From the Principal

Phil Fitzsimons

Parent/Student Opinion Survey
I would like to extend my gratitude to the many parents and students who have completed the school opinion survey. As I mentioned in an earlier newsletter this term, I was particularly keen to seek the views from a broader mix of the school community in addition to the 100 randomly selected parents and students from DECS. The school-initiated online survey has been a success and as of late last week has been completed by 36 parents and 261 students.

The feedback received thus far from the survey has been enlightening and constructive in terms of future school planning. It is my plan to collate this information over the coming weeks and share the data via the school newsletter. The survey will remain open until the last day of term 3 therefore I would like to encourage parents and students to take the time to complete the survey and be a part of the whole school improvement process.

Students Leaving School Grounds
Parents/Caregivers are asked to support the school’s policy of students remaining on school grounds for the duration of the school day. A growing problem has seen students leave the school grounds to purchase food from nearby outlets or more concerning, leaving the school grounds in vehicles driven by young adults.

The school has a duty of care to ensure all students are safe while at school but is not resourced to monitor students off school grounds. The school has received complaints from nearby business owners and residents of inappropriate student behaviour. These complaints can be easily avoided if school rules are followed.

Parents/Caregivers are reminded that the school canteen must meet the demands of the state Government’s Healthy Eating policy and not sell food or drink items that contain high levels of sugar or fat. I would also ask that parents/caregivers remind their student of the importance of remaining on school grounds for the duration of the entire school day and work with the school in addressing this serious issue.

NAPLAN 2011
I have recently received information from DECS indicating that the Year 9 NAPLAN results for 2011 will be delivered to the school on 14 September. These results will be forwarded to parents/caregivers with the term 3 reports on 30 September.

TERM 3

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
Thu, 22 Sep Governing Council – 7pm
Thu/Fri, 22/23 Sep Step Up program – Year 9

Week 10
Wed, 28 Sep Youth Opportunities Graduation
Fri, 30 Sep SPORTS DAY

Staff Achievement
On a final note I would like to congratulate Science teacher Tyson Wait on being awarded his second River Murray Football League Mail Medal. Tyson is not only a talented footballer but an outstanding young teacher learning his craft here at the High School.
**Labs n’ Life**  
By Laurice Braithwaite

The first day of Spring saw six lucky Murray Bridge High students attend Johnstone Park for their initial training session with a Labrador Retriever. The two hours passed very quickly; all students bonding well with their canine ‘pupils’, teaching hand and voice commands, providing them with ‘treats’ and being slobbered on.

Funding for this fantastic program was secured through the school’s FLO Coordinator, Penny Conway.

Participation in the Labs n’ Life 10 week program assists students to gain the skills and knowledge required to be involved in the training of an assistance dog, learn basic and advanced dog obedience training tactics, how dogs think and communicate and basic animal first aid. Students also have the ability, through the bookwork component of the course, to cover many of the capabilities of Citizenship, Communication and Personal Development, all requirements for the Personal Learning Plan.

Student mentors and assistant trainers support each student until they feel confident working with their animal.

All students agreed this was a worthwhile experience and are looking forward to the next 9 training sessions.

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**Sudanese ‘Dinka’ Art**  
By Goran Yakas

In 2010 Aluel Kuoirot was a Year 12 student at Murray Bridge High School. During this time she painted scenes from her native Sudan and recorded traditional ‘Dinka’ ceremonies.

The school has been fortunate in being able to buy two of her beautiful paintings, ‘Traditional Dinka Dancers’ and ‘The Wedding’ (see below) to add to its permanent art collection.

Through the generosity and vision of the Governing Council and SAAC, the school hopes to continue to purchase ‘culturally significant art works’ for its permanent collection. The 2 works will be on display in the Resource Centre.

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**StepUP**  
By Liz Hodge

Year 9 students at Murray Bridge High School have been invited to participate in the 2011 Murray Mallee 2 day StepUP event to be staged at Murray Bridge North Primary School on 22 and 23 September 2011.

The StepUP event is the first ever South Australian “Murray Mallee stepUP Teenager Event”. The purpose of the 2 day event is to educate and inspire teenagers about the possibilities for their future in business and in life, by bringing high profile, inspirational, business, sporting and other leaders and teens together.

The 2 day event will be fully catered for with all food, materials and entertainment provided free of charge. Staff from the school will attend in a supervisory role.

The decision has been made to invite all Year 9 students enrolled at Murray Bridge High School to attend this event; therefore all Year 9 classes will be closed for these 2 days.

We strongly urge all parents/caregivers to encourage their student to attend this unique opportunity to be staged in our region.

(Left) Principal, Phil Fitzsimons presents Aluel with a cheque for her paintings watched on by Arts Coordinator Goran Yakas
Year 12 Dinner

By Ruth Hicks

Year 12 Food and Hospitality students demonstrated the skills that they have developed throughout the year in a celebration dinner for family, friends and teachers.

The students worked collaboratively as a team to design a menu that signified a ‘celebration’ meal, but also met the requirements of healthy food choices. Strategies they used included adapting recipes to decrease fat and sugar, along with increasing fruit and vegetable content, and portion controlling the ‘naughtier’ options.

The final menu was very inviting, with two options being presented for each course. These included Potato and Leek Soup or Turkey and Avocado Salad served in a baked wonton cup for entrée.

Main consisted of Grilled Chicken Breast with mustard sauce, or Roast Pork. Both were served with piping hot steamed vegetables and roasted potatoes.

The desserts looked and tasted spectacular, with guests agonising over Mangomisu (a fruit variation of tiramisu) with homemade ice-cream, or gooey chocolate pudding with mixed berry medley.

The students were responsible for every part of the organisation, from ordering tablecloths to designing and making individual invitations. The biggest highlight was watching them develop as a team over several weeks to work out time plans and job allocations and then take individual responsibility for the jobs that needed to be done.

By the end of the night with the kitchen back to pristine cleanliness, our very weary but proud students acknowledged the challenges and pressures of working in the busy world of Food and Hospitality. A big thank you to Mrs Rowland who volunteered her services at the dishwasher to help the night run smoothly, and Murraylands Laundry Service for their support.
Murray Bridge High School Staff Recognised at the DECS Workforce Development Awards Ceremony

The DECS Workforce Development Awards Ceremony held on Thursday 4 August at the Ridley Pavilion, acknowledges and celebrates both the exemplary practice of program participants who have recently completed an accredited qualification through the DECS Registered Training Organisation, (Organisation and Professional Development Services), as well as teachers who successfully undertook the Advanced Skills Teacher accreditation in 2010. All recipients were presented with certificates by Keith Bartley, CEO of DECS.

Bryce Gillett (below) graduated in Certificate IV Government (School Support Services), Finance/Administration Stream. Bryce was also guest speaker representing the Finance Graduates.

Brendan Watts was presented with a certificate for 2010 Certified Advanced Skills Teacher (Level 2).

New Dance Studio Arrives at Murray Bridge High School

By Bryce Gillett

Students at Murray Bridge High School will soon have a new Dance Studio to be located behind the existing Drama Workshop.

The transportable building was recently relocated from Lameroo in two parts on low loaders to Murray Bridge. Over the next few weeks the building will be fully refurbished including a specially designed soft floor surface to accommodate dance performances. The Studio will be open for lessons by the middle of Term 4.