Staff News

16th May 2016

**Year 12 Art Trip 30th-31st March**
Kristen Bence took four Year 12 SACE Visual Arts students to Adelaide for the annual art pilgrimage, to assist in the students’ development of their folios and major practical work. First stop was the Year 12 SACE Art Show at the TAFE Light Square gallery. This exhibition showcases the best Year 12 Visual Arts and Design work from the previous year. Students spent time talking with the head arts moderator in attendance and looking at a range of folio and practical work. Students subsequently undertook a tour of the University of South Australia Visual Arts Campus, where they viewed the facilities and saw tertiary students creating numerous interesting artworks in a range of mediums. From there it was a short walk to the Art Gallery of South Australia and a guided tour of the 2016 Biennial exhibition where students responded enthusiastically to the contemporary art on display, particularly enjoying one interactive installation. The last port of call was a SACE Arts Forum where students listened to four Stage 2 Visual Arts students from last year present their work, including the processes they took to create their folio work and final practical pieces. Overall it was a very rewarding trip and gave the students some really interesting ideas for the concepts they were already developing.

**Visit by Philip Guerin, Flinders Uni 5th April**
Philip Guerin and a colleague from Flinders University visited the school and spoke to students in Years 11 and 12. Students were provided with an overview of the types of courses available at Flinders, introduced to the new Hub and invited to subscribe to a newsletter.

**SRC Juvenile Diabetes Awareness Day 8th April**
SRC members organised a highly successful Juvenile Diabetes day to raise student awareness of this autoimmune disease and the challenges sufferers face. Students wore blue and made gold coin donations. After lunch, the whole school walked three circuits of the oval and students and staff were addressed by SRC Co-President, Alana Winter.

**Adelaide Athletics 11th April**
The Penola High School athletics team travelled to Adelaide ready for the intense competition of the SSSSA D Grade State Athletics Championships. Having completed five weeks of training, most students were at their peak and ready to go. There were many exceptional performances on the track and in the field events, with a substantial number of students finishing in the top three for their event(s). The boys finished third, with the girls having a massive improvement from last year and also finishing third, giving PHS an overall third placing. Individual highlights came from Ella Kain, Sarah Stokvad, Josh Currie, Nathan Rowe, Gerard Merrett, Bailey Walker and Thomas Walker

**Wattle Range Council Youth Awards 11th April**
Wattle Range Council has introduced a series of Youth Awards. Cory O’Connor and Alana Winter both participated and were acknowledged by Wattle Range Council for their achievements. Alana
was one of several students who entered the ‘Community Involvement’ category, while Cory entered and won the ‘Pursuit of Academic Excellence’ category, providing details of his Year 12 studies and his Lions Youth of the Year Achievement.

**Penola Pool Mural**

In association with the 2016 Penola Coonawarra Arts Festival, and organised by Rhett McDonald, the Penola and Nangwarry pool murals were redeveloped by Adelaide-based artist, James Parker as part of a pool redevelopment sponsored by the Wattle Range Council. Students from local schools were involved in both the design and execution phases. PHS Year 9 and 10 Art students spent many hours towards the end of term 1 assisting James to develop a design for the mural based on collaborative drawings and to paint the design onto the wall overlooking the pool. The design reflects inspiration from artists, such as Hokusai and Paul Klee, and represents flora and fauna from our local swamps and surrounding area. It also represents a quirky representation of pool use, including many images drawn by the students. The mural will feature as part of the 25th anniversary for the Penola Coonawarra Arts Festival and both murals will be opened on 11am on Sunday the 22nd of May as part of the festival weekend.

**ANZAC Day Observance 14th April**

Our PHS ANZAC Day ceremony was conducted by Year 9 students under the guidance of Rob Thornett. Jesse Martin opened proceedings. Members of the Year 9 class had written about aspects of the war on the Western Front for the Premier’s Prize ANZAC competition and four pieces of this work were shared: Rob Thornett read Kate Skeer’s research, and was followed by Phoebe Tregenza, James Foggo and Brooke Hutchesson. The assembly moved to the quadrangle where Year 8 students Ali Jones and Ebonie Moulton, assisted by guests of honour and RSL members Peter Degaris and David Strother, laid a wreath. The Last Post was played and was followed by a minute’s silence before Reveille. Cameron Perry returned the flag to full mast. Year 9 students had baked ANZAC biscuits and these were shared with all participants.

**Visit from Steve Nixon 14th April**

Steve Nixon, Open Access Physics teacher, spent the day with our Stage 1 Physics students. He was accompanied by his colleague and OAC Deputy Principal, Jeane Schocroft.

**Year 12 end-of-term Breakfast 15th April**

Rob Thornett took the Year 12 students to breakfast at Vintage to celebrate the end of term. At this stage, these students are about a third of the way through their courses, so an opportunity to reflect on the term in this way was valuable. Andrew Stockley was there as the cohort’s guest.

**Kids’ Time 15th April**

Year 12 student, Felicity Drury was closely involved in the preparation and delivery of the most recent Kids’ Time as part of her work for Year 12 Community Studies. The theme for the session was ‘Nighty Night’. Clad suitably in pyjamas, Rob Thornett read ‘A Bed of My Own’, where rhyme and repetition helped to stimulate the children’s imaginations, and Felicity and Ali jointly read ‘Nighty Night’. Felicity’s craft activity of making a day/night sun clock was participated in enthusiastically, with children being pleased with their products. Activities also included action songs, balloon jumping activities and picture sequencing. The littlies enjoyed making toast and milo for morning tea.
Strategic Learning Committee Dinner Meeting  4th May
The Strategic Learning Committee held a dinner meeting in Mt Gambier. Last year, this committee used the school community’s work around the ‘Ideal Learner’ in the development of the Site Improvement Plan. This work is now being taken forward, particularly in our work around Professional Learning Communities.

UniSA Presentation  10th May
Representatives from UniSA visited and made a presentation to students in Years 8 to 10.

Parent-Teacher Interviews  10th May
Our annual parent/teacher interview night was held in the Hall with both parents and teachers valuing the opportunity to discuss students’ learning and development.

Naplan Tests week 3
The annual Naplan tests for Year 9 students were held during week 3, with detailed and thorough organisation on the part of Kristen Bence ensuring that the testing ran smoothly, and that catch up opportunities were provided where necessary.

Rostrum Voice of Youth  11th May
Jackie Poumako organised eight of our students to don our school blazers and represent us in fine style at this year’s Rostrum Voice of Youth public speaking competition. The students competed in both Junior and Senior sections, delivering their eight minute prepared speeches in fine style and coping well with the three minute ‘short notice’ speeches. We congratulate the following on their hard work in preparing their speeches and their courage in standing in front of fifty plus strangers and adjudicators to deliver them: Ebonie Moulton, Claire Ambagtsheer-Murphy, Darcy O’Connor, Emily Winter, Imahgen Hecht, Aliza Pfitzner, Alana Winter and Camryn Schriever.

E-Languages Sister School Partnership Update from Kathleen Phillips
Since the start of the school year we have been in contact with the Tsu City Board of Education, Japan, in relation to setting up a sister school program. We have been working with Nishikyonai Junior School in Tsu City.

On Tuesday 10 May, we had our very first Skype link up for our Year 8 students who are currently taking part in this program. In our link up, we learnt about Nishikyonai Junior School: it is a school of 300 students, whose ages range from 13-15 years old. We are working together with a first year English class of about 30 students. All students introduced themselves to each other in a mixture of English and Japanese.

We are doing an official session on Thursday 19th May at 10:30am. This will see the local Mayor and media from Tsu City being present for the session as it is the first time this type of program has been run in a public school in their city. **If members of the GC would like to view the session they are more than welcome to come.** Please arrive by 10:15am so that we can be ready to start promptly.

We plan to create a unit of work and work on it together so that it will help us to learn about Japanese culture and the Japanese students to learn about Australian culture. It also gives students in both schools a chance to practise their language skills in a real environment. The long term aim of
this partnership is to create and foster a sister school program between the two schools and continue to work on projects collaboratively.

**Sue Hodder Visit 13th May**
Senior winemaker at Wynns, Ms Sue Hodder, visited the Year 11 students on Friday morning, week 2. As part of our preparation for Work Experience in week 4, Sue spoke to the Year 11s as a whole about the expectations of employers, characteristics students entering the workforce will need to have and the wide range of career opportunities in the wine industry. Sue then joined the Year 11 Chemistry students in the Chem lab to finish their wine making project. The wine was racked, additions made and then bottled. We are most grateful to Sue, Sonya Kingsbury, laboratory manager, and Wynns for their continuing support for our students.

**Success Stories**
Congratulations to Georgie Beighton on becoming Young Rural Show Ambassador 2016 for the region and to Aimee Galpin who also competed in a separate category at the Young Rural Show Ambassador competition held in Lucindale.

Congratulations to Emily Winter who represented Australia as a member of the Australian Junior Country Basketball team which played in the Mel Young Easter Cup basketball tournament in New Zealand. Emily was one of two representatives from South Australia to be selected for the team which was placed second in the competition.

Congratulations to ex-student and parent of a current student, Casey Meek who has been named runner-up third year apprentice in the 2016 Meat Industry Vocational Student of the Year Award at the National Meat Industry Awards.

If you read The Pennant closely, you will be aware that former student Nick Kidman is competing in this year’s Swinging with the Stars fundraiser for the Stand Like Stone Foundation. Nick has entered this event with the avowed intent of raising awareness in the community of our school. He is holding a showing of ‘The Grand Budapest Hotel’ at the Coonawarra Hall on Friday 20th May. Please consider supporting Nick.

**Breakfast Program**
A Breakfast Program with facilities for toast making has recently been set up and is operating in the mornings from the Hall. Many students are taking advantage of the opportunity to have breakfast or a ‘top up’, and many have noted that the aroma of fresh toast in the mornings is very inviting.

**Week 3**
...and lest you should think that it’s all over and done, this week will see our extensive involvement in the Penola Coonawarra Arts Festival, beginning with the opening here on Thursday Night, the Year 11s off on their Outdoor Ed camp, a Year 12 English trip to the theatre, Open Football, the Geography competition and Touch Footy. It’s all happening here.