From the Principal

Phil Fitzsimons

Site Validation Visit

Last Wednesday, staff at Murray Bridge High School were involved in a site validation presentation as part of the 3 year review process all public schools across South Australia are expected to undertake to ensure there are established policies and procedures in place for continuous whole school improvement.

The visiting panel was led by Regional Director Peter Chislett and included representatives from the Murray and Mallee Regional Office as well as the Principal from Waikerie High School, Neil White.

The whole day process covered most of the key areas of the school and enabled staff, students and Governing Council to present the story of Murray Bridge High School and celebrate the considerable improvements that have taken place over the last 12 months or so.

Verbal feedback from the visiting panel was overwhelmingly positive and constructive in terms of acknowledging the successes achieved, balanced with the challenges ahead to ensure Murray Bridge High School becomes a school of excellence. Written feedback outlining the commendations and recommendations will be presented to me in the very near future.

This information will be made available via our website and hard copies of the report will be available through the front office.

As Principal of Murray Bridge High School I felt a strong sense of pride in the way the staff, students and parents presented their information to the site validation panel. I trust when the report is distributed, that my sense of pride in the school is shared and valued amongst the entire school community.

Trade Training Centre

At long last the $1.9 million federally and state funded Lower Murray Trade Training Centre and the Adelaide Hills Murraylands Trade School for the Future facility is now built and the process of moving in has begun. The regional facility will offer students across the Murray and Mallee vocational pathways into the world of work.

An official opening date has yet to be determined as we are currently awaiting confirmation from federal and state government departments. In the meantime, students and their parents across the region will be offered opportunities to visit the facility on June 23 as part of a taster day. More information on this day will come out in the near future.

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From the Principal Cont...

Governing Council Audit

Representatives from Governing Council met with me recently to undertake a significant audit of facilities across the entire campus in preparation for an application for major capital works to take place at the school. I have long held the view that Murray Bridge High School has missed out on opportunities for significant building infrastructure upgrades and with the support of Governing Council, have begun this audit to identify what areas of the school need re-developing. At the Governing Council meeting this Tuesday the committee will present its report. Details of this report will be made available on the school’s website under the Governing Council page. I strongly encourage the school community to read this report and provide feedback back to the Governing Council through Chairperson Robert Smissen.

NAPLAN

The NAPLAN testing is over for another year. Initial conversations reported back to me indicated considerable improvement in terms of attendance and behaviour. Feedback from the Aboriginal Education Team saw attendance improve considerably when compared to 2010. During the numeracy test attendance was 70% compared to 63% in 2010. For the reading component attendance was 70% compared to 50% in 2010 and most pleasing was the writing component where attendance was 80% compared to 63% in 2010. Further information will be presented to parents and caregivers later in September when a full copy of the NAPLAN results will be included with the term 3 reports.

THE LONG CONVERSATION
By Peter Stewart, S&E Coordinator

- Have you heard about “Climate Change”?
- Do you know what it is?
- How will it impact our lives in Murray Bridge?

These are the questions put to students from Years 8-12 by a team of researchers from the Australian National University, during a forum run in Week 11, Term 1.

The researchers, Climate Change experts and social scientists are touring the country initiating and continuing a ‘long conversation’ on the subject of climate change.

The team consisted of Will Grant and Luke Menzies, Social Scientists, Jeanette Lindsay, Climatologist, Dr Catherine Gross, PhD in Environmental Science – specialising in Climate Adaptation and Phoebe Howe, Honours student in climate change and urban policy. Oscar Hunter recorded the event. They began their work in South Australia at Murray Bridge High School and about 30 students were privileged to be part of the forum.

During the session, students were able to ask questions, supply anecdotal comments about the effect of climate change on their lives and listen to explanations of why weather extremes are being experienced here and world wide.

Jeanette Lindsay, Climatologist, reviewed the statistics for the Murray Bridge area and noted a 1½° average temperature increase since the 1960’s. This temperature increase results in an increase in the extent of extreme events such as drought and flood. “Warming” deteriorates the atmospheric balance, making events more extreme. There will be fewer and fewer ‘cold’ events as time proceeds.

The website www.longconversation.net documents this and many other parts of the conversation.

The team commented on the positive interest and involvement of our students in the 3 lesson forum.

Students listen to Dr Catherine Gross (far right)

spray deodorants are banned at murray bridge high school
by phil fitzsimons and barbara quast

Recently we have had two serious incidents at school where a student’s asthma has been triggered by other students spraying deodorant or perfume which has been able to be detected in classrooms and the corridors. It is for this reason that these items are banned at Murray Bridge High School.

Students have been reminded of this at Assembly. Please have a discussion with your child about this issue. We do not want some student’s health put at risk by other students who continue to do the wrong thing and who may end up being responsible for a serious health risk due to their thoughtless or selfish behavior.

students listen to dr catherine gross (far right)
SHIP AHOY AT MONARTO ZOOLOGICAL PARK
The Accelerated program at work
By Peter Stewart and Geraldine Fenner

Students, who have been selected to be in the Accelerated Class, 8X, this term have commenced a Students with High Intellectual Potential (SHIP) program at Monarto Zoological Park. This is one of the programs, identified at the meeting of parents early in 2011, which were designed to accelerate student learning for the 8X class.

The course, over 5 weeks, sees students being guided in animal observations by ZoosSA Education Officer, Ruth Hall.

At the end of the course, students are expected to present their findings to the rest of the class and are assessed by Ruth.

The students, accompanied by their Science teacher, Ms Fenner, travel by bus kindly driven by Mr Hall, Deputy Principal, to Monarto each Friday morning of weeks 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7. The class returns by the start of lunch.

After the first week, students said that they had really enjoyed the first session and were looking forward to future sessions.

Next visit we will be doing a full tour of the park as well as our regular observations and on another occasion we will go “behind the scenes”. Some students have been lucky enough to study the baby rhino, while others are finding the chimpanzees and the meerkats equally entertaining.

We have also had sessions on the history of zoos and endangered species. Students have been very responsive to the expectations of working in this unfamiliar situation and have gained some valuable insights into animal behaviour.
Murray Bridge High School Newsletter

Kathy Jennings, Business Manager

Prompt payment would be appreciated.

SCHOOL FEES

Statements for school fees will be sent out this week.

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DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE A PROBLEM WITH SLEEP?

The team of Psychologists at SOMNIA are providing treatment for the following:

- difficulty falling asleep
- waking in the night
- trouble waking up or getting out of bed in the morning
- often sleeping in parent’s bed/room
- and more...

Medicare rebates available.
For more information please contact us via:
0415 977 784 or www.somnia.com.au

GIVE WHERE IT'S NEEDED MOST

Australia needs several different kinds of blood donations to keep the blood supply strong. Whole blood, plasma and platelet donations are used to make different blood products, which help uniform babies, burns victims, and people with cancer, leukaemia and other serious illnesses.

Your blood type helps determine which type of donation is the best use of your blood. So at your next appointment, let a staff member know what blood type you are.

By giving where its needed most, you’ll save more lives.

The Blood Service in visiting John Dohler Hall, 31 Swayseport Pde, Murray Bridge on
Tues 14th June 10.30am - 8.00pm
Wed 15th June 7.30pm - 3.30pm
Thurs 16th June 1.30pm - 5.00pm
Fri 17th June 5.00pm - 8.00pm
Mon 20th June 12.00pm - 5.00pm
Tues 21st June 7.30pm - 2.30pm

Before you donate eat something, drink 4 good-sized glasses of water & bring photo ID.
Call 13 14 99 to make an appointment, or find out more about from your blood type is able to help more people live.
Information about Tertiary Information Evenings (TIE)

Ever thought about further education? Perhaps you’ve had a break and want to return to study? Have you deferred and want to start uni as soon as possible? The Tertiary Information Evening is a great chance for you to hear all about your study options and talk one on one to a representative from Flinders University and the University of South Australia.

What is talked about at the Tertiary Information Evening?

The Tertiary Information Evening covers a wide range of topics such as fees, accommodation, scholarships, application procedures, timelines and selection to both university and TAFE. Participants are encouraged to ask questions throughout the session and are also given the opportunity to speak with each institution individually.

Who is present?

Flinders University and the University of South Australia send a Prospective Student Advisor to answer all of your questions and give detailed advice. A local TAFE SA representative will also be available.

Who should attend?

Anyone who is thinking of attending university or TAFE should attend - parents, school students, adult entry students and members of the community who are thinking of further study but don’t know where to start. In recent years our sessions have become extremely popular with students who have deferred and/or taken a gap year.

Is registration required?

There is no need to register for the evenings.

What time does the evening start?

As we are only in your town for one night the presentation starts at 7.30pm sharp so that we can spend adequate time answering your questions. We aim to conclude by 8.30pm.