Term 1, Week 8: 21 March 2011

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to this week’s Newsletter.

Governing Council AGM
The Governing Council Annual General Meeting will take place at the school on Tuesday, 29 March beginning at 7pm. I would like to encourage parents/caregivers interested in having their voice heard and wishing to participate in the future direction of the school to come along to the meeting and become a member of the Governing Council and/or the Parents and Friends Committee. The Governing Council and Parents and Friends meet twice a term and need a strong voice in establishing policies and fundraising initiatives for the school. If you value the education of your child then these forums will allow you to make a positive and highly valued contribution to the school. I look forward to welcoming you on 29 March. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our retiring Governing Council Chairperson Phil Nutt, who has decided to take a well earned holiday break travelling around Australia. Phil has been a strong advocate for the school for a number of years and on behalf of the Governing Council Committee, Parents and Friends, staff and students I wish you well Phil and safe travels.

My School Website
The second version of this website contains information about the financial situation of the school and NAPLAN achievement data. You can visit this website at the following address: www.myschool.edu.au and entering Murray Bridge High School in the search function. It is important to note that access to a more detailed and balanced financial overview of the school can be acquired by:
- Joining the Governing Council
- Joining the Financial Advisory Committee

Student Free Day
The focus for the recent Student Free Day was literacy. We were fortunate to have Wendy Featherston - Performance, Analysis and Reporting Consultant from the Murray and Mallee Riverland Regional Office and Bronwyn Parkin – Project Manager from the Literacy Secretariat come to the school and look at processes and procedures for improving literacy outcomes for our students as part of the whole school approach to literacy. Staff were able to analyse and interpret NAPLAN data and then transfer this knowledge into implementing literacy strategies across all learning areas.

Looking at the NAPLAN data available on the My School website it is clearly apparent that more work needs to be done to improve the literacy and numeracy achievement of our students. Discussions have already occurred both within the High School and across the Murray Bridge region with our feeder schools to develop a targeted approach towards literacy and numeracy. Parents/Caregivers can be assured that all schools across the Murray Bridge region are serious about lifting the achievement levels of our students.
MURAL MASTERPIECES  
By Sue Lord, Art Teacher

There are some very clever and artistic students in this school! Two new murals are being mounted on the walls of the new library corridor this term. They were painted by a dedicated group of students in the last week of term 4, 2010. This group of students spent every day of Week 9 in the A17 art room, working on two large murals. All they wanted to do was paint! And paint they did, with drinks and lunch treats to keep them going full steam and background music to soothe and inspire. By the end of the week they had completed two murals, on different themes.

The large mural is a colourful, cheerful composition of butterflies and flowers, painted with acrylic paints and mixed media, including generous amounts of glitter, on board.

The second mural was designed by Chelsea Smith, Year 8, and also painted with acrylic paints on board. It is a mythical Manga inspired flying wolf in a fantasy background.

We all enjoyed our week of painting and the results are brilliant! The students are very proud of their work. They worked tirelessly and with great enthusiasm. The murals will brighten some bare walls and make a better working environment for us all. This was an excellent end of year activity and I hope to repeat the experience again, probably with some of these students, at the end of this year.

WORLD’S GREATEST SHAVE  
By Meaghan Watkins, School Captain

On Thursday, 10 March Molly Kneebone, alongside other students and staff of Murray Bridge High, shaved their heads to raise money for the Leukaemia Foundation.

Molly and I organised the fundraising and the shave as part of our Health promotion group project. We collected donations around the school with tins and Molly also collected donations outside of school. After a motivational speech at the assembly we had recruited another 7 people, including two staff members, to shave their hair off for a cure.

Professional hairdressers, Tammy and Chantelle Isgar, volunteered 4 hours of their work day to perform the shave in the High School gym. Students paid a small donation to come and watch the brave shavers lose their hair. After 40 minutes, the shave was complete. It was great to see the school get behind such a great cause and support the shavers.

Altogether we raised nearly $3,000!! A great achievement. We would like to thank everyone involved.
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY  By Liz Hodge

On Wednesday, 9 March a group of our students helped celebrate 100 years of International Women’s Day. The celebration was a multicultural breakfast held in the Uniting Church Murray Bridge. The celebration was opened by a Year 12 student, Ally Wilson who gave the “Welcome to Country” in Ngarrindjeri to the gathering followed by a multicultural breakfast and a number of guest speakers.

Annette Korzeba spoke of the work of the Soroptimist Club in assisting women and children in Australia and overseas by assisting with developing skills in each particular community and ensuring women and children have access to clean water, food and providing education for all children. Guest speaker Isis Wassif spoke of her time as a young migrant mother immigrating to Australia from Greece over 20 years ago. This was a funny and informative look at how migrants manage in a new country and of the supports they need to settle into a new community.

Students enjoyed the time trying different foods and speaking to women from the community.

Annette Korzeba from the Soroptimist Club speaks with students at the International Women’s Day.

2011 ADELAIDE NATIONAL CAREERS & EMPLOYMENT EXPO

is the free careers event that provides the answers.

- Graduate, Apprentice and Trainee Opportunities
- Employment and Training Seminars
- Public/private education providers
- Industry and organisations with Full and Part-Time jobs on offer

Date: 20-21st May 2011
Time: Friday: 9am – 4pm, Saturday: 10am – 4pm
Admission: FREE ENTRY

Now in it’s seventh year, the expo invites visitors both young and old to come along and get careers advice, discuss study options with leading private education providers, source information on industries of interest and speak directly with major employers such as the South Australian State Government and Government Agencies, Defence Force Recruitment, South Australian Police, Air Warfare Destroyer Alliance, Qantas, Flight Centre, BAE Systems, Rail Careers about employment opportunities within their organisations.

THE EASY WAY TO GET A TAX FILE NUMBER

The ATO, with the cooperation of schools, offers students aged 13 years or over the opportunity to apply for a tax file number (TFN) through school. This is a voluntary program and makes it easier for students to obtain a TFN.

Students need a TFN for employment, applying for Centrelink benefits, opening a bank account or deferring university fees.

Applying for a TFN through school is easier because students do not need to show identifying documentation to the ATO. The application form is available from the Student Services Office at the school, and students can complete it at home. It then needs to be returned to Mr Fitton. The form requires information such as the student’s name, address and date of birth. Students also need to provide the following details:

• Students born in Australia will need to provide their
  - birth certificate number, state of issue and year of registration, or
  - Australian passport number and date of issue.
• Students born overseas will need to provide their
  - overseas passport number and country of issue, or
  - Australian citizenship certificate number and date of issue, or
  - Australian passport number and date of issue.

It is important that the application form is completed correctly and in full, and signed by the student. All information provided on the application form will remain confidential.

The school will certify the application form by cross-checking against the information held on their records. Students are not required to show identifying documentation to school or the ATO.

Students will receive their TFN via a notification letter sent to their postal address within 28 days of the application being received by the ATO.

COUNSELLOR’S CORNER  By Liz Hodge & Stuart Kenny

Students have been discussing bullying and cyber-safety in pastoral care as well as in group presentations in recent weeks and we hope these discussions have been continued at home. To further assist parents and students we have a number of resources available to support you and your child. Below is a list of resources that are available:

Internet sites
www.bullyingnow.com  www.cybersmart.gov.au
www.thinkyouknow.com.au  www.need2know.co.uk
www.takeastandtogether.gov.au  www.netalert.net.au

Pamphlets available at school
Say no to Cyber bullying  Mobile phone safety
Guide to online safety  Sexting
Socializing on the internet

School website
In the counselling section you will find articles and updated information regarding bullying and cyber-bullying.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any concerns your student is being bullied at school.
IMAGINE 2020 WORKSHOP
By Sherry Bone

On Thursday, 10 March a group of enthusiastic students represented Murray Bridge High School at the Rural City of Murray Bridge Imagine 2020 Workshop.

Led by Village Well director, Gilbert Rochecouste, the forum gave students the opportunity to have a say about the future of Murray Bridge and the surrounding rural communities by putting forward ideas on what they want to see happen, what they like that is already happening and how they want the area to feel, look and be in the future.

Working in groups the students brainstormed ideas and the vision started to flow from outdoor café’s, a drive-in cinema, water play space on the river, a music studio and sports centre along with a university and TAFE to name a few.

It was hard not to get swept up in the spirit and enthusiasm of the afternoon. The students were a credit to themselves and the school. Any of the ideas and visions put forward would make the community of Murray Bridge and the surrounding area an exciting and vibrant place to work, live and visit. Well done to all involved.

KNOCK OUT CRICKET
By Jeffrey Lines

On Friday, 4 March, the Year 8/9 Boys Cricket team travelled to Tintinara Area School to play against the Upper South East.

Captained by Ben Gilgen, who marshalled the troops well on the day and won the coin toss, Murray Bridge High School batted first in fine conditions. Riley Vanson was able to cut and pull early whilst after a tough period judging the pace of the ball, Ryan McKaye released the shackles and hit out, finding the boundary on a few occasions. The star of the show was Matt Sanders, who ‘carried his bat’ to the retirement mark of 35 runs, displaying a fine array of shots on both sides of the wicket. All other students scored runs, including a Luke Woods burst at the end of the innings, for us to amass the respectable total of 114 runs.

In reply, Upper South East were never seriously headed, despite some accurate bowling throughout the opposition ‘knock’. Matt Sanders continued his good day keeping well behind the stumps, whilst Joel McFee ran hard in the field. The team’s behaviour was impeccable on the day and the game itself was played with the utmost level of sportsmanship.

CAMS (Confederation of Australian Motor Sport)
JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
By Greg Fulwood

On Wednesday, 16 March Mr Darren Mattiske, representative of CAMS, visited Murray Bridge High School to introduce this year’s program to interested students. Mr Mattiske explained the role of CAMS in the program, also the format for this year and any other information relevant to the students and their attendance in this exciting program.

He explained that the exercise was aimed at introducing young Australians to grassroots motorsports like Motorkana, Hillclimb, Sprints and Modern Regularity under a well organised, highly disciplined and controlled environment. He said CAMS believes that letting young drivers develop an ability to cope with a motor car, prior to the official civil driving licence minimum age, does make them better and safer public road users and more importantly it helps young people with their general personal development. This is achieved by introducing them into the extended family environment that exists in the participating Car Clubs.

Mr Darren O’ Connor and Mr Norm Clements both spoke about their own involvement in Motor Sport and the benefits they have gained over many years of participation.

Mr Mattiske handed out an introductory booklet with an enrolment form attached, inviting interested students to contact him through the school or direct as soon as possible as positions were limited.
PEER SUPPORT  By Alyce Robertson and Jeffrey Lines

On Monday and Tuesday of Week 6 the Year 11 Peer Support Leaders attended a training day at Monarto Zoo and a team-building day at Middleton Beach.

The students were given the necessary information to enable them to guide groups of Year 8 students through a series of activities at the park while learning a number of strategies that will help them to work with their Year 8 classes during Week 8, when each Year 8 Pastoral Care class will attend an excursion at the zoo.

At Middleton Beach students participated in a 2 hour surfing lesson, delivered by the Surf and Sun Surf School. This gave the students an opportunity to participate in an activity that was for many, out of their comfort zone and allowed them to gain new skills. Despite the weather on both days, all of the students demonstrated great enthusiasm and presented themselves as mature school leaders.

We look forward to seeing the students work with the Year 8s in Week 8.

TEAM BUILDING ACTIVITIES