FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

Interschool Athletics Carnival

Tuesday 25th March saw the last of the big sporting events for Term 1, with Meningie Area School hosting the Upper South East Athletics Carnival at the Town Oval. Weeks of preparation went into the event, as I am sure most people will be aware.

Without the behind the scenes work of the Groundspeople; Mr John Hastings and Mr Geoff Halliday, and Mr Mal Jurgs (Deputy) the day would not have run as smoothly as it did. Countless out of hours work was put into preparation and attention to detail. To both Ms Sarah Lehmann and Mrs Katrina Hood, getting the program right, coordinating support people on the day and working with other schools ensured that the day came together and was the success that it was. To Mrs Catherine Burnett, for her attention to the hire arrangement between Coorong Council and the Football, Netball and Pony Clubs aspects of OHS&W were well covered. To the staff at Meningie Area School, who just get in and do the job. To parents and other community members who helped in any way, you made the day the success that it was.

As always our students did well. For many there were personal bests. To the Captains and Vice Captains you did an amazing job in organising and ensuring every event had Meningie competitors representing our school. I was impressed with the leadership you showed and the encouragement and support that you gave to the student body.

We really did do well and were competitive at every level. The highlights are:

- We tied for 1st Position in the Sub Junior Division, sharing with Keith Area School
- We tied again with Keith Area School in the Senior Division
- We came 2nd in the Overall
- Additionally, Aleshia Williams was Runner Up for the Intermediate girls

Well done everyone. Despite the weather being a little chilly throughout the day the rain held off and we finished on a good note.

(see article for results)
Harmony Day
Harmony Day is an important event on the Term 1 calendar. It was held last Friday 21st March. The theme this year was ‘Everyone Belongs’. Coordinated by Ms Anyupa Giles, students across the R-7 classes were split up into groups and rotated through a series of activities reflecting the theme. Teachers selected stories from around the world that showed we all belonged and incorporated activities relevant to the story. As I visited groups, I saw students engaged in working cooperatively, older students supporting the younger ones and lots of fun and engagement. The day culminated in an afternoon assembly in the hall, where work from the day was shared and the choir sang New Tomorrow. Thank you Ms Giles and R-7 staff for what was a significant and memorable day.

Governing Council AGM
Last Monday evening 17th March the Governing Council AGM was held in the staff room. I am pleased to say that the meeting attracted a number of parents and caregivers who had indicated that they were prepared to accept positions. All nominations were accepted at the meeting. The budget 2014 was presented and Principal Monica Williams presented the Annual Report 2014, focusing on the site priorities and learning improvements. The Annual Report will be available on the school website by the end of Term 1. The next meeting of Governing Council is Monday 7th April. At this meeting positions of Office will be elected. The school community will be advised of such in the next and final newsletter for the Term 1.

Meningie Community Library
If you have not been in to the Meningie Community Library lately it is well worth a visit. Changes have been taking place over the last 12 to 18 months in preparation for the implementation of the one card system this year. Most striking about the library is the new mural with work done recently. It certainly adds colour and vibrancy to the building and the space (see the article within this newsletter).
Monica Williams

AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND
STUDENT EXCHANGE 2015
Are you:
• between 13½ and 16 years old on 1st January 2015?
• interested in a once-in-a-lifetime experience?
• Interested in travel and promoting?
• International understanding?
• Looking for a challenge?
• Able to adapt to a new family?
• Able to afford reasonable costs?

Then this programme is for you!

Key Dates for 2015 Exchange Year:
Expression of Interest Forms due – 30 June ‘14
Full Applications Forms due – 30 July ‘14
NZ students travel to Australia – 28 March ’15
Both students return to NZ – 20 June ’15
Australian students return home 12 Sept ’15

If you are at all interested in this, please collect an information leaflet from the front office.

If you would like more information, or to obtain a Student Application Form, please visit www.ranzse.org or contact:

Australian National Coordinator
Jenny Phillips
Email: ranzse2011@hotmail.com
Phone: 08 85723984
Mobile: 0407 239 845

The deadline for Expressions of Interest is 30 June 2014.
INTERSCHOOL ATHLETICS DAY RESULTS

Outright Shield

1. Keith 3186
2. Kanara 2669.6
3. Meningie 2411.5
4. Coomandook 2131

Handicap Shield

1. Keith 3185
2. Meningie 3120
3. Kanara 2981
4. Coomandook 2698

Sub Junior (U/10)

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<tr>
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Junior (U/11, U12)

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<tr>
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Intermediate (U/13, U14)

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Senior (U/15, U16, U21)

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<td>951</td>
<td>1061</td>
<td>1088</td>
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Congratulations to all competitors, especially Aleisha Williams who was Runner up – Athlete of the Meet for Intermediate Girls.

All students in Years 8 to 10 will be attending this event at the school on Thursday 10th April.

If you have any questions regarding this, please contact Kathy Quinn, Middle School Coordinator, at the school.

Children who attend school are more likely to reach their full potential.
KANGAROO ISLAND TEAM SAILING REGATTA 2014

As team sailors, we have been working really hard with practices every Tuesday morning at 7:00am and the “Come and Try” Sailing every Sunday from 11:00am till 3:00pm on our Lake Albert. This year the team sailors of Meningie travelled ‘overseas’ to Kangaroo Island to compete in the regional team sailing event which took place over a 2 day sailing period. Our team sailors did a lot of fundraising to cover some of the costs of getting over on the ferry, paying for food and presentation costs, and it all proved useful. Altogether, with raffles and collecting ‘mountains’ of cans, we managed to scratch up roughly one thousand dollars. We were also really lucky to have a few parents come along and act as helpers for the event; without them the team sailing regatta would not be possible.

On Wednesday the 5th of March at 1:30 our team sailors, who were Lochie McPherson (Skipper), Lachlan Brown (Skipper) Aleisha Williams (Skipper) Kobie Hood (Skipper) with Harry Tiver, Ben Schaefer, Tom Schaefer and Jiye Hoad as our crews, departed from the sailing shed. At about 5:30pm we arrived at Cape Jervis and boarded the ferry. On the way over the ferry the captain invited us into his cabin and showed us around. Somehow Dad convinced the mechanic on board to let us check out the motors that power the ferry; they were twin V12 engines and they sure were impressive!

We arrived at Penneshaw at 7:00pm without anyone being sea sick, so that was a bonus. When we got there we drove off the ferry, did some shopping and then headed for Dad’s “shack” at American River that he kindly let us stay in for the few days while we were there. When we got to the shack we were all pretty tired so we had a Milo and headed off to bed, ready for an early morning.

At 6:30am the next morning we awoke pretty drowsy but excited for the morning races. At 7:30am we left American River and got to the Kingscote Sailing Club at 8:00 for breakfast. After a warm breakfast of bacon and egg sandwiches and setting up a windbreak/tent, we got changed ready for our races. By that time the wind was starting to pick up, with the swell increasing. At 10:00am we started our races; for the first race we were out in front with high hopes but 2 of our boats capsized.

The whole day went pretty fast with changeovers and we raced 6 races in total. By the end of the day we were all wet and tired so we packed up and headed home with zero races won for the day. We did get a bit out of the day though; we learned that we have to take the tide into account and the large swell. We also learned who is good sailing with who and what crews to put with the skippers.

When we got back we all just chilled out, ate a hearty tea of lasagne and vegetables, with fruit for dessert, and headed off to bed at around 10:00pm. The next morning we awoke at 6:00am, and very tiredly we got ready for the second day of team sailing. We left at 7:30am and were ready to sail again at 8:30.
That day the wind was a lot stronger than the day before, so we were all a little nervous and excited at the same time for what the day would hold. For the day we had 6 races all up; our first race was at 9:30 and we were all pretty good for the first with myself and Ben coming first and the others coming last and second last. On the fifth race myself and Ben came first again and with our second boat coming third and the third boat coming last, we won the first race for Meningie in 6 years! We were all very happy and we finished our other races with a smile knowing that we did at least win one. When the races finished, we all went back to American River and got changed ready for presentations and then headed back.

Presentations were good, with a meal of salad, bread and spaghetti bolognese, and with a short speech from one of the competition sailors at the end, we were officially finished our team sailing. We headed back to American River, slept, woke up and headed for home.

I would just like to thank Dad for lending us the use of his very nice house in American River, Sarah Tiver for organizing food, costs and the sailors, Deanne McPherson for helping organize us and Mr Woolston for organizing the whole thing for us and putting up with all of us team sailors for three days.

Lachlan Brown, Captain (Year 9)
Dale Appelkamp  
Captain  
Kungari (Swans)

I am in Year 12  
My interests are:  
• Camping  
• Motorbike riding  
• Fishing

What I would like to achieve as Captain this year:  
• Better communication between all students  
• Support students to use their voice to raise issues and ideas  
• Support the communication between the student body and teachers

Zac Vandenbrink  
Captain  
No:ri (Pelicans)

I am in Year 12  
My interests are:  
• Swimming  
• Football  
• Aviation

What I would like to achieve as Captain this year:  
• Help students around the school in all areas of their schooling  
• Visiting my represented classrooms fortnightly to focus on what students would like to change around the school  
• Build stronger relations between students and teachers which will benefit our school community and learning environment  
• Planning school events similar to the ones that were successful last year (charity fundraising and lunch time activities for e.g. movies are just to name a few) and new exciting events which will engage the whole school community

Brad Promnitz  
Vice-Captain  
Kungari (Swans)

I am in Year 11  
My interests are:  
• Football  
• Cars  
• Food

What I would like to achieve as Captain this year:  
• Develop leadership and teamwork skills  
• Students to feel comfortable communicating their ideas and issues with the Captains  
• Fun fundraising activities where all students can be involved

EARTH HOUR

This Saturday night is “Earth Hour” from 8:30pm until 9:30pm.

On Saturday 29th March, a documentary about how Climate Change is affecting the Great Barrier Reef will be on channel 10 at 4:30pm, followed by the turning out of lights at 8:30pm to make a statement the whole world will see.

So get involved… turn off your lights for 1 hour this Saturday night and help minimise greenhouse gas emissions.

MAS School Captains

Children who attend school are more likely to reach their full potential.
Spring Break was great! The first weekend I went to our junior varsity soccer game which was pretty good, even though we lost. We played Old High which is our biggest rivalry school in our district.

That weekend was also the first time it rained since October! We were at the soccer fields when it began to rain and as you can see in the photos, we got drenched!

During the week I took some time to chill out and catch up on some well-earned sleep as well as visit the dirt hill and falls. The weekend before school went back I went to the Wichita Mountains in Oklahoma with my friends. We had initially planned to go to Six Flags (a theme park in Dallas) but decided to change to Plan B when we saw that thunderstorms were forecast for the entire day. The mountains were a great alternative.

We ate at a place called Meers and they have burgers bigger than my head. It was like when you see eating competitions on movies or tv. Overall I had a great spring break I just wish that we had longer than a week!
LIBRARY NEWS

The library has been a hive of activity with a new mural on the front of the building and new face out shelving for the children’s picture books. Parents are all encouraged to come into the library and have a look at what is available.

A couple of competitions are presently on the go with the Premiers Reading Challenge being promoted by offering a double pass to see Peabody and Sherman for a draw in the final week of term 1. All students who have completed at least four of the twelve required books are eligible to enter; just bring in a signed log sheet to have your name in the draw. The newsagent has also kindly offered a great Easter prize of a large bunny with textas, pencils and crayons for the coloring in competition and forms are available in the library.

It was great to have the artist Pandora visit the school and engage with the children while doing the mural and it has really brightened up the library facade.

The Library Board is also proposing to change the opening hours to

**Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm**
**Saturday 10am - 1pm Saturday**
(School holidays closed for lunch and all day Monday)

Public comments are welcome either through the school office or email meningie.library@gmail.com
PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Students, start snapping.
For the first time since the Meningie Show concluded in 2010, Meningie photographers have a chance to show off their skills.

Organiser of the Meningie Show photographic competitions, Marianne Cunneen is planning a photographic exhibition - competition for April, with proceeds going to the Meningie Oval Playground Support Group (MOPS group).

The exhibition will be open from Saturday 19 April through to Sunday 27 April, 10am to 4pm daily, giving locals and visitors to Meningie over the Easter and Anzac Day long weekends something extra to do.

Marianne said that she had been planning to organise a photographic exhibition for some time and it seemed like a great week to hold it.

The exhibition will be held in the old newsagent building over the nine days and Matthew Hood has kindly donated the venue to the cause.

There are two student sections; ten years and under and over ten years old and Marianne would like to see lots of entries from children as well as adults and a variety of skill levels.

There will be eighteen prizes presented over six categories; portraits, land and water scapes, flora and fauna, black and white, digitally or artistically enhanced and any other. Where the subject matter goes over more than one category, the photographer needs to stipulate one category. Photographers can enter canvases, framed photographs as well as regular photographs.

The photographer may have his or her work for sale with twenty-five percent of the purchase price donated to MOPS group. To help raise funds for the playground, there will also be an entry charge of $2 per canvas or framed photograph and 50c per regular photograph. There will also be a gold coin donation at the door to view the exhibition. A trading table will also be running throughout the event in the building.

The event will include a silent auction of donated canvas, glass and framed photographs. This will conclude at the closing of the exhibition on Sunday 27 April when the winning entries will be presented with prizes.

To gain your entry form, contact Marianne on 0437 320 779 or pick up an entry form from The Lakelander, The Lakes Hub or Meningie Florist.
PRACTICE YOUR SPANISH WITH AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT!

Capture the spirit of family and friendship - Host a Spanish international exchange student!

- Introduce your family to different customs, values and ideas
- Improve your language skills
- Make lifelong international friends
- Share Australian culture and lifestyle

Southern Cross Cultural Exchange is seeking volunteer host families for International High School students from Spain.

Students arrive in July 2014 for 11 weeks and can be placed anywhere in South Australia. You do not need to have children of your own to enjoy this experience.

All students are carefully selected, will attend a local high school, have their own spending money and can bring your family to life!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PHONE Jenny ON (08) 85562208
EMAIL : jeh1313@bigpond.net.au

NAPLAN TESTING

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It has been an annual event for schools since 2008. On Tuesday 13th, Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th May, students will take the 2014 NAPLAN tests.

NAPLAN assesses skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time, through the school curriculum. NAPLAN is not a pass or fail type test, but rather shows how students are progressing in numeracy and literacy skills against national standards for all Australia children. It also provides valuable information that allows schools and governments to better target effort and support to help all students achieve their potential and acquire the basic skills to help them build successful and happy lives.

All students are expected to participate in the tests. Students with disability may qualify for reasonable adjustments that reflect the support normally provided to them in the classroom. Some students with very specific circumstances may be exempted from participating in the tests. For information about participation in NAPLAN, you can go to: http://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/parent-carer-support.html

NAPLAN tests fundamental skills rather than specific content, and as such is not a test for which students can study or drill. The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to let them know that NAPLAN is just one part of their school program, and to urge them to simply do the best they can on the day. The use of services by coaching providers is not recommended.

An individual student NAPLAN report will be issued by the school later this year. Parents can use this information to monitor how their child is progressing and to identify any areas of concern. Parents may also wish to use their child’s results to discuss progress with teachers. More information is available at www.nap.edu.au.

Please read the ‘Information for Parents’ brochure at the end of this newsletter for further information or visit the NAPLAN website.
What is NAPLAN?
The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. All students in these year levels are expected to participate in tests in reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. All government and non-government education authorities have contributed to the development of NAPLAN materials.

Why do students do NAPLAN tests?
NAPLAN is the measure through which governments, education authorities, schools, teachers and parents can determine whether or not young Australians are meeting important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy. The tests provide parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. They also provide schools, states and territories with information about how education programs are working and which areas need to be prioritised for improvement.

NAPLAN tests are one aspect of the school's assessment and reporting process, and do not replace the extensive, ongoing assessments made by teachers about each student's performance.

What will be tested and how?
NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. The content of each test is informed by the national Statements of Learning for English and mathematics, which underpin state and territory learning frameworks. Questions are multiple-choice or require a short written response. The writing task requires students to write a text in response to a prompt.

To give you an idea of what the tests look like, sample questions and a sample writing task are available on the NAP website: www.nap.edu.au

Who will run the tests?
NAPLAN tests are conducted at schools and administered by classroom teachers, school deputies or the principal. Each state and territory is responsible for marking the tests in accordance with strict guidelines and processes.

How can I help my child prepare for the tests?
NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are already learning through the school curriculum. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the test formats and will provide appropriate support and guidance. If you have any questions about your child's preparation for NAPLAN, you should make a time to speak with their teacher.

The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to measure your child that NAPLAN tests are just one part of their school program, and to urge them to simply do the best they can on the day. The use of services by coaching providers is not recommended.

What additional support can schools provide for students with special needs?
All students are encouraged to participate in NAPLAN tests. Students with disability may qualify for adjustments that reflect the support normally provided in the classroom. Students who have a temporary injury may also be reasonably accommodated. A formal exemption may be granted for a student with significant intellectual disability and/or significant co-existing conditions, or who has recently arrived in Australia and is from a non-English speaking background.

Your school principal and your state testing authority can provide you with more information on special provisions or the process required to gain a formal exemption.
How is NAPLAN performance measured?
NAPLAN is not a pass or fail type test. Individual student performance is shown on a national achievement scale for each test. Each test scale has 10 bands and all year levels are reported on the same scale. Six bands are reported for each year level for each test. One of these bands represents the national minimum standard for students at each year level. A result at the national minimum standard indicates that the student demonstrated the basic literacy and numeracy skills needed to participate fully in that year level. The performance of individual students can be compared to the average performance of all students in Australia.

What happens if my child is absent from school on test days?
Wherever possible, schools will organise for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during testing week. Individual students are not permitted to sit tests after Friday 16 May 2014.

Will I receive a report on my child’s performance?
A NAPLAN report will be issued by your school later in the year. The same report format is used for every student in Australia. The school will notify you when the reports are being sent to you. If you do not receive a report, you should contact the school. Individual student results are strictly confidential.

How are NAPLAN test results used?
- Schools use results to identify strengths and weaknesses in teaching programs and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review programs and support offered to schools.
- Students and parents may use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to help them better identify students who require greater challenges or additional support.
- The community can see average school NAPLAN results on the My School website: www.myschool.edu.au

Where can I get more information?
For more information about NAPLAN:
- visit www.nap.edu.au
- contact your child’s school
- contact your state or territory’s education authority (details available on the NAP website).

NAPLAN 2014 tests timetable

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<tr>
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- Language conventions includes spelling, grammar and punctuation.
- Numeracy includes number; space; algebra; function and pattern; measurement, chance and data.
- Calculators are NOT permitted in the numeracy test in Years 3 and 5. In Years 7 and 9, there is one numeracy test where calculator use is permitted and one where it is not.