FROM THE PRINCIPAL
Phil Fitzsimons

Parent/Student Opinion Survey 2011

I mentioned in an earlier newsletter of an opportunity for all parents and students to participate in an online opinion survey generated by the school. The purpose of this survey was to provide objective feedback to the school of its progress and to identify strategies for future growth. An email was sent out last week to all parents and students currently on our mailing list.

The questions contained in this survey are based on the DECS generated survey, which was posted earlier to 100 randomly selected parents, but also include questions in response to feedback provided from last year’s survey. The survey takes around 15 minutes to complete.

Looking at the statistics after one week it is pleasing to see the large number of students and parents that have already completed the survey - 237 students and 28 parents.

If parents did not receive the email from the school, the survey can be found at the following link: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3HLSRK6](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3HLSRK6)

This survey will remain open until the end of term.

Student Success

I would like congratulate Year 10 student Michaela Zadow on her recent success in the Legacy Public Speaking State Competition. From the report that I received, Michaela spoke with enormous confidence and conviction making a huge impression on her audience coming equal first from a group of 8 students, predominantly from metropolitan schools. Michaela was successful in reaching the National finals, which are to be held in Adelaide in November. See her report in this week’s newsletter.

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**CALENDAR**

**TERM 3**

**Week 6**
Fri, 2 Sep    SCHOOL CLOSURE - SHOW DAY

**Week 8**
Mon-Thu, 12-15 Sep    Yr 10-12 Subject Counselling
Wed-Thu, 14/15 Sep    Yr 8/9 Subject Counselling
Tue, 13 Sep    Finance Committee – 7pm
Thu, 15    Year 11 Road Awareness Program
Sat/Sun, 17/18 Sep    Pedal Prix – Murray Bridge

**Week 9**
All week    REPORT WRITING
Tue, 20 Sep    Parents and Friends – 6.30pm
Governing Council – 7pm
Thu, 22 Sep    Year 8 Immunisations
Fri, 23 Sep    Step Up program – Year 10

**Week 10**
Wed, 28 Sep    Youth Opportunities Graduation
Fri, 30 Sep    SPORTS DAY
Last day of Term Assembly – 2pm dismissal
OPERATION FLINDERS

Jason Dikkenberg

Operation Flinders is an unquestionably gruelling experience that presents many difficult challenges to its participants. The first of these involves climbing out of bed at 3:30am on a cold winter morning to board a small white hire bus and travel 660km to Yankaninna Station in the Northern Flinders Ranges. In the early hours of August 2nd, eight brave Murray Bridge High School students embarked on this journey, supported by Mr Zammit and Mr Dikkenberg.

The boys were well behaved on the bus, most likely due to their nerves and apprehensions as they entered the unknown. Thanks to SSO Helen Wilden’s supreme driving skills, the team arrived at approximately 1:30pm and were met by friendly Team Leaders Greg and Jo on the side of a dirt track. Shortly after, as the dust resettled and the small white bus vanished over a distant plain, the reality of the situation took hold. For the next seven days, the group dubbed Tango 2 would carry their essentials in a backpack and walk from camp to camp across the harsh (and very prickly!) Flinders terrain.

Each night, Tango 2 was required to set up camp. Roles and responsibilities were assigned to each individual and it was imperative that these were successfully undertaken. Failure to do so resulted in late arrival to the next camp and disrupted team harmony. Although initiative amongst the group was originally lacking, this is something that slowly developed as the week progressed and will hopefully remain as a positive lesson for the boys.

Walking distances varied each day and ranged between 6 and 16km up and down steep hills. Needless to say, the boys received a shock on the first full day of walking and a number struggled with the demands. On day two, Mt. Rose (708m above sea level) provided a massive challenge and a spectacular view for those who conquered it. On the same day, the boys also participated in an abseiling exercise. Although some participants initially refused, they eventually had a change of heart and Tango 2 walked away with a 100% success rate.

As the walk progressed, those who had originally struggled with the demands began to adjust to the weight of their packs, ceased complaining and knuckled down in a display of true grit and determination. Tango 2’s cohesiveness was fully displayed on the last night, when they were required to walk 4km in complete darkness due to a late change of plan. They stuck together, encouraged, held branches and fences back for each other and called their numbers when required. It was a fantastic effort.

The two teachers could not work out what was worse; the jokes or the bad smells. What they do know is that each student who attended Operation Flinders demonstrated some excellent qualities and also confronted some personal struggles. It was an experience they will not soon forget, and one which will help them continue to achieve their goals.
OPENING OF MURALS  By Verlaine Crompton

In 2010 Murray Bridge High School commissioned a local Ngarrindjeri Artist, Nellie Rankine to participate in the design and construction of a mural resembling the Ngarrindjeri culture.

In Term 1 2011, Nellie started work on the design with the help of students; the mural resembles all that is important to the Ngarrindjeri people including animals, land and the waters. Nellie had been working with Year 8, 9 and some Year 10’s, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students. Together they came up with design ideas and began to finally construct the mural onto boards, this took all of Term 1 to complete. A lot of hard work and time went into this project and it is indeed a beautiful piece of work. Both Nellie, students and staff of Murray Bridge High School were very pleased with the end result.

On Wednesday, 17 August the murals were finally unveiled at a special opening, with special guests, students and staff gathering as Nellie cut the ribbons on each mural revealing the true beauty of Ngarrindjeri culture. The murals have been put up on the side of the school gymnasium facing the oval. A truly magnificent sight.

Nellie’s participation has been sponsored by the ARTSsmart project, an initiative which supports community artist to work within schools.
**MATHS QUIZ NIGHT**  
By Daniel Irvine

On the night of Wednesday, 10 August, 13 students made the journey to Coomandook Area School to compete in the Mathematics Association of South Australia’s Annual Quiz Night. The Quiz consists of an Intermediate (Years 8-10) and Senior (Years 11-12) division where students attempt to answer both Mathematical and General Knowledge Questions. The students consisted of eight Year 8s, four Year 12s and a lone Year 10 student who valiantly competed despite the rest of his team being unable to attend. The atmosphere, as always, was light hearted and good-humoured but yet filled with a friendly competitive edge as the teams took their places to face three hours of brain bending quiz action comprising two rounds of mathematical and general knowledge questions and a further round consisting of scrambled words and a final tie breaker problem. Murray Bridge High School’s performances were strong but despite a valiant effort we were unable, once again, to shake the dominance of Coomandook Area School in both the Senior and Intermediate Divisions. The students involved should be congratulated on their efforts and the exemplary way they represented Murray Bridge High School at this popular event. Thanks also must be extended to teaching staff Ann Ruckert and Angela Embling, and SSO Greg Fulwood who accompanied the students to the Quiz.

**SAASTA BASKETBALL CLINIC**  
By Mirander Mulder

On Thursday, 18 August, Carla Borrego visited Murray Bridge High School to conduct a basketball clinic for the SAASTA (South Australian Aboriginal Sports Training Academy) team.

Carla was born in Jamaica and plays netball for the Adelaide Thunderbirds. On top of her netball career, Carla is a talented basketball player who won a Basketball Scholarship with the University of Miami between 2004 and 2009.

The clinic Carla conducted is in preparation for the SAASTA Basketball/Touch Rugby Carnival being held in Port Pirie in term 4. Students who participated in the clinic improved their basketball skills, learnt new drills and had a lot of fun!
CLASSE ROOM BEYOND TIME AND PLACE –
Wikispaces, a powerful tool to create interactive
teaching and initiative learning (PART I)
By Joyce Chen, ESL teacher

After 3 months contribution by students and teacher, we are
finally proud to introduce the ESL and Chinese (background)
Wikispaces of Murray Bridge High School! These two blogs
condense everyone’s hard work and ideas to promote ESL and
Chinese learning. Although the development of the blog is still
at an early stage, we can’t wait to show you how amazing this
tool is for teacher and students.

The ESL blog www.mbhesl.wikispace.com

The initial idea of creating this blog was to provide a place for
students to practice their story writing skills in order to
produce a story all together. Students were asked to write a
sequential paragraph based on the first paragraph given by Ms
Chen. Through sharing, we helped each other by highlighting
the areas for improvement, including syntactic and lexical
mistakes, punctuation and text structure. After redraft, we
voted for the best paragraph as the official one. Next, we
started writing another paragraph to continue the story.
During this ongoing task, students have shown great interest
and initiatives in blog editing as well as narrative writing. We
also set up the rules to respect and protect other people’s work
and opinions. The teacher as the administrator can monitor
student’s work and changes 24/7. If students have any
questions regarding the task, they can contact the teacher by
using the function of messaging through the blog.

When Ms Chen was away, she set up the relief instructions and
exercises for students to finish at school and home by
providing links of worksheets, videos or pictures. We are
encouraged to share our readings or learning by adding this
valuable information to the blog. Gradually, this Wikispaces
blog has become more multifunctional. Before the lesson,
students can review the lesson plan for the next day or even a
week later; if they forgot to write down the homework, due
date or notes, they can always check on-line; we help the
environment by doing exercises and homework on-line to
minimise the use of paper.

Why choose Wikispaces for language learning and teaching?
For communication, for literacy, for sharing, for ownership,
for collaboration, for participation, for engagement, for creativity,
for critical thinking and last but not the least “to give our
students useful skills for their digital future” (from the video
‘Why let our students blog’).

In the next school newsletter, we will continue introducing the
Chinese Wikispaces blog. More to come!
LEGACY PUBLIC SPEAKING STATE FINALS

Reflection by Michaela Zadow

On 19 August I was lucky enough to participate in the Legacy Public Speaking State Finals. I performed a 5 minute speech discussing the need for remembrance in today's society. I also had to say an impromptu speech, for which I had 5 minutes to prepare a 2 minute speech based on the topic “my future”. It was such a great experience and it really put me out of my comfort zone.

Besides all of the pressure to not forget your words and think of a speech in 5 minutes, it was a great way for me to boost my self-confidence and improve my communication skills. I would definitely recommend it to students who want to experience something new and meet new people. Now I have to prepare for the National finals which are in November. It is very nerve racking – but I look forward to the next step and hope to achieve my best.

SSO RECOGNITION WEEK

By Goran Yakas, AEU Sub-Branch Secretary

On Thursday, 25 August Murray Bridge High School celebrated SSO week by inviting all SSO’s and support staff to a morning tea, kindly donated by the AEU. Regional AEU organiser Steve Miles was present to show everyone what a good guy he was and to encourage non-members to join up.

Those present were touched by the appreciation shown by the staff and were treated to 3 cheers which reverberated through the building as they enjoyed a quiet moment.

On behalf of the staff and students of MBHS I would like to acknowledge the wonderful effort that our support staff continue to put in on a daily basis. Their work is vital to the smooth running of the school and while rarely acknowledged formally is always appreciated. Thank you all.

AGRICULTURE UPDATE FOR ROYAL ADELAIDE SHOW

By Jo Jennings, Farm Manager

It’s getting close to the Royal Adelaide Show now and the animals are coming along nicely. The students are doing a great job in having them all ready to go into the show ring.

‘Mannie’ our steer is looking well and gaining weight by the day, he has been clipped ready to go. The goats are looking good and are taking to being led very well considering they have trouble written all over them.

Last of all our Merino’s are coming along well and have passed all the criteria so far including being shorn to a certain length, having their wool sampled and being inspected by the merino society. It’s all going to plan so far, fingers crossed we bring home the bacon.

Students working with the animals

(Left) SSO’s at a recent morning tea put on by the AEU as part of SSO Recognition Week.
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 15, 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 15 and September 7, 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 7.

During the week commencing Monday August 22, 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 1.

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

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

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.