Prospective Parent Evening  21st May 2013
A number of prospective parents and their students visited the school for a tour and information evening. Both students and staff provided information and answered questions to provide a valuable experience.

Year 11 Work Experience  20th-24th May 2013
Week 4 saw our Stage 1 students embarking on Work Experience. Students chose to visit sites as disparate as vets, retail businesses, builders, artificial breeders and hospitals. It is evident from their responses to the week, that students appreciated the experiences offered to them and learnt a considerable amount about themselves and possible future pathways. We are deeply appreciative of the support offered by all those who opened their doors to our young people.

Primary School Visits  Week 4 and 5
The entire student populations of Kalangadoo and Nangwarry Primary Schools enjoyed separate, day-long visits with us. Highlights included the Kalangadoo Year 4 -7 students cooking lunch for their peers and the Nangwarry students making cutting boards and book covers. These visits form an important part of the transition program and acquaint students in our feeder schools with the ‘Big School’.

Simultaneous Story  22nd May 2013
Over 200000 children across Australia participated in the ‘Simultaneous Story’ event, and Reception/Year 1 students from Penola Primary School were no exception. Thirty-nine reception/Year 1 students visited the library. The theme for the occasion was around reading and imagination. ‘The Wrong Book’ was the prescribed text, but, in our library, two other books were read as well. Year 8 students, Amy Wetherall and Aliza Pfitzner had fun with ‘The Interrupting Chicken’ and Ella Kain read ‘My Grandma is a Pirate’. After the stories, the students made and decorated stand-up elephants from cardboard with help from the Year 8 girls. A great time was had by all.

Year 12 Science Trip 22nd-23rd May 2013
Stuart Williams from Lucindale Area School organised a Senior Science trip to Flinders University for Year 12 students from across the district. Students from Penola, Millicent, Lucindale, and Kangaroo Inn joined those from Kingston to travel to Adelaide. A relaxing evening at the movies was followed by an exciting and stimulating day based at the SIL Centre at Flinders Uni. During the first session, the Biology students were given a campus tour, while the Physics and Chemistry students attended hands-on sessions where they investigated electromotive force, chromatography, atomic absorption spectroscopy, lasers and UV spectrometry. Following this, students and staff shared lunch on the lawn and then decamped to the Biology department to discover some of the life forms present in sea water samples using microscopes and to prepare and stain slides of virus samples. The students and staff who attended were very pleased with the day’s outcomes. We particularly thank the staff of the SILC, Stuart for his enthusiasm and fine organisation and Barry Medwell from Kingston for his skill with a big bus in Adelaide’s peak hour traffic.

The Penola-Coonawarra Arts Festival  23rd-26th May 2013
Staff and students from PHS were involved in many different activities during the recent, highly successful Penola-Coonawarra Arts Festival.
John Shaw Neilson Exhibition
Our Hall was, once again, the hub of activity at the formal launch of the Festival and the opening of the John Shaw Neilson exhibition. The Hall itself was resplendent with the forty-five exhibition paintings ably curated by Kristen Bence, with assistance from community members, Peter Muller, Ashley Smith and Peter Rymill. Added to the ambience thus established, were the colour and excitement of the throng assembled in anticipation for the official opening. This was conducted by Arts Festival President, Rhett McDonald, with assistance from Fleur Roachock, and Annette Balnaves, representing the Balnaves Foundation, the major sponsors of this event.

Lisa Slade, a curator from the Art Gallery of South Australia, and Simon Klose, the Director of the Riddoch Art Gallery, were this year’s judges and the winning entry was submitted by Patricia O’Connell from Casterton who exhibited a work entitled “The Poor Poor Country”. Ashlee Sullivan and Georgie Beighton from Year 10 submitted thoughtfully executed entries in the junior section of the competition. But, the paintings were only part of the excitement. Dee Hutchinson’s Café 43 students provided nibbles of a very high standard which were relished by all and wines donated by Raidis Estate were widely enjoyed.

Year 8/9 Graffiti Workshops 23rd-24th May 2013
Year 8 and 9 students participated in all-day Graffiti Workshops with renowned Adelaide Graffiti Artist Sebastian Humphreys who has worked with Youth in Art programs and is famous for his contemporary designs from around Adelaide.
The Festival Kids Program won a grant from Country Arts SA to create a circus puppet themed workshop and stage for the 2013 Festival and PHS students worked on the Graffiti Panels and Puppet Stage with the local Men’s Shed Volunteers and Sebastian Humphreys. Our students created 12 large spray painted panels with a graffiti circus theme and also some spoons, knives and forks for the Koonarra Knife, Fork and Spoon Auction. Alana Winter sold her Hello Kitty inspired Fork for $50 at auction on the Saturday afternoon. There was fun had by all students who participated as they found out how hard it was to draw and paint with a spray can. The panels were on display in the Kids Marquee over the weekend of the Festival.

Kids’ Time 25th May 2013
A special Kids’ Time program was devised to coincide with the Festival and form part of the Children’s Program. The theme was ‘Clowning Around in the Library’ and Ali Bond and her dedicated band of helpers had expended considerable effort in transforming the seminar room into an exciting circus big top, courtesy of boxes provided by Chris and Shane from the IGA.
The program began with a reading of C. J. Dennis’ poem ‘The Circus’, and Rob Thornett explained how important circus visits were in an era pre TV and DVDs. ‘The Circus Parade’ was read by Ali. This book has a very rhythmic text, and Ali’s rendition was accompanied by Rowena Fennell on kettle drum. The children and parents quickly entered into the spirit of things and clapped in time to the beat – a fun way of augmenting basic numeracy skills. Rowena sang ‘Those Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines’ and the children joined in with the actions, swooping up and down. Rob demonstrated juggling, and each of the children was given a set of juggling cloths of their very own with which to practise. A small pig, who developed resilience through adversity, was the hero of ‘Tight Rope Poppy’ which was the next book shared with the children. At this stage, it was time for activities, and the children rotated through circus activities overseen by Rob, where they walked on a beam, ‘fed’ the clown and knocked down fruit tin skittles, making circus clown hats with Heather Stone, making circus animals from balloons with John and Kylie Bond, and face painting with Ella Kidman, ably supported by Andi Zerk. The session ended with another story: ‘The Last Circus’, and the children left clutching their juggling cloths, a balloon animal and a hot dog with sauce.
The program was also shared with a group from the Kinder in the next week, but Ali altered the craft activities and some of the stories so that children who had attended the Festival session, still had a novel experience.

**Writing Workshops  25th May 2013**

Two writing workshops, ‘A Beginner’s Class’ and ‘Power of Words’ were held at PHS. The workshops were organised by Barb. Smith and presented by local writers, Ian Harrison and Robert Pattison. Ian is a published writer who is in the process of bringing his second book to print. He led participants through the process of producing a book, from the initial gathering of ideas to the final published article. Robert Pattison hails from New Zealand and is a contributor to two magazines there; ‘Country Wide’ and ‘Heartland Beef’. He presented the requirements of successful journal writing to participants at the afternoon session.

**Track Mania Tournament  26th June 2013**

A Track Mania tournament was held in the computer room as part of the Young Peoples’ program for the Festival. Fifteen eager participants gathered for a preliminary training session followed by a hotly contested competition in two divisions. Scott Merrett and Jamie Colbert were the declared winners, but all participants had a great time.

**The Yalumba Menzies Photographic Competition Student Section**

Kristen Bence worked with Year 6/7 students from Penola Primary and Mary MacKillop schools to prepare photos for the photographic competition. Students toured Penola, choosing shots to illustrate the theme, ‘Penola – the Perfect Place To Be’. Renowned local photographer Bennedetta Ruscioni judged the entries and commented that the standard was very high. Lucy Tonkin from Year 9 received an encouragement award.

In the Open Section of the competition, Kristen Bence received a highly commended award for her entry featuring Cameron’s statue outside the Royal Oak.

**IGA Junior Chef Competition**

The PHS Home Ec centre was the setting for the IGA Junior Chef Competition organised by Andi Zerk and Dee Hutchinson. Thirty-two budding young chefs organised into four heats participated to produce Chicken Patties in Bacon with a side of salad accompanied by a dressing within the allotted hour. The children did such an amazing job that one parent asked if you could purchase the patties at IGA as they were really nice.

The winners from each of the heats competed in a Grand Final where they met the 2010 winner of Master Chef, Callum Hann. He observed the children and gave them a few helpful tips along the way. The dish for the final was ‘Ratatouille’ which gave participants the opportunity to sharpen their knife skills. The dishes were judged by Callum Hann and local chefs Darren Powell of the Bushmans Inn and Simon Bowen of Pipers. The winners of the event were Alex Brodie and Ellie Pollard. They were presented with a medal and the shield and a prize from IGA and Kerry McPherson. All other children who competed in the final also received a gift and a certificate of recognition.

The event was extremely successful and we are most appreciative of the support of Kerry and Shane McPherson and their IGA.

**PPS Year 7s visit Science  30th May 2013**

Cathy O’Connell’s Year 7 class from the primary school made the first of three scheduled visits to undertake some practical activities in the chemistry laboratory. The students were set the task of separating the salt from a mixture of salt, sand and iron filings. The students made suggestions as to how this might be done before putting their plans successfully into action.
Year 12 Chemistry Practical Exercises Day 26th May 2013
The students of the combined Year 12 Chemistry class met on a Sunday for three sessions of practical work. To begin with, each student undertook a different analysis exercise and then shared their results with other members of the group. This enabled everyone to have lots of practice at analysing by back titration. After a shared morning tea, students undertook their summative titration, producing polished results. The afternoon session was devoted to a range of chromatography practical exercises. The students worked consistently throughout the day and achieved a great deal. We were very pleased to be able to include two visiting students from Kingston Community School in the morning session.

Autism Day 1st June 2013
The SRC organised a fund raising day for Autism Awareness. Students wore casual clothes with a blue theme and were asked for a gold coin donation. In OK for Life, students were given information on different forms of Autism and their impacts on the individuals as well as their families. During lunch the SRC students made blue milkshakes and cupcakes and sold these to students to raise further money.

Geography Competition Results
Earlier in the year, the Year 10 students and other volunteers took on the challenge of the Australian Geography Competition. Our congratulations are extended to Alana Winter (Year 9) and Alex Male (Year 10) who received Distinctions and to Year 10 students Monica McIntyre, Tom Price and Ashlee Sullivan who received Credits.

Reconciliation Assembly 4th June 2013
A formal, whole school assembly, organised by Year 10 students, was held in the Hall to mark Reconciliation Week. Suzanne Gray welcomed everyone and read the Acknowledgement of the Lands. Four Year 10 students, Jack Gartner, Shauna Allen, Tom Price and Georgie Beighton, presented a time-line of major events in Australia post 1788 which have affected our indigenous people. The events ranged from the declaration of ‘terra nullius’ to Kevin Rudd’s moving ‘Sorry’ speech of 2008. Fleur Roachock read part of the ‘Sorry’ speech and the assembly finished movingly with the playing of the Yothu Yindi song, ‘Treaty’.

The service was made all the more poignant as it followed upon the death of one of Australia’s prominent indigenous leaders, the lead singer from Yothu Yindi.

Visit from UniSA and SATAC Representatives 5th June 2013
Representatives from UniSA and SATAC spent two lessons with students from Years 11 and 12, providing information about university life and application processes. The students listened attentively and appreciated the opportunity to ask questions.

Pupil Free Day 7th June 2013
On the pupil free day, the teaching staff were ably led by Mike Hentschke and Kristen Bence through many of the techniques for effective teaching promoted by Dillon Wiliam. Mike began the day by presenting some of the data which underlies Wiliam’s philosophy and techniques. Then it was into the specifics of classroom techniques for formative assessment. We were reminded of some old friends, but also met many new ideas. Staff left the final session fired up with enthusiasm to put their new ideas for formative assessment into practice in their classrooms.

Queen’s Birthday Weekend Successes 2013
Many of our students take on challenges in the wider community and meet with considerable success. Two such are Gus Eckermann and Jack Gartner, both of Year 10. Over the long weekend, Gus was placed fourth in the Senior Youth Quarter Horse event in Tamworth while Jack was first in the feature race at Horsham.
Boomerang Workshop 12th June 2013
Members of the Reception/Year 1 class at Penola Primary School attended the library and enjoyed a busy session where they painted boomerangs.

Cross Country 12th June 2013
Nine Penola High Year 8 students travelled to Mount Gambier to compete in the Interschool Cross Country Championship. The runners battled wet and wild conditions to complete a three kilometre, up-hill course, but all managed to finish the race with very respectable times. A special mention must go to Ella Kain who came third in the U14 Girls and actually ran 3 minutes faster than any of the Penola boys! Simone Combe, who organised our participation in the event, was particularly impressed by our boys who stopped to ask an injured athlete from Bordertown if he was OK while others just ran past. PHS has a fine tradition in cross-country events, but interest has waned in recent years. It was great to see enthusiasm for this event being re-born, particularly as we are to host the event next year.

Year 8 Art Installation
Week 7 saw the installation of a ‘Picnic’ in the library. The items in the installation were made by Kristen Bence’s Year 8 class, and were (almost) good enough to eat.

Adelaide University visit 13th June 2013
David Thompson from the University of Adelaide visited and spoke to the Year 10 students about the opportunities offered by university education. He was also available to discuss career options and application processes with Year 11 and 12 students.

Farewell Jason Watkins 14th June 2013
During his posting in Penola, Jason Watkins regularly visited the Year 11 home group during OK for Life to talk with students about issues of concern to them such as the laws around driving and alcohol and parties. Jason established excellent relationships with the students and brought a human face to the law. To farewell Jason, a combined Year 11 and 12 home group was held. Our new police officer, Andrew Hills, was also able to be present to meet the students and, after a short question and answer session, everyone adjourned to the Hall for table tennis and a morning tea. Brooke Klemm gave Jason a card signed by all the Year 12 students, and Mathew Hutchesson presented Jason with a card from the Year 11s and a bottle of wine.

SRC Footy Fundraiser 14th June 2013
Members of the SRC held a very popular ‘footy’ themed fund raising day. Students and staff came to school in football colours and made a gold coin donation. Chips with gravy were served as a recess time treat.

Noorla Yo-Long Trip 14th June 2013
John Stayte travelled to Noorla Yo-Long with a group of twelve students from Years 8 to 10 and Bob Reece to enable the students to participate in the high ropes course. This course is designed to help students to develop self-confidence and build self-esteem by taking on truly challenging physical activities.

Football Success 15th June 2013
Brad Merrett is travelling to Adelaide after school on Friday afternoon of every second week to play for the Glenelg Under 18s. This Saturday, he kicked five goals and was named second best on ground. We congratulate Brad, not just on his football success, but also on the way he is balancing the demands of his beloved game with those of his Stage 2 courses.