It is through working together, with respect, that we can reach excellence

Term 3, Week 4 - 15 August 2011

FROM THE PRINCIPAL
Phil Fitzsimons

Lower Murray Trade Training Centre Officially Opened

Last Wednesday, Senator Anne McEwen, Senator for South Australia and the Hon. Bob Sneath MLC, President of the Legislative Council officially opened the Lower Murray Trade Training Centre and the Adelaide Hills Murraylands Trade School for the Future.

Electro-technology is the focus for the Lower Murray Trade Training Centre in order to meet the increasing needs of a technological world and to best place students across the Lower Murray region with the opportunities to meet these challenges, with an ICT focus for the Adelaide Hills Murraylands Trade School for the Future. This $1.9 million facility was jointly funded by the Federal and State Governments.

Murray Bridge High School is the lead school for both facilities.

The afternoon was a great celebration of the work that has gone into making this facility a reality. All guests that attended the opening commented positively on the modern facilities and the dedication and skill of the staff who work within this facility.

Particular mention needs to go to Kathy Jennings and her ancillary staff, who coordinated the day superbly despite the threat of rain throughout the day.

Together with our partner schools the Lower Murray Trade Training Centre and the Adelaide Hills Murraylands Trade School for the Future will offer students across the region an exciting pathway into the world of Electro-technology and ICT and represents a bright future for the Murraylands as we strive to meet the ever changing needs of educating students in the 21st Century.

Japanese Visit

Recently, the school farewelled students from Funabashi High School following their successful 2 week visit. This is the thirteenth visit from Funabashi High School and represents one of the longest school-to-school overseas partnerships in government schools in South Australia. As I mentioned in the school assembly when we welcomed the Funabashi High students, this is a magnificent opportunity for the students across the school to expand their horizons beyond our region and really appreciate another culture up close. All of this was clearly evident at the graduation dinner listening to the host parents and the overwhelmingly positive experiences their families had in this brief 2 week period.

The 2 week visit is beneficial for both schools in a number of ways, particularly for the students as they develop new friendships, as well as learning a new culture. However, such a program will struggle to succeed without the dedication and leadership of people like Mrs Helen Peake. I would like to acknowledge the time and effort Helen put into preparing for this 2 week visit. Not only teaching the English course but planning excursions, like the one to Kangaroo Island, comes with a great deal of time sacrifice.

I know the families and the staff and students from Funabashi High School and Murray Bridge High School are grateful for the work she put in to making this 2 week visit a huge success.
JAPANESE FAREWELL  By Helen Peake

On Monday, 8 August we farewelled the students from Funabashi High School. After two very busy weeks the students left for Tokyo via Sydney. During their stay the students had the opportunity to visit Tailem Bend Primary School where they interacted with the Junior Primary students, teaching them origami, how to use chopsticks and the making of Carp kites. The Japanese students also enjoyed an afternoon on the river learning how to canoe and also experiencing a ride in a speedboat.

During the second week of their stay the students spent three days on Kangaroo Island. During this time they went to Seal Bay, saw the fairy penguins at Kingscote, interacted with a variety of birds at Birds of Prey, visited Remarkable Rocks and Admiral’s Arch, watched the pelicans being fed and visited the Honey Farm.

On their return to school they were taught Aussie Rules Football by members of the Power Cup team, painted boomerangs and practiced their English both oral and written. Last Friday night the students said goodbye at a Farewell Ceremony attended by the host families and members of the staff.

A sincere thank you is extended to all people who helped to make the Funabashi students feel welcome at school and in the community. To the host families who opened their homes to the students, the staff who presented new learning experiences and members of the community who assisted in some way we say thank you. The hosting of these students benefits many of us and it is always hard to say goodbye. We look forward to once again welcoming members of the Funabashi school community in 2012.
OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE LOWER MURRAY TRADE TRAINING CENTRE AND ADELAIDE HILLS/ MURRAYLANDS TRADE SCHOOL FOR THE FUTURE

The new training facility was opened by Senator Anne McEwen, Senator for South Australia and the Hon. Bob Sneath MLC, President of the Legislative Council on Wednesday, 10 August, 2011.

This function celebrated the hard work and dedication by a number of people over the past three years to complete the building on time and on budget. Mr Phil Fitzsimons, Principal of Murray Bridge High School acknowledged the contribution made by the previous Principal, Merilyn Klem, Senior Leader Roxanne Rowland, Apprenticeship Broker Barb Elston and teacher Darren O’Connor. Mr Peter Koh from Koh Architects was also acknowledged for his contribution in preparing of concept plans for the initial application and his role as Principal Consultant for the construction phase of the project. The Business Manager, Kathy Jennings was acknowledged for her role as Project Manager and the Facilities Manager Bryce Gillett was acknowledged for his role in the day to day management of the project.

Senator Anne McEwen spoke of the success of the Federally funded Trade Training Centre Initiative and the Hon Bob Sneath MLC spoke on the success of the State funded Trade Schools for the Future initiative which is part of the State Government’s School to Work reform of senior secondary education in South Australia.

During a tour of the new facility, invited guests met students undertaking School Based Apprenticeships and students undertaking Certificates 1 and 2 in Electro-technology delivered by Murray Bridge High School teacher Isaac Brooks.
STATE RUGBY CHAMPIONS  
By Jeffrey Lines, H&PE teacher

Murray Bridge High School took out the Tier B State Championships recently in the SA Rugby League Carnival held at Mitchell Park Reserve.

Featuring teams from across the breadth of the state including Port Lincoln and Salisbury East, the Junior team took honours going through the competition undefeated, whilst the Senior team recovered from an unlucky first two games to go on and defeat all teams in the second round and then Grand Final. Both teams displayed some great fighting spirit and especially sound 'rock-solid' defence, which proved to be the cornerstone of both sides success.

Better players for the Junior team included Riley Vanson, Brodie Carlin and Josh Edwards whilst for the Seniors, Jarred Jackson starred with some unforgiving tackling alongside Renz Galarita who dodged and weaved his way past a myriad of opponents. More importantly as two teams, the students' abilities and understanding of the game grew across the day. The students can be proud of the fact that they are the best that they can be in this sports discipline.

Special thanks must go to Mr Walkley for his inspired assistance on the day and to Miss Partridge for her extra efforts in ensuring all boys had the chance to compete. We are the Champions!

PEDAL PRIX UPDATE  By Isaac Brooks

Round 2 was held Sunday 31/7/11. The Pedal Prix team who included Phil Fitzsimons took the bus down to Adelaide. The weather was excellent with the sun out most of the day. The bikes were in immaculate mechanical condition which proved to make the day go a lot easier. Both the Elite and Junior teams riders put in a great effort. Thank you to Phil Fitzsimons and the parents who helped out with supervision and team management.

The final 24 hour event will be held in Murray Bridge at Sturt Reserve on Saturday and Sunday 17 and 18 September. The Pedal Prix team is looking for parents who are willing to help assist with the preparation for the event and on the day. We also need help with marshalling at the event. If you are interested in helping us out, can you please call me at the school on 85321788.
Just after 8am on Monday 1 August, 20 year 11 Murray Bridge High School PE students set out for their bushwalking camp in Wirrabara Forest accompanied by teachers Sherry Bone and Isaac McEvoy.

After the five-hour bus ride spirits were high about what lay ahead for them. The student’s first job was to set up their tents for the night, and after a quick demonstration from the guides from Wilderness Escape they were away. After only one broken tent pole later they were all up and ready for the night ahead.

Students were then split into their two bushwalking groups and given their first lessons on compass and map reading. All students appeared to have a solid grasp on this and confidence levels were up when navigating their way around the campsite.

Spirits took an immediate dip when on Tuesday morning students were allocated their packs for the week and discovered how heavy they would be with all of their food, clothes, tent and cooking items. Spirits did not rise at all when they were informed that they would need to walk a minimum of 9km to the next campsite with packs on. Despite this, all students performed with great energy and enthusiasm and managed to use their new found navigational skills to find their way through all of the checkpoints and then back to camp.

Wednesday and Thursday were much more of the same, and students began to gain a great deal of confidence with their skills and shone just as bright as the August sky.

Nights were a time for students to sit around the campfire and share stories of their adventures during the day and swap horror stories.

Before they knew it, Friday morning was upon us, and students had to pack up their tents, bags and left over food to head back on the bus for another five-hour bus ride home.

Despite the tears of the weight of the packs and height of the hills they were walking up, all students voted they would do it all again and thoroughly enjoyed their time away.
CONGRATULATIONS TO CRAIG JOHNSON

On Monday, 8 August Craig Johnson was presented at a school assembly with a new iPad2—a reward for embracing social media to discuss career pathways with his peers.

The Education Department’s Trade Schools for the Future Facebook page was launched in May to link students considering similar career paths as school-based apprentices or trainees.

High School students across the state had the chance to win the iPad by discussing their own career aspirations or sharing advice on the Facebook page.

To be in the running to win the iPad, students were asked to share stories on the Facebook page about their ideal job and the work experience they have undertaken, or if they were a current or past school-based apprentice or trainee, they could share stories about their own career journeys.

Education Department Chief Executive Keith Bartley said Craig, a Year 11 student, was one of more than 350 people to get involved with the competition and share his thoughts on the page. Well done Craig!

COLES SPORTS FOR SCHOOLS IS BACK!

We’re excited to announce that the Coles Sports for Schools program is back for 2011.

This year it’s going to be even bigger and better, with lots of new quality sports gear from your favourite brands such as Sherrin, Adidas, Speedo and Gray-Nicolls up for grabs.

Please collect as many vouchers as possible to help support Murray Bridge High School. There will be a box at the Student Services Office (SSO) for you to put your vouchers in. The program will be up and running from 29 July 2011.
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

The process for Year 8, 9, 10 and 11 students to choose their subjects for next year is now beginning.

In the week commencing Monday August 15th, each student will receive the following:
- Curriculum Prospectus
- Subject Selection Sheet
- Information Sheet.

In addition Year 10 and Year 11 students will receive a booklet containing information about the VET (Vocational Education and Training) courses on offer in this region in 2012.

Between August 15th and September 7th, students should work with parents/caregivers, Home Class teachers and subject teachers to make their subject selections for next year. Please speak at length with your child about the subjects they would like to study next year and assist them with filling out their subject selection sheet.

Completed subject selection sheets must be returned to Home Class teachers by Wednesday September 7th.

During the week commencing Monday August 22nd, parents and caregivers will receive a letter from the school. Included in the letter will be a notice containing further information about Subject Selection and Course Counselling for 2012.

Attached to this notice is a form that parents/caregivers should fill out. On the form they should indicate their preferred time for the meeting between the Course Counsellor, parent/caregiver and the student to finalise subject selections.

This form should be returned to the Home Class teacher via the student by Thursday, September 1st.

A letter will then be sent to you stating the exact time of your meeting.

Course Counselling will take place on Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th September for students currently in Years 8 and 9 and on Monday 12th, Tuesday 13th, Wednesday 14th, and Thursday 15th September for students currently in Years 10 and 11.

Lynton Hall
Deputy Principal