



Government
of South Australia
Department for Education
and Child Development

MENINGIE AREA SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL: Ms Monica Williams
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL: Mr Mal Jurgs
SENIOR SCHOOL COORDINATOR: Ms Kathryn Hese
MIDDLE SCHOOL COORDINATOR: Ms Kathy Quinn



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NEWSLETTER 3 28th February 2014

www.meningieas.sa.edu.au

TERM 1

Week 6	
6 th March	Library Board Meeting
6 th – 8 th March	Regional Team Sailing at Kangaroo Island
7 th March	STUDENT FREE DAY
Week 7	
10 th March	ADELAIDE CUP PUBLIC HOLIDAY
11 th March	School Captains' Induction Assembly 10.40 am
12 th March	MAS Athletics Day at Town Oval
Week 8	
17 th March	Governing Council AGM 7.30 pm

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



As we approach the half way mark in the term, it is a good time to reflect on how we are going. Classes are well settled and the learning is moving ahead. Students with identified support needs are working with support personnel in class and on intervention programs as determined by their individual needs and learning plan.

Students in Year 5 have been matched up with their instrument and lessons are in the beginning stages. The Band is off to a flying start and it is fantastic to see the commitment students have made to being involved. The in-school swimming program is coming to an end as are events associated with this sport, including the recent Interschool Swimming Carnival held at Coonalpyn last Wednesday.

Many classes have begun an Athletics Program through their Health & PE in preparation for the Meningie Athletics Day to be held on Wednesday 12th March. The running of both the 800 metres and 1500 metres races will be held on the school oval over the next two weeks as these events are too lengthy to hold on the day.

Yard Rubbish

We have implemented a regular yard clean up strategy to reduce both the amount of litter, as well as detract the seagulls that hang around for food scraps and make an incredible mess around the school.

Old habits are hard to change. Watching students just drop wrappers, empty containers, plastic wrap and commercial food packaging without thinking is the mindset we are trying to change. I hope that by the end of term it will be automatic; that all students use one of the 30 or so bins we have strategically placed around the school.

At the moment however, we have embarked on a scheduled daily clean up, with 5 minutes of playtime being taken up to make it happen. No one likes cleaning up rubbish that someone else has left, but we are seeing some improvement. We seek your support in this. Maybe it is possible to reduce packaging by using named plastic containers that can be used more than once with lunch and recess that is sent to school.

Of course talking with your child/ children about the problem of litter in a school environment would be very much appreciated.

Attendance

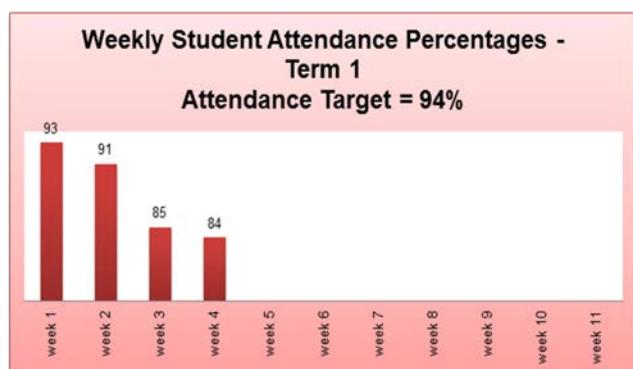
DECD student attendance target for 2014 is 94%. There is no doubt that we made a great start with attendance in the first two weeks of the school year. However, the data for this fortnight across the school is not as good.

To be on target of 94% across the school every week means that every student needs to be here at school daily, unless ill or for a very good reason.

Of real importance for every student is consistent and regular attendance. There are just so many positives about regular attendance. In the classroom this means that the learning is not being missed. That the practice of new skills is being reinforced and foundations for new learning are being cemented. Perhaps one area we as adults don't always think about is the development of peer friendships and relationships with both other students and teachers. For these to happen it takes time.

To get to know, trust and appreciate others means spending time together. Schools are set up for this to happen. Recess and Lunch times are good examples of where relationships are developed, but by no means the only occasions.

Learning opportunities in class, through Pastoral Care, on camps and excursions are just some of the situations in which students, peers and staff get to know each other. Our data over the years often shows that the attendance of students has an enormous impact on a student's educational outcomes and achievements.



Governing Council AGM

The Governing Council is about to hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM), so now is a great time to join.

The Council really welcomes parents and caregivers to join, as input from families is so valuable and vital in the governance of the school.

Governing Council meets 2 or 3 times a term, scheduled on a Monday night in the school staff room.

In its role, Governing Council is responsible for the budget, makes decisions about a whole range of things such as the school playgrounds, the management of the school pool, bus matters, uniforms, school events and projects and various policies and procedures within its power.

We welcome your involvement in Governing Council and ask that you give it your consideration for 2014.

Information letters and nomination forms have been sent home with parents, but are also available from front office.

Nominations are to be returned to Meningie Area School by Friday 14th March.

Thanking you in anticipation of your support.

Induction of Meningie Area School Captains/ Vice Captains

On Tuesday 11th March at 10.40 am, the 2014 School Captains and Vice Captains will be inducted at an Assembly in the school gym. At the assembly they will be presented with their badges, and recite the Oath. At the conclusion, along with invited guests, they will attend morning tea in the Library. All parents and caregivers are welcome to attend the assembly. If you would like to stay on for morning tea please contact Sharon at the front office by Thursday 6th March for catering purposes.

The Captains/Vice Captains have had their first meeting for the year. At that meeting they worked on the wording for their oath, discussed expectations, agreed on a meeting schedule and looked at the tasks that are to be carried out this term.

Student Free Day

Just a reminder that the school will be closed on Friday 7th March as staff will be engaged in Training and Development with the Coorong/Mallee cluster at Karoonda Area School.



Much of the learning on that day will be about the Australian Curriculum and the teaching strategies to support implementation of new areas of study. This day is the first of 4 such days to be held this year as is a requirement of DECD.

New Education Director Visit

Last Thursday 20th February, Frank Mittiga, Education Director for the Coorong/ Mallee Partnership made a visit to the school. Being new to the job and the area he was keen to have a look at the school and made time to speak with staff and students alike. He was impressed with the look of the school. He mentioned that it had a good feel and was jealous of the location and view.

Frank will be back throughout the year, and will spend more time looking at our Site Improvement Plan priorities and the strategies that we are using to get there.

In particular this will include:

- Attendance
- Numeracy & Literacy
- Student engagement
- Intervention and use of data to improve learning outcomes
- Senior schooling and authentic career pathways.
- Australian Curriculum implementation and reporting to parents

Meningie Area School Athletics Day

Information for parents and caregivers:

- Date: Wednesday 12th March
8.40am – 3.15pm (approx.)
- All students R-12 are expected to attend and participate. This is a school day. Any absence requires a parent signed note in the diary.
- Bus students will be dropped at the oval and will leave from the oval in the afternoon.
- Junior School events located in the Netball Court area 9-11am (approx.)
- Junior School students bussed back to school at conclusion of their program.
- Bus drivers will pick Junior School students up from the school at 3.30pm (approx.) before leaving on their regular schedule.
- Catering coordinated by Meningie Football Club.
- Car parking in the Pony Club grounds. Only authorised vehicles inside oval grounds.
- Presentations at conclusion of competition.
- Students are expected to remain with class level chaperone throughout the day.



Parents and Caregivers
are invited to attend the
Formal Induction Assembly
of the School Captains,
followed by morning tea with the
Captains and staff
in the Community Library.

When: Tuesday 11th March 2014

Time: 10.40 am

Where: Assembly - Hall

Morning Tea: Library

**R.S.V.P to the Front Office by Thursday 6th March
Phone 85 751106**

BILLABONG PRANK 2014 PRODUCTION



Yes! 2014 is the year for production.

Following the great success of Kidsummer Night's Dream two years ago, our biannual school production is on.

The year 6 and 7 students auditioned this week and are looking forward to finding out what part/parts they will be playing or the roles they will be playing as part of their work in Production.

The performances are planned for the end of Term 2 - week 10: Dress rehearsal Monday 30/6/14 and two evening performances; Tuesday, 1/7/2014 and Wednesday 2/7/2014.

If you have anything that you think we could use for props, etc for our Australian play, please contact us at school.

Anne Wright, Elyssa Kreher, Anyupa Giles, Denice Mason

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC & BAND



Once again, we welcome back Mr Peter Longden and Mr Rod Williams as our music teachers for 2014.

Mr Longden teaches woodwind: flute and clarinet, and Mr Williams teaches brass: trumpet and trombone.

Students in year 5 have started their lessons and have their band time from 9:30 – 10 am each Tuesday.

Students who have chosen to continue learning from Years 6 - 10 have band from 9 – 9:30 am and have another lesson during the morning. We encourage students to act responsibly and spend time practicing.

Each band has teacher support from the school. Mrs Wright is supporting the year 4/5 group and Mrs Kreher is helping with the older students. We are working hard to ensure that

the students get the best value out of their lessons and band time, so some students will be asked to improve their commitment to their work in order to improve the outcomes for everybody.

Our program at Meningie Area School is unique and very worthwhile.

During the year our students will be having the opportunity to perform as part of a combined band in Murray Bridge with Adam Page and they will also be performing locally.

The program is free of charge and the students are improving year by year.

Anne Wright and Elyssa Kreher

CHOIR

Meningie Area School is part of the Adelaide and Murraylands Festival of Music for 2014.



Students from Year 5-7 are eligible to be part of choir for Adelaide.

The performance will be at the end of term 3 at the Festival Theatre. Our school has 17 places and some additional students could be part of a Murraylands row on the same night.

Students from Year 4-7 are eligible to be part of the Murraylands Music Festival held in the Murray Bridge Town Hall in Term 4.

The choir books are here and students who have expressed an interest have their books and cds.

Ask your child about their choices in choir, so that you know whether they are interested in being part of this great event.

If you have any questions about this can you please catch up with me at school.

Anne Wright, Choir teacher

INTERSCHOOL SWIMMING



Congratulations! to the following students who participated as part of the Meningie Area School Interschool swimming team at the recent Upper South East (USE) Interschool Swimming Carnival held on Wednesday 19th February at the Coonalpyn pool:

Lucy Catlin, Brendan Kartinyeri, Jace Ridley, Coen Pearson, Thomas Pearson, Lachlan Brooks, Meaghan Lewis, Chelsea Swan, Millie Treloar, Jessica Turner, Phoebe Kartinyeri, Tiarnie Ling, Ben Schaefer, Charlotte Treloar, Henry Turner, Noah Gubbin, Riley McNicol, Sheniqua Shaw, Chelsea Thurston, Ronnelle Clarke, Skyeisha Rigney, Dylan Gubbin, Daniel Bland, Kobie Hood, Jai Ling, Gena Mansfield, Tom Schaefer, Lachlan Brown, Harrison Tiver, Holly Vandenbrink, Aleisha Williams, Jessie Bland, Dale Appelkamp, Brad Promnitz and Zac Vandenbrink

A big **thankyou** to the staff and parents/carers who helped on the day (Kirsty Ridley, Sally Schaefer, Jeremy Pearson, Sharon Thurston, Mel Catlin, Judy Appelkamp, Wendy van Den Brink, Maureen Lewis, Elyssa Kreher and Mel Treloar) and to the school captains who organized the students and kept them focused.

Also, well done to the students who swam in events in higher age groups, or filled events with no competitor. Your team spirit of 'every point counts' is to be commended.

We were successful in bringing home the Intermediate pennant and finished second overall, however, we could have perhaps won the handicap shield if there had been more participation by our senior school students. *Something to think about for 2015 Senior students!*

Swimmer of the meet:

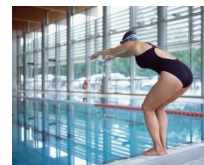
Ben Schaefer – Winner Sub Junior boys
Kobie Hood - Runner Up Intermediate boys
Holly van den Brink - Runner Up Senior girls
Zac van den Brink - Winner Senior boys

Katrina Hood, MAS USE Rep.

SAPSASA SWIMMING

On Monday 24th February, Chelsea Thurston, Sheniqua Shaw, Phoebe Kartinyeri, Charlotte Treloar, Chelsea Swan, Ben Schaefer, Henry Turner & Tom Schaefer travelled to Lameroo to participate in the Murray Mallee SAPSASA swimming trials. Whilst all students swam well, Tom, Ben, Henry & Chelsea Thurston were selected in the team and will now compete at the SAPSASA Country Championships on Friday 21st March at the SA Aquatics & Leisure Centre (Marion). There are 19 districts competing at the Country Championships so **Good luck swimmers!**

We look forward to hearing about your performances.



USE SWIMMING

Congratulations Aleisha Williams, Kobie Hood, Lachlan Brown, Holly and Zac VandenBrink on your selection in the Upper South East (USE) swimming team! All had excellent performances at the SA Aquatics & Leisure pool (Marion) yesterday (26th Feb) with the following students gaining place certificates which will be presented to them at a later assembly.

Kobie Hood 3rd
U14 Boys 50m Breaststroke Div 1

Holly VandenBrink 1st
U15 Girls 50m Freestyle Div 2
3rd
U15 Girls 50m Backstroke Div 1
3rd
Open Girls 100m Freestyle Div 2

Zac VandenBrink 1st
Open Boys 100m Freestyle Div 1
1st
Open Boys 50m Freestyle Div 1
1st
Open Boys 50m Butterfly Div 1
1st

Open Boys 50m Backstroke Div 1
Both the girls and the boys teams finished 2nd, and our combined scores gave the USE team overall first place. A fantastic achievement. Well Done!

	Boys		Combined		Girls		
1st	Glossop	639	USE	1206	Clare	666	1st
2nd	USE	626	Glossop	1191	USE	580	2nd
3rd	Endeavour	599	Renmark	1132	Glossop	552	3rd
4th	Renmark	580	Clare	1101	Renmark	552	4th
5th	Waikerie	574	Endeavour	1077	Endeavour	478	5th
6th	Concordia	549	Concordia	1002	Unley	461	6th
7th	Clare	435	Waikerie	916	Concordia	453	7th
8th	Woodcroft	282	Unley	673	St Francis	430	8th
9th	Unley	212	Woodcroft	612	Waikerie	342	9th
10th	St Francis	177	St Francis	607	Woodcroft	330	10th

SA excellence in public education awards

Nominations are now open for the 2014 SA Excellence in Public Education Awards.

For the first time, 2014 will see nominations opened up to all DECD employees; recognising and rewarding the outstanding contributions made by teachers, leaders, support staff and also corporate and services staff from across the state.

Don't miss your chance to nominate an outstanding education professional, care or child protection worker within DECD to recognise and reward their dedicated and inspirational contribution to young South Australians.

To nominate an employee at your school, preschool or corporate office go to: www.decd.sa.gov.au/teachingawards. Nomination Forms are also available from your school.

Like is on Facebook and follow the progress of the Awards:

www.facebook.com/SATeachingAwards.

NOMINATIONS CLOSE 5PM THURSDAY 10 APRIL 2014.

For further information contact the Awards team on 8226 3079 or email DECD.Recognition@sa.gov.au

TAX FILE NUMBER APPLICATIONS

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO), with the cooperation of schools, offers students aged 13 years or over the opportunity to apply for a tax file number (TFN) through school. This is a voluntary program and makes it easier for students to obtain a TFN.

It takes up to 4 weeks to process an application. Students will receive their TFN via a notification letter sent to their postal address, within 28 days of the application being received by the ATO.

Please see the front office if you would like an application form.

If you have any questions, please phone **13 28 69** between 8.00 am and 6.00 pm, Monday to Friday and ask for the Community Education and Assistance area.

LOST PROPERTY

There were numerous items left at the Coonalpyn Pool at the MAS Swimming Carnival which can be collected from lost property or 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 pair Size 10 black shorts
- 1 Medium navy blue T shirt

There is also a pair of red goggles and a black purse with gold spots from the Interschool Swimming Carnival.

Also in lost property are the following items:

- 2 purple towels of different shades
- 1 Size 10 Black Hooded Jacket
- 1 purple and green lunch box
- 1 blue and green lunch bag with drink bottle.

Some of these items have been here since last year.



ABBEY'S UPDATE

Hola! – That's Hello in Spanish.

There are a lot of Spanish/Mexican people in the area and they make up just under half of the population at school. Before coming here I had never had Mexican food and now we have it quite often throughout the week. America is definitely a cultural soup - lots of cultures mixed together!

Host families come in all different shapes and sizes and mine is quite large. There is Tony the dad, Mariya the mum then Hannah, Zach, Sam, Keegan and another exchange student from South Korea called Derek. However, Hannah and Zach are older and do not live at home anymore but they visit frequently.

Ice skating on the 9th was really fun - I didn't even stick it, and it was great to catch up with all the other exchange students.



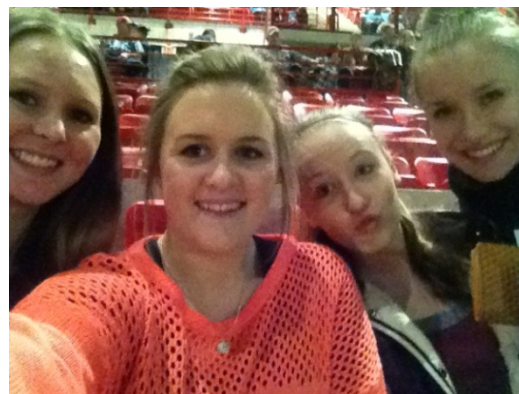
Ice Skating

On the 14th I went out to tea with my friends Jenny and Toni for Valentine's Day because over here it is celebrated whether you are in a relationship or not.



Valentine's Dinner

Then on the 15th I went to my very first Ice Hockey game with some friends. This was great fun even though I didn't understand the rules and I had a hard time following the puck around as it was so small. Ice hockey is actually quite violent as they slam each other into the side guards. No wonder they have so much padding on.



At the Ice Hockey game

This weekend just gone I went to the Wichita Falls Home and Gardens Show in downtown Wichita Falls, where we attempted to get potential host families for the 2014/2015 semesters. While here we were also able to look around at the other booths where I received a bunch of free stuff. My host mum Mariya even won a free tv!

Last week at school we had a tornado drill where we all had to go into the hallway, sit down and cover our heads. Whilst the drill was fun, I'm sure if there were a real tornado it would be pretty scary!



Tornado Drill

This weekend our exchange group is going on a shopping trip to the Grapevine Mills Mall which is located just out of Dallas and apparently is huge. I'm hoping to snap up a few bargains without spending too much money! It will be the perfect opportunity to find a dress for prom which I am really excited about, considering I will miss my senior formal at Meningie.

I heard about Swimming Carnival and Interschool results and just want to say congratulations to everyone who put in the effort and participated with great school spirit. Go Kungari! Also I just want to shout out to SSSSA & SAPSASA swimmers, I hope you swim some PB's and good luck team sailors competing in Kangaroo Island next week.

Thanks, Abbey Hood

TERM 1 PLANNER

An updated version of the Term 1 Planner is included in this newsletter.

Please note the change of date for the Interschool Athletics Carnival.

Do you have a child in year 4, 5 or 6?

Have you missed out on thousands of dollars?

In 2001 the Government introduced the 'First Child Tax Offset' and surprisingly many Australians did not know about it and have NOT claimed any benefits.

If you have **ANY** child that was born between **1 July 2001 and 30 June 2004** you may be eligible to receive up to \$12,500 of entitlements.

The government has a 30 June 2014 deadline on this entitlement so please email childoffset@twelve.com.au today to receive more information.

**ACT NOW!
DEADLINE
JUNE 2014**

Twelve Chartered Accountants ABN 61 712 659 747
www.twelve.com.au Principal: Derek Nolan CA

twelve
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Your Family Tax Specialist

MAKE IT A FRESH SNACK - THEY WON'T COST THE EARTH...

Litter-free lunchbox snacks don't leave any rubbish behind so they're great for the environment and great for healthy kids!

The top unpackaged lunchbox snacks for kids are:

1. Plain popcorn (for school age children only) packed in a recyclable paper bag.
2. Fruits in their own edible wrapper like apples, nectarines, plums and peaches.
3. Fruit to peel like banana, pineapple, rockmelon and watermelon
4. Vegies in their own wrapper – wash thoroughly and cut into sticks for kids to crunch. Serve up carrots, celery and capsicum served with a tasty dip or cubes of reduced-fat cheese.
5. Reduced-fat yoghurt packed in a reusable container.
6. Pieces of reduced-fat cheese and grainy crackers packed in a mini snack box that can be washed and reused.
7. Homemade mini fruit muffin wrapped in greaseproof paper.

For more fresh snack ideas visit opal.sa.gov.au





Centacare



‘WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH’ STRENGTHENING CARERS AROUND FAMILY WELLBEING

VENUE: Meningie Uniting Church Hall

DATES: Friday 28th February, Friday 7th March, Thursday 13th March
and Friday 21st March 2014.

TIMES: 10.30- 1.30 pm

COST: FREE /gold coin donation to cover lunch

FACILITATORS: Colleen Haskett and Helen Mollenhagen

SESSION ONE: Friday, 28th February

- o Mental Illness- Myths, Stigma ,Acceptance and Understanding
- o Caring for family members/friends who have a mental illness.
- o What are the challenges around caring?
- o Stress and Carers-How can carer's look after their own well-being?

SESSION TWO: Friday, 7th March

- o Mental Illness in families
- o Recognising early warning signs of mental illness
- o Understanding suicide and self-harm
- o Developing an early intervention plan

SESSION THREE: Thursday, 13th March

- o Communication skills for carers.
- o Developing a personal stress management plan.

SESSION FOUR: Friday, 21st March

- o Community Mental Health Services and Resources for Carers- Panel of community speakers - questions and discussion - where to from here?
- o Program evaluation and feedback

FOR BOOKINGS PLEASE CALL CENTACARE MURRAY BRIDGE: 85318888

WK	DATE	DAY	MEETINGS	PLANNED EVENTS
1	27 Jan	Mon		AUSTRALIA DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY
	28	Tues	General Staff 3.35 pm	
	29	Wed		
	30	Thurs	Leaders' Meeting 9.30 am	
	31	Fri		Newsletter
2	3 Feb	Mon		
	4	Tues	Sub Schools/PLC's 3.35 pm	
	5	Wed		
	6	Thurs	Leaders' Meeting 9.30 am	Parent/Staff BBQ evening 5.30 to 7.00 pm
	7	Fri		Senior First Aid (All Year 10's)
3	10	Mon		MAS Swimming Carnival at Coonalpyn
	11	Tues	General Staff 3.35 pm	United Nations Youth Australia visit – Year 9/10 SOSE
	12	Wed	NAPLAN meeting 3.40 pm	
	13	Thurs	Leaders' Meeting 9.30 am	
	14	Fri		Newsletter
4	17	Mon	Resources 7.30 pm Governing Council 8.00 pm	
	18	Tues	Sub Schools/PLC's 3.35 pm	
	19	Wed		USE Interschool Swimming Carnival at Coonalpyn
	20	Thurs	Leaders' Meeting 9.30 am	
	21	Fri		
5	24	Mon		SCHOOL PHOTOS SAPSASA Swimming Trials at Lameroo
	25	Tues	General Staff 3.35 pm	
	26	Wed		SSSSA D Grade Swimming Carnival
	27	Thurs	Leaders' Meeting 9.30 am	
	28	Fri		Newsletter
6	3 Mar	Mon		
	4	Tues	Sub Schools/PLC's 3.35 pm	
	5	Wed		
	6	Thurs	Leaders' Meeting 9.30 am Library Board Meeting 4pm	Regional Team Sailing at Kangaroo Island
	7	Fri		STUDENT FREE DAY – Staff T&D
	8	Sat		
7	10	Mon		ADELAIDE CUP - PUBLIC HOLIDAY
	11	Tues	General Staff 3.35 pm	Captains' Induction Assembly 10.40 am
	12	Wed		MAS Athletics Day
	13	Thurs	Leaders' Meeting 9.30 am	
	14	Fri		Newsletter
8	17	Mon	ONLINE TESTING WEEK	GOVERNING COUNCIL AGM 7.30 pm
	18	Tues	Sub Schools/PLC's 3.35 pm	Asthma T&D for staff 3.30 – 4.30 pm
	19	Wed		IMMUNISATIONS
	20	Thurs	Leaders' Meeting 9.30 am	
	21	Fri		HARMONY DAY SAPSASA Country Swimming Championships in Adelaide
9	24	Mon		
	25	Tues		PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE: Interschool Athletics Carnival at Meningie (not Monday 24 th March)
	26	Wed		
	27	Thurs	Leaders' Meeting 9.30 am	
	28	Fri		Newsletter
10	31	Mon		Choir Assessment Day
	1 Apr	Tues	General Staff 3.35 pm	
	2	Wed		
	3	Thurs	Leaders' Meeting 9.30 am	
	4	Fri		SSSSA E Grade Athletics at SANTOS Stadium
11	7	Mon		
	8	Tues	Sub Schools/PLC's 3.35 pm	
	9	Wed		
	10	Thurs	Leaders' Meeting 9.30 am	'Phunckional Drama Group' Yrs 8-10 Cyberbullying & Sexting
	11	Fri		Newsletter
				Last day of Term 1 School finishes 2.20 pm Buses depart 2.30 pm