

Meningie Area School Newsletter

PRINCIPAL: Mr Iain Love
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL: Mr Mal Jurgs
SENIOR SCHOOL LEADER (7-12): Ms Kathryn Hese
JUNIOR SCHOOL LEADER (R-6): Mrs Wendy Starling
GOVERNING COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON: Mr Henry Harvey



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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Official Opening of the School

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in the organisation of the event.

The fact that the formal ceremony, classroom visits and tours all went so well is down to the hard work of the staff, students and parents involved.

I would like to make particular mention of the work of our Communications Officer, Emma Swan, who was central to the organisation and delivery of the event.

Behind the scenes, particularly around our grounds, so much had to be done by Wayne Lehman our groundsperson, supported by Orey Hartwig, his assistant. Thanks to both of them, as well as all the parents who attended the working bee to clean up parts of the site. The school grounds are looking really great!

A real highlight for me was the way in which the student team took on their roles of ushers and tour guides, I have had letters, emails and conversations with so many people highlighting how professional, knowledgeable and polite our students were. Congratulations to all of you!

It was fantastic to see so many students wearing their school uniform with pride. Let's all work together to see if we can maintain this!

Thanks and congratulations to the members of our choir and Anne Wright and to our wonderful instrumentalists, supported by Peter Longden and Sean Hickey. We are so fortunate to have a vibrant music programme at our school.

Major highlights for me were the dance by the Ritjurukar Dancers led by Rita Lindsay, our Ngarrindjeri language instructor and the Smoking Ceremony also led by Rita. So many people have spoken to me about how important and moving they found this part of the opening ceremony.

Thanks also to the Minister for Education, The Honourable John Gardner MP and our local MP's Adrian Pederick and Nick McBride as well as all of our invited guests for taking the time to with us on this important occasion.

TERM 4 2019 14/10/2019 – 13/12/2019	
SUN SMART POLICY	
Week 6	
Friday 22/11	R-5 School Swimming
Week 7	
Mon 25/11	Governing Council Meeting
Mon-Fri	INNOV8
Fri 29/11	R-5 School Swimming
Week 8	
Mon 2/12	STUDENT FREE DAY
Mon-Fri	Melbourne Camp
Fri 6/12	R – 5 School Swimming



Our Governing Council members also need to be recognised for their role in bringing this project through to a successful conclusion. Working on your behalf, they have put so many hours into the project, advising me and supporting the work that we have done with the architects, builders and DPTI. Particular thanks go to Neville Kernick and Henry Harvey for their key roles over the last few years.

Above all, thanks to all of our parents, students and teachers who have coped with the discomfort, stress and restrictions which the rebuilding programme has caused.

When we look around at our wonderful new school, I think that we all agree that it has been worth it.

Congratulations to Our Year 12 Students

I am looking forward to congratulating all of our Year 12 students at their assembly this afternoon. We will be celebrating the culmination of all their years of schooling. We will be recognising their hard work and commitment as we wish them farewell and wait to hear of their future successes.

They, and their teachers, supported by parents friends and families have been working so hard to complete the requirements of their SACE and VET courses.

As many of you will remember, it an intense and often emotional time as they complete this important stage of their lives and prepare for the next big steps!

Student Mobile Phone Free School

I would like to share the exciting news that we are partnering with Yondr to make our school a phone-free space from the beginning of Term 1 2020, with a trial running from Week 7 to Week 9 of Term 4, 2019.

We understand that mobiles have great utility, but mobile phone use has increasingly become a source of distraction, antisocial behaviour and conflict both at home and at school.

Over the last two years student use of mobile phones in school has been a regular topic of conversation at Governing Council Meetings and staff meetings.

As parents will be aware, we implemented a voluntary ban on student use of mobile phones during lessons earlier in the year to ascertain whether this would curb the inappropriate use of phones.

Unfortunately, this approach has not been successful, with many students unable to curb their use of devices.

As a result, Governing Council and the school staff now support a formal, in school ban, of the use of mobile phones by students during the school day.

Meningie Area School believes in maintaining a safe and effective educational environment for all of its students. Research shows that the mere presence of mobiles in the classroom can be detrimental to student performance. We have also had instances of inappropriate use of mobile phones by some students during recess and lunchtimes.

Conversations with other leaders, here in South Australia as well as inter-state led us to investigate the option of partnering with a US company called Yondr, who have introduced a safe and secure way for organisations and event holders implement a mobile free environment.

Yondr is currently used in Australia and across the world in hundreds of classrooms and schools, at concerts, comedy shows, weddings and special events of all kinds. The goal of these spaces is to encourage people to engage with each other and their surroundings. Tintinara Area School in our Partnership has also chosen to implement the Yondr solution.

The Yondr programme employs a simple, easy-to-use case that stores a mobile and requires an unlocking base to open. When students enter school grounds, they will place their phone in a Yondr case which is then locked.

Students maintain possession of their phones but will not be able to use them until they are unlocked at the end of the day.

We believe that the implementation of the Yondr programme will allow our students to be:

- Engaged in classroom activities and assignments
- Less dependent on electronics to do classwork
- Less likely to engage in conversations around bullying
- Less likely to be distracted and procrastinate on assignments in class
- In an effort to best serve your child, we will need your full support in adoption of the Yondr program at our school.

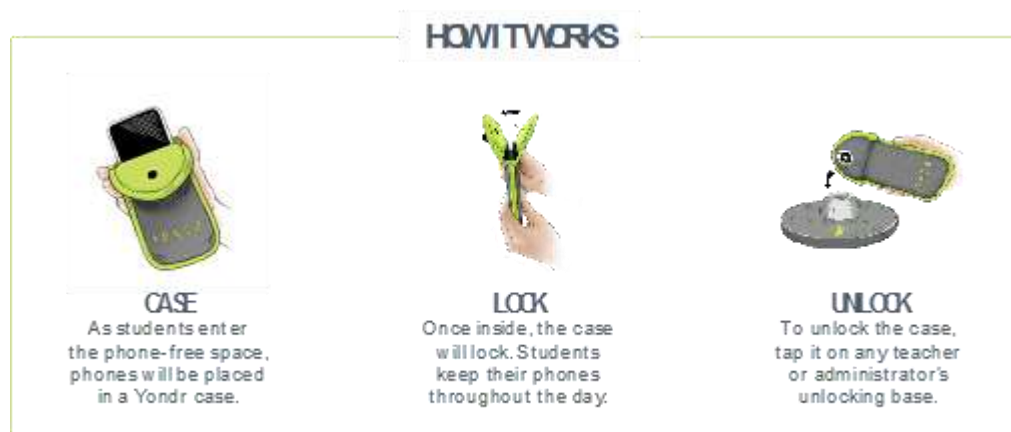
We want to assure our families that you can reach your student at the main office on 85751106. Unlocking stations will be available if required, in the Front Office, Junior and Senior School Offices.

It is important that the students do not feel like their phone is trapped but some students will still struggle during the transition period.

We thank you for your continued support in ensuring a safe and healthy learning environment for our students.

Representatives from the Yondr Team will be in school on 26th and 27th November, making presentations to students, staff and families and supporting us with implementation.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school directly, or attend the information session with members of the School Leadership Team, Governing Council & the Yondr Team which will be held in the Music Room on Tuesday 26th November at 6:30 pm.



**** Reminder ****
Student Free Day
Monday
2/12/2019

I am sending out a letter to all families with this and further information on the introduction of the Yonder Programme.

Please contact the school for an additional copy of this if your student forgets to bring it home.

Remembrance Day

As has become a custom at Meningie Area School in recent years, the whole school community walked down to the Meningie Memorial Park to join in the RSL's Community Remembrance Day Service last Monday. It is heartening to see students from all age groups engaging in the service and show their respect for all of those who have given their lives in times of war.

Tiarnie Ling laid a wreath on behalf of the school community while Charli Medlow laid one from the Connecting Spirits project. She will be travelling with her mum, Kerry, to England, France and Belgium as part of next year's project, and has recently returned from a trip to Vietnam which she won as part of the Premier's ANZAC prize.

Felicia Hartman joined Sharon Bland and Brenton Qualmann to lay a wreath on behalf of the Coorong District Council. The council has linked with the Parish Council of Sutton Veny in England, where a number of Australian's are buried in their local churchyard. As Felicia had visited the churchyard and school during our last connecting Spirits trip, she represented that link between the 2 communities.

While the recent centenary of World War 1 has put a focus on Anzac Day and Remembrance Day, I am sure that this commitment will continue for many years to come.



SAPSASA Tennis

SAPSASA Tennis was so much fun! From Meningie we had Zoe Kernick and Ella Swan on the girls team on the boys team we had Jacobe Griffiths, Guardxavier Leccio and Bailey Stuut. It was a great opportunity for everyone. Murray Mallee came 5th but we were the kindest team. By Zoe Kernick.

Super 8 Cricket

On Friday the 1st of November we took a girls 8,9 & 10 team to super 8 cricket. We had a successful day, finishing runners up to Keith Area School. The day culminated with an epic water fight, and all our girls getting soaked; Mr Wauchope however, came out unscathed.

Everyone played extremely well, with special mention to Kalia Hera-Singh and Jasmine Cunneen. As the picture suggests, we thought it was appropriate to call the team, The orange chops.



Above: Pictured Left to Right: Ella Swan, Jacobe Griffiths, Bailey Stuut, Guardxavier Leccio, Zoe Kernick



**THE
ORANGE
CHOPS!**
MAS Cricket
Team



Year 1-2 Farm Visit

On Wednesday of week 4, the year 1/2 class had an excursion to Majesta Dairy. The visit was a part of our information text writing unit. We have been learning about different types of cattle, their uses, features and diets. We learnt plenty of interesting facts from Jeff Wright, Tim Wright and all the workers down on the farm. Students had a great day and thoroughly enjoyed the experience!



From the Wellbeing Co-ordinator by Emma Oliver

In May 2019 the Office of the eSafety Commissioner published a report 'Parenting in the Digital Age' which shines a light on the current concerns of 3520 parents in Australia of children aged 2 – 17. The majority (94%) of parents believe their children's online safety is important with the 3 most common concerns reported being:

- Exposure to inappropriate content other than pornography (38%)
- Contact with strangers (37%)
- Being bullied online (34%)

Compare these with what children worry about most:

- Abusive comments from peers
- Stories in the news and media that can be upsetting (for example terrorist acts, child suffering and natural disasters)
- Animal abuse – videos which show cruelty to animals
- Upsetting content, such as shocking videos on YouTube showing people being hurt and acts of self-harm

The American Academy of Paediatrics, the originator of the famous 2x2 rules (no screens under 2 years, no more than 2 hours/day thereafter), has finally conceded that in the digital age, such advice is impossible to follow. Robyn Treyvaud from Family Insights Group, has the following recommendations for parents:

1. **Lead by example** – If you have unhealthy screen habits, your children may adopt the, as well.
2. **Establish ground rules** – It's best to establish concrete rules rather than enacting random ones. Develop guidelines which reflect your family values with everyone involved. An agreement can be developed using the interactive Smart Talk. <https://thesmarttalk.org/#/>
3. **Communicate those ground rules to other caregivers** – Nothing can undermine your authority than having someone else bend your rules.
4. **Stop at a natural break** – It's hard for children and teens (and adults!), to stop in the middle of something. Before your child gets on a device, talk about what they want to watch or play and negotiate a time limit, allow a little bit of wriggle room to allow them to finish what they are doing.

Article in the Spring edition of Youthwise magazine and I highly recommend checking out <https://familyinsights.net/> a group to support families stay safe online.

Dr. Harry Ousley's Retirement

I was saddened to read of Dr. Harry's imminent retirement, and feel this is the most appropriate way to acknowledge the huge amount of support that he and Michelle have provided the school over many years.

As the Ag teacher at the school for 32 years, there have been many occasions when I have needed to call on their services for either advice, medication or, most often, veterinary intervention. The school has not received any bills from the practice for any of this work for at least as long as I have been involved at the school. This has saved the school countless thousands of dollars and has also meant that the school's animals have had the best possible care.

As teachers, we often say that there are no dumb questions, however I am sure that Dr. Harry would think that I have really pushed the envelope on many occasions. He has graciously answered my queries at weird times of the day, and I thank him for his patience and support.

In my first few weeks at the school, one of our stud cows suddenly died. As the new teacher, the students' eyes were on me, thinking that the newbie has done something wrong. Dr. Harry volunteered to do an autopsy on the cow which showed that it died of a disease which it should have been vaccinated for prior to my arrival, and he made sure that the students new that it wasn't due to something that I had either done or not done.

Young animals that haven't thrived, which in other situations would have been left for nature to take its course, have received the best intervention possible, and in many cases have gone on to live to a ripe old age.

Dr. Harry was a member of the School Council for many years and was also a foundation member of the Ag committee which I formed early on in my time here. In both of those capacities, he made a significant contribution to the development of the school and in particular the ag facilities.

While the support that Dr. Harry has given the school over many years can be quantified in terms of billable hours donated, the impact which this has had on the teaching and learning that we have been able to provide is immeasurable.

The whole school community wishes Dr. Harry a full and speedy recovery and both he and Michelle a long and fulfilling retirement.

Bus Drivers

There a times when the school needs relief bus drivers. To be eligible to do that, a person needs to have a heavy vehicles license, at least an LR to drive our small buses, and MR to drive the bigger buses. They will also need to gain Passenger Transport Accreditation through the Department for Planning Transport and Infrastructure, which will include a medical check and a Working With Children Clearance. These can be quite time consuming and costly to obtain, and there is no guarantee of any paid work in the immediate future but if you are interested in going through this process please contact me to get some more information.



MYTERN
Take Emotional Responsibility Now

In those moments when you are feeling alone, remember that your journey may be different from those around you: and that's ok. Just hang in there. Change is always on its way.

School Notices

STUDENT FREE DAY
MONDAY
2 / 12 / 2019

MEETINGS Governing Council

Monday 25th November 2019

PACCS

Monday 25th November 2019
@ 2.00pm in Library

Meningie Area School use **School Star App** to communicate with families. The APP allows you to message the school for absences or other messages, email and phone links

ISA Brown Point of Lay



Available in November
place your order at the school,
call in or phone 8575 1106.



HOMEWORK CLUB

Every Monday during School Term ✨ 3.20pm – 4.30pm
for Year 4 – 12 students

Staff are in the room to support students

Registration form available at the Front Office



Is your child due for an eye test?

Optometrists Association Australia recommends that children have a full eye examination with an optometrist before starting school and regularly as they progress through primary and secondary school.

A thorough eye examination with an optometrist takes approximately 25 minutes and attracts a Medicare rebate. No referral is required.



Hosting an exchange student can be a truly rewarding experience for the whole family

Welcome a new family member into your home

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED IN 2020

- ✓ Experience a foreign culture firsthand
- ✓ Be exposed to a new language at home
- ✓ Rediscover and share the beauty of Australia
- ✓ Develop friendships that last a lifetime

Students arrive in January, May, July and August and stay for 3, 5 or 10 months.

All students have a wide range of interests and hobbies.

If your family can offer a friendly, supportive and caring home environment, contact us today
1300 135 331 or info@studentexchange.org.au

www.studentexchange.org.au/hosting

experienceiseverything



student exchange
AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND






LEARN HOW TO SUPPORT SOMEONE WHO IS FEELING SUICIDAL

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training will teach you practical skills to support someone who is feeling suicidal. Make a real difference to people in your community.

MHFA TRAINING BENEFITS

KNOWLEDGE	CONFIDENCE	DE-STIGMATISING	SUPPORT
Improves knowledge of mental illnesses, treatments and first aid actions.	Increases confidence in providing first aid.	Decreases stigmatising attitudes.	Increases the support provided to others.

LEARN PRACTICAL FIRST AID SKILLS

- Recognise the signs that someone may be suicidal
- Help the person stay safe
- Connect people to professional and other supports, and
- Respond in a crisis situation

This is a 4-hour educational course, not a therapy or support group.

HOW DO I SIGN UP?
Contact Pauline Linke – plinke&y7mail.com Mob. 0409 617 501
Organised by 'Lakes Suicide Prevention Network' of Meningie

DATES 27th November 2019
TIMES 5pm-9pm
COST \$0

VENUE Uniting Church Hall, Meningie
FACILITATOR/S – Joan Oldfield

For more information, visit mhfa.com.au/courses

[@MHFA_Australia](#) [@mentalhealthfirstaid](#)



Visit Santa

Murray Bridge Marketplace

2019 Santa Photo Packages

ELF	REINDEER	SANTA
2 x '6x4'	3 x '5x7'	4 x '6x4'
\$15	\$25	\$40
Great for Parents	Great for sharing with Grandparents	Great as gifts to Family & Friends

*Cash Facilities Only

 Murray Bridge Marketplace

EXCLUSIVE OFFER

FREE 5x7 PRINT

Present this coupon when you visit Santa at the Murray Bridge Marketplace & receive your **FREE '5x7'** print with the purchase of either the **REINDEER** or **SANTA PHOTO PACKAGE** starting at just \$25

DECEMBER SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
SATURDAY 14TH - TUESDAY 24TH DEC 2019

*Only one coupon per package purchased

Blue Light Christmas Disco

Friday 22nd November 2019
5.30pm to 7.30pm
@ The Station, Railway Tce, Murray Bridge
Ages 5-14 years.
DJ Steve Murphy

\$5 Entry

- Lock in event, fully supervised
- Food & drinks available to purchase
- Free Sausage Sizzle
- Dance prizes to win.



www.bluelightsa.com.au Ph: 85356020.
E: sapolmurraymalleecrimeprevention@police.sa.gov.au



Meningie Christmas Festival

Sunday December 8th

5.00pm Parade from West Terrace to Meningie Oval

5.30pm Santa visit and Santa photos

Welcome to Country

Blessing of Emergency Vehicles

Picnic tea available

Decorated bike Fancy dress parade

6.45pm Community Christmas Carols

8.45pm Fireworks Spectacular

Entry forms are available from Meningie Information Hub and Coorong Cottage Industries or Email meningieprogress@hotmail.com

Sponsorship and donations are welcome.

MENINGIE AREA SCHOOL

DRAFT 4

30/09/2019

Term 4 2019

REMINDER – TERM 4 – SUNSMART POLIY (Hat, Sunscreen, Sunglasses)

WK	DATE	DAY	MEETINGS	PLANNED EVENTS
6	18	Mon		
	19	Tues		
	20	Wed		
	21	Thurs		
	22	Fri		
7	25	Mon	Governing Council Meeting	INNOV8
	26	Tues		INNOV8
	27	Wed		INNOV8
	28	Thurs		
	29	Fri	Partnership Meeting	
8	2 Dec	Mon		PUPIL FREE DAY
	3	Tues		Yr 7-12 Melbourne Trip
	4	Wed		
	5	Thurs		
	6	Fri		
9	9	Mon		
	10	Tues		PRESENTATION NIGHT
	11	Wed		
	12	Thurs		
	13	Fri		Last day of Year School finishes 2.20 pm Buses depart 2.30 pm

Term 1, 2020 - Tuesday 28 January 2020.....Thursday 9 April 2020