Governing Council Staff News

18th November 2013

Knockout Basketball  23rd October
PHS entered both boys’ and girls’ teams in the Year 10 SESSSA Knockout Basketball Competition which was held in Millicent. The girls’ team was coached by Simone Combe and had a mixture of Year 8, 9 and 10 students, some of whom hadn’t played competitive basketball before. The girls were not intimidated by their more experienced opposition, and were very competitive on the day. Determined performances came from Alana Winter, Amy Wetherall, Aliza Pfitzner, Montana Freeman, Emma Cadzow, Ella Kain, Georgie Beighton and Ashlee Sullivan. Whilst the team didn’t record any wins, the girls improved dramatically throughout the day and narrowly lost to Mount Gambier High School in their final match.

The boys’ team, composed of Year 10 students, was coached by Andi Zerk. Although the boys did not record any wins for the day, they showed enthusiasm, skill and determination in every game. Those involved were Scott Merrett, Tyson McGill, Joel Moore, Ben Casey, Tom Price, Sam Burgess and Gus Eckermann. Our thanks go to Angela Winter, Michelle Wetherall and Hannah Klemm for their support.

Soccer Success
Lewis March received the Best and Fairest award for his soccer team, Gambier Centrals, of which he is Captain.

Flinders University Holiday Adventure
Alex Male and Joel Moore spent some time in the recent term holidays exploring matters scientific at Flinders University.

PA&HSS Annual Ambassador’s Dinner  24th October
The annual dinner of the Show Society was held at Rendezvous, the main item of business being the induction of the Show Ambassador and Junior Show Ambassador for 2013. Missy Pryor was welcomed as the Show Ambassador as was our Jess Hayes from Year 12 who now fills the Junior role. Jess delivered a well-prepared speech outlining her interests in things rural in a friendly and engaging manner. She received her badge of office from Caitlin Fulton, ex-PHS student and last year’s Junior Ambassador. Both ambassadors were presented with flowers, courtesy of Di’s Gifts and Flowers, a box of indulgences, from Toffee and Treats and a stylish gift from Koonara. The Prince of Wales was also acknowledged as a sponsor. The raffle was won by our Kristen Bence, who was photographer for the event.

PHS School Audit  29th October
A highly successful school audit was conducted on the Tuesday of week 3. An expert panel of three, including John Shelton, Principal of Millicent High and Robin Holla from the Regional Office listened attentively as Fleur delivered her account of our school and its journey towards completing implementation of the Site Improvement Plan. Fleur was followed by Rob Thornett, who covered
aspects of literacy development from years 0 to 12, particularly as supported by the library, Suzanne Gray and Jo Skeer, who spoke about our literacy intervention program, and Kristien Bence who delivered a highly polished presentation about our literacy journey, the development of our policies in relation to this, and their implementation. Just before morning tea, the panel watched a pre-recorded presentation by Mike Hentschke about the development of numeracy programs and opportunities at PHS. The morning finished with Kristien Bence presenting ‘Quality Teaching and Learning’ which dealt with, amongst other items, our implementation of the new Australian Curriculum. Finally, Suzanne Gray spoke about modified programs, Negotiated Education Plans and Individual Learning Plans. The formal report from the auditors is yet to be received, but their immediate response acknowledged our achievements and supported our ideas of our next challenges and proposed strategies for meeting them.

**Numeracy Inservice  29th October**
Mike Hentschke and Winsley Wighton attended a numeracy training session, conducted, in Adelaide, by Professor Peter Sullivan of Monash University, Ms Amanda Aulert, numeracy coach at Blackwood High School and Ms Marion Coady, Principal of Blackwood High School. The program was stimulating and challenging, with participants being exposed to a range of exciting ideas and techniques for numeracy implementation in the classroom.

**SA Regional Awards  30th October**
The Penola Coonawarra Arts Festival was announced as the winner of the Arts category at the SA Regional Awards dinner held in Naracoorte. It is nice to think that we have played a small part in this success.
Past student, Robbie Stewart received the SA Regional Community Individual Award for volunteer work. Our congratulations are extended to Robbie on receiving this acknowledgement of his efforts over many years.

**Year 12 Farewell Assembly  31st October**
The annual Farewell Assembly to wish our Year 12 students well was planned by a committee of Year 11 students with some input from the Year 10s. The committee comprised Melyssa Steed, who demonstrated well-developed organisational skills and a very responsible approach to completing tasks, Kara Martin, Kate Rowe, Laura Price, Ashlee Sullivan and Jack Gartner. 
The assembly began with a procession of the official party and the Year 12 students. Kate Rowe read the Acknowledgement of the Land and Ashlee Sullivan welcomed parents, students and staff. Melyssa Steed lit a candle representing the spirit of learning and our hopes for our Year 12 students. James Braddy had compiled some photographic profiles of the Year 12s, which saw their Year 8 photos meld into those from subsequent years – an intriguing and well-received presentation. Rob Thornett, Year 12 Level Organiser, spoke about the students and was followed by Fleur who delivered her Principal’s address. A witty student response delivered by Brooke Klemm and Brad Merrett followed. Jessica Hayes had compiled a Year 12 students’ slide show which was much appreciated. The final Roll Call was conducted by Rob Thornett and the students received certificates from Fleur Roachock and cards and candles from the student body. These last were presented by Junior SRC President, Alana Winter. The assembly was followed by morning tea for the students, parents and staff in the seminar room.
A big thank you goes to Ali Bond for the beautiful flower arrangement which she provided to help provide a suitably formal setting in the Hall, and to Vicki M’Donald-Burgess and the library staff for organising the morning tea.

**Penola Show 1st-2nd November**

Members of our school community were involved in the annual show in a number of ways. As in previous years, students from Years 9 and 10 assisted members of the PA&HS with setting up the show grounds; those involved were Jordan Lovewell, Emma Cadzow, Alena Tranter, Lucy Tonkin, Tom Walker, Cory O’Connor, Brock McIntosh, Brad Rowe and Drew Pfieffer. As well, students going to Laos and their families manned the gate, and members of Governing Council and teachers ran the Wine and Cheese stall organised by Andi Zerk and Vicki McDonald-Burgess. A team of teachers, ably supported by Angela Winter, participated in the Young Farmers’ Challenge organised by Kristen Bence and were placed second in this highly entertaining and strictly above-board event.

Our school display was excellent, and reflected the hard work and vision of our enthusiastic display-mounting team: Silvana Stephens, Jo Skeer, Bernie Pfitzner, James Brady, Scott McCulloch and Peter Williams.

Many of our students entered events. Prize winners included Shauna Allen, Taylah Tranter, Laura Price, Shannah Faulds, Lucy Tonkin, Steph Smart-Cunningham, Amy Weatherall and Ella Kain (in the Photography and Art section) and Bentley Galpin, Senior Handler Cattle.

**Pupil Free Day 4th November**

Staff made good use of the Pupil Free Day, sharing sessions on the Australian Curriculum and Numeracy led by Kristen Bence and Mike Hentschke respectively. Teachers then carried out individual tasks related to the implementation of the Australian Curriculum.

**Culinary Dinner 4th November**

Under the guidance of Ms Hutchinson, Year 10 students, Shauna Allen, Steph Smart, Ashlee Sullivan and Taylah Tranter prepared a three course dinner for 29 in Cafe 43. The dinner was to say thank you to the companies, family members and sponsors who helped Ashlee and Taylah financially for their recent trip to Japan to compete in the International Secondary Schools Culinary Competition.

During the dinner, Taylah and Ashlee spoke about their experiences in Japan. The menu included the winning Gold Medal dish from their Adelaide competition and the Bronze Medal dish from Japan.

At the conclusion of the night Ms Hutchinson was given a bread knife and a set of steak knives for all her efforts over the past months. The wait staff were Hannah Dekoning, Damon Burford, Bailey Walker and Thomas Walker.

**Melbourne Cup Day Luncheon 5th November**

On Melbourne Cup Day, the Year 9 Home Economics class catered for the Patrick T Melbourne Cup Luncheon. The meal consisted of Roast Chicken, Leg Ham and Corned Silverside with a selection of popular salads. Afternoon tea consisted of Cheese Plates plus
a sweet plate of Lemon Tarts, Honey Cheesecakes, and Toblerone Chocolate Mousse with Chocolate Cups.

The students served the guests their meal in the form of a buffet. The students presented themselves very creditably. The comments were positive and everyone enjoyed the meals.

Regional Secondary Literacy Position Paper  6th November
Representatives of Bordertown and Millicent High Schools joined Fleur Roachock, Kristen Bence and Winsley Wighton at PHS to complete the Regional Literacy Position Paper. Kristen led the discussion on the day and presented the final paper, which was very well received, at the Limestone Leaders’ meeting later in the week.

Remembrance Day Assembly  11th November
The Year 10 students, under the guidance of Rob Thornett conducted the school’s Remembrance Day ceremony, beginning with a seated assembly in the Hall. Mr Pat Wilson and Mr Neville Dixon were our invited guests, and joined us as RSL representatives. Ashlee Sullivan and Jack Garner were the presenters. Sam Burgess read the Acknowledgement of the Lands, and he was followed by Rob Thornett who spoke to a slide presentation prepared by Joel Moore. As this year is the 60th anniversary of the armistice following the Korean War, this war formed the focus for the presentation prepared and delivered by Monica McIntyre. Footage related to the Korean War was shown. The assembly moved to the flagpole where a wreath was laid by the Year 8 SRC representatives, Aliza Pfitzner and Ella Kain. Ben Casey read The Ode, the Last Post was played, a minute’s silence observed, and the assembly finished with the playing of Reveille.

After the school service, the Year 10 students went to the Penola War Memorial Park to represent the school at the community Remembrance Day ceremony. Ashlee, Monica and Jack laid the wreath, and all in attendance, especially the RSL members, were pleased to have such a significant attendance from the three local schools. Monica presented an abridged version of her Korean War speech to the public. A small group of selected (hungrier?) students and Mr Thornett went on to the morning tea in the RSL Hall.

Phys Ed Week  11th-15th November

By Simone Combe

Last week Penola High School celebrated PE Week. There were a number of activities that took place at school during the week, one being a Health, Sport and Fitness Quiz in home group each morning. The winners for each year level were Logan Gibbs (Year 8), Alana Winter (Year 9), Georgie Beighton (Year 10) and Shannah Faulds (Year 11). Some students also participated in a Lawn Bowls competition held in Mount Gambier on the Wednesday with Principal Fleur joining in as well.

To finish off the week on Friday we held the Festival of Sport, an annual event that takes place at our school. Over 200 students from Penola, Naracoorte, Millicent, Mount Gambier, Grant, Tenison and St Martins competed in the Year 8/9 Touch Football and Year 10 Volleyball. The Year 10 boys experienced great success, and managed to finish the day without losing a game or even dropping a set. Their silky skills and superb athleticism saw them defeat every opposition, with the highlight being a 2 sets to 0 win over Tenison. Gus Eckermann and Sam Burgess worked tirelessly at the net, and Joel Moore was ever reliable with smooth digs and sets.

In the Touch Football the Year 8/9 girls’ team also had their share of victories, winning 3 of their 4 games after being narrowly defeated by Tenison. Great on-field leadership from the Year 9 girls
Hannah Klemm, Montana Freeman, Alana Winter and Alena Tranter helped the Year 8 students as they learnt the rules of the game very quickly. The Year 8/9 boys’ team managed a draw against Mount Gambier High School, but faced some tough opposition in their other games. However, all students participated to the best of their ability and a very enjoyable day was had by all. Thanks must go to Luke Gray and Ashlee Sullivan for coaching the touch teams, and to all students for their excellent efforts in setting up as well as packing up all equipment. It was great to show off our school and our wonderful students to the other schools in the South East.

**Week 5 Mural Painting**
Two of our walls now feature amazing new murals designed by artist Seb Humphries of Adelaide and executed by him with enthusiastic assistance from several of the Art students. The murals feature a grape vine and birds and are notable for their colour, vibrancy and sense of movement.

The Art department is also celebrating the installation of their ‘new’ furnace, lovingly re-vamped by Gerry Klepp of Ge and Ge furnaces. While visiting PHS, Mr. Klepp also spoke to the Year 11 Chemistry students about furnaces, their construction and the changes that take place within them. As well, he spoke about his experiences, beginning as a bricklaying apprentice and seizing the opportunities that came his way to travel and become a master furnace builder. He urged the students to follow their dreams.

**Melbourne Hospitality Trip  Week 5**
by Taylah Tranter and Shauna Allen
On the 11th of November, Ms Hutchinson, Taylah Tranter, Steph Smart. And Shauna Allen travelled to Melbourne for a hospitality trip, staying in the Hotel Clairmont Guest house. Not long after we unpacked our stuff, we went to Griffiths Espresso Warehouse, there we had a tour and learnt about coffee extraction and roasting. At the end of the tour we made our own coffee on their machine which is very different from our café’s coffee machine. For dinner we went to A La Bouffe which is a French restaurant. We all got something different from the pre-theatre menu which enabled us to taste a wider range of dishes.

On Tuesday we travelled by train and tram around the city, visiting Queen Victoria market and looking at fresh produce and tasting new foods. We visited the City laneways to experience the café/restaurant scene and had lunch at Silo by Joost. Silo is an eco-friendly, fully sustainable restaurant. Once again we all tried something different from the daily menu. Tuesday afternoon we visited Koko Black and Burch and Purchese Sweet Studio. We had a very casual dinner at Subway to balance the budget.

On Wednesday we changed our itinerary due to the weather and visited the Vietnamese area of Melbourne looking at different produce and ingredients used in Vietnamese cuisine. Later in the day we visited the Yarra Valley and spent time in Healesville. We participated in Glass Blowing at Healesville Glass Blowing Studio and were instructed by Tim and his assistant to make a small paperweight. This experience was amazing and we expect to receive these by post early in week 6. Wednesday night we went to the night market at Queen Victoria market and were able to experience a wide range of foods from different countries. On Thursday we travelled back to school.

**Year 8 Lawn Bowls  13th November**
Fleur Roachock and Jackie Poumako took six Year 8 students and two Year 9s to a bowling extravaganza in the Mount. A great day was had by all.
**Year 12 Art Exhibition**

Penola High School’s Year 12 Art Exhibition, featuring work by Melissa Middleton and Brooke Klemm, is open to the public at the Penola Community Library.

The exhibition is a culmination of a full year’s work for the students who had to create two major artworks, along with back-up folios of support materials that included all their idea development and art medium explorations. They also completed a 20 A3 page Visual Study based on a topic of choice. Melissa based her study around Disability in the Arts, which culminated in a deep understanding of overcoming adversity and the use of art as therapy for people with disabilities. Brooke’s Visual Study was based around the question – ‘Is colour the sixth sense?’ She focused on colour, used by artists in artworks, to create mood, harmony and a response from the viewer.

The exhibition showcases a range of themes including: portraiture, floral patterns and the modern day “selfie” pose. The students used a range of mediums such as drawing, painting, and printmaking. Melissa is very skilled with the watercolour medium, while Brooke’s strengths are in printmaking. The exhibition will be officially opened on Presentation Night in Week 9 this term.

**Year 12 Dinner 15th November**

The annual Year 12 dinner was held at Hollick’s, with every Year 12 student attending. The students were joined by parents, partners and staff, and all enjoyed the three course meal provided. Both Fleur Roachock and Rob Thornett spoke during the evening, reflecting on the strengths of the cohort and the admirable way in which they had matured and developed during their five years at PHS. Rob Thornett’s ‘Awards’ were well-received, but the highlight of the evening was undoubtedly the slide presentation prepared by Jess Hayes and Brad Merrett.

**Wine Maker’s Success**

In the next exciting chapter of former student Luke Skeer’s career, we were thrilled to learn that he is now the Australian Young Wine Maker of the year.