16th September 2013

Week 4 Basketball Competition
The first round of a highly successful basketball competition was run by the SRC during lunchtimes in week 4. Both staff and students were involved and the competition and friendly rivalry was enjoyed by all. Four games were held each week in a round-robin competition format, with the final games still to be played in Week 10 of this term. Some brilliant skills have been on display during games so far, with James Braddy and Josh Currie being standout players for their respective teams. Congratulations to Scott Merrett, Jade Lythgo and the rest of the SRC for their organisation of this event.

Long Tan Day Commemoration 18th August
Madeleine Powell from Year 8 represented both the school and the local Scouts when she addressed the community gathering commemorating Long Tan Day.

SSO Week 19th-23rd August
SSO Week is an annual celebration and acknowledgement of all that our Schools Services Officers do to keep our school community functioning efficiently and our students fully supported. They make an incredibly important contribution. Students made cards of appreciation and a celebratory morning tea was held in recognition of all that they do.

National Literacy and Numeracy Week 19th-23rd August
National Literacy and Numeracy Week was observed in week 5 of term 3 with an exciting range of activities.

Rob Thornett organised a series of space related questions which students answered in home group. The overall winner of this event was Melissa Middleton of Year 12 who demonstrated some fine research skills.

Kristen Bence and Scott M’Culloch oversaw an activity where students were given five words related to a current topic they were studying and were asked to produce a short video depicting these words. The final products were presented at today’s whole school assembly.

Jacqui Poumako oversaw the writing of 73 word stories. There were many entertaining efforts, with Madeleine Powell declared the winning author and Aliza Pfitzner the runner up. Both girls are from Year 8. Their entries appear below.

School Shopping
When Paula and Steven entered the front gates of their new school for the first time, they weren’t sure what to think. Actually, they weren’t sure what their mother was thinking. This place looked more like a kindergarten than a high school. The whole place was covered in pictures of rainbows and butterflies. “It would be an okay school if we were 2!”, said Paula. “Yes!” agreed Steven. And so the hunt continues. Madeleine Powell

First Past the Post
Everyone was lined up and ready to go. Some prepared and excited, others were
letting their nerves get the best of them. Me? Well, I was examining my surroundings; the conditions were okay, but they could have been better. Pretty much a second after I’d finished gazing around, everyone was off. I raced ahead leading the pack, the end was just in sight now. Then, Bam! I finished my exhausting times tables quiz.

Aliza Pfiztn

Haiku Competition

This deceptively simple sounding poetry with very tight conventions about the number of syllables and their arrangement is very challenging to write. Our congratulations go to Josh Woodbridge of Year 9 (winner) and Joel Moore from Year 10 (runner up) for their polished haiku which appear below

Vicious Dogs of war
bullets causing misery
hopeful for the day.

Josh Woodbridge

There they lie; so still
‘til the wind interrupts them
then they throw punches

Joel Moore

Five word descriptors

A world trapped in glass
‘Snow Globe’, by Aliza Pfiztn (Year 8)
A cheesy pig in bread
‘Ham and Cheese Sandwich’ by Bentley Galpin (Year 8)

Mike Hentschke organised a Maths competition, with students facing a new challenge each morning.

Kids’ Time 10.30am 21st August

The library was transformed by the addition of planets, moons and comets to fit in with the Book Week theme of ‘Reading Across the Universe’. There was also a display of books short-listed for this year’s annual Children’s Fiction awards. Kids’ Time was held as part of the celebrations, and, on this occasion, involved contributions from three Stage 1 Child Studies students, Melyssa Steed, Laura Price and Jade Lythgo. Rob Thornett, especially transformed into an astronaut for the occasion, met the small visitors and led them on a rocket trip around the library which finished at the ‘moon’, formally known as the seminar room. The children travelled in space ships made just for the occasion by John Bond, ably assisted by Ali Bond and Heather Stone. At the moon, the littlies painted models of comets and left them to dry while they listened to ‘On the Moon’ read by Melyssa. Then it was time for music with Ali and Laura. Old favourites such as ‘Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star’ and ‘I’m a Little Teapot’ transformed to ‘I’m a Little Space Rocket’ gave the opportunity for movement and rhyme. Jade Tranter, from Year 12, presented a Powerpoint about space which she had prepared. Jade Lythgo read a second story, followed by Rob with ‘The Bernstein Bears on the Moon’, an engaging introduction to the pretended weightlessness and ‘heavy boot walking’ which followed. Morning tea consisted of pinwheel flying saucers and then energy was burnt off with another journey in the space rockets. The children attached tails to their comets and subsequently enjoyed throwing and catching them. The eighteen small participants and their
parents enjoyed the session and following library time so much, that the last didn’t leave until 1.00pm!

Mary McKillop Students Visit the Library  22nd August
Catherine Mules’ reception/Year 1 class visited the library for a Book Week celebration which was partly organised by Jade Tranter and Tricia Hutchesson from Stage 2 Child Studies as part of their course work. The Year 12 girls threw themselves into this project and were highly organised and focussed. Both girls read stories to the children and then Tricia and Ali led them in some singing. Jade presented a more sophisticated version of her Powerpoint from Kids’ Time and then there was morning tea – flying saucer muffin pizzas which the senior girls had prepared. A formal vote of thanks was made to the girls by representatives from the Reception/Year 1s.

SRC Quiz Night  23rd August
Around about eighty people in ten teams combined to make one of the most memorable SRC Quiz Nights. There was a happy buzz in the Hall throughout the evening as teams competed for a very generous range of prizes. The student comperes for the evening were Brad Merrett and Brooke Klemm who did an excellent job of keeping things moving and reading out the questions. Scott M’Culloch supported the students as teacher comperes in his own inimitable style. Scott, Andi Zerk and Sarah Walker all worked hard behind the scene to help the students prepare for the event. It was a most enjoyable evening and also a successful fund raiser. Our thanks go to the many businesses and individuals in our community who supported this endeavour. It is wonderful to see so much support for our students and school.

Laos Yiros Night  23rd August
A highly successful lamb yiros night was held to raise funds for the Laos trip, with over 140 orders received and filled.

Driver Education 29th August
Senior Constable Nigel Allen spent an afternoon with the Year 11 students devoted to exploring aspects of road safety. Much of his content was very sobering, and it was pleasing to note how seriously the students responded to his message.

Students’ Successes
Our students’ successes have not been limited to traditional classroom activities. Each year, 500 Australian Vocational Student prizes are awarded nationally to students who have completed a Certificate II course as part of their schooling. The prizes consist of a certificate and $2000. We are thrilled to announce that both Sarah Polderman, who worked in retail at the IGA, and Jake Rowe, who worked with T & K Furniture, were recipients of these awards.

Year 11 student, Hayden Lambert, was named the Intermediate Champion Handler at the SA Junior Heifer Expo held in Adelaide in July. Hayden topped a field of 170 entrants.

Our girls were well-represented in the recent netball awards. Alana Winter received the League’s Best and Fairest 15A and Under Award, while Ella Kain and Hannah Klemm both finished on the top 10 list. Kelsy Batt was also placed in the top 10 in the League Best and Fairest 15B and Under Award.
Course Counselling 5th September
A course counselling afternoon and evening was held for all Year 10 and Year 11 students and their parents and carers to enable subject selections for 2014 to be made. Students had invested considerable effort in identifying their strengths, interests and possible career pathways. Students face a considerable smorgasbord of opportunities with vocational, traditional classroom, local delivery (Wattle Range Educational Network) and Open Access offerings to choose from.

George Otero Training 10th-11th September
Fleur attended a two day seminar in Week 7 with Dr George Otero and Professor John Halsey about Social Capital and Community-based Learning. She found the content and mode of presentation extremely engaging and -an added bonus - Professor Halsey seems to have taken a particular interest in Penola High School. We are hoping that he will be helpful to us in further developing our community links, as he suggests possible strategies and case studies to support us in this way.

Stephen Graham Training 10th-11th September
Stephen Graham, Literacy Guru, has trained many staff members in aspects of literacy in recent years and has made a highly significant contribution to the development of literacy skills of both our staff and, subsequently, our students. New staff were able to attend his most recent offerings in Mt Gambier and a group of staff caught up with Graham over dinner on the 10th. It was most enlightening to hear his views on Naplan testing and other matters. Our thanks go to Bronwyn Phillips of the Regional Office for organising the events.

Digger Geology Training and Development 10th September
Billy Vincent represented our Science Faculty at the most recent Digger training day. He returned to school enthused about Geology and bearing a polished piece of a Martian meteor which has been added to our resources.

Youth Environment Forum 12th September
The final meeting of the Youth Environment Forum for 2013 was held in Mt. Gambier. PHS students who had been involved in this project throughout the year presented a video detailing their achievements and the changes that they have brought about at our site.

Naracoorte Caves Excursion 12th September
Our Stage 1 and Stage 2 Chemistry students were joined by another Stage 2 student from Millicent High to spend a day at the Naracoorte Caves. Students were able to visit the Wonambi Centre and the Blanche and Victoria Fossil Caves. Frank Bromley was our guide for the day and kept the students highly engaged. Frank is a fount of all knowledge cave-wise and a very experienced and engaging guide. Not only did the students learn about chemical aspects of the caves, this information was presented in a way that enabled them to see how Chemistry works together with sister Sciences such as Biology, Geology, Palaeontology and Climate Science to enable us to understand the past 500 thousand years in our district and to see how this knowledge can guide us in future decision making.

Pupil Free Day 13th September
Kristen Bence, our Coordinator of Teaching and Learning, organised a very busy day which had staff exploring pedagogies which will be pivotal in implementing the Australian Curriculum. We
considered issues such as the relationship between Instructional and Constructivist approaches and the way in which innovatively conceived scaffolding and individual support for students could effectively link the two. Everyone was left with much to think about and enticing possibilities for developing their own classroom practice.

**Today's Events  16th September  Stop Press**

Too late to make the deadline were two events held today: a whole school assembly and a Chemistry excursion to the Portland Aluminium smelter. Details of these events will appear in the next edition of ‘Staff News’.