FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

On what would have to have been one of the most beautiful of summer evenings this summer, around 150 parents, staff, students and extended families attended the Acquaintance Night BBQ, Thursday 6th February. It was a great opportunity for everyone to connect in an informal atmosphere, and for parents to meet their child/children’s teacher/s and check out the classrooms. Talking with parents I appreciate that this event is really valued, and that the younger students in particular just love showing their fathers around the school. On behalf of the staff my thanks to everyone for being a part of this event.

We were really lucky with the weather Monday 10th February with the annual Meningie Swimming Carnival held at the Coonalpyn Pool. Whilst hot, it was not unbearably so, and with ample shade most of those in attendance could stay out of the direct heat. Once again it was fantastic to see the support of parents in attendance as well as many helping out with the timing or splash day events.

For me it is a wonderful occasion to catch up with parents and extended families and have the chats that perhaps would not occur. So many commented on the relaxed atmosphere, and how nice it is to see the races in which the older students support the younger ones. I noticed a lot of encouragement towards swimmers who were ‘giving it a go’. Reflecting on the day and looking at the results in the various age groups, there is a group of strong younger students coming through the school, many of whom are putting in extra time training. Who could not be impressed with the skill and style of both Zac and Holly VandenBrink, both putting in a lot of hours over the summer months and swim at competitive level. Mel Treloar, who began the DECD swimming program with students last week, is impressed with the growing interest and style that many of the students show. This is good for future years, as well as current participation in the Interschool Swimming Carnival to be held at Coonalpyn next Wednesday 19th February.

Congratulations to Kungari (Swans) House who won the Meningie Area School Swimming Carnival with a total of points 425. Nori (Pelicans) had a good result with a total of 386 points.

The following students were the medal winners in divisions:

SUB JUNIOR BOYS:
Winner:
Jace Ridley (Kungari/Swans)
Runner Up:
Thomas Pearson (Nori/Pelicans)
Lachlan Brooks (Nori/Pelicans)
SUB JUNIOR GIRLS:
Winner: Meaghan Lewis (No:ri/ Pelicans)
Runner Up: Chelsea Swan (Kungari/Swans)

JUNIOR BOYS
Winner: Ben Schaefer (Kungari/ Swans)
Runner Up: Henry Turner (Kungari/Swans)

JUNIOR GIRLS
Winner: Chelsea Thurston (Kungari/Swans)
Runner Up: Charlotte Treloar (No:ri/ Pelicans)

INTER BOYS
Winner: Kobie Hood (Kungari/ Swans)
Runner Up: Jai Ling (Kungari/Swans)

INTER GIRLS
Winner: Aleisha Williams (No:ri/ Pelicans)
Runner Up: Gena Mansfield (Kungari/ Swans)

SENIOR BOYS
Winner: Zac Van Den Brink (No:ri/ Pelicans)
Runner Up: Lachlan Brown(Kungari/Swans)

SENIOR GIRLS
Winner: Holly VandenBrink (No:ri/ Pelicans)
Runner Up: Alysha Eckert (Kungari/ Swans)

School/House Captains

It was a pleasure to officially introduce the School House Captains at the Meningie Swimming Carnival earlier this week. During the Christmas holidays I wrote to all of the students in Year 11/12 asking them to consider leadership in the 2014 school year and think about applying for a position of Captain/Vice Captain. In their application students were required to write to me and outline the strengths, abilities and capabilities that the position would require. Additionally, two referees were to be included in the application and needed to be members of staff. The panel made up of the leadership team, consulted referees and made decisions based on the criteria set.

The successful students are:

NO:RI (PELICANS)
Male Captain: Zac VandenBrink
Female Captain: Alex MacPherson
Vice Captain: Caitlin Koolmatrie

KUNGARI (SWANS)
Male Captain: Dale Appelkamp
Co Vice-Captains: Trae Rigney & Brad Promnitz
Female Captain: Lauren Bagshaw
Vice-Captain: Jessie Bland

Congratulations to our new student leadership team. Over the next few weeks the students will be meeting quite regularly with myself and a member of staff who will support them in their role. At an assembly (date to be advised) the Captains will be inducted.

Interschool Swimming Carnival

The Interschool Swimming Carnival is this next Wednesday 19th February at the Coonalpyn Pool. Congratulations to the students who have been selected to be part of the Meningie Area School Interschool Swimming Team.

Students in the squad have been advised and transport arrangements made. All squad members have also been advised of swimming practice times. Only the squad, with a small group of teachers, is going on the day. It is a normal school day for all other students and they are expected to be at school.

School Routines

At this time of year it is timely to remind parents and caregivers of organisation arrangements that enable us to carry out routines easily. The Front Office is open from 8.30 am for both parents and students to deal with issues around payment of accounts, purchase of items from the Bookroom and to make general enquiries. The office will close daily at 4.00pm.

The school day begins at 8.45 a.m. It is important that students are here by this time
and in class. At the start of the school day all classes have Home Group. This is a time when the teacher and students go through the daily routines. When students are late it makes it difficult for them to be ready and well prepared. Both lateness and absenteeism are issues that we are really focusing on this year. There is no doubt that poor attendance and lateness impact on both individual and group learning. We all need to work hard on this, so that all students have access to positive learning outcomes.

Just a reminder that students should not be on school grounds before 8.30 a.m. A teacher is rostered on duty from this time until the bell sounds to begin the school day at 8.45 a.m. The school day finishes at 3.20 p.m. and buses leave at 3.30 p.m. Students who do not travel by bus should be picked up or make their way home promptly at the completion of the school day, unless they are participating in an organised after-school activity, as there is no teacher on duty after the buses leave.

The school crossing is on North Terrace and we remind the Meningie School community to use this at all times when crossing the road. It is has been observed that some parents are dropping of their children and they are cutting straight across the road - not using the crossing.

Parents and caregivers, please note the parking signage along North Terrace. Some parking is quite temporary, and needs to be observed as indicated.

Monica Williams (Principal)

The Library is encouraging all students to be involved in the Premier's Reading Challenge again this year. The challenge is to read twelve books by the 5th of September. The Library has a list of books suitable for age levels and reading logs for students to fill in. Parents, and particularly Dads, can be the key to some children attempting and succeeding in the Challenge. The records reveal last year there was an increase in participation at the school and in 2014 we would like to see this trend continue with our aim being to have most students from Meningie complete the Premier’s Reading Challenge. There is more information for students, parents and teachers at http://www.premiersreadingchallenge.sa.edu.au

ABBREY’S 2014 ADVENTURE

I left Adelaide early in the morning on Friday the 3rd of January 2014 and headed for my long journey to Wichita Falls, Texas. From Adelaide I flew to Melbourne with Mum and Dad where I met the other exchange students who were also going to America. I then said goodbye to Mum and Dad and headed through all the security checks with the others. We flew from Melbourne to Los Angeles then on to San Francisco where we stayed two days for orientation. During this time we had an informative group session regarding possible scenarios during our exchange and how to deal with them appropriately. We also got to do some sightseeing. We visited Union Square, Fisherman’s Wharf, Lombard Street - “The Crookedest Street in the World”, rode a cable car, ate at Bubba Gump’s and had a look around the city. We then left San Francisco at our arranged times. I flew to Dallas and then to Wichita Falls. Orientation was really fun and I got to meet a great bunch of people who I am keeping in touch with. In total I had approximately 23 hours of flying time, not including any stop overs! So when I arrived on Sunday the 5th I was extremely tired.

I had my first day of school on Thursday the 9th which was very daunting as I was going from MAS, a small country school with about 12 people in my grade to Rider High School with approximately 1800 students in total and 430 in my grade! It turned out to be pretty good and everyone loved my accent. School is definitely different but I am getting used to it now! I catch the bus at 6:30am, down the road and around the corner. I arrive at school at 6:45am an hour before lessons start and during this time I have breakfast and wait for the time to pass. I then have lessons from 7:45 -11am, then lunch until 11:40am and then lessons again until 2:55pm. Finally I catch the bus and arrive home around 3:30pm. This semester I am doing Theatre Arts, Algebra 2, Dance, US History, English 3, Biology, Dollars and Sense (life skills math) and Fashion Marketing. I’m easily making friends which is great and am meeting new people every day!

So far I have taken a trip to Dallas with some other exchange students where we went to...
The Mint, The George W Bush Museum, Dallas Mavericks vs Portland Trailblazers NBA Game and had an extensive tour of AT&T Stadium-Home of the Dallas Cowboys. This trip was loads of fun and was my first time in Dallas (apart from the airport). As a part of the North Texas exchange group we have also been to glow in the dark bowling and next weekend we are going ice skating!

I am adjusting to the weather here slowly as it changes so often. For example last week it was 18 degrees and sunny and then two days later it was -8. While you have hot 43 degree days I am sitting here with a billion layers on all rugged up, and outside it is about -4. Today school is cancelled due to the snow and more snow is forecast for this weekend! Wichita Falls is also in a major drought and it is predicted that if there isn’t serious rain soon there will be no water left by Christmas!

I have now been here for one month and have nine more adventurous ones to follow! If anyone has any questions about my exchange feel free to email me at abbey-hood@hotmail.com but I will keep you all updated.

Thanks, Abbey Hood!
LOST PROPERTY FROM SWIMMING CARNIVAL
There were numerous items left at the Coonalpyn Pool on Monday which can be collected from the front office:
1 pair small black Rio socks with red toes
1 pair Size 3 red jocks
1 black Size 5 sleeveless t shirt
1 small cap – black and blue Mambo
1 cap – black and turquoise
1 pair Size 10 black shorts
1 Medium navy blue Tshirt
1 Size 12 turquoise rash shirt
1 large navy checked jacket ‘Tweed River’
2 beach towels

We also have a new Size 16Y school jumper which was left in the school hall last week.

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY
School photo day is Monday 24th February 2014.

Please make sure students are wearing school uniform, especially jumpers and t-shirts. Please buy any uniform items before this date if required.

ID photos will also be taken on the day. Cost $4 payable to the bookroom by Thursday 20th February. Year 10-12 students are advised to have an ID photo taken, but other students are optional.

Information and individual student photo packs have been sent home with students. As we have a limited number of family envelopes, these must be collected from front office.

Correct money must be brought on the day placed in the envelopes then given to the photographers on the day.

For any enquiries, please feel free to contact MSP phone 8391 3951 or email msp@nuimage.com.au

Consistent attendance impacts on personal and learning achievement!

Visiting Meningie:
Monday 3rd March 2014
10.30 am – 4.00 pm
Lions Jubilee Park – Princes Hwy

Australian Government Mobile Service Centres travel to rural and regional locations. The Mobile Service Centres provide an opportunity for personalised service to community members who may not have easy access to a Department of Human Services office. Staff who travel with the Service Centres can assist with a range of Program services such as Centrelink, Child Support, Medicare and Australian Hearing. A unique feature is the Australian Hearing touch screen that enables customers to perform hearing assessments.

A Social Worker will also be available.

The Mobile Service Centres are equipped with:
- a soundproof interview room
- a soundproof Australian Hearing testing room
- service/assistance desks
- a waiting area
- a publication display area
- self-service computer access
- LCD display screens
- disabled access
- wireless IT connectivity for greater servicing flexibility.

For more information on Australian Government Mobile Service Centres, visit the Department of Human Services website (link below). A Mobile Service Centre Fact Sheet is also attached to this email for your convenience.


AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT MOBILE SERVICE CENTRES

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2014
COME AND TRY
TEAM RACING

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 15
MENINGIE SAILING CLUB
11.00AM ONWARDS

PLAYING ANOTHER SPORT IN THE MORNING?
THAT’S OK ....JOIN IN ANY TIME

FOR TEAM SAILORS AND NON-TEAM
SAILORS........ JUNIORS AND ADULTS

12 MINUTE RACES THROUGHOUT
THE DAY