

Meningie Area School Newsletter



PRINCIPAL: Ms Monica Williams
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL: Mr Mal Jurgs
SENIOR SCHOOL COORDINATOR: Ms Kathryn Hese
MIDDLE SCHOOL COORDINATOR: Ms Kathy Quinn
GOVERNING COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON: Mr Neville Kernick

dl.0750_info@schools.sa.edu.au

Issue 7 – 8th May 2015

www.meningieas.sa.edu.au

TERM 2

Week 3	
12 – 14 May	NAPLAN TESTING
15 – 18 April	State Team Sailing Championships at Meningie
Week 4	
18 May	Governing Council and Resources Meeting 7.30 pm
18 May	SATAC Visit 2pm
19 May	CAPTAINS BAKE SALE AT RECESS
20 May	9-a-side football at Karoonda

A TIMELY REMINDER:

In the interest of child safety (and parking of staff vehicles) we wish to remind all parents, carers and grandparents not to use the staff car park (including the library spaces) as a drop-off and pick-up zone **at any time**, unless in circumstances when they might be collecting a sick child from the front office.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Welcome to the start of Term 2. This term promises to be equally as busy as that of Term 1. I draw your attention to the term planner included in this edition for your ready reference and forward notice of all known planned events.

I hope that all students and families had some time over the school holidays to relax and feel refreshed as we move into the learning for this term. There is no doubt that Meningie was a busy place to be over the two weeks of holidays, particularly with activity centered around the school. During the first week Meningie Area School, in collaboration with Meningie Sailing Club and Yachting South Australia, hosted the State Regatta. This was a fantastic event, with congratulations and thanks to go to all involved, particularly event manager Vic Woolston, who has spent many months in the planning and coordination. I was honoured to open the event at the Wednesday evening dinner and attend the Presentation evening on the Saturday night. A more detailed report can be found in this edition.

There is no doubt that this year, being the hundredth year of ANZAC, drew a significant crowd to Memorial Park on Saturday 25th April. On behalf of Meningie Area School, School Captains Jessie Bland and Jemma Williams laid a wreath, just as students have for the past several years. I was pleased to see so many of our students, both current and past, in attendance, and could not help but reflect on the first year that I took a genuine interest in this significant event in our history and where we are today. My daughter was studying Journalism at University some fifteen years ago and one of her assignments

required her to attend ANZAC day service, interview a returned soldier from more recent war service and write a report, so I went with her. I am not exactly able to recall the number of people in attendance that morning; maybe 30. How our understanding and commemoration has grown! I believe that our commitment to the Connecting Spirits program in 2005 and the beginning of trips to the Western Front led by Deputy Principal Mal Jurgs in 2006 and biannually since has been a significant factor in this, along with the bonds and connection that have been established between the school and the local RSL Branch.

Having actively followed the 2015 Connecting Spirits tour over the past three weeks, through social media and the website, I am proud of the ambassadors that they have been, the maturity shown, and the way in which they have communicated their thoughts and experiences. In talking with them individually, there is no doubt that this is an amazing program for those involved on so many levels. We look forward to hearing more from our students over the coming months in a range of forums.

NAPLAN TESTING

For parents of students in Years 3, 5, 7 & 9 you will be aware that NAPLAN testing occurs next week as has been communicated in previous newsletters and no doubt will be in both state and national media, given the significance that is placed on it. As a site we seek your support and ask that you ensure that your child/ children do attend on the days of testing so that they can participate and that later in the year you receive a report that shows your child/children's benchmark from a national perspective. From a school's perspective this information assists teachers in knowing specifically where your child/children are at in a given point in time and can analyse the data to more closely support individual learning strategies. In the lead up to the NAPLAN testing teachers have ensured that students are familiar with the style and type of testing so that they can more confidently understand what is expected of them.

ONLINE BULLYING SURVEY

Our school has volunteered to be part of a national study to discover what schools are doing to tackle bullying. Schools from across Australia will tell of their anti-bullying approaches and what is working well. Information will be collected from students, parents and teachers.

A final report will be available in December and will summarise what is being done about bullying by Australian schools. The report will not name individual schools.

At the beginning of Term 2, students from our school who are in Years 5 to 10 will be invited to complete an on-line survey during school time.

Students may only participate if they return the consent form signed by their parents.

Parents will be able to give their opinions about student-to-student bullying in schools by going to <http://tinyurl.com/RigbyPS2015>. The staff at our school will also join in the study.

We think this is important research and we are pleased that our school will contribute to a better understanding of what Australian schools are doing to tackle bullying.

Please contact me if you would like further information.

STAFFING

Mal and Ali Jurgs are currently on leave. In Mal's absence, Kathryn Hese is Acting Deputy Principal.

Monica Williams, PRINCIPAL

MLA BEEF CATTLE DAY

On the 27th of March Jessie Bland and Alex McPherson travelled with Miss Low to Struan House in Naracoorte. We were up at 5 a.m. and we started our 2 and half hour drive at 6 a.m.

We arrived at Struan House at 8.45 a.m. and were ready to start the day at the MLA More Beef from Pastures Innovation Day. The first presentation that we listened to was '3D Image Analysis for Cattle', we then moved on to a presentation about the "Transmission and Management of Theileria", which is an intracellular blood parasite that is slowly spreading around Australia. We also listened about profit drivers in top beef businesses and current MSA research in South Australia, which helped us understand dark cutters and the PH in meat. We then did a taste test of a dark cut of meat and one of a regular piece of meat, and had a demonstration of a carcass breakdown which was done by a local butcher. Dr Michael Wilkes explained to us the new method that they are testing to measure methane on the farm and a calf autopsy was conducted to show the reason for the death.

SHEEP EDUCATION DAY

On April the 8th, Brenda Baldock, Miss Low and I took a day away from school to seize the opportunity to take part in a Sheep Education Day. This was held at Mount Pleasant by the South Australian Stud Sheep Breeders Association. As Brenda and I will be competing later in the National Merino Challenge in May where we will be tested on our knowledge of Merino wool, we found this day relevant and extremely helpful. To start off the day, Anthony Pearce talked us through Sheep Nutrition and Feed Management, and its importance during the lead up to lambing. He explained how changing the diet to better suit the requirement of the ewe can increase the lambing percentage and therefore boost profits. Next up was Wool Appraisal and Fleece Characteristics; this benefited us the most as we were talked through what judges would look for in wool quality. Along with the lecture presented by Mr Trevor James, several fleeces had been laid out, each from a different breed of sheep, Brenda and I focused on the wool of the Merino as this would be of best use to us. We were given time to touch each fleece and ask questions.

After morning tea, International Sheep Judge, Mrs Phillipa Patullo, showed us her techniques on judging and what she critiques each sheep on. Lastly, Mr Tim Noske, a butcher from Noske Meats Hahndorf, took us through Carcass Attributes and Meat Demonstration, where he showed us the best cuts on a lamb and gave us some tips on the preparation of lamb.

Overall, our day was packed with useful information that is relevant for not only the National Merino Challenge and Agriculture, but also for future references. It was well worth the trip and also our time.

Jessie Bland (Year 12)



SCHOLASTIC AUSTRALIA ORDERS

Scholastic brochures were sent out late last week with students R - 7. The last date for orders is Wednesday 13th May. Please hand orders in to the front office with payment, or make your payment online or by phone following the information on the order slips and record your order confirmation number on the order form.

Thanks to all who support both students' reading and the school by purchasing from Scholastic, as we receive bonus credit on all orders which are mainly used for Junior Primary resources.



SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE



All babies, children and young people under 18 years are welcome to attend the School Dental Service. **Dental care is FREE for most school-aged children and ALL preschool children.**

SA Dental Service participates in the *Child Dental Benefits Schedule*. A small fee may apply for children who are not eligible for the *Child Dental Benefits Schedule*.

To locate your local School Dental Clinic, or for more information about the *Child Dental Benefits Schedule*, please phone 8222 8222 or visit www.sadental.sa.gov.au

SA Excellence in Public Education Awards

Share Celebrate Reward

Nominations are now open for the 2015 SA Excellence in Public Education Awards.

The Awards recognise and reward the outstanding contributions made by teachers, leaders and support staff from across the state.

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

For more information and to nominate an employee at your school or preschool go to: www.decd.sa.gov.au/awards.

Like us on facebook and follow the progress of the Awards: www.facebook.com/SATeachingAwards.

Nominations close 5pm, 3 July 2015

For further information contact the Awards team on 08 8226 3079 or email DECD.Recognition@sa.gov.au





CAPTAINS' BAKE SALE

Tuesday 19th May
at recess in the
Home Ec. Room

**A variety of muffins,
cupcakes, biscuits,
etc.
will be for sale**

**Prices from
50 cents to \$2.00**

Raising funds for the Jodi Lee Foundation



OPEN FOR EVERYONE

**9 – 5
10 – 1**

**Weekdays
Saturday**

Put holds on and renew loans online from home or elsewhere on your mobile device?

www.libraries.sa.gov.au/coorong



Premier's Reading Challenge Competition extended to next Wednesday

All students who have completed 6 of the 12 books required by Wednesday of week3 term 2 will be in the free draw for a double pass to see *The Book of Life* Movie

For more info on the challenge checkout

www.premiersreadingchallenge.sa.gov.au



Holds and Overdue reminders

You can phone 8575 1681 and talk to staff to renew items or do it online yourself. Remember that holds are only held for 10 days and then they automatically return to the owning library or to another patron waiting for them.

AFTER HOURS CHUTE



DOOR BELL



You can return items after hours through the chute in the door.

We have also installed a doorbell for times when we have stepped out for a moment as well as if you have difficulty opening the door for staff to assist you.

A3 Colour Copier/scanner

The library now has a colour printer scanner available. A3 printing is \$2 per side and A4 is \$1.20. Scanning is free and a fax service is available for a nominal fee.



IPAD and stand

Come in and try the new iPad to search for items and place holds. Staff are happy to assist you with trying the iPad which is next to the photocopier and the front desk.

Have your say.....

PUBLIC LIBRARIES SA/COORONG COUNCIL & DECD are holding a Community Consultation event on **Wednesday 24th June at 1pm** in Meningie. The initiative is part of a planning pilot that the SA Libraries Board are engaged in and will involve a public survey, meeting and opportunity to hear from the community what their expectations and desires are for libraries into the future. Details about the Survey Monkey and hardcopy survey will be distributed by Council

Bernie Ryan – Teacher and Librarian

STATE SCHOOL SAILING CHAMPIONSHIP AT MENINGIE NORTH JETTY

Travellers passing through Meningie drove through a crowd centred on the Meningie North jetty area during the recent Secondary Schools Team racing championships. On the water an equally impressive sight saw 24 Pacer class dinghies lining up in groups of 6 to attack the start line with each team using 3 boats to get the best finishing combination. Public and private school teams came from as far away as Ceduna, Pt Lincoln, Kangaroo Island, Victor Harbour and Adelaide to try and win the top two positions enabling them to contest the National Titles in Brisbane.

Over 100 races were run culminating in a series of finals on Saturday in brisk sailing conditions. Days 1 and 2 saw relatively light winds however the last day's winds gave spectators what they had come to see with exciting racing throughout the day. The excellent venue was a huge part of the success with all schools settling in with sunshades on the elevated lake shore directly in front of competition. Team coaches were able to walk down the jetty to be right beside the sailing course because of the unique situation that Meningie can offer. **Meningie ranks highly in the various school sailing venues around the state and the community should value and protect this outstanding asset for water sports.**

The Meningie township rallied in support of the sailing club with the Lions group catering for a welcome BBQ and the Golf, Netball and Sailing clubs catering for 350 people on the Saturday presentation night. The Meningie Sailing Club and Meningie Area School, as hosts to the competition, would like to thank the community for its great support during this event.

Vic Woolston

On the 15th of April the State Regional Sailing Regatta was held here at Meningie. The competition consisted of Meningie and 24 other teams. Students representing the team in our school were Kobie Hood (Captain), Harry Tiver, Lochie McPherson, Tom Schaefer, Jiye Hoad, Dylan Gubbin and Ben Schaefer.

To win you want the lowest combination with your three boats. So what place you come decides how many points you get, and less than 10 points wins.

On the first day we held the opening dinner in the school hall and introduced the teams to everyone and how the days will run.

The 16th April was the first day of sailing. There was only 9 knots at 10.00 a.m. and it was reasonable for sailing. We had our first win for the regatta. By lunch time it had dropped to 3 knots and sailing was very slow.

Day 2 was better with stronger winds and faster sailing. We won more races that day.

Day 3 was the strongest sailing for the three days; reaching 20 knots. A lot of boats capsized. We finished the days of sailing at lunch time. The finals commenced, with Westminster white winning.

We finished the regatta with 8 out of 14 wins and came 21st overall.

Kobie Hood (Team Captain – Year 9)



Spectators at Meningie north jetty watching the event

Sailors interchange crews at the recent championships at Meningie



DRESSING FOR THE COLD WEATHER & ASTHMA

With the onset of the colder weather now upon us, could you please ensure that your children are dressed appropriately for school, especially with a warm jumper? A jacket and/or scarf, which can be easily removed in the classroom, can also be very useful.

The cold winter air can irritate airways causing them to tighten, so please ensure that students who suffer from asthma have their inhalers in their bags or at the front office.

CONNECTING SPIRITS TRIP 2015

On the 7th April 2015, Trae Rigney, Brittany Rigney, Taylor Long, Courtney Rigney and Shania Weetra, along with Mal Jurgs, Isobell Koolmatrie, Tamika Williams and Nigel Treloar, set off on the Connecting Spirits Trip 2015. Connecting Spirits is a project that involves students travelling to the World War 1 Battlefields, Cemeteries and Memorials of France and Belgium to learn firsthand the role that Australians played in the battles of the Great War and to understand the sacrifices they made. Whilst there the students, staff and parents commemorated individual soldiers from their own families and communities.

Our group was combined with Findon High School, Lameroo Area School, Mannum Area School, Unity College and Samaritan College. With students, staff and parents we made up a large group of 32. A larger group meant a lot more commemorations and with that a lot more emotional moments as we travelled from one Memorial or Cemetery to another. There were many places to see along the way, whether it was for Commemorations, Battlefields, War Museums, History (some of which were very confronting) ceremonies, Anzac Day Services or sightseeing between Singapore, France, Belgium and London.

All of the commemorations were highlights; just being at our hero's graves/memorials commemorating them for the braveness, courage and unselfishness they showed for their country, we saw that everywhere we went, in particularly to some of those smaller villages, how respected they were. We saw signs "Never Forget Australians", street names of our cities and towns, and the Australian Flag everywhere. A small school that the Connecting Spirits groups always visit has their classes named after our cities. The connection, respect and recognition are just amazing. Our group showed the small school in Sutton Veny how to make Aboriginal feather flowers. The children loved it and 7 bunches of these flowers were added to the wreath which was laid at their ANZAC Day Service to not only represent the 7 classes but the Aboriginal soldiers.



We also witnessed the re-burial of 6 British soldiers after 100 years; getting the burial they deserved for what they did for their country. What an honour it was for all. Students from our school groups took part in the Menin Gate Ceremony, where they laid a wreath and one of our students read The Ode in front of hundreds. This was an amazing experience for us all with the Last Post being played and the sound of the bagpipes topping it off.

At the end of our trip on Anzac Day, we were to be up at 4:30 am to be in Hyde Park London for the Dawn Service remembering our ANZAC's, then we had to all be ready for The ANZAC Ceremony at Westminster Abbey which was an amazing, and chance in a lifetime, experience with an Aboriginal didgeridoo player from Queensland starting off the Ceremony, along with Maori's singing their National Anthem in their language was beautiful and we cannot forget we were only metres away from Her Majesty the Queen and Prince Phillip!! Amazing experience.

Throughout the trip many connections were made; past, present and future. There is so much more to talk about and this is just some of what we were lucky enough to experience. I would like to make a special mention of Julie Reece our Tour Guide/Group Leader, who always makes this happen for our younger generation to educate, sharing her knowledge, putting herself out there and the truths be told about our hero's. I would also like to thank all of those who supported, sponsored and helped fundraise throughout the time leading up to the trip - it is most appreciated.

If your child or yourself are interested in doing the "Connecting Spirits Trip" or a "Battlefield Tour" in the future please see Mal Jurgs, I certainly recommend it.

Isobell Koolmatrie (ACEO Meningie Area School)



The Connecting Spirits Group 2015!!



The Group on Anzac Day



At the reburial of the 6 unknown British soldiers



Mr Williams played the last post



Ready to lay the wreath at Menin Gate



A picture speaks a thousand words



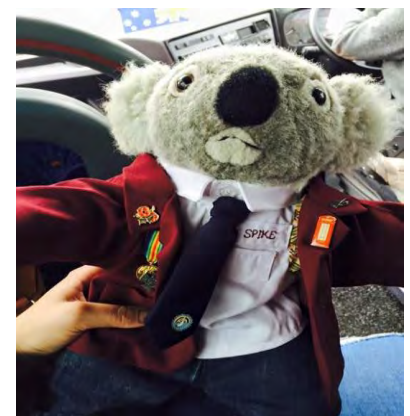
At Villers-Bretonneux



At Westminster Abbey



At the Eiffel Tower



'Spike' the mascot



You Care We Care campaign

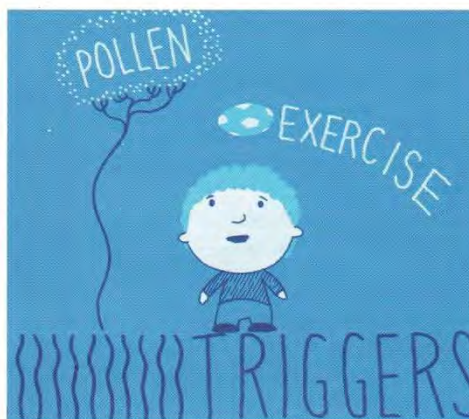
Asthma Australia and the Asthma Foundations receive Federal funding to deliver improved care to people with asthma and their carers. To help ensure this vital service continues, we are asking parents of children with asthma to sign up to our *You Care We Care* campaign. Parents can register as Asthma Champions to show their support.

Parents are also encouraged to share stories about their experiences looking after a child with asthma. This can be done by going to #breathingtogether on social media. These stories will be collated into a digital storybook and provided to the Prime Minister, Premiers/Chief Ministers and their Health Ministers during National Asthma Week (1-7 Sept), along with the list of Asthma Champions from around Australia. We encourage stories about the successes as well as the challenges. Find more information on the Asthma Australia website.

Asthma Kids

As reported in the last newsletter, a new online resource for all primary school aged children will now be available in April. This resource provides asthma information for all children, with or without asthma, via 'Chester's asthma trail'.

Asthma Kids can be done at home (with a parent for younger children) as well as in classrooms. The site is interactive with students collecting blue balloons as they progress, leading to a certificate and going into a prize draw. Teachers will need to provide contact details at this point to comply with online requirements for children.



Facebook page for young people with asthma

A new Facebook page has recently been established for 13-25 year olds with asthma. The page is titled Young People With Asthma – Australia. Secondary school aged students (must be 13 years old and over) and other young people can share their experiences, hear about latest developments and get tips on asthma management. Regular sessions will be held for young people to have their asthma questions answered by an asthma expert.

There will also be opportunities to provide input to our directions and resource development for this age group.



asthmaaustralia.org.au
Supported by the Australian Government

1800 ASTHMA (1800 278 462)

MISSING ATHLETICS TOPS – MAROON & GOLD

The following Athletic Tops are missing prior to 2015 – please check your cupboards at home and return to the front office as soon as possible – no questions asked!

M3 M5 M10 M11 F7 F14 F16 F42

LOOKING FOR AN ALTERNATIVE TO SCHOOLIES WEEKEND? What about Volunteering in Cambodia?

The Rotary Club of Tailem Bend is looking for any students that might be interested in a trip to Siem Reap, Cambodia in late November 2015 to volunteer at New Hope Cambodia.

For more information please contact Sue Piggott: sue@illoura.com.au or phone 0439 723 998 before 8th May

MENINGIE AREA SCHOOL

DRAFT 3

Term 2 2015

WK	DATE	DAY	MEETINGS	PLANNED EVENTS
1	27 April	Mon		
	28	Tues	General Staff 3.35 pm	Connecting Spirits students return
	29	Wed		Netball Try-out @ Peake
	30	Thurs		
	1 May	Fri		
2	4	Mon		
	5	Tues	Sub Schools/PLC's 3.35 pm	TAFE Retail visit 11am
	6	Wed		Flinders Uni visit for senior students 10.30-11.15
	7	Thurs		
	8	Fri		USE Cross Country & Touch Football @ Town Oval <i>Newsletter</i>
3	11	Mon		
	12	Tues	General Staff 3.35 pm	NAPLAN TESTING
	13	Wed		NAPLAN TESTING
	14	Thurs		NAPLAN TESTING
	15	Fri		
4	18	Mon	Governing Council & Resources Committee 7.30pm	2pm SATAC Visit
	19	Tues	T&D Moderation Session 3 - 3.30 pm sharp	CAPTAINS' BAKE SALE AT RECESS
	20	Wed		9-a-side Football @ Karoonda
	21	Thurs		
	22	Fri		<i>Newsletter</i>
5	25	Mon		SAPSASA State Netball & Football – all week
	26	Tues	General Staff 3.35 pm	
	27	Wed		2 nd Immunisation 10.30am – All Year 8's and 3 Year 9's
	28	Thurs		
	29	Fri		
6	1 June	Mon		
	2	Tues	Sub Schools/PLC's 3.35 pm	
	3	Wed		
	4	Thurs	Library Board meeting 4.30 pm	SSSSA/SAPSASA Cross Country @ Oakbank Band Day at Murray Bridge North School <i>Newsletter</i>
	5	Fri		STUDENT FREE DAY
7	8	Mon		QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY
	9	Tues	General Staff 3.35 pm	
	10	Wed		
	11	Thurs		
	12	Fri		
8	15	Mon	Governing Council & Resources Committee 7.30pm	
	16	Tues		
	17	Wed		
	18	Thurs		
	19	Fri		<i>Newsletter</i>
9	22	Mon		
	23	Tues	Sub Schools/PLC's 3.35 pm	
	24	Wed		
	25	Thurs		
	26	Fri		
10	29	Mon		
	30	Tues	General Staff 3.35 pm	
	1	Wed		
	2	Thurs		<i>Newsletter</i>
	3	Fri		End of Term 2 Students dismissed 2.20 pm Buses Depart 2.30 pm