FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

By Monica Williams

Last night I was indeed privileged to be in the audience at the Murray Bridge Town Hall to hear our primary school choir students, along with those from Coonalpyn and Mannum, perform in the Murray Mallee Primary Music Festival. This is the first year in which our school has participated; a festival held over three nights involving schools within the region. The choir sang the songs that they had been learning throughout the year and had recently performed in Adelaide as part of the Primary School’s Choir at the Festival Theatre. Several of our students had the opportunity to sing as soloists last night which they did with confidence and poise.

In addition to the choir, Peter Longdon and his flautists played a piece, and Tamika Williams danced to one of the songs on the program; furthermore Dakota Wenske was one of the three comperes for the evening.

It was wonderful to see so many parents and families in the audience on what was a really entertaining evening with students showcasing their skills and talents. Our young people did us proud.

My thanks to Anne Wright, who has worked with the Choir all year, Elyssa Freeth with the Band, as well as our music teachers, Peter Longdon and Rod Williams. Additionally, thanks to Denice Mason who supported back stage on the night.

On Wednesday of this week the Band went out to Raukkan, and along with Raukkan school gave a concert on the big lawn. It was a great opportunity for the band to perform to an audience as well as show just how far they have come as a group this year. Several Raukkan students have been learning to play ukulele over the past year. They played two songs, to which other students from the school sang. Many parents and community people came along giving support to this event. This was a great experience for the students having to bring all their performance skills together, including dealing with the wind and mosquitos.
Year 12 Completion

The end of the school year is fast approaching with only six weeks to go before the Christmas Holiday break.

Of course for Year 12 students their year finishes much earlier. Next Friday is the last day for Year 12 students and is celebrated with the Year 12 Assembly that has become somewhat of a tradition. We wish them well as they complete final assessment tasks and take exams. The Year 11 students’ final day is Friday 29th November as advertised in the Term 4 planner. It is timely though to remind the students from Reception to Year 10 that it is business as usual, and there is at least one seventh of the Curriculum to be taught and assessed. We often begin to see a drop off rate particularly from Year Eight on at about this time of year. To this end I seek parents support in ensuring that all students are at school so that they can engage in the required learning and complete the year successfully.

Parent Opinion Survey

Just a reminder to parents and caregivers to complete the annual Parent Opinion Survey. To date there have been only a few responses. Details about how to access this is within this newsletter. The survey will remain live until 3.00p.m. Friday 8th November.

We seek your co-operation in taking just a few minutes to either type in the URL http://www.schoolsurvey.edu.au/s/fvT298Tc or scan the QR code opposite and complete the 14 questions that make up the survey. This survey will remain live until 3.00pm Friday 8th November, and is completely anonymous. Thanking you in anticipation of your support.

The Meningie Area School community welcomes our new Reception students:
Back Row – Isabella Barr, Lexi Macklin, Matilda Brooks and Tyson Ayres
Front Row – Ryan Cunneen, Keira Trevorrow, Hamish Hill, Katie Watson and Peter Long

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.

It takes up to 4 weeks to process an application, and with the end of Term 4 fast approaching, if a student needs a TFN for the holidays they'll need to apply fairly soon. Any applications received by the ATO by 9th November should see the student getting their TFN in plenty of time. Of course, applications can be sent in any time after that date. 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.
YEARS 3-7 HISTORY WEEK CAMP

In Week One of Term Four, 14th-18th October, the Year 3 to Year 7 classes went on a school camp, attending a variety of interesting sites around our local area. Here are some of the student’s recounts about their week’s adventures:

Georgie’s Mum, Sarah, took us on a walk around Salt Creek. She told us about the first oil drilling in South Australia, which was near Kingston S-E. The Coorongite was made from seaweed and floated on the top of the Coorong - it felt like bitumen.

Ngarrindjeri Park Rangers, Daryl Long and Joe Koolmatrie took us on the Loop Walk to look at, and listen to, information about some of the native trees and plants.

At the Cheese Factory Museum we saw lots of machinery that people used in our area for many jobs such as working on farms and doing things like making butter. This picture shows how they used to milk cows.

We cooked our tea with Noreen, Felicia’s Mum. We had mince or tuna pastas with salad and garlic bread. The Year 5-7 students had made the pasta bakes the day before.

We made old diaries using coffee and tea stained paper with cardboard covers. Then we threaded the pages and cardboard together with string or wool. We sketched and wrote in our diaries to record the things that we had done and saw during the week.
In the beginning of our visit to Old Tailem Town we sat in an old classroom to learn about school when Peter Squires was a young boy 50 or 60 years ago. First we had to stand at attention and have our hands inspected, listen to some teachers/adults sing, ‘God Save The Queen’, and then march into the classroom to the beat of a kettle drum.

The girls slept in the 3/4s classroom with Mel, Charlotte’s Mum, and Miss Giles. On Thursday we wrote in our diaries as we leaned against the swags.

There were six student groups for the week. We all went on separate walks. Groups visited the Pelican Path, the bird viewing platform, Jalarah, the hospital and the Lakes Hub.

At Raukkan we were shown around by Mr Clyde Rigney who told us many facts about Ngarrindjeri people in the last 200 years. Some of the laws and the history of Raukkan. Raukkan means meeting place in the language of the Ngarrindjeri. This is the church on the $50 note with a photo of all the 3-7 students on the Friday of History Week.

Point Malcolm Lighthouse is the only inland lighthouse in the Southern Hemisphere. There is a secret cave that was used for food storage by the lighthouse keeper.

**VAC SWIM**

Please note: There is a limited number of 2014 Enrolment Booklets in the front office.
SMOKED RAINBOW TROUT

For the past 6 months the Agriculture students have been growing one hundred Rainbow Trout in the school’s Aquaculture Shed. These are now ready to process and will be taken to Coorong Wild Seafood where Glen Hill and his team will clean, fillet, smoke and pack the fish ready for sale. We will sell the fish through the school’s front office. The cost will be approximately $50 per kg and each pack will weigh around 200 grams or $10 each. We sold last year’s batch at the Coonalpyn Show and sold out before everybody was able to get some. If you wish to ensure that you are able to secure a supply, ring the front office and leave your name and the number of packs you would like. We may need to ration out the numbers depending on demand.

CONNECTING SPIRITS

It is that time again and if your child is in Year 9, 10 or 11 and wishes to attend the trip at the end of next year, they will need to get a form from me as soon as possible; if they have not done so already.

TAKE HOME A BIG BROTHER OR BIG SISTER

Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by hosting one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in February 2014 for their 3, 5 or 10 month programs. Our international students from Germany, Italy, Finland, Colombia and Mexico will live as a local, 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 scceaut@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!

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 February 2014 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 term, one or two semesters from France, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, 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 scceaut@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.

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CHICKENS FOR SALE

The school are, once again, raising and selling some Isa Brown Layer hens. They have been vaccinated and will be ready to lay in early December.

They will be sold at approximately $18.00 each (including GST).

If you wish to buy any hens, please call the front office on 85751106 to place an order. There is a limited number of hens for sale, so get your orders in quickly!

They will be available for collection late-November.