29 March 2010—Term 1, Week 10

FROM THE PRINCIPAL
Phil Fitzsimons

Student Free Day – Monarto Zoo

Staff visited the Monarto Zoological Park during the recent student free day. The purpose of the day was to develop a closer working relationship with the zoo and create initiatives for our students thus expanding their understanding of 3 key themes – International Mindedness, Cultural Diversity and Integrated Learning.

The day was facilitated by 2 Education Officers based at the park, one of whom was Ian Walton a former school counsellor here at Murray Bridge High. Staff undertook a range of activities and explored the zoo in some detail. It is envisaged that programs will be created by the staff and that our students will have the opportunity to utilise to enormous learning opportunities that the zoo provides.

Administration, Year Level Leaders and Learning Area Coordinators worked separately from the teaching staff at Monarto as part of an opportunity to sit together as a leadership group and plan for the number of significant challenges confronting the school within the next 12 months. These challenges include the implementation of Stage 2 in 2011 as part of the new SACE, processes to standardise assessment in Stage 1 in 2010, the implementation of the National Curriculum in 2011, preparing for the Low Socioeconomic School Review in Term 4, 2010 and the school’s Validation Site Visit in 2011 with Regional Director Peter Chislett.

Site Improvement Plan

During the student free day members of the Admin team in collaboration with the Year Level Leaders met to review the Site Improvement Plan. This is quite an exhaustive process but a critical one in moving the school forward.

The following information is taken directly from the Department’s website.

The purpose of the Site Improvement Plan is to identify key improvements to the learning achievements and well being of students at Murray Bridge High School, toward which educators and the site community work. The Principal and Governing Council are responsible for the Site Improvement Plan. In addition to relevant state wide priorities and targets, the Site Improvement Plan includes other priorities and targets for learning improvement at Murray Bridge High. The Principal is accountable to the Regional Director for delivering on improvements specified in the Site Improvement Plan. The Governing Council reports to the Murray Bridge community about the outcomes of the school’s students.

The Site Improvement Plan is still a work in progress. Given the targeted approach towards updating the Site Improvement Plan this will take some time, however it is envisaged that the Site Improvement Plan can be presented formally at the next Governing Council meeting.

National Curriculum

The following excerpt is taken directly from the Australian Curriculum website. www.australiancurriculum.edu.au

In 2008 all Australian governments agreed that a quality education for all young Australians is critical to maintaining Australia's productivity and quality of life. They agreed that a national curriculum would play a key role in delivering quality education and committed to the development of a K–12 national curriculum, initially in the areas of English, Mathematics, Science and History.

Subsequently, all Australian education ministers committed to a set of educational goals and actions to better prepare young people for their participation in a changing and increasingly globalised world. One of these actions was the development and implementation of a world class national curriculum. This commitment by ministers is captured in the Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians.

It is widely accepted that Australia should have one curriculum for school students, rather than the eight different arrangements that exist at the moment. The commitment to develop an Australian Curriculum means that:

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1. The individual and combined efforts of states and territories can focus on how students' learning can be improved to achieve the national goals, regardless of individual circumstances or school location.
2. Greater attention can be devoted to equipping young Australians with those skills, knowledge and capabilities necessary to enable them to effectively engage with and prosper in society, compete in a globalised world and thrive in the information-rich workplaces of the future.
3. High-quality resources can be developed more efficiently and made available around the country.
4. There will be greater consistency for the country's increasingly mobile student and teacher population.

What young people should be taught and the quality of learning that is expected of them will be made clear in the Australian Curriculum. At the same time, it will provide flexibility for teachers and schools to build on student learning and interest.

Whilst the Australian Curriculum will outline the scope of what is to be learned, it will be teachers in classrooms who will make decisions about how best to organise learning, the contexts for learning and the depth of learning that will be pursued for each child in their class.

Further information about the National Curriculum can be found at [www.acara.edu.au](http://www.acara.edu.au). Feedback is currently being sought regarding the draft curriculum in the areas of English, Mathematics, Science and History. I am encouraging all interested school stakeholders to view the website and peruse the draft curriculum and provide your thoughts.

As we begin to wind things up for term 1 and head into the Easter break it is important to reflect on the achievements accomplished thus far. While the school has had its fair share of ups and downs this term there is a clear focus that we are all working towards a brighter future. I have been encouraged by the support of the wider school community in my role as Principal and look forward to continue striving towards making Murray Bridge High School a better school. Safe journeys and a pleasant Easter break.

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**GOVERNING COUNCIL MEMBERS 2010**

We welcome all new members to our Governing Council for 2010. See full list of members below.

- Phil Nutt—Chairperson
- Heather Buddle—Treasurer
- Heather Hindle—Secretary
- Lynne Graham—Affiliated Community rep.
- Jacob Dawson—Community rep.
- Jeff McKeown—Community rep.
- Trish Margetts—Parent rep.
- Noel Kneebone—Parent rep.
- Wilma O’Sullivan—Parent rep.
- Sue Horsnell—Parent rep.
- Di Tsoulosis—Parent rep.
- Julie McDiarmid—Parent rep.
- Andrew Pfeiffer—Parent rep.
- Peter & Karen Cottrell—Parent reps.
- Phil Fitzsimons—Principal
- Lynton Hall—Deputy Principal
- Max Fitton—Assistant Principal, Senior School
- Sean Rankin—Assistant Principal, Middle School
- Steve Ide—Assistant Principal, Alternative Education

**Staff Reps:**
- Kathy Jennings
- Kevin Grunert
- Scott Bradley

**Student Reps:**
- Jarred Lloyd
- Laura Johns
- Renay Persello
- Annalisa Mertin
- Christine Xiao

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Janelle Traeger who retires from her position as Chairperson on Parents and Friends Association is thanked by Principal Phil Fitzsimons for her many years of service to the school community.

Governing Council Members

**Top:** Robert and Keith Simmons

**Middle:** Heather Hindle, Sally Kluske, Noel Kneebone, Wilma O’Sullivan

**Front:** Phil Nutt, Lynne Graham, Jacob Dawson, Di Tsoulosis
Ten students and two staff members from Funabashi High School arrived at Murray Bridge High School for a 12 day flying visit on Saturday, 13 March. The main aim of the visit was for the students to improve their English but they also were able to enjoy some sightseeing while they were here.

As the students and staff were hosted by members of the Murray Bridge High School community they were treated to some very special outings and were able to forge some very firm friendships.

During the school week the students spent most mornings in English lessons then in the afternoon they were given the opportunity to participate in a Home Economics lesson, Art lesson and a Phys. Ed. lesson. The tourism students organised a trip around Murray Bridge including a visit to a dairy farm.

The Japanese students also visited some spectacular tourist spots on Kangaroo Island. They were able to slide down the sandhills at Little Sahara, to meet the birds at Raptors Domain, they visited Seal Bay, Clifford’s Honey Farm and the Flinders Chase National Park and saw the penguins and the pelican feeding all in 2 days.

A visit to Tailem Bend Primary School gave the Japanese students the opportunity to visit classes and to teach a class of Reception/Year One students some Japanese, how to eat with chopsticks and how to do origami.

On behalf of Phil Fitzsimons, our Principal, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who were involved in this very successful visit. The host families, the students and staff of Murray Bridge High School and Tailem Bend Primary School all played a key role in welcoming and assisting the Japanese students to improve their English. To all we say a very special thank you.
YOUTH ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL  By Jasmin Milton

On March 17 some members of the Youth Environment Committee from Murray Bridge High School went to Goodwood in Adelaide to attend the Youth Environment Council Sustainability Forum. There were approximately 15 schools that participated on the day. After the welcome from Kelly Mackenzie, everybody went outside where the students did an activity that consisted of swapping tickets that were given to them on arrival, with another student who they had never spoken to before, introduce themselves and answer a question. This exercise was followed by Sophie Rodgers, the special guest, who spoke about the “Power of Youth Voice”.

After this was “Wipe out Waste”, with Jo Hendrikx, during which we learnt about recycling, compost and waste. We then had a morning break, giving students the opportunity to refresh and sign up for which workshops they wanted to participate in. When the morning break had come to an end, students and teachers went off to the workshops they had signed up for.

There were two sessions that went for half an hour each, and there were eight workshop options. The workshops students from Murray Bridge High attended were “How to get your school involved”, “How to get money for your projects”, and “Politics”. Mr. Stewart, the organiser of MBHS Youth Environment Committee, went to the workshops “Connecting the Head, Heart and Hands” and “Telling your story so people listen”.

From these workshops the members of the Youth Environment Committee of our school learnt a great deal about what MBHS can do to have a more sustainable environment.

After lunch was an inspirational speaker, Wes Parker, who talked about youth in action. Shortly after this students and teachers got into their school groups to discuss their Environmental Action Plan. At 1:45 students from their school had the opportunity to share what their school environmental plan was and what they were considering for the future. MBHS is looking at a kitchen garden and worm farm, a ‘Green Day’, a recycling project, quadrangle beautification project and some money-raising projects as well. Each school received a certificate of participation.

After this Jo Hendrikx showed everyone at the forum the amounts of compost, recycling and waste everyone had put into the bins. Compost had the most, followed by recycling and lastly waste. After this it was time to go so Kelly Mackenzie closed, thanking everyone for making the forum possible. The day was enjoyable and the next Youth Environment Council (YEC) forum is on Monday 13 September, 2010.

If you want more information on how to “wipe out waste”, visit www.wow.sa.gov.au.

If you are interested in helping the school environment or have ideas on how to improve the school, come along to a Youth Environment Committee meeting, held on Mondays at lunchtime in A6, or speak to Mr. Stewart.
**SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS**

**Student Action and Advisory committee**
The student council has been very active this term. They have formed two sub-committees:
- One to organise the year 12 formal,
- The other to work on the year book.

At present they are working on a proposal to find positive ways to improve the litter problem in the school.

**Year 10**
- Year 10 IB personal projects are on the way. All year 10 students will be involved with the personal project. Staff mentors have been identified for each student.
- Students are currently studying two Stage 1 semester subjects, the Personal Learning Plan (PLP) and work studies. These subjects have been integrated into a yearlong course. The PLP will be moderated in November and resulted in December.

**Year 11**
- Students who didn’t complete their PLP last year are now in the process of completing it this semester. These students have been put in common Home Groups and are attending Home Group together in the Study Area where they are working on their PLPs under the watchful eye of 4 Home Group teachers and Mrs Hicks. Moderation for these will occur during week 2 in term 2.
- Peer Support students have been active getting to know the students in their nominated Year 8 Home Groups. They are now organising activities for the students on the Year 8 Monarto Zoo Camp.
- Last Friday staff representing English, Maths and PLP attended a Clarifying Workshop. The purpose of the workshop was for staff to receive feedback regarding how appropriate their early assessment tasks and their marking were against the performance standards. They will now report back to their faculties so they are prepared for the moderation process later in the Semester.

**Year 12**
- An Acquaintance night for students and parents was held earlier in the term. The purpose of the night was:
  - to communicate expectations the school has for Year 12 students,
  - give important information about the SACE board assessment processes,
  - to meet class and subject teachers.

The evening was very successful even though attendance was a little disappointing.

Next year we will investigate an alternative way of advertising the evening and investigate a similar evening for Year 11 students.
- Stage 2 Dance and Drama student attended workshops in Adelaide where they were given information of the SACE expectations of the courses, and observed demonstration performances.

**Sport**
The Open Boy’s Cricket Team has competed in two games in a Knockout competition. They defeated Unity College in their first game (four years in a row), but were defeated by Strathalbyn in the second game.

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**MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS**

**Pedal Prix**
The Pedal Prix group, consisting of 3 teams, headed up by Mr Isaac Brooks, is currently training hard in preparation for the first official event in May at Victoria Park Racecourse, Adelaide. Students are participating in out of school training at Sturt Reserve to get as much ‘real life’ training as possible. Our Junior teams are very strong this year, with many of our team members having primary school pedal prix experience.

**Middle School Excellence Brunch**
The Middle School leadership team are hosting the inaugural Middle School excellence pancake brunch on the last day of term, Thursday 1 April. This event is by invitation only, open to those students who have shown excellent behaviour and learning throughout the term. This will give these students an opportunity to mingle with like minded students and develop some long term goals for the school community. Our hope is to make this a regular event each term.

**Mile End Athletics**
On Friday 26 March twelve Year 8 and five Year 9 students represented the school as part of a fifty two person athletics team. In 2009 a Year 9 student, Kim Buchanan was lucky enough to pick up an athletics scholarship for discus and we are hoping another Middle School student will replicate her efforts in their chosen event. A up to date report of results will be in the next Newsletter.

**National/Australian Curriculum and the International Baccalaureate**
The IB will continue to seek recognition as an ‘alternative’ to the Australian Curriculum. The criteria for recognition have been accepted. This process will commence when the curriculum documents are finalised later this year. The IB was informed that ACARA will not make this a ‘difficult process’ for the IB and its schools. There is confidence in the quality of the IB Programmes. It will be important to use the term ‘alternative’ not ‘equivalent to’ (and certainly not ‘better than’) in all discussion about IB Programmes. The IB will ‘map’ its programmes against the Australian Curriculum and also show how IB meets general capabilities and the National Goals for Young Australians.

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**SCHOOL UNIFORM**

The new school uniform looks really smart. The student body have adopted them with a high percentage wearing the tops. The new jumpers are now also available.

Unfortunately, a number of students are not complying to other elements of the school wear policy. Black pants and no school jumpers are NOT school wear.

The consequence for not wearing school wear are:
- A reminder letter on the 1st 2 occasions and an After School Detention for the 3rd occasion. If the After School Detention is not completed then a 2 day suspension results.

We understand that there may be times when circumstances prevent the wearing of appropriate school wear. Loan items are available. If there are any issues please contact the school. We want to work cooperatively to present a positive and safe environment for our students as well as entrenching a sense of pride in Murray Bridge High School.
Dear Parents/Guardians,

During school holidays schools and the Police see an increase in property damage to local schools. As the school holiday approaches, Police will increase patrols on school premises, however, we are seeking co-operation from yourselves and the community to prevent crimes occurring in these areas.

The school holiday period begins on 1st of April 2010 until the return of school on 19th of April 2010.

If you see anything suspicious or become aware of any criminal activity taking place on any school premises then please call the police immediately on 131444, you can make this call anonymously should you wish to do so.

Please provide as much information to the police as possible. Some examples of these are outlined below:

- What the incident is that you are observing.
- Any description of person/s, how many of them, approximate age, sex, colour, or height.
- What clothing they are wearing.
- If you heard names being used.
- If they have left, which direction have they gone.
- Any other information which maybe relevant.

We thank you for your assistance in this matter. We believe that with the local community working together we can make the school and surrounding area a safer place for all. Remember, the school is part of your community

We wish you all a Happy Easter.

From the Murray Mallee Crime Prevention Section.
Constable Martin Nunn and Senior Constable Patina Pearson