Term 4, Week 5: 8 November 2010

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Phil Fitzsimons

Welcome to this week’s newsletter

Diagnostic Review 2010

Last week Murray Bridge High School took part in a 3 day Diagnostic Review. The aim of this review was to look at ways of enhancing student learning outcomes with a strong focus on literacy.

The visiting review team led by Phil Goldman from the Quality Improvement and Effectiveness Unit included 10 representatives from Murray and Mallee Regional Office, DECS in Adelaide, Neil White, Principal Waikerie High School, Murray Bridge High staff and Regional Director Peter Chislett.

The visiting review team commented on the welcoming atmosphere of the school, from students, staff and parents, and acknowledged the shift in direction apparent across the school. The dedication and commitment of Murray Bridge High School staff and students was also acknowledged during the process.

The 3 day Diagnostic Review was extensive in developing its understanding of the literacy approaches taken at Murray Bridge High School. The visiting review team was able to observe classes, interview students, parents and staff as well as receive a detailed overview of the school profile from myself and staff members Tracy Bellamy and Miranda Mulder.

Before the end of the school year I will receive a comprehensive written report from the visiting review team with a range of commendations and recommendations which look at how we can continue to work together as a community to develop our school. This report will be made available to all the Murray Bridge High School community.

This is an exciting time for Murray Bridge High School and provides the opportunity for the whole school community to become involved in this work. At the beginning of the new school year in 2011, the school will establish a team which will include staff, Governing Council and members of the leadership team. The team will be collectively responsible to implement structures, strategies and programs that help the school to achieve the review’s recommendations.

The Diagnostic Review process has provided the school with an outstanding opportunity to build on existing strengths and to continue our work toward developing quality public education for Murray Bridge High School.

On behalf of the Diagnostic Review Management Committee, who has worked tirelessly over this year in preparing the school for this review, I would like to thank all parents, students and staff that gave up their time to contribute towards this review process. Without their contribution the information gained from the visiting review team would have significantly impacted the overall quality of the school review process.

CALENDAR

TERM 4 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 8 Nov</td>
<td>Biology Exam am</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Info Technology Exam pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 9 Nov</td>
<td>Visual Arts Exam pm</td>
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<td>Wed 10 Nov</td>
<td>Chemistry Exam pm</td>
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<td>Thu 11 Nov</td>
<td>Dram Studies Exam pm</td>
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<td>Fri 12 Nov</td>
<td>Specialist Maths Exam am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 22 Nov</td>
<td>Year 11 Exams begin</td>
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<td>Mon 29 Nov</td>
<td>Presentation Night 7pm</td>
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<td>- MBHS gymnasium</td>
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<td>Tue 30 Nov</td>
<td>Finance Committee 7pm</td>
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<td>Tue 7 Dec</td>
<td>Parents &amp; Friends 6.30pm</td>
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<td>Governing Council 7pm</td>
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<td>Wed 8 Dec</td>
<td>Youth Opportunities Graduation</td>
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<td>Fri 10 Dec</td>
<td>Last day of Term 4</td>
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<td>- 2pm dismissal</td>
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TERM DATES 2011

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>31 January—15 April</td>
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<td>Term 2</td>
<td>2 May—8 July</td>
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<td>Term 3</td>
<td>25 July—30 September</td>
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<td>Term 4</td>
<td>17 October—16 December</td>
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PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2011

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, 26 January</td>
<td>Australia Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 14 March</td>
<td>Adelaide Cup</td>
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<td>Fri 22 April</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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<td>Mon 25 April</td>
<td>Anzac Day Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 26 April</td>
<td>Easter Tuesday</td>
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<td>Mon 13 June</td>
<td>Queen’s Birthday Holiday</td>
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<td>Mon 3 October</td>
<td>Labour Day Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 26 December</td>
<td>Christmas Day Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 27 December</td>
<td>Proclamation Day</td>
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DANCE SHOWCASE

By Zara Lehmann

On Tuesday 26 October, Year 9, 10, 11 and 12 students performed in the Semester Two, Dance Showcase. This performance was a culmination of a semester’s work, in which the students learnt many skills and worked very hard. The students rehearsed their dance pieces extensively in preparation for the performance. Many students also spent a considerable amount of their free time creating works for the show. The night included a variety of dance styles such as Jazz, Contemporary, Ballet and Hip Hop.

The Dance Showcase was particularly important for the Year 12 students as they were being moderated for their group production. I would like to congratulate all of the students on their achievements.

Year 11 and 12 Dance below
MUSIC IN THE AIR

A Vocal Recital, Murraylands Music Festival and Vocal Concert and Workshop.

It has been a busy couple weeks for music students at Murray Bridge High School. The students continue to improve their skills and grow in confidence and experience.

On 27 October the vocal students put on a special performance for friends and family in the music suite to showcase their skills. This included solo performances and also small vocal ensemble pieces. Sienna Pike, one of our vocal instrumental teachers worked hard to present an hour-long program, which included songs both new and old.

The School Concert Band had a performance at Tailem Bend in the Town Hall on 29 October for the Murraylands Music Festival. Attending the concert were primary schools from the area, Tailem Bend Primary School, Meningie Area School, Mypolonga Primary School and Coomandook Area School. The band played for the packed audience and delivered an excellent set of music. The primary schools formed a very appreciative audience as we played and managed to see a number of students grooving in their seats.

Finally, on 1 November our students enjoyed a vibrant performance from an a Cappella vocal group from the IMS (Instrumental Music Service). They performed for around 40 students in the music suite and covered music from a number of different genres. This was followed by a vocal workshop for the voice students where they learnt a piece and then performed to the Year 9 music class. During the workshop students had the opportunity to try vocal improvisation, part and solo singing. Around fifteen voice students formed a choir and we look forward to this group continuing into the New Year as the Murray Bridge High School Vocal Ensemble.

Thanks to all for their support of the music students and their continued efforts and ambitions in representing the school to the community.

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 polo shirt and jumper will be accepted as appropriate school uniform (as per photo)

Uniforms are available from the Student Services Office.

DON’T THROW AWAY YOUR OLD ROYAL BLUE POLO SHIRTS AND JUMPERS

We are collecting them to send onto a needy school in Cambodia.

I am sure there are many families who are willing to support this cause. If you would like to donate your child’s old school polo shirts and jumpers (rather than throwing them out) please leave them at the Front Office of the school.

They need to be clean and in good condition.
YEAREYE 10 EYE HEALTH AND AWARENESS SEMINALEYE By Helen Partridge, Year 10 Coordinator

On Wednesday 27 November, all Year 10 students attended an Eye Health and Awareness Seminar which was supported and funded by the Freemason’s Lodge. This fantastic organisation arranged presenters from the Royal Society for the Blind to educate students about eye health and prevention of vision loss and also created awareness of the available eye care services, the referral protocols and possible strategies for the management and rehabilitation for chronic vision loss.

Students had the opportunity to experience what it would be like if they encountered vision loss. Through conversations with the students, they said it was extremely hard to see, and to read a menu was almost impossible. It was a fantastic opportunity for the students to take part in and we thank the Freemason’s Lodge for their support of the program.

BANDANNA DAY
By Stacy Ryan, Middle School Coordinator

On Friday 29 October, Bandanna Day was held at Murray Bridge High School to raise funds for CANTEEN, which provides much needed respite and time away for children and their families who are dealing with cancer.

The Middle School SAAC sold Bandannas and Pens in the two weeks leading up to the event and raised well over one thousand dollars! A special thank you must be given to Kyle Nicholas-Benney, Taylor Webber and in particular, Ieuan Hepworth for donating so much time and energy in selling the Bandannas. Thank you so much to everyone who wore their Bandannas with pride on Friday!

FACILITIES UPGRADES
By Bryce Gillett

The installation of 2 new lifts and ramps for disabled access have now been completed, along with upgrades to the foyer areas in A and B block. This will also enable the easy delivery of laptop computer trolleys and equipment to upstairs classrooms.

As part of the remediation work outside A block, we now have a magnificent new paved courtyard area, which will lead on to the vision of upgrading other student recreational areas. With the addition of outdoor furniture and new trees for shade, this new courtyard will be a welcome upgrade by staff and students.
OIL MADE FROM PALM IS DOING US HARM

BY LEE THULBORN

PALM OIL related deforestation is rapidly wiping out what’s left of Earth’s wild orang-utans.

Palm oil is used in products from makeup, soaps and shampoos, to confectionary bars and biscuits.

It is estimated that 50 percent of all products sold at supermarkets contain palm oil and its derivatives, and scientists believe the average person consumes 10 kg of palm oil each year.

Palm oil itself is not the problem; it is the deforestation it causes which kills.

Palm oil is made by pressing the fruits of palm trees, *Elaeis guineensis* Jacq and in order for these trees to be grown, large areas of land are needed.

There is land available for companies to use without harming the environment, yet the temptation of illegal deforestation is too great for most; companies gain an extra profit by selling the logs they illegally remove.

Governments need to educate and assist local people of the rainforest to live in harmony with their surroundings and their culture while living in a world which requires them to have jobs to support and provide for their families.

Companies destroy vast areas of rainforest using slash and burn methods and machetes.

During this rampage of destruction, many animal species are injured or killed; any animal fortunate enough to avoid the machinery, is left without its natural environment, which it relies on for everything from shelter and protection, to food.

“If each week, 50 orang-utans are killed due to palm oil related deforestation”

This is severely effecting the future survival of orang-utans. Presently, there is an extremely low estimate of only 30,000 orang-utans left in the wild, and each week, 50 orang-utans are killed due to palm oil related deforestation.

Orang-utans are an endangered species, so every death causes a significant impact.

If the production of palm oil were to decrease, so would the death toll.

Currently there is no law in place to enforce the labelling of palm oil on products, so more often than not it is just referred to as vegetable oil, the ‘umbrella term’.

This means consumers are deprived of the right to decide whether or not they want to purchase products containing palm oil.

If you are concerned and want to make a difference, please take a second thought before purchasing items containing non-sustainable palm oil.

You can also contact any food suppliers which label vegetable oil in their products, and enquire if palm oil is one of the used ingredients.

To show their support, Murray Bridge High School is holding Orang-utan Day.

Students and teachers are asked to wear orange clothing for the price of a gold coin donation.

Your donation will help to sponsor a young orang-utan whose habitat has been destroyed.

So please bring a gold coin donation and wear orange clothing on Orang-utan Day, *Wednesday 17th November*, and help save the orang-utan before it’s too late.

Without serious change, orang-utans will become extinct within the next 20 years.
Raising Healthy Teenagers

A four session course for parents of children and teenagers who wish to raise them to be healthy and happy adolescents. It addresses promoting good behaviour, managing difficult behaviours and responding to depression and substance abuse.

Tuesday November 9th
Tuesday November 16th
Tuesday November 23rd
Tuesday November 30th

Held at Murray Bridge High School (Drama Room)

Presenters will be from the Mount Barker Child Adolescent Mental Health Service

Enquiries: Murray Bridge CAMHS 8531 3901

Supper will be provided.
For catering purposes, please register with CAMHS

A joint venture of the Child Adolescent Mental Health Service, Centrelink, Mount Barker SAPOL & Dept Education & Children's Services