National Geography Competition
Congratulations to Bradley Tregenza who was named the equal first student for South Australia in the National Geography Competition.

Nangwarry Primary School Visit 26th May
Students from Years 2 to 7 visited us and engaged enthusiastically in many and varied learning activities throughout the day.

Playful Learning Presentation at Penola Primary School 26th May
On Tuesday 26th May, Fleur Roachock was invited by Paul Harmer from Penola Primary to give a short presentation to a group of Penola Primary parents about the relevance of playful learning in a secondary setting. She also answered parents’ questions on this topic, and some others, as part of a panel. In this forum, presentations were also given by educators from McKay Children’s Centre and Penola Primary, as well as by Lisa Burmann, an expert in Playful Learning pedagogies.

While the language we use about this type of learning might be different in a secondary setting – “inquiry-based learning” is more often used – it was fabulous to see how these pedagogies flow from one site to the next in the public education facilities in Penola. Fleur was also able to talk to those present about our work around defining the Ideal Learner and the Individual Ideal Learning Plans that are being constructed for Year 8 students, making the event an excellent transition exercise for our school.

Luke Skeer Visit 28th May
Luke Skeer visited the Year 11 Chemistry class to finish the wine making project. The wine was racked and bottled.

Japanese Grant
Kathleen Phillips has successfully applied for a grant of $2000 to help us implement an e-languages sister school program. The aim is to allow our students contact with schools in Japan, enabling them to work on their interactions in Japanese with students of their age; this links in with the Australian Curriculum. The money will allow the purchase of new infrastructure such as an interactive projector for use in the classroom, which will be used in e-language sessions.

Our Students in the Wider World
Alex Male has been chosen as a delegate to Youth ANZAAS, the youth section of the Australia and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science conference, to be held in Adelaide in July. The application process, which includes a 750 word essay, Mathematics is the Language of Science, is very demanding and we congratulate Alex on his success.

Alana Winter is also to be congratulated on being accepted into the Rural Doctors Workforce Agency MedSpace Ready program designed to support rural students interested in a career in medicine.

To complete the trifecta: Taylah Tranter has been invited to compete in the Nestle Golden Chef’s Hat Competition, run by the Australian Culinary Federation. This competition is for junior chefs and apprentices, and Taylah has been awarded a place following her success in the Secondary Schools
Culinary Challenge in 2013, her subsequent performance in Japan at the International Challenge and her current apprenticeship at Hollick’s.

**Pupil Free Day  5th June**
A very successful Pupil Free Day was held at the start of the long weekend. The first session, ‘Formative Feedback’, was presented by Kristen Bence, Jackie Poumako and Tom Sutterby. Tom organised a dramatic illustration of the importance of immediate feedback by having Jackie back a trailer between two bins. As well as considering various forms of feedback, staff also looked at examples of student work and the written feedback provided on it.

The second session, run by Mike Hentschke and Winsley Wighton, revisited Carol Dweck’s ideas about Growth Mindsets. Teachers took an in-depth look at the characteristics of both closed and growth mindsets and then considered our students in the light of these. This work will contribute to the on-going work on Individual Learning Plans.

The last session of the day was run by Fleur Roachock and Suzanne Gray. Staff worked on the Site Improvement Plan, refining ideas around our ‘Ideal Learner’.

**Interschool Cross Country  10th June**
Nine Penola High students competed in the Interschool Cross Country Championships, hosted by Naracoorte High School and held at the Naracoorte Hockey Club and surrounding grounds. The runners battled tough conditions, particularly with running on sand uphill, but all managed to finish the race with very respectable times. It was excellent to see plenty of students having a go and representing Penola High School. Thanks must go to Kevin Maria for assisting as the official starter on the day.

Participating students were Sam Klemm, Sam Gartner, Ashton Byrne, Jamie Colbert, Daniel Meek, Logan Gibbs, Jacob Ellery, Josh Currie and Callum Sutcliffe.

**Ice Forum  11th June**
An outstandingly successful Ice Forum was held in the Hall with over three hundred people from our community attending. Vicki M‘Donald-Burgess’ superb organisation ensured not only that all who attended were seated, but that all those who came after football training were plied with barbecued sausages.

After a welcome from Fleur Roachock, the forum was run by Sergeant Paul Scicluna whose opening remarks were followed by an informative video of one of the presenters at the Mt Gambier forum. Guy, a rehabilitated ice addict, spoke movingly of his experiences, and had the complete attention of his audience. The evening concluded with a panel answering questions from the floor.

**Science and Engineering Challenge  12th June**
Twenty-one students from years 8 to 10 attended the annual Science and Engineering Challenge in Mt Gambier. Our students worked in small teams and were highly engaged and focussed on problem-solving activities such as building a model of an environmentally sustainable dwelling, investigating alternative sources of power and their incorporation into a sustainable supply system, designing and building a working model of a hand, investigating pathways in a network, building a hover craft, designing a tower built from paper to withstand vibrations while carrying a load, and the perennial favourites: construction of a Mars rover and a bridge.

Our students won the hand building and Mars rover sections of the day and are to be congratulated on the effort and hard work they expended to achieve this success. Overall, Penola was placed third out of the eight schools attending, with Bordertown High first and Naracoorte High second.