

Meningie Area School News



Principal's report from Fiona Haselgrove

Monday 17th February 2025

Welcome to the 2025 school year, we have had a great start!

Staff enjoyed the opportunity to meet families informally at the Meet & Greet last week. The pool is getting good use in the next few weeks – open for the Meet & Greet, swimming lessons and Raukkan School is also using the pool for swim lessons.



We are pleased to be welcoming our new staff, students and families to Meningie Area School and look forward to learning together. We also welcome Breeze Café as our lunch provider Monday, Thursday, and Fridays with a great menu.

Start of term reminders:

- **Attendance** – students need to be at school to learn and develop social skills. Some days it may seem hard to get children off to school but it is vital to develop good habits. If there is something bothering your child, please contact the teacher or Assistant Principal to talk about it so it can be worked through to support good attendance.
- We strongly encourage students wear **uniform** – particularly their tops that were provided last year. Uniforms enhance student belonging and positive school culture. For excursions uniforms help with safety and students going on excursions are required to be in uniform unless otherwise stated.
- We are continuing to update and document policies, procedures, and guidelines. Staff have worked on "**Homework Guidelines**" and SRC will discuss the guidelines as well. The guidelines provide a commonsense approach to Homework and are not onerous. When we distribute the document, we encourage you to develop a routine for children to complete tasks.

Term 1 Diary Dates

FEBRUARY

Mon 17 th	800m Race – 9am Act of Kindness Day
Wed 19 th	1500m Race – 9am Primary Swimming
Thurs 20 th	Primary Swimming
Friday 21 st	Sports Day
Wed 26 th	Primary Swimming
Thurs 27 th	Whole School Assembly Primary Swimming
Fri 28 th	Primary Swimming

MARCH

Fri 7 th	Student Free Day
Mon 10 th	Adelaide Cup Public Holiday
Tues 11 th	Interschool Athletics @ Karoonda
Mon 17 th	School Photo Day
Tues 17 th to Fri 21 st	Year 7 Sailing @ Meningie
Mon 17 th to Sun 23	Harmony Week
Thurs 27 th	Choir Young Environmental Leaders

APRIL

Thurs 3 rd	SASSA Athletics
Mon 7 th	SAPSASA Swimming in Adelaide
Friday 11 th	Last Day of Term 1 Early Dismissal 2.05pm Buses Depart 2.15pm

Sports Day Friday 21/2/25

We monitor the weather and make a decision Wednesday 19/2/25 after the 5pm weather update. If we have to postpone, families will get an SMS. Back up Sports Day is Monday 24/2/25



- For year 4-12 students the **Homework Club** is operating Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday in the library to support students in developing study habits and have support in their learning. You have been emailed a consent for Homework Club
- **Breakfast Club** is open 8:30 to 8:45am for all students. If your child catches a bus, remind them to go straight to Breakfast Club after getting off the bus. We are closing at 8:45am to support teachers start the day smoothly.
- **Borrowing school resources** – the school offers many resources including laptops, books, magazines, DVD’s. Please ensure that they are returned by the due date. Unreturned items will be invoiced.
- **Mobile devices** – there is a statewide policy. Primary students are not to bring mobile devices, secondary must use their YONDR pouch for mobile devices.
- **Communications** – we endeavour to provide a range of communications to connect with families:

EDSMART – emails broadcasts and consent forms. Please ensure you reply “yes” or “no” for consents so we can manage transport etc.

Newsletters – Week 3, 6 and 9 each term. They are on the website and the link is emailed when they are available. Hard copies are in the Front Office, the Community Library, Foodland, and the Post Office. You can request that we give one to your child to take home.

Unexplained absences – if your child is away and we have not received a reason you will be texted.

Any urgent messages – e.g., bus information – families will be texted.

Noticeboard on the hill – upcoming events are advertised on the noticeboard.

Parent/family groups – PaCCS – is reactivating meeting in the library, it is a great way to find out more about the school and learning programs. Isobell Koolmatrie has an Aboriginal Parent Group meeting at both Meningie Area School and Raukkan Aboriginal School. Governing Council has responsibility to oversee school directions, policy, and finances. It meets twice per term with the agenda covering reports, policy development and provide family and community perspectives in the school.

Community Portal and FROG

We are moving towards opening these very soon. Community Portal links to our administrative system and will allow families to notify of absences, update contact and health information. FROG is the learning platform and will provide families a window into the classroom and at secondary the ability to see students’ assessment information.

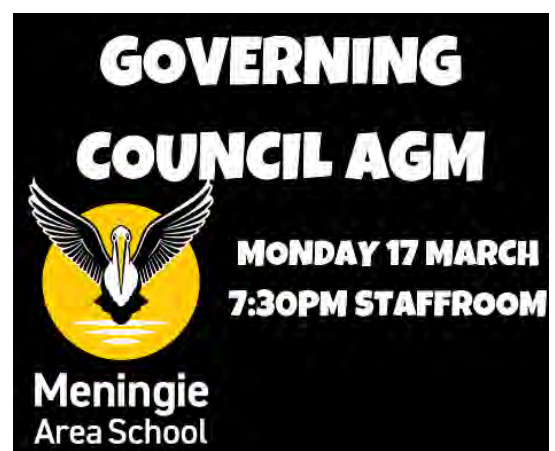
We will run several sessions at various times to help you become familiar with the platforms and we promise it will be worth the wait.

- **Phone** – we do understand that not everyone is comfortable with digital communication. You can pop in or phone the Front Office between 8am and 4:00pm for help with anything.

Key dates and key information are available at our website:

[Home - Meningie Area School](#)

We are working together to provide a vibrant and respectful learning environment. It does not just happen, it takes work from the whole school community – staff, students, family, and community. There is much to be proud of at Meningie Area School and we want to share it and celebrate it as a community.





MONIQUE THOMPSON

Teacher, Reception to Year 8 Health & Physical Education and Year 7 English
Favourite sport- **Basketball and Netball (GO CATS!)**

What was the last concert you attended- **Harry Styles in Melbourne**

Where is the last place I travelled- **Robe, South Australia**

What is your favourite food- **Tacos and Coorong Mullet**

Do you have any Pets- **We have 2 dogs, Ned and Skid.**

What's your favourite kind of weather? And why?-

I absolutely love summer, because it means I am out on the boat with friends and family. Also I love paddleboarding with the dogs and early morning walks.

If you could live anywhere in the world, where would you live?-

Near water, always. However, I absolutely love Dunsborough in Western

Australia.

What keeps you motivated at work?

The relationships you get to build with the students and watch them develop across many areas of their learning. Along with building relationships with the teachers and wider community. Also, good coffee.



ALICE WHEELER

Teacher – Year 9/10 Home Group, Year 9/10 English & Mathematics

SACE English

What is your all-time favourite movie? **Anything Disney but especially Lilo and Stitch**

What was the last concert you attended? **I will be going to Green Day in March**

Where is the last place I travelled? **In December I visited Hawaii and climbed into a volcano and then went to Utah and built a snowman.**

What is your favourite food? **White chocolate Toblerone, but it's so hard to find**

Do you have any Pets? **One cat named Tabby**

What keeps you motivated at work? **Smiling faces and students' curiosity**



MELANIE WOODWARD

Teacher – Autism Inclusion & Yr 8 English



ANDREW SMITH

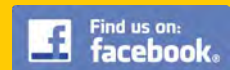
Teacher – Science, Ag & Outdoor Ed

I'm excited and eager to be member of the Meningie area school community. I enjoyed developing positive relationship and actively supporting young people grow and develop in their learning journey.

I grew up in Portland in Victoria on a hobby farm and spend my weekends on my grandparent's farm helping out with the sheep work. I have fond memories of catching the lambs for tailing, climbing through the hayshed, checking stock and climbing through trees.

In my twenties life was an adventure where I spend most of my days rock climbing, ski touring, kayaking, surfing, long distant hiking or bike touring. I shared with my adventure buddies that I look forward to sharing these experiences with kids of my own.

My most recent personal trip was a twenty-five-day rafting trip down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon in America. It was beautiful developing a connection to a new environment and reconnecting with university friends.



Fast forward to now, I love going on micro adventures with my kids Oscar and Edie. We love exploring the local environments by hiking, picnics, running, swimming, canoeing, camping, bike riding, playgrounds, cooking on a Trangia (camp stove), campfires and beach time. We enjoy dreaming of future adventures together. We are always on the look out for new places to explore.

I excited and grateful to be apart of the Meningie Area School community. I am looking forward to meeting you all and developing strong connections in the future.



ROS RICHARDSON, Business Manager

Hi, I'm Ros Richardson and I am the new Business Manager.

Some of the Meningie community may know my husband Mark and son Angas and daughter in law Kayla from Meningie & Coorong Cats Football and Netball clubs. I was just that "crazy lady" who would scream from the sidelines!

My family consists of husband Mark, son Angas & daughter in law Kayla and Amelia our daughter and son in law Jack plus two precious grandsons arriving in 2024 in Reuben and Harry. I live on our farm property at Culburra, that borders the Mt Boothby National Park, so my drive to work involves seeing a few kangaroos on the way. I previously worked at Tintinara Area School, where I first started in classroom support and then gradually working towards the finance area as the Business Manager.

I enjoy spending time with family and friends, having getaways with Mark (always involves at least one sporting event to get him to go!) I love wearing bright colours in clothes, jewellery or glasses and always on the lookout for a great little market to attend.

I'm very excited to join the Meningie Area School team and have only experienced good things so far with such a welcoming staff who show a passion for their school and community.



LUCY DOW, Classroom SSO

I am 21 years old & live on my parents farm near Coonalpyn.

I love working with children of all ages & I am currently studying my Certificate III in Early Childhood & Care & also working 2 days as an SSO at Meningie Area School. During summer I also work as a lifeguard at the Coonalpyn Swimming Pool.

I spent 2024 working on a station in NSW (between Ivanhoe & Menindee) as a governess/station hand - this was an amazing experience!

I enjoy fitness & sport (I am looking forward to playing netball for the Coorong Cats this season), helping out on the family farm & catching up with family & friends.

Everyone at school has been so welcoming & friendly & I am looking forward to getting to know the staff & community of Meningie Area School.



MICHELLE SELBY, Classroom SSO

Student Representative Council 2025



**Secondary School Captain
Millie Cunneen**



**Primary School Captain
Mya Kartinyeri**

Congratulations to the following students who have been elected SRC for 2025

Yr. 4/5 Ollie Marles and Imogen Hurler

Yr 5/6 Kelsey Mitchell and Albert Greenwood

Yr 7 Jasmine Wright and Hugo Swan

Yr 8 Koby Pratt and Oscar Jeffrey

Yr 9/10 Shayla Hera-Singh and Gabby Swan

Yr 11/12 Greta Lentsment



We have already “hit the ground running”.

Shayla, Gabby and Millie supported the “Meet and Greet” evening by demonstrating their superb cooking skills on the BBQ. The sausages and burgers were cooked perfectly!

Millie and Mya began the formal part of the evening with an Acknowledgement and Welcome to Country just before Ms Haselgrove addressed the community. It was a wonderful evening attended by many.

With the weather heating up, the SRC organised ice blocks for each student on Wednesday 12th Feb. They certainly helped to cool everyone down.

On Monday 17th Feb it is “Acts of Kindness Day”. The SRC introduced the concept of “Act of Kindness” to each of their classes. The idea is that everyone tries to do something nice for someone else without prompting. We will put up a display in the front office to show some of those “Acts of Kindness”

We are also planning to acknowledge Harmony Day in March.

We look forward to building more community as the year progresses. – So watch this space!



BUS SAFETY

Bus safety by the year 3 class

On Tuesday we had the bus safety presentation, and it was really fun. We got to be a part of the presentation and that helped us learn. We really enjoyed getting to go onto the bus and learn how to behave correctly.



What did we learn?

Jayden- Don't push in the line

Nora-to stand 2 metres away from the bus

Campbell - Don't walk behind the bus

Khylan- Wait for the bus to leave before crossing the road

Hailey - Don't walk in front of the bus

McKenzie- I learned how to be safe in an accident

Marte- It is always nice to say bye to the bus driver

Darcy-arrive 5 minute before the bus get to your stop

Matt- Don't be too loud on the bus it might distract the driver

Sabaai-when you are leaving the bus put your electronics away, so you don't get distracted.

Alex-wait for the bus to stop before you standup from your seat.

Taiden-Wear your seatbelt

Annie- Wait for the door to open fully before trying to go on

Xzayliah- Don't make a mess with your rubbish on the bus



TEAM SAILING

Sailing is continuing at school and team sailing practices will be held Wednesday afternoons at 3:30pm – 5pm. Students from year 5 to year 12 are encouraged to be part of Team Sailing. We also encourage students to practise their sailing on weekends and Wednesday Twilight sailing.

We will only continue this activity this season if we have enough interest.

What is team sailing?

Team sailing is a competition between two teams of sailors. There are three boats in each team. Each boat has one skipper and one crew. One team is identified on the water with jibs (small sail at the front) of the same colour.

There may be an opportunity for students to have a sailing day with students from Victor Harbour later in the term. This will be held here in Meningie. Contact Anne Wright at school.



Year 7 Science - BEES

The year 7 science students are studying plant partnership with bees. Thanks to the generosity of Bill and Natalie Brown owners of Coorong Gold who donated a colony of bees. The students enjoyed working alongside Bill to move the bees from one hive to their flow hive.

I was impressed and proud of the student's calm and confident approach when moving the frames from a beehive to their flow hive. The students were very eager in developing their hand on skills in managing a beehive.

It was exciting to see the student's curious minds be activated. This was shown through the types of questions and conversation they were having with Bill. A highlight was seeing the queen bee and learning some practical skills.

The students are excited to investigate a section of the frames next week, where they will get to try some of the honey. We might have some more beekeeper in the town in the coming years with their enthusiasm, interest and ability to work calmly with the bees. The students look forward to continuing to develop our bee husbandry skill.



Materials & Service Fees for 2025

Invoices for M & S Fees have been sent out via email and some mail.

If you did not receive yours, please contact me so that I can re-send.

The State Government has given each child \$200 rebate credit that was shown on the Statement that was sent. Please pay the balance from the statement or contact the office for a balance.

School card Forms for 2025 are available online sa.gov.au/education/schoolcard and they will also be available in paper copy from the office.

If you wish to set up a direct debit for your school fees, forms will also be available.

M & S Fees are payable by the end of Term 1 – 11th April 25

Invoices were also sent out in December for overdue/missing Library items along with un-returned laptops and chargers.

If you have returned any of these, they will be credited. I have been given a list of returned items to credit and will email you a copy of the credit note when done.

Please contact Laurie if you have any queries.



Meningie Area School offers Year 1 to 7 students the opportunity to participate in Children's University for new participants in 2024 we will be sending a letter home by email with more information about the program.

Once students move into their senior years, they are able to join up to complete their Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh.

These programs are supported by the school and the coordinators. If you have any further questions please contact them by email.

Children's University
REGISTER NOW →
via QR code



More Information
Children's University
anne.wright358@schools.sa.edu.au
Duke of Edinburgh
denice.mason205@schools.sa.edu.au

Visit the websites to learn about the programs <https://dukeofed.com.au/> or [Children's University](#)



Meningie Area School

SCHOOL

Photo Day



MONDAY
17TH MARCH 2025

Student ID cards available collect form from front office

Each student must present their own envelope on Monday to the photographer

Family photo envelopes available from front office

Order Online at www.msp.com.au/photos





Homework Support Group

Year 4 to 12

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
during school term
in Meningie Community Library
3.05pm to 4pm

Students can receive support with assignments and homework from Kellie Martin

Consent form will be sent via email or contact the front office for further information

School Notices/Consent Forms

Are you receiving emails? If you are not receiving the emails, please check your email settings.

If your child is not attending the excursion or activity, please complete the form with DO NOT CONSENT so the school can organise transport and staffing.

Please contact the front office staff if you are not receiving the emails.



Meningie Area School

MONDAY 17 February 2025

Act of Kindness Day

Do something kind for someone on Monday 17th February it will make them feel good and you too

Determination

Collaboration

Respect

Kindness



DON'T FORGET
Week 4

PRIMARY STUDENT
Swimming

Wednesday 19/2	Thursday 20/2
Ms Williams - Yr 3 Mr Lillis - Yr 5/6	Ms Williams - Yr 3 Mr Lillis - Yr 5/6
Friday 21/2	
NO SWIMMING	
SPORTS DAY	

DON'T FORGET
Week 5

PRIMARY STUDENT
Swimming

Wednesday 26/2	Thursday 27/2
Ms Williams - Yr 3 Mr Lillis - Yr 5/6	Mrs Wright/ Ms Giles Yr 4/5 Mr Lillis - Yr 5/6
Friday 28/2	
Mrs Wright/ Ms Giles Yr 4/5 Mr Lillis - Yr 5/6	





Inclusive Teaching & Learning
SIES

Government of South Australia
Department for Education

INCLUSIVE TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION SESSION

The Department's Statewide Inclusive Education Services (SIES) will be hosting an Inclusive Technology information session via Microsoft Teams (scan the code below).

If you're a parent or carer of a student with disability at a Department School, you are invited to the session with SIES staff to learn more about technology that may be available.



THURSDAY
20TH FEBRUARY 2025



10AM - 11AM



Scan code here



8235 2871



sies.admin@schools.sa.edu.au



www.SIES.sa.edu.au





FIRST NATIONS

Come and Try

Tennis SA are inviting children who are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander between the age of 5 and 17 years of age to come out and give tennis a try. This will be a one-hour clinic and will be delivered by qualified tennis coaches.

A free program for the rest of the year will become available if numbers permit. More information will be available at the come and try.





Venue Marchand Street, Murray Bridge (Courts next to Church)

Date Monday 3 March

Time 4:30pm to 5:30pm

Cost FREE

Register now!

Contact ldoughty@tennis.com.au

REGISTER TODAY!



Government of South Australia
Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing

DINNER UNDER THE STARS

SATURDAY MARCH 22ND, 2025

AT THE COONALPYN FOOTBALL OVAL
7PM - MIDNIGHT

\$75 PER PERSON | 18 YEARS AND OVER

3 COURSE MEAL / BAR / LIVE MUSIC / DANCE
DRESS CODE: COCKTAIL

FUNDRAISER FOR THE COONALPYN FOOTBALL AND NETBALL GROUNDS AND THE COONALPYN SHOW
COME ALONG AND JOIN US FOR A NIGHT UNDER THE STARS.

BOOK A TABLE OF 10, OR INDIVIDUAL TICKETS

FOR MORE INFORMATION, BOOKINGS AND PAYMENT DETAILS CONTACT NADENE JÉRICHON
0400 209 262 | JERICHONADENE@GMAIL.COM

PAY ONLINE AND RECEIVE YOUR TICKETS VIA EMAIL
NUMBERS ARE LIMITED - GET IN FAST!

2025 VOLUNTEERING EXPO

Join us and discover ways you can give back to your community through volunteering.

Explore over 30 exciting exhibits and volunteering opportunities in the Coorong District Council.

Don't Miss It!



Saturday
29 March, 2025

10am - 1pm

Willow Street
Taillem Bend



FREE

- Community Event
- Children's activities
- Sausage Sizzle

www.coorong.sa.gov.au

COORONG DISTRICT COUNCIL



Meningie
Area School



FRIDAY 21 FEB

ATHLETICS DAY

R-3 | THUKABI BLOCK
9AM TO 12.30PM

YR 4 - 12 | SCHOOL OVAL
9AM TO 3.05PM

Lions BBQ
Drinks, Cakes
Cash or EFTPOS available

SPECTATORS WELCOME
800M - MON 17 FEB 9AM
1500M - WED 19 FEB 9AM

*Javelin & Triple jump
during HPE lessons

