Principal’s Report

Congratulations to Mr Morrison in PDHPE who was successful in gaining the Head Teacher PDHPE position at Murray High School. Mr Morrison has worked tirelessly in the school as sports organiser, coach, teacher and Year Adviser and will be missed. He will take up his new position in Week 3 Term 2. We wish him all the best.

At last weeks assembly I spoke about my expectations to students around behaviour. This theme follows on from our Orange day celebrations and focus on standing up to bullying as well as the Harmony day celebrations which culminated in our colour run and assembly. I spoke about my expectation that at this school we would not tolerate racism and discrimination and “that we should treat others with respect and how we wanted to be treated ourselves”. I reminded students of the pledge we signed about the bystander intervening to stand up for friends. This is now permanently reflected by our new mural in the hall which many students signed. As part of the harmony day assembly Ram Khanal who graduated from Murray High School as Dux gave this speech. He has graciously allowed us to share it with you and it follows.

Harmony day speech – Everyone belongs and thank you (transcript)

Principal, deputy principal, distinguished guests, teachers and students. Let me first begin by acknowledging the traditional owners of this land and by paying my respect to their elders, past and present. It is a great privilege today for me to be able to express my views, experiences and understanding of harmony day in Australia. Harmony day is a celebration of Australia’s cultural diversity and respect for people from different cultural background who calls Australia home. It is a day to remind ourselves how privileged we are to be a part of this wonderful nation. Today I would like to share some of my personal experiences I have had during my time at high school and explain what harmony day means to me.

When I first started Murray High School I had no idea what the hell my fellow class mates were talking about, it was almost like most of you listening to someone jabbering in Chinese. However, it was not a one way road. They were totally hopeless in trying to understand what I was trying to say but that never stopped us from being friends. From learning some of the naughtiest Australian swear words to making them try my extremely hot and spicy chilly curry at lunch, we tried them all and I realized that it was inevitably helping me develop that sense of belonging. I remember my fellow class mate Matt taking me to watch the 3D movie Avatar in 2009 at Regent Cinemas in Albury and I would ask him why we were putting that useless glass on. I insisted Matt that I was not blind and I could still watch the movie without putting it on and those ridiculously annoying questions of mine still did not prevent us from being friends. I also remember doing lunatic dance with my five fellow Aussies during the year 12 muck up day when we started with a slow motion dance to a Nepali song quickly followed by the quirky Greek Zorba dance and the shuffling to the tunes of party rock anthem and the YMCA moves. It was not just class mates though, the desire to learn and understand each other’s culture came from teachers as well. They would take me for a driving lesson with a bid to exchange stories and sometimes would take me to the swimming pool to learn the Aussie way because sinking like a rock was never going to help me feel like an Aussie. From education to living skills, all facets of my life significantly improved with each other’s help and all these gestures of kindness helped me to quickly become an amalgamation of best of cultures and fortunately I could quite easily switch from one to another depending on the context.

It only went to show that the differences in white milky flesh and the brown coloured skin was never accounted for. What really mattered was what we could learn from one another and how we could all come together to make something look different and diverse. Harmony day is about the richness of our differences and the differences that truly makes us rich. It might surprise you to know that almost half the population of Australia were born overseas or have at least one parent born overseas. The cultural diversity and the socially cohesive society is one of our greatest strengths and it determines who we are.

From widely talked about Australian vegemite spread in our breakfast toast and the burnt BBQ lunch at the backyard to the deliciously prepared Chinese dinner, we have everything the world has to offer. It almost feels like we don’t have to travel to see what the world looks like, the world itself has travelled into our nation to make it one of the most multicultural countries in the world. This is who we are and this is what makes us unique and comprehensive.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Australian Government for recognising and initiating harmony day celebration in Australia 15 years ago. We as Australians, regardless of where we come from and how we look, share our values and commitment to Australia. Our welcoming nature, the gesture of kindness and respect to those that are different to us and the ability to embrace old and new traditions makes us unique. These are the values that brings prosperity and equality in our society, it’s these values that works for our society and keeps our society working.

Every year, thousands of events are held to celebrate Harmony Day across Australia. We as Australians come together and
celebrate this day with wide variety of music, food, sports and culture to contribute to our strength in diversity. We all stand up and say no to racism to fight against the racial stereotypes that are prevalent in our country. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Australians for embracing and celebrating the spirit of harmony day. Last but not least, I would like to thank you all for politely listening for this long. Have a wonderful day.

I would like to finish by congratulating the cast and crew including staff who dedicated so much time to helping the students with the performance of Home before Christmas, Albury High School’s tribute to ANZAC day. The performance last week in the school hall was critically acclaimed by all who attended. Thank you for your support. Along with this I was impressed with the turn out for the ANZAC day march this year, 160 of our students looked great and marched with pride. A special mention to our senior students who were banner bearers and Henry and Georgie, our school captains, who spoke at the 10 am ceremony. Thank you to the RSL for this opportunity.

HELP RAISE VITAL FUNDS TO BEAT CANCER
AHS are hosting a Biggest Morning Tea for staff to help raise vital funds for cancer research and support services. If you would like to support this worthy cause, you can do so by making a donation via our online link (copy & paste to your browser) or by using the collection boxes at the front office!

With your help, we can make this year’s event the biggest yet!


Once you’ve donated, you will receive a tax deductible receipt via email.

Your donation will help fund Cancer Council’s research, prevention and support services.

Thanks for your support!

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS
School photographs are scheduled to occur on Wednesday the 10th and Thursday the 11th of June. Individual and other special interest groups will take place on the Wednesday while sport’s team photographs will be taken on the Thursday. It is very important that all students are in full winter uniform on both days. This includes:

- Junior boys - junior tie, grey jumper & grey shirt;
- Senior boys - senior tie, grey jumper and blue shirt;
- Junior girls - junior tie, red jumper & white shirt;
- Senior girls - senior tie, red jumper & blue shirt.

Students involved in sporting team photographs need to organise with their coaches as to the uniform requirements for their photograph. In general full winter uniform will be worn not the PE uniform unless advised differently.

Please note the photograph envelopes will be issued to students the week before the photographs are scheduled to take place. All students have an individual photograph taken even if they are not purchasing photographs so will need to return the photo envelope on the day.

Please contact either Mr Greg Wright or Ms Tanya Mortimer if you have any queries regarding school photographs.

Ms Tanya Mortimer

CALCULATORS – NAPLAN YR 7 & 9
The calculator our students use is the Casio FX82AUPLUS II. Students may purchase these through the school by paying $22 at the Front Office and bringing the receipt to the Maths staffroom where the calculator will be issued and engraved for free. If you purchase a calculator elsewhere we are happy to freely engrave your son or daughter’s name but we do not cover any warranty which, for a school purchased calculator, is same day replacement.

Mr Greg Wright
Maths Teacher
PARENT/TEACHER EVENINGS
The 12 interim reports were issued on Tuesday 28th April to the year 12 cohort. Year 11 reports are currently with the Student Adviser Mr Morrison for his comments and will be issued in week 4. The year 12 report is a single page report showing students’ course rank at the half way stage of the HSC program. The year 11 reports will show how students have adapted to the Preliminary HSC course and senior study. Results in the examinations that many faculties undertook at the end of term 1 and course ranks will be included. Reports are being issued prior to the Parent/Teacher evening which is scheduled for week 5 - Wednesday 20th May. To co-ordinate the interviews we employ an online booking system (Schools Online Booking System) to assist parents in securing their preferred interview times. The procedure is as follows:

- In your web browser type in the school website and navigate to the Curriculum and Activities TAB and choose the Assessment and Reporting button on the left. Click on the link for Parent/Teacher interviews at the bottom of that page. The URL is - http://www.sobs.com.au/pt/parent.php?schoolid=602
- If you do not have access to the internet your local library may be able to help, or alternatively you can call the school office.
- The booking system will only be accessible from 6am on 6th May through to 3pm on 20th May to book an interview. Your appointments can be then printed or sent to the email address you enter upon starting the process.

An email will be sent to all parents who have supplied their email address to the school and letter will be posted to all parents without an email facility, outlining the process for making a booking and detailing the use of the SOBS site. Canteen facilities will be available for light refreshments on the evening.

The Parent/Teacher evenings for the other years are as follows:

Wednesday 17th June Parent/Teacher night for Year 10
Wednesday 24th June Parent/Teacher night for Year 8
Wednesday 22nd July Parent/Teacher night for Year 9
Wednesday 29th July Parent/Teacher night for Year 7

Mr Andrew King
Deputy Principal Senior School

CHANGES TO VACCINATION DATES
We have just been advised that the vaccination dates have changed from Thursday 7th May to Friday 22nd May. We apologise for the inconvenience however it was beyond our control.

Mrs Deb Quinn
Head Teacher Welfare

HOME WORK CENTRE
The Homework Centre has proved very popular this year with many students attending each week on a Wednesday from 3.30 to 5pm. It has been great to see so many students attend on a regular basis. I take this opportunity to thank the staff who regularly give up their Wednesday afternoon to help students in the centre - Miss Frost, Mr Schupina, Mr Ellis, Mrs Wilson, Ms Bertazzo, Mrs Wilson, Mrs Salter, Mr Salmon, Miss Wall and Mr Bray.

For those who have not attended before and who are interested in coming along a registration form can be collected from the Front Office, Mrs Wilson in the Library or Ms Mortimer in Home Economics. All students are welcome and a light afternoon tea is provided.

Ms Tanya Mortimer
Home Work Centre Coordinator

VERBAL COMBAT
All year 8 students will be attending a presentation of ‘Verbal Combat’ a Brainstorm productions performance to be held at the school on Monday 1st June from 9.30 to 10.30am. The play covers the cyber-bullying issue; what drives bullies, the impact on victims and where to go if being bullied, all in a cleverly crafted narrative that allows students to examine these questions and their own behaviour.

The students involved as audience will be asked to bring a gold coin to assist cover the cost of the performance which will be heavily subsidised by the welfare team.

Mrs Deb Quinn
Head Teacher Welfare

YEAR 10 CULINARY CHALLENGE
Teams from each of the three Food technology classes will cook off against each other next Tuesday afternoon.

10FTA – Miranda Finck & Juliet Whyte; Ryan Bennie and Tom Fletcher;
10FTB – Joe Cass & Tara Foster; Max Griggs & Riley Butler; Ashlee Barraclough & Sian Murphy.

The menu is Toasted Chicken Tortilla and Decadent Chocolate Mousse. Craig Kidd from Riverina Institute of TAFE Albury will be the guest judge.

All the best to the students and watch this space for the winners!

Ms Tanya Mortimer
Head Teacher Home Economics
AHS CANTED
The AHS Canteen is aware of some concerns in the school community with regard to recent increases in the prices of some items for sale to students.

Perhaps in the light of these concerns it is timely to provide the following information to the Albury High community as to how the School Canteen operates.

Most importantly is the knowledge that the Canteen is run by the P&C and that all proceeds from canteen operations are made available to the school for the benefit of all students. In the past these proceeds have provided, and will continue to provide, a variety of benefits which are too numerous to list here, but are detailed in the P&C Report in the Annual School Magazine.

In addition to supporting the educational and social objectives of the School, the aim of the Canteen at Albury High School is to provide good quality fresh food to students year-round while keeping prices as low as possible.

It has been four years since the last round of price increases but with escalating costs it has been necessary this term to raise the price of a number of items to cover these costs.

Only seven items have been affected and the increases have mostly only been by 50c.

The new prices are:

- Chicken Burgers $4.50
- Souvlaki $4.50
- Hamburgers $5.00
- Pies $4.00
- Sausage Rolls $3.50
- Spinach and Cheese Rolls $4.00
- Soft Drinks $3.00

A copy of the current menu is available from the Canteen or on the school website.

The Canteen has been a major contributor to the school community over many years and is the major fundraiser for the P&C. If you have a special interest in food, the Canteen and its operations you are more than welcome to get involved.

On a practical level the Canteen staff are always looking for parent and community volunteers to help out in the Canteen either occasionally or on a more regular basis. If you are interested please contact Betty Edwards at the Canteen on 6021 1730 or leave your name and phone number at the school office. Volunteer assistance involves helping with food preparation, serving and cleaning up and is an enjoyable way to help the school. No matter what your skills or time availability you are most welcome to become part of this important service.

Another way to assist the Canteen is to join the new P&C Sub-Committee currently being established as a liaison between the P&C Association and Canteen. Its’ role will be to provide a closer link between the P&C and Canteen staff and those interested in maintaining and supporting its work.

All input and ideas are welcomed. Please contact P&C Secretary Alison Mildenhall on 0428 400 200 for details.

Details of meetings will be advertised in the ‘Grapevine’ and in the P&C minutes. As a member of the Sub Committee you do not have to attend general P&C meetings.

President Albury High School P&C Association
Manager Albury High School Canteen

ALBURY HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
When you left Albury High School, you may have thought that you would never hear from the school again. Australian government schools do not generally have a strong association with their ex-students but the AHS School Council, with the strong backing of the current Principal, Mr Darryl Ward, is trying to change that. Our aim is to contact as many of the ex-students of AHS as possible and to ask what the school could do for them and what they might be able to do for the school. For example, it may be possible for you to be put back in touch with some of your school mates. The school is always looking for ex-students to come back to the school and tell the current students about their successes in whatever walk of life they happen to be.

We are asking you if you would like to join the Albury High School Alumni Association. There is no cost and it will help expand the AHS family to the benefit of all involved and, in particular, the current students at the school. If you would like to be involved, could you please complete the attached form and email it back to Neil Mills at ahs.alumni.assoc@bigpond.com by Friday 15 May 2015.

We thank you most sincerely.

Neil Mills and Bob Perry
On behalf of the AHS School Council

AHS P&C SUB COMMITTEE MEETINGS
All members of the AHS P&C Committee are invited to attend the following meetings, which are sub committees of the P&C.

Social/Fundraising Committee - Monday 27th April, Staff Common Room at AHS, 7.30 pm

Funding/Spending Committee - Tuesday 5th May, “The Lounge “ Cafe, Dean St, 7.00pm.

At the meetings we will be able to update you on the content of what has happened, seek out your participation and ideas and make further plans that can be taken to the General Meetings of the P&C.

Any enquiries or RSVP to Donna Davidson 0488 943 713 (Home 6021 0103) or sddavidson@westnet.com.au

If you are unable to come to these meetings you are welcome in the future to attend others.
SPORTS RESULTS
A number of our students have recently attended Riverina School Sports Association Trials. Congratulations to the following students who have gained selection in the Riverina teams for the NSWCHS carnivals:

Maya Davis, Chelsea Blissett, Anna Parrett, Christina Stefanou, Isabella Claxton and Mr Peter O’Riordan (Manager) are in Bathurst this week representing Riverina at the NSWCHS Girls Football Carnival, while Jessy Wilson (Open Boys Basketball) is representing the Riverina team at the NSWCHS Basketball Carnival in Minto.

Drew Junck-Gonzalez and Katelin Fletcher (Open Girls) gained selection in Riverina team for the NSWCHS Basketball Carnival at Cambridge Park from 5th to 7th May.

Michael Brownsie and Liam Mackay will be representing the Riverina Open Boys Football team at the NSWCHS Football Carnival in Sydney from 19th to 21st May.

Pat Brown, Zac Kraich, Andrew Nixon, Nathan Lee & Oscar Smart have gained selection to Riverina Boys Hockey team to play at NSW CHS Carnival in Bathurst from 26th to 28th May.

Hannah Chapman, Jaiden Hamilton, Jessie Nixon, Quinn Reid, Kate Homer, Emma Hooppell were named in Riverina Girls Hockey team to play NSWCHS Carnival in Albury from 19th to 21st May.

Kenna Watson, Tess Evans, Makenna Carroll, Shania Jones, Kaitlin Fletcher, Zali Douglas and Tayla Byrne making the Riverina U/16 Girls AFL team to play in Sydney at the NSW trials on 1st June.

The Riverina Murray CHS Under 16 team for the NSW All Schools Australian Football Championships at Marrickville from 2nd to 4th June will see a number of our students and teachers attending. Selected in the team are Rhys King, Jay Nish, Tim Miles, Jackson Carmody, Austin Shepherd, Campbell Gale, Ben Kelly and Jacob Koschitzke, while Mr Adam De Mamiel and Mr Richard Leahey are managing the team. Mr Tim Sanson will be attending as the NSW All Schools Coach and will be leading the selection committee.

While Blake Robbie captained the Riverina SSA team at the NSWCHS Volleyball Carnival in Mount Druitt last week. Blake played as a spiker and really enjoyed his experience. The team finished in 7th position after wins over North Coast, Hunter and North West.

Mr Damian Toohey

GREAT VIC BIKE RIDE EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
Expressions of interest are sought from cyclists who would like to join an Albury High School group participating in the Great Vic Bike Ride which this year leaves from Ballarat and finishes in Bendigo. We are intending on completing the either the 5 day or 9 day option which both finish in Bendigo. Early Bird pricing applies and the benefits of prompt payment required are obvious!!

The 9 day ride runs from Saturday 28th November to Sunday 6th December 2015. The 5 day option concludes in Bendigo on Wednesday 2nd December.

ACCOMMODATION is camping style, with all meals provided. Participants will require a well serviced, reliable bicycle. A road bike would be the best option though a mountain bike or hybrid with “slicks” would also be acceptable.

Please feel free to visit https://www.bicyclenetwork.com.au/racy-great-victorian-bike-ride/the-event/ for more information and contact me at school on 60213488 or via email at craig.day@det.nsw.edu.au with any questions or to express your interest in participating. I will need firm numbers by 11th of May as Registrations for Schools close one week later. There are no guarantees that we will gain a place on the ride but prompt registration maximises our prospects of success.

Mr Craig Day
Ride Co-ordinator

ANGLICAN PARISH OF NORTHERN ALBURY DEBUTANTE BALLS
The Anglican Parish of Northern Albury is delighted to be hosting two Debutante Balls in third term. The balls will be held at the Albury Entertainment Centre on: Friday 4th September or Saturday 5th September.

Information Evening - 1st June 2015
An information evening will be held at the Albury High School Hall on Sunday 1st June from 7 – 8pm to provide debutantes, partners and parents with more information.

First Rehearsal – 19th July 2015
Rehearsals will be held weekly in the Albury High School Hall on Sunday evenings at either 5pm-7pm or 7pm-9pm (depending on which night is selected by each debutante).

Rehearsals commence on Sunday 19th July, extending over a 7 week period.

To register your interest, please contact: Ann Mitchell on 0438 617 966 or Rev’d Lee Weissel on 0459 390 410
SOFTBALL SPORTS REPORT
On the 16th of March our open girls’ softball team went to Wagga Wagga to participate in the round robin CHS softball competition. In our first game we played Mount Austin. Tyler Adams pitched well to Taneesha and Quinn Reid hit a homrunnnnnnnn! Julia’s superb backing up treated her well with a second hand catch off Quinn’s mitt.

All the girls played really well considering most of them had never played before. The game was well fought but brought to an end when they pitched their main pitcher on us, which later when we went to the fish and chip shop to get lunch, and looked at the local newspaper, discovered that she made the Australian team for softball. The girls weren’t so hard on themselves after that. Thanks to Miss McRae for taking us and Lachy Summers for coaching, umpiring, teaching Miss McRae the rules, and getting the kits. We couldn’t have done it without you!

Milla Reid
Team Captain

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TERM 2

WEEK 3
Friday May 8th
Zone Cross Country

COMING EVENTS

WEEK 2
Tuesday May 12th
NAPLAN testing for Years 7 & 9
Language & Writing

Wednesday May 13th
NAPLAN testing for Years 7 & 9
Reading

Thursday May 14th
NAPLAN testing for Years 7 & 9
Numeracy