PRINCIPAL’S REPORT:

The end of this year marks the final term of my tenure as Principal of Meningie Area School, and that of Principal of the school for the past ten years. In the lead up to the selection process of Principal, I advised the current Education Director for the Coorong and Mallee Partnership, Mr Stan Hagias, the Governing Council Chair Person, Mr Neville Kernick, and staff of Meningie Area School that I would not be seeking another term as Principal. This decision was not an easy one to make, and does bring to an end my thirty-eight year formal association with the school in a number of roles: as a teacher Librarian, Middle Manager, Deputy Principal, Principal and that of a parent.

As I reflect over that time I can say that I have been very fortunate to have had and taken the opportunities to develop a career pathway that has been both challenging and satisfying within my own community. I have appreciated the mentoring of my predecessors over the years and the confidence that the school and the broader community has shown me in both my teaching career and as that of the site leader.

I have worked with dedicated, committed and inspiring staff, many of whom have worked at Meningie Area School for over twenty years. Throughout my leadership, it has always been my goal to put together the best staff profile that I can, reflecting depth of curriculum knowledge, diversity, commitment to students, and the ability to develop and sustain positive working relationships within the school and broader community.
I have worked with countless students over the years, and consider it to have been a privilege to have influenced their lives in a number of ways. Being a part of the community for so many years has enabled me to keep track of many students, and I have always been interested and incredibly proud of the directions that students have taken and the people that they have become.

I have appreciated the confidence shown by parents and caregivers, who in partnership with the staff, have entrusted your children to our daily care to educate academically, socially and emotionally. Your engagement in governance through Governing Council, parent and associated groups has enabled us to work together to shape the school to not only reflect current national and state objectives, but to develop and maintain our own uniqueness across the years. This was never as challenging as in the early years of my role as leader when the drought and subsequent issues relating to Lake Albert brought with it many challenges. A significant blow to the community, plummeting numbers tested our resilience, changed our student profile (as many families left the district) and stretched us to find creative solutions to our sailing program, athletics days and the delivery of curriculum right across the school. The confidence that was afforded the school by the parent and wider community both then and in the ensuing years has seen us grow in strength, and continue to develop and sustain programs that value add to schooling at Meningie Area School. Of significance is the Connecting Spirits program. Once again Deputy Principal Mal Jurgs led a group of students together with Findon High to the Western Front this year. His leadership in this respect and the connections that this program has forged within the local community as well as on the international stage is reflected in the links that have been developed with the RSL our involvement in the Memorial Park and our students growing understanding of the sacrifices made by both Indigenous and Non-Indigenous soldiers alike from within this community.

If ever there was a right time to conclude the role as Principal of Meningie Area School, then it is now. In late Term 3, of this year the school underwent an External Review. The purpose of the External Review is to support schools to raise achievement, sustain high performance and to provide quality assurance to build and sustain confidence in DECD school. This is a rigorous process that collects evidence by a team of reviewers over several days and includes meeting with staff, parents and students in a range of forums. I, along with the Governing Council, the leadership team and staff saw this as an opportunity to evaluate how well Meningie Area School has been improving student achievement, growth, challenge, engagement and equity over time.

The External Review process was comprehensive and the subsequent report reflects the strategic focus that we have had now for many years about how data is being collected analysed and used to maximise student learning outcomes. It verifies that our goals, intervention processes and programs, and the constant tracking of students is paying off. It reflects the focus we have had on teaching for effective learning and the engagement of students. It is now incumbent on the new Principal, staff and Governing Council to build on the successful initiatives of the past few years and take the school to the next level as is reflected in the report directions. In summary the outcomes of the External School Review 2015 says:

“Meningie Area School has demonstrated growth in students learning outcomes in Year 3 and 5. The school tracks progress and uses this data for intervention and planning. There is a strong professional culture focused on improvement.

The Principal will work with the Education Director to implement the following directions.

1. Further develop practices that utilise formative assessment feedback to ensure learning intentions are understood, and support is appropriately scaffolded and challenging for the full range of learners.
2. Strengthen the opportunities for staff to develop their practices (formative and summative) and planning.
3. Continue to explore ways of promoting respectful and productive partnerships with parents of Aboriginal children and strengthen Aboriginal perspectives in the curriculum.
4. Refine the School Improvement Plan to ensure strategies are designed to achieve the desired lift in achievement, attendance and engagement and the impact of the actions can be measured and evaluated.”

Based on Meningie Area School’s current performance, the school will be externally reviewed in 2019.

Students with a GROWTH MINDSET realise that it is not that we aim too high and fail but that we aim too low and succeed.
This is an excellent position for the school to be and reflects the leadership, professionalism of teachers, support of parents and caregivers and the persistence of students in improvement, particularly in literacy and numeracy.

I have seen many changes over the years and ideas come and go. Education today is high stakes, resources are linked to outcomes and there is an ever increasing requirement in regard to accountability, and safety. Perhaps one of the biggest changes in more recent times has been the increasing awareness of Child Protection and our collective responsibility as a community in ensuring a safe learning environment for all students within our care. In this regard, mandated requirements, along with clear processes have defined our relationships, practices and responsibilities in working with all students across the state of South Australia.

In relation to curriculum, the impact of the Australian Curriculum has been a significant national development for all teachers, students and parents to understand. This along with the development of increased flexibility in the Senior Schooling years around career pathways, including in school apprenticeships, has created as many opportunities as challenges and is a different Education system from that in which I began my teaching.

After many years, of working with Governing Councils, advocating, lobbying and the writing of application for the development of new school facilities, a forensic audit as carried out late in 2014, has led to a decision by the Department for Education and Child Development (DECD) to develop a replacement plan for the school over the next five years. Discussions between (DECD) personnel, Governing Council, the Meningie Kindy Governing Council along with the Coorong Council are currently underway on several levels. This is an exciting and significant achievement and has the potential to be forward thinking in the joint use of a number of facilities, such as collocation of the Kindy to the school site and the location of a School Community Library that is more easily accessible to the community and general public. Such a development would complement the upgraded school hall which was a part of the Building the Education Revolution of 2010, which despite significant issues at that time, has become a functional facility within the community.

There is no doubt that I have mixed feelings about concluding my role as Principal Meningie Area School, and what is a new chapter in my life and future career. I will miss the close friendships and collaborative working relationships that I have enjoyed with Deputy Principal Mal Jurgs, Senior School Manager, Kathryn Hese and Middle School Manager, Kathy Quinn, over the past few years. They are all highly skilled leaders, who have shown professionalism, commitment and dedication in their roles, and in achieving the goals and objectives within our work. All the staff, inclusive of teachers, student support officers, Aboriginal Community Liaison Officers, grounds persons, bus drivers and volunteers, all who have had significant influence and impact on the daily lives of the students in our care. I will miss the parents, (some seen more often than others), and the partnerships we have developed with you over the years in working with your children to create and maintain a safe supportive learning environment in which you have entrusted your children.

As always there are some staff members leaving. This year is no exception with some teachers moving and other staff members taking leave or retiring. To Mrs Lorraine Willis; after having been here at MAS for over thirty years, Lorraine is retiring. Whilst Lorraine has been involved and responsible in many roles across the school over the years, in the library classroom and in supporting teachers, it is her contribution and leadership to the Connecting Spirits program that is a stand out. As an avid traveller, she lent her expertise, support and commitment to the program and has been on all trips except the one this year.

Ms Elyssa Kreher, has won a teaching position at Murray Bridge High School. She has been at Meningie Area School seven and a half years. Her artistic influence can be seen around the school in murals and art work. She has had a significant impact on the Visual Arts curriculum as well as the Band, school musical productions, photography and the production of the school magazine in the last few years.

Ms Coadette Low is also leaving. Coadette has won a position in leadership at a school in New Zealand, in Science and Agriculture. She has made an enormous contribution to the area of Agriculture over the past three
Students with a GROWTH MINDSET realise that it is not that we aim too high and fail but that we aim too low and succeed.

Mr Richard Oliver is leaving as well. He has worked with classes up to year seven over the past three years. His passion for maths has raised the bar in students’ results, he has been a real asset to the junior school and shall be missed by colleagues and students alike. There is no doubt that all four will be significantly missed and on behalf of the whole community we wish them every success in their new endeavours.

Lastly, I will miss the students. One of the benefits of having worked in an Area School is having been a part of countless students’ lives over their thirteen years of schooling. It has been a great privilege to have touched the lives of so many over the years. As I will still be living here I look forward to seeing you around the community stopping to have a chat, and watching you navigate your way through school and into the broader community.

In conclusion, I sincerely thank both current and past leaders, staff, students, parents and caregivers and the whole community, for your confidence, and support over the years. I look forward to seeing the school grow and develop over time as it meets both the challenges and opportunities to work with children and young people in an ever changing world, and wish the new principal, Mr Iain Love, all the best in his role and in taking the school to the next level. I can’t leave this evening however, without mentioning the support of my husband, John, who unfortunately is unable to be here this evening. He has been my rock and without his support, I could not have taken the opportunities and risks that have come my way and worked within the role of Principal as I have.

Thankyou.

Monica Williams, Principal

TERM DATES 2016

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<th>TERM</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mon 1 Feb 2016 – Fri 15 Apr 2016</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Mon 2 May 2016 – Fri 8 Jul 2016</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Mon 25 Jul 2016 – Fri 30 Sep 2016</td>
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<td>Mon 17 Oct 2016 – Fri 16 Dec 2016</td>
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ZOOcation Care

A school holiday program for 5 to 12 year olds*

9am – 4pm
Spent the day with a qualified conservation educator exploring the Zoo
$45 per child
$55 for Zoo members

For reservations contact: Adelaide Zoo Learning on 08 8230 1258
azlearn@zoos.com.au
Book online @
Students with a GROWTH MINDSET realise that it is not that we aim too high and fail but that we aim too low and succeed.

MATERIALS & SERVICES FEES

These can be paid at the school on:
Thursday 28th January 2015 from 9am-2pm
Friday 29th January 2015 from 9am – 2pm

School uniforms may also be purchased at the same times

PRESENTATION NIGHT

Meningie Area School Presentation Night was held in the school hall on Monday 7th December at 7.00pm. It was fantastic to see many parents, caregivers, grandparents and friends help celebrate the achievements of our students:

- Year 5 Graduation
- Year 9 Graduation
- Year 12 Graduation
- Subject & Special Award Presentations
- Music & Band Performances
- Governing Council and Principal’s Reports

Thank you to all staff who, without their commitment, the achievements at Presentation Night on Monday 7th December would not happen. Evenings such as Presentation Night are only made possible with the generosity of our sponsors and of our guest speakers who gave up their time to share their experiences with both students and guests.

AWARD RECIPIENTS 2015

MS Arts – Kayla Rebner
SS Visual Arts – Holly Vandenbrink
Music – Woodwind – Gena Mansfield
Music – Brass – Colin Baldock
MS English – Georgia Brooks
SS English – Abbey Hood
MS German – Tiarnie Ling
MS HPE – Lochie McPherson
SS HPE – Jemma Williams
MS Mathematics – Kobie Hood
SS Mathematics – Abbey Hood
MS Science – Tom Schaefer
SS Science – Jemma Williams
SS Agriculture – Jessie Bland
Ag Practice – Harrison Tiver
MS HASS – Kobie Hood
PLP Award – Emma Marles
MS Technology Studies – Kobie Hood
SS Cross Disciplinary – Haylee Jacobs
MS/SS Home Economics – Renae Camac
SS ICT – Brenda Baldock
MS Kungun Ngarrindjeri Yunnin – Kayla Rebner
SS Kungun Ngarrindjeri Yunnin – Shania Weetra
SS VIP – Emma Marles & Jane Tiver
Creative Writing – Abbey Hood
Students with a GROWTH MINDSET realise that it is not that we aim too high and fail but that we aim too low and succeed.

Research Project – Jessie Bland
VET Trainee/Apprentice – Abbey Hood
Reconciliation Awards – Shania Weetra & Alex McPherson
Middle School Achievement Award –
Year 5 Graduation Award – Imogen Allen & Lachlan Brooks
Year 9 Graduation Award – Kobie Hood
Long Tan Award – Harrison Tiver & Abbey Hood
Sports Award – Kobie Hood
Caltex Best All-rounder – Abbey Hood
Encouragement Award – Brittany Rigney
Barker Shield: Vocational Education & Training Award – Jessie Bland
Barker Shield: Community Service & Spirit Award – Harrison Tiver
Governing Council Achievement Award – Jessie Bland
Barker Shield: Principal’s Award Academic Achievement – Abbey Hood

Well done to these students and a big thank you to our many sponsors, whose continued support ensures events such as Presentation Night are made possible.
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Students with a GROWTH MINDSET realise that it is not that we aim too high and fail but that we aim too low and succeed.
As for me, I am looking forward to being home for Christmas and in a more tolerable 28 degree summer.

**YEAR 8-9 ADVENTURE CAMP**

The 8/9s have been on a class camp to celebrate the end of 2015 at Noorla Yo-Long Blue Light Adventure Camp 10km out of Millicent.

This camp has been very much driven by the class and preparation started in Term 3. They have participated in team building and problem solving exercises, abseiling, and a high ropes course. They are camping on site and having to cook their own meals.

Overall it has been a great experience for all involved with many students moving out of their comfort zone and achieving the challenges offered. It has made the class more united.
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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.

- www.libraries.sa.gov.au/coorong

Parents and friends
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. Read The Advertiser and check out current issue magazines. Loads of DVDs are also available to loan so if you are looking for something to do make sure you visit your library.

Christmas holiday closure
5pm Wednesday 23rd Dec 2015
Reopening 9am Tuesday 5th Jan 2016

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<td>Tuesday-Friday</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
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Closed Australia Day
Normal opening hours resume on Monday 1st February 2016

We wish everyone a Happy, Safe and Stress-free Christmas, and a Prosperous New Year in 2016

SCHOOL REPORTS

Student reports go home with students on the last day of term. They will also be available to collect from the Community Library over the school holidays.
Students with a GROWTH MINDSET realise that it is not that we aim too high and fail but that we aim too low and succeed.
“SA Water VACSWIM is a program to waterproof the confidence in young South Australians, in and around the water. It is a South Australian Government supported initiative to provide children aged 5 to 13 years with opportunities to develop a range of skills and positive experiences in the areas of water safety, confidence and competence in the water, personal survival activities and basic aquatic emergency procedures.

These skills are delivered at over 130 pools, beaches and lakes throughout South Australia by one of three primary program providers – Royal Life Saving Society, Surf Life Saving and YMCA – who engage qualified instructors to teach the children of South Australia.

The majority of programs take place from Monday 4th to Tuesday 12th January 2016; they run for 45 minutes a day for 7 days.”

See the website for other information.

We wish all families safe and happy holidays
Students with a GROWTH MINDSET realise that it is not that we aim too high and fail but that we aim too low and succeed.

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16th December
Race starts 6pm

Tailem Bend Oval

Challenge yourself (or just take a leisurely stroll) on our colour run course. Each milestone marker you pass will see your achievement acknowledged with a smatter of colours. Complete the course and come, fully-coloured, out the other side!

This activity is Free for young people and their families from the Coorong District. Free BBQ tea is also provided from 5.30pm

Find more details on tbcc.org.au/pages/c4c.php

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All participants MUST book

Contact-

Tailem Bend Community Centre
141 Railway Terrace
Tailem Bend SA 5260
Ph 08 8572 3513  Fax 08 8572 4813
Email: c4c@tbcc.org.au