Term 3, Week 2: 26 July 2010

FROM THE PRINCIPAL
Phil Fitzsimons

Welcome back to term 3. I trust all students and their families had a pleasant break.

I was particularly pleased to see the Semester 1 results achieved by Murray Bridge High School students across all year levels. At the assembly on the final day of Term 2 I made particular mention of Year 9 student Michaela Zadow and her superb accomplishment in achieving an A in each of her seven subjects. With the introduction of the Federal Government’s National A–E grading system reporting in conjunction with the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme indicates that Michaela is a highly capable student and one that the school is very proud of.

Opinion Surveys
I mentioned earlier this year that surveys would be sent home for parents/caregivers to complete providing feedback on the school. DECS has randomly selected a group of parents/caregivers and provided the survey information to the school. Over the next week this survey information will be arriving home via mail. Parents/Caregivers have the option of completing the survey online or on paper if preferred. Information provided with the survey will outline how the surveys can be completed. In addition, students, randomly selected by DECS and staff will be invited to complete the Opinion Survey at school. All surveys need to be completed by Friday, August 27.

Due to the small group of parents/caregivers and students selected by DECS to complete the Opinion Survey, the school will establish an online survey of its own using the same questions. This will enable all parents/caregivers and students the opportunity to provide feedback to the school. The process for the completion of this survey will be advertised shortly via the school’s website.

All members of the school community are asked to take this opportunity to provide the relevant feedback to me. Information gathered from this Opinion Survey will be incorporated into the 2010 Annual Report and will form the basis on which future school planning will take place.

NAPLAN 2010
I have recently received information from DECS indicating that the NAPLAN results for 2010 will be delivered to the school in the first week of September in preparation for distribution to parents/caregivers on Wednesday, 15 September.

Staffing in Term 3
Senior Maths teacher Jeff Stevens is taking long service leave this term. As his replacement we welcome back Sandeep Kaur from India. We also welcome Andrew Walkley, teacher of Humanities and Work Education and Isaac McEvoy, teacher of Physical Education. Isaac comes to the school behind Daryl Porter who won a position in Kadina.

Language Laboratories
Language students embraced the opportunity last week to move into the recently refurbished language laboratories in A6 and A13. Four language laboratories will eventually be constructed as part of the Government’s BER economic stimulus plan. The two remaining laboratories are currently being refurbished and should be available to language students in about three week’s time. Laptops for each of the language laboratories will be installed shortly enabling students to further enhance the joy of learning languages.

TERM 3 TERM DATES
Monday 19 July—Friday 24 September
Murray Bridge High School is proud to announce a second visit by Funabashi High School this year. 10 students from Japan are currently studying English at Murray Bridge High School while being hosted by local families.

During their stay the Japanese students will have the opportunity to visit Adelaide, Kangaroo Island, Tailem Bend Primary School and Monarto Zoological Park.

The staff and students of Murray Bridge High School would like to sincerely thank all host families for their support of this program.
On Tuesday 29 June, a dedicated group of students brought this original musical to life in an amazing performance.

‘Forever and Always’ was a Year 10 Personal Project for three students; Anika Bartholomeusz and Penelope Thomas who acted, wrote, directed, and produced the musical and Flynn Watson, who was in charge of the lighting. Students from Year 8-12 were invited to audition and the selected students practiced one night a week for all of Term 2, gaining new skills and experience.

From the evening performance $118 was raised for the NOVITA foundation. NOVITA is one of South Australia’s premier children’s charities, a recognised and celebrated world leader in the research, development and provision of quality services to children and families living with physical disabilities. We would like to congratulate the students involved and thank the mentor teachers, family and friends, who helped make it possible.

We would especially like to thank the following people: Benjamin Atkins, Rebecca Atkins, Ian Colley, Chris Davis, Krystal Dean-Neale, Mikaela Gray, Roslyn Gunn, Latisha Helyar, Sean Hickey, Jordan Holmes, Raslan Jaafar, Karleena Sunderland, Hayley Thompson, Darcy Tregilgas, Zara Lehmann and Leah Waye.

By Anika Bartholomeusz, Flynn Watson and Penelope Thomas

Roslyn Gunn, Penelope Thomas and Hayley Thompson

Karleena Sunderland, Mikaela Gray, Benjamin Atkins, Latisha Helyar and Chris Davis

Raslan Jaafar, Rebecca Atkins, Anika Bartholomeusz, Penelope Thomas and Roslyn Gunn

Anika Bartholomeusz, Penelope Thomas and Roslyn Gunn

Benjamin Atkins, Jordan Holmes, Mikaela Gray, Hayley Thompson, Roslyn Gunn, Karleena Sunderland, Penelope Thomas, Anika Bartholomeusz, Raslan Jaafar, Rebecca Atkins, Latisha Helyar, Chris Davis and Darcy Tregilgas
CONGRATULATIONS TRACY BELLAMY, WINNER OF MENTOR TEACHERS AWARD FOR INSPIRATION.

On Monday 28 June the Inaugural Mentor Teachers Awards Evening was held.

The evening was about recognising the growing importance of these mentors to teaching students’ education.

During their recent five-week practicum, University of Adelaide student teachers were asked to nominate a mentor who was outstanding in any one of the following four categories:

Inspiration - Knowledge - Support - Role Model:

We are very pleased to announce that Tracy Bellamy won the award for Inspiration: the Mentor Teacher who fuelled the student teacher’s passion for the teaching profession.

We congratulate Tracy on her outstanding efforts.

MURRAY BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL CONCERT BAND PERFORMS AT THE HILLS BAND FESTIVAL

By Sean Hickey

On Sunday 27 June the Murray Bridge High School Concert Band played for the Hills Band Festival in Lobethal. The day hosted bands from all over the Adelaide Hills including Hahndorf, Tree Gully, Mt Barker, Strathalbyn and of course our school band.

The students represented the school in fine fashion delivering a set of six tunes for our 20 minute spot. The weather was not as kind, however, things began to warm up and the bands began to play to the hundred plus crowd.

The band has been very busy this past term with performances both in and out of the school. We have enjoyed the performances and have had the pleasure of playing for a variety of groups. We look forward to another eventful term in Term 3.

NATIONAL BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION THANKS KAITLIN O’SULLIVAN AND MEAGHAN WATKINS

Jan Davies from Breast Cancer Network Australia presented Meaghan Watkins and Kaitlin O’Sullivan with a certificate of thanks for raising $1008 at a recent fundraising event they organised last term as part of their SACE Stage 1 Health Course where all proceeds went to the National Breast Cancer Foundation.

ADOLESCENT SCOLIOSIS—SPINAL CURVATURE THE NATIONAL SELF DETECTION PROGRAM (NSDP)

Scoliosis (a sideways curvature of the spine) is not an uncommon condition and 2.5% of adolescent girls are at risk of developing a significant curvature.

The aims of the NSDP are to increase public awareness of the condition, and to encourage girls aged 11-13 to self assess for the condition and to have the family Doctors assume care of minor curvatures.

Information can be found on the NSDP website at: www.scoliosis-australia.org

All Year 9 girls will receive a brochure outlining the self detection program to assist families to self assess for this condition found in young women.

For extra information contact Liz Hodge at the school or download a brochure from http://www.scoliosis-australia.org/pdf/self_detection_brochure.pdf

PARENT INFORMATION

Please check other links on our website for up to date information and dates for:

- Matters of Concern eg. Cyberbullying—see Counselling
- Your student starting High School—see Transition to High School
- Your student leaving school—see Tertiary Information

Students perform at the Adelaide Hills Band Festival