Term 2, Week 3—3 May 2010

FROM THE PRINCIPAL
Phil Fitzsimons

Welcome back to term 2. Coming back to school this term a number of key building improvements are well underway.

Language Laboratories and Lift Construction
Last year the school was successful in applying for 4 Language Laboratories to be constructed as part of the Government’s BER economic stimulus plan. Following extensive consultation and planning, demolition work has finally commenced in A Block. While this process has caused disruption to staff and students, the end result will be improved facilities for the school in the delivery of languages. It is envisaged that the 2 rooms in A Block will be finished at the end of Week 6 and the 2 rooms in D Block will be finished at the end of the term. I will provide further updates later this term. Additional construction is taking place in A Block and B Block with the installation of lifts. Funding has been provided to the school to enable disability access for students. It is envisaged that this will be completed in Term 3.

Parent/Teacher Interviews
I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents and caregivers who met with teachers last Wednesday evening. Feedback received suggests that the evening was informative and constructive. Parents and Caregivers are encouraged to make appointments with teachers at mutually convenient times if they were unable to attend last week.

Transition
Beginning this week members of staff from the high school will be visiting primary schools as part of the transition process for Year 7 students. This is the first opportunity for staff to meet with the Year 7 students and their families and has long been considered beneficial for all parties. As many Year 7 students have older siblings at the high school I trust they will be encouraged to attend the information sessions.

Parent/Caregiver Input
This year I have had numerous conversations with parents and caregivers about issues at school and how best to improve school policies and learning outcomes. These conversations are always useful in working together towards reaching a solution. I would like to encourage all parents and caregivers to speak with the school and offer their thoughts or time in making Murray Bridge High a better school. Governing Council Chairperson Phil Nutt and Parents and Friends Chairperson Lynne Graham welcome the opportunity to present your suggestions and ideas to the Governing Council meetings held in Weeks 4 and 9 every term. Their contact details are outlined at the top of this page. Later this year I will begin a formal process of requesting feedback from parents and caregivers as to how the school is progressing and inviting input. This feedback will be voluntary, however the information gathered will form the foundation for future planning in terms of school direction as Murray Bridge High School heads towards its centenary in 2013.
SAASTA (SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL SPORTS AND TRAINING ACADEMY)  By Tracy Bellamy AET

Certificate II in Sport and Recreation – providing nutritional advise based on the recommended guidelines for clients.

School Visit 23 April 2010

Guest speaker Dale Walsh from the “Eat well be active” program came to talk to the Sports Academy cadets about healthy eating habits for active lives. The presentation focused on how to read food labels and make the right choices when choosing snacks. Mr Walsh explained to the group about how to make sure that what we put into our bodies is good fuel which will help us perform better on the football field. Jarred Jackson and Harley Boyle-Richards asked several questions about which foods were better sources of energy and what were the differences between certain products. The presentation was informative and interesting which we all could easily relate to. As a result of that visit Dale Walsh provided the team with various resources including a published recipe book called “Deadly Tucker”, which will be used in our lessons and provided handouts and drink bottles for the team to use in their training.

SAASTA (SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL SPORTS AND TRAINING ACADEMY)

Aboriginal Power Cup Training

Sports academy cadets have been training for the up coming Aboriginal Power Cup in June 2010, where 14 boys’ teams and 12 girls’ teams will be vying to win the Aboriginal Power Cup; which is linked to the SACE Integrated Learning subject, at Stage 1 & 2. The program aims to improve physical fitness as well as developing life skills including goal setting and team work. The boys have been working hard on developing their football skills and physical fitness through regular training schedules which are run by their training coach Joffre Pearce and Noel Hartman. The boys also attend the various gym sessions at the Nunga’s club in Murray Bridge run by Mac Hayes. The boys are keen and enthusiastic about the coming event and are training hard over the last term. They have been responsible for coming up with their own training schedule with the support of their coaches and have been working towards completing all the requirements necessary in order to compete in the Aboriginal Power Cup.

RECONCILIATION WEEK - 27 May – 3 June 2010

Murray Bridge High School, as part of the activities for “Reconciliation Week”, is hosting a whole school assembly on 28 May 2010 in honour of ‘The National Sorry Day’, an event held each year on 26 May since 1998 to express regret over the historical mistreatment of Aboriginal people, in particular those effected through the “Stolen Generation” years.

A guest speaker from our Aboriginal community will be invited to give a welcome to land speech and to share their own personal experiences. Verna Koolmatie is organising a performance which will reflect some of the traditional culture of our Aboriginal community.

As part of the assembly the school will be placing a temporary fixture at the front of the school which marks the historical moment of the acknowledgment of the “Stolen Generation”. A “Bringing them home track” will be placed amongst the rose bushes as a way of showing respect for those being taken away from their families and now returning. A more permanent fixture will replace this track in the coming year and will be situated near the Aboriginal Education room.

This event aims to celebrate the rich culture and heritage of our Aboriginal community and to help develop understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, as a step forward to reconciliation. More information about this event will be placed on the school website nearer the time.
YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES CELEBRATES SUCCES IN TERM 1

By Stuart Kenny, Student Counsellor and Youth Opportunities School Based Coordinator

Murray Bridge High School, in partnership with Youth Opportunities SA, has successfully run the Personal Leadership Programme for 16 Year 10 students in Term 1 this year. This program is conducted for one day per week over the course of the term in an adult learning environment. Each Thursday, these students have been attending Murray Bridge TAFE to experience the many beneficial aspects of the program.

Students initially apply to participate in the program through an interview, with successful applicants establishing goals relating to how they wish to grow and develop as an individual and a personal leader throughout the program. Students then set about achieving their goals utilising stories and lessons conveyed via animated DVD lessons and facilitated discussion. While this is occurring within the group, individual students are taken out to receive one to one coaching to specifically tailor the program principles to the goals they have for their lives.

Students commence the program in many cases shy and reserved but emerge as confident and outgoing young adults.

Many are bursting with promise, but lacking in direction, only to come away with the skills and desire to harness their ability and fulfil their potential.

The graduation ceremony was held in Week 10, attended by the families and friends of the graduates. The graduation was also attended by MBHS staff and members of the community. The school was also privileged to host the CEO of Youth Opportunities Stephen Boyd, who was honoured to be the official “hand-shaker” of the graduates.

Special thanks needs to go to Mr. Lynton Hall, Deputy Principal of Murray Bridge High School for being the guest speaker for the occasion. Also, a very special thanks and congratulations must go to Hayley Nielsen and Katie Noble for another incredibly successful term facilitating the program and for their tireless efforts working with these students to ensure that were given the greatest opportunity to meet their goals and develop as young people.

Congratulations to all of the graduates, and a very special congratulations to Hannah Lewis and Aimee Elphick who were nominated by their peers to be the “Term 1 2010 Student Representatives”. A distinguished honour for them both and something for next terms graduates to aspire to.
METAL WORK EXCURSION
By Sam Cozens, Technology Coordinator

Recently our Year 12 SACE Metal students went on an excursion to two local businesses as part of their studies. We visited Lower Murray Grit Blasting where they were hosted by John and Ruth Bretag who explained the process of cleaning metals in preparation for painting or powder coating. Students were able to see the equipment used to produce a stream of air borne grit particles directed onto metal objects and stripping off rust, grease and other contaminants. We discussed the location of this business as part of town planning considerations, and the safety of workers in a noisy and dusty environment.

We then travelled to ALFAB where we were hosted by Phil Rosewall. The main business of ALFAB is the manufacture of aluminium windows, but our interest was in the powder coating operation carried out on metal objects in their factory. Metal objects to be powder coated are first cleaned either by grit blasting or by chemical means. The object is then placed in a spray booth and sprayed with a dry stream of plastic particles. The metal object attracts the plastic particles due to electrostatic charges. The object is then baked in a closed oven where the plastic melts and forms a continuous coating over the metal object. Powder coating forms a tough and corrosion resistant coating on metals, again the safety aspects for the environment and for the workers was discussed during the excursion. Thank you to the business owners for their assistance in complementing our school curriculum with their generous and interesting tours.

John Bretag, Lower Murray Grit Blasting, shows students the blast chamber

Ruth and John Bretag explain the process.

Phil Rosewall shows students through Alfab.

Grit blasting

Chemical cleaning

Baking oven

Finished products
CONGRATULATIONS—2009 IBMYP FULL CERTIFICATE HOLDERS AND RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT STUDENTS

IBMYP FULL CERTIFICATE

Back:
Yasin Karatas, Madeleine Binney, Jingjie Li, Thomas Hicks, Rochelle Klenke, Jessie Toogood, Melita Cottrell and Haylee Daniel.

Front:
Minmin Huang, Nikki-May Mounce, Elliot Daniels, Molly Kneebone, Katie Sutton, Nathan Margetts, Jasmine Bates and Rebecca Atkins

RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT

Back:

Middle:

Front:
Kayla Borchardt, Chenoa Hughes, Channon Kant, Steph Ryan, Kim Mitchell, Brooke Newell and Kaitlyn Pfeiffer.

COLLECTION OF OLD SCHOOL SHIRTS AND JUMPERS

By Helen Peake

As you are probably well aware by now this is the last year that the old royal blue shirts and jumpers will form part of our school uniform. Next year only the new navy shirt and jumper will be accepted as appropriate school uniform.

Based on this, the Interact Club have been approached by some members of the community suggesting that the old shirts and jumpers be collected and sent overseas to a school in an underdeveloped country.

We are therefore looking for donations of the old shirts and jumpers when your student has finished with them. At any time if they could be dropped into the Front Office or at the SSO Office we will sort and store them until early next year when we will send them overseas. Obviously they would need to be in a reasonable condition and clean in order for us to send them to another country.

We believe this would be a very appropriate way of helping students in another country so we look forward to a positive response from our school community. We thank the members of the community who came up with the idea and look forward to working with them to make their suggestion a reality.