22 March 2010—Term 1 Week 9

From the Principal
Phil Fitzsimons

Welcome to this edition of the Murray Bridge High School Newsletter. With the warmer weather gradually coming to an end it is timely that the new school jumpers have arrived. Late last year I worked closely with representatives from the SAAC and Governing Council in designing the new school jumper. In returning to the traditional navy blue, red and gold school colours the uniform committee deliberated over a number of options before presenting a series of 3 designs to the student body. The current design of the school jumper was overwhelmingly endorsed. Feedback already received from parents and students suggest the new school jumper is a significant improvement.

Teachers are now in the process of finalising their Term 1 reports, which are designed to provide constructive feedback to parents/caregivers and students. Early in Term 2 there will be a parent/teacher evening where information in the Term 1 reports can be discussed in more detail. More information about the evening will be made available shortly.

On March 22 the School Captains will be conducting a school assembly outlining their goals for this year. This assembly is seen as an opportunity for the School Captains to promote opportunities for school growth and development and reinforce the value of working together. Promoting the value of working together further the Student Leaders have established a weekly meeting time to discuss student issues or concerns with me. This process is beginning to bring positive outcomes as students are now approaching the Student Leaders with their ideas and opinions.

During the recent Student Free Day staff visited the Monarto Zoological Park with a clear focus towards creating opportunities for staff and students to develop a better understanding of international mindedness, cultural diversity and integrated learning. Monarto’s Educational Officer Ian Walton facilitated the day leading staff through a range of engaging activities. The staff are now in the process of initiating programs to tap into the unlimited potential that the Monarto Zoo can offer our students.

Finally, thank you to the parents and caregivers who have made contact with me and have offered their support to be involved in the various school committees and extra curricular programs. This support is greatly appreciated and truly valued. I strongly encourage all parents and caregivers to become involved in moving the school forward and welcome any valuable contribution that you are able to make.
WELCOME TO STUDENTS FROM FUNABASHI MUNICIPAL HIGH SCHOOL—TOKYO

Mr Ishikawa presents the school with a gift from Japan

School Captain, Laura Johns speaks at the Assembly

Yu Iguchi and Ben Hindle

Nao Yokoyama and Annalisa Mertin

Maki Furuhashi

Mr Ishikawa

Makiko Ishikawa, Maki Furuhashi

Madoka Hattori and Laura Johns

Kohei Nabata

Nao Yokoyama

Chie Shiba and Melita Cottrell

Maki Kawada and Kaitlyn Pfeiffer

Sakiko Fukasawa and Jemma Hicks

Miho Chijimatsu and Ash Horsnall

Shiho Mukunoki and Ashleigh Buttfield

Katelin Kneebone and Maki Furuhashi
The Japanese students enjoyed a day making the traditional Aussie Meat Pie.

Top: cutting the pastry.
Middle: preparing meat and filling pastry shells.
Right: Getting some help from the teacher.
Bottom: the finished product.
WRITING WORKSHOPS WITH PETER MCFARLANE

On 17 March, Murray Bridge High School continued its long association with the author Peter McFarlane when he again visited to conduct three workshops with the Year 12 English Communications students. Peter is the author of twenty seven books for adolescents including More than a Game and Lovebirds.

Peter’s knowledge and enthusiasm were very motivating and the students enjoyed creating characters, exploring different narrative points of view, speedwriting, sharing their own writing and learning how to avoid clichéd characters and stories during the three eighty minute sessions that were run on the day. They will use the techniques they learned to create their own narrative for the Text Production section of their Communications course.

See below some comments from students who attended the workshops.

I learned what choices to make before starting a story...Great workshop.
Ben

Mr McFarlane explained the process of writing in such a way that made it enjoyable. This was done using his enthusiastic personality...an incredibly useful learning experience.
Jessica

It was interesting ... I learned that it is good to break the stereotype.
Leo

The speedwriting really got me thinking...
Raslan

I found the workshop with Peter McFarlane to be very beneficial... through the process of creating a character through actions, which was helpful as I usually ‘tell’ the story.
Chelsea

Peter was able to show the students ways to improve their writing and reinforce the fact that they are already skilled and able authors. He remained for some time after his last workshop to speak about being an author and to explain the relationship between authors and their editors to several students who are interested in this aspect of the writing process for their future career choices. We would like to thank Peter for his commitment, energy and enthusiasm, and look forward to working with him again next year.
REGIONAL DISABILITY UNIT NEWS

FROM BIRTHING KITS TO CLIPSAL 500
Dr Christine Roberts-Yates

This term the students in the Regional Disability Unit extended their global partnership to Chad in Africa. They learned that 120 million women give birth each year and 86% deliver in developing countries. 60 million of these women have some assistance from a Traditional Birth Attendant or no assistance at all. Half a million women die annually from infection, tetanus and haemorrhaging. For every woman who dies in childbirth, another 15 million women incur injuries and infections, many of which are often painful, disabling, embarrassing and lifelong.

In response the students decided to support Birthing Kit Foundation Australia (Zonta International) to save lives and reduce the suffering of women in underdeveloped countries by assisting with the provision of a clean birth. The students worked for 4 days in sterile conditions and assembled 1000 Birthing Kits which contained a plastic sheet, a piece of soap, a pair of latex gloves, 3 cords to tie the umbilical cord, 1 scalpel blade and 5 gauze squares placed in a small plastic press seal bag. These Kits were forwarded to Chad in Africa.

CLIPSAL 500

It was with great excitement that the Sustainability Manager of the V8 Supercars, Ms Camilla Milburn, visited the Unit last week to discuss safe driving with the students. She invited students to try on Mark Skaife’s racing helmet valued at $10000 and his racing suit valued at $3000. She explained that the racing drivers needed to wear a fireproof top, bottom and socks which provide 2 minutes protection form a fire as well as a harness, gloves and fireproof shoes. Matt Hattam volunteered and donned a fireproof top belonging to Jamie Whincup as well as a top and socks belonging to Craig Lowndes.

Finally, Matt squeezed into the racing suit and helmet belonging to Mark Skaife and proudly posed for a photograph. Camilla provided two 4 day tickets to the circuit and paddock of the Clipsal 500 and three students from the Unit attended on different days. A great time was enjoyed by everyone.

SCHOOL LEADERS MEET WITH REGIONAL DIRECTOR

During a recent visit to our school Regional Director, Murray and Mallee, Peter Chislett, talked with the School Leaders about their goals and projects they have planned for 2010.

L-R: Phil Fitzsimons (Principal), Peter Chislett (Regional Director), Laura Johns, Jarred Lloyd, Renay Persello, Annalisa Mertin and Christine Xiao.
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY CELEBRATION

On March 4, 9 ESL middle school girls and Ms Chen went to the Youth Group at Headspace to participate in the celebration of International Women’s Day. Many activities, such as singing, dancing and guest speeches, were organised for the event. Our girls not only enjoyed this exciting celebration but also successfully made a great impression on the guests and the organiser. They represented how outstanding the Murray Bridge High School students are by showing their respect, excellence and team spirit. One of our Sudanese girls, Kech Thuch, gave a speech about how her life has been changed since she moved to Australia. Although it was short, the speech had everyone touched. She became one of the stars on that day!

Here is the summary of what the girls had to say about this event:

“Many women gave speeches about the experiences in their life. I learnt about why they came to Australia and how they are living. It was an enjoyable day with all of my classmates.” Jenesa Gazmere 10V

“I enjoyed the singing. It was beautiful. One of my friends talked about her country and the new life.”
Anisha Pokharel 9B

“We watched a PPT presentation about the life of women around the world. I learned that there are still many women living in very poor, unfair and even dangerous situations.”
Ru Li 8W

PEDAL PRIX—HPV SERIES  By Isaac Brooks

As we start to organise for the Pedal Prix Series this year, we need people to volunteer to act as Marshals for upcoming events. Some dates to put on the calendar for this year’s series events are 29 and 30 May, 24 and 25 July in Adelaide, then the big event in Murray Bridge from 17 to 19 September.

To get “qualified” as a Marshal just go to: http://www.pedalprix.com.au/index.php?id=269, select the Marshal Training link, and follow the instructions as you read through the document and fill it out. Team members need to be sure that, barring accident or illness, you will be available to compete at Adelaide and Murray Bridge. Check that you will be free that weekend.

Fitness training will be setup soon to take place once a week, every week from now until the school holidays then start again after the holidays. Team members need to look on the Pedal Prix Door and listen to morning notices for any other day to day information. See Isaac Brooks the new Pedal Prix teacher for any more information.