

# Meningie Area School News

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023



## From the principal

Welcome to the 2023 school year! Thank you to all of our staff and families for a smooth start to the year. In this newsletter you will have introductions to our new staff and a re-introduction to Abbey Gibbs who is returning 2 days per week as Primary Coordinator – Leading Learning Improvement.

We are well into the planning and organisation of the learning programs and have a busy start to the term. The new receptions are energetic and adapting to school life. Senior secondary students have started their highly individualised pathways undertaking VET options to develop high level skills in metal fabrication, construction pathways, automotive, fashion & design and early childhood education.

The start of the term is very busy, please read the term dates carefully and note them in your calendar – we will send broadcasts and post on the Meningie Area School Facebook page to remind you.

It is likely you have seen the press on the mobile phone ban the State Government has introduced. Fortunately, we were on the front foot with this and most of our secondary students use the YONDR pouches as per our “Mobile Devices Policy”. We have ordered extra-large pouches – when they arrive students can swap their pouch for an extra large. Smart watches and earbuds should not be brought to school - if they are we will ask students to lock them in their pouches with their phone.

[Phones banned in SA schools but ChatGPT allowed | ABC News](#) - YouTube.

## Governing Council

The first meeting of the term will be held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February, 6.30pm in the Staff Room. At this meeting Commshake will brief the Council on the process to develop school values, school motto and a school logo. We welcome any family members who are interested in serving on Governing Council to attend to observe how Governing Council functions. If you would like to attend please advise us by phoning the front office.

## Bike racks

The bike racks have been moved. A shelter has been put up outside the administration building for students to put their bikes. This provides greater supervision of students and bikes and guides them directly to the crossing when they are arriving/leaving school. Students can cross at the crossing, walk their bike up the path, through the gate to the shelter. Thank you to Paul Brumfield and his team and Tony Berry for having this ready for the start of the school year.



## Diary Dates

### February

Mon 13 <sup>th</sup>	Youth Jam
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup>	Meet & Greet BBQ
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup>	Governing Council, 6.30pm. Interschool Swimming @ Murray Bridge – 10am start
Tues 21 <sup>st</sup>	800m Race – 9 am start
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup>	1500m Race – 9 am start
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup>	MAS Athletics Day

### March

Wed 1 <sup>st</sup>	Whole school Assembly 2.15pm
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup>	Adelaide Cup Public Holiday
Tues 14 <sup>th</sup>	Interschool Athletics @ Karoonda
Tues 14 <sup>th</sup>	Adelaide University Introduction
Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> & Fri 17 <sup>th</sup>	Yr 10-12 Adelaide Trip
Tues 21 <sup>st</sup>	Harmony Day

### April

Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Student Free Day
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Wed 5 <sup>th</sup>	SAPSASA Softball Carnival @ West Beach
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Good Friday
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Monday
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Last Day of Term 1

## 2023 Sports Day

Sports Day is earlier this year. NAPLAN moving into Term 1 has resulted in team nomination dates and interschool events being brought forward. We know this means students will have a little less preparation for the day. The HPE teachers are planning to do an athletics unit in Term 4 each year to give more preparation for an earlier Sports Day in the future.

Events run prior to the day are the 800m race on Tuesday 21st February and 1500m race on Wednesday 22nd February for 10 year olds and older, both starting at 9am on the school oval. Parents can attend the long distance running events. The Javelin and Triple jump will be held during lesson time for students only as times will vary for each class and age groups will be mixed. Students will be advised of the results of these events on Thursday prior to sports day.

There will not be a canteen on the day. For students 9 years and under they will sprint on the oval in the morning and then return to the R-3 space for most of the day and can pack their usual lunch box. Lunch orders from Freshies will be available for students and adults on the day (see QR code in this newsletter). Students turning 10 this year (born in 2013) and older will be on the oval all day and should pack a few snacks and ensure they have a water bottle. At recess a snack e.g. fruit and/or muesli bar and small drink will be provided for students on the oval.

The program is being finalised and will be sent home as an attachment during week 4. The end of the day presentations can be rushed so this year we will announce winners on the day but hold a formal presentation at a whole school assembly, Wednesday 1st March 2.15pm in the Hall. Our Student Representative Council and House Captains will also be formally introduced at the assembly. Families are welcome to attend the assembly.



### The 2023 SRC Representatives.

Back row: Ms Haselgrove, Principal; Year 10/11/12 Kalisha Sumner, Kiara Rigney and Addison Mammone (absent from photo); Year 8/9 Lyla Jeffery and Aaliyah Purvis; School Captain Coen Pearson.  
Front row: Year 4/5, Mya Kartinyeri and Ruby Cunneen; Year 7 Christian Retsas (Mammone) & Zoii Oliver (absent from photo); Year 5/6 Tayla McNicol and Heston Schulz.

## Welcome to our new and returning staff



**Miss Lauren McGargill** Year 5/6 English & R-6 Primary Health and PE.

I am 26 years old and grew up in Adelaide. I went to University to study a Bachelor of Sport, Health and Physical Activity and a Masters of Primary Teaching. When I graduated my masters I travelled up to the Riverland and worked in 2 different schools up there. I have a Border Collie named Ollie, 2 bunnies named Floppy and Harold, and 2 chickens named Arthur and Marther. Last year I played for the Meningie Bears Netball team, and this year I will be playing for the Coorong Cats team!

**Something interesting you like to do when you are not at work?**

I love taking the dog for a walk, or travelling down to the beach and catching up with friends. I also love to spending time in the kitchen trying new recipes!

**What is your favourite spot in or near Meningie or what do you look forward to exploring near Meningie?**

My favourite spot in Meningie is by the lake, I am looking forward to taking my paddle board out and seeing the shore from afar!

**Favourite place you have travelled?**

I have been lucky enough to travel across the world and have been to multiple countries, however, if I had to choose one it would be Mexico. The culture there is lively, the waters are crystal clear with fascinating wildlife, and the food is unbelievably tasty!



**Laurie Vermeeren**, Business Manager

I am married to Mark for 32 years. I have 1 daughter, 3 sons, 1 son-in-law and 2 grandsons.

Grew up on a dairy farm in Gippsland Victoria. We now live in Placid Estates, Wellington East overlooking the Murray River.

I have previously worked as a finance officer at Coomandook Area School, and FIFO to Roxby Downs Children's Centre. Prior to that I have worked for the Coorong Council and other retail Stores.

We also lived on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands from 2000-2010

**Something interesting you like to do when you are not at work?**

When away from work I enjoy relaxing with friends and family.

**What is your favourite spot in or near Meningie or what do you look forward to exploring near Meningie?**

I would love to get to know more about Meningie. Even though I live reasonably close, we never really travel this way.

**Favourite place you have travelled?**

I loved travelling around New Zealand. We also love camping/caravanning off grid, especially along the Murray River.



**Kelly Chen**, Yr 7 Homegroup Teacher, Year 7, 8, 9 Math & Science

I have a black and white domestic shorthair cat, and she is about 2 years old.

I finished my Bachelor of Education (Secondary)/ Bachelor of Science at Flinders University in 2022.

I like spending time with my friends and watching TV when I am not at work.

I look forward to exploring Murray Bridge

The best place I have travelled is Japan





**Rhian Griffith**, Reception Teacher

I came from Wales UK when I was 12 years old with my family. I lived in Whyalla for most of my schooling and study. I have 4 wonderful adult children and one grandchild who started school this year.

I love to drive so I travel around a fair bit. Helps that my family is spread out across the country so I go and visit them often. I also enjoy exploring new places.

I haven't seen much of the area yet, and looking forward to doing that soon. I do like the lake.

There are a lot of places that I have enjoyed in Australia, the top end of Western Australia was magnificent as was Tassie. Overseas I must say the best place I have travelled as an adult was back to Wales.



**Robyn Jeffery**, Reception – Year 1 SSO

We have lots of animals at our place

dog, cats, conures, cockatiels, turtle, fish, chooks.

Travelled all around Australia as a child married in Meningie, 3 children :)

When I'm not working I love spending time my friends, family and animals !!!

Especially my birds!

The Coorong is a great spot we visit our special family shack often.

Queensland is my favourite places to travel, the weather and the beaches are amazing .



**Abbey Gibbs**, R-6 Learning Improvement Leader

Hi, my name is Mrs Gibbs, some of you may know me as Abbey or Miss Hood.

I grew up in Meningie and attended Meningie Area School from Reception through to Year 12, with the exception of a year long exchange to Texas, USA in between year 11 & 12.

I live in Meningie with my husband Josh, son Herbie & our dog Mallee. We love to go camping & spend time at the lake or beach. We love to explore the outdoors. I've travelled both Australia and overseas on several occasions, but my favourite destination would have to be Ningaloo Reef in WA.

I am returning to school part-time after having 2022 off for maternity leave. Normally you will find me teaching in the R/1 classroom, however in 2023 I will be working as the R-6 Learning Improvement Leader. This is a new role at Meningie Area School and means I will be working predominately with teachers, rather than students, to implement PLD (Promoting Literacy Development) and facilitate professional learning for staff regarding Autism Inclusion.

**R-6 LITERACY NEWS**

**Promoting Literacy Development**

In 2023, we will be implementing a new Literacy program for all students in R-6 called 'PLD' which stands for 'Promoting Literacy Development'.

PLD provides an Australian, evidence-based approach to Structured Synthetic Phonics (SSP) for primary school educators. Aligned with the Science of Reading, PLD's SSP approach extends from the junior primary years through to upper primary years and thereby facilitating a whole school approach.

In week 0, teaching and SSO staff completed the relevant professional development for their cohort. The implementation process will be overseen by Abbey Gibbs who will work directly with teachers and SSO staff to ensure successful implementation.

Over the coming weeks, further information will be sent out about how you can support your child with their literacy development at home. In the meantime, you are able to access information on the PLD website: <https://pld-literacy.org/about-pld-literacy/>



## Reception and Senior School Buddies

A highlight on Tuesday in week 1 was when the Reception students got introduced to their senior buddies. They completed a getting to know you activity and learnt about each other's favourite colours and favourite activity.

They then went on to introduce their reception buddies at the whole school mini assembly on Wednesday afternoon in Pastoral Care. Some receptions were so confident they took over the microphone and lead their introduction and introduced their buddy.

Krew and Kiara (12)  
Cody and Matthew (12)  
Lincoln and Alex (12)  
Kyana and Thomas (12)  
Oscar and Coen (12)  
Alaric and Brendan (12)  
Zane and Kalisha (11)  
Darla and Addison (11)  
Lucy and Scott (11)  
Rudi and Desmond (11)  
Isabella and Jacobe (10)



Senior Buddies will help run with reception students during the sprint races on sports day. Buddies will continue to join together for various activities throughout the year.





## Coorong Mallee Partnership Student Expo

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of December last year our Year 12 students were invited to attend an expo with other students from across the Coorong Mallee Partnership. Meningie students Alex and Matthew attended with Ms. Nakone and Ms Neumann and participated in the 4 scheduled sessions along with students from Coomandook and Karoonda Area Schools.

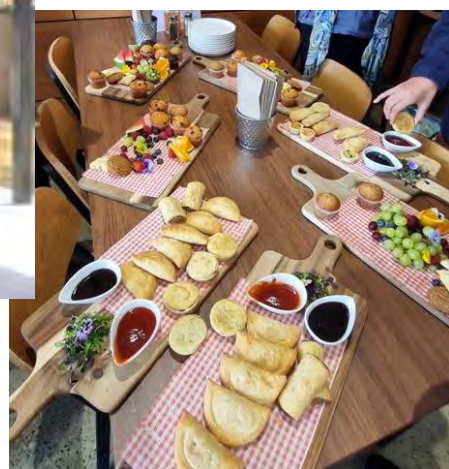
Session 1 was run by Ian Walton who worked across the region for many years before finishing his teaching career at Monarto Zoo as an education officer and has a strong interest in teaching students about networking. He pushed students out of their comfort zone to engage with each other and the day. Session 2 was led by Emily Griggs the partnership's new pathways consultant. Emily connected students into 3 groups based on their chosen interests- Agriculture, STEM, and Service industries e.g., defence force, police, and health. The students moved to these groups to start brainstorming support ideas for 2023. How they could work as a network and what excursions or camps they could design across the schools.



For the third session, Shani Williams a lawyer from the Legal Services Commission spoke to the staff and students about consent. She also ran a very helpful Q & A about common questions youth have regarding the law and police.

Session 4 was a fun minute to win it competition with Meningie taking out the initial challenge but was out skilled by Coomandook team 2 in the finale.

All students ranked the day as between 6 and 8 out of 10 for being a worthwhile event. The schools involved are committed to seeing this pilot develop over this school year – various ideas talked about included a partnership Fringe trip to Adelaide, face-to-face lessons for Open Access students across the region, and regular catchups in the networking groups -potentially by teams or face to face. We will continue to build on these connections, focusing on developing the soft skills employers are looking for in teamwork and collaboration. The feedback from the pilot will allow for an even bigger event at the end of next year planned for Friday, week 7 in term 4 2023 for the 2024 year 12 students.



## Leadership in Languages and Cultures Award



### Thomas and Coen Pearson

On the 20th of January 2023 the Australia Day Awards Ceremony was held at Government House, Adelaide. Headspace, Murray Bridge nominated Thomas and Coen Pearson for the Leadership in Languages and Cultures Award. Thomas and Coen were successful recipients and the awards were presented by the Minister for Education Mr Blair Boyer MP.

The Leadership in Languages and Cultures Award recognises young people who have demonstrated leadership and commitment to their study of Languages and Cultures at school and who seek to advocate for a culturally diverse Australia.

Thomas and Coen have both been engaged in the Meningie Area School Ngarrindjeri Language Program, since 2016. The Ngarrindjeri Language Program commenced as an afterschool program in 2016 and went into school time in 2017. Thomas and Coen successfully completed the Stage 1 and Stage 2 Australian Languages-Revival Language SACE subjects. The Ngarrindjeri Language Program continues to support Aboriginal students to learn the Ngarrindjeri language and culture and to share Ngarrindjeri culture with the wider community.

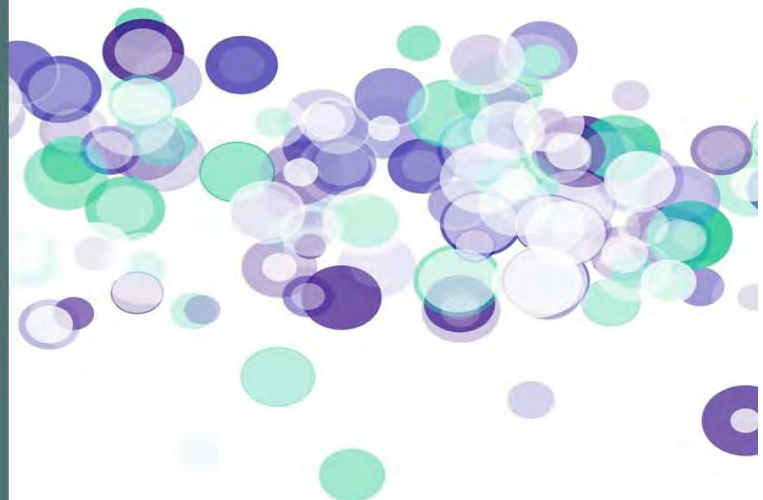
MEET & GREET  
4PM - 6PM  
WED 15 FEBRUARY

POOL OPEN  
3PM - 5PM

BBQ 5PM

*Come and catch up with  
your child(ren)'s teachers  
informally and see the  
learning environment.*

For catering purposes please  
RSVP to the front office



## Governing Council

Governing Council work with the Principal to monitor the school. Governing Council meets approximately twice a term. Some of the tasks you might do whilst volunteering on Governing Council is:

- to involve the local community
- develop and approve local policies
- set the broad direction and vision of the site
- monitor and review the site improvement plan

The Governing Council AGM will be held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March and we would welcome any parents or carers wanting to be involved to nominate. Nomination forms will be available from future newsletter editions.

# MENINGIE AREA SCHOOL GOVERNING COUNCIL

**AGM 2023**

**MONDAY 20<sup>th</sup> MARCH 7.30 PM**

You are invited to the Meningie Area School Governing Council AGM at 7.30 pm in the Staff Room.

Please give careful consideration to attending this meeting.

Strong communities have strong schools and we need your input and support to keep strong.

Please fill out the Nomination for Election Form below if you would like to be on Governing Council and return it to the front office by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> of March.

## MENINGIE AREA SCHOOL GOVERNING COUNCIL

### NOMINATION FOR ELECTION FORM

I .....  
(full name)

of .....  
(address)

Contact Number: .....

wish to nominate myself for Governing Council.

Signed: ..... Date: .....

**(Please note: parents/carers may self-nominate)**

**PLEASE RETURN FORM TO THE FRONT OFFICE BY FRIDAY 17<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2023**

## Volunteers

Volunteers are vital part of our community and in schools this is not different. Due to Covid we have been unable to have volunteers however, this is not the case anymore. In 2023 we will be looking to recruit volunteers who are interested in supporting and working with the school and students to achieve successful outcomes and offer fantastic opportunities. Over the years we have had various volunteer roles. Some of the roles we have identified moving forward are:

- Governing Council member
- Listening to students read
- Chaperone on Excursions, Camps & Royal Adelaide Show
- Mentoring
- Gardening
- Ag (market gardens or animals)
- Breakfast club
- Lunch Clubs (lego, board games, sports, & craft)
- Library

Volunteer time can be as regular or as flexible as needed depending on each individual and what roles you offer support in.

If you are interested in volunteering in 2023 and beyond, please contact the school and we will commence the process.



## After School Homework Club

Homework Club is available in the Library on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons for students in Years 7 - 12 who would like a quiet place to either complete their homework or catch up on subject tasks, and also for those who would like some support with their homework. Mrs Chandler will be available to assist students with any questions. Homework Club will be available from 3.05 - 3.55pm. Consent is needed and will be sent out to parents/caregivers of students in Years 7 to 12 via EdSmart. Please complete this prior to students using this after school service, it only needs to be fill out once per term.

## Team Sailing practice for year 5 and older students

Wednesday afternoons 3:10 pm (straight after school) to 4:30pm.

Team Sailing is open to all students who are interested in being part of this activity from Year 5 and older. We will practice skills and sail together. Sailing gear is available at the Sailing Club. Please wear warm clothes and shoes that you can get wet.

## Twilight Sailing for everybody

Wednesday afternoons from 4:30pm-6:00pm

Twilight sailing is for anyone interested in getting out on the lake and having a sail. Children need to complete a permission and health form to participate. These are available at the sailing club on the first night. The cost is \$5 per person per night (up to \$50 for the whole season). Sailing gear is available at the Sailing Club. Please wear warm clothes and shoes that you can get wet.

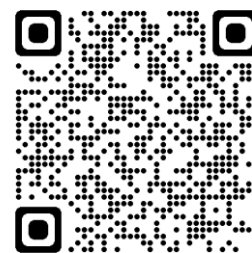


## Freshies lunch orders

Lunch Orders are available from Freshies on Wed, Thurs & Friday.

This is an online ordering and payment system.

Scan QR Code to order or follow the link and directions below.



Click here:> [Home](#) | [Meningie Area School Canteen \(square.site\)](#) or access the link viat our webpage – drop the parent tab down.



## How to shop or access the Foodbank HUB in Murray Bridge

Cost of living pressures have increased. If you need support Foodbank is one option for reducing your weekly or fortnightly grocery expenses.

Meningie Area School is a referrer for all families and individuals in the Meningie and Districts area. The process is easy, if you are interested in finding out more, please contact the school via email on [dl.0750\\_info@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.0750_info@schools.sa.edu.au) or 85751106



## Soccer 2023

### Registration/information

The Murray Bridge United Football Club will be holding their 2023 Registration / Information / Player Nomination Night on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February, from 4.00pm to 6.30pm, (Week 4), at the Beatty Terrace Clubrooms, Murray Bridge.

All Enquiries and/or Player Nominations to Grant please; [klenkegc@internode.on.net](mailto:klenkegc@internode.on.net) or 0411 057 039

If you require any further details, please don't hesitate to contact me.

We will continue to welcome any additional enquiries as well after this date.

Our playing season is expected to start 1st April.



## Blue Light Summer Disco

**Thursday 16th February 2023**  
**5.30pm to 7.30pm**  
**@ The Station, Railway Tce, Murray Bridge**  
**Ages 7-13 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](mailto:sapolmurraymalleecrimeprevention@police.sa.gov.au)