FROM THE PRINCIPAL  
Phl Fitzsimons

Welcome back to term 2. I trust all students and their families had a pleasant holiday break. This term promises to be a very busy one with the planned opening of the Lower Murray Trade Training Centre and the Adelaide Hills Murraylands Trade School for the Future. Official protocols stipulate that the Federal and State Education Ministers are to be invited to attend the opening because of the funding arrangements for both facilities. Once the date for the opening has been confirmed I will inform the school community via the newsletter. In addition, the school will undertake a site validation process with Regional Director Peter Chislett on May 18. This process is part of a 3 year review cycle that all school sites across the Murray and Mallee are expected to undertake. The primary purpose of the day is to share the school’s journey and the improvements it has made with a particular focus on student achievement and quality teaching and learning.

DAYMAP  
Coinciding with the start of term 2, the school has implemented a new attendance program called DAYMAP. All teaching staff will use this program to monitor student attendance with their netbooks. All the data is uploaded wirelessly across the school, thus enabling the data to be quickly processed by our Attendance Officer Deb Nulty.

Some parents/caregivers would have received a phone call from Deb within the last week following up unexplained absences. Her role is to ensure that all student absence is accounted for and that parents/caregivers are informed if there are any irregularities in their student’s attendance.

At the assembly on day one I made my views on the unacceptably high level of student absence very clear with a strong intention of reducing the number of students missing school. Given our 3 core values of excellence, respect and working together I am asking for parent/caregiver support in assisting the school deal with this significant issue and remind their student of the need to be in class and learning.

Over the next few weeks a process of implementing SMS messaging to parents will begin. Then at a later stage, parents/caregivers will be provided with the opportunity to access their own student’s attendance records from their home computer. As I have mentioned in the newsletters last year, the school is funded by the number of students it has enrolled and attending school – hence the need to monitor student attendance. In the upcoming weeks I will send a letter home explaining to parents/caregivers in detail the DAYMAP program and the future benefits this program will provide to the school, the students and their families.

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CALENDAR

Week 2  
Tues/Wed/Thu - 10,11,12 May NAPLAN testing  
Wed, 11 May  Parent/Teacher Interviews  
Year 11 Drama Production 7pm

Week 3  
Tue, 17 May  Finance Meeting 7pm  
Wed, 18 May  Site Validation Visit  
Transition Evening – TBPS, MBPS

Week 4  
Tue, 24 May  Parents & Friends 6.30pm  
Governing Council 7pm  
Wed, 25 May  Year 8,9 Immunizations  
Transition Evening – St Josephs, MBNPS  
Sat/Sun 28,29 May  Pedal Prix – Victoria Park

Week 5  
Tue/Wed/Fri - 31 May, 1,3 Jun  
School Musical 7pm  

Week 6  
Mon, 6 Jun  TAFE talks for Year 11/12  
Wed, 8 Jun Transition Info Evening – MBHS 7pm  
Year 9/10 Drama Showcase 7pm  
Fri, 10 Jun  Careers Expo

Week 7  
Mon, 13 Jun  Queen’s Birthday Holiday  
Tue, 14 Jun  Student Free Day (Staff &D)  
Wed, 15 Jun  Year 12 Drama Moderation 7pm

Week 8  
Tue, 21 Jun  Finance Committee 7pm  
Dance Showcase 7pm  
Thu, 23 Jun  Cyber-Safety parent workshop  
- 6.30pm  
Fri/Sat/Sun 24-26 Jun  SAASTA Power Cup

Week 9  
Tue, 28 Jun  Parents & Friends 6.30pm  
Governing Council 7pm

Week 10  
Wed, 6 Jul  Youth Opportunities Graduation  
Fri, 8 Jul  Last day of Term 2, 2pm dismissal
FROM THE PRINCIPAL Cont....

NAPLAN
This week all Year 9 students will undertake the NAPLAN tests over a period of 3 days. Like previous years, the school will not exempt any students from the NAPLAN tests but actively encourage all students to achieve their personal best. While there is considerable political debate over the NAPLAN and the subsequent political point scoring over the information presented on the My School website, my belief has always been that the information gathered from the NAPLAN results benefits the teachers, parents/caregivers and the students through an identification process of the student’s strengths and weaknesses. Teachers use this data in their curriculum planning and as part of the school’s approach to improving the literacy outcomes for all students.

Parent/Teacher Interviews
This Wednesday evening all parents and caregivers are invited to attend the interview evening with their student’s teachers. An interview-booking sheet was forwarded to all parents and caregivers at the end of last term with the student achievement reports. If you have not received this information, please contact the front office for an interview-booking sheet and times can be arranged to meet with the relevant teachers.

These evenings are valued highly by the school and are a wonderful opportunity to get to know your student’s teachers and discuss your student’s progress. If you are unable to make this Wednesday evening, teachers are always willing to meet at another suitable time.

PERSONAL LEARNING PLAN
By Laurice Braithwaite

On 31 March several students from Mrs Braithwaite’s Personal Learning Plan class participated in a local excursion as part of their Community Study, identifying resources available to a range of people living in the Murray Bridge area and stopping at several places that support young people in our community:

The Riverscape Café supports the school by taking on Work Experience and part time students as employees. The Café also provides tourists as well as locals a place to relax and enjoy the scenery of the area.

Feedback from Ming Chen “I liked visiting the Riverscape Café because it is in a peaceful park and next to the water and the houseboats.”

The Mayor, Alan Arbon, met us at the Council Chambers, showed us where the meetings were held and explained both his role and that of elected Councillors.

Feedback from Erica Evans “Meeting the Mayor Mr Arbon was a highlight of the trip and now I understand more about local Government.”

Feedback from Zhongjian Xia “At the Council Chambers I liked the beautiful art work. I am interested in the history of Murray Bridge and liked the photos showing what it was like.”

From the Council Chambers we visited the Information Centre next door and each received a bag of information about Murray Bridge tourist sites, maps and community support services.

Stopping at Murraylands Headspace and Youth Centre which offers support, information and services to young people aged 12-25, we learned that anyone can drop in and someone will help to deal with different problems.

Our final stop was at the Murraylands Enterprise Estate in Wyreema St where Naomi Gleeson talked to us about apprenticeships and how the estate could help students by providing work experience and other training opportunities.
MILE END ATHLETICS DAY
By Meaghan Watkins, School Captain

On Monday, 11 April selected students attended the Inter School Sports day at Santos Stadium, Mile End.

The school was well represented with highly enthusiastic supporters and participants. The behavior of the students was exceptional and teachers were very pleased.

Overall Murray Bridge High came 5th for both the males and females which is a great effort from all involved.

Whilst all members of our team gave 100% to achieve their best, we had some standout performers on the day. These included Kayla Schopp with two firsts in the U/14 Discus and Shot Put. Bec Burat with three seconds in Hurdles, Long Jump and Triple Jump and Thon Thuch with a first and second in the 1500m and 3000m.

I would like to thank the teachers that supervised and were involved in the formalities of the event.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW CHRISTIAN PASTORAL SUPPORT WORKER LISA RILEY

Hello, my name is Lisa Riley and I am the new Christian Pastoral Support Worker at Murray Bridge High School. I came here from Disability Services in NSW but I am from England originally, hence the accent. I love cooking, board games, sci-fi, reading, learning guitar, craft, Julia & Angus Stone, the colour green and walking my puppy dog Dobby 😊. I want to be a friendly and encouraging presence in school for teachers, students and their families. I would also like to help create an environment that allows room for people to explore their own spirituality and hopefully promote values like tolerance, respect and hope. I respect and support the secular character of Murray Bridge High School and the variety of thoughts and beliefs within the school community. In a government school, the CPSW primarily provides pastoral care for students and their families, who want this support (I’m not here to evangelise on behalf of a particular faith group). So if you want to chat or think I could be helpful somehow, let me know. I can be contacted through the school on 8532 1788 or email lisa.riley@murraybridgehs.sa.edu.au

Lisa Riley – Christian Pastoral Support Worker
TRANSITION PROGRAM FOR TERM 2 – By Liz Hodge

WEEK 1

Transition package distributed to Year 7 students containing:

• Starting Secondary School Brochure (provided by Primary School)
• ED176 enrolment form (provided by Primary School)
• Murray Bridge High School Information Package (provided by MBHS)
  o Transition Parent Information Flyer
  o Parent Invitation to Transition Evenings at Primary Schools
  o Parent Invitation to Primary School Information Evening (tear off slip) returned to Primary School
  o Information about the Accelerated Class

PLEASE RETURN ENROLMENT FORM AND TRANSITION EVENING TEAR OFF SLIP TO YOUR PRIMARY SCHOOL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

WEEK 3 & 4

Transition Evening Visits to Primary Schools

• Tailem Bend Primary School and Jervois Primary School (at Tailem Bend Primary School)
  Wednesday, 18 May – 5.30-6.30pm
• Murray Bridge South Primary and Fraser Park Primary School (at Murray Bridge South Primary School)
  Wednesday, 18 May – 7.15-8.15pm
• St Joseph’s Primary School, Mypolonga Primary School and Unity College (at St Joseph’s Primary School)
  Wednesday, 25 May – 5.30-6.30pm
• Murray Bridge North Primary School (at Murray Bridge North Primary School)
  Wednesday, 25 May – 7.15-8.15pm

Murray Bridge High School Transition staff would like to meet briefly (approx. 5 mins) with all parents/caregivers and Year 7 students to discuss your student’s individual needs.

WEEK 5

• ED176 Forms MUST be returned to Primary Schools.

WEEK 6

Year 7 Transition Information Evening at Murray Bridge High School
  Wednesday, 8 June – 7.00-9.00pm

This evening will allow parents to come and visit the High School and gain further information from speakers including:

• Principal – overall school directions
• Current Year 8 students – experiences from 2011
• Middle School Senior Leader – Middle School Expectations and Directions
• Middle School Coordinator – International Baccalaureate
• Music and Performing Arts students – Performances
• Tour of the school and light supper provided.