Term 1, Week 10: 4 March 2011

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to this week’s newsletter.  

Phil Fitzsimons

Governing Council

The Governing Council Annual General Meeting met at the school on Tuesday, 29 March. Special thanks went to retiring members Phil Nutt, Lynne Graham and Heather Hindle for their valued contributions over a number of years. The 2011 Governing Council was elected as follows:

Principal: Phil Fitzsimons
Chairperson: Robert Smissen
Deputy Chairperson: Jacob Dawson
Treasurer: Heather Buddle
Minute & Correspondence Secretaries: Sue Horsnell and Sally Kluske
Parent & Community Representatives: Noel & Karen Kneebone, Di Tsousis, Keith Simmons and Wilma O’Sullivan
Student Representatives: Meaghan Watkins, Jake Cheeseman, Thomas Hicks and Samara Willersdorf
Staff Representatives will be elected at the next staff meeting.

There are still positions available for interested parents and community representatives to join the Governing Council. It is important to have a strong and vibrant Governing Council to lobby various levels of government for future funding and improvement of infrastructure as well as to set the future direction of the school. Therefore, as I mentioned in the previous newsletter, I strongly encourage parents or interested community members to give me a call at the school if you are willing to contribute towards improving Murray Bridge High School.

Annual Report

The 2010 Annual Report was formally endorsed at the Annual General Meeting. An electronic copy of the report will be made available on the school’s website later this week. A paper copy will also be available in the front office for collection for interested parents.

Parent – Teacher Interview Evening

There will be a parent teacher interview evening on Wednesday, 11 May. This is an ideal opportunity to meet with your student’s teachers and discuss their progress. Information regarding the evening will be included with the term 1 reports students will receive on the last day of term.

As this is the last newsletter for term 1, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and relaxing holiday break and look forward to a highly productive and successful term 2 starting on 2 May.
AUTHOR, PETER MCFARLANE VISITS MBHS
By Molly Kneebone and Year 12 English Class

On Tuesday, 22 March 198X and Year 12 English Communications students were lucky enough to have Peter McFarlane come to the school to teach them different writing techniques in stories and poetry. In the past he has published 26 books including 'The Enemy You Killed' and 'Lovebird'.

When working with the Year 12s he used a workshop format to teach students about what he does. All the students created a character together and did some speed writing to try and start a story in an interesting way. This was done three times to use different techniques.

As students we learned how to write a story with a different idea that no-one else had used or heard of before. We had to try not to make the stories too predictable by trying new things, for example using unknown endings. We all tried everything he said because we know it will help us in the short and long term.

It was a great lesson and all the students gained confidence that we can use in our next assignment. As a group we would like to thank him for his time and expertise, as this is his 18th year of coming to Murray Bridge High School.

YEAR 12 ART EXCURSION
By Goran Yakas

The Dame Roma Mitchell Arts Centre, The Jam Factory and the South Australian Art Gallery were the focus of our visit to Adelaide on Tuesday, 22 March. The excursion is part of our annual Visual Arts Exhibition Tour with a focus on the Year 12 Art and Design exhibition.

The students were able to view and analyse the best of last years Year 12 student's work which gave them an excellent opportunity to see the standard of practical work as well as viewing the back up and development materials. The students were also given a guided tour of the Adelaide TAFE Art facility.

At the Jam Factory students were able to observe glass artists blowing and shaping molten glass as well as viewing a huge display of products. Again the students were given a guided tour of the ceramic department and were able to talk to professional practitioners and watch them at work.

Finally we walked to the South Australian Art Gallery and viewed a number of exhibitions both historical and contemporary. The students' interest and behaviour were excellent and we all enjoyed a very productive day. A big thank you to Sue Lord who assisted in the organisation and participated in the excursion.

HISTORY IN OUR BACKYARD
By Mr Jeffrey Lines

Students in Year 11 History have just completed, as part of the study of local history and alienated youth culture, the infamous Snowtown 'Bodies in the Barrels' case. This unit charted South Australia's unique and unfortunate criminal background, and linked it to Murray Bridge's role in one of our State's most unsavoury episodes. Students watched an educational documentary on the indictments and resulting litigation, and explored the psychology behind how society can lead itself to such events. Further, the students were able to listen to a talk from former Correctional Services Officer James Bartholomewz, who was given the task of looking after the welfare of one of the men convicted. Asked for feedback on the relevance and value of the component, student answers reflected the need as 'a significant part of the town's local history', 'it brings history into our backyard', 'it's our past and by learning about our history we can learn lessons for the future' and 'it makes me excited about history and want to continue it into Year 12'.
**PEER SUPPORT EXCURSION AT MONARTO ZOO**
By Alyce Robertson and Jeffery Lines

During Week 8 of this term, Year 8 students were given the opportunity to take part in an excursion to Monarto Zoological Park. The aim of the day was for Year 11 Peer Support Leaders to guide the Year 8 students through a series of activities through the park that worked on developing group dynamics and team building skills.

The Year 8 Pastoral Care teachers and Physical Education teachers also attended the day and were able to watch the Year 11 students demonstrate some of the leadership skills that they have been learning through the Peer Support Program.

Students were challenged throughout each day, with their thinking skills and their patience being tested when they were required to solve problems and work together to achieve the best outcome for their team.

Teachers were impressed with the enthusiasm of both the Year 8 and Year 11 students throughout the week and were able to see the students applying some of their skills to situations outside the usual classroom setting to achieve great success.

**COME OUT FESTIVAL**
By Kara Stevens and Adam Sullivan

The COME OUT Festival is Australia’s premier festival of contemporary art, performance and creativity for children and young people, and the largest event of its kind in the world. On 25 March students from Murray Bridge High School Music and Drama faculties participated in this year’s COME OUT opening ceremony. The students were fortunate enough to participate in a parade which started at Victoria Square, stopping at Adelaide Town Hall to sing the song ‘Something to Say’ to the Lord Mayor of Adelaide and other dignitaries. The march continued along King William Street ending at the Festival Theatre. There were over 1600 students participating in this event which literally stopped traffic until their arrival at the Festival Theatre. Stage 1 and 2 Drama and Music students were fortunate enough to attend a performance ‘Vile Child’ funded by the ARTSsmart program. The performance told the turbulent tale of Lieve, a girl who struggles to survive in a world that seems to rage against her. Her parents split up and she moves out of home. Her best friend Jessica looks after her together with her shy Aunt Odila. But when the boy she is in love with makes a fool of her, Lieve’s dark side takes over. She betrays everything she loves and pushes away those who care for her. All participating students enjoyed the performance and appreciated the experience that the COME OUT Festival provides for regional students.