Term 3, Week 10: 20 September

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Phil Fitzsimons

This week heralds the end of a productive and successful third term at Murray Bridge High School. Looking back at the highlights achieved over the last 10 weeks, as Principal, I have a great sense of pride in the direction that the school is heading. The following is just a brief overview as to what students and staff have accomplished:

- First place to Tom Lang, Sam Hagger and Jarred Lloyd in the 2010 RACI (Royal Australian Chemistry Institute) Chemical Analysis Competition (see report in this week’s newsletter from Mr Hall)
- First place for our Angus Steer in the Heavy Export Class recently held at the Royal Adelaide Show (see report from Mr Mabarrack in this week’s newsletter)
- Outstanding leadership of the Hospitality Program demonstrated by Ms Hicks and Mrs Rowland with their fine group of students in catering for major functions held at various venues in the Murrurays – one of which was attended by the Education Minister Jay Weatherill
- The Music staff including Mr Hickey, Mrs Long and Mr Sullivan hosting the Adam Page Music Workshop in fine style with wonderful feedback provided by parents who attended
- Jarred Jackson being selected into the Indigenous Employment Development Course in NSW following an intensive nationwide application process (see report from Ms Bellamy in this week’s newsletter)
- Senior Best Mathematics Team at Maths Association of SA Annual Quiz Competition held at Coomandook
- The staging of the 11th Funabashi High School visit to Murray Bridge High School (one of the longest school hosting partnerships in South Australia)
- The successful staging of the Year 10 Musical ‘Forever and Always’.

These are but just a few of the many achievements that take place at Murray Bridge High School. The school has built a solid reputation over many years with the wide ranging opportunities it provides for the students despite our complexities, limited resources and high level of disadvantage. I thank all the staff and the students for their efforts this term and trust that the Murray Bridge community shares my pride in the achievements of the school.

Final Day of Term 3

Students will be dismissed from school on Friday 24 September at 2pm. Buses will depart shortly after this time. All student reports not collected on Friday can be collected during the school holidays. The front office will be open from 9am until 1pm Monday – Friday. Uncollected reports after the holidays will be distributed via home class in week 1.

I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable school break and look forward to a productive and successful term 4.
Each year the school enters the Led Steer and Led Wether goat competitions that are a part of the Royal Adelaide Show. This year our commitment extended to providing two teams, two steers and a group of three wether Boer goats. Our involvement is the culmination of three months work at the school. The steers and goats are studied as part of our curriculum in Agriculture and the students who work with the animals are selected from our senior students in the subject.

The team of 2 Steers were both entered in the Heavy Export class at the show. This is a class where the animals weigh in excess of 300kg dressed weight. In this class we obtained a first place for our Angus steer that was provided by Wanderibby Pastoral Company at Meningie. Elvis a Poll Hereford steer who was born and bred at the school did not gain a placing but turned out well and certainly looked the part. A third steer that was donated by Damian Gomers of Mandayen Limousin stud was not taken to the show as he went lame on the morning prior to going to the show and could not be transported. This was disappointing as he was a good type animal and would have done well in the competition that was provided.

The goat team comprised 3 young Boer goats and unfortunately we had no success with them as 2 of the 3 were underweight on their scales despite being 8 kilograms heavier the day before. This was a bitter disappointment as the correlation between their scales and ours was certainly out. None the less the three students who worked with the goats enjoyed themselves and benefitted from their participation.

The students were accompanied by Mr Joe Mabarrack, Mrs Ann Ruckert and Ms Jo Jennings and were an absolute credit to the school for their efforts and willingness to participate. They all worked hard over the two days in an effort to present all of the animals in their best condition. Jo in particular had a busy time as she was prepared to provide supervision of the animals at night by staying on site at the show.

Overall the show was a success and I am grateful to the support that we received at school to enable us to participate and present the animal’s on behalf of the school.
YEAR 12 FOOD AND HOSPITALITY SHINE IN THE DARK!
By Ruth Hicks

On Saturday 4 September the Year 12 Food and Hospitality classes catered for the Tailem Bend Food and Wine Club Dinner. Students prepared and served a 5 course menu that included an hors d’oeuvre selection, fresh Asparagus Soup with Parmesan Crisps, Goan Lamb with char-grilled vegetables and freshly prepared chapatti for entrée, a main of grilled Sea Bream with saffron infused fennel and kipfler potato, and a luscious Moscato Baked Pear with cointreau ice cream for dessert.

The student’s task was to demonstrate what they had learned about planning for the organisation and management of a catering event. Rising to the challenge of preparing complex recipes was made a whole lot more difficult when the power went out several hours before guests were due to arrive. For once mobile phones came in handy to light the way into the coolroom to find ingredients! As the daylight started to dim, we were rescued by Mr Bryce Gillett who was able to locate and set up a generator to light the kitchen and the Glasshouse Restaurant. Students busily lit candles throughout the dining area and into the toilets, which created an exciting yet gentle ambience for the guests.

The guests were amazed that the students were able to not only provide an exceptional meal, but that they were able to keep to the scheduled time frame. The Food and Wine Club so appreciated the efforts of the students that they donated an extra $150 to the hospitality equipment fund at the end of the evening. On consultation with the students it was decided that the money be put toward the purchase of an ice cream maker as we had to borrow one for the event. We would like to acknowledge the Food and Wine Club for providing the opportunity for students to be able to experience fine dining, and also their ongoing support of the hospitality program.

YEAR 11 HOSPITALITY CLASS TAKES PART IN THE “ICAN” PROGRAM LAUNCH
By Gemma Wright, Yr 11

Held at Headspace on Railway Terrace Murray Bridge, Ms Ruth Hicks and her Year 11 Hospitality class were honoured to be catering for this event. The Year 11’s and their teacher have been busy all week preparing for this, making cream puffs, fruit tarts, lemon meringue tarts, sausage rolls, Moroccan sausage rolls and even special cookies specially made for the Minister of Education. The launch of the “ICAN” program took place on Wednesday 1 September and was a great turn out with the Minister of Education, Jay Weatherill, giving a speech and Patrick Secker also made an appearance to show his support. The Minister of Education says that the “ICAN” program is magnificent as it is successful and it is working. The “ICAN” program is all about helping our youth get back into schooling if they have dropped out for various reasons.

The Year 11 Hospitality class did well and made Murray Bridge High School proud with their delicious food, good catering skills and happy smiling faces. Everyone who attended the launch of the “ICAN” program was thankful for all the lovely food and left with full tummies.

Jessica Lines says “it was a good experience and I can’t believe how much I got thanked”. This was a great day made greater thanks to Ruth Hicks and her Year 11 Hospitality class. The “ICAN” program has helped many kids already and will be helping many more in the future.

REMEMINDER

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.

Uniforms are available from the Student Services Office.
STUDENTS PERFORM AT ADAM PAGE MUSIC WORKSHOP AND CONCERT AT MURRAY BRIDGE TOWN HALL
By Sean Hickey

On 14 and 15 of September eighty school students from various schools gathered together for a two day music workshop and concert. We were fortunate enough to have the very talented and humorous Adam Page to work with the students and bring his own flair to the pieces. Adam grew up in Mount Gambier and attended Grant High School where he completed his Year 12 studies under the guidance of Peter Longden (IMS Teacher). Adam is a multi instrumentalist and during the concert he gave the audience a full demonstration of his array of instruments.

Two ensembles performed along with Adam Page, a Junior Concert Band made up of students from Years 6 to 9 and a Senior Concert Band comprising of students Years 10 to 12. Students were from Meningie Area School, Murray Bridge North Primary School, Mypolonga Primary School, Tailem Bend Primary School, Mannum Community College, Coomandook Area School, Fraser Park Primary School along with Murray Bridge High School. The Junior Band was 45 students strong and the Senior Band numbered 26.

Along with the two bands Adam Page performed a set of music. His music varied from funk and jazz inspired pieces to the weird and wonderful “beard” playing compositions that made this evening an unforgettable event. He completed his set with a collaborative piece with the UGB (Under Ground Boys), Harley Boyle-Richards, Clarrie Garlett and Isaiah Kartinyeri performing an original composition called “Deadly Aborigines”.

Both bands performed amazingly and the students were a credit to their parents, teachers and schools alike. We hope that this event will grow and become a regular feature of the calendar year. However, this would not have been possible without the support of the schools involved, parents and caregivers, ARTS smart, teachers and instrumental teachers. This evening was a true reflection of the capabilities of our young students and our broader community.
KAYAKING
By Katie Noble

On Monday 13 and Tuesday 14 September the Year 10 Choice Physical Education class participated in a Basic Skills Kayaking course run at Murraylands Aquatic Centre. Thankfully the weather on Monday was not the predicted thunderstorms but instead the warmest day in four and half months!

The students were required to capsize their kayaks into the cold water, but having the sun to dry off and warm up made this task a lot easier. On Tuesday the rain held off once again which ensured spirits remained high over the two days.

The students were assessed on their performance and attitude over the four days. They learnt techniques such as the forward and backward paddle, sweep strokes – to turn the kayak, draw strokes – to pull the kayak to the side, capsizing, and rescuing. On the Tuesday the students took part in a long distance paddle down to Long Island Reserve. They were all successful and displayed excellent attitudes. Thank you to both Mr Lines and Mr Kenny for their help and supervision and the Murraylands Aquatics Centre for running the two days.

CELEBRATING OUR ABORIGINAL STUDENTS SUCCESS
By Tracy Bellamy

Congratulations to Jarred Jackson Year 11 South Australian Aboriginal Sports and Training Academy student who has successfully been accepted into the Indigenous Employment Development Course, in conjunction with the Australian Defence Force. Participating in this course; Jarred will develop personal skills through a military-structured approach to training and will gain knowledge and skills in the various areas including numeracy, literacy, fitness and health, nutrition, teamwork, communications skills and leadership. Completion of this course will gain Jarred up to 80 credits towards his SACE.

Jarred has been selected after a number of interview processes and has impressed the Defence Force recruitment team, with his immaculate presentation, his commitment for success and his mature attitude. Jarred leaves for NSW on Monday 20th September 2010 for 8 weeks. During the course he will visit the Navy, Army and Air Force bases in NSW, VIC and the ACT. Whilst in Canberra he will visit Parliament House and the Australian War Memorial and a 4 day Indigenous Leadership course. Jarred is one of two students selected from the Murray Bridge area. Thanks to many staff at Murray Bridge High School who have encouraged and support Jarred on this journey including, in particular, Ann Ruckert (Maths Coordinator) and Joffre Pearce (Aboriginal Secondary Education Transition Officer). Murray Bridge High School staff wish Jarred the very best and look forward to his return in November 2010.

RUGBY
By Jason Dickenberg

On Tuesday 14 September, the Murray Bridge High School boys attended the State Rugby Carnival. Two senior teams and a Year 8/9 team participated, each playing 4 games prior to the finals.

The boys displayed an outstanding camaraderie throughout the day, supporting the other Murray Bridge High School teams spurring each other on. They battled hard against some very tough opposition sides, tackling and attacking relentlessly.

The senior team comprised mainly of boys from the Sports Academy came very close to making the finals, but missed out on percentage. However, the highlight for Murray Bridge High School came from the junior boys, who went through the entire carnival undefeated and won the grand final! The boys were extremely proud of their efforts and were exemplary in the way they upheld Murray Bridge High School values both on and off the field. They will receive their awards in the coming week.
2010 RACI (ROYAL AUSTRALIAN CHEMISTRY INSTITUTE) CHEMICAL ANALYSIS COMPETITION By Lynton Hall

This is a national competition held annually for senior secondary Chemistry students. Students work in teams of three. Their task is to carry out an analysis of solutions of unknown concentrations using titration techniques.

There are three phases to the competition. Each phase is progressively more difficult.

Phase 1 is the School Phase
The samples to be analysed were sent to schools. Students worked in teams of 3 to analyse different unknowns. Students could discuss their work within their team but were not to communicate with other teams. After the analysis had been completed, the results were sent off and the teams with the greatest accuracy (usually less than 2% error in total) were invited to participate in the State Final.

Thirty teams won their way through to the State Final. Three of these teams were from Murray Bridge High School.

Phase 2 is the State Final
In 2010, this was held at the University of South Australia (Mawson Lakes Campus) on Saturday August 7.

The best performed team in the State Final was Tom Lang, Sam Hagger and Jarred Lloyd from Murray Bridge High School with a total error of 0.66%. The second best performed team was from St Peters Girls Collegiate College with a total error of 0.84% and third was a team from Eynesbury College with a total error of 0.96%.

Phase 3 is the National Final
Samples to be analysed are sent from Brisbane to various sites throughout the nation.

The site for the competition for South Australian participants will once again be the University of South Australia (Mawson Lakes Campus). The National Final will be held on Saturday October 16.

As well as the Murray Bridge High School team mentioned above, the team made up of Olivia Davies, Kaine Jakaitis and Emma Johnston also won their way through to the National Final. Twelve teams from South Australia have progressed through to the National Final.

All National Finalists will be awarded a medallion. Students who achieve a result with an error of less than 1% will be awarded a gold medallion and students who achieve a result with an error of greater than 1% will be awarded a silver medallion. Teams where all three members are awarded gold medallions also receive a plaque which is then presented to their school.

We wish Tom, Sam, Jarred, Olivia, Kaine and Emma all the best in the National Final.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS By Ruth Hicks

I thought I would take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Ruth Hicks and I have worked at Murray Bridge High School for 5 years. I have just won the position of Assistant Principal Middle School until the end of the year.

Since joining Murray Bridge High School I have worked with the IBMYP under the Technology banner, and have also been responsible for the organisation of the Personal Project at Year 10. My aims for the rest of this year are:

- to work towards improving the outcomes of the Personal Project next year by redesigning the booklet and providing training to help students and teachers to understand and get the best out of the process
- to support Stacy Ryan and Tim Zammit in their role as Year Level Coordinators and contribute to the development of our shared Middle School ethos
- to support our students to strive for our core values, and to acknowledge those that are being successful through the organisation of the Middle School Excellence Day
- to support our Middle School pedal prix team this weekend and hope that the weather improves!

SPECIAL EDUCATION/ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS REPORT By Steve Ide

ICAN / FLO:
On 26 & 27 August, there was a 2 day State conference held in Adelaide, attended by Jason Dikkenberg (FLO Coordinator), Miranda Mulder and Matt Schulz (Teacher Mentors). The workshops provided activities and procedures for further enrichment of our programs.

Regional ICAN/FLO launch was held at Headspace on Wednesday 1 September, officially launched by Jay Weatherill, Minister for Education.

Mentoring Cluster meeting held on 7 September, where new referral and reporting criteria were adopted.

Planning for 2011, ICAN/FLO numbers have potentially significantly increased, final numbers will be determined term 4 (FLO referrals impact on tier 1 and tier 2 staffing for school) potentially over 100 students.

We had a visit to Christies Beach High School to look at their funding model and program implementation, particularly engaging students at school.

Liz Hodge is currently working with our feeder schools to identify students who will need to have their NEPs reviewed on transition and those that may take advantage of our extra transition program.