TERM 1 AVERAGE STUDENT ATTENDANCE FOR WEEKS 1 TO 10 WAS 86.59% : BRILLIANT – ON TRACK!

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

We come to the end of what has been a really busy term and the start of a great year. The focus across the school community has been on raising daily attendance from 84% in 2012 to 90% in 2013, and to state target of 94% in 2014. The good news is that when we look at our data over the past ten weeks and carry out the calculation, attendance average is 86.59%. At this rate, term by term we can hit the 2013 target set at 90%. Good work everyone!

A number of strategies have been implemented across the school, and class and home group teachers have developed a number of incentives to keep this target foremost in our sights. As has been regularly recorded in fortnightly newsletters, our attendance progress has been tracked. It has been quite a journey to date and we are relentless in our endeavour. The message is that for learning for all students to improve, each and every student needs to be at school daily unless ill.

There is still a lot of work to be done before we reach our target and stabilize, but I would really like to thank everyone for the importance that has been placed on this, and that we keep working hard. At the end of the day this is for the young people in our district, and their future that we set our sights high.

At our assembly this Friday, Governing Council Chairperson 2012 David Eckert will participate in the Attendance Awards. Governing Council, at its first meeting of the 2013 year, agreed to support the Attendance Strategy and award a voucher to a student in Junior, Middle and Senior school with perfect attendance.

Across the school this term we have 19 students with perfect attendance up until Tuesday 9th April. Their names went into a hat and one lucky student in each category won a $20.00 gift voucher sponsored by Governing Council. Nineteen students represents approximately 10% of the student population. It would be great to see a minimum of 25 students with perfect attendance in Term 2; an increase of approximately 25%.

This term 92 students across the school had near perfect attendance according to our records. This figure represents almost half of our students in the school. This means they have missed 4 days or less. The challenge next term is to improve on our data, as well as tackle lateness. I have not included this information this term, but I can say we have many students late on a daily basis, which impacts on the start of the day for the student, class and teacher. This data will be used to track our continuing progress as well as support in refining strategies, as we strive towards better attendance and engagement for all students at Meningie Area School.

TERM 1

Week 11

12 April  Whole School Assembly 12.15 pm
12 April  Early Dismissal 2.20 pm
           Buses Depart 2.30 pm

TERM 2

Week 1

29 April  TERM 2 COMMENCES

Week 2

10 May    USE Cross Country at Lake Albert Golf Club
9 - 10 May Year 10 Future Leaders Camp

Week 3

14 – 16 May NAPLAN Testing
17 May    NAPLAN Catch-up

11th April 2013

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Attendance data collected will be added to the new points house system. Newsletter 1 next term will detail this information.

Once again this is a great improvement and we are moving in the right direction. Thanks for all for the effort and hard work. The Term 2 Target is 88.5% or better.

Please note that Meningie Area School does not participate in the Woolworths Earn & Learn Promotion as we support our local businesses who work in partnership with us.

After what has been a long and busy Term 1 on behalf of staff, I hope all students and families have a great break and quality time together. We look forward to seeing all our students back on Monday 29th April ready to get back in to the teaching and learning.

Monica Williams (Principal)

END OF TERM ONE

Tomorrow is the last day of Term 1. School finishes at 2.20pm and buses will depart at 2.30 pm.

There will be a whole school assembly in the Hall from 12.15 pm which parents and carers are welcome to attend.

Reports for Middle and Senior school students will be sent home tomorrow. If your child is absent you may choose to collect their report from the library during the school holidays or, alternatively, it will be sent home with your child at the start of Term 2 which commences on Monday 29th April.

Size 10 and Size S shorts $22.00 each are now available from the bookroom.

LIBRARY NEWS

About 30 students took advantage of the offer of a free library bag when borrowing Premier’s Reading Challenge books. The library had a banner promoting the PRC (see picture) and encourages all students to engage this year in reading 12 books before 6th September. When the books are read and forms are complete students can put their name and favourite book on a laminated gumleaf which will be fixed to one of the trees on the end panels in the Library.

Bernie Ryan (Teacher/Librarian)

For the information of all library patrons, the direct phone number for the library is 85 751681, however calls can still be made through the school.

STILL MISSING!

408 Junior Primary READERS!

Do your children have any readers at home from the previous 5 years? Get the children on a reader hunt in the holidays.

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!!

CONNECTING SPIRITS 2014

Planning is about to begin for the Connecting Spirits trip at the end of next year. I will be holding an information evening for interested Year 9, 10 and 11 students who may wish to take part early next term, so keep your eyes out for information about that!!.
WORLD HARMONY HARMONY DAY – EVERYONE BELONGS

The R-7 students enjoyed activities and learning some information about 4 of the six countries that the staff provided for the students. Mr Oliver made American Happy Sacks, Mrs Wright made German friendship bracelets with Merlie, Miss Giles made islands and flowers of the Torres Strait Islands, Mrs Starling played Japanese games, Mrs Woolston made New Zealand flags and Miss Wilamowski wrote names using Egyptian hieroglyphics.

Students ate mostly orange coloured fruit, rockmelon, oranges and dried apricots. Orange is the chosen colour to represent World Harmony Day.

The year 4, 5, 6 and 7 choir finished the day by beautifully singing ‘We all stand together’.

INTERSCHOOL ATHLETICS

The 2013 USE Interschool Athletics Carnival was held in near-perfect conditions at Coomandook Area School on Wednesday 20th March. Students from Meningie, Coomandook/Coonalpyn, Tintinara/Karoonda and Keith competed.

Meningie had a reasonable participation rate with most of the students who were selected in the Meningie team turning up and competing on the day. Keith were the winners on the day. Final results are as follows:

There were some outstanding individual performances on the day, with several students achieving one or more first placing’s. As a result of their performances at the Interschool Competition, several Meningie students from Years 8-12 were chosen in the USE team to compete at Santos Stadium in the SSSSA E-Grade Championships. Disappointingly, only 3 of the selected 7 students turned up to represent Meningie Area School at Santos Stadium on the day. These students were: Kenny Richards, Alana Standley and Hank Trevorrow. These students who competed represented Meningie in outstanding fashion, taking first, second or third placing’s. The Upper South East team finished 1st Overall on the day: 1st in the Girls division and 4th in the Boys – an amazing effort from all of the competitors.

An enormous thank you to all the staff, parents and teachers who helped officiate at the Interschool Athletics Carnival at Coomandook.

Jack Rowe (HPE teacher)
**ANZAC DAY**

Anzac Day falls during the school holidays once again. While we won’t be holding an Anzac Day assembly, we would love to see as many of our students as possible attend the Dawn Service here at Meningie, or if you are away, why not find out where the nearest one to where you are staying will be held. This is an important day in the calendar for Australians and the dawn Service is a fitting way to remember all of those who have served or are serving in our military services.

**CHOIR**

Choir has started for 2013! We have started practising for the Festival Theatre and, for the first time for Meningie, the Murraylands Festival in Murray Bridge in Term 4.

Students from Years 4, 5, 6 and 7 are part of the choir. Year 4 students will have the opportunity to join in with the performance in Murray Bridge. All of the students who practise from Years 5, 6 and 7 will be able to perform in Murray Bridge, with 9 students being chosen to be part of the Festival Of Music in the Festival Theatre at the end of Term 3.

The songs are great and we are having a good time rehearsing them.

This week we had our assessment day with Ms Deb Hepworth coming from Adelaide. We did well and found some aspects that we can improve. Keep up the good work!

*Mrs Wright (Choir Teacher)*

**COOL FOR KIDS**

Last Friday, the R-3 children from Meningie Area School, Raukkan Aboriginal School, and several of the children from Meningie Kindergarten gathered in the hall to see Cool for Kids, a fabulous performance designed to get these students, moving, dancing and singing.

Several students wowed their classmates and teachers; standing up in front of a packed audience and letting their inner rock star shine. The students all met Cool Bear and had a fantastic time singing and dancing along with him.

**THE RRITJARUKAR CHOIR & DANCE GROUP**

(Rritjarukar means Willy-wag tails in the Ngarrindjeri Language)

Some of you may know that there are a number of Aboriginal Students and Staff here at Meningie Area School who are part of the Rritjarukar Choir and Dance Group. The Ngarrindjeri group sing entirely in the Ngarrindjeri Language and have 15 adults and 29 children performers. This term the Rritjarukar have been busy performing at a number of well-known Events around the Region and Adelaide. These included: The Spirit Festival which was a part of the Adelaide Fringe Festival, Blak Nite Youth Festival in Adelaide and The Wooden Boat Festival in Goolwa.

Some performances In previous years have been at the Just Too Deadly Awards, Raukkan Festival, opening at Meningie Area School, a number of Flag Raisings for NAIDOC week, Goolwa Kumawuki Conference and more. All involved are proud to be part of the Group and keeping the Ngarrindjeri Language alive through Song and Dance. The Group hopes to perform again at the Meningie Area School in the near future. Well Done!!

The performers from Meningie Area School:


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CHANGES ON THE BUSES
As of the beginning of next term there will be a new bus company servicing the Ashville and Field bus runs that bring students to school each morning and take them home again at night.

For almost 20 years, Lakes Coaches, owned by John and Lorraine Rowe, has provided at least one of our school bus runs. John has decided that the time was right to make a change and to give up these runs. The new tenders for the 2 bus runs are set to be decided in the next few months. In the interim, Stones from Keith will be supplying the buses to maintain these two services.

We wish to thank John and Lorraine for their many years of excellent service and wish them well in their future endeavours. Thanks must also go to Peter and Margaret Stone for taking on these runs in the short term.

Carol Edwards has also decided that the time has come and has resigned from her role driving the Ashville bus. Carol has been driving school buses at Meningie Area School for over 15 years and her presence will be sadly missed. She drove her final trip last Friday and the families of the Ashville run gave her a fitting farewell. Good luck Carol!!!

YEAR 3/4 TECHNOLOGY
We made coconut jelly balls for Easter in Technology with Mrs Giles class. You might like to try this recipe in the holidays.

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Coconut Jelly Balls

1 packet of jelly crystals
100 grams coconut
1 tin of condensed milk

Step 1: Mix all the ingredients together.
Step 2: Place the mixture in the fridge for 30 minutes.
Step 3: Roll the mixture into balls.
Step 4: Store the balls in the fridge.

by Aaron Clarke (Yr 4)
TERM 1 AVERAGE STUDENT ATTENDANCE FOR WEEKS 1 TO 10 WAS 86.59% : BRILLIANT – ON TRACK!

NET SET GO PROGRAM

Net-Set Go is back for 2013!
Starts Thursday Week 1, Term 2 (2/5/2013).
Registration at the First Session from 3:45pm at the Meningie Netball Courts.
Open to girls from 4 years old.
$60.00 per Child

VIP CLASS VISIT TO RAUKKAN

On the 25th of March the VIP class left about 11:00am and went to Raukkan, to have a look at the vegetable patch and listen about the Raukkan history and Mr. Walker's work expectations.

When we first got there we went to the Raukkan office to meet up with Mr. Walker. He spoke about a very important person named George Taplin, who used to stay/live under a tree in front of the Raukkan shop, now it's a monument with his name engraved on it.

We went into the shop and met a young man named Neil, who runs the shop and teaches about five other staff members that work there now and then. He makes sure the shop is stocked up and very clean for customers.

After that we went over to the nursery and had a look at all the native Australian plants they propagate and stock. We learned that this year they have grown round about 55,000. We also spoke to two rangers that also propagate and grow native plants; their names were Jodie Long and Richard Walker. They spoke to us about what they do as workers in the community and how to grow and propagate the plants.

When we finished looking at all the amazing plants, we went on another walk to the gallery to have a look at all the Ngarrindjeri stories and pictures they have up in the gallery, also all the different cultures and about what happened back in the day. After looking through the gallery we went and had a look at the church, Mr. Walker spoke about how the church was built, what it was used for and also how much it cost to run and renovate it.

After that we all went back to the Raukkan shop and had some lunch; we also spoke to a few people that were going pass. We kicked the ball and enjoyed being outside.

Later, we went for a big walk to Big Hill, it’s close to the Tinnigie Wetlands. Its a big outback area to sit, and a special Ngarrindjeri place where all the elder aboriginals used to live and catch fish back in the day. We could see the other side of the lake, also a very great view.

We then returned to Raukkan through the bush. Some of the class mates went through the trees and some just followed the trail. As we got into Raukkan it was time for the VIP class to go home. We also thanked Mr. Walker and Mr. Sumner for giving their time up to speak to the VIP class.

I enjoyed myself very much, and also being the leader and leading the way up the Big Hill. We went for a lot of walks, but it was worth it showing my classmates and teachers what it’s like to be on the Raukkan Mission.

Shania Weetra – Year 9

Yesterday the VIP class drove down to Raukkan for a tour. We learnt about Mr Walker’s work expectations, and Raukkan’s history.

When our VIP class got to Raukkan we met Mr Walker at the front of the shop.

Then we headed inside the shop and met the shopkeeper Neil. He was talking about what he does in the shop, for example that he teaches other how to work the machines and other things.

Then after that, Mr Walker took us to the nursery where we met Richard and Jodie. They talked about the propagation of the native plants. After
they finished talking about the native plants they let us have a look around.

After the nursery we went to the Raukkan gallery, Mr Walker talked about how the building they made into a gallery used to be the first building in Raukkan and that they were going to knock down the building but they decided to rebuild the building and make it into a gallery. After we finished talking about the building we had a look around.

Then we headed towards the church, we had a look around inside. Then we sat down at the front of the church and Mr Walker started talking about his businesses and work expectation.

After our tour we went back down to the shop and had lunch. My little brother PJ came over and started kicking a ball with some of the boys in my class. After we had our lunch we all decided to go for a walk up to the cliffs. My little brother asked to come for a walk, they end up letting him come with us. When we finished our walk, the students who live in Raukkan were allowed to stay, but unfortunately the students who lived in Meningie had to go back on the school bus. It was a pretty good day I enjoyed it.

The End

Chyanne Shaw – Year 10

On the 25th March the VIP class went on a trip to Raukkan to look at the nursery, the gallery, the church, the lookout and to meet Mr Walker and Mr Sumner who were telling us about their businesses and work expectations.

We caught the bus to the council office and dropped our school bags off at the nursery office. Then we went to the front of the shop and met Mr Walker who was telling us what we were going to do and see today. Two minutes after that we went into the shop and met Neil. Neil was telling us about his job and about how he keeps it running. Then Mr Sumner came in and we started to walk to the nursery. Mr Walker left us with Jodie Long and Richie Walker. They were telling us about the nursery and how to run it. They also said how many plants there were. There were over 55000 plants in the nursery. It didn’t even look like it. Then we were allowed to go and look at them. We took lots of pictures but it started to get boring so we started to walk up to the gallery with Mr Sumner, who was talking about the building and how it was the first one ever built in Raukkan. He asked us if we wanted to go and have a look inside. We didn’t answer him. We just walked in. It was pretty funny because as soon as I started to walk in I ran straight behind the back desk and my friends started laughing. There were lots of old things in the gallery. It was interesting.

After that it was about an hour before lunch so we decided to visit the church. As we were walking up to the church, Shania almost fell which was very funny. We finally got to the church and Mr Walker was talking about the man on the 50 dollar note; David Unaipon, who built the church and that’s why he is on it. Mr Walker started to tell us some scary stories about the church.

Then we walked out and it was time for lunch. We started walking down the road again to the shop to have some lunch. After lunch we were playing with my little brother Peter. Then Miss Palka asked Shania about the lookout and how long the walk is. Shania said 15 minutes and Miss Palka said “Oh okay, let’s start walking!” We started to walk up to the lookout. It was beautiful. Then we took a shortcut back through all these trees. My day at Raukkan was pretty fun.

Wanda Shaw – Year 9

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.

Thanking you in anticipation of your understanding and support of this.
bored these Autumn school holidays?  

term 1 average student attendance for weeks 1 to 10 was 86.59% : brilliant – on track!

bored these Autumn school holidays?

holiday program

is the answer

The Station
3-5 Railway Tce
call headspace for enquiries

These school holidays, beat the boredom with Murraylands headspace and The Station at their Autumn School Holiday Program.

Come along weekdays, between 1pm and 4:30pm, to enjoy air hockey, pool games, movies and popcorn, board games, art and crafts, computers or just chill with mates.

Fully supervised and open to anyone 12 years and over.

For other children under the age of 12 years adult carer supervision is required.

headspace
Murraylands

THE STATION youth centre