Term 2, Week 7: 31 May 2010

FROM THE PRINCIPAL
Phil Fitzsimons
Welcome to this week’s newsletter
I am often approached by students and asked why I continue to stay at Murray Bridge High School, particularly after events that poorly represent the school such as the recent Murraylands Career Expo.

My response is always the same. I have been at this school for 11 years and I consider it to be a brilliant school with great students and dedicated staff.

As Principal of Murray Bridge High School I feel it is my biggest challenge to change this negative, stereotypical view towards the school held by some people. This year I have spoken at length in school assemblies, at staff meetings and at Governing Council about school pride and what I believe Murray Bridge High School stands for. While there have been hiccups along the way I feel, as demonstrated in the articles presented in this week’s newsletter, that we are beginning to see change.

Over the next month student initiated and driven community projects will be presented at the school that will promote our 3 core values Excellence, Respect and Working Together. I am particularly excited about the level of commitment demonstrated by these students and their willingness to take the initiative and make their voices heard. I look forward to sharing these projects in upcoming school newsletters.

While reading the numerous articles in this week’s newsletter please take note of the wide variety of activities that students at Murray Bridge High School can successfully participate in. I personally believe this is the school’s strength. Furthermore, witnessing the huge parent turnout to last week’s wonderful Arts Showcase, the visit by representatives of the Port Power Football Club to the school, the moving Reconciliation Assembly, preparations for the Pedal Prix event at Victoria Park (including the arrival of the new Pedal Prix trailer – see below), staff together celebrating Australia’s biggest morning tea and the superb efforts of the Year 12 Food and Hospitality students led magnificently by Roxanne Rowland and Ruth Hicks tells me that Murray Bridge High School has plenty to be proud of.

I hope you all have a good week.

CALENDAR

JUNE

Week 7:
Wed 2 Transition Information Evening
MBHS 7.00pm

Week 8:
Mon 7 - Fri 11 Year 10 Work Experience
Tues 8 Finance Committee 7.00pm
Thur 10-Sat 12 Power Cup Carnival

Week 9:
Mon 14 Queen’s Birthday Holiday
Tues 15 Parents and Friends 6.30pm
Governing Council 7.00pm

Week 10
Mon 21-Fri 25 Year 10 Work Experience

Week 11
Wed 30 Youth Opportunities Graduation

JULY

Fri 2 Senior Formal
Last day of Term 2—2.00pm dismissal

2010 TERM DATES

Term 1: Wed 27/1/10—Thur 1/4/10
Term 2: Mon 19/4/10—Fri 2/7/10
Term 3: Mon 19/7/10—Fri 24/9/10
Term 4: Mon 11/10/10—Fri 10/12/10

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.
THE AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM, ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING AUTHORITY (ACARA).

ACARA will release draft senior secondary years’ Australian Curriculum content in English, Mathematics, Science and History for national consultation from 14 May 2010 until 30 July 2010.

Curriculum content will be presented for 14 courses:

- English—4 courses
- Mathematics—4 courses
- Science—4 courses
- History—2 courses

Each course contains units of nominally 50-60 hours duration with four units studied over a two year period.

At this stage, only the draft curriculum content will be available for consultation. Given the different purposes and uses of existing achievement standards in states and territories, it will take longer to develop the Australian Curriculum senior secondary achievement standards.

Development of the achievement standards will occur through 2010, ahead of consultation in early 2011. The final achievement standards will be available to accompany the curriculum content for implementation. Timelines for implementation of the senior secondary curriculum are currently being determined.

The draft curriculum content will be available through ACARA’s consultation website - www.australiancurriculum.edu.au - for everyone to read, review, download, or print. ACARA encourages the involvement of all educators and the wider community during the consultation process to provide feedback on what senior secondary students should learn in English, Mathematics, Science and History.

ACARA is committed to listening to you and carefully considering your feedback in developing the Australian Curriculum—please take this opportunity to review the draft curriculum and provide feedback on Australia’s first national curriculum.

Note: Extension of consultation period for the draft K-10 Australian Curriculum.

Consultation on the draft K-10 Australian Curriculum has been extended one week until 30 May 2010. After this date, the draft K-10 curriculum will still be available to view along with the draft senior secondary curriculum on the Australian Curriculum consultation portal.

If you have registered your details to provide feedback on the draft K-10 Australian Curriculum they can be used to view and comment on the draft senior secondary years’ curriculum.

HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED HOSTING A JAPANESE STUDENT?

At the start of term 3 Murray Bridge High School will be hosting 10 students from Funabashi High School in Japan. Following a very successful visit early this year we are now expecting 10 students (3 male and 7 female) to arrive on the last Saturday of the school holidays and to leave on Sunday, 1 August.

During the school day the students will be taught English (and participate in some excursions). At night and on weekends they enjoy doing what your family does. This may include going to sport, shopping, visiting friends or relatives or whatever you choose to do as a family. There is no expectation for you to cook special meals and the students are able to share a bedroom – they do not have to have their own.

If you are at all interested in hosting and would like to find out more, please either phone Helen Peake at the High School on 85321788 or come in for a chat. All host families must be prepared to have a Police Check done on anyone living in the home over the age of 18 years.

An experience like this can lead to lifelong friendships and a better understanding of another culture. We look forward to hearing from you.

New Postal Address for Murray Bridge High School

Australia Post have made a change in the way they handle their mail delivery to local businesses. For this reason Murray Bridge High School has had to implement a new Postal Address. Our new postal address is as follows:

MURRAY BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL
PO Box 1584
MURRAY BRIDGE S A 5253

Stationery with our new address on it will be available soon. Thank you in helping us with this transition by using our new mailing address when forwarding correspondence to the school.

THE ROLE OF PARENTS AND FRIENDS  By Lynne Graham

Parents and Friends contributes to the decision making with the Governing Council and we feel valued by doing this as we are recognised and shown respect by all who attend.

Our group lends a hand at school functions where needed and this gives our students a sense of pride.

Parents and Friends meet at 6.30pm before each Governing Council, meeting twice a term. Everyone is welcome so please come and be involved in your child’s education.
MIND MATTERS WORKSHOP

By Noel Hartman

On Tuesday 4 May the Power Cup team participated in a Workshop called *Being Deadly Not Shame*. This workshop was run by Mind Matters Community Partnerships which work with groups or organisations to help deal with Mental Health. We had two people work with our Power Cup team from Mind Matters, and they were Cathy Venning and Aaron Ken.

Our focus from the visit was to have the Mind Matters team assist the Power Cup team prepare for some of the presentations they need to do when they are at the Power Cup carnival. Some of the activities our team need to do is sing the team song in front of all the other teams and special guests at the Power Cup 2010 official opening, and stand up in front of everyone when our team is introduced to all the other teams and official guests.

Aaron and Cathy talked with the group and discussed some activities to do which could help people that get nervous in front of big crowds and to be positive about who you are and be confident in what you do.

At the end of the workshop our team felt the visit was very helpful in helping the students with the confidence they need to be successful at the Power Cup Carnival.

ABORIGINAL HEALTH FAIR DAY

By Noel Hartman

Thursday May 6 Indigenous students from Murray Bridge High School attended a *Closing the Gap* day at the Lower Murray Nungas Club. *Closing the Gap* day looked at closing the gap in relation to how long the average Indigenous person’s life span is compared to non-Indigenous people.

Our students gathered information from agencies that could assist in helping extend the life of Indigenous people and talked with professionals from the medical industry on how to look after their body. During the day you could also get a free health check up just to see where you are at with your own health.
PORT POWER VISIT

By Noel Hartman

Tuesday May 25 saw representatives from Port Power attend Murray Bridge High School to run a Training Session and Goal Setting workshop with the Power Cup team from Murray Bridge High School. Those who attended from Port Power were Aaron Tuckfield, Russell Ebert, Wade Thompson and Amy Rogerson.

To start with the Port Power representatives introduced themselves and talked a little about themselves to our team from Murray Bridge High School. Then our Power Cup team introduced themselves and talked about what they want to do when they leave school and what they wanted to get out of school.

Amy Rogerson who has not been long out of school gave an insight of what choices she had to make. She was in Year 10 and hated school, and her parents gave her the option of if she left school she needed to get a job or stay at school. She chose to stay at school and get her SACE. Amy gave a talk about the sacrifices she had to make to reach her goal of getting her SACE and what it meant to her.

After the goal setting exercise, the students with the Port Power team members, went on to the oval for a kick and a catch of the footy just to wind down the afternoon’s workshop, and then they thanked the Port Power players and other representatives for coming to Murray Bridge High School.

AUSTRALIA’S BIGGEST MORNING TEA

By Peter Stewart, Host Organiser.

On Thursday 27 May, Murray Bridge High School staff held the now annual event to raise much needed funds for cancer treatment and research.

Nearly 100 teaching and support staff gathered in the staffroom at recess time, bringing plates of food to share and wearing yellow, the signature colour of the Australian Cancer Council. We were joined by our Regional Director Mr Peter Chislett who enjoyed a scone, jam and cream.

$238.45 was raised to assist the work of the Cancer Council.

Previous donations have helped fund the development of cancer treatments and vaccines, and supported many cancer victims, numbering some of our friends and colleagues.

SASSSA KNOCK OUT FOOTBALL

By Jeff Lines

The Murray Bridge High School Open Boys football team recently took part in the first round of the state-wide SASSSA knock-out competition. Travelling to the Riverland for the purpose of the day, the students acquitted themselves well across both games. In the first game they soundly defeated Renmark High School, with Brayden Gommers and Dylan Molnar featuring amongst the goals, with Jamie Schellen and David Graham also playing well. In the second the opposition from Glossop High School proved much stronger and ran out winners, with Ben Gogel and Callum Ansell working hard across four quarters. Tom Kluske was captain of the team and helpful in organising the side at his disposal, and ensured that both on and off the ground that the values of the school were upheld and adhered to in a sportsmanlike manner.
OPERATION FLINDERS  By Hayley Nielsen and Katie Noble

On May 12 ten girls from Murray Bridge High School departed at 4:00am for Operation Flinders, an experience that they will never likely to forget. The girls that attended were Taylah Stafford, Taylor Webber, Brittany Schulz, Genevieve Coleman, Tiffany Quayle, Nic Norley, Jasmine Carter, Laura Edwards, Katelyn Freeman and Cassy O’Hare. Teachers Katie Noble and Hayley Nielsen also attended, as counsellors for the girls.

We began at 4am on the Wednesday morning. The girls were pretty pumped and excited, and after a 10 hour bus trip we arrived at our destination, Yankaninna Station, approximately 100 kms past Leigh Creek. We were basically in the middle of nowhere, with minimal trees and vegetation around us, no signs of civilisation. It was at this point the girls began to realise what they had got themselves into!

The first step was to organise the girl’s gear, which turned out to be quite challenging, as many of them struggled to come to terms with what lay ahead for them. One of the toughest aspects of this exercise was carrying the packs. We had to carry all of our stuff, including sleeping bags, sleeping mats, hootchies, clothes and water. The bags were quite heavy and understandably it took the girls some time to get used to lugging them around all day.

The first night of the trip was hard, with some of the girls struggling to come to terms with the situation they were placed in. To their credit though, they got up the next day ready to take on the challenge. The next few days consisted of majority bush walking, walking approximately 10 kms each day. We walked up numerous hills, and through rough scrub. Although the walking was hard the girls were always up for the challenge, and kept themselves occupied by singing and chatting.

At night time we all slept in a hootchie, which is basically a piece of material tied between two trees to shelter us from the weather. It has no bottom to it and is open at both ends – a tent is like luxury compared to one of these.

In terms of food, all of the food was supplied and at our campsite each night when we arrived. It consisted of tinned food such as spaghetti, baked beans, Irish stew and curries. The breakfast was Wheat Bix and tinned fruit and the lunch was vegemite and crackers, muesli bars and juice. The cooking was done over an open fire that we lit each night.

During the trip we were lucky enough to undertake several activities. One of the nights saw the girls experience the cultural stand, which included singing dream time stories around the campfire and trying Kangaroo stew, with traditional damper. The highlight of the evening was a song called ‘Oh My Walla’.

Abseiling was another highlight of the trip, with most girls at least attempting to face their fears. Another experience was our encounter with some locals. At first they were extremely scary, but ended up kindly cooking us an amazing breakfast and teaching us about their lives away from civilisation.

We were also extremely lucky to have the Mayor and Mayoress of Murray Bridge, Allan and Pam Arbon and journalist Peter Goers visit us during the exercise.

At last, after 8 days and 7 nights, the trip came to an end, and the girls couldn’t help but be emotional. They had all formed a strong bond with Operation Flinders Leaders Greg and Jacqui, and had made solid commitments to one another to change several aspects of their lives.

The girls were congratulated on their achievements with a presentation conducted by Operation Flinders CEO John Sheppard. A few special awards were given, with Cassy O’Hare receiving the Boomerang Award, for demonstrating fantastic teamwork and leadership skills throughout the exercise. Katelyn Freeman was also rewarded for her strong leadership amongst the group and positive attitude at all times.

Each exercise the team leaders from all groups nominate a participant to receive the Scott Hartman Award, an award that was created when the program began, in memory of Scott Hartman, a former participant who showed a massive turn around in both his behaviour and attitude. Laura Edwards was nominated by the team leaders, and was interviewed on the final evening by the commanding officer. The Operation Flinders staff were obviously impressed, as it was announced that Laura had won the award. We would like to congratulate Laura on her outstanding efforts.

We would also like to congratulate all of the girls on such an amazing achievement, and we hope that this experience has been of some value to their lives. If they ever think they can’t do something they just need to remember this experience and know that they can achieve anything!
ROCK AND WATER TRAINING  

By Helen Partridge

On 10, 11 and 12 May, Murray Bridge High School was the host to staff from all over South Australia and interstate for the Rock and Water Training and Development Program.

Helen Partridge and Daryl Porter participated in this event from Murray Bridge High School. The event was run by Tim Brenton who was a very enthusiastic presenter and gave the staff the chance to involve themselves in a variety of hands on activities.

The main idea behind the Rock and Water Program when run in schools is to allow students to develop a pathway to self awareness, increased self confidence and social functioning. Some activities that the students would be involved in are: learning to breathe and concentrate on what is important to them, non-intrusive self defence activities, using breathing as a form of strength and the ability to understand self discipline and control. A highlight at the end of the three days was when every member of the group had the ability to break a piece of wood with their own fist. This was a very rewarding experiences as many people doubted their own strength of mind.

Miss Partridge and Mr Porter are now working with Mr Ide (Assistant Principal) on implementing this program in the core curriculum at Murray Bridge High School.
CREATIVE BUNYIP AWARDS ADVENTURE
By Roxanne Rowland

Within 24 hours of the Murraylands Career Expo, Year 12 Food and Hospitality students were back in the kitchens preparing foods for the guests at the 2010 Bunyip Awards in the newly refurbished Town Hall on Saturday 22 May. The menu changed to cocktail foods and foods had to be prepared and taken to the venue ensuring Safe Food Handling techniques with a range of high risk ingredients.

Each student prepared and presented 50 portions of a range of bite-sized finger foods. Items included Oysters Kilpatrick, Stuffed Tomatoes, Duck and Ginger Wontons, Miniature Spring Rolls, Moroccan Meatballs, Samosas, Marinated Prawns, Crunchy Pork Noodle Balls, Prawn and Crab Wontons, Zucchini and Haloumi Fritters and Filo Tartlets with Bang Bang Chicken.

Not only did the food need to showcase bold flavours for bite-size morsels but also be plated in a contemporary gourmet style. This proved to be quite a challenge for the 27 students who participated in the new kitchen given its compact design.

After plating each food item, students then presented foods to the guests as they sipped champagne and enjoyed the new facilities offered at the Town Hall.

Students had just 30 minutes to present their foods, clean up and be out of the venue before the next group of caterers entered the kitchen to prepare and present the remaining foods for the evening. This high intensity was another valuable experience for our students to participate in, giving them hands on experience of the busy world of Food and Hospitality service.
CAREERS IN CATERING

By Roxanne Rowland

Year 12 Food and Hospitality students have been busy over the past month – catering for clients at the Murraylands Career Expo Thursday 20 May.

Students were divided into 2 teams – Team 1 under the guidance of Ruth Hicks planned and organised foods for the student cafeteria. They had to plan the menu that met The Healthy Eating Guidelines that could be packaged for sale to over 500 students coming from a range of regional schools and the public who came to the Career Expo.

They planned a number of dishes including:

- Chicken Burgers
- Beef Stir-fry
- Ham and vegetable Slice
- Creamy Chicken Pasta
- Thai Beef Curry

Students prepared as much as they could in the classroom during the days leading up to the Expo. Final cooking, heating, presenting and selling took place on the day with the first foods ready to go at 10am. Throughout the Expo, students manned the counters and served students with their menu choices. The students applied knowledge and skills in Personal Hygiene, Safe Food Handling and Preparation and Presentation of Foods for Sale – supporting research work completed in the classroom.

Team 2 under the guidance of Roxanne Rowland worked in the Committee Room to run the Exhibitors Lounge where 170 exhibitors were able to enjoy café foods and non stop coffees throughout the morning. From noon to 2pm they were able to come in and enjoy lunch from a menu of:

- Grilled Prawns served on Savoury Rice
- Warm Chicken Salad
- Egg Noodle Stir-fry
- Calzones with Seasonal Salad and Salsa
- Cannelloni
- Lasagne
- Chicken Stir-fry
- Beef Curry on Rice

Students attended tables, clearing places as guests completed their meals and re-setting as new guests arrived. All of this demonstrated the research work undertaken in the classroom. Experiences as these enable students to see first hand the work involved in planning menus, pricing items within a fixed budget and reacting to customers needs throughout the service period.

Feedback provided by customers at each venue and from the organising committee members proved valuable in assisting students to better prepare for work within the busy Food and Hospitality Industry.

Right: Ebony Story, Chris Canete, Callum Ansell, Leo Penascoza and Jesse Deionno
Murray Bridge High School hosted a reconciliation assembly on 28 May, a day after the ‘National Sorry Day’, as a mark of respect and acknowledgement to those affected from the stolen generation. It was attended by the whole school and several guests from the community including Auntie Dot, Auntie Rita, Michael Lindsay, Audrey Lindsay, Eileen Nowacki, Sarah Taylor from ‘Reconciliation SA’ and Michelle Brown, Penny Porter and Cheryl Love for Department of Education and Children’s Services.

Tom Trevorrow gave a warm welcome to country and shared his story about his own personal experiences from the ‘Stolen Generation’ with the students. He talked about how the ‘National Apology’ was welcomed by the Aboriginal communities and the hopes he has for the future generations. His speech was truly inspiring and all the students were listening with great interest.

We were also fortunate enough to have Rita Lindsay perform a song by ‘Archie Roach’ called ‘Took the children away’, which was all about the ‘Stolen Generation’ children; the whole school was moved by her performance.

After the assembly several students and special guests walked to the front of the school where Phil Fitzsimons opened the ‘Stolen Generation Bringing Them Home Track’ which commemorates those taken from their families. There will be a more permanent feature later in the year which will be placed near the school car park along with an Indigenous garden.

Morning tea was served shortly afterwards where students, guests and staff informally met and shared their stories. Phil Fitzsimons, Lynton Hall and Tom Trevorrow met with several students Indigenous and non-Indigenous. We were also privileged to hear for the first time the ‘Aboriginal Sports Academy’ student’s team song. All the students demonstrated maturity and remained respectful throughout the assembly. They were a great credit to their school.
ARTS SHOWCASE ‘BIG NIGHT OUT’  
By Zara Lehmann

On Tuesday 25 and Thursday 27 May, Murray Bridge High School students from all year levels were involved in the Arts Showcase ‘Big Night Out’. The event involved music performances from the Year 8, 9 & 10 Advanced classes, the Senior Vocal Group, Guitar Ensemble, Year 11 Rock Band & the school Concert Band. After interval, students from Yr 9–12 performed a variety of dance pieces, showcasing various styles of Dance including Jazz, Hip Hop, Ballet & Contemporary. Visual arts students also produced work, which was displayed in the foyer.

This event was a culmination of a semester’s work, in which the students learnt many skills and worked very hard. The students rehearsed their pieces extensively in preparation for the performance, with many spending a considerable amount of their free time creating works for the show.

We would like to congratulate all of the students on their achievements and thank all of the staff who assisted in the preparation, organisation and running of the two nights.

Crystal Kluske, Shaylan Dyer, Taylor Webber, Renae Van Holten, Taylor Kendle, Sarah Blaschek, Michaela Zadow, Rachael Magerkorth and Jemma Hicks.

Brendan Graham, Clarrie Garlett, Harley Boyle-Richards, Jarred Jackson and Jacob Fuge.

Cara Ladson, Alison Matcham, Brooke Newell, Ashlee Rossiter, Felicity Taylor, Chenoa Hughes, Emma Fullgrabe and Jade Lewis.

Mikaela Gray, Jasmine Carter, Peter Longden, Vanessa Lord, Dana McDonald, Mr Hickey, Jasmine Story, Kyra Allen and Bec Ziersch.

Maddie Binney, Kelesha Daniels, Mrs Long and Taigen Philby.
