Term 3, Week 4: 9 August 2010

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Phil Fitzsimons

MBHS Site Review
Earlier this year I mentioned that the school would be undertaking a process of self review in preparation for a site validation visit with Regional Director Peter Chislett. The purpose of this task is to undertake a thorough self review of site performance and practices against the DECS Principles of improvement and Effectiveness and to ensure that effective measures are put in place to assist in curriculum development, the planning of school direction and attending to the improvement of school culture.

The process for the self review has now begun. All Murray Bridge High School staff are involved in the self review with committees reviewing the IBMYP, the new SACE, school direction, school culture and professional standards for teachers. Committee meetings are taking place every fortnight. It is anticipated that opportunities for student, parent/caregiver participation will occur throughout the self review process.

The review is expected to conclude at the end of the school year with a written report made available to the school community in term 1 next year. The site validation visit will take place in term 2 2011.

When the opportunity arises I encourage all students and their parents/caregivers to contribute to this self review process to ensure that effective and sustainable improvement can take place at Murray Bridge High School.

August Student Enrolment Census
The school undertook an enrolment census last Friday as required by DECS for staffing and financial allocation purposes for 2011. A trend appears to be taking shape, which indicates increased growth in the August enrolment figures at Murray Bridge High School.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 10</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 11</td>
<td>202.3</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>182.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 12</td>
<td>93.4</td>
<td>118.8</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>27.4</td>
<td>31.4</td>
<td>40.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>869.1</td>
<td>880.2</td>
<td>941.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CALENDAR

TERM 3 2010

Week 4
Tue 10/8        Parents and Friends—6.30pm
Governing Council—7pm

Week 5
Tue 17/8        Yr 10 to 11 Information Evening
Wed 18/8        Yr 11 to 12 Information Evening

Week 6
Fri 27/8        Dance Technique Moderation

Week 7
Mon 30/8—Thu 2/9 Yr 10-12 Subject Counselling
Wed 1/9—Thu 2/9  Yr 8/9 Subject Counselling
 Fri 3/9         SCHOOL CLOSURE—Show Day

Week 8
Tue 7/9         Finance Committee—7pm

Week 9
Tue 14/9        Parents and Friends—6.30pm
Governing Council—7pm
Sat/Sun 18/9 & 19/9 Pedal Prix Murray Bridge

Week 10
Wed 22/9        Youth Opportunities Graduation
Fri 24/9        Sports Day
Last day of Term 3—2pm dismissal

Parent Survey
An email was sent out last week to all parents/caregivers currently on our mailing list regarding the parent opinion survey. I trust that all parents/caregivers have received the email and can spare the 25 minutes to complete the online survey. The information gathered from this survey will be used in future planning.

Staff and students will be invited to undertake a similar survey over the next 2 weeks. All surveys need to be completed by Friday, 27 August.
STUDENTS FROM FUNABASHI HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE THE AUSTRALIAN WAY OF LIFE

By Helen Peake

For the second time this year Murray Bridge High School has had the privilege of hosting students from Funabashi High School in Japan. This visit consisted of 10 students studying at Murray Bridge High School and another 7 at Mount Barker High School.

The two week visit saw the students participate in dedicated English lessons most mornings and, in the afternoons either excursions or stand alone lessons.

During their stay the students were taken on a sight seeing tour of Murray Bridge, visited the school Agricultural area, Monarto Zoological Park, and went shopping at the Central Market and Rundle Mall. A highlight of the visit for the students was a 3 day trip to Kangaroo Island. During the days they visited Seal Bay, Remarkable Rocks, Raptor Domain, Paul’s Place (wildlife park). In the evenings they experienced the pelican feeding and saw the fairy penguins return to land after a day of fishing.

Apart from the school-based experiences the ten host families provided each of their students with a myriad of other opportunities. The school would like to sincerely thank all of the host families who opened their homes to the Japanese students. We would like to encourage other families to become involved in this important part of our school life.
Chihoro Kojima enjoying the freedom of exploring an Australian beach

Ayako Yoneyama meeting an Australian icon

Mana Watanabe getting up close to kookaburras at Raptor Domain on Kangaroo Island

Shiho Narita holding a baby possum at Paul’s Place on Kangaroo Island

Mana Watanabe enjoying a true Australian experience

Nagisa Kobayashi gets up close with a koala

Chihoro Kojima enjoying the freedom of exploring an Australian beach
Enjoying the natural environment at Remarkable Rocks on Kangaroo Island.

**Standing L-R:** Pauline Gossart (Rotary Exchange Student from Belgium), Ryo Yanagisawa, Nagisa Kobayashi, Shiho Narita, Chihiro Kojima, Manatsu Sakurai, Mana Watanabe, Mana Kohata, Ayako Yoneyama, Rina Murata and Rena Yamagishi.

**Front:** Nils Spittka (Southern Cross Cultural Exchange Student from Germany) and Hajime Shiramura.

Rina Murata and Chihiro Kojima showing the results of their cooking lesson—Australian meat pies

Hajime Shiramura experiencing a cooking lesson

**WE SAY FAREWELL**

The last day in the classroom.

**Standing:** Mana Watanabe, Shiho Narita, Chihiro Kojima, Ayako Yoneyama, Nagisa Kobayashi, Hajime Shiramura and Helen Peake (ESL Teacher).

**Front:** Manatsu Sakurai, Rina Murata, Ryo Yanagisawa and Rena Yamagishi
NATIONAL TREE DAY  
By Peter Stewart

On 6 August, student representatives from each class took part in the school’s National Tree Day activity, planting trees and shrubs at two sites within the school properties.

Just over thirty shrubs were planted at the Roper Road Agricultural Facility, to form a wind break along the northern fence line, and about the same numbers of trees were planted along the Best Street and Swanport Road boundaries at the school.

Student representatives of each home class volunteered to give up their first two lessons to assist the Youth Environment Committee (YEC) to plant trees and shrubs that were donated by Woods and Forests, Rural City of Murray Bridge, Mannum to Wellington LAP and Serenity Nursery. We thank them for their support. Tree guards were supplied by Planet Ark.

A very big thankyou to the leaders of the activity, Melinda Meharry and Olivia Davies, who organised all components of the morning’s activity. A big thankyou to all the students who volunteered, the teachers who gave up their free lessons to assist, and the grounds and agriculture staff who prepared the areas. All the students and staff who participated gathered in the school cafeteria at the end of the lessons to receive certificates and have brunch, ably supplied by the YEC.

Cody Tsaousis and Blossom Dammann help plant trees at the High School

CHRISTIAN PASTORAL SUPPORT WORKER

Hi, my name is Simon Benstead and I am your new Christian Pastoral Support Worker (CPSW).

I am looking forward to offering a friendly listening ear and being another supportive, encouraging person in the school community that students, staff and parents can turn to if the need should arise.

I am married with three children, so I have some understanding of the challenges and joys that life can present to us outside of the school community as well.

My role as Christian Pastoral Support Worker (CPSW), formerly known as ‘Chaplain’, involves working with and supporting staff, students and families with individual needs and in class group settings. I organise programs within the school and also out of school camp programs to develop student’s life skills and self leadership.

I can be contacted Monday to Friday at the school’s Christian Pastoral Support Workers Office (Next to the Student Services Office). Or via email: cpsw@murraybridgehs.sa.edu.au

FACILITIES UPDATE  
By Bryce Gillett

Language Centre

Pascale Constructions have completed the upgrade for the Language Centre under the Federal Government BER Funding with official handover last Friday.

We now have 4 specialist language suites equipped with computers and interactive whiteboards along with a refurbished teacher preparation room and IT store for distribution of additional laptops.

The students have greatly appreciated the new brightly coloured ergonomic chairs and furniture.

Drama Air Conditioning

Season Air have now completed and commissioned the new Drama air conditioning upgrade provided through the School Pride Asset Funding.

This will be a welcome upgrade for Drama staff and students to have reverse cycle air conditioning to beat the summer heat this year.

New desk and chairs in the Language Centre.

Interactive Whiteboard in the new Language Centre.
YEAR 12 DRAMA MODERATION
By Leah Waye

On 3 August the Year 12 Drama Ensemble performed their Moderation Production to an audience of family and friends.

The group worked extremely hard at perfecting their performance and we are truly proud of their accomplishments. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents, staff and friends who contributed to the night.
SUBJECT COUNSELLING 2010
Information for Parents and Caregivers

The process for Year 8, 9, 10 and 11 students to choose their subjects for next year is now beginning.

In the week commencing Monday 9 August, each student will receive the following:

- Curriculum Prospectus
- Subject Selection Sheet
- Information Sheet.

In addition Year 10 and Year 11 students will receive a booklet containing information about the VET (Vocational Education and Training) courses on offer in this region in 2011.

Between August 9th and 25th, students should work with parents/ caregivers, Home Class teachers and subject teachers to make their subject selections for next year. Please speak at length with your child about the subjects they would like to study next year and assist them with filling out their subject selection sheet.

Completed subject selection sheets must be returned to Home Class teachers by Wednesday August 25th.

During the week commencing Monday August 9th, parents and caregivers will receive a letter from the school.

Included in the letter will be a notice containing further information about Subject Selection and Course Counselling for 2011.

Attached to this notice is a form that parents/ caregivers should fill out. On the form they should indicate their preferred time for the meeting between the Course Counsellor, parent/caregiver and the student to finalise subject selections.

This form should be returned to the Home Class teacher via the student by Friday, August 20th.

A letter will then be sent to you stating the exact time of your meeting.

Course Counselling will take place on Wednesday 1st September and Thursday 2nd September for students currently in Years 8 and 9, and on Monday 30th August, Tuesday 31st August, Wednesday 1st September and Thursday 2nd September for students currently in Years 10 and 11.

Lynton Hall
Deputy Principal
REMINDER

This is the last year that the old royal blue shirts and jumpers will be part of our school uniform.

Next year only the new navy shirt and jumper will be accepted as appropriate school uniform (see below).

The new uniform is available from the Student Services Office.

MURRAY BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS
MONDAY—FRIDAY 8.30AM TO 4.30PM

STUDENT SERVICES OFFICE HOURS
MONDAY—FRIDAY 8.30-8.50AM
RECESS 11.20-11.40AM

Does your child have a sleep problem???

The team at SOMNIA are providing treatment for children and adolescents who are experiencing at least one of the following:

- trouble falling asleep
- waking in the night
- trouble waking up or getting out of bed in the morning
- often sleeping in parent’s bed or bedroom

For more information please contact us via:
0415 977 784 or,
www.somnia.com.au