phone Emma Swan for bookings: 0417 809 469

---

Students with a Growth Mindset use set-backs to improve their skills.
Students with a Growth Mindset use set-backs to improve their skills.

INTERSCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL

On Thursday 19th February the following students travelled to Coonalpyn to participate in the USE interschool swimming carnival.

Katrina Brown  Marc Nicario
Quinn Dalton  Sheniqua Shaw
Jasmine Hockey  Dylan Gubbins
Brendan Kartinyeri  Riley McNicol
Dion Kernick  Kobie Hood
Lauren Parsons-Avery  Tom Schaefer
Jace Ridley  Jai Ling
Jack Saint  Gena Mansfield
Chelsea Swan  Lachlan Brown
Jessica Turner  Holly Vandenbrink
Phoebe Kartinyeri  Aleisha Williams
Leavi Dalton  Brenda Baldock (VC)
Tiarnie Ling  Jemma Williams
Ben Schaefer  Shania Weetra (VC)
Henry Turner  Alex McPherson (Capt)
Charlotte Treloar

All swimmers performed well and gave their best.

Meningie were 4th in the Overall Handicap Handicap Pennant, whilst our Sub Juniors were Pennant Winners. In the other divisions the Juniors finished – 3rd and Intermediate and Seniors were both 5th Seniors.

Jessica Turner, Jack Saint, Jace Ridley & Dion Kernick

Representatives of the Sub Junior swimmers

Kobie Hood & Ben Schaefer
Swimmers of the Meet

Swimmer of the Meet
Sub Junior Girl – Emily Kerr – Karoonda Area School
Sub Junior Boy – Mitchell Tonkin – Tintinara Area School
Junior Girl – Tess Huxtable – Karoonda Area School
Junior Boy – Ben Schaefer – Meningie Area School
Intermediate Girl – Ella Simpson – Keith Area School
Intermediate Boy – Kobie Hood – Meningie Area School
Senior Girl – Anna Malthouse – Keith Area School
Senior Boy – Jack Stolarski – Coomandook Area School

New Records 2015
Junior Female Medley Relay – 1:22.76
(Set by Keith)
MIDDLE SCHOOL ART

The Middle School Art students have been learning about portraits and the various ways of portraying different things about a person. The Year 6/7 class have learnt about Silhouettes and Patterns to produce their "Silhouette Pattern Portraits" in pencil and pen on paper. If you would like to see more, they will be on display in the Front Office during week 7.
The Year 8/9 class have continued to learn about Value (shadow and tone) to create depth and realism. They have used graphite and coloured pencil on paper to produce their "Dream Reflection Portraits". Due to limited space, this is only a small sample from the class. If you would like to see more fabulous portraits, they will also be on display in the Front Office during week 7.
The River Murray Youth Council is a volunteer youth group for high school aged students from across the Murray Darling Basin. The group aims to bring like-minded students with a passion for the environment together to learn about local environment issues, link them with local mentors, and provide opportunities to develop leadership skills.

The group meets regularly, normally once a term, at the Natural Resources Centre at Murray Bridge, and is guided by mentors from across the NRM field. The program has been running since 2012, and has provided great opportunities for many of our past students, and some of those impacts and stories can be found in the attached RMYC – where are they now? report, which shows the value of including your students in the program.

The group this year will also be acting as leaders, and the executive committee, for our new high school forums (NRM Ripples Forums), that will bring classes together twice a year to hear from leading scientists before applying their knowledge on a local based Natural Resource Management issue through a citizens jury debate. There will be more information coming soon on the forums, the first of which will be held on the 28th May and will focus on Climate Change.

As well as connections, friendships, leadership skills and increased knowledge, students may also be eligible for SACE credit for self-directed community learning by participating in the RMYC. It’s also a great inclusion as a part of a PLP, as we had a student do in 2012.

Mentors are also able to provide transport from many parts of the region, and we are happy to help to arrange transport.

The program is FREE, and is funded by the NRM levy.

If you have any questions please don’t hesitate to contact me on 0437 774 627 or Jodie.sommerville2@sa.gov.au.

Kind regards,

Jodie Sommervile
NRM Education Coordinator (Tuesdays and Thursdays)
Natural Resources SA Murray-Darling Basin
T: (08) 8536 5624 F: (08) 8536 8435 M: 0437 774 627
Strathalbyn Natural Resources Centre
PO Box 4, 6 Catherine Street, STRATHALBYN, SA. 5255
naturalresources.sa.gov.au/samurraydarlingbasin

All proceeds go to Meningie Hospital and Medical Centre
March 14th 2015
7:30am-12noon approx.
Gumburra Park, Sullivans Road, TINTINARA
Students with a Growth Mindset use set-backs to improve their skills.
Students with a Growth Mindset use set-backs to improve their skills.
Students with a Growth Mindset use set-backs to improve their skills.