**From the Principal**

**BYOD**

The Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) policy is now in full swing. Following a very well attended parent evening last Wednesday (over 350 in attendance) students are now in the position to bring their device to school once they have completed the following steps:

Parents, who did not attend the information evening, are encouraged to visit the school’s website [www.murraybridgehs.sa.edu.au](http://www.murraybridgehs.sa.edu.au) and type BYOD in the search function. On the BYOD page a series of fact sheets, the BYOD policy in full, as well as the software requirements can be found. The software, relevant to the particular device that will be brought to school, is on this page and needs to be downloaded onto the device before the device is brought to school.

Students will need to undertake the Digital Licence Test with a 100% pass requirement before the licence can be obtained. Digital Technology Coordinator Stacy Frogley will distribute the digital licences to students once they have successfully completed the Digital Licence Test.

Students can bring their device to the Resource Centre at lunch times where the IT staff will install Microsoft Office (if required) and assist in connecting the device to the school’s network.

The BYOD policy heralds a new era in the history of Murray Bridge High School and will present a new approach for students and teachers in the teaching and learning cycle. Parents are encouraged to provide feedback on this policy to me at phil.fitzsimons652@schools.sa.edu.au

**Student Enrolment Numbers**

On Monday, 3rd February the school undertook its student census as mandated by DECD. These figures determine the school’s funding for 2014. Student enrolment numbers are continuing to grow, particularly in the Independent Learning Centre.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>2045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 10</td>
<td>195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 11</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 12</td>
<td>1132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 13</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Class</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special School</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Students</td>
<td>909.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The number of students enrolled in the Independent Learning Centre, Learning Together program or other external programs total a number of 176 students.

**TERM 1, Week 4 – 17 February 2014**

**Student Free Days**

- **Mar 11:** Staff T&D
- **May 19:** Staff T&D
- **Jun 10:** Australian Curriculum
- **Aug 28:** Australian Curriculum

**SCHOOL CLOSURE**

- **Fri, 5 Sep:** Show Day

**TERM 1**

**February**

- Wed Fri, 19-21: Year 12 Aquatics
- Wed, 18: PHOTO CATCH UP DAY
  - Year 8 Monarto day trips
  - Parents & Friends – 6pm
  - Governing Council – 7pm
- Wed, 26: Year 8 Immunisations

**March**

- Mon 10 Mar: ADELAIDE CUP HOLIDAY
- Tue 11 Mar: STUDENT FREE DAY
- Tue 18 Mar: Finance Committee – 5.30pm
- Mon 24 Mar: Harmony Day
- Tue 25 Mar: Parents & Friends AGM – 6pm
  - Governing Council AGM – 7pm
  - Year 8 Immunisations
- Wed, 26: Year 8 Immunisations

**April**

- Wed 9 Apr: Youth Opportunities Graduation
- Fri 11 Apr: Last day Term 1 – 2pm dismissal

**STUDENT FREE DAYS – 2014**

- Tue, 11 Mar: Staff T&D
- Mon, 19 May: Staff T&D
- Tue, 10 Jun: Australian Curriculum
- Fri, 28 Nov: Australian Curriculum

Murray Bridge High School would like to acknowledge the recent passing of Harold McLaren, a past student and long time supporter of the school, and Greg Lokan, also a past student and a regular relief teacher over the last 15 years.
From the Principal cont....

Student Attendance

The year has got off to a very good start. I have been extremely pleased with the high quality teaching and learning taking place across the entire school. I have taken the opportunity to visit a number of classrooms over the last 3 weeks and it is pleasing to see the positive attitude and witness the great vibe that exists across the school. Obviously I look forward to this continuing.

Having outlined the positive start to the school year there is still the issue of student lateness and attendance to school. While there have been some legitimate reasons for students being late, it concerns me that students, particularly in Year 9 are already missing an unacceptable amount of time from school.

Over the last 3 years the school has gone to great expense to implement a student attendance program called DAYMAP as well as employing an Attendance Officer in Deb Nulty. The school has also introduced the SMS Alert system, advising parents of their student’s non-attendance at school.

This year the school has introduced a program called Daymap Connect, which allows parents to view their student’s attendance from home. To access this program parents will require a valid email address registered with the school as well their student’s ID number. The ID number is on the top of their timetable located in their student diary. Full instructions regarding Daymap Connect can be found on the school’s website under Facilities/Information Technology.

The school is required by law to ensure all students attend school on time and are at school every day unless legitimate reasons such as illness or medical appointments prevent them from coming to school.

Just like in the world of work, school is about being on time and ready to get on with the job at hand - in the current context, the job of learning. I am very grateful to see that the large majority of parents are doing the right thing by the school and by their child by encouraging and supporting their student to develop good habits of being punctual. I trust this will continue throughout the entire span of the student’s education, as these good habits will be rewarded once they enter the workforce.

I would like to remind all parents, particularly those new to Murray Bridge High School that the school has a dedicated attendance phone number where all student absences can be reported. The number is 8531 2949.

One of our school values is Working Together. If there are issues that parents have in getting their student to school, the school is happy to provide support. School Counsellors Stuart Kenny and Liz Hodge are both experienced Counsellors and can offer a range of strategies to assist families to work through these potentially tough issues. In addition, Year Level Coordinators – (Year 8) Helen Partridge, (Year 9) Toni Sands, (Year 10) Doug Gray, Assistant Principal Barb Quast, who oversees Year 11 and 12 and your child’s Pastoral Care teacher; can be approached for assistance.

Murray Bridge High School strives to engage all of its students in productive learning. I ask that parents play their role in ensuring their student is at school on time thus providing the best opportunity for their student to succeed.

Chinese New Year 2014 Celebration

The Chinese zodiac for this year is the horse; in Chinese it is called ‘ma’. If you were born in the year of the horse it basically means happy times. Some of the other years when it has been the year of the horse are 1967, 1979, 1991, and 2003. In our school most of the Chinese classes had a New Year celebration. We all had a really good time. Luke Medlow

On Wednesday Week 2 Miss Zhang’s Year 9 Chinese class celebrated Chinese New Year with some Chinese students. It was fun. Because we are in 2014 this year according to the Zodiac cycle is the year of the horse. Emily Linn

Chinese students and Australian students came together to celebrate the Chinese New Year. Because we are now in 2014, we are now under the year of the horse, and we have just left the year of the snake. Meaning people born under this zodiac sign have great personalities. Our classes had a great time celebrating the New Year in Chinese tradition. A local journalist came and took photos of us to enter into the local Murray Valley Standard. Karl George

In week 2 we had a Chinese New Year’s celebration at the school. Myself and four other Year 9’s from the Chinese class attended. There was lots of food; so much that we couldn’t finish it all. There was also a local journalist from the Murray Valley Standard doing an article on it to put in the next day’s paper. We all had a really good time. Happy year of the Horse! Jarod Pica
Year 8 Coordinator Helen Partridge

My name is Helen Partridge and I am the Year 8 Coordinator at Murray Bridge High School as well as a Health and Physical Education Teacher. I would like to welcome all of the new Year 8 students to Murray Bridge High School. Beginning high school can be very daunting but also an exciting time for many of the Year 8 students. Our aim is to provide the students with a supportive and positive learning environment where they can all be successful.

My role as Year 8 Coordinator is to support the students, parents/caregivers, Pastoral Care teachers and subject teachers to ensure the students have a smooth transition into their high school life. My aim is to allow open lines of communication between everyone to ensure students receive the best education possible in a valued and inclusive learning environment where excellence, respect and working together are highly valued.

It has been exciting to have met many of the Year 8 students during Pastoral Care on the first day of school. The students were eager to learn about high school life and the Pastoral Care teachers worked hard to assist the students in feeling comfortable in new surroundings. It is essential for parents and caregivers to take the time to meet or have a conversation with your child’s/children’s pastoral Care Teacher. This year we have a variety of Pastoral Care Teachers working with our Year 8 students who bring a wealth of knowledge, experience and passion to the classroom.

It was pleasing to see most of our Year 8 students dressed in full school uniform. This is something that needs to be maintained for the whole year and I trust all students will adhere to our policy. A major highlight for me already this year was seeing all of the Year 8 students changed into their Physical Education practical tops. To see the four different colours was fantastic and demonstrated the student pride they already have in their school. It is essential that all students are changed into practical clothing and this includes: Navy blue sport shorts or tracksuit pants, MBHS House t-shirt or a t-shirt in the student’s house colour and appropriate footwear, preferably sneakers.

This year we look forward to many exciting activities for all Year 8 students to be involved within. Over the coming weeks, the students will attend a Bullying and Harassment seminar run by our Student Counsellor Stuart Kenny. They will have the opportunity to ask questions as well as gain a clearer understanding on Cyber Safety. They will also have the opportunity to attend Monarto Zoo with their Pastoral Care Class and Peer Supporters to be involved in a Team Building Day as well as a tour of the zoo.

I am thoroughly looking forward to working with all of the Year 8 students this year and ask them to come and see me if they have any problems or concerns. Please feel free to contact me at the school via phone or email.

Included are some photos of the new Year 8 students participating in tunnel ball and at the completion of the 800m run.
Congratulations Mahalia Radburn
- First Book Published

Power of Seven Amok Torrez, written by Year 11 student Mahalia Radburn, is a fantastical new science fiction novel published on 24 January this year by the self-publishing company Xlibris.

This first instalment of a seven book series has spent several years in the making, and is finally available for purchasing from www.xlibris.com or Ebay, Amazon and Kindle. The school library is hopeful to get the book on its shelves sometime soon and I am eager to hear responses from readers. This is merely the beginning of the seven book series, but if you have any questions feel free to approach me at any time.

Sports Day by Alyce Robertson

The Murray Bridge High School Sports Day will take place on Friday 7th March (Week 6) in 2014. Students this year will participate in traditional track and field events. Successful competitors in each age group will be invited to compete in the SSSSA Interschool Athletics Competition at Mile End at the end of the term.

Students are asked to attend the day dressed in their PE uniform, representing their house colour. We would love to see some school records being challenged this year and invite parents, guardians and community members to show their support to the students by being attending on the day.

Wanted

Second hand push bikes.

The MSG class will do them up as a bike maintenance program.

Please contact Siobhan, Stormy or Karl at the school on (08) 85 321788

Opportunity for students to gain SACE Stage 2 points

We would like to promote an upcoming AUSTSWIM Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety course being held in Murray Bridge. Students need to be over 16 and have good swimming skills to participate. AUSTSWIM courses are a great way for secondary school students to gain 10 Stage 2 SACE points, while giving them skills that are recognised nationally and internationally.

DIVE INTO A NEW CAREER
Become a Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety

AUSTSWIM Qualified Teachers are in high demand and there are genuine work opportunities that are both enjoyable and rewarding.

Murray Bridge Olympic Pool
March 8th & 9th 2014

1300 885 666
sa@austswim.com.au
www.austswim.com.au
Year 8 Immunisations – Term 1 2014
By Liz Hodge and Stuart Kenny, Student Counsellors

Your child would have received an Immunisation Information Pack containing an envelope to put immunisation records in, a letter of information and a return form/consent card which needs to be returned to school (through your child’s Pastoral Care teacher) no later than Tuesday the 18th of February (week 4, term 1).

All students will receive a Boostrix vaccination, plus Varicella (Chicken Pox). All female students will also receive the first of three HPV (Human Papillomavirus), ‘Gardasil’ injections (the second and third will be administered later in the year).

The District Nurses will be visiting Murray Bridge High School on Wednesday, 26th March (Week 9, Term 1) to administer the first round of free vaccinations to Year 8 students.

Round 2 will be held on Thursday, 29th May (Week 5, Term 2).

Round 3 will be held on Wednesday, 29th October (Week 3, Term 4).

Students must have returned the appropriate consent card to receive the vaccinations. If you do not wish for your child to receive the vaccination(s), you must still return the consent card but you must indicate that you do not wish for your child to be vaccinated.

If your child has not yet received the Immunisation Information Pack you need to get in touch with your child’s Pastoral Care Teacher or Stuart Kenny at the school on 8532 1788.

If your child misses this first round of vaccinations you are able to catch up through your local GP or you could visit the Murray Bridge Library on the second Wednesday of the month from 2pm – 4pm.

Year 9 Immunisations – Term 1 2014

Your child would have received an Immunisation Information Pack containing an envelope to put immunisation records in, a letter of information and a return form/consent card which needs to be returned to school (through your child’s Pastoral Care teacher) no later than Tuesday the 18th of February (Week 4, Term 1).

All students will receive a Boostrix vaccination. All male students will also receive the first of three HPV (Human Papillomavirus), ‘Gardasil’ injections (the second and third will be administered later in the year).

The District Nurses will be visiting Murray Bridge High School on Wednesday, 30th April (Week 1, Term 2) to administer the first round of free vaccinations to Year 9 students (boys only).

Round 2 will be held on Thursday, 25th June (Week 9, Term 2) (boys & girls).

Round 3 will be held on Wednesday, 19th November (Week 6, Term 4) (boys only).

Students must have returned the appropriate consent card to receive the vaccinations. If you do not wish for your child to receive the vaccination(s), you must still return the consent card but you must indicate that you do not wish for your child to be vaccinated.

If your child has not yet received the Immunisation Information Pack you need to get in touch with your child’s Pastoral Care Teacher or Stuart Kenny at the school on 8532 1788.

If your child misses this first round of vaccinations you are able to catch up through your local GP or you could visit the Murray Bridge Library on the second Wednesday of the month from 2pm – 4pm.

Harassment Intervention Seminar
By Stuart Kenny, Student Counsellor

In accordance with the Safe Schools Framework - Murray Bridge High School Student Counsellors and Pastoral Care teachers will be facilitating the “Harassment Intervention Seminar” outlining the schools expectations of students regarding its “Harassment Policy” and what students can do if they encounter any form of bullying or harassment at school. The seminar will delivered to all students across each year level so every student has clear understanding of the school’s stance on this issue.

If you would like to view Murray Bridge High School’s “Harassment Policy” please access the school’s website and follow the instructions detailed below. You can also access a bullying and harassment information brochure that the school has produced through the schools’ website, or hard copies can be obtained from the Front Office, Student Services Office or the Counselling Centre.

Also available, are a series of brochures related to being ‘cyber-smart’. They include titles such as; mobile phone safety, say no to cyber-bullying, socialising on the internet, sexting, and dealing with offensive content. We encourage you to obtain these pamphlets and discuss matters relating to this topic with your child.

To access the school’s Harassment Policy or Information Brochure from the school’s website go to; www.murraybridgehs.sa.edu.au General Information/Student Counsellors/Harassment Policy or Bullying & Harassment Brochure

Friday March 21 is a National Day against Bullying – Bullying No Way. For more information regarding this day go to www.bullyingnoway.com.au

Murray Bridge High School is encouraging students to wear something orange (for a gold coin donation) on this day to promote awareness and show that they don’t want any form of bullying or harassment to occur in the school. Orange “Say NO to bullying” wrist bands will also be on sale to the students for $1.

Murray Bridge is striving to be free from bullying and harassment.
Lower Murray Trade Training Centre
by Greg Fulwood

Doorways To Construction
D2C has started this week with first and second year trainees eager to get to working hands-on in their new Construction Workshop area. We have disposed of the old spray booth from Polymer days and opened the workshop up which enables D2C trainees to work inside in all weather conditions.

Electro-technology
A live wire bunch if I ever saw one – first and second year trainees started last week. These young people are looking forward to some interesting projects throughout the year with a couple of new ideas to be introduced as the year progresses.

Rural Opps. – Animal Care & Husbandry
A large group of trainees have started this most interesting course which will give them an insight into a very large cross section of careers and experiences available in their chosen field. This course is being conducted by Regional Skills Training.

Automotive
Our registered Training Organisation VTECH is again providing the training for our budding Automotive Technicians. First year trainees have started at the TTC enjoying theory and some practical with the second year group being on placement and gaining valuable experience in a real working environment.

Childrens Services
A large group of trainees has completed their second week in the classroom at the TTC and will soon begin placement at various Child Care facilities in and around Murray Bridge. This course is being conducted by Australian Child Care Career Options.

We have a number of courses being run at locations outside of our facility this year with Children’s Services, Metal Fabrication and Aged care attending TAFESA at Murray Bridge. Beauty is being delivered at TAFESA City Campus.

Pedal Prix 2014
by Gilbert Tuazon
Pedal Prix Coordinator and Team Manager

Welcome to Murray Bridge High School Pedal Prix Team 2014!

This year we plan to be a bigger, stronger, fitter and faster team than ever before. We are fortunate to have a new batch of Year 8’s in 2014 whom have valuable Pedal Prix experience from their respective primary school team involvement.

Once again this year we are seeking enthusiastic, team orientated, students. These students will strive to achieve nothing less than success within their own self, as well as for the team. All students from Year 8 up to Year 12 are welcome to try out for a riding position in the team. This year we plan to enter three vehicles for the first time. This will open up a greater opportunity for our junior high school students to break into the riding side. Up to 14 riders per team (3 teams of 14 riders) will be selected prior to each race.

At this stage we are only seeking committed interest in joining up, both as riders and as support crew. If students are interested in signing up, they can write their name on the list located in the A-Block notice board. Alternatively, students can track me down to ask any questions that they may have. **We must have all definite indications of interest by 28th of February.**

Team meetings regarding general information and trainings will be announced soon! Keep a regular look out at the A-Block notice board for breaking news.

Parents and students may contact me through the school or by email at any time if you have any queries. gilbert.tuazon87@schools.sa.edu.au

SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE

A new children’s dental benefits schedule for 2–17 year olds started in January 2014. It is called the Child Dental Benefits Schedule.

The School Dental Service is a Child Dental Benefits Schedule provider and welcomes babies, children and young people under 18 years.

Dental care is FREE for most children and the School Dental Service will bulk-bill Medicare.

Children who do not qualify for the Child Dental Benefits Schedule can still attend – a small fee may apply for each course of general dental care provided.

There are no waiting times at the School Dental Service. To keep your children’s teeth and gums healthy we encourage them to attend the School Dental Service.

To locate your local School Dental Clinic, and for more information about the Child Dental Benefits Schedule, visit www.sadental.sa.gov.au
Are you having difficulties paying your school fees or managing other expenses?

IF so a financial counsellor can help you with:

- Options to manage living expenses including school fees, arrears and other debts
- Options for your overall financial position

Financial counsellors provide FREE, CONFIDENTIAL, INDEPENDENT information and counselling for people in financial difficulties

For information and referral to a financial counsellor in your area
Phone the Financial Counselling Help Line
☎ 1800 007 007
or search online:

The financial counselling service that is being offered and provided is independent of the Department for Education and Child Development and represents a relationship directly between the Financial Counselling Help Line and/or the service provider eg Uniting Communities and the individual. References to the financial counselling service do not constitute an endorsement by the Department for Education and Child Development. It is the user’s responsibility to make their own inquiries prior to using the service.

Financial counselling services are provided free of charge by not for profit organisations. Financial counsellors employed by these services are members of the SA Financial Counsellors Association (SAFCA)
Teen time: dispelling the myth that teenagers don’t need parents

'The younger the child, the more they need their parents’ has been traditional wisdom for some time.

Many parents respond to this mantra by spending as much time as they can with babies and toddlers, then ramping up their careers as their kids move into school age. The older the children, the less time is put aside for them appears to be the current practice.

The twists and turns of development

This notion assumes that child development and children’s independence is a linear process where parents can increasingly step back as kids get older.

BUT this is wrong!

A child’s development is full of twists, turns and reversals so that a 10-year-old who is beginning to experience the confusion that can come with early adolescence has far a greater need of her parents than she did at eight.

While toddlers are very adaptable and can be satisfied with attention from caring adults, teenagers are far more in need of the special care and supervision that their parents provide.

The age between 10 and 14 is a particularly needy time. Friendships become complex and the challenges of school can overwhelm children at this stage. They benefit a lot from late afternoon and evening chats with a parent. Mornings are too rushed for the types of conversations they need.

The myth of ‘I don’t need you’

Ken and Margaret Mellor, in their wonderful book Teen Stages, dispel the myth that teenagers don’t need their parents. The authors state that teenagers need their parents, but they won’t let on.
My experience raising three teenagers supports the fact that teenagers want their parents to succeed in managing, guiding, nurturing and supporting them. Adolescence is too hard for them to go through on their own. They benefit from the close physical presence of a parent – not in a smothering way – but someone who is monitoring their wellbeing and supervising their behaviour. This can’t be done by mobile phone.

Yet most teens won’t show their gratitude if you provide the close parenting they need. It’s not until they reach their early to mid twenties that they come clean and deliver a sort of belated apology to their parents. In the meantime, you need to hang in there.

**Parenting teens is tiring**

While parenting toddlers can be physically tiring, responding to the mental and emotional demands of teenage children is equally if not more exhausting. If you come home totally tried by the demands of work, the last thing you want to engage in is mind games with a tricky but needy teenager.

You’ve got to be fit and focused (on them) to parent teens well!

**Minimise being home alone**

Late afternoon is a recognised danger zone for adolescence. Toddlers stay in long daycare and primary-aged kids use after-school care or are happy to be picked up by others. However, for teenagers who are testing their independence this is tricky time.

Teens who are left to their own devices are more prone to engage in risk-taking behaviours, lose themselves online or in some cases become addicted to computer games. The world is trickier than when we grew up. Cyberbullying, self-harm and depression are now part of the adolescent landscape.

Teenagers still need supervision, whether it’s through structured activities such as sports training or after-school or holiday programs. They also need parents who check up on them, make sure homework is completed and ensure that they have fulfilled their family obligations including completing their chore list.

**Turn conventional wisdom on its head**

It’s time to turn conventional wisdom on its head and start dedicating more rather than less time to raising teens. That way we’ll go a long way to giving them what they need, that is, parental guidance, management, nurturance and support to help them safely negotiate the twists and turns of the developmental journey from childhood into adulthood.

*Parenting ideas just got better!* Parenting ideas Club has just been launched and has all the answers you need. There are 100’s of articles, videos, guides, how to’s, book reviews and more available for members. Become a member today at parentingideasclub.com.au.