Term 1, Week 6: 7 March 2011

FROM THE PRINCIPAL
Phil Fitzsimons

Site Improvement Plan
Governing Council has recently approved the publication of the 2011-2012 Site Improvement Plan. The Site Improvement Plan is underpinned by our vision and school values. The development of the strategic directions is directed by the DECS Improvement and Accountability Framework. Following extensive discussion and consultation with staff and the Governing Council 5 Strategic Directions were identified as the essential priorities to move Murray Bridge High School forward. The 5 Strategic Directions are:

- **Literacy across all Learning Areas**
  Students will develop improved literacy skills across all learning areas and recognise the skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking as key learning tools. In particular, the capability to write for a variety of audiences and purposes will be valued and developed.

- **Excellence in Teaching and Learning**
  Students will value learning and strive to achieve excellence in order to reach their full capabilities. Staff will have high expectations, encourage students and celebrate achievements and effort. Attendance at school will be valued and students will appreciate academic achievement as worthwhile.

- **Technology across all Learning Areas**
  Students will have the opportunity to utilise learning technologies in all learning areas. Teachers will be prepared through professional learning activities to use technology as a teaching tool in classes. The school’s ICT Strategic Plan will continue to be implemented and continually enhanced.

- **Values and Respect for People and the Environment**
  The school will be regarded as a place where all are welcomed and staff and students treat each other in a civil manner. Violence is not seen as a legitimate solution to problems and bullying is rejected. Staff and students acknowledge and are tolerant to difference, and demonstrate respect to each other and to personal and school property. All will accord respect to the grounds and buildings of the school and the community and environment in which they live. Students develop environmental citizenship values and attitudes.

- **Partnerships**
  The school will seek out and nurture reciprocal partnerships where others can add value to school programmes. These networks will include service clubs, the business sector and government agencies. Parents will be well informed about their child’s progress and achievement and work with staff as partners. The 2011-2012 Site Improvement Plan is available at our website or parents/caregivers can collect a hard copy at the Front Office. I strongly encourage parents/caregivers to read this document to develop an understanding of the direction the school is taking over the next 2 years.

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**CALENDAR**

**TERM 1 2011**

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Mon &amp; Tues 7&amp;8 Mar</th>
<th>Peer Support Excursion</th>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Mon 14 Mar</td>
<td>ADELAIDE CUP HOLIDAY</td>
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<td>Tue 15 Mar</td>
<td>STUDENT FREE DAY (Staff T&amp;D)</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Tue 22 Mar</td>
<td>Year 8 Monarto Excursion all week</td>
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<td>Wed 23 Mar</td>
<td>Finance Committee meeting—7pm</td>
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<td>Peter McFarlane visit</td>
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<td>Year 12 Art Excusion</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Tues 29 Mar</td>
<td>Parents and Friends—6.30pm</td>
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<td>Governing Council—7pm</td>
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<td>Wed 30 Mar</td>
<td>Year 8 Immunisations</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
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<td>Report Writing</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Tue 12 Apr</td>
<td>Centenary Committee 7.30pm</td>
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<td>Fri 15 Apr</td>
<td>Last day of Term 1—2pm dismissal</td>
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INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FROM MURRAY BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDYING AT FLINDERS UNIVERSITY RECOGNISED FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS.

By Lynton Hall

Former Murray Bridge High School students, Zhenzhen Huang, Bingmei Yu and Zhaoxia Zhang were three of the top ten international students who studied Year 12 in a South Australian School, based on Grade Point Average, in their first year at Flinders University in 2010.

On Friday 25 February, at the Vice-Chancellor’s Welcome to International Students, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Michael Barber, presented each of these girls with a “Flinders University International Student Transition Award” of $1000.

Jie Gong and Rong Zhang also achieved a successful result in first year at Flinders University. At the same function each of these girls was presented with a “Flinders University International Student Transition Certificate of Achievement” and a cheque for $500.

All five girls completed their Year 12 studies at Murray Bridge High School in 2009. The girls indicated that they would use these funds to help pay their tuition fees which are in excess of $16,000 annually.

We congratulate these girls on their achievements and wish them well in their future studies.

CONGRATULATIONS JARRED LLOYD

By Max Fitton

Adelaide University Scholarship

I was honoured to attend the presentation ceremony on Friday 25/2/11 at the Adelaide University.

Murray Bridge High School congratulates Jarred Lloyd on winning an Adelaide University Scholarship from his 2010 SACE results. Jarred has started a Science degree at the University.

Jarred has, as always, approached his study in a conscientious manner and has always maintained strong academic standards. Last year in the role of School Captain he gave excellent service to the school showing excellent leadership skills. In collaboration with the SAAC (Student Action Advisory Committee) team he was able to introduce some valued student initiatives to the school.

We wish Jarred success in his University studies and his future career.
OPEN GIRLS KNOCKOUT CRICKET
By Helen Partridge and Sherry Bone

Murray Bridge High School hosted Eastern Fleurieu in the Open Girls Knockout cricket on Tuesday, 1 March. The team was made up of girls from Years 9, 10, 11 and 12. Although our team didn’t have a lot of cricket experience they worked extremely well in the first innings to field, with Eastern Fleurieu finishing with 82 runs. Special mention must go to Hannah Lewis for her 2 fantastic catches, Kiahn Bockman for her brilliant run out and Ashleigh Horsnell for some great bowling which resulted in some wickets.

After a drinks break, Samara Willersdorf and Molly Knee-bone took to the field to open the batting side for Murray Bridge High School. Each team member had an opportunity to bat and demonstrated all the core values of excellence, respect and working together. The students continually supported one another and represented the school impeccably. Although the score didn’t reflect the spirit of the game, to the eye, it looked much closer. Final scores for the day were Eastern Fleurieu 4 for 82 – Murray Bridge High School, all out for 28.

A very big thank you must go to Mr McEvoy and Mr Lines for their support and help in setting up. It was greatly appreciated. Also, thank you to Hayden Marcus and Jack Woods (Year 11 students) for excellent umpiring and scoring for the day.

Every student involved was a credit to themselves and the school community. Well done!

Team mates help Katelin to pad up ready to bat

Hannah in action on the field

OPEN BOYS CRICKET TEAM LOSE IN HARD FOUGHT BATTLE
By Nathaniel Johnston, Year 12

On Monday, 28 February Murray Bridge High School Open Boys Cricket team travelled to Unity College filled with hope that they would win.

During the day Unity scored 162 runs in the 40 overs which was always going to be tough score to chase down. Jack Gilgen got 2 wickets to be the top bowler in the Murray Bridge High School side.

The Murray Bridge High School boys started to bat and showed some solid defence. Aaron Cowling made a solid 11 runs and held the middle order together. Ben Nagel contributed a sizzling boundary to the run score. The remainder of the boys struggled against the Unity boys’ quality bowling.

Mr Lines said “We had a talented side who gave it their best with the bat and ball. Some of the bowling efforts were outstanding”. He also made reference to the healthy rivalry between the two schools and the positive values reflected throughout the day.

Final score
MBHS 10/38, Unity College 7/162.

OFF TO A ‘FLYING START’  By Anthony Wilkin, Year 12

Pedal Prix this year has got off to a great start with many interested in being involved, but the team is still looking for more people to come and join in the fun.

Students started training recently with a good fitness program that was put together by Mr McEvoy. When speaking with Mr Brooks about this he said “There are many good outcomes from training and the preparation for the first event on 28-29 May.” The training program is run on Thursday night and is a fun interactive way for the students to get out into the bike.

The students that are currently doing pedal Prix training are doing a bunch of various activities which include shuttle runs, riding of the pedal Prix bikes and even rebuilding the pedal Prix bikes. Talking with some of the students as a group they were saying “this was a good opportunity to get their hands on a good fun activity and also get their fitness up and going.” One of the kids that were helping work on the bikes said “it is all going well so far and everything should be in great form for the race.”

Pedal Prix is a great way to have fun and keep fit. With plenty of people to mingle with it makes it a great fun event for everyone. There is always room for more people on the Pedal Prix Team. The teams are looking pretty keen to get out on the track for another great year.
YEAR 12 AQUATICS DAY SUCCESS
By Nick Welch, Year 12

During Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of Week 4, about twenty Year 12 PE students attended the Year 12 Aquatics program at the Murraylands Aquatics Centre in Murray Bridge. The students got to choose from kayaking or sailing and they completed various activities over the three days, at the same time being marked by the instructors. This program is compulsory in Year 12 PE and is a must if you want to achieve a good grade.

It turned out to be a great success with everyone getting along and having plenty of fun. The students learnt a lot of valuable lessons like working together, communicating and leadership. Some students even achieved things that they didn’t think they could achieve.

One of the Year 12 students that attended was Nat Johnston. He had a few words to say about the successful three days. “It was a great experience, I had a lot of fun and I would definitely go back again!”

PE teacher and Student Counsellor Mr Kenny also had a few words to say about the successful three day program.
“I thought it was a great success and everyone was well behaved and the instructors were lovely the whole time we were there. I couldn’t have asked for a better group of students”.

SAASTA (SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL SPORTS TRAINING ACADEMY) 2011
By Miranda Mulder

Murray Bridge High School is running the SAASTA Program again in 2011. This year the program has expanded with the addition of a girls’ team. The students in the Academy are in Years 10, 11 and 12. As part of the course requirements, the Year 12’s have taken on a leadership role within the teams. On 2 March, they conducted an assembly to present both the boys and girls teams with their uniforms (see below).
ARTSsmart
a strategy for arts education in South Australian schools
By Tracy Bellamy

In 2010 Murray Bridge High School commissioned a local Ngarrindjeri Artist, Nellie Rankine to participate in the design and construction of a mural resembling the Ngarrindjeri culture. The Ngarrindjeri people are the traditional owners of the land the school is built on and we want to show respect to elders past, present and future. The mural will resemble all that is important to the Ngarrindjeri people including animals, land and the waters. Nellie has been working with Year 8, 9 and some Year 10’s, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students. Together they came up with design ideas and have begun to finally construct the mural onto boards. These will be placed on to the side of the school gymnasium facing the oval.

Nellie’s participation has been sponsored by the ARTS smart project, an initiative which supports community artists to work within schools. Nellie will continue to work with the students throughout term 1 with the aim for the mural to be completed and situated onto the side of the gymnasium, either at the end of term 1 or beginning of term 2.

Nellie Rankine working with students

MATHS NEWS

By Angela Embling

The Maths faculty of Murray Bridge High School would like to announce a new initiative just introduced into our mathematics teaching programs.

All our students have been registered to use www.mathsonline.com.au as a learning resource to supplement their classroom experience.

Some features include:
- Full lessons for each concept with a voice over and numerous examples of varying difficulty. Every lesson has a pause and rewind facility to help students grasp concepts at their own pace.
- Every lesson has an accompanying printable summary and worksheet to consolidate the concept, with full worked solutions provided also.
- A student’s ongoing use and progress in the program is stored for theirs and their teacher’s perusal at any time.
- The program can be accessed from any internet ready site, not just at school.
- The entire Year 7 to 12 program is available to every student, not just their particular year group or course.
- Parents may register to get weekly updates on their child’s program use and progress, by clicking on the ‘Parents area’ tab within their child’s account.
- and other features to come in the future.

Given that the program covers most of the concepts that we teach, and as good as this resource is, the school wishes to make it clear that it was never intended by its creators to replace the wonderful work that our mathematics teaching staff already do. This program is best used as a support/supplement to the classroom teaching/learning experience. All students will be issued with their unique logins and passwords over the next few days by their maths teacher, and are encouraged to use this resource as directed by their own teacher.

TERM DATES 2011

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<td>Term 2</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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<td>Wed</td>
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<td>Australia Day</td>
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<td>Christmas Day Holiday</td>
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<td>Proclamation Day</td>
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WINTER COMES EARLY TO MURRAY BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL
By Chelsea Vanson, Kim Mitchell and Lexi Blight, Year 12’s

The Murray Bridge High School formal is coming up very soon.

On 27 May, students in Years 11 and 12 will be walking the red carpet at the Murray Bridge Town Hall.

The theme for this year will be ‘The Last Dance in Winter’. A lot of preparation is going into making this year as much fun and successful as possible.

There is a formal committee consisting of any student in Year 11 or 12 that wants to have a say in the running of the event and Ms Partridge. Some of the things they are responsible for are invitations, photographers, decorations, awards and more.

New Technology Studies teacher Mr Berresford said “This year sounds like it is going to be really fun for all the students involved. From what I have heard there has been a lot of preparation this year to make it successful and I am very much looking forward to watching all the students glammed up as they walk the red carpet.”

The Principal of Murray Bridge High School, Phil Fitzsimons says “The 2011 Senior School Formal is a major highlight for all senior students. The evening celebrates the culmination of years of schooling.”

A Year 12 student Chevelle Thiele says “I hope this year’s formal will be amazing. I have been attending the formal meetings and from what has been discussed there, it sounds like it is going to be really fun for everyone that will be attending.”

It is open to family, friends and the general public for viewing. The cars will be queuing in Bridge Street from around 7pm. Get there and help the students and teachers celebrate the night.

A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNSELLORS:
Liz Hodge and Stuart Kenny

With the increase in mobile phone ownership and use of social networking sites such as ‘Facebook’, an unfortunate rise in cyber-bullying is becoming more prevalent in today’s society, both in school and outside of school hours.

After recently attending a Cyber-bullying conference presented by Dr. Michael Carr-Gregg (child psychologist), we were shocked by his opening statement, which was along the lines of “It is ridiculous to think that you will ever completely remove bullying or harassment in schools”.

This statement still sits uncomfortably with us personally; however, we believe it is possible to achieve an environment that is very close to being harassment free. It requires a great deal of cooperation, patience and understanding, both a culture and an attitude shift need to take place, in order for Murray Bridge High School to achieve this goal. Additionally, it would be beneficial if a couple of simple philosophies are adhered to; “Don’t judge a book by its cover” and “Treat others as you wish to be treated”.

We, the school can influence, as can parents, but really the change must come from the students themselves.

We are asking for the help of everyone within the school community and the community members of Murray Bridge to really embrace the school values of RESPECT, EXCELLENCE, WORKING TOGETHER to try and prevent any such incidents from occurring.

It is the right of everyone that attends Murray Bridge High School to be treated as a worthwhile person and to have a safe and secure learning environment, free from harassment. It is the responsibility of all those who are part of the school community to establish and maintain this safe and secure environment.

We understand the potential dangers, both the immediate and the long term impact that bullying and harassment can have on an individual or individuals. This is why Murray Bridge High School is taking an extremely serious approach to the matter and has decided to invite Martin Nunn from the Crime Prevention Unit (SAPOL) to speak to the students regarding ‘cyber-bullying’.

A one-hour presentation has been delivered to the school population and has been received extremely well by the student body. The presentation provides useful information to students about how to deal with harassment, what you can do to prevent it, and possible consequences of harassment.

To complement the “Cyber-bullying” seminar, the Student Counsellors of Murray Bridge High School will be delivering an information seminar on “Bullying & Harassment” during lesson times. The seminar details the definition of, types of, and how to address bullying at school. Once the student has participated in this seminar, they will be given a return slip that needs to be brought back to school signed by both, the parent/caregiver and the student. The return slip provides more detailed information about what is covered in the seminar and hopefully provides an opportunity for discussion as a family on the subject matter.

An information pamphlet has been put on the school’s website along with 2 articles/documents to assist and guide parents/caregivers in dealing with bullying/harassment issues. If you would like any further assistance or additional information please don’t hesitate to get in contact with us at the school. We have a number of resources available in the Counselling Centre and contact details of service providers relating to bullying, cyber-bullying and harassment.

To find the information pamphlet and the articles/documents mentioned just go to the school’s website;

‘www.murraybridgehs.sa.edu.au’
Go to ‘General Information’ (top right of screen)
Scroll down to ‘Student Counsellors’ and click on it
Scroll down to the bottom of the screen, underneath the photos of the student counsellors
Click on the icon of article you wish to view

On a separate issue, a date has been confirmed for the Year 8 Immunisations. Those students who have returned the appropriate consent form and have indicated that they would like to be vaccinated; the date is Wednesday 30/3/11.

Year 8 boys will be receiving a Hepatitis B vaccination and the Year 8 girls will be receiving the Hepatitis B plus the “Gardasil” (cervical cancer) vaccination.