Governing Council Staff News

20 October 2014

Noorla Yo Long Visit  15th September
Nine students from the Junior School travelled to Noorla Yo Long with John Stayte to participate in the first session of a Life Skills program. Activities included abseiling from a tower and a barbecue lunch.

Encounter Youth  18th September
On Thursday  18 September, Kim Price an Education Director from Encounter Youth Education, visited Penola High School to present three seminars to students of both Penola High and Lucindale Area School. Eighty Year 10, 11 and 12 students were given information and asked to examine some of their actions relating to alcohol and drugs. The last seminar involved the Year 12s only and provided some useful and thought-provoking insights into the forthcoming Schoolies weekend at Victor Harbor. Encounter Youth is the organisation that oversees this Festival and provides much of the support required to make it the safest Schoolies celebration in Australia.

Kids’ Time  18th September
The theme for September’s Kids’ Time, explored through a variety of stimulating activities, was ‘Wombats’. Ali Bond presented the book ‘One Woolly Wombat’ and linked this, through a powerpoint presentation, to numeracy activities. Heather Stone read everybody’s favourite, ‘Sebastian Lives in a Hat,’ and Rob Thornett shared ‘Wombats Can’t Fly’, with its important message about resilience and finding ways to achieve goals. The highlight of the session was undoubtedly the visit of Tony Cadzow’s baby wombat - the children were spellbound. John Bond had designed flying wombats for the craft activity and the children enjoyed colouring and assembling them. Morning tea, of hot chocolate and lamingtons reflected the gumnut tea and lamingtons from ‘Wombats Can’t Fly’. The seminar room was decorated with kite and hot air balloon mobiles and the littlies were thrilled at the end when they were allowed to choose a decoration to take home. The library staff were pleased by the number who attended and the warm and inclusive atmosphere which was established.

Dee’s Dinner
Fleur represented Dee at the SA Training Awards at the Entertainment Centre in Adelaide on Friday September 12th, and was pleased to accept an award recognising Dee as one of the top three VET teachers in SA on her behalf.

Pupil free Day  22nd September
From Mike Hentschke
The student-free day in Week 10 of term 3 allowed PHS staff not involved in the tertiary trip to join other staff from across the Limestone Coast to work with Martin Westwell. His presentation highlighted the need for teachers to use strategies suited to “post-industrial” education. This approach challenges the students and provides them with a learning and thinking skill set to use in their life beyond school. He provided strategies we can use in the classroom to expand student thinking through simple modification to our practices.
His philosophy towards teaching aligns with other sources of training members of our staff have undertaken such as Professor Yong Zhao, Dylan William and Peter Sullivan – but his presence in our region allowed access for our whole school staff.

**Defensive Driving 24th September**

Ten students from Years 10 and 11 took part in the Rotary Young Driver Awareness Program. The full day’s activities included Police seminars on road rules and assessing risks when driving to estimating stopping distances on the burn-out track at the Mt. Gambier showground.

Brad Rowe from Year 10 was one of those who attended. Here is his account:

On the 24th of September a small group of year 10 and 11 students attended a road safety awareness course where there were groups from 4 other schools. Throughout the day we did 6 different sessions on road safety, planning a sober driver on a big night, how safe different cars are, stopping distance at high and low speeds, hazards on the road, and spinal cord and brain injuries. The sessions were split up so we could have morning tea and lunch which was all supplied for free. For morning tea there was fruit, cake and bottles of water and for lunch we had barbeque sausages and fruit. There was a lady, Steph, there who had been in a car crash and had brain damage and she talked to us about her life and experiences. Over all it was a good day that we enjoyed but my favourite part of the day was when we went in the car to see how long it took to stop at different speeds.

**Public Education Awards Celebratory Dinner 29th September**

Sarah and Fleur attended the Public Education Awards dinner on the first Monday of the holidays in celebration of Sarah’s recognition as the leading Regional SSO for our region in 2014.

**International Youth Culinary Challenge**

Congratulations are extended to Montana Freeman and Hannah Klemm for their efforts in this international event. The girls put much thought and energy into their preparation and were pleased to have this recognised with the award of bronze medals. They had a wonderful time while in New Zealand and were able to undertake a number of exciting tourist activities while there. Our thanks go to Amy Widdison for supporting our girls in Dee’s absence.

**Tertiary Trip and Rural Reconnect 22nd-25th September**

Six of our Year 11 students and Fleur Roachock set off for Adelaide and the tertiary trip. They were accompanied by eight of our Year 10 students, eleven Year 10s from Grant High School and Tom Sutterby and were joined in the evening by Dave Vanini and Winsley Wighton, all of whom were attending the Rural Reconnect program run by UniSA.

On Tuesday morning, the two groups combined to work together to complete a photo challenge on North Terrace and then it was off to Rundle Mall and the shops. Following this adventure, everyone headed for the Mawson Lakes campus of UniSA. While the Year 11s explored the campus, the Year 10s embarked on a hearty lunch and the Rural Reconnect program. An introductory session was followed by three others: a Career Awareness Program where students compiled individual profiles which will be useful for their PLPs and in helping them decide on future pathways, ‘Penguin Pong’ where students visited one of the engineering labs and built their own electronic games, and a trip to the Planetarium. Then it was off to The Parade for dinner and a movie.

On Wednesday, the Year 11s visited Adelaide University in the morning and Flinders, where the Anatomy Museum was a highlight, in the afternoon. The rest of the group started their day at the City East campus of UniSA where they extracted DNA from strawberries and then prepared
moisturising cream. Then followed a brisk walk to the City West campus for lunch. In the afternoon, the students visited the School of Art Architecture and Design, where they made individual badges, and the David Unaipon College of Indigenous Education and Research. Then it was off to the Business School and a consideration of business and legal issues which could arise from an event such as the Adelaide Show. A full day, but it was by no means over. The Rural Reconnect students caught the tram to Glenelg where the whole group was reunited in time for dinner, a stroll on the pier and ice-cream.

Thursday morning saw us all traipsing off to the Magill campus of UniSA. The Year 11s had a general look around, while the rest of us visited the Sound, Radio and TV Studios. As well as learning about the facilities, some students were able to broadcast their own radio segments or to deliver TV news. An engaging activity illustrating the processes we use to establish meaning was undertaken in the Education Department and the final activity took place in Social Services where some students carried out an interview in the social work studio.

Tired, but well-satisfied with their adventures, the students and staff returned home. Apart from all the activities, a highlight for staff was seeing the positive and friendly ways in which our students interacted with the Grant students. Once again, PHS students represented our community in a very positive way.

**Games Night**

On the first Tuesday night of the holidays, twenty students assembled to spend the night playing computer games. No-one, especially not Mr McCulloch slept, but everyone had a good time.

**UNSW Global Maths Competition Results**

Results from the 2014 International Maths competition have arrived. Five students took advantage of the opportunity to test their Maths skills and we congratulate them for being prepared to have a go. In particular, we congratulate the three students who received credits: Bradley Tregenza, Joel Moore and Alex Male.

**Australian Vocational Student Prizes 2013**

We are thrilled to learn that Jade Tranter, who completed Year 12 with us last year, has won an Australian Vocational Student Prize of $2000 in the category of competing a VET Certificate III in Aged Care as part of completing her Stage 2 SACE.