CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SCHOOL CAPTAINS

During term one the Student Action and Advisory Committee chose their School Captains for 2009. Congratulations to Jacob Dawson and Kristal McDonald who were voted in as School Captains and Ben Traeger, Cassie Brion and Patricia Mafara as Vice Captains. We wish them well as the student representatives of Murray Bridge High School.

Right: Cassie Brion and Ben Traeger (Vice Captains), Jacob Dawson and Kristal McDonald (Captains) and Patricia Mafara (Vice Captain).

To our families – please see the invitation below to join Unity College for the presentation on Teenagers, Alcohol and Drugs. We thank Unity College for making this opportunity available to the Murray Bridge Community.

Teenagers, Alcohol & Drugs

An informative, relevant, empowering and proactive session for ALL parents

Presented by Paul Dillon from Drug & Alcohol Research Training Australia (DARTA)

Paul Dillon has over 25 years experience in drug education and has been featured on a wide range of TV programs including Sunrise and TODAY.

Many parents like their children, access information on drugs from inappropriate sources such as the media and as a result there is a great deal of mythology around drugs and their use. This presentation, based on his new book “Teenagers, Alcohol and Drugs,” will attempt to give accurate, up-to-date information on what we know about young people, alcohol and drugs in Australia while assisting parents to have meaningful conversations with their child when responding to queries that may be raised.

When: Thursday 7 May, Week 2 Term 2
Time: 7pm
Venue: The Steeple, Unity College
Cost: $5 per parent/caregiver (2nd adult free)

Please Note: This session is designed specifically for parents.

Hosted by Unity College for the whole Murraylands community

FAREWELL TO OUR GERMAN EXCHANGE STUDENTS

At the end of term one, the staff and students farewelled the two German exchange students who have been studying at the school this term. Nicola Klemeyer and Charlotte Blessing will be returning to their homes at the end of the school holidays in order to continue with their studies in their own schools. Two Murray Bridge High School students, Laura Johns and De-Anna Bittner will travel to Germany in November in order to attend school for nine weeks. This will assist them with their studies of the German language.

During Charlotte’s stay she has been hosted by the Johns family. Charlotte’s home town is Erlangen in Germany which has about 100,000 inhabitants. She believes it is possible to do more in Erlangen like going shopping, however she has enjoyed the way of life in a smaller town like Murray Bridge. Charlotte has had the opportunity to get to know lots of new people and to have lots of experiences. She enjoys the Australian way of life.

Charlotte has found her time at Murray Bridge High School quite different from her school in Germany. When she returns home she will be studying 16 different subjects even though she only attends school until 1pm. She says that they do not use computers much at their school and they sit a lot more tests than students in Australia.

Nicola Klemeyer has also enjoyed her stay with De-Ana Bittner and her family. Nicola lives in Hamburg, Germany. It has a population of over 2 million people and has the biggest harbour in Germany. Ever though it has been a big shock to stay in a town the size of Murray Bridge. Nicola has enjoyed her time here.

She says that the people here are a lot more helpful and friendly. She is also impressed that the majority of people in Murray Bridge appear to know each other.

One thing she finds different is that a lot more students have after school jobs here in Australia. She attends school from 8am to somewhere between 1pm and 4pm. She studies between 6 and 9 lessons a day and has 39 hours of school per week.

During their stay the girls have had the opportunity to travel through the outback of Australia. Nicola was very impressed with the landscape and the beautiful sunrises and sunsets during the trip. She has also found the weather a lot hotter here. Where she lives there is snow during winter.

The staff and students wish both girls a safe return to their homes in Germany.

FAREWELL TO OUR NORWEGIAN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

Today the staff and students of Murray Bridge High School will farewelled Ingrid Garfelt-Paulsen, an International student from Norway. Ingrid has spent the past three terms studying at the school, two terms in Year 11 and then in 2009 studying Year 12 subjects.

While in Australia Ingrid has had the opportunity to visit Sydney, the Gold Coast and Melbourne as well as Kangaroo Island and many other parts of South Australia. Ingrid has made the most of opportunities presented to her while staying in Murray Bridge. She has been involved in numerous sporting events including netball and volleyball, she has learnt guitar and she rode in the Tour Down Under Challenge.

The staff and students of Murray Bridge High School wish Ingrid a safe trip back to Norway. We look forward to hearing from her as she settles back into her home and school.
STREET SMART
By Goran Yakas

On Tuesday 24 March, 100 of our Year 11 students attended a Street Smart event at the Entertainment Centre in Adelaide. The event was organised by the RAA. 3400 students from all over the state were able to interact with the drive-safe message. Some of our students were later interviewed on TV and asked if they were affected by the experience. Judging by their response, we can look forward to a group of safer drivers in the State and the Murraylands.

THE DISTRICT DISABILITY UNIT MEETS CRAIG LOWNDES AND MARK WINTERBOTTOM (V8 RACING DRIVERS) AT STREET SMART 09
By Dr Christine Roberts Yates

The students in the Senior class of the District Disability Unit attended the Street Smart 09 crash scene scenario which alerted them to the serious threats that young people face on the road. It gave them the opportunity to learn about the risks associated with the road and develop tools that allow them to recognise and avoid situations whereby they place themselves and others at risk. A leading trauma surgeon was the narrator and the students witnessed a simulated crash scene including pre and post-crash outcomes, after which they heard young people whose lives had been affected by road trauma.

The police, ambulance and fire service were major participants. The students enthusiastically involved themselves in photo opportunities with Craig Lowndes and Mark Winterbottom.

The previous day, all the students in the Unit had the opportunity to meet with Camilla Milburn who is the Sustainability Manager with the V8 Supersafe School Programme. She discussed car safety and the ways in which racing drivers are kept safe on the circuit. Several excited students had the opportunity to wear fireproof underwear, driving suits and helmets. Camilla left us with a short DVD Driver Education Programme V8 Supercars’ with some important safety messages for novice drivers of the future.

THE DISTRICT DISABILITY UNIT’S VIDEO CONFERENCE WITH THE HILTON INTERNATIONAL ADELAIDE
Dr Christine Roberts Yates

As part of Work Education at Stage 1 of the SACE, the students in the District Disability Unit had the opportunity to discuss safe work practice in the hospitality trade with Bastia Mulia the HR Manager, Denis the Sous Chef, Steven the Hotel Duty Manager and Jai the Food and Beverage Manager at the Hilton International Adelaide.

This e-learning event was in partnership with Kay Clifford and James Miller from Learning Technologies. The students were able to discuss OHS & W issues with the managers from the Hilton International through a video conference, and the information given to them by the employer was invaluable.

Prior to this, the students toured a virtual hotel and identified the various hazards present. On satisfactory completion, the students obtained a Certificate of Achievement – The Hospitality Industry Virtual Hotel Safety Induction Programme. A heart felt thanks to the Hilton International Adelaide for their support and time from the staff and students of the District Disability Unit.

OSTER-TRADITIONEN (EASTER TRADITIONS)

A German or Chinese class is as much about getting to know the people(s) and the culture(s) who are using the language as it is about learning the language. The Chinese classes learn about the Spring festival, and the German classes are learning about the German traditions of Easter. One of the traditions is decorating Easter eggs and hanging them up on branches inside or outside the houses. As Easter falls into the end of Winter, trees and bushes in Germany are still barren at Easter time. But cut some branches and keep them inside your warmer house and soon the first bright green leaves announce springtime and warmth for the days that are ahead. It is on those branches, that the brightly decorated eggs are hung. The decoration techniques show a great variety and weeks before Easter there are numerous markets with the most amazing eggs for sale. One year 8 German class was painting Easter eggs today and had a lot of fun and creative, hands-on experience of the tradition.

Below: Kayla Polson, Jake Prosor, Danielle Hill, Eunny Kowalkic and Tiffany Ludhams with their finished products.

THE MURRAY BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL Newsletter
Principal - Marilyn Klem 8532 1788 Chairperson Governing Council - Phil Nutt 0417 865 539 Chairperson Parents & Friends - Ioanita Traeger 8535 4290
THURSDAY - April 9, 2009  www.murraybridgehs.sa.edu.au ISSUE 4

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Below: Kayla Polson, Jake Prosor, Danielle Hill, Eunny Kowalkic and Tiffany Ludhams with their finished products.
One of the largest Athletics teams to represent Murray Bridge High School in years ventured to Santos Stadium in Adelaide last Wednesday, to compete in their division of the State Athletics Championships. Students were selected following success on the local school Sports Day in their particular event. In the weeks leading up to the day, students undertook training sessions to work on technique and adhere to the Olympic motto of going faster, higher and stronger. Arriving at the stadium and quickly heading onto the track and field for participation, Cale Moore quickly ‘raised the bar’ by winning his high jump event. Kim Buchanan then took the next step and managed to meet a State standard by having her years of practice in the back yard pay off with victory by 8 metres in the Discus. Thon Ajoung then ‘brought the house down’ in winning his 800 metre and 1500 metre events, on both occasions pulling away from the field and actually accelerating at the end of each run. Further impressive winners at distance included Dale McDonald and Lachlan Butler in the 400 metre and Adam Kobanova in the 800 metre. Sammy Wehrmann meanwhile flew the flag for the girls, recording the best measure for her long jump.

The day is not all about winning however, it is more about the experience, and how many other students can take something from their efforts. Jarred Carter filled the long jump position and came second, Carla Kenny ran her heart out for a similar placing in the 800 metre whilst Sam Phillips improved further upon his memorable effort in last year’s Steeplechase. Ben Hansen ran a scintillating leg of the relay which saw his team also come second in Open company. Principal Merilyn Klem and teachers Katie Noble, Hayley Nielsen and Brendan Watts assisted with officialdom on the day, and were suitably impressed with the behaviour of the students, who also offered to assist with equipment and the referring of results.

In terms of final standing, the Girls creditably managed to lift a rung on the ladder to finish in 3rd place, while the Boys jumped four places from last year to also stand on the ’bronze podium’. School captains Shaka Gollan and Sam Phillips represented Murray Bridge High School in SunSmart attire, aside the other schools from the across the breadth of the state, at the awards ceremony. This year’s trip can only be seen as a resounding success. Students were efficient in their organisation, fair in competition, impeccably behaved and committed to doing their best for the school which they attend. Both personal and team pride can be taken from their efforts.
Murray Bridge High School students had the opportunity to learn more about careers in the road transport industry and the important role of trucks when the Australian Trucking Association’s (ATA) travelling exhibition centre, the Road Ahead visited the region last week.

The Road Ahead is a state-of-the-art semitrailer filled with interactive displays about road safety and the trucking industry. The exhibition centre travels the country visiting schools, colleges and shows, with all funds raised by the trucking industry and its suppliers.

A lot of work was involved bringing the exhibition to Murray Bridge, with organisations School and Beyond and VTECH Automotive Training teaming up to introduce employment opportunities in the trucking industry to local students.

School and Beyond is a group that strives to link young people to the workplace, while VTECH conducts nationally accredited training and development in the automotive and transport industry. Both see the Road Ahead exhibition as a great way to introduce students to the many job opportunities that are offered in trucking.

“Whilst times may be hard at the moment, there are still real opportunities for young people to make a career in the trucking industry,” Mr Lewis said.

“Transport operators in the Murray region are calling out for more workers, they just can’t find the people they need, and it gives young people a great chance to start a very rewarding career in the local area.”

But the exhibit is not just about introducing trucking industry jobs to young people. According to Mr Lewis, there is also a strong road safety message passed on as well.

“The other purpose of the travelling exhibition is to build on the ATAs long term message of sharing the road safely,” Mr Lewis said.

“People often don’t take the special requirements of trucks into consideration when they are on the road. It takes a truck a lot longer to stop than a car, and the raised driving position in a truck drastically alters how drivers see the road.”

“The exhibition presents the challenges of driving to high school students, right at a time they are about to hit the road. ‘We hope the information they gain from the exhibit will make them better and safer drivers in the years to come.’

After students completed their time in the trailer, they were offered the chance to find out more about local employment opportunities in the trucking industry and driving safely.

For student/young people wanting further information on a rewarding career in the Australian Trucking & Logistic Industry in the Murraylands Region please contact your local school VET Coordinator, School & Beyond Administration or Warren Meissner of VTECH Automotive Training.