Students with a Growth Mindset are persistent.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Attendance really matters;
It impacts on personal and learning achievement

Student Attendance Percentages for Term 2
DECD Target for 2015 = 94%

Week 7 Term 2
Student Attendance % by Roll Class
PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Staffing

Monica Williams is on leave until the end of the school holidays and as a result I will be the Acting Principal and Kathryn Hese will be the Deputy Principal during her absence. Apart from Monica taking leave, Mary Strother is also on leave and her time in the library is being covered by Lorraine Williss, Julie Saint and Melanie Treloar.

Student Free Day 5th June

This session was presented by Lynette from the Institute of Educational Assessors which is part of the SACE Board. This was the first session of 5 on Assessing and Reporting and focussed on the Principles and Language of Assessment. While this has been developed by the SACE Board, it is applicable from R – 12 using either the Australian Curriculum or SACE Subject Outlines. The day was very worthwhile with all staff providing positive feedback on the content and presentation of the day. The next session is planned for November with the final 3 sessions to be held next year.

Semester Change

The semester will change at the end of Week 9 (next week) with Semester 2 starting on the Monday of week 10. This only really impacts on Year 10 – 12 students who may change or finish some subjects e.g. Research Project. The timetable may change for other classes and there may also be some impact on NITT in R – 5 classes.

Reports will be sent home at the end of week 10 and will available for collection from the library during the holidays.

Illness

As the seasons change and the temperatures cool down, we will invariably see a rise in the number of students with coughs, colds and potentially the flu. While it is not possible to completely isolate ourselves and our families from these illnesses, there are some steps that we can all take to reduce their spread and the impact on the whole school community.

Dressing appropriately for the conditions can help the body fight off infections, as can good nutrition and plenty of sleep. Good hand washing habits and personal hygiene can reduce the risk of spreading infections and of course getting vaccinated against the flu helps the whole community reduce the risk of being infected.

While we are consistently asking that your child attends school as much as possible, if they are obviously sick, please keep them at home to give them an opportunity to recover fully, and also to reduce the risk of spreading the illness right through their class. There is a website called “You’ve got what?” which provides guidelines on how long students should be kept at home.

Please note that we have had several confirmed cases of Influenza. If your child has been diagnosed with the flu they need to be kept home until well.


**Contacting Students Throughout The Day**

There have been a number of teachers concerned about students' phones going off during lesson time only to find that it is parents who are trying to contact their children. This can cause a great disruption to classes and we ask that you refrain from ringing or texting your child during lesson times. If you wish to get them a message please ring the office and the staff will get the message to your child. If you must contact them directly can you please do so during recess from 11.10 am to 11.30 am or during lunch from 1.00 pm to 1.40 pm. A phone going off during lesson times is not only disruptive to your child’s learning, it also impacts on the learning of all others in the class.

**Connecting Spirits**

As you may be aware I recently travelled with the 5th Connecting Spirits trip which included 16 students; 5 from Meningie Area School, 7 from Findon High School, and 1 each from Mannum, Lameroo, Unity, and Whyalla, and 16 adults, including teachers, parents, youth leaders and community members. We left Adelaide on the 7th April 2015 spending time in Singapore, Paris, the Somme region, Ieper, London and the Salisbury Plains area of England following the stories of men and women who fought for our country during World Wars 1 and 2.

Highlights included attending the burial of 6 British soldiers whose remains were uncovered recently, the Dawn Service at Hyde Park Corner and the Anzac Day Service at Westminster Abbey (attended by the Queen), attending the Sutton Veny School’s Anzac Day service on the 24th April, participating in the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ieper and the commemoration of Rufus Rigney at Harelbeke in Belgium. Everybody would have their own personal highlights to add to this list. There was of course the normal emotional roller coaster as we shared many tears when commemorating our soldiers and telling their stories, and laughter when we were acting like tourists in Paris and London. To see more detail you can visit [www.connectingspirits.com.au](http://www.connectingspirits.com.au) to see the daily blog. This is still a work in progress and won’t be fully completed until after the next holidays.

You may have also seen in local newspapers that there has been a link forged between Meningie and the village of Sutton Veny in England. This village is not much different in size to Meningie but is only about 5 kms from the nearest major town, Warminster. It has its own little parish school with just over 140 students from the equivalent of our year levels R – 6. During the First World War the village was part of the massive complex of training camps and other facilities on the Salisbury Plains. There was a hospital and a training school close by. When you look at the service records of Australian soldiers many mention the names Sutton Veny, along with Codford, Hurdcott and Larkhill; all small villages in the area. A number of these men got ill during training, or returned from the front with injuries or disease and some of them died as a result. In the churchyard next to the school there are 168 World War 1 burials including 143 Australians, 3 of whom were nurses. Perhaps the most touching part of the story is that quite a number of the dates on the headstones of these graves are after the 11th November 1918, the end of the war. Young men and women, having survived the war, were waiting to get a place on a ship home to Australia, only to catch the Spanish Flu that swept Europe in 1918-1919. It is hard to imagine the grief their loved ones felt after believing that they had survived the war and would be returning home, only to receive a telegram saying they had died of the flu! On Anzac Day 1918 a local lad stole some flowers from his neighbours’ gardens and laid them on the Australian graves. This has become a tradition and now every Anzac Day, the local school children bring flowers from home...
and work together to produce a posy for each of the 143 Australians in their churchyard. They then have a church service after which each child stands in front of the grave of an Australian and places a posy at the base of the headstone. This is a community event, not just a school event, and this year we had the privilege of sharing this. Our students helped each class make posies and spoke to the students about aspects of their lives at home. We then attended the service and then watched as they all lined up in the cemetery. This was one of the most moving experiences I have had, and with five Connecting Spirits trips, I have had a few. But this is not just a one-off thing. The whole school ethos revolves around the memory of the men and women from Australia who lived, and sometimes died in their town. Each class has the name of an Australian town or city, starting with the youngest in Albany, through Brisbane, Canberra, Darwin and Elliston to the oldest students in Geraldton. Activities across the curriculum and throughout the year are focussed on Australia. The Anzac Day service has occurred ever since the end of the war, but with the centenary celebrations starting last year many groups have become aware of it and have asked to be a part of the ceremony. However, only the Connecting Spirits project gets this honour. We have been visiting the school since 2010 due to the friendship between Julie Reece and a teacher at the school, Nicky Barnard. As a result of these visits, the Parish Council of Sutton Veny invited the Coorong District Council to form a link with them, which was officially made on Anzac Day this year.

Originally Findon and the Coorong Mallee schools were only going to combine for this one trip and then work toward sustaining two separate projects. However after our return the Principal at Findon High School asked if we would consider keeping the project a combined one as she thought that the experience that her students gained by sharing with rural and Indigenous students added extra layers to the benefits of the trip. Doing this would ensure the ongoing viability of the project. We have decided to return to the original timetable of sending students in late November every second year. This means that the next trip will be in late 2016 and planning has already begun. We will be looking for expressions of interest from students in Years 9 – 11 this year later in the term.
SAPSSASA HOCKEY

Congratulations to Jessica De Vos who has been selected to the Lower SE – Murray Mallee hockey team to play in the state carnival in Adelaide next week. We believe that she is the first Murray Mallee student to play hockey at this level. Well done Jessica and good luck.

BAND

On Thursday the 4th of June 46 students from year 6-10 travelled to Murray Bridge North School to take part in a Murraylands Band event. We practised and played together with students from Murray Bridge High School, Coomandook Area School, Murray Bridge South School, Mypolonga Primary School and the host school Murray Bridge North School. Our students were placed into 2 bands. We learnt new pieces and performed to an enthusiastic audience of MBNS students and parents.

Abbey, Chelsea, Tammin and Charlotte in the continuing band

Jess, Trisha and Liam playing clarinet
Felicia and Phoebe play flute in the continuing band

Dakota, Hank and Kobie play trombone in the Murraylands Concert Band

Tom, Emma and Mr Longden played clarinet in the Murraylands Band
**3D PRINTERS ARE HERE**

The school has recently acquired two 3D printers, one that is a scanner printer and the other a duel printer able to print in two colours. These devices will enable students to extend their knowledge of contemporary technology and its applications in a range of subject areas.

Recent reports have noted that within ten years most of Australia’s small manufacturing will be designed and produced by 3D printers that belong to private citizens and at their place of residence. With this in mind Meningie Area School is keen to offer this opportunity to become literate in these devices to all students, and in the coming months we will begin introducing aspects of this technology into the learning.

Russell Starr
(ICT Manager)
PARENTS/CARERS GROUP TO RESTART

The Meningie Area School PaCCS group is looking to restart if there is enough interest from Parents/Carers. An initial meeting has been arranged for 2.00pm, Wednesday 24 June at the school and an invitation is extended to any parent/carer from the school to attend.

It will be 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.

It is envisaged that the group will meet once a term initially but this will be driven by the majority of those involved.

Mr Mal Jurgs, Acting Principal will speak at the first meeting at 2.00pm followed by an opportunity for discussion about future meetings of this group.

If you are at all interested in this group please respond by returning the slip below.

I __________________________ will be attending the PaCCS meeting on Wednesday 1st July at 2.00pm.

OR - I am interested but not able to attend this meeting please send me information from this meeting and let me know about any future meetings.

My contact number is ____________________________ and

Email__________________________________________

Contact details are needed if you are or are not able to attend, so that if the meeting is moved you can be contacted.
In Year 6 and 7 HASS (Humanities and Social Sciences) we have been learning about citizenship and how we can show that we are good citizens in our community.

Our class in doing some fundraising for students at One Tree Hill Primary School to show them that we care about them after the bushfires went through their area in January this year.

We will be holding an event each term and hopefully visit them in term 4.

This term we are having a casual day with crazy hair colouring available at lunch time and recess time. Later in the year we will be helping the School Captains to hold a Junior Social and also a guess the trinkets in a jar competition.

We have learnt about negotiating and what it takes to put on an event. We have written letters to the Principal, Governing Council, School Captains and teachers asking them for their support.

Wednesday 1st July is Casual Day for One Tree Hill Primary School. Please make a gold coin donation to our fundraising. Washout hair colouring will also be available for a donation.

Thank you for your support.

Year 6/7 Class and Mrs Mason
Students with a Growth Mindset are persistent.

Wednesday 10 July 1st!

Wear your Casual clothes and get your HAIR sprayed!!!