Laos Trip Meeting  19th March

Forty-five parents and students attended a meeting in the library about the proposed Service Learning Tour of Laos (SLT). Jenny Holland from Antipodeans Abroad spoke of the work of this company in organising tours for schools. Organisers John Stayte and Barbara Smith were thrilled with the level of interest shown. Interviews with interested students have been held, and more detailed planning is underway.

Matters covered included fundraising, the timeline in relation to booking forms, interviews, and deposits and about the opportunities that the SLT will provide for students. Foremost of these is the opportunity to be immersed in an Asian culture. Student-centred learning will take place through, linking students with local communities via homestay, community service, and involvement with students (grade 1 to 5) in local schools. Highlights of the trip will include a village community project with deep cultural immersion in Luang Prabang and its surrounding area and trips to an Elephant village, a Bear sanctuary, waterfalls, swimming holes markets, temples, museums, local cafes and restaurants.

The Service Learning Tour will provide many learning opportunities including what it means to be a global citizen, greater understanding and acceptance of people from other cultures, and working and living with people from another culture within their environment.

More detail about the costs etc. associated with this adventure are available from John Stayte.

Year 9-10 Numeracy News

This year a Year 9/10 numeracy class has been established to meet the particular maths learning needs of a group of students. ‘Measurement’ was the main topic for term 1, with work in this topic related to the swimming carnival and school athletics. The course was based on practical applications of measurement, covering perimeter, area and circumference, particularly as they apply to track and field events.

Cooking was a successful way for students to continue with measurements of capacity and weight. Students worked in small groups to develop confidence through choosing a recipe, purchasing the ingredients, preparing, cooking and presenting their food.

The final measurement assignment was the design and construction of a structure using polystyrene and pop sticks. This task grew out of a visit to the Penola Fantasy Railway and Rose’s Tearooms. The students drew their design to scale on paper and then created it in 3D.

In recording data, much use was made of Excel spreadsheets where students were able to create and analyse tables and graphs. Many photographs of the students at work were taken and these have been turned into a PowerPoint presentation of the term’s work. As well as the work on measurement, the students completed regular exercises in addition, subtraction and multiplication.

Next term the class will focus on fractions.

Interschool Athletics  21st March

By Simone Combe
On Thursday 21 March 2013, a squad of 40 Penola High School students represented the school at the annual Interschool Athletics Carnival, which was hosted by Tenison Woods College. The wintry conditions which greeted our students on their arrival to the Tenison Woods oval were not conducive to a sporting carnival, however, the day went ahead as planned without too many interruptions. The only change to the program was the cancellation of a high jump event due to the slippery grass.

Tenison Woods College emerged as victors, with Penola High School finishing in seventh place, behind Millicent High School and well in front of St Martins Lutheran College, allowing Penola High School to claim the Most Improved Shield.

Top performances were given by Aliza Pfitzner, Mathew Hutchesson, Scott Merrett, Jack Gartner, and Lewis March, while the Under 16 boys relay team of Mathew Hutchesson, Jack Gartner, Scott Merrett and Lewis March put in a sterling effort to blitz their event.

**Kids Time and Kindy Visit 27 March**

‘Autumn’ was the theme for both the recent Kids’ Time and Kindy visit. The morning session got off to a great start with Megan McGuiness reading ‘Bumpity Bump’, a story about a hen and autumn harvesting. This was followed by a visit from Emma Dear’s pet ‘frizzas’ who are so even-natured that all the children were able to pat them or cuddle them. This was a first for some of the littlies who had not previously had a close encounter with a chook! Rob Thornett delivered a PowerPoint presentation about seasons and the weather which had the littlies engrossed. A bracket of autumn action songs followed and Ali Bond quickly explained the latest research citing the benefits of such activities to the parents. Ali then read ‘Red are the Apples’ and talked about preserving food for the winter. The children honed their fine motor skills while making autumn trees, washed their hands and then used an apple corer and peeler to prepare their morning tea. The Mums were treated to Easter buns.

**Meg’s Outstanding Art Success**

At the end of 2012, there was great excitement when it was learnt that one of Meg Pfitzner’s art works had been selected for the 2013 SACE Art Exhibition. But, things get even better. Last week we learnt that Meg’s portrait has been selected to hang in the SACE Board offices for the next twelve months. This honour reflects Meg’s talent, her hard work and the skilful guidance of Kristen Bence.

**Mathematics Adventure**

On Wednesday 3rd April Mike Hentschke attended a Maths training in Adelaide, as a result of which Penola High School has accepted an invitation to be part of a project which looks at changes in the way mathematics is taught. This will provide us with an opportunity to work with teachers at some of our feeder schools to look at maths in the new Australian Curriculum, what the transition from year 7 to 8 means for the teaching of maths, the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers and the Teaching for Effective Learning Framework. The project will get underway in term 2.