As Monica is on leave this week, it is up to me to write the Principal’s Report for this newsletter. She is in Queensland for her son Simon’s wedding. Congratulations to Simon and Jess and I am sure that the whole school community wishes them well for their future together.

The Governing Council AGM was held last week. While the audience was relatively small, the talk presented by Sheridan O’Brien about the OPAL program and the role that it can play in the school and in the wider community was well received.

Nominations for Governing Council membership were received and endorsed, and we would like to welcome Zoe Gordon as a new member of the Governing Council. I would also like to thank Felicity Turner for all of the work that she has put in to the council and the school in the past few years. She has decided to have a break but we look forward to her return at some stage in the future. The first meeting of the new Council will be on the 8th April. If you were unable to attend the AGM but wish to nominate for Governing Council please contact the front office or David Eckert.

The Interschool Athletics Carnival was held last week at Coomandook. There will be more information about that later in this newsletter, but I would like to congratulate all the students who participated and thanks to the staff and parents who went along to undertake the various jobs allocated to the school. I would also like to recognise the great job that the staff that were left behind did in providing activities and learning for the students who remained at school. A big thank you must also go to Katrina Hood and Jack Rowe for everything that they did in organising our team in the lead up to the event.

Monica and I were unable to attend the carnival as we were asked to attend a meeting at Murray Bridge as part of the consultation process for developing the framework for the new Department for Education and Childhood Development, which now incorporates Families SA and CAFHS as well as Early Childhood and Schooling. Abbey Hood and Lauren Bagshaw also joined us to provide a student’s perspective to the discussions.

As it is Easter this weekend, I want to wish all of our students and their families a very safe and happy break and look forward to seeing every one of you return next week refreshed and ready to put in a huge effort for the last 2 weeks of the term. Please remember to travel safely on the roads if you are going away.

Mal Jurgs (Deputy Principal)
URGENT INFORMATION

As several parents continue to park in the staff car park and also we have been notified by our bus drivers that some parents are creating a dangerous situation by dropping off and collecting their children near the bus bay both in the morning and afternoon, it is timely to remind parents of the following:

- There is to be no parking on the Princes Highway side of the school from 8.30 – 9.30 am and in the afternoon from 3.30 – 4.30 pm.
- As indicated by signage, the dropping off and picking up of children is to be done on North Terrace, being mindful of the student crossing.
- Also, 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) as a drop-off and pick-up zone at any time, unless in circumstances when they might be collecting a sick child from the front office.

Thanking you in anticipation of your understanding and support of this.

VIP BAKE SALE

The Year 9-10 VIP students ran a cake and biscuit bake stall at the Meningie Athletics Day to raise money to purchase some fruit trees. Our stall made $364.75 which was enough money to allow us to buy a few fruit trees and more equipment for the vegetable gardening project we have started. We would like to thank everyone for their support on the day.

CONGRATULATIONS!

On Sports day and for the past week the VIP class have been running a lolly jar guessing competition. The winners are as follows; Charlotte Treloar & Holly Vandenbrink were the closest and guessed 120 lollies in the small jar and they received half each, and Mr Richard Oliver who guessed 343 lollies in the big jar. The small jar held 116 sweets and the large jar held 371.

Thank you once again for your support.

Trae Rigney – Year 10

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Last week a letter went out to middle and senior school parents reminding them of our School Uniform Policy.

It is really good to see most students in the appropriate school uniform. This is a great achievement as it says a lot of things about the student, the school and family. The wearing of school uniform is strongly supported by the School Governing Council as it creates a sense of identity and belonging, it enables students to be easily recognised in the yard, it creates a safe environment as visitors are easily identifiable and it removes competition.

However, it has come to the schools attention that while the current fashion trend for women and girls in particular is to wear very short denim or colourful shorts and tight leggings with a short top, this is not appropriate in a school setting. Most of our middle and senior students engage in community activities or in various workplaces and many employers have strict dress codes related to safety and appropriate clothing to be worn. As a school we are no different. We expect students’ consideration about what is appropriate and safe.

We seek parental support in this matter. Often a sensitive issue for teachers to discuss, we ask that you ensure your child/children are dressed for their main work environment, which is school, and set a high standard throughout the school.

In the first instance if your child is inappropriately dressed, a note will be sent home seeking your support in this matter. If there is no change in dress code then we will contact you and ask for the student to go home and change.

Parents can appreciate this is something we would rather avoid. We are, however, committed to maintaining high and safe uniform standards in the school environment.
SICK OR UNWELL STUDENTS

As you may or not be aware, two years ago the school updated its health protocols in line with DECD Policy in the management of sick and unwell students.

We have two sick rooms available for sick or unwell students. The old beds were replaced by a vinyl bean bag in each room, enabling thorough cleaning and the prevention of cross contamination of infections.

The sick rooms are available for short term management only of students and if you, as a parent or caregiver, have been notified that your child is unwell there is an expectation that your child will stay in the sick room until you are able to pick them up. With the onset of winter bringing with it all the related colds, flus and bugs we remind you that we expect students to be collected as soon as possible or within an hour if you live out of town or please make arrangements with family and friends to collect your child.

The collection of unwell children procedures are put in place for OHS reasons to prevent cross-contaminations and reduce spreading of infections.

We thank you in advance for your support in this matter.

PANADOL AT SCHOOL

Also as part of DECD Guidelines a reminder that Panadol or Aspirin tablets are not provided by the school to give to students. Parents and caregivers, however, are more than welcome to provide the front office with their preferred paracetamol in the case of their child/children requiring it.

Parents and caregivers are also reminded that students are NOT to have any paracetamol products in their school bags. This is an OHS issue and makes it very hard for staff to monitor if students have, and are managing their own Panadol etc. in their school bags, especially when they give Panadol to other students. We have a number of students at school who are highly allergic and this puts these students at risk.

We ask that you please support the school in this and if you feel your child might need Panadol then to give some to the front office staff to hold here for you and your family.

MAS ATHLETICS DAY

On Thursday 14th March, students from Meningie Area School participated in a variety of Athletics events at the annual school sports day in near perfect conditions. Congratulations to all the students who participated. It was brilliant to see so many involved in events and competing in such good spirits. The house captains of the new teams No:ri and Kungari also did a great job organising their teams. At the end of the day it was Kungari who took out first place with 1532.6 points, closely followed by No:ri with 1,494.4 points.

Thanks must go to John Hastings and Geoff Halliday for their excellent preparation of the oval, Katrina Hood for setting up the scoring system on the computer (as well as a great deal of organising), Judy Appelkamp & Rosie Reichelt for coordinating the catering and staff who helped with setting and packing up the equipment. Thank you also to the teachers, SSO staff, parents and students who chaperoned, timed or scored on the day.

It was great to have so much support as it helped to make the day run so well.

Following are the results and individual medallion winners. There were no records broken on the day.

RESULTS:
1st Kungari (Swans) – 1532.6 points
2nd No:ri (Pelicans) – 1494.4 points

INDIVIDUAL MEDALLION WINNERS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>3rd</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 10 Boys</td>
<td>B Schaefer 58 (Kungari)</td>
<td>C Miller 41.5 (Kungari)</td>
<td>J Brooks 40 (No:ri)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 10 Girls</td>
<td>T Shaw 53 (No:ri)</td>
<td>C Treloar 50.1 (No:ri)</td>
<td>M Lewis 44.1 (No:ri)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 12 Boys</td>
<td>J Ling 73 (Kungari)</td>
<td>D Gubbin 72 (No:ri)</td>
<td>N Gubbin 55 (No:ri)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 12 Girls</td>
<td>B Blake-Burrows 54 (No:ri)</td>
<td>M Brown 51.5 (Kungari)</td>
<td>K Kartinyeri 47 (Kungari)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 14 Boys</td>
<td>J Hoad 62 (No:ri)</td>
<td>D Shaw 59 (No:ri)</td>
<td>N Hartman 48 (Kungari)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 14 Girls</td>
<td>A Williams 67 (No:ri)</td>
<td>J Tiver 46 (Kungari)</td>
<td>G Mansfield 37.5 (Kungari)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Boys</td>
<td>C Walker 46.5 (Kungari)</td>
<td>Z Vandenbrink 39 (No:ri)</td>
<td>D Richards 38.5 (No:ri)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Girls</td>
<td>M Hood 73 (Kungari)</td>
<td>A Eckert 51.5 (Kungari)</td>
<td>B Rigney 44.5 (Kungari)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FOR SALE
FROM SCHOOL BOOKROOM
School Shorts
Sizes 4, 6, 8, 10, Large
$22.00 each
Other sizes should be in stock soon.
Limited supply of
Track Pants $22.00
Sizes 8 - 12
On the 20th of March 2013, Mrs Williams, Mr Jurgs, Abbey Hood and I travelled to Murray Bridge to participate in an educational workshop called ‘Brighter Futures...Leading Locally’.

The purpose of this workshop was for various voices from education roles, the community and youth to share their opinions with representatives of the Department for Education and Child Development (DECD) on how to improve the future prospects for young South Australians.

About 20 workshops were planned to be held all over South Australia as to gain an accurate portrayal of what people in the state require from future policies set by DECD.

At the workshop, guests were divided into five groups depending on their occupation/role in the community and were required to provide relevant opinions about the issues that affected them. Abbey and I, as school students, were placed in a group with other primary and senior students from Murray Bridge, Mannum and Mypolonga. Here we voiced our concerns to our chaperone David Waterford, Head of Families SA, over student voice within schools regarding decision making. The most popular solutions proposed by the students were a Regional SRC (Student Representative Council) so that schools can compare effective strategies with each other, and specialised programmes within schools that can teach students leadership skills. Overall the workshop was very successful as many ideas were proposed and the futures of South Australian children now seeming a little brighter.

Lauren Bagshaw (Year 11)

SAPSASA SWIMMING

On Friday 22nd March Ben Schaefer, Kobie Hood, Melissa Brown, Lucy Waser, Gena Mansfield and Katie Aspel participated in the SAPSASA Swimming Country Championships at the Marion Aquatics Centre. There are 18 districts competing in these Championships and our students were part of the Murray Mallee team.

Ben was first up in the 10 yr old boys freestyle, there were 3 heats for this event and he swam the 50m in 42.15 seconds and made it to the final. He finished 6th a great effort. He also swam in the breaststroke and finished 13th with a time of 1:03.95

Kobie swam the butterfly leg of the Open Medley relay and his team came 8th, he then swam in the 12 yr old boys breaststroke where he was 9th overall with a time of 52.00 seconds, narrowly missing the final. Kobie made the finals in butterfly and was placed 8th with a time of 54.54 seconds. Kobie was also part of the 12 yr old freestyle relay team which finished who finished in 7th or 8th place.

The four girls swam in the relays, Gena & Katie the 13 yr old team, Lucy in the 11 yr old team and Melissa swam the breaststroke leg of the Open Medley relay. Unfortunately we do not have placings for these events. All swimmers performed well on the day and enjoyed the experience.

STOP PRESS!!

MISSING!

408 Junior Primary READERS!

Do your children have any readers at home from the previous 5 years?

PLEASE have a look around for any books that may belong to the school (or library) and return any that you find to the library (even if they are damaged or with lost pages). This will enable YOUR CHILD (or Children) to have the maximum amount of readers available for his/her quest of reading fluency.

Are some of them lying under beds or in or behind cupboards in YOUR child’s room or in your home? Please have a good look - get your child/children to help look?

Readers are usually thin books, of between 16-32 pages, approximately 20-25cm high with a label on the lower spine of the book, and a barcode on the top right hand corner of the back of the book.

Any person returning “overdue” readers to the library will receive a reward!

ONLY OVERDUE BOOKS returned WILL QUALIFY!!
TEAM SAILING

On the 17th and 18th March 2013 Regional Team Sailing was held at Victor Harbor. There were 7 teams that raced from Victor Harbor High School, Kangaroo Island Community Education, Investigator College and Meningie Area School. The Meningie team consisted of Marni and Abbey Hood, Aleisha Williams, Lachlan Brown, Lachlan Waser, Lochlen McPherson and Brittany Thompson, with Kobie Hood and Jake Hodder in the composite team.

Conditions were harsh on the first day, with a strong, cold wind and big swell, however sailing continued throughout the whole day. Conditions on the second day eased as the sun came out and sailing commenced. We raced until about 2pm, when we finished the 2nd round. After this we swapped and mixed teams for fun and got to cruise around in the umpires’ boats and rubber ducky.

Even though Meningie did not win any races we were able to have one boat cross the finish line first which is a huge success for Meningie as the racing is very competitive.

Overall the competition was a great success and we all had lots of fun.

Abbey Hood (Year 11)

SHARE CELEBRATE REWARD

Nominations are now open for the 2013 SA Public Teaching Awards. Don’t miss your chance to nominate an outstanding educational professional of the South Australian public education system.

The SA Public Teaching Awards aim to recognise and reward dedicated teachers, education leaders and support staff who have made an inspirational contribution to the young South Australians.

To nominate a member of your school go to: www.decs.sa.gov.au/teachingawards or like us on Facebook and follow the progress of the Awards: www.facebook.com/SATeachingAwards. Alternatively, nomination forms are available from the front office.

Nominations close 5.00 pm Monday 13th May 2013.

For further information contact Virginia Barter on 8226 3079 or email virginia.barter@sa.gov.au