Interschool Swimming  Friday 15th Feb
Ten of our students joined a Combined Team with students from Naracoorte, Millicent and St. Martin’s to compete in the annual SESSSA Swimming Carnival held at the Mt. Gambier Aquatic Centre. Competition was keen. Our placed competitors were Ella Kain, Hannah Klemm, Tylah Lovewell, Cory O’Connor, Aliza Pfitzner, Laura Price and Bailey Walker.

Kids’ Time Wednesday 20th Feb
‘At the Beach’ was the theme for the first Kids’ Time of the year. Library staff had transformed the seminar room into a little slice of Robe, complete with fish, fishnet, an octopus and seagulls. Rob Thornett read the book, ‘Fish’. Kinta Wilson, the new ‘Musical Director’, led the assembled multitude through song and dance with ‘Here is the Sea’ and ‘In the Summertime’. The children greatly enjoyed the fun of beach volleyball played with balloons. Megan McGuiness read ‘Grandpa and Thomas at the Beach’. The littlies constructed underwater dioramas featuring fish, in the process developing their fine motor skills with scissors. These activities were followed by a picnic on the beach replete with hot chips, watermelon and juice. There was a display of both fiction and non-fiction books to encourage borrowing and participants were able to take home a sheet of fish to colour.

Year 10 Notebooks Distributed  Wednesday 20th Feb
Year 10 students and their parents visited school in the evening to receive their netbooks and these are now being put to good use in the classroom.

PHS Athletics  Thursday 21st Feb
Despite the haze of bushfire smoke which hung over the oval for most of the day, the Athletics Carnival was a great success with students participating enthusiastically and many wearing House colours to support their team. Events were hotly contested, with Yalluminga emerging as the ultimate winners followed by Moyanga and Torilla. Age Group winners were Aliza Pfitzner and Brad Rowe (Under 14), Hannah Klemm and Bailey Walker (U15), Jade Lythgo and Lewis March (U16), and Brooke Klemm and Brad Merrett (Open). Runners up were Alana Winter and Josh Currie (U14), Ashlee Sullivan and Mathew Hutchesson (U16) and Kara Martin and Tylah Lovewell (Open).

Year 8 Camp  26th Feb – 1st Mar
Twenty-two excited Year 8 students attended the annual camp at Cape Bridgewater. A range of challenging and enjoyable activities was undertaken, with students embarking on a 10km walk, much of it up-hill and all of it on a very hot day, and embracing raft building, canoe construction and paddling, and a trip to Portland. The students also discovered that abseiling is great fun, with many lining up for a second attempt. Caving was also a great success, with students crawling and squeezing themselves through small gaps. The last big adventure was sand boarding on the dunes,
where determined students demonstrated their skills. The quote of the camp came from Ella Kain who said, on her twelfth attempt at sand boarding, 'The more times I try, the more chance I have of getting it right.' After their hectic four days away, many students fell asleep in the bus on the way home.

Lions Youth of the Year  28th Feb
Ten Year 12 students rose to the challenge of the Lions Youth of the Year Quest and did a sterling job, completing the extensive application form, undergoing an in-depth interview, presenting a prepared five-minute speech to an audience of Lions, parents and friends, and tackling two impromptu questions in front of this audience.


The thought and effort the students had invested in preparing their topics were very evident, and members of the audience were given much to ponder.

The Public Speaking Award was won by Jess Frankling, while Brad Merrett was announced as the overall winner. Brad later represented Penola in the regional final at Beachport.

We deeply appreciate the effort to which members of the Lions Club go to provide this opportunity for our students and express our heartfelt thanks to and appreciation of the judges for the gift of their time and effort.

Year 11 Biology at Lake McIntyre  1st Mar
Billy Vincent has arranged for the Stage 1 Biology class to undertake a field study spread over six Friday mornings throughout the semester. Students will be undertaking studies of the birdlife, plants and water quality. Throughout the study, students will be working with representatives from the Lake McIntyre Conservation Committee. One of the Friday sessions will be devoted to a social service activity at the lake. The students are undertaking a field study assessment task to compare and contrast different conservation parks, comparing Lake McIntyre with Green Rise. We appreciate the efforts of the volunteers who are giving of their time to support our students.

Past Student Returns  1st Mar
During OK for Life, the year 11 students were delighted to receive a visit from past student, Spencer Jackman. Spencer has completed a Human Movement degree at UniSA and is now embarking on a Masters in Physiotherapy. He shared some of his experiences, both at school and uni, with the students who were most engaged and encouraged them to dream big and live their lives to the full.

Whole School Assembly  4th Mar
The Year 12 students organised a whole school assembly in the Hall. Rob Thornett welcomed everyone and introduced Jess Frankling who delivered the ‘Acknowledgement of Country’. Jess then presented her Lions Youth of the Year speech about the difficulties faced by ambulance volunteers. Brooke Klemm introduced Winsley Wighton who spoke briefly about the support we receive from
the Masons and announced Nic Tonkin as the winner of their $500 grant which will provide Nic with assistance as he undertakes his tertiary studies in 2014. Mr. Alec Bowden represented the Masons and, as Nic was unable to be with us, congratulated his sister, Lucy, on his behalf. To finish, Tricia Hutchesson introduced Georgia Tranter who delivered her Youth of the Year speech.

**Year 12 Kayaking Camp 5th-8th Mar**
The Year 12 Physical Education class, accompanied by Simone Combe, ventured to Murray Bridge for an intensive, three day kayaking camp where the three participating students each completed eighteen hours of kayaking on the Murray River. The course required students to learn basic skills required in kayaking, such as forwards paddling, backwards paddling and sweep strokes, as well as more complex skills such as draw strokes, support strokes and emergency rescues. Students were initially apprehensive about capsizing and rescuing, but their confidence grew quickly and they were soon performing rescues with great skill and poise. The students’ skill levels and confidence grew rapidly over the course of the camp. The instructors commented on the group’s ability to learn new skills quickly and were also impressed with the positive interactions and cohesiveness amongst the group. The camp was very successful, with students achieving excellent results to go towards the practical component of their Year 12 PE course.

**Stage 1 Child Studies Excursion to Mt Gambier Hospital Maternity Department 5th Mar**
The Stage 1 Child Studies class visited the Maternity Section of the Mount Gambier and Districts Hospital on Tuesday 5th March as part of their current studies on the topic of pregnancy and childbirth.
Fiona, a midwife, was very helpful and discussed topics such as decisions facing couples or mothers as they face parenthood, factors that impact on pregnancy procedures involved in monitoring a pregnancy prenatal issues relating to foetal development alternatives for giving birth postnatal issues relevant to new parents testing related to foetal development and tests conducted after bay’s birth and the relevance of these.
The students were able to see an eight week premature baby and ask the mother any questions which was a great opportunity to seek a personal perspective on pregnancy and birthing matters.

**Youth Environmental Forum 7th Mar**
Four Year 9 students, Montana Freeman, Hannah Klemm, Alana Winter and Tom Walker travelled to Mt Gambier with Billy Vincent to attend a meeting of the Youth Environmental Forum. The forum is organised by Natasha Dawson from Water Watch. The students have resolved to start an environmental program at our local level. In the first instance, this will involve making changes at school to conserve energy and water. Motion sensors on lights and attention to dripping taps are two projects on the agenda, along with establishing a new garden and breeding trees for the Trees for Life movement. The major project which the group will undertake is a study of Greenrise and the preparation of a report concerning its revitalisation to submit to Wattle Range Council. This major project will be built on work currently being undertaken by Year 11 Biology students for their field study.

**Open Boys Cricket 7th Mar**
After their initial victory against Millicent earlier in the term, the boys were primed for success. However, it was not to be, with Bordertown proving too strong on the day. Penola was first to bowl,
and got off to a good start with Scott Merrett taking a wicket with his third delivery. Bordertown then got on top of the bowling, scoring well before being all out for 212. Penola’s wicket takers were Brad and Scott Merrett, Ben Casey, Tom Walker and Cameron Merrett. Unfortunately, Penola scored only 57 runs in reply to Bordertown’s effort, but the boys gave of their all despite their disappointment.

**An Exciting Cross Curriculum Project**
Andi Zerk is currently undertaking a Textiles Course and has embarked on an exciting project with Barb Smith’s Year 9 SOSE class where students have been studying the First World War. Andi asked each student to select a short war poem and then to interpret it in fabric. The students are producing 30x30cm appliqued panels which will be displayed in the library when complete. The students have embraced this project enthusiastically and are developing their skills with textiles as well as interpreting their chosen poetry. Fabric for this project has been donated by members of the community to whom we express our appreciation.

**Showcasing Café 43 Students at the Lucindale Field Days 15th & 16th Mar**
Cafe 43 students prepared and served espresso coffee at the Lucindale Field Days on Friday 15th and Saturday 16th March as part of highlighting Industry Pathways Programs and Vocational Education and Training in the Limestone Coast Region.
Ashlee Sullivan, Taylah Tranter, Shauna Allen and Gab Carr-Foster represented the Cafe program and Penola High School in a very professional manner which was highly commended by members of the public, business owners and representatives from the numerous private schools in the Yakka Pavillion. The students attended on both days and became experts in texturing milk and making the full espresso coffee menu.
The students were part of the Trade School for the Future display and not only had the opportunity to practise their Espresso Coffee Skills but also to work confidently in front of members of the public, and to demonstrate excellent teamwork, customer service and workplace hygiene skills. The public in general commented on the students’ presentation of their work station, the excellent coffee and the pride the students showed in their work.
This activity gave exposure to a greater audience and potential customers for Café 43, with many enquiries about the program and the opening hours of Cafe operation. This opportunity of being involved in the field days provided our students with a realistic work environment in which to do their training and to make coffee in an appropriate industry timeframe. The students need to build 30 hours of operation on the espresso machine to gain this unit of competency and are well on the way to achieving this. Their next step is to work towards the opening of Cafe 43 when all their skills will be put to the test.

**Year 11 Chemistry Trip to Wynns 19th Mar**
The six members of the Stage 1 Chemistry class travelled with Silvana Stephens and Winsley Wighton to Wynn’s Winery where they were greeted by wine maker, Luke Skeer. Luke gave the group a most interesting and extensive introduction to the site, showing students the laboratory, crushers, vinematics and other fermenters, presses, and the barrel shed. Knowledge gained on the visit will support the students in their own wine making project.
**School Induction Assembly  19th Mar**

A whole school assembly was held in lesson three, and it was great to see so many parents in attendance. Jack Gartner was MC and began by introducing John Stayte who, in turn introduced Jenny Holland from Antipodeans Abroad. Debbie spoke about the proposed trip to Laos next year and spoke to a slide presentation which introduced students to the Laotian lifestyle and outlined some of the activities students who undertake the trip will be involved in.

Scott McCulloch then introduced the new SRC members and Fleur Roachock presented them with their certificates and badges. SRC Co-President, Brooke Klemm, spoke of the statement of purpose and aims which the SRC have set themselves for this year, reminded students of Harmony Day which we will celebrate on the 20th Mar and urged students to communicate with SRC members about their ideas for SRC activities.

Simone Combe introduced the House Captains to the assembly and spoke of the excellent manner in which they filled their roles for the Swimming and Athletics Carnivals. Certificates and badges were again presented by Fleur.

Finally, Fleur addressed the assembly, welcoming parents, speaking of the nature of leadership skills and congratulating SRC members and House Captains.