As I write this report, the change has arrived and once again there is a more positive level of enthusiasm around the school. There is no doubt that the consistent hot weather has had an impact on the energy levels of both staff and students. Fortunately most of our classrooms are air conditioned, and there are a number of spare classroom spaces across the school for classes to move to when the temperature soars. Despite the heat, the attendance has been fantastic, reaching our target of 90% in Week 5 and just off target at 89% last week. Comments from teachers at the half way mark of Term 1 show that because more children are here at school and in class more regularly, the rate of teaching and learning has increased. My thanks to all parents and caregivers for your support in this important school priority. Next time you are in the school front office take some time to have a look at the Attendance display. You cannot miss the chart tracking our weekly progress.

STUDENT FREE DAY / STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

Last Friday 8th March Middle and Secondary teachers from the Coorong Cluster Schools (Meningie, Coomandook, Tintinara) and the Mallee Cluster (Lameroo and Karoonda) met here at Meningie to work on aspects of the Australian Curriculum. This was a good opportunity to share knowledge, skills and understandings as well as set up structures to network through up to date technologies. At the same time, the Junior School and Primary teachers from the schools already mentioned, along with Raukkan and Coonalpyn, met at Coomandook and worked through a similar process. This was the first of the 4 student free days/staff development days for 2013, with future dates to be put to Governing Council at the first meeting.

GOVERNING COUNCIL AGM

Please be reminded that the Governing Council AGM is on this next Monday 18th March at 7.30 pm in the school staff room. Information about the AGM has been sent home to all families and advertised in the Lakelander and previous newsletters. Sheridan O’Brien is guest speaker and will talk about her role with OPAL through the Coorong District Council.
We welcome all parents and caregivers to the meeting and hope you consider getting involved in Governing Council and being involved in your child/children’s education on a different level. You are most welcome.

ATHLETICS DAY

Having postponed the Athletics Day programmed for last week to this Thursday because of the prolonged and extreme heat, it was nice to enjoy much cooler conditions. The athletics program was set out to maximise student participation and the attempt to ‘have a go’ at events. Points were awarded for participation as well as placings. The oval was in amazing condition, a tribute to the dedication of our grounds persons, John Hastings and Geoff Halliday, who have kept to the agreed watering cycle. Thankyou both for your hard work in making the day the success that it was.

It was fantastic to see the high level of participation and healthy competition between the two new houses: Kungari (Swans) and No:ri (Pelicans). House captains were kept busy with their own competition throughout the day and organising relays in the afternoon. A real effort was made to establish new team identity with lots of students dressed in yellow and maroon representing the colours of our new teams. Banners had been made by the captains and were displayed prominently, adding to the atmosphere. The day was won by Kungari on 1532.6 points, closely followed by No:ri on 1,494.4 points. What a great day! (Due to the short time span, a full report will be in the next edition of the newsletter).

INTER-SCHOOL ATHLETICS – WEDNESDAY 20TH MARCH

The selected team will go to Interschool Athletics Day to be held at Coomandook Area School this next Wednesday 20th March. Individual notes will go home with students who will be in the MAS team, advising parents of selection in events and arrangements for transport. Please return notes promptly enabling Mrs Hood and Mr Rowe to make adjustments as necessary.

All students NOT in the team are expected to be at school. Classes Reception to Year 4 will be as normal. There will be a combined 5/6/7 class, a Year 8/9/10 class and a Senior class. We are required to fill a number of referee positions on the day, hence the combining of classes, releasing teachers to fill these roles along with parent volunteers. Please support us by having your child attend the Athletics Day if selected for the team or being here at school.

LIBRARY MAKEOVER

If you have not been in the Meningie Community Library lately, it is well worth the visit. Since Mr Bernie Ryan took up the position as Librarian here at the school late last year, he has been on a campaign to invigorate the place. Coming from a background in big Public Libraries, he has had lots of ideas about making the library both more functional, as well as appealing. This has meant that, with the assistance of Community Library Assistant Mary Strother and SSO Mrs Lorraine Williss, weeding out and discarding old and out of date resources, changing the layout and adding new and different spaces and seating. New signage has been placed on the entrance and banners advertising the location strategically placed for both residents and tourists to see. It is an exciting time as we transform the Library, making resources more easily accessible and up to date.

Monica Williams
Principal

SCHOOL CAR PARK REMINDER

In the interest of child safety, we wish to remind all parents, carers and grandparents not to use the staff car park (including the library spaces) at any time, unless in circumstances when they might be collecting a sick child from the front office.

TRESPASSING ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

Under the terms of Education Regulation 7, it is an offence for unauthorised person/persons to be on school grounds between midnight and 7.00am. Breaches are punishable with a fine of $200.00.

Persons who are on school premises outside the curfew hours and who remain after having been requested to leave are also liable to prosecution under Education Regulation 7. The penalty for a first offence is $100.00 and for a subsequent offence it is $200.00.

A person who behaves in an insulting or offensive manner to a Principal or teacher who is acting in the course of his/her duties may be prosecuted under Section 104 of the Education Act, which carries with it a fine not exceeding $500.00.
Consistent school attendance allows students to move through the set curriculum successfully - every day counts!

**AIR FORCE CADETS**

No 622 Squadron of the Australian Air Force Cadets are holding a RECRUIT INTEREST NIGHT this Friday 15th March in Murray Bridge. It will be from 7.30 – 9.30 pm at the Multi-User Depot, 19 Caroline Street. The Air Force Cadets are open to all students aged 13 to 17 years and provide training in a range of areas including flying, gliding, field craft and firearms safety. Please see the ad in this newsletter.

**MUSEUM VISIT**

A very excited group of 20 children from Mrs Woolston’s Year1/2 class and Mrs VandenBrink made a visit to the Cheese Factory Museum on a very warm Autumn day last Wednesday.

The children were visiting the museum as part of their History Curriculum and were rewarded to find that one of the original telephonists, Mrs Janice Hoad, was waiting to show them how the old switch board connected people in the community to each other. Mrs Hoad explained that the women were not permitted to be in the post office alone at night for safety reasons and that two men, Mr Hurle and Mr Eglington, did the night shift. She also showed the group how emergency calls from the police station could get their attention through a bell on the board which would ring loudly. It was a rare treat to see a living piece of Meninige’s history come to life, especially with a living treasure in Mrs Hoad demonstrating for us.

Museum volunteers, Mr John Boundy, Mr Peter Ancell, Mr Peter Saint and Mr Bill McGee did a great job in showing the children around to various sections of the museum.

The class spent a good deal of the time on a treasure hunt looking for artefacts to be ticked off on a worksheet of things that they had been studying such as: ink pot and pen, typewriter, radio, horse and cart, gramophone, manual camera, and the like.

At the conclusion of the visit everyone cooled off in the restaurant with an ice-cream and a chocolate frog in a dish with copious classes of cold water.

Judy Woolston (Class Teacher)

**ARE YOU LOOKING FOR AN OVERSEAS ADVENTURE IN YOUR SUMMER HOLIDAYS?**

Then try the Lions Youth Exchange Program.

- Youth aged 17-21 years are eligible
- No school attendance is required
- FREE accommodation provided by host families from Lions Clubs International, the largest community organisation in the world.
- Depart Australia December 2013, return January 2014
- Costs range from $1,800 depending on destination.
- See the website for more details: www.lionsclubs.org.au/ye

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 30 JUNE 2013 – APPLY NOW!
CONSISTENT SCHOOL ATTENDANCE ALLOWS STUDENTS TO MOVE THROUGH THE SET CURRICULUM SUCCESSFULLY - EVERY DAY COUNTS!

INTEREST NIGHT
Friday 15th March 2013
Start at 7.30PM - Finish 9.30 PM
MULTI USER DEPOT, 19 CAROLINE STREET
MURRAY BRIDGE – 0417 203 196
AIR FORCE CADETS NOW PARADING ON FRIDAY NIGHTS

PROGRAME
1930 HRS - AAFC Presentation
1940 HRS - Introduction
1945 HRS - History & Structure of AAFC
2000 HRS - Cadet Experience
2020 HRS - Cadet Training Program
2035 HRS - How Do To Get Started
2045 HRS - An Alternative
2100 HRS - Questions & Answers
2120 HRS - Registration
2130 HRS - Dismissal

Aims of the Australian Air Force Cadets (AAFC)
Give cadets a foundation of RAAF knowledge and discipline; develop qualities of leadership, self-reliance and initiative; develop character and good citizenship; develop an interest in the RAAF and aviation generally; instil knowledge of aviation history; and encourage cadets to continue an active interest in aviation into their adult life.

EDUCATES CHALLENGES EXCITES

Australian Air Force Cadets
622 Squadron Murray Bridge
Official commencement 9 Feb 10

Join the premier air minded youth organisation in Murray Bridge and stay until you turn 20, if you're aged between 13 and 18 years old, an Australian resident, medically fit and enjoy adventure and challenge - join the Australian Air Force Cadets

Come and find out yourself, talk to our cadets and instructors at the Information Night on Friday 15th March 2013 at the Multi User Depot, Caroline Street, Murray Bridge starts at 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm. Or Visit our Web Site
http://www.aafc.org.au/

The Australian Air Force Cadets (AAFC) sponsored by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). Many cadets join the Air Force and Defence Force or find a valuable, exciting career in civilian aviation. The AAFC will help you develop leadership, confidence and could make getting a job easier, no matter what you decide to do with your life.