From the Principal

Parent/Student Opinion Survey Feedback
Looking through the feedback gathered thus far in the Online Parent/Student Opinion Survey makes interesting reading. A component of the survey requested parents and students to provide feedback regarding ways to rejuvenate the Resource Centre, introducing a PE uniform for all students, additional options for the school uniform and comments on ways to improve the school. In total nearly 300 responses were received. The following comments provide a good snapshot of areas to focus on for future improvement:

Resource Centre – Students want a quiet, peaceful place to study where they can work without being interrupted. Students are requesting more challenging books to read with an area dedicated to reading including the provision of bean bags and the ability to listen to music and watch television. The students are also requesting an area dedicated to playing games within the Resource Centre.

PE Uniform – 72.3% of students and 78.1% of parents agreed that a PE uniform be available for all students. Key considerations for the PE Uniform were the cost and the design.

Additional Uniform Options – Students and parents agreed that additional options for the school uniform are needed; particularly uniform that is appropriate for summer and winter. Numerous comments were provided by students for hooded jumpers. While I accept that hooded jumpers are a part of school uniform in other schools I have long held the view that students used the hoods to disguise their faces. A school dress (93 respondents) was endorsed by both students and parents along with a rugby top (124 respondents). Additionally options that were popular included school shorts (84 respondents) and a V-neck jumper (92 respondents)

Improvements to the School – A common theme was apparent in this section of the survey and that is to provide more shelter and seating around the school. Additional comments requested an upgrade of the toilet facilities, the tennis and netball courts and the quadrangle.

The final results and a summary of the comments will be presented in the 2011 Annual Report with snippets included in newsletters next term. Governing Council has already met and discussed the proposals with a plan to action many of these requests next term. Once again I thank both students and parents for taking the time to provide me with their thoughts.

CALENDAR

Week 10
Wed, 28/9 Youth Opportunities Graduation
Fri, 30/9 SPORTS DAY
Last day of Term 3 Assembly
– 2pm dismissal

School Office Hours
Monday – Friday 8.30am – 4.30pm

Student Services Office (SSO)
Monday – Friday 8.20 – 8.40am
11.20 – 11.40am

Absentee Phone Line
8531 2949

Final Day of Term 3
Students will be dismissed from school on Friday 30th September at 2pm. Buses will depart shortly after this time. All student reports not collected on Friday can be collected during the school holidays. The front office will be open from 9am until 1pm Monday – Friday. Uncollected reports after the holidays will be distributed via home class in week 1.

I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable school break and look forward to a productive and successful term 4.
Royal Adelaide Show Success

By Jo Jennings, Farm Manager

It all started in the wee hours of Tuesday morning on 6 September around 4:50am. The stock truck that was transporting our show steer to Adelaide had arrived, 2 hours early mind you, but he was on his way and the show was finally here. All the hard work the students and staff had put in would now come down to the next few days of judging. The merinos were first up being judged on Wednesday the 7th.

The students involved; Jack Gilgen, Lincoln Williss and Jordan Richards, had their charges on their best behaviour standing square and looking the part. Unfortunately no prizes were won but we all learnt what we need to improve on for next year. Well done to Jack, Lincoln and Jordan.

All the animals settled well and were tucked in for the night ready for a big day of washing and preparing for the judging of our steer mid-morning and goats early afternoon. After a sleepless night myself I was up early awaiting the students’ arrival. Nikki-May Mounce, Jasmin Lewcock, Daniel Watts and Kyle Nicholas-Benney were brilliant in caring for ‘Mannie’ the steer, ensuring he was watered, fed and had plenty of attention. After a bath and blow dry we headed in the ring with 11 others and fingers were crossed by the team throughout the judging. It must have worked as we walked out of the ring with second place which was a great result. A big thank you to Emily Gommers who led ‘Mannie’ and was very helpful in getting him spruced up and ready to go.

Next were the goats which were on their absolute best behaviour and looking good thanks to Sophie Dean, Katrina Smart and Sam Clayton who did a really good job and made sure they were well cared for and happy. The classes were big with most having at least 20 goats per class. That didn’t stop us though and we walked away with a first and a fourth place which was hugely exciting and made it all worthwhile.

A huge thank you to Tyson Heaven for being our run about, and a big thank you to all involved in a very successful Adelaide Show. We would like to thank Carole Burden from Graffoe Limousin Stud in Tintinara for giving us our steer, Scott and Rebecca Peters of Two Gum Boer Goat Stud for our goats and Stephen Koehler from Radnor Stud for the Merinos. A special mention goes to Bryce Gillett, Lynton Hall and Coadette Low for all their help and support, also with transporting stock and gear. Thanks also to Ann Ruckert and Ray James for all their help, especially Ann from start to finish. Last but not least we thank Vaughan for taking the extra time to show us how to make ‘Mannie’ look pretty.
Statistics show that road crashes are the number one cause of death for 16-24 year olds throughout Australia, and this session, presented to Year 11 students by Mark Haylock of the MFS, provided them with insights about common causes of these crashes.

Students learned about:
- Good attitudes, smart decision making and safe behaviours
- The dangers of excessive speed, driving under the influence and distractions
- Being a safe passenger
- Being a safe road user
- Trauma suffered by all parties involved in both fatal and non-fatal road crashes

The students were also addressed by Eli Nurm – a road crash survivor - who pleaded with the students to learn by his mistake.

A RAP PAK handout, containing a Parent Young Person Driving Agreement, developed by Dr Bill Griggs from the Major Trauma Centre at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, was given to each student at the conclusion of the session to discuss with their parents.

Congratulations Bradley and Hayley -
Selected to represent the State in U/18 and U/15 Table Tennis Championships

Bradley Vardon Profile

16 years of age, has been playing table tennis for 5 years. He first became interested when he was watching his mother play for the local Murray Bridge Club. He then started playing and was recommended by a senior player to have coaching in Adelaide as he recognised his potential.

He has played in three country carnivals and tournaments in the Barossa Valley where he has won trophies in both. He has won many trophies in his local club and other Adelaide tournaments.

His other sporting achievements are: playing cricket for his school and three years of karate and kickboxing. He now enjoys doing kickboxing weekly along with table tennis. He trains and plays in the local table tennis club four nights a week and trains on Saturdays in Adelaide with a State Coach.

He has been selected in the State U/18 Boys Team to represent South Australia on 24th September to 1st October in Sydney.

Hayley Vardon Profile

13 years of age, has been playing for 3 years. She became interested while watching her mother play. She started out playing for juniors and worked her way up through B grade in the seniors this year. She has played in country carnivals and at the Barossa Valley, where she has brought home trophies.

She was also selected in the U/13 girls’ team last year for the junior state championships in Queensland. This year she has been selected in the State Junior Table Tennis Championships to represent South Australia in Sydney. She plays in the local club in the seniors. Hayley’s other sporting achievements are: playing netball, SAPSASA netball and table tennis for her school. She has also been in Pedal Prix for 2 years. Her other interests are dancing; she does hip hop, contemporary and tap.
Kangaroo Island Adventurous Journey
By Chris Roberts-Yates

Students in the Senior Class of the Regional Disability Unit undertook a 5 day Camp at Kangaroo Island as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award. We had a great time at the Flinders Chase Farm Stay accompanied by Ms Fawn, the Unit’s Therapy Dog. Everyone enjoyed sand boarding down the huge dunes at Little Sahara. We found Remarkable Rocks to be very windy and everyone enjoyed climbing in and out of the rock shapes. The weather at Admiral’s Arch was stormy and the spray from the sea hurting against the rocks covered us in salt. The views were magnificent and we saw the New Zealand fur seals being tossed about on gigantic waves as they struggled with the elements to reach rock crevices where they could rest.

At Kingscote we had the privilege of sitting in the front row whilst John, the ‘Pelican Man’ hurled fish into the air, so that the seagulls and pelicans could impress us with their aerial display. Unfortunately as they rushed to catch the fish, some of us were spattered by fish innards which had fallen from the mouths of the pelicans above us. Afterwards we ate scrumptious pizzas before commencing the penguin tour where we observed the Fairy Penguins climbing up the rocks from the sea and waddling into their burrows.

Everyone enjoyed extended walks on D’Estrees Bay, Henson Bay, Emu Bay and Vivonne Bay where the wind buffeted us along between the showers. The students built three sand sculptures and we saw dolphins playing in the sea close to shore. We visited Clifford’s Honey Farm and sampled the honey ice cream and later saw the sheep being milked at the Island Pure Diary where we sampled haloumi, cheese and yoghurt.

The food on Camp was fantastic and on the last night everyone enjoyed dressing up for the disco. We had an awesome time.
Pedal Prix Round 3

By Isaac Brooks

The Australian HPV Super Series, Round 3, took place in Murray Bridge at Sturt Reserve from 16-18 September. For the final Pedal Prix Super Series event for 2011 Murray Bridge High School entered two teams. These teams included the Junior team’s bike ‘Dirty Deeds’ and the Senior team’s bike ‘Elite’.

Thursday afternoon scrutineering took place on the bikes. As the bikes were in immaculate condition they passed in record time. After months of preparation with excitement building, finally Friday afternoon time trials were held to determine the positioning for the grid position. The teams were pedalling such good lap times the tyres couldn’t keep up to it and a few had to be replaced. We setup tents, which were used for different areas such as sleeping, eating and spectators. Saturday morning final preparations were quickly completed before we formed up on the grid. All team members were excited to get some laps in at this 24 hour event.

While we didn’t win any of the categories entered, we did manage to get all bikes in the top half of the final overall positions. The Murray Bridge High School’s team effort in the 2011 24-hour event can only be regarded as an outstanding success, and was a fitting conclusion to an excellent season of races.

A lot of preparation occurred before this event took place. A diverse group of people contributed to Murray Bridge High School’s Pedal Prix team, assisting them and contributing a lot of their time and efforts before we were able to participate in the event. In the lead up to this major event a dedicated band of students and parents put in many hours including lunch times and after school hours, helping to prepare the two trikes for the race, ensuring that each machine meet all the scrutineering requirements needed to make the start, and to cater for the new surfaced Murray Bridge track.

The community effort over the weekend was outstanding. Everyone present contributed willingly, whether it was the loading of the trailer, setting up our pits and kitchen, organising and cooking meals, preparing and repairing the trikes, assisting with rider changes, track marshalling, or packing everything up on the Sunday after the race had finished.

A big thank you to all the parents and staff involved, you were magnificent and helped greatly to the smooth running of the event! The team would like to specially thank Heather Buddle, Alex Kalloniatis, Sonya Roesler for giving up their spare time and leading us with their knowledge in the weeks leading up to the race. They helped with the mechanics, catering and general admin, which was a great contribution and we are truly grateful.
Literacy is Everyone's Business  By Patti Williamson-Daley

Literacy across the whole curriculum is the number one Strategic Direction in the Murray Bridge High School Site Improvement Plan.

So, what is 'literacy'? Why is it important for all our students to be 'literate'? And what are teachers at Murray Bridge High School doing in every faculty to ensure our students' success?

What is literacy?
There are many definitions of literacy. Many of us think back to our school days and remember times of regular spelling tests, dictation and comprehension questions. Students now need to deal with the literacies of multimedia texts as well as the basics of reading and understanding print texts, and the ever increasing demands of the senior secondary curriculum. So 'literacy' for students today is about understanding the meanings and effects of language in many different contexts, and being able to make use of this knowledge when creating new texts. Being literate gives an individual power in our society.

What are we doing at Murray Bridge High School?
At Murray Bridge High School each faculty has a Literacy Focus teacher whose role is to attend professional development and share the learning from these experiences with their faculty. We meet regularly to discuss and share effective strategies and resources, and to identify the literacy learning needs within our areas.

This year we have comprehensively mapped the literacies required at the senior level of each subject and confirmed the sequence of explicit skills that need to be taught at the junior levels to ensure success in the SACE. Our inspiration has been taken from literacy leaders such as Stephen Graham, John Hattie and John Munro, each of whom has provided us with thought provoking data and evidence of the most effective strategies for all teachers.

There is a commitment towards improvement from staff, with 10 teachers from Murray Bridge High School completing the 10 module (30 hour) 'How Language Works' course, another group attending 5, 1 day workshops with Stephen Graham looking at scaffolding writing in specific genres, and every teacher explicitly including vocabulary and scaffolding strategies within units of work. Our student free days this year have also had a major focus on staff training in literacy teaching strategies.

What next?
It is clear from the results of NAPLAN testing that we all have a great deal of work still to do. Across the whole of South Australia, students are struggling with literacy. We could argue that it is a sign of the times, that more time spent on the computer is to blame, that people don’t care enough – but we have to believe that what we do in our schools and in our homes can make a difference.

Parents all want the best for their children and are vital partners in their child's literacy success. Teachers have high expectations and want their students to be successful. Employers want capable, competent workers with the potential to be productive members of our community.

We need to work together to ensure that our students have the language and literacy skills needed for success across the curriculum and beyond.
Ms Fawn enters the City-Bay Fun Run
By Chris Roberts-Yates

Five students from the Regional Disability Unit walked 12 kilometres with Ms Fawn, our Therapy Dog, Unit staff and the Principal, Mr Phil Fitzsimons. The weather was beautiful and we all completed the walk in a timely fashion. Ms Fawn and the students raised $590 for Guide Dogs SA/NT which will be used in the training of a future Guide Dog puppy. Special thanks to TNR Pastoral Murray Bridge and Mr Mick Hastings S.A.F.E., Adelaide for their contributions and continued Unit Support.

Extended Town Service-School Bus Routes

As the township of Murray Bridge is growing rapidly, Highway Hiker tours have been granted by the South Australian Government to extend their Town Service-School Bus Routes (Eastside, Westside and Northside). These changes are on a 30 day trial to see if they are viable, (if not school bus routes will revert back to existing timetables).

These changes will commence on Monday 17 October 2011 (Term 4).

New timetables are available from Highway Hiker or Bryce Gillett at the High School.

Government House Visit
By Samara Willersdorf, Vice Captain

On Monday 19 September, Jake Cheeseman and I, along with many other student leaders from different schools, had the privilege of being invited to Government House in Adelaide to meet the Governor of South Australia. It was a once in a life time opportunity for both Jake and I, at which we both learnt so much after meeting some amazing people.

We were able to get a photograph with both the Governor and the Minister of Education, thanks to my eagerness to ask.

We also met the Inspector of Police, and had the chance to look around Government House itself. It was breathtaking; everything was so beautifully placed and kept so tidy. It was interesting to find out some facts about bits of furniture within the house including one of the couches that has been in the house since we were first colonised in South Australia.

Definitely something that both Jake and I will never forget.

Congratulations Ayden Hall

We congratulate Ayden, a Year 10 student, for his achievements in local football this year.

Ayden was joint winner of the Bryan Medal, Murraylands Football League Best and Fairest for U/15 years.

Also, not only was he the Captain of the victorious Imperials U/15 team in the League Grand Final, he also won the Kluske medal for Best on Ground in that match.

Well done Ayden and all the best for your football career, we will be watching with great interest.
Did you know??

Education Tax Refund - Update

School Uniforms
The Government is changing the Education Tax Refund (ETR) so that parents/caregivers can claim their kids school uniforms. This means parents/caregivers will be able to claim school-approved uniform items from 1 July 2011.

What do I need to do and when?
From 1 July 2011 start keeping receipts for school uniform items so you can claim them next year.

What school uniform items will I be eligible to claim?
Items need to be distinct and recognised by the school – but are not limited to items bearing a school crest.

For example:
1. A public school has a policy which stated that students should wear yellow shirts, blue hats, grey shorts or skirt and black leather shoes to identify the students as attending the school. However, while wearing these colours is strongly encouraged, it is not compulsory. An eligible individual whose child attends the school buys items which fit within this policy from a store unaffiliated with the school. None of the clothing items contain the name of the school or school crest. As these items, including shoes, are approved or recognised as part of a distinctive school outfit and fall under the policy, they would be eligible expenses. This applies irrespectively of where the clothing was purchased.

2. A school has a dress code where students are required to be dressed in a neat and presentable fashion, but which does not indicate a more specific colour or style that the clothing should take. An eligible individual whose child attends the school buys clothes which they intend to wear to school. These items would not be eligible expenses. While the clothing meets the school’s dress code, they lack the sufficiently distinctive quality of a uniform, and could to identify the child as a student at the school.

For more information and an electronic copy of this fact sheet visit www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au

Student Teachers Say Thank You

We would like to thank all of the staff and students of Murray Bridge High School for making us feel so welcome.

Pru, Coadette and Emma

The last five weeks have flown by and Murray Bridge has been a wonderful school to spend our final professional experience placements. We are especially grateful to our mentor teachers for sharing their time, expertise and classes with us.

Many thanks and best wishes - Coadette Low, Emma Mann and Pru Pole, University of Adelaide.

LAST FEW WEEKS LEFT TO COLLECT YOUR VOUCHERS.
Keep those vouchers coming to help support Murray Bridge High School. There is a box at the Student Services Office (SSO) for you to put your vouchers in. The program finishes on 18 October.

The Woolworths Earn & Learn campaign has now been extended until the 18th October 2011. During the Earn & Learn campaign we’ll give you one Woolworths Earn & Learn point for every $10 you spend in store (excluding the purchase of cigarettes, alcohol and gift cards or purchases made at Caltex Woolworths co-branded fuel outlets).