Term 3, Week 8: 6 September 2010

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to this week’s newsletter

Staffing Update

Within the last two weeks we have farewelled two staff at Murray Bridge High School. Acting Assistant Principal Sean Rankin has accepted a curriculum development position in The Hague in the Netherlands with the International Baccalaureate Organisation. At this point Mr Rankin has taken 12 months leave and it is envisaged that he will return to Murray Bridge High School towards the middle of next year. I would like to congratulate Mr Rankin on this appointment in recognition of his skills as a fine teacher at an international level.

Replacing Mr Rankin as Acting Assistant Principal is Ms Ruth Hicks. Miss Helen Partridge is the acting Senior School Coordinator behind Ms Hicks.

Drama Teacher Ms Waye has taken maternity leave and is expecting her second child within a few short weeks. The staff and students wish Ms Waye all the best as she also is taking leave for 12 months. Replacing Ms Waye until the end of the school year is Miss Kara Stevens.

Parent/Student Opinion Survey

I would like to extend my gratitude to the many parents and students who completed the school opinion survey. As I mentioned in an earlier newsletter this term, I was particularly keen to seek the views from a broader mix of the school community in addition to the 100 randomly selected parents and students from DECS. The school-initiated online survey has been a success and was completed by 47 parents and 378 students.

The feedback received thus far from the survey has been enlightening and constructive in terms of future school planning. It is my plan to collate this information over the coming weeks and share the data via the school newsletter. Again many thanks to those who took the time in making their voices heard.

Diagnostic Review

Further to the site review process currently taking place, Murray Bridge High School will be taking part in a Diagnostic Review in early November. The aim of this process is to look at ways of building student learning outcomes in literacy and enhancing the education programs for our students both now and into the future.

The Diagnostic Review will comprise a team of 7 people from DECS, Murray Bridge Regional Office, a Peer Principal from the Riverland and a member of staff. The visit will take place over 3 days.

Diagnostic Review cont...

Many staff, students and parents will be involved in interview or discussion groups. Student learning will be observed and an extensive range of school data analysed. It is anticipated that a comprehensive report will be back at Murray Bridge High School by the end of the school year and that its findings will provide directions for school development over the next 3 years.

After the Diagnostic Review we will work together to further develop our literacy teaching and learning programs.

I trust parents and caregivers will look forward to the opportunity to contribute to this review process. It will provide our school with commendations and recommendations to assist us enhance our teaching and learning programs.
CONGRATULATIONS HARRISON JOHNS

Harrison was selected in the SA Secondary Schoolboys U/16 side to compete at the National Championships in Bunbury WA in August.

Recently, Harrison has also been selected in the SA U/15 Hockey team to play at the U/15 National Championships in Launceston, during October 2010. The latest selections are Harrison’s 8th and 9th State selections since 2006.

Harrison has captained his age group at SA U/12 (SAPSASA), SA U/13, SA U/14 (Indoor) and SA U/15. Harrison is also part of the 2009/10 SA Hockey Junior Development Academy. Harrison participate in the Adelaide Metropolitan Hockey League in U/15’s and Metro 1’s (reserve grade to Premier League, the top state level) for Port Adelaide Hockey Club.

JADE KLUSKE - SCHOOL BASED APPRENTICESHIP - WINS AT MOUNT GAMBIER

Jade is doing a School Based Apprenticeship with Equine Olympic Medallist Megan Jones. She has groomed for Megan at Melbourne and Adelaide Horse trials.

Her apprenticeship involves riding for Megan. A certificate in general stable hand and horsemanship and horse care working towards her Instructors Certificate as she wants to become a riding instructor. Jade also works as a track rider at the Murray Bridge Racecourse and rides for several local trainers. Jade is also on the SA Young Riders Eventing Squad.

On 21 and 22 August Jade competed in the Mount Gambier Horse Trials winning the one star level for the 2nd consecutive year. There are 3 phases in Eventing—Dressage, Cross Country and Show Jumping. She competed against 17 other riders from SA and Victoria. Jade hopes to compete at two star level at the Adelaide Horse Trials in November.

WELL DONE JADE!

CONGRATULATIONS ALSO TO NIKKI DOUGALL AND ASLEIGH HORSNELL

Nikki Dougall (Ramblers) and Ashleigh Horsnell (Mypolonga) have been selected in the U/17 Regional Academy State Netball team.

SPORTS DAY 2010

By Alyce Robertson

This year the Murray Bridge High School Sports Day will be run differently in an attempt to gain maximum participation and enjoyment for students and staff.

House meetings are being run each week this term where students have the opportunity to develop team songs and banners and sign up for events. Each house has elected a male and female captain from the junior years and the senior years. These students were nominated and were then required to make a speech to their peers and a vote was cast.

The day will be run on Friday September 24 and will include a variety of team and novelty events this year. So far the process seems to be proving positive for all involved and we look forward to a very successful day!

Congratulations to the following students on their appointments as house captains for 2010:

Barker
- Renay Persello (Yr 12)
- Ben Hindle (Yr 12)
- Amber McDonald (Yr 9)
- Kurt Beckman (Yr 9)

Sturt
- Harley Boyle-Richards (Yr 11)
- Jade Lewis (Yr 12)
- Maddie Schulz (Yr 9)
- David Talbot (Yr 8)

Murray
- Alison Matcham (Yr 12)
- Harry Mansfield (Yr 12)
- Michaela Zadow (Yr 9)
- Kyle Nicholas-Benney (Yr 8)

Hindmarsh
- Stephanie Lee (Yr 12)
- Sam Phillips (Yr 11)
- Shaylan Dyer (Yr 9)
- Chris Howard (Yr 9)
THE ART OF FELTING
By Ruth Shakes

As part of and ARTSsmart program the Year 11 textile class at Murray Bridge High School are learning to felt.

Through the teaching of Margaret Lynn and Lynette Williss, students are creating a variety of projects ranging from small decorated pots to berets, book covers and cushion covers.

Students are learning the basic techniques of felting using coloured wools, mixing colours to create different effects and generally enjoying the fun of working with wool.

It has been an interesting experience working from the skeins of coloured wool, and seeing how through the process of layering, wool depth and detail is created in the product being made.

Through the addition of water and lots of rolling, the fibres felt together and shrink to make felt fabric. So far it has been a really enjoyable experience.

YOUTH ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE NEWS
By Danielle Horrocks

On Friday 23 August, Daniel Brown from Mannum to Wellington Local Action Planning Inc. came to Murray Bridge High School, to show the Youth Environment Committee how to propagate and re-plant seedlings into bigger pots. They were also shown other seedlings native to Australia.

Students who participated were Christine Xiao, Floyd Rehn, Bella Davies, Danielle Horrocks, Jasmin Milton, Olivia Donaldson and Rachel Anderson. All took part in the propagation activity.

By Jason Dikkenberg

The Innovative Community Action Networks (ICAN) program has been officially launched in the Murraylands region. The launch took place at Headspace on Wednesday 1st September and was a great success! Noted guest speakers included Education Minister Jay Weatherill, Ambassador for Youth Opportunity Gavin Wanganeen and Murray Bridge High School student Kristoni Claridge who is now involved in the Learning Together young mother’s program. Each guest spoke about the importance of ICAN in the Murraylands region, the outstanding opportunities offered to young people and the positive impacts they have seen or experienced as a result of the program. Murray Bridge High School staff and students did an excellent job catering food for the event and student Jacob Cheesman provided some catchy original material on the acoustic guitar.

Murray Bridge High School currently has 46 ICAN enrolled students (the most in the Murraylands region) and has been wholly committed to tackling issues faced by young people and reconnecting them with pathways into further education, training and employment through local service providers. Centacare, Headspace, Workskil and Learning Together have been providing outstanding case management services to our students and have worked extremely hard to develop and identify relevant programs and opportunities. Watch this space, as there is plenty of news to come!
THE NEW MEDIA FILM FESTIVAL 2010
By Dr Christine Roberts-Yates

Congratulations to the Regional Disability Unit on their Achievement Award from Kym Nadebaum - Learning Technologies at the Mercury Cinema on 25 August 2010. Maud O’Toole and Matt Hattam received the Award on behalf of the Unit, and the Principal, Mr Phillip Fitzsimons, and the IVEC Instructor, Mr Christopher Roberts-Yates along with Josephine O’Toole and Jill Hattam proudly viewed the Unit’s film submission.

The Unit was nominated for an Award as a result of the students efforts in designing a mini documentary film based on human sustainability in Africa. The students used flip cameras to document their journey from the Unit’s Kitchen Garden and Breakfast Programme to the assembly of Birthing Kits for pregnant women in Chad. The key message of the film is how a small group of students with disabilities use their local environment to act as global citizens and support life for mothers and babies in Chad, Africa.

Maud, Kym Nadebaum and Matt at the presentation

NORTHERN AREA SCHOOLS TEACHERS FORUM
By Dr Christine Roberts-Yates

Mr Christopher Roberts –Yates from the Regional Disability Unit successfully presented to the Northern Adelaide Schools Teachers Forum on 26 August, chaired by Jenny Watts-Sampson - Disability Coordination Officer, hosted by the Centre for Regional Engagement at the University of South Australia.

He was invited to talk about how the Regional Disability Unit incorporates Certificate 1 in Introductory Vocational Education across the curriculum. He illustrated his discussion with a variety of video clips about the Kitchen Garden, the Breakfast Programme, Structured Workplace Learning at Monarto Zoo, Technology and its Practical Applications, Auslan, e-Learning, Assisted Animal Therapy, Robotics, Small Business Enterprise and the Clipsal 500.

The Coordinators and Assistant Principals present were impressed by the scope and variety of the curriculum and its ability to integrate students across a range of abilities. It has been requested that this presentation be placed on the Northern Area Group website.

WORLD VISION 40 HOUR FAMINE EVENTS
By Peter Stewart

The school’s involvement in the 40 Hour Famine this year began with students attending the Global Leadership Conference in Adelaide on Monday 7 June. The students, Jasmine Bates, Rebecca Atkins and Ali Matcham, were then expected to return to school and act as leaders of the 40 Hour Famine events at the school.

These leaders invited Tenille Chambers of World Vision, to visit the school and speak at an assembly, with moving images of a child in Nepal, which is the focus of World Vision’s work this year. She also had a day’s food, a small bag of rice and a bottle of water, which, she explained, was not Coke! Students were invited to sign up with the aim of giving something up they valued for 40 hours over the weekend of 21 and 22 August.

“Many students were impacted by the videos they saw and came forward to participate in the 40 hour famine; we gave out booklets to over fifty students after the assembly. It was great to see so many people participating and raising money for the less fortunate”. By Jasmine Bates and Rebecca Atkins

Nepal ranks among the poorest and least developed nations in the world. Agriculture is the foundation of the economy, providing a livelihood for 76 percent of the people. Nepal’s remote location, security concerns, and lack of technology have hindered the economy, leaving almost one-third of its population living below the poverty line. Approximately 42 percent of people in Nepal are unemployed, and nearly 70 percent live on less than $2 a day. (Courtesy of World Vision website)

Some students asked others to donate small change, collecting coins in a variety of “piggy banks” as they moved around the school during the day. Students gave up mobile phones, furniture, food and other items we take for granted each day. Here are some of their reactions:

Jasmine Bates gave up her voice, to symbolise how some people don’t have a voice. Rebecca gave up furniture and comforts to show how much we take for granted every day. The money raised as a school will go to help people in Nepal.

“Over the weekend I did the 40 Hour Famine and went without a mobile phone, video games, shopping and TV to raise money for World Vision. When I was doing the 40 hour famine I was extremely bored until I went to a friend’s house and we played board games the first night and the second night we played card games. I really missed the TV and the video games, but it was really easy to go without the mobile phone. I did not miss it at all.” By Danielle Horrocks

“From Friday night at 8 pm through to 12 pm on Sunday I did the 40 Hour Famine to raise money for World Vision. For this event I went without furniture, iPod, internet, computer, mobile phone, shopping and video games. We take everything we have for granted. I sat down for a minute without notice, so I FAIL at this event. I found that even sleeping on the floor with heaps of blankets, my back became sore after the first night. It was really easy to go without the other things; except for the iPod, because I love to listen to music. To distract myself from using these things, I played board games with a friend on the floor at my house. I won Monopoly twice. NEVER AGAIN AM I GOING WITHOUT FURNITURE!” By Jasmin Milton
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Seniors Card/Friends of SACC M (Saturday only) $15
Sunday  10.00am – 3.00pm – Town Hall $5
          Students gold coin entry

No Eskies on the Saturday/Sunday – byo chair
† “Weekend pass - $40 for the 3-day wristband!” †
($30 for seniors/Friends of Country Music members)

For personal information and bookings ph: 85723266 (Tailem Bend Primary School)