FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK
By Monica Williams

Year 12 Farewell

Last Friday 8th November marked the last day for Year 12 students. This was celebrated with a special whole school assembly, followed by a light lunch with families and friends. A visual presentation was prepared by Abbey Hood, with the assistance of Tamika Williams, tracing the school journey of Year 12’s and Ms Hese (Senior School Manager) reflected on their lives as students within our school context.

On behalf of the school community, I wish the students the very best in exams and in final subject assessments.

There is no doubt that the 2013 Year 12 group have been great role models; focused and committed in making the most of this year and in achieving the best outcomes possible.

Remembrance Day

In recognising the significance of Remembrance Day at assembly last Friday, Lauren Bagshaw and Alysha Eckert paid tribute to the soldiers who fought, not just in World War 1, but in all theatres of war for whom Australian soldiers have fought. Both girls were part of the group who undertook the Connecting Spirits Trip 2012. Following after the Principal's Report is the very moving and poignant transcript of their presentation as given on the day.

Mal Jurgs and students Alana Standley, Tamika Williams, Zac Vandenbrink, Lauren Bagshaw and Alysha Eckert, attended the Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Meningie Cenataph, laying a wreath in honour of those for whom we will always remember.

Bush Fire Policy- Bus Routes

Please refer to the enclosed loose information sheet with regard to DECD policy and procedures for ‘Catastrophic’ Fire Days.

We seek your support in placing it for ready access and reference should it be needed.
**Student Free Day**

As advised in Term Planner, sent home in the first Newsletter of Term 4, this next Monday 18th November is the fourth and last Student Free Day for the school year. This was endorsed by Governing Council at the end of last term.

On the day staff will engage in work that relates to managing incidents of acute behaviour, as facilitated by personnel from the regional office, and in Professional Learning Communities work though a range of topics including data analysis, engagement strategies and reporting.

**Parent Opinion Survey**

We seek a few minutes of your time to complete the Parent Opinion Survey included again below. The deadline has been extended up until Friday 22nd of November. This is an anonymous survey, and parents/caregivers can not be identifies. We value your responses as they provide the school with opportunities to address issues and concerns as well as future planning.

We seek your co-operation in taking just a few minutes to either type in the URL http://www.schoolsurvey.edu.au/s/fvTZ98Tc or scan the QRC opposite and complete the 14 questions that make up the survey. Thanking you in anticipation of your support.

**TRIBUTE TO SOLDIERS**

As many of you already know, this coming Monday, November 11, is Remembrance Day. At 11 o’clock each year, Australians all across the country take just one or two minutes of their day to think about some very special people; the brave soldiers who have fought and lost their lives in war. The 11th November, at 11am marks the official end of the First World War in 1918 and has since been acknowledged as a day of peace and remembrance. Though at first, this day was reserved for World War 1 soldiers, after the Second World War, it became a day to remember all Australians from all wars who have fought or lost their lives since this day, 95 years ago.

About this time last year, 8 students from this school, including myself, journeyed from our country and comfort zones to walk in the footsteps of some of these brave soldiers on the Connecting Spirits trip. For months before, we each researched the lives of these men who fought, many of who died, in preparation to commemorate them at their graves so far from home. Although the research at first felt like an extra activity, as these people became more real to us, the connections with these men grew stronger and another world opened.

Driving past the farmland and forests, through what was once no-man’s land and is now either nothing or has been rebuilt from rubble, was disturbing. The cold was nothing like we had ever experienced, and in this way we could relate to the many Australian soldiers, not much older than us. Thrilled to be in a new land, and still believing war would be some big adventure; “I’ll be home by Christmas”.

As the stories were told to us, we imagined the experience through the soldiers’ eyes; unthinkable realities. Each commemoration got us to think deeper about our lives compared to theirs, how lucky we all really are in comparison, to be living in peace. One of the soldiers I commemorated, Douglas, was a bright, spirited young man and only 22 when he was killed at Tobruk. I think the most tragic thing about his death is that his family could never talk about it. Many of you would know that stories like this are all too common of the ultimate victims of war; the devastation they leave on the living is heartbreaking. Going on Connecting Spirits breathed life into the unimaginable number of war casualties. When I think of the effects of war I see Douglas, Clarence, Frederick and Gordon and imagine the spirit of those stories I am yet to discover. They will be a part of me always.

And as the photos flick through behind me, I imagine the months of research we did, in total barely one row of men in some of these cemeteries. I remember the stories I have learnt about my soldiers; Wilbur, Albert, Thomas and John, and how I’ve only scratched the surface on their lives. It sends my mind wandering to the thousands and thousands who are remembered now only by a white stone, or an etching on a wall. Each and every one of them with their own unique story – I can’t begin to imagine the extent of the loss.

95 years – it is a long time, we know.
But these men and women still walk among us, in our eyes, our stature, our character; they can still be seen in the generations today. And this, for me, is most spine-tingling of all. This trip has not changed my perspective, just strengthened and deepened my understanding of the loss this war brought and it has given me a greater appreciation of the value of a life.

Overall, it doesn’t matter if you don’t know any faces or names of soldiers who were killed, or how much you know about the wars that Australians fought in. Just think about all the things you are grateful for in your life, and remember that their heroic sacrifice made this your reality. They once had their own lives, as rich and purposeful as ours, dreams and hopes for the future just like us. And they gave it all up to protect their loved ones and also the generations of the future, you and me. As a simple token of gratitude, we please ask you all to just take a minute, wherever you are on Monday at 11 o’clock to remember these remarkable heroes.

Lauren Bagshaw & Alysha Eckert (Year 11)

MATERIALS & SERVICES CHARGES 2014

Materials & Services Charges for 2014 are set at $219 for Primary School and $290 for Secondary School.

If you have any queries/concerns with the above you are invited to attend the Governing Council meeting at 8.30 pm on 25th November in the staff room.

MILO in2CRICKET

MILO in2CRICKET is a fun introduction to the game of cricket for boys and girls from 5 to 10 years old. It provides children with an enjoyable and safe environment where they can learn skills and play games.

Your nearest Centre will be run at the Meningie Cricket Club, Meningie Town Oval starting this Saturday 16th November at 9am, by Richard Boscence.

The cost of the Program is $62 per participant. Every registered child receives an in2CRICKET Pack including bat, ball, t-shirt, bucket hat, backpack and some other goodies. Information sheets have been sent home with students. You can also visit in2cricket.com.au for further details.

TEAM SAILING

Although this coming Monday 18th November is a Student Free Day, there will still be Team Sailing practice on the day from 3.30 – 5.30 pm.

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.

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 have now been processed by Coorong Wild Seafood. We are selling the fish through the school’s front office. The cost will be approximately $50 per kg and each pack will weigh around 170 grams or $8 each. There are two flavours; lemon pepper and plain.

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.
TRANSITION FROM RAUKKAN SCHOOL

Students from Raukkan School have been part of a transition program at Meningie over the last five weeks. They have gone into Mr Oliver’s Year 6/7 class and Mrs Wright & Mrs Mason’s Year 5/6 class to visit.

Here are some quotes from the students about their transition day:-

“We came to Meningie to get friends and we found them, and we learnt to build robotics.”

“I did robotics: you have to build a robot, and then you program it.”

“The best thing was playing football with my friends on the oval.”

“Mr Woolston was our teacher for robotics. The robots are made of Lego.”

The year fives and sixes from Raukkan went to the library. It had changed. Mr Ryan had changed it – it looks great and he showed us around.”

“I played basketball and dodge ball.”

“I like doing tech on the computers and German. The library looks bigger than before and there is a little kid’s area.”

“On the first day of transition at Meningie, I was pretty nervous. But after I kept coming to Meningie I got used to it. We learnt a lot of things like Health with Mrs Mason. It was about healthy minds and healthy relationships.”

“The most enjoyable thing was playing four-square, because we also could kick and head the ball as well as hit it with your hands.”

Thank you to the students from Raukkan for being great ambassadors for your school and community. It was great to have you as part of our class, school and our History Mystery Camp. All the best for 2014!

Mrs Wright (Year 5/6 teacher)

MURRAY MALLEE FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

On Thursday, the 31st October, students from Meningie Area School, Mannum Community College and Coonalpyn Primary School performed on the 3rd and final night of the Murray Mallee Festival of Music. The students all learnt the songs that were part of the Festival of Music held annually in the Festival Theatre. We had students learning both soprano and alto parts. Our choir students were great - singing out clearly and proudly, doing the actions carefully and sitting still through a three hour rehearsal and 2 hour performance.

Four of our students were selected to sing solos - congratulations to Penny, Bridie, Ronnelle and Lucy for a great job!

Lucy, Ronnelle and Penny singing

Bridie singing

As part of the performance we had student compere’s. Representing our school was Dakota Wenske. Dakota is continuing to prove herself to be a confident and focused public speaker. Well done on your work during the performance Dakota!

Dakota compering
Tamika Williams danced as part of the choir performance to a song called Moonsong. It was great to showcase this different aspect of Arts performance. She danced beautifully. Thanks for being part of our performance, Tamika.

As a special artist performance, the Flute Ensemble from Meningie performed a piece that was variations on the children’s song, Twinkle Twinkle Little Star. Meshayla, Aleisha, Katie, Jai and Marni performed with Mr Peter Longden. It was great to see Marni being able to perform as a Year 12 student during the last year at Meningie Area School as a leading student in the flute ensemble. Thanks Marni!

Mr Longden and Mr Rod Williams were part of the band that accompanied the choir during the evening, and the students were very keen to see their teachers performing as part of the performance. Thank you to Mrs Kreher for being the official photographer for the night and Mrs Mason for being the backstage bouncer for the night.

Thank you to Mrs Appelkamp for driving the bus up to rehearsal.

A great night, indeed. Well done choir and everyone else who helped and performed.

MRS WRIGHT (CHOIR TEACHER)

BAND PERFORMANCE AT RAUKKAN

The entire MAS band of 44 students travelled to Raukkan to perform on Big Lawn on Wednesday, 30th October. We performed a number of songs and showed our instruments to the audience who came to see us perform. We were entertained by the students from the Raukkan School who played their ukuleles and sang two songs to us.

The students were great at setting up the music stands and seats. They did themselves proud as they performed and listened and watched carefully. Thank you to Mrs Appelkamp for driving for us.

ADELAIDE COMBINED BAND EXPERIENCE

Every year students from year 6 and 7 are offered the opportunity to take part in a 2 day band experience in Adelaide. This year Georgina Tiver took up the opportunity and she had a fantastic time. Here is what she had to say.....“On the 6th November I went to the music workshop and played some music. We played “Thriller”, “High Five”, all the ABBA songs, “The Best of Queen, “Ghosts in the Graveyard”, “Pink Panther” and also “Somebody I Used to Know”. There were 200 students involved and most of them were playing flute, clarinet or saxophone. We had 2 days of practice and the concert started on Thursday night at 7:00 and finished at 9:00. We played with guest artist Jack de la Lande who played the xylophone. We all packed up after that and it was fun.”

MUSIC IN 2014

On Tuesday the students from Year 6 - 9 were given forms asking about whether they would be wanting to continue learning music next year. Next year we have more concerts planned with a special performance with Adam Page.

The Instrumental Music Program is offered free of cost by the Instrumental Music Service and Meningie Area School. Please return your forms to Mrs Kreher or Mrs Wright as soon as you can.

IT TAKES A COMMUNITY TO RAISE A CHILD – MAKE SURE THE CHILDREN YOU KNOW GO TO SCHOOL!
QUICKSMART

The aim of the QuickSmart program is to support students to ‘speed up’ their basic skills in numeracy.

QuickSmart (Numeracy) is essentially a practice program that helps students to better know and understand basic number facts. Improvements in these basic academic skills benefit students in all areas of their learning.

At present we have 8 students working on the program at school. The program runs for 30 weeks and this year we have been able to work through about half of the program. All of the students involved have made steady progress. The aim is to be able to solve basic addition, subtraction, multiplication and division problems in under 2 seconds per question and with 100% accuracy.

Our school is one of a number in this region and state to be part of this project that is run through the University of New England in NSW. Wendy Vandenbrink is our trained support person and we aim for the students to have 3 sessions each week.

Anne Wright (QuickSmart Coordinator)

SAPSASA CRICKET

Kobie Hood was selected to represent the Murray Mallee region in SAPSASA cricket. Here is what he had to say about the event.

“On the first day we versed Pirie and lost. We also lost on the second day when we versed Whyalla. We then turned it around on the third day when we beat Kangaroo Island. On the last day we beat Western Eyre Peninsula; this was my favourite game as I scored 36 runs.

Across the week I scored 49 runs. It was an enjoyable experience.”

YEAR 6 AQUATICS EXCURSION

In week four, the year 6s went on a two day excursion to the Murray Bridge Aquatics center to participate in various water activities. Below are some of their comments:

My favourite part was when we went sailing on the catamarans. It was awesome cruising around the Murray River. I wish we could have had a race in the catamarans. Tom S

My favourite part was when we went knee boarding. Crystal D

My favourite part was the catamarans. I really enjoyed sailing up and down the River Murray. Karis L

My favourite part was knee boarding and sailing in the catamarans. Todd and Brent helped us learn how to sail. We sailed under the bridge and back. I learnt a lot from the experience Ronnelle C

My favourite parts on the aquatics camp was when we were sailing catamarans because the wind made it fast. My second favourite part was knee boarding because we had to balance and steer because it was fast. Kayla R

My favourite part was skippering the catamarans. My second favourite was waterskiing because I did not fall over. I also learned how to handle small motor boats. Bridie BB

My favourite part was sailing the catamarans because I like going very fast. I wish the camp went for a whole week. My second favourite part was knee boarding because I like going out of the wake. Dylan G

We would like to thank Mrs. Hood and Mr. Jurgs for driving the bus.

Richard Oliver (6/7 Teacher)
**POOL SUPERVISORS COURSE**

Where: Meningie Area School  
When: Wednesday 27th November  
Time: 12 noon – 3.00 pm or 3.00 – 6.00 pm  
Cost: $40.00 (payable to the instructor)  
Who: Any person who is over the age of 18 years

Please note: As a requirement of hiring the Meningie Area School Pool, a Pool Supervisor’s qualification must be current (a certificate is only valid for 12 months)

Please contact the front office at Meningie Area School on 85 751106 to register your name by close of business Monday 25th November.

**DENTAL CARE FOR YOUR CHILDREN**

It is important for children to have strong, healthy teeth and gums.

All children (0 – 17 years) are welcome to attend School Dental Service clinics.

Dental treatment is free at School Dental Service clinics if:
- Family Tax Benefit part A is paid for your child, or
- Your child is covered by a School Card, Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card.

The School Dental Service will bulk-bill under the new Medicare child Dental Benefits Schedule that starts in 2014. Under this scheme, most children aged between 2-17 years will be eligible to claim up to $1,000 of Dental services over 2 years.

If your child already attends a SA Dental Service clinic, contact us when their next appointment is due. If your child does not already attend one of our clinics, please phone us to make an appointment in 2014. For more information contact your local clinic. Clinic list found at www.sadental.sa.gov.au

As a part of the Year 8 Tech program this semester, we have been developing our own café. During Home Ec lessons we have learnt new skills and cooked lots of yummy recipes ready to sell. During IT lessons we have used many different programs, such as Microsoft Word, Publisher and Excel to create all our advertising posters, business cards, menus and brochures.

We will be running our café on Thursday Week 6 (21/11/13) at Recess in the Fern Area, from 11:00 – 11:30 am.

We look forward to seeing you there to try some of our YUMMY FOOD!

Please see the menu attached to this newsletter.
Menu

Mini Quiches ........................................................................ $1.00
  ❖ Spinach & Cheese
  ❖ Quiche Lorraine

Mini Pizzas ........................................................................ $1.50
  ❖ Ham & Pineapple
  ❖ Supreme
  ❖ Vegetarian

Savoury Pinwheels ................................................................ $1.50
  ❖ Bacon & Cheese

Cupcakes ............................................................................. $1.00
  ❖ Vanilla
  ❖ Chocolate

Brownies ............................................................................. .50

Biscuits ............................................................................. .50
  ❖ Triple Choc
  ❖ Choc Chip
  ❖ M ‘n’ M
  ❖ Caramel
  ❖ Jam Drops

Muffins .............................................................................. $1.00
  ❖ Apple
  ❖ Raspberry
  ❖ Blueberry
  ❖ Choc Chip
  ❖ Triple Choc

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– MAKE SURE THE CHILDREN YOU KNOW GO TO SCHOOL!
2013 Community Christmas Tree Decorations Competition

To enter, bring your entry/entries into the Meningie Football Clubrooms on Saturday 30 November between 10am and 12 noon. Judging will take place prior to the Christmas Pageant and exhibits can be viewed after the Pageant. Entries must be handmade. Entry is 50c per entry.

CASH PRIZES

Children’s sections & open section
- Pre-school
- Junior School
- Middle School
- Open
NetSetGO! School Holiday Clinics at Netball SA Stadium
17th January 2014
Have fun while learning new netball skills, drills and techniques!

NetSetGO! Come and Try
5 - 7 Years
Friday 17th January 2014
9.00am – 11.00am
Cost: $43.00
Sign in at 8.30am

NetSetGO! Come and Try
8 - 10 Years
Friday 17th January 2014
2.00pm – 5.00pm
Cost: $53.00
Sign in at 1.30pm

Book Now!
Register at www.netballsas.aaln.au. Registrations close COB 13th January 2014
For general enquiries telephone 8238 0500

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