INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Early in term 3 Murray Bridge High School welcomed two new International students and a new Rotary Exchange Student. Each of the students were welcomed at the school assembly and presented with a school jumper. We look forward to their involvement in our school during their stay in Murray Bridge.

Franziska Weitkamp

Our first International student is Franziska Weitkamp from Germany. She is staying in Murray Bridge for one semester and is hosted by the Yakas family.

Franz writes: “My father is a physiotherapist and has his own practice in our town. My mother is a teacher. I have one brother, Moritz who is 26 years old and one sister, Rebekka, 24. They both study in towns nearby. I live with my parents in my little hometown Wittgen, which has 100,000 inhabitants. Wittgen lies in North Rhine-Westphalia, the region called the Ruhr area and is known for its coal and steel. Like Murray Bridge, a river called the Ruhr flows through Wittgen. In the summer we often spend our time on the riverbanks”. She goes on to say: “My first impressions of Australia are that this is a very friendly and open-hearted country. I like Murray Bridge and naturally the river”.

Maggie Dillion

Our second International student is Maggie Dillion from the United States of America. She is currently being hosted by the Walfrotz family and is staying in Murray Bridge for one term. Maggie is from Boise, Idaho, a large rural community nestled in a low valley surrounded by snow capped mountains.

Maggie writes: “I chose to study in Australia because I believe yours is the most beautiful country in the world and when the option of having three months to experience it came up, I couldn’t ignore it. I have only been here a short time, but already I have explored the Northern Territory and learned a lot about Australian history. I was lucky enough also to have experienced my Australian adventure in Darwin exploring the wilderness and the culture”. Recently I started Murray Bridge High School, and I’m enjoying every minute. The students are fun and the teachers are kind. I can tell I will make lots of life long friends here. Australia is beautiful, and the people are so welcoming… I am having the time of my life”.

DETOUR - A Better Road To Follow

By Lyall Willis, CPSW

During Week 6 of Term 2 I took a group of boys on an adventure camp to Kangaroo Island as part of a program called DETOUR. This program is overseen and supervised by School Ministry Group in Adelaide and involves the Christian Pastoral Support Worker (CPSW) and students from Murray Bridge High School. It is not a school based program but works in partnership with the school to support students who will benefit from this experience. During the camp students had to prepare meals on open fires, camp out in swags, and learn minimal impact camping skills and environmental care. The students also learnt new skills in map reading, bushwalking and leadership. The success of the trip was measured by their ability to work as a team and collaborate together for the benefit of the whole group and not just as individuals. We visited popular tourist sites like Admirals Arch, Seal Bay and Little Sahara where we did some sand boarding. We also had some close encounters with wildlife like the fox, the koala and seals. We were able to experience the many naturals wonders along the road. The students should be proud of their achievement and it was a pleasure to work along side them.

By Luke Willsmore, Pedal Prix Manager

The Murray Bridge High School Pedal Prix Team competed in the second round of the Australian Human Powered Vehicle Super Series on Sunday 17 July with good results. Around 170 vehicles competed in the 9 hour endurance race with the three teams from the school placing very well. “Murphys Law” (our elite team) had the best result placing in 24th within their category after completing a total of 185 laps. The junior team ‘Zoom’ finished 26th in their category with 181 laps much to the disgust of the senior team ‘Slipstream’, who completed 174 laps and finished in 28th in their category. All staff and students involved had a great day. We are now looking forward to the next round of the series which will be held at Sturt Reserve from 17th – 20th September and hope to continue to improve on our results.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES CELEBRATES ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL TERM!

By Travis Wiese, Student Counsellor and Youth Opportunities Coordinator

Murray Bridge High School, in partnership with Youth Opportunities SA, successfully ran the Personal Leadership Programme for 14 Year 10 students throughout Term 2. This program is conducted for one day per week over the course of the term in an adult learning environment. Each Wednesday, these students have attended by both TAFE and School staff and have been able to experience the many beneficial aspects of the program. Students initially apply to participate in the program through a interview, with successful applicants establishing goals relating to how they wish to grow and develop as an individual and a leader throughout the program. Students then set about achieving their goals utilising stories and lessons conveyed via animated DVD lessons and facilitated discussion. While this is occurring within the group, individual students are taken out to receive coaching to specifically tailor the program principles to the goals they have for their lives.

Students commence the program in many cases shy and inward and emerge as confident and outgoing young adults. Many are bursting with promise, but lone direction, only to come away with the skills and desire to harness their abilities and full their potential. The term culminated in the graduation being held in Week 10, attended by families and friends of the graduates. The graduation was also attended by Murray Bridge High School staff and members of the community including Mr Sam Cozens from Rotary Club of Murray Bridge.

Rotation have been a staunch supporter of the Youth Opportunities Program, offering significant financial support, without which all of these students would not have been able to experience the growth and development brought forth by the program. On behalf of the school and the students, our sincere thanks go out to the Rotary Club of Murray Bridge for this support.

Very special thanks also needs to go to Hayley Nielsen and Angela Corbo for working tirelessly with these students to ensure that they were given the greatest opportunity to meet their goals and develop as young people.