CONSISTENT SCHOOL ATTENDANCE INCREASES THE CHANCE OF GAINING A GOOD JOB. EVERY DAY COUNTS!

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

It was wonderful to see so many families come to the Parent Teacher Acquaintance night last Thursday. As in previous years the weather was warm and children made good use of the playground and the sandpit while the adults caught up. The Governing Council Chairperson David Eckert introduced our 2 staff new to the school this year; Coadette Low and Richard Oliver, and spoke briefly about the role of Governing Council. As I had spent the day at the Coorong Cluster meeting of Principals with the new Regional Director Murray & Mallee, I spent some time talking about some of the priorities across our region. These include:

- Attendance
- The importance of oral language and early reading.
- Engagement, particularly the new VIP course at YEAR 9/10.

Attendance

It is fantastic to see the strategies that we have put into place to raise our daily attendance being taken on by the school community. This is reflected in our individual class data and the collective data for the past two weeks; Week 1 we were slightly above the target of 90% at 90.1% and Week 2 slightly below target at 88.4%.

Every class across the school has developed an approach to improving awareness of the importance of being at school and being engaged in the learning. These are in addition to current DECD and school procedures, including notification to parents of absenteeism through the SMS system and follow up procedures by school personnel in accordance with our Attendance Plan. Several classes have sticker charts and visual reminders.

We are about to link individual attendance with our new house system and give house points culminating in a House Trophy at the end of the

SCHOOL CAR PARK REMINDER

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) 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.

THE SCHOOL WILL OPEN FOR LESSONS AS NORMAL ON MONDAY 18TH FEBRUARY.

ALL STUDENTS NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE INTERSCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND SCHOOL AS NORMAL.

TERM 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 4</th>
<th>18th February (Wk 4)</th>
<th>Interschool Swimming Carnival at Coonalpyn</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>26th February</td>
<td>Staff T&amp;D CAMHS Cultural Trauma Response 3.35pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>27th February</td>
<td>SSSSA D Grade Swimming Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1st March</td>
<td>Running of 800m races Lesson 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>4th March</td>
<td>Running of 1500m races Lesson 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4th March</td>
<td>Kindy Transition meeting with parents 4pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7th March</td>
<td>MAS Athletics Carnival</td>
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<td></td>
<td>8th March</td>
<td>STUDENT FREE DAY – Staff T &amp; D</td>
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</tbody>
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15th February 2013

NEWSLETTER 2

www.meningieas.sa.edu.au

dl.0750_info@schools.sa.edu.au

MENINGIE AREA SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL: Ms Monica Williams
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL: Mr Mal Jurgs
SENIOR SCHOOL COORDINATOR: Ms Kathryn Hese
STUDENT WELLBEING R-9 MIDDLE SCHOOL FOCUS: Ms Kathy Quinn
school year of which Attendance Data will be just one of the features. Governing Council has got on board. The council has agreed to support a voucher system where the names of students with perfect attendance will go into a hat and one lucky Junior School student, Middle School student and a Senior School student will receive a $20 voucher sponsored by Governing Council and linked to a local business. The front office has an Attendance Board, tracking our progress across the year. We are aiming for that target of 90% weekly. So far we are pretty much on target. Thanks for your effort and support.

House System News

In Week 1 students in Years 10, 11 and 12 were invited to self-nominate as a House Captain for our new houses Kungari (Swans) and No:ri (Pelicans) for the 2013 school year. The students were given a set of criteria to address in their nomination along with 2 staff referees. I was pleased to accept the nominations as received. 5 students nominated for the position of House Captain going to the oldest student by year and age. A student vote was not required. Congratulations to the following students.

KUNGARI (SWAN) HOUSE COLOUR MAROON
Female Captain: Marni Hood
Male Captain: Jamie Thompson
Vice-Captain: Abbey Hood.

NO:RI (PELICANS) HOUSE COLOUR YELLOW
Female Captain: Tamika Williams
Male Captain: Zac Vandenbrink

I met with the House Captains earlier this week and after consultation it was agreed that co-opting Vice Captains is something the Captains would like to see. We seek your patience as we work through processes in this implementation year. As soon as we have a resolution on this the school community will be advised.

New House Logos

Information was detailed in the last newsletter about a competition to design new house logos. Please refer to the article or check the last edition on the website for details. Entries close next Friday 22nd Feb at 4.00pm.

Sporting Events

Yesterday was the Meningie Area School Swimming Carnival at Coonalpyn, the first of several sporting events for the term. My thanks to Katrina Hood who not only has done much of the behind the scenes work in setting up the new house system, but also in organizing the Swimming Carnival. A lot of organization goes in to the arrangement and management of all major events within the school, and we rely on a good system of communication between home and school to organize things such as students in events as well as transport. Most students did not return notes by the due date of last Friday. This has had a big impact on organizing bus transport, with front office staff making a lot of phone calls home to parents and caregivers late into the week. We understand that family lives are busy, but seek your support in responding by given dates so that our organization of events can keep within timelines.

Interschool Swimming Carnival

The Interschool Swimming Carnival is this next Monday 18th February at the Coonalpyn Pool. Congratulations to the students who have been selected to be part of the Meningie Area School Interschool Swimming Team.

With the short turn-around time from our own carnival, students in the squad have been advised and transport arrangements made. Only the squad with a small group of teachers is going on the day. All other students are to be at school.

Monica Williams
Principal

EMAILING OF NEWSLETTERS

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, we are trialling the emailing of newsletters to parents/caregivers who have supplied us with an email address.

If you would like to receive the newsletter by email and have not given us your address, please contact front office to do so.

STUDENT MEDICATIONS

A letter has been sent home to parents who have indicated via the Student Swimming/Aquatics Consent Form that their child has a health issue, with important information regarding the student’s medication. Could parents and caregivers please return these to the school promptly.
MAS SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Yesterday Meningie Area School held their combined Swimming Carnival/Splash Day in near-perfect conditions. Again it was a fantastic start to the year with students travelling to Coonalpyn and participating in a variety of swimming races, novelty events and water activities. Student participation numbers were greater than last year’s carnival, with those who participated doing so in an appropriate manner. It was fantastic to see the support the students gave each other throughout the day. It was also pleasing to see the enthusiasm, encouragement and support that our senior students, particularly the House Captains, gave to our junior school students. Kungari was our eventual house winner on 530 points, ahead of No:ri on 339 points.

The following students were successful in their age group:

**Sub-junior girls U10**
- Winner: Tiarnie Ling (Kungari)
- Runner-up: Charlotte Treloar (No:ri)

**Sub-junior boys U10**
- Winner: Ben Schaefer (Kungari)
- Runner-up: Henry Turner (No:ri)

**Junior Girls U12**
- Winner: Lucy Waser (Kungari)
- Runner-up: Bridie Blake-Burrows (No:ri)

**Junior Boys U12**
- Winner: Kobie Hood (Kungari)
- Runner-up: Jai Ling (Kungari)

**Intermediate Girls U14**
- Winner: Holly Vandenbrink (No:ri)
- Runner-up: Gena Mansfield (Kungari)
  - Aleisha Williams (No:ri)

**Intermediate Boys U14**
- Winner: Lachlan Waser (Kungari)
- Runner-up: Lachlan Brown (Kungari)

**Senior Girls Open**
- Winner: Marni Hood (Kungari)
- Runner-up: Mikayla Smart (Kungari)

**Senior Boys Open**
- Winner: Zac Vandenbrink (No:ri)
- Runner-up: Jamie Thompson (Kungari)

A list of records broken and some photos will appear in the next newsletter.

Many thanks go out to parents for their great support timing and assisting the junior school staff with splash day. Your help ensured a successful day of sport. Thanks also to Mel Treloar for conducting ongoing swimming lessons at school, Dylan Vandenbrink for refereeing, and Judy Appelkamp and John Hastings for driving the buses. Thanks to the staff for their help on the day and Katrina Hood for her enormous help in preparation prior to the day.

Congratulations to all students, parents and staff members for a successful day!

Jack Rowe (PE Teacher)

LAST CHANCE FOR SCHOLASTIC ORDERS

Orders, with payment, for Scholastics can be made at the book room until end of Monday 18th February 2013.

ASTHMA ASSIST

Asthma Assist is the new tagline to describe Asthma Australia’s services to individuals with asthma and their carers. Asthma Assist takes into account factors such as health risks, social determinants and priority populations in developing services and resources to help all people with asthma to live well with their asthma through better control to achieve improved health outcomes.

NEW RECEPTION STUDENTS

Meningie Area School welcomes new Reception students: Spencer Hincks, Rylie Stephenson, Peter Kartinyeri, Curtis Carter, Elin Fischer, Primrose Mead, Erin Poulis, Eliza Treloar, Annabelle Starr and Bailey Stut. The students will spend the year in Miss Carly Wilamowski’s Reception class.
VIP VEGETABLE GARDEN & COOMANDOOK GARDEN VISIT

The year 9 and 10 students who are undertaking the Vocational and Industry Pathways course this year are building a vegetable garden at the school as part of their Course. On Monday, as part of the students’ learning experience, they visited Commandook Area School’s Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden.

Following are student reflections of the visit:

Today our 9/10 V.I.P class went to Coomandook School to see their Community garden. A man named Mr Roberts spoke to us about their garden and the process they went through. He also showed us a PowerPoint with some pictures day by day building their garden. The community all helped with the garden so instead of a school garden they changed it to a community garden.

What did you like most about the Coomandook Community Garden?

I liked how they designed their garden and I like how they have paved grounds. I also liked the different types of vegetables, some fruit and some native plants to make it nicer.

Are there any vegetables that you would like to grow in your veggie patch now that you have seen the Coomandook Garden?

I would like to grow sweet corn, cucumber, lettuce and some plants around our garden beds to make it look nice.

How is the Coomandook Community Garden different to our garden?

Our garden looks like this and altogether its very little space and we make progress week by week. Coomandook’s garden looks like this and it has way more space and they already have plants growing. There is set up better and ours is getting there.

What would you like to change about your garden?

I would like to have single garden beds spread around our whole area and plants along the fences to make it look nice and I would like to plant some native plants in our area.

How could we involve the community to help us with our garden?

We could send letters out to parents and people in the community for their support and help so we can make a bigger and more better garden.

How can we make sure our garden is watered and looked after during school holidays?

We could put sprinklers in the ground and put a time limit for each day or students can take in turns and go water them if that doesn’t turn out. ~ Brittany Rigney – Year 9
What did you like most about the Coomandook Community Garden?

It was nice and clean and it looked like it was looked after very well and it is nice and big but not very spacey.

Are there any vegetable you would like to grow in your veggie patch?

Straw Berry and sweat corn are the only veggies I want to grow.

How is the Coomandook Community Garden different to our garden?

It looks cleaner and better and it is bigger and more choices in veggie because they got more money giving to them.

What would you like to change about your veggie patch?

Make it look clean and put something around the edges of the garden so all the soil don’t fall out.

How could we involve the community to help us with our garden?

Tell people about it and put it in the lake lander and in the standard so everyone can see.

How can we make sure our garden is watered and looked after in the school holidays?

We could make a list when someone comes in and water it for us like what coomandook did or someone from the community can come in.

~ Clinton Walker – Year 10

Today our class went to Coomandook to have a look at their vegie garden. The first thing I saw was the vegies- some of them were sweet corn, carrots, pumpkin, and cucumber. Mr. Roberts and two community members talked to us about the garden and how much it cost and showed us the designs. Mr Roberts showed us around the garden and gave some of the class some carrots to eat. What I liked about the garden was the Sweet corn and the huge zucchini. At the end of the day we went to the Ag area where the other Garden is. It was nothing like the Kitchen Garden as it was only the school students who made it without community help. Then we got on the bus and ate some cake from Mrs. Chandler, it was good. Then we arrived back at school, overall the day was pretty good. The vegies I seen there were good but the only ones I want to grow is the carrots because they are easy to grow and they grow all year round. Coomandook’s garden is better than ours because the community members have helped them out a lot and they got a 60,000 grant but also the whole school helps out every day as we only have a few year 9’s and 10’s. i think our group would like to have better soil so our plants grow better.

~ Rhys Lewis – Year 9
Today the year 9\10 V.I.P class left at 11:00am to go to the Coomandook Area School community garden. We were shown a power point on how they made the garden. Mr. Roberts explained to us what happened and how they built the kitchen garden.

What did I like most about the garden?
They had everything sorted out and made sure everything was in order. The garden had space and native plants.

How is the Commandook Garden different to ours?
It is different in many ways, they have soil from Mount Gambier but our class has soil from Meningie. They have people from the community helping, we don’t. It has different sorts of vegetables everywhere you walk, pretty much.

How could we involve the community to help us with the garden?
We could get something put in the Meningie area school newsletter and hope for the best that people have interest in helping.

How can we make sure that our vegetable garden is well looked after and watered in the holidays?
Have people in class and ask them will they have time and water it. People that live close by to the garden could look after it?

What would you like to change about your veggie garden?
Don’t really want to change anything just make sure we improve a lot at the stage we are at.

~ Trae Rigney – Year 10

What did you like about Coomandook Community Garden?
I really liked how the Coomandook Community Garden is designed. If I could change anything about my garden it would be the design, place and I would put drippers in so it would be easier to water the vegetables. I would like to grow carrots, sweet corn and pumpkin. Wouldn’t mind to see more people from the community help out with the garden and the cooking. Coomandook Garden is a lot different to my groups garden, they already have vegetables growing and theirs is designed a lot better.

~ Kristen Ayres – Year 10

Yes, I would like to grow a few more in my little veggie patch, now that I’ve seen the Coomandook Garden.

How is the Coomandook Community Garden different to our garden?
Their garden has more stuff done to it, and plenty of garden beds also grew way more plants and veggies compared to us. They also had to pay more money than us.

What would you like to change about your garden?
Nothing really I actually like the way my garden is.

How could we involve the community to help us with our garden?
Send papers out and do a working bee like what the Coomandook school staff and kids done.

How can we make sure that our garden is watered and looked after and during school holidays?
We can have like a sprinkler underneath the sand and make a timer, so that the water can come on every few hours.

~ Shania Weetra – Year 10

What did you like about Coomandook Community Garden?
I like how they set out the area and how they planned it out, also how the veggies shooted up.

Are there any vegetables you would like to grow in your veggie patch, now that you have seen the Coomandook Garden?

~ Kristen Ayres – Year 10
This term the VIP class are growing a garden (garden beds)

There are 15 people in the VIP class Chyanne, Brittany, Regae, Shania, Jamara, Kerry, Adin, Rhys, Trae, Clinton, Liam, Wanda, Brad, Kristen and Jake.

The garden is located at the AG block.

Firstly we started to clean the area by pulling the weeds and bushes out and then we had to rake it all down to one corner. Then we grabbed a pitch fork to dig it up and put it into a green bin. Then we wetted the soil for it to be soft and nice for the seeds we are growing.

Then we had to do some math in our garden beds to get it right to make the garden beds even. We put string around the garden beds then we measured the width and length so it’s nice and right for our wood to be layered.

Next we started to measure the path ways, we needed to use team work and a bit of math’s as the path ways had to be between the three garden beds. We had to start over again because one of the garden beds was too close near the fence.

We also did some research on the plants we were allowed to do because you must have the right plants for this weather, otherwise it won’t work or grow. Mr Rowe and Ms Palka went shopping for boots and seeds for our garden we needed and some tools to layer the soil nice and seeds to grow for the garden.

~ Wanda Shaw – Year 9

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**FOR SALE**

1 X Size 10 Girls Uniform dress.
As new $25.00 For enquiries please contact Loretta 0499215990.

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**2-DAY WORKSHOP**

The Beach nesting birds and Wetland birds projects are proposing a joint 2-day workshop on Hooded Plovers for the weekend of 23rd and 24th March at Meningie and surrounding field sites. The workshops will include an indoor component and visits to field sites.

If you are interested please contact Tanya Pyk at Birds Australia: tanya.pyk@birdlife.org.au
LEARN ABOUT YOURSELF!

As Marcel Proust, a late 19th century novelist wrote: “the real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes”. Volunteer to host an international high school student in July 2013 through Southern Cross Cultural Exchange and prepare to be amazed at the way this unique and rewarding opportunity helps your family to become closer, to understand themselves better and to see the world in a new light.

Carefully selected students will arrive in July for one or two semesters from France, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Japan, and Spain. They will attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at our website www.scce.com.au, email scceaust@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship.

Robert Lindsay
National Business Development Manager

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