A couple of exciting pieces of news to pass on, we have a new canteen operator for 2014 and welcome Julie Smith in this role. Julie has a great deal of experience in the retail field having operated the family's mixed business before moving west. Many would also know of Julie’s reputation as the cheesecake queen and deservedly so having sampled her creations many times at Beyond Café. The School Reference Group have given the menu their tick of approval and Julie has made a commitment to operating under the Healthy Canteen guidelines. The guidelines give foods a colour depending on their suitability for sale at school, so that something healthy is a “green” item and a “red” item is recommended not to be sold at school. Julie has asked that on occasions we have a special menu day when “red” items such as soft drinks are able to be sold, in order to provide the occasional “treat” for students. Watch out for these special days and for a healthy choice special which will be subsidised to provide an easy option for students needing to buy their lunch and to encourage healthy eating at school.

Another decision made by the School Reference Group (SRG) is to allocate some finance to the purchase of a school shirt for every student enrolled at Menindee Central. The SRG were impressed with the team spirit shirts purchased for last year’s Primary school reward party and after sounding out a large selection of families have decided that a budget be provided each year to supply one shirt per student. This Friday at assembly we will have shirts available to try on and we will get our order away next week, extra school shirts can be ordered at cost price. The normal school uniform shirt will still apply, yellow for primary and white for secondary, this simply provides an alternative that carry’s the school colours on a modern design. It will be expected that students travelling on a school excursion or representing the school will wear the school shirt.

This week I will be attending a meeting to discuss the establishment of a specialist centre in Broken Hill as part of the Rural and Remote Education Blueprint for Action initiative. The NSW Government has allocated up to $80 million over the next four years to take the steps necessary to reduce the gap in educational achievement between rural and urban schools. The key actions in the Rural and Remote Education strategy will:

- strengthen early childhood education for children in rural and remote communities
- give students in rural and remote schools access to a broad range of curriculum opportunities, particularly for gifted and talented students
- provide new incentives to attract and retain quality teachers and school leaders to rural and remote schools
- better support schools to meet local student needs by establishing 15 specialist centres to offer coordinated inter-agency health and wellbeing services.

We have already made great steps forward with our health and wellbeing partners and I hope to be able to talk about a further strengthening of support for our students in the coming months.

I hope to see you all Thursday night at the swimming carnival, I would like to
Expressions of Interest

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.

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!

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.

Principals report continued
put out the challenge to see if we can get a few community teams to take on the students and staff in the relays! Good luck to all our competitors.

Daryl Irvine
Everybody is back into our preschool routine and exploring new learning experiences. We have been busy establishing our daily routines. This may seem a very simple task there are many health and safety practices, such as toileting, hand washing and noise blowing as well as learning and social experiences, including waiting, sharing, communicating with other, learning expected behaviours; such as keeping our hands to ourselves involved in everyday routines, so everybody has getting very tired with all of this learning! Young children thrive on consistency and predictability in their day. They like getting into a regular pattern and knowing what’s coming up. This helps them make transitions from one experience to the next. Setting up predictable routines are very important for all children, both at home and at preschool.

One important area we have modeling and heavily reinforcing with all children in the need to keep hydrated by drinking lots of water. Establishing sound eating and activity habits from an early age gives children the best chance of leading a healthy life. ‘Choose water as a drink’ is one of the four key message in the Munch & Move program that we implement at preschool. Munch & Move is NSW Health initiative that supports the healthy development of children birth to 5 years by promoting physical activity, healthy eating and reduced small screen time. Early childhood is the ideal time for children to develop and practice healthy eating and physical activity habits; this includes learning a range of fundamental movement skills that will help children take part in and enjoy physical activity throughout their lives. As children spend a substantial amount of time in early childhood settings including preschools this provides the ideal settings to increase awareness of appropriate physical activity and healthy eating habits. All of our educators have undertaken training in the ‘Munch and Move’ program to enable us to implement this important program in our preschool. The Munch & Move program also fits within the new National Quality Framework and the Early Years Learning Framework.

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 ‘W is for Wombat’ A first Australian word book that explores the alphabet through vibrant illustrations of Australian animals, By Bronwyn Bancroft.

Little kids and books is on this Thursday 20th February at 10.30am and will run each fortnight. The dates for term 1 are
- Thursday 6th March
- Thursday 20th March
- Thursday 3rd April.

The winner of our 2013 Xmas Raffles was Chloe Hayes, Black Ticket, C73, drawn by Santa at our Xmas Party. Thanks to everybody who sold and purchased tickets, your continued support is appreciated.

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
DRUM CIRCLE

-- Facilitated by Music Teacher Helen Bab-Connor

- LEARN DRUM RHYTHMS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (E.G. AFRICA, EGYPT, SOUTH AMERICA, CUBA)
- JAMMING!
- LEARN EXCELLENT TEAM WORK, CONCENTRATION & RHYTHM SKILLS
- HAVE A LOT OF FUN, AND A FEW LAUGHS

When: Thursdays (starting next week), and every Thursday during school terms.

Where: Music Room

Time: 6 - 7 pm

Bring: your sense of humour, and a bottle of water

For more info, please call in to the front office at school, or phone 8091 4409
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: 18/02/2014; 2-9-11-14–18-15 Winner: NIL; Jackpot: $780.00 Pick 1-20

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

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

G.Rolton
K.Lombardo

Full Figure Fitness every Monday from 6pm to 7pm at school hall, all community welcome.
Ring Will to Register.

Local Community Radio.
Listen to William live on air Mon-Fri 9:30 - 11am

New services @ Body Bliss

Manicures
Pedicures
Gel Nails
Massage
***New*** Mini Massages
Waxing
Pamper Packs / Gift Vouchers available
All services available by appointment 7 days

Phone Kris 0429 029 906

Come along and have some fun.
Tuesday evenings in the Music Room at School 6pm—7:30pm.
All Welcome

Did you know that:
February 17th Banjo Pattersons Birthday
Discovery Day - Lord Howe Island (1788)
18th National Day—Gambia
20th World Day of Social Justice
21st International Mother Language Day
IMPORTANT COMMUNITY NOTICE

ALCOHOL LAWS CHANGING

From February 24th 2014

NO Take-away Liquor can be sold from Hotel or Alcohol outlets after 10pm across NSW.

Fines will apply if anyone is caught breaching these laws

Sgt Paul Roberts

Menindee Development Committee AGM

10:00am Tuesday

4th March 2014

At

The Menindee Rural Transaction Centre

For Further information ring the RTC on 0880 914 392

LOCAL MARKETS

The Menindee Monthly Markets are back on

This SUNDAY 23RD FEBRUARY

10am - 2pm RTC Car Park

Grab a spot under a shady gum tree and have a stall....

Please bring your own tables

Further enquiries contact Margot on 80914 392

NRL COACHING

If any community members aged 15 years and over would like to get their coaching qualification in junior Rugby League, Matt Kiddle from the NRL will be out on the 4th and 5th of March to run this course.

There may also be the opportunity for you to complete a Referees course. If you are interested, you will need to be available from 5.30pm onwards on the 4th of March, and ALL day on the 5th of March.

For more details, please contact Dean Zaccaria (PDHPE Teacher) at the school."
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 FakCSIA through the Helping Children with Autism (HCWA) package. For more information on the HCWA package, please contact the NSW Autism Advisor program on 1800 099 978.
Media Release

Tuesday 18 February 2014

Menindee Lakes management passes to NSW control

The NSW Office of Water today advised that water levels in the Menindee Lakes have now fallen below the trigger at which management control switches to NSW.

NSW Water Commissioner, David Harriss, said that under the rules of the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement, when the combined volume in the Menindee Lakes falls below 480,000 megalitres, NSW assumes responsibility for the operations of the Lakes.

The Lakes reached this level today.

“When the Lakes are under the direction of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority, releases from the Menindee Lakes contribute towards the downstream water needs of NSW, Victoria and South Australia,” said Mr Harriss.

“With water levels falling due to continuing dry conditions NSW will manage the water remaining in the Lakes to extend the supply for local towns, stock and domestic needs and regional irrigation.”

Mr Harriss said that, even without inflows into the lakes, the town water supply to Broken Hill is assured for at least 18 months.

“Releases from the lakes have now been reduced from 1,000 megalitres per day to 350 megalitres per day at Wer 32, with those releases being made from Lake Pamamaroo.”

“Water remaining in Lake Cawndilla can only be diverted into Tandou Creek and the Great Anabranch.”

“The NSW Office of Water and State Water Corporation will also be operating the Lakes to minimise potential algae blooms,” Mr Harriss said.

When the storage volume next exceeds 640,000 megalitres, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority will again resume management control.

Ends

Media contact: Bunty Driver – 0407 403 234

Our news releases are on the web: www.water.nsw.gov.au Follow us on Twitter @OfficeofWater
Farm-Link is funded under the National Suicide Prevention Program administered through the University of Newcastle’s Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health

The Farm-Link project is proud to be working with Lifeline to pilot a Train the Trainer feasibility study to deliver its Health and Wellbeing and Suicide Prevention program:

SCARF

The SCARF Community Education Program is a 4 hour interactive program. It gives participants information about Health and Wellbeing. It gives information about how to recognise and help others who may be experiencing mental health problems or who may be at risk of suicide.

SCARF has a focus on suicide prevention.

We invite you to participate in the FREE SCARF training

Date: Tuesday 25 February 2014

Time: 9am-1pm

Venue: Yvonne Treleven Training Room, 194 Argent Street

RSVP: Shelby Jones 8087 7525 before Friday 21 February 2014
Menindee Playgroup

Children learn through play experiences

Parents are encouraged to join in their child’s play.

Open to all families with children aged 0-5yrs.

Children gain a strong sense of identity, connectedness and well-being while becoming confident learners and effective communicators.

Venue: CWA Hall
Morning Tea provided
come in Play Clothes

School Term: 10.30 am – 12.30 pm

Friday 14th February 2014
Friday 21st February 2014
Friday 14th March 2014
Friday 21st March 2014
Friday 28th March 2014
Friday 4th April 2014
Friday 11th April 2014

For more information: Phone or visit the team at CentaCare Wilcannia-Forbes

1/261 Argent Street
Po Box 159
Broken Hill NSW 2880
p. 08 8087 3477
f. 08 8087 2387

www.centacarewf.org.au

Proudly part of the Catholic Social Services network and the Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes