



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 9

www.meningieas.sa.edu.au

30th May 2014

TERM 2

Week 6	
6 June	SAPSASA State Cross Country at Oakbank
Week 7	
9 June	QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HOLIDAY
12 June	Library Board Meeting 4.30 pm
13 June	STUDENT FREE DAY

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



It was great to return to work last Monday, having been on leave for 3 weeks. That is not to say that I did not have an amazing break and wonderful experiences during that time in Germany and the Scandinavian countries; I did. I will never take for granted the wonderful connections and friendships John and I have that enabled us to be guests in peoples' homes and experience for a short time the day to day events, as well as the spectacular historical sites and buildings. Of course one of the questions that was often running through my head as we travelled the length and breadth of Germany and seeing the familiar German names that make up family names within our district and throughout pockets of South Australia, is why did they leave so many years ago to travel to an unknown land in the knowledge that he/she may never return, and what that must have been like for their families left behind?

Even though I studied History at school and then later on at University, having the opportunity to travel and see places, as well

as talk to people opens your mind to a whole range of new ideas and possibilities. Without a doubt my biggest regret now from my own years at school is that I did not take seriously the opportunity to learn and understand another language properly. I had two chances; one to learn French and the other German (when I changed schools). I guess at the time I really didn't see the relevance. I probably thought I would never get a chance to travel and when would I use it? Back then that probably pretty much was the thinking, but it is not the case today. We live in a global world. Our Connecting Spirits Program is a great example of the opportunities that now exist for our students to engage in and whilst it is not essential, having a second language helps. More and more I am convinced of the importance of this and the encouragement we should be giving to our students to become competent. It is true that English is almost the universal language and that for all students in Germany, English is the first of many languages they learn. The children I met began English seriously in around Year 6, having some exposure throughout the Junior School years. Then depending on the school they attended, moved on to French or Spanish. In Scandinavian schools it is similar; then English and on to French, Spanish and even Russian.

One parent of an eleven year old Finnish boy told me her son said to her recently, 'I want to learn as many languages as I can.'

"Why?" she asked. His reply, "So I can choose my wife from any country in the world that I want."

Well he may well be on his way to getting a fair number of them under his belt. As the son of Russian parents living in Finland where students are taught both Finnish and Swedish, as well as learning English and French, he is well on his way.

As I said, English is the almost universal language, and when attending a conference with John in Helsinki that related to the European Red Dairy Association, all the presenters (and they were from countries all over Europe and Scandinavia), delivered papers in English as it is the language that connected them all. For me it was quite humbling to be the only native-speaking English speakers and not be able to converse with any one in their own tongue.

So where am I going with this. Firstly, encourage and actively support your child/children to learn the language that we teach here at Meningie Area School. This is, and has been now for at least the last 30 years, German. It is not just the language in itself but the understanding of culture that goes with it. Secondly, embrace diversity. It builds understanding and tolerance of difference. Lastly, understand that Australia, whilst a land on its own, is not the centre of the universe. We live in a global world. We are more connected today than we have ever been, and we will continue to travel to places that are distanced and not too distanced and may even get to spend part of our lives in a different land.

My many thanks to Deputy Principal Mal Jurgs, who ably took on my job during the time I was away, supported by the leadership team of Senior School Manager, Ms Kathryn Hese and Middle School Manager, Mrs Kathy Quinn. It was very easy to come back last week in the confidence that the school was well lead and managed and that it was business as usual.

Congratulations

Congratulations to both Katrina Hood and Denise Mason who successfully completed their marathon walk as part of the Jodi Lee Foundation, raising funds and awareness of Bowel Cancer. This is the second year that both women have taken part, with the school

supporting their release to do so. Speaking with them after the event, both agreed that it was a physically and mentally demanding experience and the terrain along the southern coast more gruelling than through the Flinders Ranges that they walked last year. More than anything, making all of us aware to take responsibility for our own health, to know the symptoms to look out for and act quickly was a strong message coming through.

Reconciliation Week

This week is Reconciliation Week, with Monday 26th being National Sorry Day. In her role as ACEO, Isobell Koolmatrie provided information about Sorry Day, as well as Aboriginal people who have contributed to building links and in making a difference. Students were given this information daily through the School Bulletin.

Additionally, Mr Mal Jurgs, Mr Nigel Treloar and Mrs Carolyn Rigney have gone to Adelaide today as invited to attend the Reconciliation Week Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Soldiers Memorial and the launch of a DVD recognizing the contribution of these soldiers in forums of war to be held at the Torrens Parade Ground. Along with them are several students who are going on the next Connecting Spirits trip in April 2015.

Assembly

The Assembly today was organized by the Year 10 class who have been raising money over the last fortnight for the Salvation Army by entering the Salvo's School Challenge.

The students, ably supported by Ms Elyssa Kreher, have done a fantastic job organizing the following events: Junior School Social, Lolly Jar Guess, Colouring Competiiton, Bake Sale and Red Casual Day. Winners of the competitions were announced at today's assembly. A summary is included with this newsletter.

Monica Williams

SCHOOL CAR PARK REMINDER

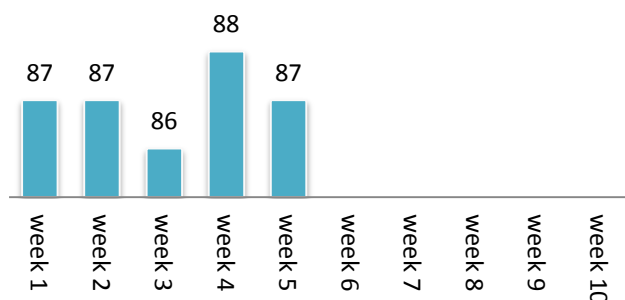
It has been noted lately that quite a few parents are using the staff car park to drop off or collect their child/ren from school.

In the interest of child safety, and movement of vehicles within the car park, 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.

The car park is for staff and library patron's cars ONLY.

Student Attendance Percentages % - Term 2 2014



LIBRARY SERVICE NOTICE

Due to external training requirements in preparation for the new Library System the Library will be short staffed in Week 6. Please be aware that at times the library may be unavailable to students and/or classes particularly on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday as Mary and Bernie will be attending training in Adelaide. We apologise for any inconvenience that may occur as a result. Check for notices on the Library door. The library will close at 4.00 pm from Monday - Thursday Week 6.

Thank you

**Bernie Ryan,
Teacher/Librarian**

Change of Library opening hours

The Library Board is proposing to change the opening hours of the library to

MONDAY – FRIDAY

9.00 – 5.00*

**SATURDAY 10.00 –
1.00**

*School holidays closed
Mondays and lunchtime

**Public comment
welcome**

meningie.library@gmail.com

Ph 8575 1681

1 North Terrace Meningie 5264

TAX FILE NUMBERS

Students who are planning on working part-time during the holidays are reminded that they will need to apply for a TFN before the end of Week 6, otherwise they may not get their TFN before they start work.

Please see the school front office for a form.

Sheree Johns

Client Education & Assistance Waymouth
ME&I

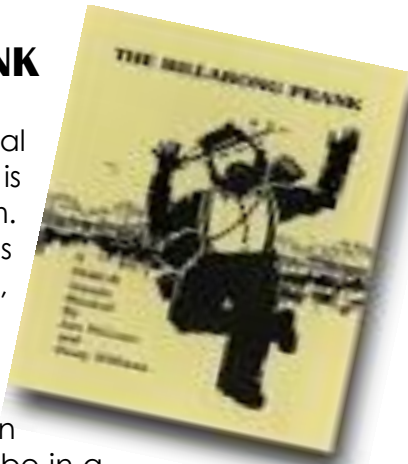
Australian Taxation Office

Phone: (08) 8208 1263

Facsimile: (08) 8208 1600

BILLABONG PRANK

Our school biannual production for 2014 is happening this term. Evening performances will be Tuesday 1st July, and Wednesday 2nd July in week 10.



Once a jolly swagman came to Meningie to be in a musical..... The musical we are doing this year is a BUSHFIRE PRESS musical called "Billabong Prank". It turns back the clock to the Goldfields of the mid-1800's. Students will be diggers in the goldmines and their families, troopers and prisoners, shearers, farmers and, of course, the Swagman.

The musical is a valuable link to our classwork about Colonial Australian History, all aspects of the Arts and the Speaking and Listening parts of our English Curriculum. The main cast is from the Year 6 and 7 groups, with the Year 8 Art students involved in making props and backdrops and the Year 9 and 10 Home Economics students are doing an outstanding job with costume making.

Every Junior School class will be part of the fun and a note has gone home this week outlining what will be needed for each group.

Tickets will be on sale from Tuesday 10th June - Week 7

Adults \$10 and students (not in Production) \$5

The tickets will be available from the Book Room between 8.30 and 9.00 am daily.

MCLEOD CHALLENGE 2014

On Friday 16th May a group of year 8/9 Students travelled to Basheer Oval (AAMI Stadium) to be involved in the McLeod Football Challenge 2014. This is an event founded by Andrew McLeod for participants to compete and build relationships, teamwork and leadership skills. Schools from all over competed to try on the day to win the chance to play on Adelaide Oval at the

Curtain Raiser for the AFL Game Adelaide Crows v's Gold Coast. We had 6 boys and 6 girls attend the day and play on an all-girls team and an all-boys team. Both teams needed an extra 2 players each which they welcomed the 2 other schools to join them. The boys showed some awesome team work and communication skills throughout the game and made it to the Semi Finals, but unfortunately lost by 9 points. The girls played well - some of them who have never even played football before gave it all they had but lost also. It was a great day filled with fun, laughter, talent and competition. Well done to the students who attended!!

Isobell Koolmatrrie (ACEO)



The Girls Team at the McLeod Challenge



The Boys Team at the McLeod Challenge



They had to get their picture with Andrew McLeod !!

CHAINSAW COURSE

On Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th May a number of our Year 9, 10 and 11 Ag students undertook a course in the Operation and maintenance of chainsaws.

This course is fully accredited and was presented by Stuart from LITA. It will contribute to the students achieving their Certificate II in Rural Operations and will also give them credits toward their SACE.

This and other units are being delivered to students at Meningie Area School through the Coorong Mallee Skills Training Centre, in conjunction with Coomandook Area School and Regional Skills Training.

Hopefully we will soon see the arrival of a new tractor which is being funded by the Federal Government's Skills Training Centre Grants.

Mal Jurgs (Ag Teacher)



Alex using a chain saw



Brenda being instructed by Stuart



The group being instructed



Lachlan receiving instructions

CROSS COUNTRY EVENT

16 Meningie students and approximately 80 students from our partnership schools participated in the combined schools Cross Country event held at the Meningie Golf Club on Friday 9th of May.

Despite the rain, all students performed well and enjoyed the taste of long distance running. The 10 year old students ran 2km whilst the 11-15 year old groups did 3km and an enthusiastic boy from Keith ran the Open 4km even.

Although some of the under 10 runners performed exceptionally well, they could not be chosen to compete at the SAPSASA State Cross Country event next week at Oakbank due to strict age policies (too young). However, Lachlan Brooks, Henry Turner and Aaron Clarke were chosen to compete and we wish them all the best. Thankyou to the parents and students who supported this event. I look forward to seeing you at this even again next year.

All students received a certificate with their individual time and placegetters an USE ribbon.



ROTARY AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND STUDENT EXCHANGE 2015

Are you:

- between 13 ½ and 16 years on 1st January 2015?
- Interested in a once-in-a-lifetime experience?
- Interested in travel and promoting?
- Interested in international understanding?
- Looking for a challenge?
- Able to adapt to a new family?
- Able to afford reasonable costs?

Then this programme is for you!

Expression of interest forms and further information is available from the school front office.

Deadline for Expression of Interest is 30 June 2014



L-R Aaron Clarke, Lucy Catlin, Jasmine Cunneen, Cameron Miller, Jessica Turner, Ronnelle Clarke, Meaghan Lewis, Lauren Parsons-Averay, Amy Brooks, Katrina Brown, Gena Mansfield, Henry Turner, Crystal Davis, Alex Brown, Lachlan Brooks and Charlotte Treloar.

NEWS FROM ABBEY

On the 17th of May I went to Mayfest with Lucia and Stine, which is similar to Celebration, however, it is held by Old High not Rider (my school). The theme was fiesta and we had a fantastic night. The following day all exchange students in the area went to Jason's Deli for a farewell/goodbye dinner. It was great to catch up with those who I don't see as often but was also sad as everyone will be leaving soon. This was also my last CIEE/exchange group event until the next students arrive in August.



Wichita Falls District 2013/14 exchange students

This past weekend my friend Alannah from Canberra, who I met on orientation came to visit. She is on a 5 month exchange in Denison, Texas and will be heading home in a week. While she was here we went to a bbq at Ashlyn's house where she met a few of my friends (everyone compared our accents), went to the movies and went shopping. I had a blast hanging out with her and we plan to catch up when I get home, maybe around Christmas!



Aussies Unite – Abbey & Alannah

Tuesday the 27th I went to Lucia's house for her farewell party. Her parents had flown in from Spain and although they don't speak much English they are very nice. We ate pizza and snacks and went swimming. It was a bittersweet night! She and her parents leave to go back to Spain on the 29th of May! One day soon we will catch up, either in Madrid or Australia, or both!!



Lucia's pool party farewell



Abbey giving Lucia a few Aussie souvenirs

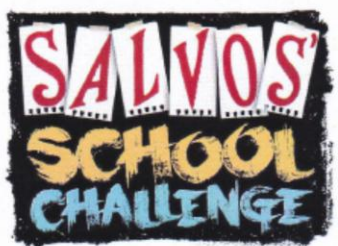
Next week at school will be my last before summer break and it consists of finals. Each class is required to give a final test that covers everything learned in that semester. If your average semester grade is above an 80 and you do not miss more than 2 days of school you are exempt from the finals. Unfortunately for me I was sick at the beginning of my exchange, before I even knew about finals so now I have to take them for every class! Next week I also have a fitting for dance team!!

Abbey xx

SALVO'S SCHOOL CHALLENGE

OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS THE YEAR 10 CLASS
RAISED MONEY FOR THE SALVATION ARMY BY ENTERING
THE SALVO'S SCHOOL CHALLENGE.

AS A GROUP WE RAN THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:



The Salvation Army is a world-wide recognised Christian organisation that supports people and families when they need assistance.

For example, in one week in Australia they provide 100,000 meals for the hungry, 2,000 beds for the homeless, 3,000 elderly people with aged care services and refuge to 500 victims of abuse, but they do a lot more than just providing support. In times of crises, the Salvation Army is always there to give a helping hand however they can.

The Red Shield Appeal is an annual fundraising drive that most supports the Salvation Army's work. Door-knocking and lots of other events are part of the Red Shield Appeal's fundraising drive.

The Salvo's School Challenge invites schools to be creative in planning and holding their own fundraising events. The Year 10 group has been busy organizing, preparing and holding events such as the Junior School Social, Bake Sale, Colouring in Competition, Lolly Jar Competition and Red Casual Day.



WE THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR
YOUR PARTICIPATION AND
GENEROSITY IN ALL THESE EVENTS

WE HAVE RAISED A TOTAL OF

\$481.60

FOR THE SALVATION ARMY
RED SHIELD APPEAL