Principal: Phil Fitzsimons 8532 1788 - Governing Council Chairperson: Phil Nutt 0417 885 539 - Parents & Friends Chairperson: Lynne Graham 0437 607 163

Term 2, Week 5: 17 May 2010

FROM THE PRINCIPAL
Phil Fitzsimons

Welcome to this week’s newsletter.

NAPLAN
Congratulations to all Year 9 students who completed the NAPLAN testing last week. With limited time preparation I was particularly pleased to see students undertake the tests with a positive can do attitude. Unfortunately the students are the innocent ones in the political debate between the Australian Education Union and the Federal Government. Particular thanks needs to go to Barb Quast, Ann Ruckert and Lynton Hall who managed to coordinate the NAPLAN process within a limited timeframe. While the NAPLAN results may drop slightly this year because of the boycott preventing teachers preparing students for the tests, I am confident that the school’s overall approach towards improving numeracy and literacy outcomes for all students as indicated in the school’s Site Improvement Plan, will provide the community with a clearer perspective on student achievement in the longer term.

Governing Council
At the recent meeting of Governing Council, Murray and Mallee Regional Director Peter Chislett informed the committee of the upcoming process regarding the selection of the new Principal for 2011. Sally Kluske has been selected by the Governing Council as the parent representative for the selection panel for this position and will work with Peter, a peer Principal and a staff AEU representative. On behalf of Governing Council I would like to thank Sally for giving up her time and taking on this important role.

Further news from the Governing Council meeting includes the endorsement of the 2009 Annual Report and the 2010 Site Improvement Plan. Both documents will be available on the school’s website very soon.

Finally, to end on a sad note, my sincere condolences to Governing Council Deputy Chairperson Heather Buddle on the recent passing of her mother. Heather is a wonderful contributor to the school. In addition to her role on Governing Council, she is on the Finance Committee and is the Junior Team Manager for the Pedal Prix. On behalf of the school community our thoughts are with you, Heather.

CALENDAR
MAY
Week 5:
Tuesday 18 - Year 9 Immunisation
Thursday 20 - Murraylands Careers Expo

Week 6:
Tuesday 25 - Power visit—SAASTA
- The Arts Showcase performance
Thursday 27 - The Arts Showcase performance
Sunday 30—Pedal Prix—Victoria Park

JUNE
Week 7:
Wednesday 2 - Transition Information Evening
MBHS 7.00pm

Week 8:
Monday 7 - Friday 11 - Year 10 Work Experience
Tuesday 8 - Finance Committee 7.00pm
Thursday 10-Saturday 12 - Power Cup Carnival

Week 9:
Monday 14 - Queen’s Birthday Holiday
Tuesday 15 - Parents and Friends 6.30pm
- Governing Council 7.00pm

Week 10
Monday 21-Friday 25—Year 10 Work Experience

Week 11
Wednesday 30 - Youth Opportunities Graduation
Friday 2 - Senior Formal

REMINDER
This is the last year that the old royal blue shirts and jumpers will be part of our school uniform.
Next year only the new navy shirt and jumper will be accepted as appropriate school uniform.
The new uniform is available from the Student Services Office.
PEER SUPPORT DAY TRIPS TO MONARTO ZOOLOGICAL PARK  By Caroline Davey

As part of the Year 8 Pastoral Care Program all Year 8 students have the opportunity to attend a day trip to Monarto Zoo. This year the excursions took place during Week 3 from Tuesday 4 May until Friday 7 May.

The day was slightly different to that of previous years. The amount of walking required was decreased, which gave students more time to focus on the team building activities. These activities were successfully conducted by the Year 11 Peer Support Leaders, who confidently lead their Year 8 students through some tough challenges. The encouraging and efficient team work displayed by the Year 8’s assisted groups to complete a large number of the challenges, which allowed them to earn the reward of a bus tour around the Zoo.

The interaction and enthusiasm of the Peer Support Leaders was excellent and the effort from the teachers involved was greatly appreciated. The feedback from students and teachers alike was very positive, with many commenting on how enjoyable and successful the day trips were.

Thank you for everyone’s support and congratulations on a successful four days.

MURRAY BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL CONCERT BAND PERFORMS AT THE KAROONDA FARM FAIR  By Sean Hickey

On 26 March the Murray Bridge High School Concert Band headed off to the Karoonda Farm Fair. The band performed two brackets of music during the day. The pieces range from old to new and the public were able to enjoy the performance as they sat and ate their lunch in the food court area.

In our break the students had the opportunity of seeing the sights and sounds of the Farm Fair, which included various stands and a free train ride around the Farm Fair. This trip provided an opportunity for students to contribute to the greater community of the Murraylands and to enjoy seeing the Karoonda Caravan Park in a very different light.

The School Concert Band continues to gain performance experience in the community and other school events through these and many other opportunities. We are looking forward to showing off our best work this year at the “Big Night Out” Art’s Showcase on 25 and 27 May in the Drama Workshop.
THE INTERACT CLUB WELCOMED MARILYN CURTIS FROM FIJI.
By Helen Peake

During Tuesday’s meeting we were fortunate to have a visit by Marilyn Curtis from the Rotary Club of Suva North, Fiji. Marilyn talked to us about the Interact Club that she works with in Fiji and about some of the projects that they are involved in.

Her PowerPoint presentation was very informative showing how the Rotary Club host a Careers Evening for students, their major fundraising functions and how they have then been able to assist many organisations due to their fundraising activities. Marilyn talked about one boy, who suffered from Muscular Dystrophy and how they were able to provide him with a wheelchair allowing him to attend school. The Interact Club have provided him with DVD’s so he is able to keep up with his school work when he is unable to attend school.

We thank Marilyn for giving up her time to be with us and look forward to meeting with her again at some time in the near future.

She then spoke of other students who have suffered from major health issues and how they have been helped. We came to realise that the health facilities in Fiji are nowhere near what we have in Australia and many sick children die due to poor medical facilities.

We spoke to Marilyn about the idea of donating our old school shirts and jumpers to a school or orphanage in Fiji and we know through her work these items would go to those who need them most.

The members of the Murray Bridge High School Interact Club look forward to becoming a sister club with the Interact Club in Fiji. Perhaps by sharing our experiences with them and vice versa we will all learn more about each other and perhaps help and support each other.

AUSTRALIAN TRUCKING ASSOCIATION (ATA) TRUCK VISIT
By Noel Hartman

On Monday the 3 May the Australian Trucking Association (ATA) visited Murray Bridge High School with their interactive truck display. Students from Murray Bridge High School were booked into three time slots to have a look at the interactive display and do some hands on activities and also talk with another organisation called LINC, which stands for Logistics Information and Navigation Centre.

LINC and the ATA talked about jobs within the Transport Industry which involved Rail, Road, Air and Sea and some pathways you can take once you get into the industry. LINC also talked about how many different steps and procedures and industry that are involved in getting a product like an apricot bar from the grower to the supermarket.

In all it gave the students an opportunity to know what the Transport Industry is about, the types of jobs that are available and what you would need to do to get into the industry.

Daniel Hand and Tyson Billing participate in a reflex and concentration exercise with Laura Ogden from the Australian Trucking Association.

Brenton Gaskin (left) and Johnathon Henderson (right) work with interactive displays on road safety.

David Graham gets to sit in the driver’s seat of the ATA interactive truck.
Year 12 Art Excursion
Year 12 students from the Art, Design and Craft classes last week participated in an excursion to Adelaide. They visited:

- The Dame Roma-Mitchell Centre to view the annual Year 12 Art Show. Here they could examine the best art work from last year as selected by the moderators, and the accompanying back up work and journals.
- They were taken on a guided tour through the TAFE sculpture area.
- Had a tour of the Jam factory (a training facility) viewing Ceramics and glass blowing.
- Toured the Art gallery in particular the Science and Art Exhibition.

Moderation
PLP for Year 11 Students:

- This occurred on Friday 30 April.
- Borderline C/D student’s work was reviewed.
- The Moderator found that teachers marking in general were at the correct standard.
- The moderator recommended however, that there should be School moderation before presenting the work to the SACE Moderators, to make sure our staff were consistent with their marking.
- A significant proportion of Year 11 students have not passed their PLP. PLP is a subject that students must achieve a C or better to achieve their SACE. These students will be required to repeat this subject.

Stage 1 English and Maths:

- Maths courses were to be moderated very early (Week 5 this term). Four of the five assessment items need to be completed and marked for moderation. Due to the late notice, this has been impossible to do without disadvantaging our students. We have therefore requested these courses be resulted in December instead of June. This is unfortunate however as we were keen to receive feedback on our marking before next semester.
- English is to be moderated a week later than the maths courses. After consultation, the English teachers have agreed to be resulted in June so they will receive feedback for semester 2.

Year 11 & 12 Intervention Plan for Poor Performers

- On reviewing last year’s SACE results it was clear that we still have some work to do with disengaged students as our percentage of students who received failing grades was too high.
- During the student free day earlier this year, the coordinators developed a policy for student promotion from stage 1 to stage 2 courses. This has been presented to Admin and the General staff, and will be presented to Governing Council.
- The Senior School leadership team has also met and identified students from Year 11 and 12 who performed poorly in the recent term 1 assessment and are therefore in danger of failing. An intervention plan has been put in place:
  - Letter sent home to inform parents/caregivers.
  - Home group teacher will interview these students.
  - Each subject teacher will also interview the students and suggest strategies they could use to help them improve.

SAAC REPORT - By Jarred Lloyd, Laura Johns, Renay Persello, Christine Xiao and Annalisa Mertin

Role of the School Leaders
Once a week, the SAAC meets with Mr Fitzsimons. In our meetings we discuss the role of the school leaders and how we can work towards improving the school. We are currently working towards an induction program for future school leaders incorporating a role statement. We have created a document that outlines the role and expectations of the school captains, the time commitment and skills required. Further work is being undertaken to decide on the application process to enable students across the school the opportunity to become a School Captain or Vice Captain.

Save the Children Badges
During term one the SAAC received a letter from Save the Children Australia Organisation asking if we would help them raise funds for their cause. They are a charitable organisation providing aid to children living in poverty. They provide both locally in Australia and globally in countries including Bangladesh, Loa PDR and Cambodia. SAAC are currently selling badges for this cause. The badges are to be sold at $2.50 each. From each sale the school receives 50c and the remaining $2 goes back to the organisation. Four styles of badges are being sold, a cricketer, a footballer, an angel and a fairy.

Front Office and Library Entrance
In collaboration with Mr Fitzsimons, the SAAC would like to present the school’s proud history to the public when they visit the school. SAAC have been asked to assist with re-designing the front office and the library entrance. As part of this process the SAAC are looking into honour boards, student work and achievements. Mrs Peake is assisting the SAAC in collecting information for the honour boards and suitable historic photos to be displayed. More information will be presented later this year.

2010 Formal
This year the Murray Bridge High School formal will be held on the 2 July. This is Friday, Week 11. It will be returning to the Town Hall after being held at John Dohler Hall last year due to renovations of the Town Hall. The theme for this year’s formal is masquerade. The colour scheme is black, silver and red. We hope that all students attending this year will embrace this.

2010 Yearbook
We are progressing quite well on this year’s Yearbook. We’ve had several meetings and decided on the layout and look of the Yearbook. To ensure consistency in the look we have chosen one template from the website of the company we are using to publish the book.

The company we are using this year is Rockstar Memoirs. They have a website that helps us with the development of the book. As an added benefit of using this company they have also set up a website where Year 12 students can upload photos and complete their student profiles. This makes it easier for the committee to access the photos for use in the Yearbook.
Transition Information Evening
For parents/caregivers of Year 7 students

Venue: Drama Workshop, Murray Bridge High School  
Date: Wednesday 2 June 2010  
Start Time: 6:50pm for 7:00pm  
Finish Time: 9:00pm

Mr Lynton Hall and Mr Sean Rankin will MC the evening

1. Welcome and School Values  
   Mr Phillip Fitzsimons  
   (Principal)

2. Music Performance  
   Concert Band

3. International Baccalaureate  
   Middle Years Programme  
   Mr Tim Zammit  
   (IBMYP Coordinator)

4. Language B  
   Mrs Barb Quast  
   (Languages Coordinator)

5. Cultural Exchanges  
   Laura Johns  
   (Current Year 12 Student)

6. Year 8: A student’s perspective  
   Katelin Kneebone  
   Darcy Tregilgas  
   Kieran McCormack

7. Governing Council  
   Parents and Friends  
   Mr Phil Nutt  
   Mrs Lynnette Graham

8. Music Performance  
   Rock Band

9. School Tour  
   Senior School SAAC  
   Staff  
   Learning Area Coordinators  
   Leadership Team  
   Student Counsellors

The evening will finish with supper in the cafeteria.
FREE GUIDES ABOUT STUDYING AT UNIVERSITY AND TAFE

The Australian Scholarship Group (ASG) has prepared two free guides that aim to support students and their families. The guides contain answers to many of the vital questions about higher education.


University and TAFE studies are the pathways for students to gain a complete education. ASG is a not-for-profit friendly society committed to supporting young people’s participation in education. Education opportunities provide invaluable lifetime benefits. ASG assists parents to provide these opportunities for their children.

For further information about ASG and ASG’s Education Program™, visit www.asg.com.au or phone: 1800 648 945.
Teenagers, Alcohol & Drugs

An informative, relevant, empowering and proactive session for ALL parents

Presented by Paul Dillon from Drug & Alcohol Research Training Australia (DARTA)

Paul Dillon has over 25 years experience in drug education and has been featured on a wide range of TV programs including Sunrise and TODAY.

When: Tuesday 25 May at 7pm
Venue: The Steeple, Unity College
Cost: $5 per parent/caregiver
(2nd adult free)

Please Note: This session is designed specifically for parents.

If you missed him last year, don’t miss this opportunity to hear Paul Dillon offer accurate, up-to-date information about young people, alcohol and drugs in Australia while assisting parents to have meaningful conversations with their child about the issues raised.

Hosted by Unity College for the whole Murraylands community.

[Unity College Logo]