Welcome to the first newsletter of 2014! I’ll start by acknowledging that our school is built on land that has seen continuous human habitation for over 40,000 years and I acknowledge the traditional custodians of this country and pay my respects to the elders of our Indigenous community, both past and present.

As it was at the beginning of last year there is a real sense of optimism given the results of our students in 2013. Our NAPLAN and HSC results all demonstrated that a student attending MCS did not go backwards or stagnate, they improved, on average 5 to 10 points greater than the STATE! Our student growth results are a fabulous indication that families are joining in the journey, supporting their kids. Without the combined effort of school and family a student will always be working at half throttle. There are plenty of ways that families can further support their students and joining either the AECG or P&C is a great way of providing input into how our school can best serve its community. I’m excited at the prospect of having a very settled staff for the 2014 year. After losing Elizabeth Saafi our wonderful science teacher, we are joined by Mark O’Donnell who has a wealth of experience in teaching science as well as practical life experience in Geology and Sustainable farming practices. Helen Bub-Connor takes over as our Learning and Support teacher from Kerryn Harland and will be assisting staff to develop support structures for students who may need a helping hand in class. If you would like to discuss the progress of your student, their year advisor or classroom teacher is always your first point of contact however Helen is available to have a chat about how we can help overcome any hurdles that crop up. One last change we see this year is the appointment of Fiona Kelly as an Instructional Leader under the Early Action for Success program. Fiona will be working alongside our Primary staff, particularly Jonathon Smith on our Early Stage one class, to ensure our cherubs have the very best grounding in Numeracy and Literacy. Fiona’s appointment recognises her vast experience and expertise in raising the educational outcomes for young students. Georgia Shephard will move from Assistant Principal (Mentor) into the AP Primary role.

Keep an eye out inside for details of the adult /evening courses we will be running this year, if you would like to see the school offer anything else don’t hesitate to ask! There are also details of the upcoming swimming carnival, given the weather I think it will be a VERY popular day!

At the recent School Reference Group meeting a number of decisions were reached:

* The school will fund a school shirt for every student. Similar to last years Big Day Out shirt, we hope to be able to do this each year.
* Suggestion by staff that the school assembly be held fortnightly to allow better preparation of the program and to enable seniors to attend. Agreed in principal.
* The school will develop a “Bring your Own Device” policy that would include financial assistance to every student in Years 5 to 9.
EOI

Expressions of interest are called for the positions of School Learning Support Officers (Teachers’ Aides) for 2014. A copy of the role statement is available from the school, however general duties include, supporting teachers and students in classroom activities, assisting in the preparation of class materials and small group work in literacy/numeracy. Please forward resume detailing qualifications and experience and marked private and confidential to Daryl Irvine by Friday Feb 21st.

A Note About Notes!

This week students will be given a number of permission notes, including general excursions, swimming, sunscreen, insect repellent etc. It is important that parents/carers read, sign and return these notes to school as soon as possible.

Parents/carers of students with asthma, anaphylaxis or other medical conditions are required to bring action plans and necessary medications to school in preparation for the start of the school year.

Swimming Carnival

The swimming carnival is on Thursday evening (Thursday 20th Feb) at the Menindee Swimming Pool. On that day students will finish and leave school at 11:10am. Students must then return to the swimming pool at 4:45pm ready for a 5:00 start. A reminder that students must return their signed permission notes to their teachers.

We welcome and encourage parents and community members to come along and support the students. Don’t forget to bring a seat and some money to purchase food from the BBQ.

It should be a fantastic night and we look forward to seeing you there!
Welcome Kindy

Lachlan D'Etorre
Kieharni Williams
Joy' Ella Bates-Talamai
James Helman
Billy Files
Malachi Philp

Bailey Kezik
Darlene Newman
Welcome back to a new year, I hope everybody had an enjoyable Christmas and a restful break. It was
great to see new and excited children start preschool, we also welcomed back some familiar faces from
last year. This morning I also had the pleasure of watching our past preschoolers take that big step for-
ward and start kindergarten; I am sure they will easily settle into their big school learning journey.
Do you know…… 85% of brain development happens in the first 5 years of life. Therefore, we need to en-
sure we are giving children many opportunities to talk, sing, read, write and play to help their brain make
these early connections. Play is more than just fun for kids, it’s how babies and children learn, and how
they work out who they are and where they fit in the world. Playing is one of the most important things you
can do with your child. The time you spend playing together gives your child lots of different ways and
times to learn.
It also helps your child:
• build confidence
• feel loved, happy and safe
• develop social skills, language and communication
• learn about caring for others and the environment
• develop physical skills
connect and refine pathways in their brain.
Regular preschool attendance is crucial for all children to develop skills and build relationships outside of
the home. Each day at preschool children are given many opportunities to talk, read, write, sing and play!
If your child is aged between two years old and school age they are eligible to attend preschool. If you
would like to enrol your child please contact the centre on 0880914246 or call in and speak to Centre staff
about this. In 2014 families with preschool children are offered the following sessions-

**Four year olds- The children who will start big school in 2015** *(Your child can start Kindergarten in
2015 if they turn five on or before 31 July in that year.)*

**Four year old children are offered four full days; Monday to Thursday.** EVERY Thursday will be
spent at the Central School in the preschool transition class with preschool educators.

**Three year olds– The children who will NOT start school in 2015** Are offered TWO full days each
week; Monday & Wednesday, OR alternatively a mixture of full and half days.

**Two year olds– The children who are two years old at the beginning of the school year** Are offered
ONE HALF day each TUESDAY at preschool.

Please remember we CANNOT enroll children without a current ‘Immunisation History Statement’ Issued
from Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR). **We CANNOT accept the blue book as a rec-
ord or any other form of proof.** Families can access and print a ‘Immunisation History Statement’ online
at Medicare [http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/medicare/australian-childhood-
immunisation-register](http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/medicare/australian-childhood-
immunisation-register) **Or by calling Medicare on 1800 653 809.**

Learning starts from birth and it is never too early to start reading to your child. It only takes fifteen
minutes a day to read a book to your child and the benefits of this are many and long lasting! Don’t have
any quality book at home?….. bring your child along to Little Kids and Books to join in our story time and
take home a great book. This week’s book is ‘Green as a Bean’ by Alison Lester. This beautiful picture
book that explores colours and identifies everyday objects.

Little kids and books starts this Thursday 6th February at 10.30am and will run each fortnight. The dates
for term 1 are

• Thursday 20th February
• Thursday 6th March
• Thursday 20th March
Thursday 3rd April.

Until Next Week,
**Hayley D’Ettorre**
Director/ Teacher
**Menindee Children’s Centre**
16 Perry Street (PO Box 221)
Menindee NSW 2879
Ph/Fax 0880914246
menindeepreschool@bigpond.com
2014 Year 7-10 Camp

General Information and Expression of interest.

NOTE: This is NOT a Permission letter.

- Tentative plans have been made for a Yr7-10 camp in Week 5, Term 2 of 2014.
- Location - Lake Burrendong Sport and Recreation Centre, 1hr drive from Dubbo.
- Students and staff will leave Menindee Central School in the morning of Sunday 25th May and arrive back in Menindee in the afternoon of Friday 30th May.

Camp Location
Camp is set close to Lake Burrendong.

Accommodation
4 nights in bunk-bed dorms

Activities
- have not been booked in 100% and will be decided upon after discussion amongst MCS staff, students, caregivers and camp staff.

Group Development
Aimed to improve student initiative, group skills and problem solving abilities, programs include:
Rope games, orienteering, trust games, and cooperative challenges.

Other Activities
Enjoy activities on land, water and in mid-air.

TURN OVER PAGE FOR MORE DETAILS
OTHER ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE – at camp

- **Recreation** – Flying Fox, Low/High Ropes, Rock Climbing, Grass Skiing, Archery, Mountain Biking and Orienteering with Geo Caches.
- **Aquatic** – Canoeing/Kayaking, Raft Building, Water games and Swimming.

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**Costs:**

- MCS will pay a **$300** share for students that follow our values and Be Smart, Be Safe & Show Respect up until the camp.
- Students need to pay a share of **$300**. This amount can be paid in full by Wed 12th Feb Term 1 Wk2 or in a Payment Plan that can be made to suit each family’s needs/situation for example: a **$100** deposit by Wed 12th Feb T1 Wk2, another **$70** by Wed 12th March T1 Wk5, another **$70** by Wed 9th April T1 Wk10 & an extra **$60** by Wed 7th May.

The total **$300** is due Wed 7th May T2 W2. The $100 deposit is non-refundable. Any student that withdraws after Wed 9th April T1 Wk10 will lose their $100 deposit.

- Students will need up to $40 to buy food on the days driving to and from camp.
- All meals are catered for in the camp fee including lunch for the return trip home.

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**Students need to bring:**

**For the bus:**

- Snacks and drinks,
- Pillow/blanket, ipod/phone.

**At camp:**

- Warm/Cold weather clothes,
- Socks and underwear,
- Toiletries—towel, soap/shampoo,
- Shoes x 2, thongs for showers,
- Hat and sunglasses,
- Sleeping bag, pyjamas
- Rain coat
- Swim wear

- Electronic devices like mobile phones, ipods etc are **not permitted** at the camp.
- They will be kept in locked storage at the camp and returned for the trip home.

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**Additional Information.**

Reminder – this is an information flyer not a permission note.

If students or parents/guardians have any questions about the information provided and/or are interested in joining the camp as a supervisor please ring:

**Pete Roberts** at **Menindee Central School** on **(08) 8091 4409**.

All guardians need to advise MCS if their child is to attend the excursion and pay a **$100** deposit by **Wednesday 12th Feb** so the site can be booked or cancelled ASAP.

If less than 10 students do not pay a deposit by this date the camp will be cancelled.

There is also an opportunity to fund raise for camp deposits and meals to/from camp.

If you have any ideas and are willing to help, contact with MCS would be appreciated.

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COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

Classified Ads

All submissions for the school news are to be in by Monday 3pm. A written copy can be left at the school/Post Office addressed to ‘SCHOOL NEWS’. Your advert must have your name, address, phone number and signature—this same limit applies to teachers. Every endeavor will be made to print all submitted articles; however, due to a ‘space limit’ some articles may have to be held over or reduced to suit our requirements. Advertising costs are: $4.40 (basic advert), $11.00 (quarter page), $22.00 (half page) and $44.00 (full page) per week.

Payment is required when placing advert.

PLEASE REMEMBER: IF SELLING A CAR OR MOTORBIKE YOU MUST INCLUDE THE REGISTRATION NUMBER OR ENGINE NUMBER. Adverts without this information will NOT be included, phone 8091 4409.

Lucky ball numbers: 3/02/2014; 1-9-10-11-14-19 Winner: NIL; Jackpot: $734.00

PLEASE NOTE THE THE SCHOOL NEWS PLEASE NOTE THE THE SCHOOL NEWS DEADLINE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS IS MONDAY 3:00 PM.

Happy New Year everyone!

ABC Open is now back into the swing of things and has lots of activities for you to get involved in.

Our Abandoned photography exhibition will soon be showing at the Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery, and features work by local photographers Jon Hanrahan, Hugh Gough, and Ruth Sandow. It opens on Friday January 24th so it’s well worth coming along to check out!

During the exhibition I will be running an Object Stories workshop on February 4th. People are invited to bring an object that tells a story about Australia, to photograph and upload to the ABC open website. See below for more details along with the other things that are happening.

I look forward to catching up with you all in 2014.

Cheers,

Jenia Ratcliffe

ALGAL ALERT BULLETIN

Sunraysia Regional Algal Coordinating Committee

Wednesday, 5 February 2014

Red alert for issued for sections of the Menindee Lakes system

The Sunraysia Regional Algal Coordinating Committee today issued a red alert warning for toxic blue green algae for Lakes Wetherall, Tandure and Menindee in the Menindee Lakes system in western NSW.

Sunraysia RACC Chair, Owen Russell, said that the very high readings taken in these lakes were not surprising given the extreme temperatures and reduced inflows.

“A red alert level warning indicates that waters are unsuitable for recreational use or primary contact by domestic users and may also pose a threat to livestock and domestic animals.

“Town water supply to residents along the Sunset Strip and to the township of Menindee is safe to use, however it is not advisable to use the raw water from these lakes while the red alert is in place.”

Mr Russell said that a red alert for the Great Darling Anabranch continues with landholders advised to keep stock away from water at this site until the bloom passes.

Water users should use personal discretion at all times and avoid any water source that appears green or has a septic or musty odour.

Suspicious blooms can be reported to the NSW Office of Water on 1800 353 104.

For the latest information on blue green algae in your area, ring toll free 1800 999 457.

BUSH FIRE DANGER SEASON

From 1st October to 31st March.

A permit must be obtained from permit officers.

G. Rolton
K. Lombardo
Term 1—Week 1

Adult Education and Personal Interest Courses

*If you have an interest in furthering your knowledge and experience.*

*Would like to get out a bit more of an evening.*

*Are considering re-entering education and would like to test the water.*

Menindee Central School and NSW TAFE will be offering a range of courses running of an evening.

**INFORMATION EVENING** - Tuesday 11th 7:00pm

or contact the school!

**Art** - Practice and Appreciation

**Sport, Leisure and Recreation (SLR)** - A fitness course designed to suit all participants.

**Music (Choir)** – Men and Women, this group is well known for it’s performances. Beginners and new members MOST welcome!

**Healthy Gardener** – Learn about the benefits of sustainable small scale gardening using permaculture techniques.

**Aboriginal Studies and Language** – Increase your understanding of historical and modern Aboriginal Australia. There is also opportunity in this course to study the Paakantyi language.

**Metals and Engineering (TAFE)** – Basic metal fabrication and machining course. Please note priority for this course is given to students enrolled at school.

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**NSW Early Days Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorders**

9:30am – 11.30am Thursday 27th February 2014

Menindee Local Aboriginal Land Council

Yartla St, Menindee

Early Days Workshops are designed for parents and carers with a child (aged 0–7 years) who has (or may have) an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

**Introduction to Autism Workshops focus on**

Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs):

Identifying the characteristics of autism and helping you to understand how it may be affecting your child in everyday life

(02) 8977 8353

edworkshops@autismspectrum.org.au

This project is funded by FaHCSIA through the Helping Children with Autism (HCWA) package. For more information on the HCWA package, please contact the NSW Autism Advisor program on 1800 069 970
Safety tips for parents

Back to school safety tips for parents and carers
Your child’s safety depends on you

Drop off and pick up by car
Make sure your children are in an appropriate child restraint that is fitted and used correctly.

Stick to the 40km/h speed limit in a school zone as children are about and can be unpredictable.

Look out for buses pulling out – watch for wiggly lights.

Always park and turn legally around schools and avoid dangerous manoeuvres like U-turns and three-point turns.

Always give way to pedestrians particularly when entering and leaving driveways.

Drop the kids off and pick them up on the school side of the road in your school’s designated drop off and pick up area. Calling out to them from across the road can be dangerous because they may run to you without checking traffic.

It’s safest for the kids to get out of the car on the kerb side of the road to be away from passing traffic.

Walking together to and from school
Plan your trip to school so you are using pedestrian crossing areas where possible.

Always hold your child’s hand up until the age of eight. Young children need your help to spot danger like vehicles coming out of driveways. They can also be easily distracted and wander into traffic.

Drop off and pick up your child near the school gate and avoid calling them from across the road.

Talk to your children about Stop, Look, Listen and Think every time they cross the road.

- Stop one step back from the kerb.
- Look for traffic to your right left and right again.
- Listen for the sounds of approaching traffic.
- Think whether it is safe to cross.

Young children can learn these safe pedestrian habits from you and continue them later on when they are old enough to travel alone.

For more information visit roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au
Menindee Development Committee AGM

10:00am Tuesday 4th March 2014

At
The Menindee Transaction Centre

For Further information ring the RTC on 0880 914 392