Term 4, Week 7: 22 November 2010

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Phil Fitzsimons

Welcome to this week’s newsletter.

Student Centred Funding Model

Over the last 3 weeks a number of administration staff and I have attended meetings in the Riverland to learn more about a new State Government budget initiative set to be implemented at the beginning of the 2011 school year. All DECS sites across the state in 2011 will be funded using a single funding model based on student enrolment numbers. The State Government has guaranteed that schools will receive the same or more funding under the refined Student Centred Funding.

From my observations it is very clear that the new model ensures:

• The school has more flexibility and be in a better position to manage and control budgeting
• Funding will be better tailored around the needs of individual students
• A smoother start to each school year with less disruption to students and parents
• Greater certainty in class structures and the courses which can be offered
• A simpler, fairer and more equitable funding system for all public schools
• The school will have greater certainty about the resources available to meet the needs of individual students.

In response to the introduction of this new funding model it is critical that the school implements tighter controls managing student attendance, particularly as the funding the school receives is aligned with the number of students attending Murray Bridge High School. Therefore new structures will be implemented in 2011. These include the following:

• The introduction of an Attendance Officer based in the Student Services Office to monitor student attendance and liaise with parents and caregivers.
• The introduction of new attendance software designed to monitor student attendance more accurately – it is envisaged that this service will be available for parents/caregivers to monitor from home, in addition to school staff.
• Wireless Network built and 90 Netbooks provided to all teachers enabling attendance data to be uploaded wirelessly direct from the classroom
• SMS alert system for parents and caregivers notifying of student absence
• Beginning day structure to change with lesson 1 starting at 8.50am and home class to begin at 11am.

It is important for parents, caregivers, students and staff to understand that with the introduction of the new student centred funding model a change in approach towards student attendance is required.

If parents and caregivers require more information about the new structures referred to above, please do not hesitate to call me at the school.

CALENDAR

TERM 4 2010

Week 7
Mon 22 Nov Year 11 Exams begin

Week 8
Mon 29 Nov Presentation Night 7pm
- MBHS gymnasium
Tue 30 Nov Finance Committee 7pm

Week 9
Tue 7 Dec BER Recognition Ceremony 6pm
Governing Council 7.30pm
Wed 8 Dec Youth Opportunities Graduation
Fri 10 Dec Last day of Term 4 - 2pm dismissal

TERM DATES 2011

Term 1 31 January—15 April
Term 2 2 May—8 July
Term 3 25 July—30 September
Term 4 17 October—16 December

National Secondary Schools Team Golf Championship

On behalf of the staff and students I would like to wish Tyson Pratt, Hayden Marcus and Michael Young all the very best as they travel to Sydney next weekend representing the state and Murray Bridge High School in the National Secondary Schools Team Golf Championship. The boys are keen to do well and are looking forward to the experience.

My thanks must go to Mr Geoff Searle, who will accompany the boys during their 3 day visit.
CRAFT MODERATION EXHIBITION 2010  By Sue Lord

This year we had a very big, exciting exhibition of craft work by 28 students, from two Craft classes. The students exhibited practical work and journals from their three areas of study: Methods and Materials; Major Practical One; and Major Practical Two.

Student’s work covered a wide range of crafts, including hand built and slip cast pottery, tie dye, batik, silk painting, jewellery, woodwork, decoupage, mosaics, cross stitch, furniture restoration, Christmas crafts, crockery painting, mask making, canvas paintings, model building, lino printing, candle making and a painted guitar. The work was moderated on Monday and then we held an Open Day at school on Tuesday for the school community, which generated a lot of interest. This is the last year for Craft in the SACE curriculum. Next year all students will choose from Visual Arts and Visual Art Studies. Next year we hope to have an exhibition off campus which will be open to the public for a longer period of time.
YEAR 9 AQUATICS EXCURSION  By Hayley Nielsen

Last week, as part of the Year 9 Physical Education curriculum, students attended the aquatics excursions, held at the Murraylands Aquatic Centre. The excursions were designed as a reward for students who had upheld the schools values of respect, excellence and working together.

Each Year 9 home class attended the excursion for two days, where they were able to undertake many exciting and adventurous activities, such as rowing, kayaking, canoeing, small boating, sailing and wind surfing.

One of the harder activities was sailing, which involved tricky turns and fighting the wind to stay in control. Most students were able to pick up the skill quickly and enjoy a relaxing time on the water. Student Karleena Sunderland said she found the activity challenging to begin with, yet very satisfying once she got the hang of it.

Some students were lucky to enough to embark on an adventure paddle through a swamp like section of the river. The paddle involved ducking under very low bridges, paddling through spider infested reeds and trees and battling through very low sections of water. Student Brittany Montgomery said “It was quiet scary because we kept getting stuck, but it was heaps of fun in the end and a bit of an adventure”.

Students were also lucky enough to participate in knee boarding and skiing, which was most definitely the highlight for most. Although there were many stacks, collisions and tumbles it was fantastic to see everyone having a laugh and enjoying themselves.

Many of the students had never participated in water sports before, so it was an excellent opportunity to try some new activities, as well as learn some valuable skills. All students said they had a fantastic time and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Karleena also stated “We had a great time at aquatics from knee boarding to kayaking everyone participated and improved their skills”.

We would like to thank all of the PE staff who attended the event at various stages throughout the week for their time and assistance. Staff from Murraylands Aquatic Centre also deserves thanks for their patience, as well as their excellent knowledge and skill in each of the water sports.

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.
VISITING ARTIST INSPIRES STUDENTS  By Hayley Nielsen

Over the past three weeks Girls Vet students have participated in two fantastic art classes delivered by Pam Nielsen. Pam is a former Art teacher of Murray Bridge High School and currently a practising artist, running private art classes. The girls each produced two canvas paintings of their own, focusing on modern art techniques and abstract painting. Student Skye Bell was particularly talented, producing two very attractive and highly detailed paintings. All students were able to dramatically improve their artistic talents as well as use art as a form of relaxation.

Students who attended the classes were Kelsie McDonald, Gen Coleman, Samantha Clayton, Katelyn Freeman, Skye Bell, Renee Webb, Laura Edwards and Cassy O’Hare.

We would like to thank Pam for taking the time to work with the students and allowing the girls to experience two valuable and enjoyable days.

The Coorong District Council invites Junior Ambassadors to be involved in the “community carnival” to be held in association with the 2011 Santos Tour Down Under

If you are aged between 13-19 years and want to become involved in the excitement and fun of the Tour Down Under, we want to hear from you!

We are looking for bright, energetic and enthusiastic members of our youth community who can assist with the activities of the community carnival and give information and direction to the anticipated throngs of visitors to the Council area. Other opportunities to participate prior to the event will also be available, such as community engagement and administrative support.

You will need to be available in the week commencing 17 January 2011, with emphasis being on the morning of the event, Wednesday 19 January 2011.

To find out more about this exciting opportunity, please visit Council’s website www.coorong.sa.gov.au where further details and an expression of interest form are available.

All enquiries can be made to Nat Traeger, Director Corporate and Community by emailing ntraeger@coorong.sa.gov.au or telephoning 8572 3611.

MATERIALS AND SERVICES FEES 2011

The Murray Bridge High School Governing Council has approved the Materials and Services Fee for 2011. The fee is $270.00, which is the standard sum amount set by the Department of Education and Children’s Services for secondary students and is legally recoverable.

PAYMENT OF SCHOOL FEES – 2011

MATERIALS AND SERVICES FEE FOR 2011, IS DUE TO BE PAID BY FRIDAY, 15 APRIL, 2011

The Student Services Office will be open for the payment of fees from:-

8.30 am to 4.30 pm

Thursday, 20 January, 2011 - Year 8
Friday, 21 January, 2011 - Year 9
Monday, 24 January, 2011 - Year 10
Tuesday, 25 January, 2011 - Year 11 and Year 12/13

Please contact the school to arrange payment of fees outside of the above hours. EFTPOS facilities are available during the above office hours only. If you have more than one child at the school next year, you can pay all fees on the most convenient day. Uniform sales will be available in the Student Services Office during the times listed above.

Applications for School Card can be completed in the Resource Centre during the times listed above.