Staff News

16th March 2015

PHS Athletics 26th February
The last week of summer provided wonderful weather for the Athletics Carnival and its associated activities. The first event was House Trials, orchestrated by the House Captains and held in the first three lessons of Tuesday. This was followed with the 1500m on Wednesday morning. It was great to see the number of students who really gave this event their best shot.

Thursday was THE day, however, with Yalluminga claiming the winner’s shield by a single point. The weather was kind, the volunteers, cheerful, enthusiastic and well-organised and the students intent on achieving their best. This was certainly true of Scott Merrett whose 46.96m throw in the Open Boys Javelin established a new record – after the previous one stood for 45 years.

‘Legends Awards’, for commitment and selflessness were received by Scott Merrett, Brianna Oppelaar and Nick Rowe, while the inaugural Principal’s Award, acknowledging outstanding leadership and mentoring of younger students, was won by Ben Casey.

Age Group winners were Emily Winter, Tom Abbey, Gorgia Robbie, Brandon M’Murtrie, Ella Kain, Cory O’Connor, Hannah Klemm and Tom Walker, while the runners up were Kelsey Hutchesson, Sam Gartner, Erin Fielder, Josh Currie, Alana Winter, Will Cadzow, Georgie Beighton and Gus Eckermann.

The final House scores were Yalluminga 679, Torilla 678 and Moyanga 552.

Some additional points for your interest from Simone Combe who organised the whole series of events superbly:

- The House Captains did an amazing job of ensuring all events were filled, and were great role models for the younger students.
- Personally, I think it was my favourite Sports Day at this school.
- Tom Walker was the breakout star this year, dominating in events across the board and even giving the Open Boys Triple Jump record a shake.
- Georgie Beighton was just shy of the Open Girls Javelin record.

Year 12 Phys Ed Camp/Year 11 Outdoor Ed Camp 3rd-5th March
From Simone Combe

The Year 11 Outdoor Education and Year 12 Physical Education classes ventured to Murray Bridge for an intensive 3 day aquatics camp. The Year 11 students had a taste of a variety of different aquatics activities, including sailing, windsurfing, kayaking and knee boarding. They were required to plan the menu for the camp and purchase the food, as well as keep a journal and research the history and environment of the Murray River.
The six Year 12 students who attended the camp completed eighteen hours of sailing. This forms a third of the practical component in the Year 12 PE course. The course required students to learn the basic skills required in sailing, such as tacking, gybing, sailing into and with the wind, and adjusting sails based on the wind. Students were also required to complete more complex skills such as capsizing and rescues. The Year 12 students were initially apprehensive about sailing, but their confidence grew quickly and they were soon performing all skills instinctively and with great poise. The instructors commented on the entire group’s ability to pick up new skills quickly and were also impressed with the positive interactions and cohesiveness amongst the group. The Year 12 results were very pleasing and gave students a strong start to the year.

The Year 11 students were excellent at sharing around cooking and cleaning duties, with everyone contributing to the running of the camp.

**SRC Conference 6th March**
A highly successful SRC conference to set priorities for the year ahead was held on the morning of Friday 6th March at Vintage Café. Students achieved a considerable amount and were even able to produce the advertising for their first fund raiser (supporting epilepsy sufferers) in the time available. One of the highlights was the lunch provided by Carol Marcus, another the way in which the students were able to work together so supportively and productively. Our thanks to Scott McCulloch who accompanied the students.

**Book Club in the Library 6th March**
The inaugural meeting of Penola’s newest Book Club was held in the library with ten ladies attending. Despite many of the women not knowing each other to begin with, vibrant discussion ensued and was followed by enjoyable conversation over tea, coffee and scones. Members have agreed that they will each bring something they have read to discuss. Ali Bond, who initiated and convened the meeting, provided prompts to guide future discussions.

**Lions Assembly 11th March**
A whole school assembly, run by Ashlee Sullivan, was held in the Hall to enable everyone to hear the winning speeches from the Lions Youth of the Year Quest and to give the girls practice before the next round of the Quest to be held in Millicent on the 14th March. The audience was attentive and both Georgie Beighton and Alana Winter spoke well. Following the speeches, Mrs Roa Rochok spoke about the importance of challenging oneself and being prepared to take risks and further public speaking opportunities which will become available for students to do just that.

**Susan McLean Cyber-safety Presentation 12th March**
The whole school sat on the edges of their seats for an hour and a half as Susan McLean presented hard hitting information about cyber-safety. Susan, who is a world acknowledged expert in the field, pulled no punches as she covered a range of topics including cyber-bullying, sexting, consequences of on-line behaviours and legal aspects. There was an opportunity for students to ask questions at the end of the presentation.

**Regional Final of Lions 14th March**
Both Georgie Beighton and Alana Winter acquitted themselves superbly when they represented Kalangadoo and Penola Lions Clubs at the Regional Heat of the Lions Youth of the Year Quest. Our particular congratulations are extended to Alana who won the Public Speaking section of the Quest.