Term 1, Week 4: 21 February 2011

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Phil Fitzsimons

By striving we reach the stars

Staffing Update
The school has recently appointed Helen Partridge to the position of Year 8 Middle School Coordinator and Deb Johns to the position of Year 10 Senior School Coordinator. The school welcomes Anne O’Dea, who will join the school this week as our new Art teacher. Anne brings with her a wealth of experience and her wonderful Irish accent will be a great delight to our students.

National School Chaplaincy Program Discussion Paper
The National School Chaplaincy Program (In South Australia the alternate term is Christian Pastoral Support Worker) and the way it is being funded is currently being reviewed by the Gillard Government. A Discussion Paper has been released as part of a national consultation process. The paper outlines the perspectives and key issues raised by stakeholders during Stage 1 of the consultation process, and seeks views on possible changes to the program for the period 2012 – 2014, to strengthen school pastoral care services into the future.

Responses to the Discussion Paper are now invited from all interested parties, with a closing date of 18 March 2011.

The school will attach the Discussion Paper on our website. A questionnaire has also been developed to gather responses to the Discussion Paper. The link to the questionnaire will also be available on our website, or here.

I value the role Simon Benstead, our Christian Pastoral Support Worker, plays within the school and encourage all to read the Discussion Paper and to submit their views, thus ensuring the position of Christian Pastoral Support Worker remains at Murray Bridge High School.

School Photos
A reminder to students and their parents, this Wednesday, 23 February the photographers will return to the school. This is an opportunity for any family or group photographs to be taken as well as pay for the photographs taken on Wednesday, 9 February. A list of students, who have not had their photo taken, will be circulated to Pastoral Care teachers on the day.

CALENDAR

TERM 1 2011

Week 4
Tue 22 Feb Parents and Friends—6.30pm
Wed 23 Feb Governing Council—7pm

Week 5
Wed & Thu 2-3 Mar School Photo catch up day

Week 6
Wed & Thu 2-3 Mar BELS training MBHS 3.30pm

Week 7
Mon 14 Mar ADELAIDE CUP HOLIDAY
Tue 15 Mar STUDENT FREE DAY (Staff T&D)

Week 8
Tue 22 Mar Finance Committee meeting—7pm

Week 9
Tues 29 Mar Parents and Friends—6.30pm

Week 10
Governing Council—7pm

Week 11
Thu 12 Apr Report Writing
Fri 15 Apr Centenary Committee 7.30pm

Last day of Term 1—2pm dismissal

Included in this issue...

Principal’s note Pg 1
SACE achievers 2010 Pg 2
Congratulations Jarred Jackson Pg 2
School Leaders 2011 Pg 2
Swimming Carnival Pg 3
A good sign for MBHS Pg 3
Pedal Prix Pg 3
Student Free Days Pg 3
Parent Information Evenings Pg 4
A note from the Counsellors Pg 4
Overseas Travel Program Pg 5
Help for parents Pg 6
Air Force Cadets Pg 7
CONGRATULATIONS 2010 ABORIGINAL SACE STUDENTS
By Tracy Bellamy

Murray Bridge High School would like to congratulate 7 of our Aboriginal students who successfully completed their SACE for 2010. On 25 November the ASETO’s and ACEO’s of the Murray Bridge region organised a “Deadly Awards” night, to celebrate the successes of our Aboriginal students, within seven schools. This consisted of Year 7’s and Year 12’s who had demonstrated success in their education. The night was a huge success with many families and staff attending, to acknowledge the hard work these students have put into their studies. We are particularly proud to acknowledge the efforts our Year 12 students, who have put in a lot of hard work to achieve success in their SACE. We wish them all the best for the future and look forward to hearing their success stories. We look forward to the success of our Year 12 students in their SACE for 2011.


CONGRATULATIONS JARRED JACKSON

The Aboriginal Education Team would like to congratulate Jarred Jackson on his successful completion of his 8 week training course in 2010 with the Defence Force.

Jarred Jackson Year 11 South Australian Aboriginal Sports and Training Academy student has successfully completed an 8 week training opportunity with the Indigenous Employment Development Course, in conjunction with the Australian Defence Force. Participating in this course; Jarred developed personal skills through a military-structured approach to training and gained knowledge and skills in the various areas including numeracy, literacy, fitness and health, nutrition, teamwork, communications skills and leadership.

During the course he visited the Navy, Army and Air Force bases in NSW, VIC and the ACT. Whilst in Canberra he visited Parliament House and the Australian War Memorial and participated in a 4 day Indigenous Leadership course. Jarred was presented with an award for his academic achievements whilst on the course and received a recommendation from the organisers of the course. We are very proud of his success and look forward to his successful completion of Year 12 in 2011.

2010 HIGH ACHIEVERS

Christine Xiao 91.8 Tom Lang 91.2 Ben Hindle 88.75

Congratulations to the 2010 Year 12 students who completed their SACE. Special acknowledgement needs to go to Christine Xiao 91.8, Tom Lang 91.2 and Ben Hindle 88.7 for their outstanding achievements. It is pleasing to note the wide range of tertiary and TAFE courses our students were successful in applying for, as well as the apprenticeships won and the workplace offers received. The following information showcases the broad range of interests that exists within the Murray Bridge High School student cohort:

Bachelor Degrees
- Education
- Finance
- Aqua and Marine Biology
- Social Work
- Advanced Science
- Engineering
- Psychology
- Health Sciences
- Laboratory Medicine
- Arts
- International Studies
- Quantitative Finance

Certificate Courses
- Cert 2 Nail Technology
- Cert 3 Police Studies
- Cert 3 Tourism
- Cert 4 Music Technology
- Cert 4 Information Technology

Diploma Courses
- Hospitality
- Youth Work
- Business Administration

SCHOOL LEADERS FOR 2011

We welcome our new school leaders for 2011.

They are Meaghan Watkins and Jake Cheeseman, School Captains and Samara Willersdorf and Thomas Hicks, Vice Captains.

Meaghan Watkins

Jake Cheeseman

Samara Willersdorf

Thomas Hicks
YEAR 8 SWIMMING CARNIVAL
By Brittany Glazer and Siyani Cummings—Year 11 Peer Support Leaders

On Friday, 11 February Murray Bridge High School held their annual swimming carnival. The day is held for the Year 8 students at the Murray Bridge Olympic Pool to provide an opportunity for these students to get to know one another and their peers while competing for their home class. Students earn points for their class by participating in relaxed novelty events such as splash and dash, survival relay and a mystery event chosen by teachers and peer supporters to promote involvement by all students. The swimming carnival is a compulsory requirement for the Year 11 peer supporters as part of their Peer Support subject. Their role in the day is to organise the classes and assist staff with scoring and encouraging the students to compete. This carnival also gives the Peer Support leaders an opportunity to work with the Year 8’s and help them ease into high school.

This year’s carnival turned out well with the weather clearing up and majority of students getting involved in events and supporting their home class. All students worked hard to gain points for their home class, with the eventual winners being the class of 8A coming out on top. Overall the carnival was a great success, with students having an enjoyable time and getting an opportunity to work with their peers and teachers in a fun and active day.

A ‘GOOD SIGN’ FOR MURRAY BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

Near the conclusion of 2010, teachers at Murray Bridge High School were provided with the opportunity to apply for grants to improve aspects of the school. Mr. Lines was one of many teachers who jumped at the chance. His idea was to develop a banner for the gymnasium that encouraged a sense of school pride. “The banner makes a statement, as do our new colours,” he said.

Mr. Lines attached the banner to the gym wall on Valentine’s Day which was highly appropriate considering the way he felt about this project upon its completion.

Other teachers at the school undertook projects ranging from murals to gardening. The initiative highlighted a core value of Murray Bridge High School, Working together.

PEDAL PRIX TEAM 2011
By Isaac Brooks

As it is a new season for Pedal Prix, we are looking for interested team members from Murray Bridge High School. Any student can join or see Mr Brooks for more information.

The team is looking for sponsorship from the community and offers advertising benefits to company’s and businesses. Anyone interested or aware of a business willing to sponsor the team please contact me at the school on 8532 1788.

STUDENT FREE DAYS AND SCHOOL CLOSURE FOR 2011

STUDENT FREE DAYS
(Staff Professional Development)

TUESDAY, 15 MARCH 2011
TUESDAY, 14 JUNE 2011

SCHOOL CLOSURE (Show Day)
FRIDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER 2011
YEAR 11 AND 12 PARENT ACQUAINTANCE/INFORMATION EVENING

By Max Fitton

Parents and students are invited to the Senior School Parent Acquaintance/Information Night on Monday 7 March at 7:00pm in the School Drama Suite.

The evening will provide you with important information about the program of study for your child as a senior student, school expectations of performance and behaviour and the opportunity to meet your child’s Pastoral Care Teacher and Subject teachers.

We believe this meeting is an important step towards establishing close working relationships between the school, students and families and so ensuring all students gain their best possible outcomes during the challenging and demanding year as a Year 11 or 12 student.

Program
7:00pm Combined meeting
- Welcome and Introductions
- Principal’s message
- Expectations
- SACE and ATAR information
- Counsellor’s Role
7:30pm Meet the Home Group Teacher
- Opportunity for parents to meet subject teachers

The plan for the evening is to be short and informal lasting approximately 1 hour. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided.

Please Note the Year 11 and 12 Coordinator is Max Fitton. You are welcome to contact me at the school to discuss any aspect of your child’s progress.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNSELLORS
Liz Hodge and Stuart Kenny

HEAD LICE
We have already had reports of head lice within the school so it is extremely important for you to check your child’s head for lice TODAY. Keep checking for lice every 2 days until no head lice are found for 10 consecutive days.

If head lice are found please treat your child for head lice and use a fine tooth head comb to remove all lice and their eggs. This will prevent head lice from spreading.

Also:
- Check all members of the household at the same time.
- Use an effective head lice treatment.
- Wash bed linen, hats, hair ties, brushes etc in hot water.

If using a chemical treatment, repeat 7-10 days after initial treatment according to the manufacturer’s directions.

The Education Department regulations state that students who have head lice are not to come to school until they have had effective treatment.

Head lice are transmitted directly from one person to another, or by contact with articles that have come in contact with an infested person, such as combs, brushes, hats, scarfs, bedding and upholstery. They often are found among school age children. Lack of cleanliness or personal hygiene is NOT a cause; in fact lice prefer clean healthy hair. It is NOT a social disgrace.

Further information on head lice and their treatment can be gained from the Environmental Health Service of the Department of Health on the following direct link:

PARENTS AND FAMILIES OF STUDENTS IN YEARS 8, 9 &10

are cordially invited to an informal sausage sizzle on Tuesday 8 March 2011 between 5.30 – 7pm at Murray Bridge High School in the Quadrangle/Cafeteria

The evening will contain a short welcome which includes:
- tips to help you support your child to aim for success.
- steps to follow if you need to contact the school with concerns
- other ways that you can support the school and your child’s education

We believe this meeting is an important step towards establishing close working relationships between the school, students and families. Pastoral Care and subject teachers are keen to meet you and we ask the student to ensure that they introduce their parents to their teachers.

Parent teacher interviews will be held later in the year for parents to have individual performance discussions with teachers.

For catering purposes please fill in slip below and return to Pastoral Care Teacher by Friday 4 March 2011.

I, the parent/caregiver of ________________________________ in Pastoral Care class............. has seen the note regarding the Year 8,9,10 Parent Evening on Tuesday 8 March.

I will / will not be attending the Parent Evening.

For the purpose of catering I will be bringing ............... family members with me.

Signed......................................................................................

(Parent/caregiver)
As you are probably aware many South Australian schools have programmes in place allowing their students the opportunity to travel overseas during any one year. One of these programmes is based on a sister-school relationship.

Currently at Murray Bridge High School the only school-based opportunities for overseas travel is for our students to apply for an exchange (generally through Rotary for 12 months or a Rotary short-term exchange to New Zealand for one term). The other programme is for senior German students to live in Germany and to study German over the Christmas holidays.

I am therefore investigating the idea of developing a sister-school relationship with one or more countries overseas. This would provide another opportunity for our students to learn about a new culture, to experience the country and to travel overseas under the supervision of teaching staff.

The way the sister-school relationship works is that your student would be given the opportunity to spend say 2 – 3 weeks in another country and, at some later date (or perhaps even before) host an international student for that same period of time.

No details have been worked out at this stage. The known factors would include:

* Families would need to financially support their student’s trip.
* Families would be responsible for ensuring their student had a current passport.

Families would need to be prepared to host a student from another country in their home (for a period of 2 – 3 weeks) or make arrangements for that student to be hosted.

Details to be decided would include:

* Which country (countries) we would like to form a sister-school relationship with. Whether we would try to host overseas students and send our students on an annual basis or perhaps every second year.

Also under consideration is the idea of taking a group of students to Gallipoli for an Anzac Day service. This would require some forward planning so would not occur until April 2012 if there is enough interest shown.

Funaabashi High School visits us each year for the first two weeks in Term 3. The visiting students are home-hosted and the families are given some money to assist with the costs of food and other expenses incurred during the visit. This is not an exchange but a cultural visit. We would like to hear from any family who would be prepared to open their home to a Japanese student for a period of two weeks at the start of term 3. If you are at all interested in finding out more about your student being offered the opportunity to travel on a school trip overseas, or what is involved in hosting a Japanese student, please complete the information slip below and return it to the school by Monday, 28 February. We will then hold a meeting of interested parents and students to start some planning.

Family name: ___________________________________________ Name of student: ___________________________________________

Year level of student: __________ Home address: _________________________________________________________________

Phone contact details: Home number: __________ Mobile number: ___________________________________________________

1. Please indicate if you would be interested in finding out more about sending your child overseas for a 2 - 3 week period:

Some potential countries we could approach to form a sister school relationship with include (Please circle any countries of interest from this list):

* Japan  
* China
* Germany  
* New Zealand
* USA  
* Other __________________________________________________________

2. Another possibility is to look at taking a group of students to Gallipoli for an Anzac Day service.

(Please indicated if you are interested or not):

YES, this would be worth looking into
NO, my student is not interested in this option

3. Our family would like more information about hosting a student from Japan for two weeks at the start of term 3.

(Please indicate if you are interested or not):

YES, we would like more information about this.
NO, we would not be interested in being involved in this programme.

Please note: by returning this form is no way forcing you to make a quick decision. All we want to do at this stage is to find out if there is enough interest for us to pursue considering forming a sister school relationship/s or research planning a trip to Gallipoli.
Help for Parents / Carers of Out-Of-Control Teenagers

Do you feel you are losing control over your child?
Does your child threaten, hurt or intimidate you or others?
Do you want support as a parent of this child?

Who's in Charge?

Reclaim respect and calm in your family!

The Who’s in Charge? group is an 8 week program for parents or carers of young people (8 to 18) who are out of control, aggressive and/or abusive even if only some of the time.

The group aims to
- Help you feel more in control and less stressed
- Reduce the guilt and shame for ‘having a child like that’
- Develop strategies for managing your child’s behaviour
- Invite guest speakers as desired by group (SAPOL, CAMHS, etc)
- Provide a supportive, non-judgmental environment

When: Tuesdays, 10:30 am–1:00pm, for 8 weeks
Starts: Tuesday 22nd March
Where: ac-care offices, 11-21 Kennett St, Murray Bridge

To Register:
Contact Vina on 8532 6192
By Monday 21st March
AIR FORCE CADETS

RECRUITING FOR
622 SQUADRON MURRAY BRIDGE
FRIDAY 4TH MARCH 2011
7.30PM - 9.30PM

JOIN NOW!
THE AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE CADETS SQUADRON
MEET EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT DURING SCHOOL TERM
FROM 6.30 TO 10.00 pm

Australian Air Force Cadets (AAFC) sponsored by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). Many cadets join the Air Force and Defence Force or find a valuable, exciting career in civilian aviation. We can help develop your leadership, confidence and could make getting a job easier, no matter what you decide to do with your life. Be a respected and responsible citizen in the community and stand proud.

Aims of the Australian Air Force Cadets (AAFC)
1. Equip you for community life
2. Fostering initiatives
3. Develop leadership qualities
4. Encourage discipline and loyalty
5. Stimulate interest in the Defence Force
6. Instil RAAF knowledge and discipline
7. Encourage self-reliance and initiative
8. Develop character and good citizenship
9. Encourage interest in aviation
10. Promote fun, challenge and team spirit

Come and find out how you can join
- Reach for the Sky

Join the premier air minded youth organisation of Australia if you're aged between 13 and 18 years, an Australian resident, medically fit and have parental consent you are eligible.

For further information contact Diane Bolton on 0417 867 697 or Julianne Wandel on 0429 098 526

Visit our Website and find out for yourself, talk to our cadets and instructors. Register your expression of interest “Now”. Visit our Website http://www.aafc.org.au/