FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

As I wrote in the last Newsletter, I had the privilege of attending the 2013 ACER Research conference on the theme ‘How the Brain Learns’. A highlight of the program was the opening performance by students from Meadows Primary School Victoria. Students at the school are part of the Pizzicato Effect, which is an amazing partnership between the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and the school.

This program is completely funded by the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and its patrons with the aim to facilitate community awareness and improve social outcomes around a culture of classical music and the expressive arts. They have received numerous awards and have provided classical music tuition in violin, viola, cello and double bass to over 200 students since 2009. Most of the students in the Pizzicato Ensemble are in Year 5 and 6 and have been playing since Year 1. They have played in front of a wide range of audiences including the conference already mentioned.

MAS SCHOOL BAND

As I sat there listening, I couldn’t help but think about our own students at Meningie Area School and draw similarities and comparisons with the music program that we began here in 2007. Since then every student in Year 5 has had the opportunity to begin in instrumental music with many going on well into the senior years of schooling as part of the Meningie Area School Band. The program works like this.

- Prior to beginning Year 5 all of the students are assessed by the DECD Instrumental Music teachers to establish which instrument is most suited to each and every student. These include trombone, clarinet, trumpet and flute.
- Early in Term 1 instruments are made available to students through our instrument scheme that was established many years ago as an initiative of the then Governing Council.
- Lessons begin on a weekly basis and within the space of a few weeks the students have already learnt enough notes on their instruments and can read some music notation that they come together as a band, which is one of the objectives.
- Together with their teachers, Mr Rod Williams, Mr Peter Longden, Mrs Wright and Ms Kreher, practice begins in earnest. The pace is fast and the learning intense, as students quickly put together the skills they need to both play, as well as play together.

TERM 3

| Week 6 |  
|  
|  
| 27 August | 1st Kindy Transition Day  
| 28 August | SAPSASA Athletics Selection Day at Coomandook Area School  
| 29 August | Library Board Meeting 4pm  
| Week 7 |  
| 3 September | 2nd Kindy Transition Day  

GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE shows future employers that a young person is reliable - Every day counts!
As the year progresses and the skills of the students increase, Year 5 musicians begin to integrate into The Band, which is made up of students from Year 5 - 10+.

Of course, for all students, it takes a lot of commitment and encouragement to learn a musical instrument. Research shows that there are strong links to improved outcomes in other areas of learning when a musical instrument is learnt. There is no doubt that at the very least, better organisation, working as a team, focus on reaching a goal, as well as sense of achievement are all worthy outcomes. The commitment to continue learning beyond Year 5/6 is strongly encouraged and supported, so that the school band develops depth of skill, and opportunity to perform.

Next week presents such an opportunity, and so on Tuesday, along with their teachers, our music students will spend the day at Tailem Bend Primary School, along with students from several other schools in the region, for a day of workshop and fun. I hope that this experience is a day that is remembered by those involved as one of the special days on the school calendar this year.

MIDDLE OF TERM 3:
It is incredible to think that this week marks the middle of Term 3. Always busy, there is no doubt that the next few weeks will be even more hectic as the Term Planner sent out earlier this term shows and includes some of our long and established events.

Choir
One of these is the Adelaide Festival of Choirs. Anne Wright has over many years worked with students in Year 5, 6 and 7 in preparation for this event that runs throughout the last two weeks of the school term. Whilst there is a performance every night at the Festival Theatre in Adelaide during this time, our selected choir students will be performing on Wednesday 18th September. Quite an event, preparation for the performance has involved weekly choir practice here at school since early Term 1, and requires student attendance at a rehearsal in Adelaide in the weeks prior to the event. That rehearsal took place this Tuesday 20th August. It gives the students a chance to work on perfecting the songs on the program, including actions and timing, gain an understanding of performance with the 21 strong choir of schools whom they will perform with on the night, as well as get to know the role of the orchestra and conductor in the production.

This year the Choir will for the first time be involved in a regional event, the Murraylands Choir Festival. This is to be held in Week 3 Term 4, Thursday 31st October. Whilst more details will be given early next term it might be useful to put the date in your diary as it will be well publicised with tickets available to the general public. Students from Year 4 to Year 7 will be part of this. It is a great opportunity to perform locally (at Murray Bridge Town Hall) for all the students involved.

Royal Adelaide Show
The Adelaide Show is only weeks away now, and our Show Team is really working hard on preparation for this event. Together with Mr Jurgs and Ms Low the steers are shaping up, as are the students who will take responsibility for their care and lead in competition. Whilst the school does not have a Show Day this year, families who are planning to go to the show might like to consider going on Thursday 12th September. Judging begins at 9.00am. As well as participating in the Led Steer competition, the school has for the first time this year entered 2 teams of Merino Wethers. Judging will be as from 9.00am on the 11th September. This date could also be considered if you have plans for the show.

SSO WEEK
This week of the school calendar marks SSO Week. SSO stands for Student Support Officer.

We have many SSO workers at Meningie Area School in a variety of tasks and with varying roles and responsibilities across the school. The purpose of SSO Week is to bring to the school community’s attention the incredibly important part each and every one of the SSO’s has in the functioning of the school and in your child/ children’s education. As well as that I have included other personnel in the school; Groundspersons and ACEO’s, and given a profile of each. On behalf of the teaching staff, students, Governing Council and parents our many thanks to all these people who contribute to the lives and education of Meningie Area School students.
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Sharon Gibbs: Receptionist, Front Office Manager, Personal Secretary and a range of other roles, including First Aid and the production of all student reports. Sharon is the first person most people see on coming into the school. Always a welcoming smile and no job too much to ask. Sharon deals with sick students, concerned parents and caregivers calmly and considerately. She keeps everyone informed and makes the place run smoothly.

Sarah Chandler: Receptionist, Classroom support in the Middle/Senior School, Data collection and entry, First Aid and lots of other administrative roles. Sarah, along with Sharon, is the voice on the end of the phone taking messages and making sure the school runs smoothly. In class Sarah supports students in their learning and works on programs of intervention, and maintains her skills through attending Training and Development in areas of Literacy and Numeracy.

Catherine Burnett: Catherine has recently joined the staff and has taken on the role of Financial Management while Coralie Qualmann is on leave. Catherine brings with her a range of skills and knowledge that helps the place run smoothly and on track financially. She also works on some administrative tasks including data such as attendance.

Russell Starr: What would we do without Russell? His knowledge of Information Technology and the computer system within the school, both the curriculum and the administration aspects, means that issues are managed timely and effectively. Both staff and students enjoy access that other schools can at times only dream of.

Lorraine Williss: Lorraine has been at Meningie Area School for many years. In most recent years her experiences in world-wide travel have been used to our advantage as she has managed the detailed travel arrangements for both students at Meningie Area School as well as others who have participated on the Connecting Spirits which began in 2006. As well as that Lorraine arranges Parent /Teacher/Student interviews across the Middle and Senior School, and works in the Community Library.

Ali Jurgs: Ali works mainly in the Junior School with a number of students. Her specialist skills enable her to work on intervention programs that have been collaboratively developed with both teachers and district support staff such as guidance officers and speech pathologists.

Wendy Vandenbrink: Wendy has been at the school a number of years. She works mainly in the Junior school supporting students in their learning. This year Wendy has done training in QuickSmart Maths and is working with the Year 5/6 class to upskill. She is part of the MULTILIT team of which hearing students read daily is part of the program.

Karin Rebner: Karin works several hours a week supporting students to access and stay connected to their learning. She works closely with Isobell Koolmatrie ACEO (Aboriginal Community Education Officer) and teachers in the middle and upper primary. Karin has great art skills which we have as yet to really tap into.

Renee Love: Renee is here on Fridays. She also works at Raukkan. She supports in the Junior school, is currently part of the Transition program between Raukkan and Meningie Area School and is trained in the Quick Smart program.

Mel Treloar: Mel is working several hours a week to assist students in Senior School in a mentoring capacity. She brings with her skills in working with young people, and a knowledge of industry that helps keep students connected as they complete studies in chosen subjects.

Isobell Koolmatrie: Isobell is the ACEO (Aboriginal Community Education Officer). She works across the school and is a vital connection between students, parents and staff. She has a particular focus on attendance and engagement, and is part of the school team working on intervention. Additionally she liaises with outside agencies to support students in a number of ways so that they maintain connection with schooling.

Mary Strother: Mary is the Community Library Assistant, a role she has held for many years. She has a good understanding of community library users and is part of the Library Team led by Librarian Bernie Ryan that is transforming the library to the new One Card System.

John Hastings: John is and has been one of the Grounds Persons for many years, the other being Geoff Halliday (who is currently on leave). As well as making sure things run smoothly around the school from changing fluoro lights, managing rubbish, supporting the Agriculture Program, watering the grounds and mowing the town oval on a regular basis, he also drives one of the buses.
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Judy Appelkamp: Judy drives the Raukkan/Narrung bus. She has been doing so for many years. Additionally she often transports students around the place to events such as camps, swimming carnivals, band events and almost any other event where a big bus is required. Judy recently had a dream come true. A new bus! Fitted with seat belts and a range of modern conveniences, such as heating, making even the worst winter’s morning bearable.

Robert Warnes: Robert is employed as a bus driver through the contractor Stones. He has been driving for several years now on a number of runs and currently drives the on the Field-Coonalpyn Road.

SSO Week was celebrated at Meningie Area School with a morning tea in the staff room on Wednesday.

Once again on behalf of the school community I thank all our support staff for their time and dedication in working with your children- our students in providing opportunities and connection to community.

Monica Williams
Principal

BUS INFORMATION

3 of our 4 bus runs are close to or at capacity. This is great news as it means that enrolments are up and we are not at risk of losing any further runs. However it does mean that there are often no spare seats on these buses for casual travellers and Kindy students. DECD provides buses for school students only. Students enrolled at the local Kindy are able to travel on the bus, but only if there is a seat available. The department will not supply a larger bus if all eligible school students can be seated on that bus. Unfortunately that means that it may be necessary to deny Kindy students a ride on the bus if there are no seats available. Please contact the school and discuss this with me if you have any concerns about this, but please understand that this is not something that we as a school can change.

Similarly, in the past there has been no issue if a student, who is not a regular passenger on a bus, wanted to ride on that bus for one-off events such as birthday parties or sleep overs. This may now not be possible due to a lack of spare seats on the bus. To overcome this I am updating the system that has been used.

If you wish your child to ride on a bus please contact the school either by phone or by diary note. I will then check with the bus driver to see if there is available seating and if so I will complete an approval form for your child to ride on the bus. Drivers will be instructed not to allow any non-regular student onto the bus without a completed approval form dated for that day. Even in this case it is possible that, for example, a child that did not travel in on the bus in the morning arrives at school late and wishes to travel home on the bus. In this case there may no longer be a spare seat, and the approval for a non-regular passenger would have to be rescinded. Our buses all have individual seats and seat belts so it is not possible or legal to squeeze an extra student in if required.

Bus parents, to assist with this process, it would be great if you could let the school know if your child is being picked up from the school and will not be using his or her seat in the afternoon. This is obviously a goodwill request only but it would be appreciated.

Mal Jurgs
BusCoordinator.

ANDREW MCLEOD CHALLENGE
INAUGURAL 9-A-SIDE FOOTBALL CARNIVAL

A number of our Indigenous Year 8-9 students represented Meningie AS at the Adelaide Football Club Andrew McLeod Challenge on Thursday 15th of August. Boys and girls from Years 8 and 9 travelled to Max Basheer Reserve to compete amongst 15 metropolitan schools in a 9-a-side football carnival. The Meningie AS boys in particular represented the school and their community outstandingly by winning the competition in a team that was made up of students from Meningie, Le Fevre High School and Immanuel College.

As a result of this fantastic achievement, the boys have been invited to play against the winners of the Regional McLeod Challenge, Port Augusta Secondary School, this weekend at AAMI Stadium in a game to be followed by the Adelaide Crows vs Melbourne Demons. Many thanks must go to Isobell Koolmatrie for her great support in
organising transport arrangements for the students on
the day. Congratulations to all the students that
represented Meningie AS on the day and best of luck to
the boys competing this Saturday at AAMI Stadium!

Jack Rowe
Sport Coordinator

UPPER SOUTH EAST 5-A-SIDE
SOCCER CARNIVAL

Five of our Year 8-10 Meningie AS students travelled to
Coomandook AS on Tuesday 20th of August to compete
in the Annual Upper South East 5-a-side Soccer
Carnival. Brittany Thompson, Holly VanDenBrink, Tessa
Bagshaw, Brenda Baldock and Jessie Bland took to the
field against teams from Coomandook AS, Karoonda
AS, Keith AS and Tintinara AS in weather conditions
that were constantly changing. The girls played
extremely well throughout the day, showing great
sportsmanship and teamwork, taking away 3 wins and
a draw from their 7 games. Many thanks to John
Hastings for transporting the girls to Coomandook AS
on the day. Well done girls on representing Meningie
AS in an outstanding way.

Jack Rowe
Sport Coordinator

SCIENCE WEEK

Last week our school helped support Science
Week. On Monday 12th and Wednesday 14th of
August Ms Low’s year 10 science class, along with the School Captains, held a
variety of science experiments for the junior school
classes. The following science experiments for the
junior primary classes. The following science
experiments were held: volcanoes, fake snot, lava
lamps, coke and mentos. The aim of Science Week is to
help promote science in Australian schools. Hopefully
the junior primary students had an exciting and
educational experience in the science lab, generating
their future interest in the subject.

Marni Hood
School Captain

TRADE TRAINING CENTRE GRANT

For the past 2 years Meningie Area School and
Coomandook Area School have been working together
to provide Certificate II in Agriculture qualifications
to students studying Agriculture in the senior
years. We have worked with Laura Long of SATC at
Coonalpyn and the program is known as the
Coorong-Mallee Agri Pathways program (C-MAP)

To access resources that will allow us to better
provide this learning, we worked with our Industry
Skills Manager, Sam Pearse, to develop an
application for a Trade Training Centre Grant from
the Federal Government.

We found out this week that we were successful in
attracting funding of almost $270000. This will be
shared between the two schools to provide
equipment and machinery including new tractors,
spray units and balers, and to build or extend
livestock handling areas and the school’s
aquaculture shed.

There is still some paperwork that needs to be
finalised but you should soon see some changes
around the ag block thanks to this money.

Mal Jurgs
Deputy Principal

TAX FILE NUMBER APPLICATIONS

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO), with the
cooperation of schools, offers students aged 13
years or over the opportunity to apply for a tax file
number (TFN) through school. This is a voluntary
program and makes it easier for students to obtain
a TFN.

Any students who are planning on working part-
time during the holidays will need to apply for a
TFN before the end of Week 6, otherwise they
may not get their TFN before they start work.
Please see the front office if you would like an
application form.

Students will receive their TFN via a notification
letter sent to their postal address, within 28 days
of the application being received by the ATO.

If you have any questions, please phone 13 28 69
between 8.00 am and 6.00 pm, Monday to Friday
and ask for the Community Education and Assistance area.
Week 4 was National Science Week 2013. The aim was to show the Primary Students that Science is interesting and exciting.

The Year 9/10 Science class, put together 4 lessons, covering three of the science areas, that different primary classes took part in which included:
- Volcanoes (Earth Science)
- Fake snot (Biological Science)
- Lava lamps and Coke & Mentos (Chemical Science)

Well done to the students who took part in these events.