SSSSA D Grade State Athletics Championships  8th April
An enthusiastic group of students travelled to Adelaide for the State Championships at the SANTOS stadium. The students had expended considerable energy in training for their events and were raring to go. Many students turned in top performances, with the boys being fourth in their competition while the girls were sixth. The U16 boys, Jack Gartner, Mathew Hutchesson, Scott Merrett and Lewis March, covered themselves with glory yet again in the 4x100m relay and Mathew Hutchesson dominated in the 400m. Placegetters were Ella Kain, Jess Hayes, Amy Wetherall, Aliza Pfitzner, Alana Winter, Hannah Klemm, Georgie Beighton, Kara Martin, Ashlee Sullivan, Brooke Klemm, Montana Freeman, Brad Rowe, Bailey Walker, Tom Walker, Jordan Lovewell, Jack Gartner, Scott Merrett, Lewis March, Mathew Hutchesson, Luke Gray, Gus Eckermann, Jeremy Daykin, Tylah Lovewell and Brad Merrett.

Girls Only Gathering  10th April
A group of girls attended the ‘Girls Only Gathering’ in Mt. Gambier. The girls listened to speakers, and explored a variety of possible career pathways. A highlight of the day was the opportunity to use two Construction Simulators: a fork lift and a front end loader.

Boys and Simulators  11th April
The Civil Construction Association, which provided the simulators for the Girls Only Gathering, visited PHS en route for home. This enabled the boys from Years 10 and 11 to gain experience with the heavy machinery simulators without being exposed to the risks associated with real machines. The boys were very excited by the opportunity and participated enthusiastically.

Winemaker Visits  9th & 29th April
Luke Skeer, one of the winemakers at Wynn’s, visited the Year 11 Chemistry class, speaking of his experiences as a winemaker and giving them valuable insights into their own winemaking. On his return visit, he demonstrated the use of a double siphon as the students racked and bottled their wine.

School Anzac Day Assembly  11th April
A formal school assembly, orchestrated by the Year 9 students, was held on the last Thursday of term 1 to commemorate Anzac Day. The school stood while Drew Pieffer and Jayden Watson led the guests into the Hall. Montana Freeman welcomed the representatives of the RSL and the Service Personnel who attended. Hannah Klemm read the acknowledgement of the Lands and this was followed by presentations by Year 9 students: Bailey Walker spoke about World War I, Tom Walker, World War II, and Charlie French the war in Vietnam. Brad Rowe and Cory O’Connor shared their Prisoner of War project and Alana Winter spoke of the involvement of nurses in World War I. Sergeant Matthew Rhodes from the Mt Gambier Depot spoke of his experiences in East Timor and Iraq. Tahlia Grace directed all present into the quadrangle for the laying of the wreath by Aliza Pfitzner, Sergeant Rhodes and Mr Pat Wilson. Tom Walker read the Ode and the Last Post was played before one minute’s silence was observed.

Following the ceremony, the guests and Year 9 students retired to the library for refreshments.
Holiday News from Café 43
Café 43 students spent weekends and time during the holiday break to complete some redecoration of the interior of the dining area of the café. They utilised money raised from their Espresso Coffee at the Lucindale Field Days to pay for paint and equipment. It is very pleasing to see the pride the students take in maintaining the Café environment from year to year. The students’ intention is to refresh all interior woodwork and then continue with the painting of the exterior of the building.

ANZAC Day 25th April
As in previous years, members of the school community participated in the town observance of ANZAC Day. Alana Winter spoke of the role of nurses in war time and, with Rob Thornett, laid a wreath on our behalf.

ANZAC Day and the Café 43 Students 25th April

Café 43 Stars: Stephanie Smart, Taylah Tranter, Ashlee Sullivan and Shauna Allen

Cafe 43 students assisted with the preparation and serving of the Gunfire Breakfast for the Penola RSL Members and those attending the dawn service on Anzac morning. This was a very worthwhile experience for our students and a great opportunity to promote Penola High School in a very positive light in our local community.

The students were at the RSL Club Rooms by 5.30am to prepare breakfast and be ready for serving by 6.40am. Much credit is due to the girls and their parents, they arrived ten minutes early!!! The students involved on the day were Shauna Allen, Steph Smart, Ashlee Sullivan and Taylah Tranter.

The girls did a wonderful job of preparing, serving and cleaning of the kitchen area and completed the task by 8.30am. Many members of the RSL commented favourably on the girls’ friendly and helpful approach in dealing with requests, giving of their own time to participate in a community function and the teamwork demonstrated.
Year 12 Art Trip 29-30th April
The Year 12 Art term was off to a great start with a two-day excursion to Adelaide. The students visited the 2013 SACE Art Show, an annual event which showcases the outstanding work from the previous year’s Year 12 students. Students were excited to see Meg Pfitzner’s painting hung as one of the State’s best and were pleased to collect a range of ideas for their practical and support folio work.

Students visited UniSA to see Arts and Design courses in practice and visited a number of art exhibitions including an Urban Art Exhibition by renowned graffiti artist, Banksy, and the Turner exhibition at the Art Gallery of South Australia.

Students returned to school excited and enthused by their experiences.

Awards Assembly 3 May 2013
A brief assembly was held on the first Friday of term to celebrate some of the student achievements of term 1. Rob Thornett and Fleur Roachock presented certificates to all those Year 12 students who participated in the Lions Youth of the Year Quest and certificates of recognition to the Year 9 students who assisted with the ANZAC Day ceremony. Simone Combe and Fleur presented Athletics Place Certificates to all the students who were placed in an event at Santos.

More Student Achievements
Heartfelt congratulations go to the following students for their achievements in the wider world:

Kelsey Batt: Kelsey has been selected in the Secondary School Sport SA and the South Australian National Football League for the School Sport Australia Girls Australian Football Championships to be held in Darwin in August.

Jack Gartner: Jack competes in Oval Track Racing, and has recently been placed first in the Mildura Classic, third in the Golden Helmet in Mortlake and third in the Northern Territory State Title

Gus Eckermann: Gus has been competing in Horse Cutting events with notable success, most recently in the rookies category at Swan Hill where he was placed first.

Year 12 Chemistry Trip 6 May 2013
Our two Year 12 Chemistry students combined with our local delivery partners from Millicent High School and the Lucindale Area school class to visit the Kimberly-Clark mill at Millicent. We were warmly welcomed to the mill by Mr Stephen Say and Mr Josef Marzouk, chemical engineers, who talked to the students about the process of pulping and paper making and the treatment of mill effluent. They also provided the students with a generous morning tea. The students then undertook a wide ranging tour of the mill and the ponds. Some of the processes were not operating while we were there, and the students were able to have a very close look at some of the machinery.

Parent-Teacher Interviews 7th May
The murmur of voices filled the Hall as parents, teachers and some students gathered to share and discuss students’ progress, achievements and opportunities for growth. Teachers were thrilled by the number of parents who took advantage of this opportunity and by the new insights which they, the teachers, developed in consequence.

Teacher Success
During the term break, Eric Prelc, our tech. teacher, participated in a professional development activity which resulted in the award of a $20000 scholarship to Eric and the guarantee of his being permanently with us at the end of his training. Eric won his scholarship by going through a rigorous, multi-faceted
assessment process. He made a 10 minute presentation entitled ‘The Design Circle’ to an audience of Flinders University mature age Maths/Science students, participated in a 10 minute role play to resolve a hypothetical problem, and undertook a 10 minute group activity. As well, Eric spent 30 minutes writing an impromptu response to a question about the events which inspired him to become a teacher. All of this was followed by a 1 hour interview where he had to respond to twenty questions. He is truly worthy of our heartfelt congratulations.

SA Public Teaching Awards
Members of our staff have again been nominated for SA Public Teaching Awards. We congratulate Mike Hentschke, Sarah Walker, Ali Bond and Silvana Stephens on receiving this public acknowledgement of their dedication, professionalism and determination to make PHS the best learning community that it can be.

Year 12 Child Studies Excursion 13th May
From Dee Hutchinson
Yr 12 Child Studies visited Mary McKillop Primary School as part of their studies in Food and Nutrition for young children. Their research task involved the issue of Childhood Obesity and as the practical application involved encouraging young children to avoid processed and packaged food the students planned three healthy snacks appropriate for 6 year olds to prepare with adult assistance. Both groups of students enjoyed the activity and the younger children were excited and fully participated in the food preparation and cooking.

The end result was some very yummy health foods and the Child Studies students were amazed that the young students were enthusiastic about wiping dishes. The teacher appreciated our students running the session as generally they find it difficult to organise this type of activity with younger children.

Year 11 Health Students’ Morning Tea 13th May
Also from Dee
The Year 11 Health class has been studying Mental and Emotional Health and the students decided to investigate Mental Health across the lifespan and see if there are any differences between Mental Health issues 30 – 50 years ago compared to those we hear about today through the media, particularly the emphasis on informing us that 1 person in 5 has a mental health condition.

The students prepared an afternoon tea and invited seniors from the Day Centre to a discussion on mental health based around their life experiences. The Seniors enjoyed the discussion with young people, had some afternoon tea with Espresso Coffees and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

We combined this activity with a belated Biggest Morning Tea celebration and raised $60 for Cancer Research.

NAPLAN Testing 14-16th May
Year 9 students sat the NAPLAN tests this week, completing tests of Language Conventions, Writing, Reading and Numeracy, both with and without calculators.

All Year 9 students participated well and we look forward to receiving their results in early October. As in previous years, an intervention process will be implemented after the results have been analysed.

Senior Boys’ Football 16th May
By Eric Prele
A group of 21 schoolboys comprised of students from years 9, 10, 11 and 12 travelled to Naracoorte to participate in Senior Boys Football. Brad Merrett was named captain and Chad Marcus vice-captain.
In fine, sunny conditions Penola won the toss and kicked to the northern end. Penola started well, kicking the first goal and seemed to have ascendancy with the help of a slight breeze. Unfortunately their run stopped there as the bigger, faster, more experienced Naracoorte boys found form. Naracoorte gained in confidence as the match went on and, apart from a short burst in the third quarter when Penola scored two unanswered goals; Naracoorte continued to score at will, running out winners 26.18 to Penola 3.3.

Penola had a number of players who played very well. Brad Merrett led the team extremely well, trying valiantly to inject some run into the Penola team. Gus Eckermann was superb, using his skills and run. Jack Gartner never stopped trying. Scott Merrett asserted his influence on a number of occasions. Hayden Lambert and Ben Casey battled in the back lines throughout the game. Mason Galpin’s second quarter effort was excellent and Bailey walker, although up against taller opposition, won quite a bit of the ball.

All the boys should be proud of their team performance. The way they were able to work together and demonstrate inclusivity whilst on the field and well-disciplined behaviour in MacDonald’s on the way home was an absolute credit to them.

Our thanks are extended to Georgie Beighton who travelled down as the team trainer and was of valuable assistance tending to the boys’ injuries on the sidelines.

Secondary Schools Culinary Challenge
Ashlee Sullivan and Taylah Tranter from the Cafe 43 Program are preparing to enter the Secondary Schools Culinary Challenge to be held at Regency International TAFE on 25/6/13.

The girls have been undertaking workshops with Simon Bowen from Pipers and Dee Hutchinson. The girls are aiming for Nationals and this has involved extensive planning to select the appropriate components to compliment the set protein which is ‘lamb rump’.

One trial run has been completed and the flavours, cooking methods, food presentation and skill level have been achieved. Now the girls need to become more time efficient – a goal they can achieve through practice.