This week brings us to the end of Term 3, and yet another busy week. As you will be aware from information in previous Newsletters, this week our site engaged in an External Review. The main aim of the review was for the team of reviewers, Liz Matheson and Steve Freeman, to meet with a range of staff, students and parents across the school to look at how well our students are learning over time, how we know this and what evidence we have to show this. As well as meeting and discussing things with groups as mentioned, they looked at the data we collect as a site and that driven by the Education system.

It was a great opportunity for us to discuss our work, talk about the strategies we use to support students’ learning and celebrate the successes that our data shows. Equally, we were able to talk about some of the challenges that we face as a community, and the impact that this has on our students and their learning.

As part of the process, recommendations will be made to more strategically direct our attention, and be included in a report. Rather than see the process as a negative, it is a wonderful opportunity to have our work more closely analysed as we strive to improve learning outcomes for all of our students.
PARTNERSHIP REVIEW

Last week our site was involved in the Coorong Mallee Partnership Review. This was held at Murray Bridge and involved all of the 16 school and pre-school sites from Pinnaroo to Tintinara, Raukkan to Karoonda and the Mallee sites in between. Just eighteen months into the partnership there were many positives and commendations made about how the partnership work well together, have common student free days where staff get together from all the sites for Training and Development and focus on common themes and issues. There were many questions relating to NAPLAN results, particularly about the percentage of students across the partnership in the higher bands for Numeracy and Reading. Data shows that whilst about 25% of students are in the higher bands in Year 3 and 5, by the time they get to Year 7 and 9 this has dropped away to about 12%. This trend is also evident in data across the state. This is a real challenge for our site, our partnership, and our state to address. Getting and keeping students engaged in their learning is no easy task. If it was we would not be challenged by it now. What is known is that keeping connected with school, building positive relationships with peers and teachers are really important for students to succeed, which then comes back to attendance. There is no doubt that attendance matters. Every day On site, In sight, On track.

REPORTS

Middle and Senior School reports go home this Friday with students. As we move toward the final term of the school year, it is timely to go through the information provided in your child/ren’s report/s over the holidays, look at where there are at and work on areas for improvement next term. Any reports not given out on Friday due to student absence will be left in the library for collection during the holidays.

ATTENDANCE

The attendance results this term were very pleasing, considering the rampant illness which has been around. We had 22 students with perfect attendance and 62 with near-perfect attendance. This is an amazing effort, and one which will hopefully be repeated or improved upon next term. I wish everyone an enjoyable holiday break and will see everyone refreshed and ready to face a very busy Term 4.

Monica Williams, Principal

![Student Attendance Percentages % for Term 3](chart.png)

DECD Target for 2015 = 94%
**Visit by Author & Illustrator of ‘Grandpa’s Hat’**

Grandpa’s Hat is the story of Jennywren and all her favourite animals, who help her discover that although her Grandpa is gone, he doesn’t have to be forgotten. This children’s book has been published by the National Association of Loss and Grief (NALAG) and aims to capture the interest of children and to help guide families through times of loss and grief.

The author, Jen Cowley, and the illustrator, Mark Horton, visited the year 1/2 and year 2/3 classes on Friday 18 September. This was a wonderful opportunity for the students to hear about some of the creative and practical processes involved in making a book. Jen and Mark answered the many questions the students had about what it is like to be an author and illustrator. They also shared some of their inspirations and their own personal experiences of managing grief, which lead to a number of interesting discussions with the students.

Some of the students’ comments on the visit:

This morning our class had two visitors, the author and the illustrator of Grandpa’s Hat. They talked to us about how the book was made and how long it took.  

**Mackenzie**

Jen and Mark came to our class and showed the book. Mark drew some of his pictures on the board. It was really cool to have real book writers in the classroom.  

**Tarsha**

I liked Mark’s pictures because Mark is good at drawing.  

**Aaron**

I felt happy when they came here. It was cool and I liked hearing about how to make a book. It was interesting to hear about how the girl in the story imagined the animals could talk and how the author also did that when she was a girl.  

**Peter**

I enjoyed it when Mark and Jen came in and we could ask questions about the book and talk about what we feel about the book.  

**Harmony**

It was good that they told us about how it can feel when someone dies, in a way we could understand. I liked how the kangaroo said “On summer days I think he’s here with me in the warm sunshine.”  

**Zoe**

I liked Mark’s picture on the whiteboard and also Jen and Mark were very kind.  

**Ella**

The visit was really great and to know that the story was about helping children to understand death and what it was like in the olden days.  

**Addison**

What I liked about today was when Mark and Jen came. They talked about Grandpa’s Hat and I liked looking at the pictures.  

**Guardxavier**


Beth Cowan (Year 2/3 Teacher)
Students with a GROWTH MINDSET are inspired by the greatness in others.

**SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**

**LIBRARY OPEN TO STUDENTS AND PUBLIC**

During the Holidays remember to visit the library as it is open as usual from 9 – 5 on weekdays (closed Mondays) and 10 – 1 Saturday.

Meningie School Community Library is now connected to the whole Public Library Network of South Australia and you can search, reserve and extend loans over the internet by logging onto the library website.


**Drop in to the library** and make use of the free wifi and new touch screen computers or just relax and read a book in a comfy chair. The library also has The Advertiser and a host of current issue magazines to browse. Loads of DVDs are also available to loan so if you are looking for something to do make sure you visit your local library over the school holidays.
**School Captains’ Report**

This term has now come to an end, and the School Captains would like to acknowledge everything that has transpired. Firstly, the Red Carpet social hosted by the year 6/7 class; a memorable evening with lots of fun activities and creative costumes. Congratulations and well done to everyone involved. The work paid off with an outcome of over $400 raised!

Early this term the PaCSS (Parent and Carers School Support) group contacted the Captains, inviting us to join their two meetings to gain a better understanding and have a representation for middle and senior school year levels. On behalf of the Captains, Abbey Hood and Jessie Bland attended the first PaCSS meeting for the term.

Also, we would like to recognise the noticeable change of the middle and senior school bathrooms. At the beginning of the year the Captains received complaints about the toilets and we addressed the issue by writing letters to the Governing Council, stating the problems and suggesting solutions. Toilet roll dispensers and toilet seats have been replaced and aromatic gels are now utilised to ensure fresh smelling facilities.

As the year 12 students complete their school work earlier in Term 4, the Vice Captains will act as Captains for the remainder of the school year.

The School Captains

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**WANTED!**

Mr Woolston desperately needs rags for Tech Studies. He will gladly take any donations. He also needs any types of wheels e.g. solid, bike, wheelbarrow, etc. These are required for the Year 5/6 Billy Carts. Any donations will be gratefully accepted.

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**FOR SALE:** 2014 School Magazines – only $10.00!! See the front office if interested.

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**Coonalpyn Show is coming!**

**Saturday October 17**

Members show books are out and we will place extra books in Coonalpyn and surrounding towns in the next week or so. All entry sections will also be on our website soon. [www.coonalpyshow.info](http://www.coonalpyshow.info)

Check out our special classes to win great cash prizes. There are lots of ways to win prizes in the pavilion for everyone. All Junior classes have prize money and trophies up for grabs, so think about your entries now. Don’t forget – everyone who enters anything in the pavilion goes into a draw for a $50 prize!

**ON THE DAY:**

- Landmark Schools Challenge
- Live Music
- Bungee Run and Giant Slide
- Climbing Wall
- OPAL Discovery Trail
- Mallee Stump Toss
- Light Horse Display
- Great Traders and Food!!

_Plan to come and spend the day with us!_
Students with a GROWTH MINDSET are inspired by the greatness in others.

WATER - THE ORIGINAL COOL DRINK

Soft drinks, fruit drinks, cordial, flavoured mineral waters, sports drinks, energy drinks and fruit juice all contain water. But they also contain sugar and sometimes caffeine, so they are not good choices for kids to have everyday.

If kids regularly drink these sugar sweetened drinks instead of water it may cause tooth decay and they could put on excess weight. So limit sweet drinks and choose water instead.

Water, as a drink is good for:

- Your teeth – most tap water in South Australia has added fluoride and that helps to prevent tooth decay
- Your budget - tap water is free.
- Your health - replacing some sugary drinks with water reduces overall kilojoule (calorie) intake and helps to avoid excessive weight gain

For more ideas visit: opal.sa.gov.au

School Holiday Clinics at Netball SA Stadium
28th September & 2nd October 2015
Have fun while learning new netball skills, drills and techniques!

NetSetGO Come and Try
5 - 7 Years
Monday 28th September
9.00am – 11.00am
Cost: $43.00
Sign in from 8.30am

NetSetGO Come and Try
8 - 10 Years
Monday 28th September
2.00pm – 5.00pm
Cost: $53.00
Sign in from 1.30pm

NetballSKILLS!
11-16 Years
Friday 2nd October January
9.00am – 3.00pm
Cost: $73.00
Sign in from 8.30am (lunch included)

Book Now!
Register at netballholidayclinics.netball.sa.gov.au
Registrations close 2 days before your session

NOTIFICATION FROM DECD!!!
HAZARD ALERT
ASBESTOS IN CRAYONS

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has conducted testing on a range of wax crayons and identified traces of asbestos in the following products.

- Dora the Explorer Personalized 32 pack crayons
- Dora the Explorer Jumbo crayons
- Arti Craft 16 piece crayons
- Peppa Pig 8 wax crayons

Independent testing has found traces of asbestos in:

- Disney ‘Frozen’ Jumbo Crayons
- Disney ‘Mickey Mouse and Friends’ Crayons

School does not supply any of these items but please check at home.

Coonalpyn Tennis Club
30th September – 2nd October, 2015
Wednesday - Friday

Beginners Clinic
2pm – 3pm each day
Coaching, drills and games
Prizes to be won
Cost $60 for the 3 days

Intermediate Clinic
3pm – 4.30pm each day
Coaching, drills, games and match play
Prizes to be won
Cost $75 for the 3 days

Advanced Clinic
4.30pm – 6pm each day
Coaching, drills, games and match play
Prizes to be won
Cost $75 for the 3 days

Bookings can be made by contacting Ros Watts 0407185828, 85733038

We will bring tennis gear for sale from our pro-shop in Adelaide “Just 4 Tennis”. Get anything you could need brought to you and cheaper than you could find it if you shopped around in Adelaide. Please call Jason on 0401 559 163 for any questions.