The second week back can often be a challenging one. The newness of being back at school is beginning to wear off and for some students the reality of the year ahead can cause a little frustration. I am pleased to say though that as I walk around the school there is a general feeling of purpose and calm. The student–teacher relationship is a tricky one to navigate, however, I can confidently say that the partnerships I see forming in classrooms will reap real benefits in the coming years.

Our goal of ensuring every student who attends Menindee Central School will leave having grown as a learner is built on three loosely defined stages of education. I say loosely because we recognise that students start and develop differently, this is one time that attending a small school has its advantages as we are able to tailor a program that suits all the learners in the class. In simple terms though the three stages can be described as:

- **Laying the foundations (Kindy to around year 4 or early stage 1 to stage 2)** - your child will develop literacy and numeracy skills and knowledge in other areas including physical and social capacities, which will form the basis of their future learning. As I have spoken about in last week’s newsletter, support for this stage has been further enhanced by the addition of an Instructional Leader position with responsibility for ensuring the best foundation in literacy and numeracy.

- **Building breadth and depth (Year 5 to 8 or stage 2 to 3)** - your child will progress beyond the foundations built in the previous stage and their literacy and numeracy skills will become more developed. This is also a time of great physiological and emotional change for children and we are continually seeking to refine how we support our students through their early adolescence. There are a number of exciting projects in development that will be implemented this year.

- **Developing pathways (Around year 9 through to year 12, stage 5 to 6)** – As a young adult, your student will develop greater independence and will begin to develop preferred areas of interest for their learning. Ensuring we are able to capture just what “lights their fire” is critical and after having tried their hand at a range of subjects and experiences our goal through this stage is to ensure we give our students every opportunity to achieve their goals. We also know that for many young people, knowing what they want to do later in life is an impossible question, so we ensure that we help keep as many doors open as we can and try to instil a sense of confidence that they can take on anything if they set their minds to it.

Our attendance rates have traditionally been high which indicates a commitment to education by the community we serve and I encourage families to keep this trend. Studies show, students who attend school regularly live longer healthier lives.

Education is the key!

*Daryl Irvine*, Executive Principal
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.

UNITING CHURCH

A Church service will be held at the Menindee Uniting Church at 2:00pm on Sunday 16th February it will be conducted by Rev Brian Ford all welcome.

Bible Quote “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you”. Matthew 7:7

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!
Parent tips for use in school newsletters and on school websites – 7 February 2014

Primary and High school

Homework and study planning
Most children find planning easier to understand when they have a visual representation of their day or week in front of them. Help your child learn to manage their daily tasks and responsibilities with this weekly schedule template.


Jargon busters
Wanting to start the school year with clarity and wondering about the meaning of some of the school terminology? Here’s a list of common abbreviations or terms to make the world inside the school gates seem a little more familiar.


Primary school

School's back
Life seems to go from zero to 100 during the first few weeks of school. These parents have pooled their years of experience to bring you some suggestions to make the rest of the year run more smoothly. Good luck!


Learning to read
Learning to read is hard work and can be frustrating at times for parents and their kids. Watch the video to hear what these public school teachers have to say to help, with quick tips on how to make it easier.

Learning to read:  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E5Om77mluKU&feature=share

High school

Planning for success in high school
Each year in high school brings new academic and personal challenges for parents and their teens. For example, if your child is commencing Year 8 or 10, they’ll need to start thinking now about the electives they want to choose later in the year.

This year-by-year guide will help you navigate the challenges and decisions your child will face as they commence Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.

Year-by-year tips:  http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/planning-for-the-future/tips-for-starting-years-7-12

Staying in touch with the school
As a parent it’s much easier to have difficult conversations about your child's behaviour with the teacher if you’ve established a relationship with them at the start of the year.

Read this article or watch the video to hear teachers talk about the importance of staying in touch with your child’s school.

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 forward 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 ensure 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.**


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.

**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 Wk6, 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.

**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.

**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 fundraise for camp deposits and meals to/from camp.

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

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: 10/02/2014; 5-7-13-15-16-19 Winner: NIL; Jackpot: $758.00

Please phone Kris on 0429029906/ 80914293

Wanted

Pavers—Any shape, size or colour.
Old tiles /broken china for Mosaic work.

Please phone Kris on 0429029906/ 80914293

BUSH FIRE DANGER SEASON
From 1st October to 31st March.
A permit must be obtained from permit officers.

G. Rolton

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 Wetherell, 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.
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 069 978.
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
wig wag 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