



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 20

www.meningieas.sa.edu.au

29th November 2013

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| TERM 4 | |
| Week 8 | |
| 1st – 5th Dec | Canberra Trip |
| 5th | 4 th Kindy Transition |
| 6th | 5 th Kindy Transition |
| Week 9 | |
| 10th | Presentation Night 7.15 for 7.30pm start |
| 11th | Junior School Christmas Assembly 10-11am |
| 13th | Last day of Term 4 WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY 12.15pm School finishes 2.20pm Buses depart 2.30pm |
| TERM 1 2014 | |
| 23 & 24th Jan | Book Room open 9am-2pm |
| 28th | Commence Term 1 |
| 6th Feb | Parent/Staff Acquaintance Evening |
| 10th | School Swimming Carnival @ Coonalpyn |
| 19th | Upper SE Swimming Carnival @ Coonalpyn |
| 24th | School Photographs |

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

By Monica Williams



The school year is quickly drawing to a close. Year 12 Exams and assessments have now finished and the last day for the Year 11 students is this Friday November 29th. For all other year levels classes continue as per normal until the last day of Term 4, Friday 13th December with a few exceptions to the program.

As has become a bit of a tradition Thursday, 14th December is class party day. Teachers are in the process of negotiating and planning this day. Expect to have class notes arrive home with your child or children outlining these events and associated activities.

With the wind up to the end of the school year several events are on the school planner. Presentation Night is Tuesday 10th December beginning at 7.15pm in the school hall. This is a formal school event, where student achievement is recognised and celebrated. All members of the school and wider community are invited. Our guest speaker this year is Dan Ryan. He has been the Australian Youth Ambassador 2012-13 to the United Nations, and the only South Australian ever to be appointed to this position. Dan is one of Bernie and Sue Ryan's sons; Bernie is the Community Librarian, and he and Sue have made Meningie a place of residence in the last two years. Dan is a young man with an amazing story to tell of his experience in this role, as well as inspirational in his approach to life. I hope you can join us on Presentation Night to hear his story and join with the school community to recognise our students and their achievements. Please refer to page 3 for a profile in relation to Dan Ryan.

The Junior School Assembly is Wednesday 15th December, in the school hall. All parents/caregivers and extended families are welcome to attend.

POOL COMMITTEE

The Pool Committee has met twice in the past few weeks. The Pool Supervisors course once again had a significant number of people complete mandatory annual training on Wednesday 27th, November.

THERE IS A STRONG LINK BETWEEN GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND ACHIEVING GOOD RESULTS AT SCHOOL!

The Pool Committee, that has representation both from the school and community, has reviewed a number of items, including responsibilities of the pool supervisors and users, costs of hire as well as safety aspects. An audit of the pool and grounds surrounding the pool was carried out, listing the things that require maintenance and repair.

A report was presented to Governing Council at its last meeting on Monday 25th. How to continue to fund the high cost of maintaining the pool is something the Governing Council is seriously going to look at in 2014, as currently revenue does not cover the cost of required maintenance including cleaning over the summer months, let alone any upgrade to existing facilities.

In the last few weeks the Grounds Person, John Hastings, has been preparing the pool for the summer season. He has been awaiting the delivery of a new vacuum cleaner at a cost of almost \$ 2,000. Hopefully the new equipment will speed up the daily cleaning that up to now has taken several hours over the day. Under new regulations we need to spend a considerable amount of money updating our water testing equipment.

SCHOOL SWIMMING

I am pleased to advise that Mel Treloar will be taking the 2013/ 2014 school swimming program. A limited number of sessions are planned for Weeks 8 & 9 of this term with the main part of the program to be taught in the early part of Term 1 2014.

In Week 8 swimming will be on Tuesday 3rd of December, and Friday 6th December.

In Week 9 swimming will be on Tuesday 10th December and Thursday 12th December.

Please ensure your child has the appropriate gear for these days.

Additionally, if the weather is inclement then swimming classes will be cancelled.

GOVERNING COUNCIL

The last meeting for 2013 was on Monday 25th November. I would like to acknowledge the support and commitment of all members of Governing Council

this year. Governing Council Chairperson, David Eckert and I have met regularly throughout the year and before every meeting. The relationship between Governing Council and staff is a very strong one in which information about school matters including, the targets within our Strategic Plan, data, budgeting and finance are agendas for every meeting.

Governing Council is a great way to be involved not only in your child/ children's education but gives an insight into the broader picture at both a State and National level. We welcome your involvement. The AGM is scheduled for Monday 17th March. More details about the meeting and nomination will follow in Newsletters in the New Year.

Additionally, I acknowledged the commitment and support Brenda Blake (who recently resigned her position on Governing Council as she is leaving the district) has given in her role on Governing Council and Parent Group over the past few years. She has been particularly active in the development of uniform options. Along with Gwenda Eckert, Brenda consulted widely with Senior Students with regard to suitable shorts in particular. This year we have seen the uptake of this current item and welcome parent support in purchasing this item of uniform.

We wish Brenda all the very best for the future.

2014 PLANNING

Please note several dates in the Planner for next year. These include school resumption 2014, book room opening times, Term 1 sporting events and Parent / Staff Barbeque.

MATERIALS & SERVICES CHARGES 2014



Materials & Services Charges for 2014 are set at \$219 for Primary School and \$290 for Secondary School.

If you have any queries/concerns with the above you are invited to attend the Governing Council meeting at 8.30 pm on 25th November in the staff room.

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SCHOOL MAGAZINE

If you would like a School Magazine and have not paid yet – please pay to the Bookroom before Friday 6th December 2013.

PRESENTATION NIGHT GUEST



Dan is a young Australian with a passion for social development, both professionally (Australising International, the Oaktree Foundation, Global Poverty Project), and personally (volunteer work in Africa and Asia, delegate roles). His background includes online marketing and a range of Youth Leadership positions, the most prominent of these being The Australian Youth Ambassador to the United Nations 2012/13.

The Youth Ambassador is selected by *UN Youth Australia* and endorsed by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to represent the views of Australian youth to the United Nations. Dan spent many months touring Australia in 2012, the 'listening tour' covered 35,000 km and Dan engaged with over 6,000 young people.

After this listening tour, Dan headed to New York as part of the Australian delegation to the United Nations and addressed the General Assembly. His years' work all came together in one 7 minute statement. This statement weaved the theme of the power of youth participating and having a voice, including disadvantaged and minorities, into a discussion of the role and value of social media.

View @

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E6rv5OPlejM&feature=player_detailpagewhich

Having just returned from five months consulting in Europe, Dan will share some of his recent experiences and the twists and turns in the road which lead to where he is today. He will also provide some valuable advice to students on overcoming obstacles and achieving goals in their decisions and choices for the future.



DENTAL CARE FOR YOUR CHILDREN

It is important for children to have strong, healthy teeth and gums.

All children (0 – 17 years) are welcome to attend **School Dental Service** clinics. Dental treatment is free at **School Dental Service** clinics if:

- Family Tax Benefit part A is paid for your child, or
- Your child is covered by a School Card, Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card.

The School Dental Service will bulk-bill under the new Medicare *child Dental Benefits Schedule* that starts in 2014. Under this scheme, most children aged between 2-17 years will be eligible to claim up to \$1,000 of Dental services over 2 years.

If your child already attends a SA Dental Service clinic, contact us when their next appointment is due. If your child does not already attend one of our clinics, please phone us to make an appointment in 2014. For more information contact your local clinic. Clinic list found at www.sadental.sa.gov.au



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Hon Jay Weatherill MP
Premier of South Australia

Dear Parent

It has been a tough year for our schooling system. In recent times there has been a significant amount of media attention relating to serious assaults involving school-age children.

I acknowledge the distress caused to the families and the children involved and their school communities.

It is important to remember that these incidents are isolated and rare, but that an assault on any child is unacceptable. As a parent and Premier, I want you to know that I understand how important this matter is and how committed my government is to ensuring all children are safe. I assure you that I will continue to shine a light on the vital issue of child protection.

It is equally important to recognise the good that is done in our schools each and every day.

In South Australia, we have 939 public schools and preschools with 23,200 teachers, principals and support staff - the overwhelming majority of whom always conduct themselves in a caring, professional way. They deliver world-class education.

Retention and attendance rates of our students are at record highs and if South Australia were a country, we would rate ahead of the USA, France, Sweden and Denmark in international rankings for literacy and numeracy. These are things of which we can be incredibly proud.

If you wish to discuss any of these matters further, please contact your school/preschool in the first instance. The Parent Complaint Unit can be contacted at 1800 677 435 and if you remain concerned, the Ombudsman can also look at education matters.

Yours sincerely

Jay Weatherill
PREMIER

26 / 11 / 2013

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MENINGIE AREA SCHOOL PRESENTATION NIGHT



When: Tuesday 10th December
Time: 7.15 for 7.30 pm start
Where: Meningie Area School Hall

Guest Speaker – Dan Ryan

“Come and help celebrate the achievements of our students”

- ◆ Graduation of Year 9
- ◆ Graduation of Year 12 students
- ◆ Subject Prize and Special Award Presentations
- ◆ Music and Band Performances
- ◆ Governing Council and Principal's Reports



**FORMAL PROCEEDINGS WILL BE
FOLLOWED BY A SHARED SUPPER**

(Parents please bring a plate of food to share)



JUNIOR SCHOOL CHRISTMAS ASSEMBLY
Wednesday 11th December
10 – 11am
Meningie Area School Hall

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