21 July 2014

Year 6/7 Soccer Tournament 19th July
Year 6/7 students from our feeder schools – Penola, Nangwarry and Kalangadoo Primary Schools and Mary McKillop Memorial School – gathered on the oval for the annual soccer tournament organised by Simone Combe. The day was very successful, with students enjoying themselves while being actively engaged.

Students from Years 10 and 11 were involved in coaching throughout the day and some Year 10 students also umpired. SRC members supplied a welcome barbecue lunch.

Simone had these particular comments to make about our students’ involvement on the day:

All coaches did a fantastic job of motivating their team, building relationships with the students and just generally getting into the spirit of the game. The first game was a particular highlight, with every coach cheering and clapping like crazy the first time their team scored. It was difficult to tell who was more excited - the primary students or the high school ones!

The umpires managed all games firmly but fairly, ensuring that players shared the ball around and abided by the rules. For most of the students, this was their first taste of umpiring (definitely their first time umpiring soccer) and they all did a fantastic job.

All students were extremely helpful with setting up the fields at the beginning of the day. Students worked together to fix up my dodgy lines of cones, ensured all soccer balls were pumped up and all signs hammered into the ground.

The primary school students had a fantastic time and excitedly relayed tales of diving saves and miracle goals to me, their teachers and their parents. It’s wonderful to hear such positive feedback from the very people for whom the carnival was created. It was also lovely to see such positive interactions between students from other schools, which demonstrated that the value of this day cannot be overestimated.

Café 43 Hits Adelaide: the Culinary Challenge 24th-25th June
All eight students in the VET Hospitality program participated in the recent Culinary Challenge in Adelaide. Dee Hutchinson and the students had invested much effort in preparation for this event, and were thrilled to see their efforts pay off so handsomely. Three pairs of students, Steph Smart and Lucy Tonkin, Josh Woodbridge and Alena Tranter and Sharnie Driver and Hannah Dekoning were awarded bronze medals, while Hannah Klemm and Montana Freeman were one of only three pairs in the competition to receive gold. The very best team was selected to attend the International Challenge to be held in New Zealand later this year, and we are delighted that this means that Hannah and Montana are headed for the Land of the Long White Cloud.

Dee and the students would like to acknowledge the strong networking and mentoring support of students from local professional chefs, Simon Bowen, Matt Dinnison and ‘Riffo’ Ryan Dear. The students had to prepare a mains restaurant meal based on chicken supreme which involved butchery skills, vegetable preparation skills, handling of high risk foods and making of appropriate sauces. A wide variety of chicken based mains were presented and the overall standard of team
participation was very high. The students were highly commended by the Australian Culinary Federation judges whose difficult task was to separate the meals presented and identify a winning team as there were only 2 points difference between the gold medalists.

**Bendigo Bank Opening**  **26th June**

The Penola Bendigo Bank was launched with considerable local fanfare. Along with students and staff from all the other local schools, Fleur Roachock, Laura Price and Melyssa Steed attended as our representatives.

To kick-start their commitment to returning funding to the community, the bank donated money to each of the schools and pre-schools in the area and we were delighted to receive $1000. The SRC will decide what to do with this largesse very shortly. As Fleur made very clear, we are, naturally, very grateful for yet another example of the community support that is continually shown to our school. It is also interesting to note how many of the bank’s staff have a previous connection with PHS and we wish them well for the future of their enterprise.

**9-a-side Football**  **26th July**

The Year 8 and 9 students took part in the Upper South East 9-A-side football carnival along with teams from Naracoorte, Bordertown, Keith, Lucindale, and Kingston. We fielded one team in each of the boys’ and girls’ competitions.

The girls’ team had a successful day, winning two of their four games. The boys’ team didn’t enjoy quite as much success, but there were some very smooth passages of play throughout the day. Everyone involved enjoyed themselves as the nature of the day was more focussed on participation and fun rather than serious competition. Students quickly picked up on the ‘participation’ nature of the day, and were more than happy to share around the key positions and ensure that all students spent equal time on the bench.

Players were able to play in every position throughout the day and there were multiple goal kickers for both teams. Josh Currie finished the day with four goals, and was well supported in the forward line by Bentley Galpin, Brandon McMurtrie and Rory Widdison-Mills. Logan Gibbs was ever-reliable in the backline, turning the ball over multiple times each game, and Nick Rowe showed great poise and delivered the ball forward with precision. For the girls’ team, Kelsey Batt showed great leadership on the field and demonstrated her silky skills. Year 8 students Lucy Butler, Gorgia Robbie and Joanne Drury were ball magnets, and managed to lay some ferocious tackles. Ella Kain’s clearing left foot kick got the team out of trouble many times, and Amy Wetherall took many strong marks throughout the day.

Gus Eckermann and Bailey Walker carried out central umpiring duties throughout the day and did an exceptional job, showing great maturity and umpiring consistently and fairly all day. Thanks also to Charlie French and Sam Burgess who volunteered for goal umpiring duties. Coaches Luke Gray Scott Merrett and Ashlee Sullivan also did a great job coaching, inspiring their players with some motivational speeches before games.

The carnival remains a favourite amongst the students, with the senior students reminiscing on their playing days and embellishing stories of goals from the boundary line and ‘specky’ marks taken on opponents’ shoulders.
Chemical Murder Mystery  2nd July
Alana Winter attended the Chemical Murder Mystery event run by Flinders University. This event enables Year 10 students with an interest in matters scientific to explore a forensics problem and use the university’s laboratories. Here is her account of this adventure.

On the 2nd of July I travelled to Adelaide to attend the one day course ‘Chemical Murder Mystery’ at Flinders University. The day started with a university style lecture with Professor Stewart Walker on forensic science where he spoke to us about what forensic science is, his involvement at the university and modern technologies and their impact on forensic science. This went on until a “police officer” interrupted our lecture with the news that Professor Warren Lawrence, Head of the School of Chemistry, Physics and Earth Sciences, had been murdered.

From here all of the students were broken into small groups and sent to different parts of the university to do several tests that would actually be carried out in the event of a murder to try and solve the mystery. Some of these tests included a fibre and hair analysis, an atomic absorption test, fluorescence testing and a toxicology analysis. All of these tests were run by students at Flinders in their PhDs.

After all of the tests were done, all the students came together to share their findings and decide on who they thought was the killer based on the evidence.

I really enjoyed the day and would encourage other students to try similar programs.

VET Awards Interviews  3rd July
Both Dee Hutchinson and Taylah Tranter attended interviews in Adelaide for the VET Teacher of the Year and VET Student of the Year respectively.

Year 11/12 End of Semester Breakfast  4th July
Despite the inroads of the colds and flus which beset our school community in the last weeks of term, a bright group of about thirty Year 11 and 12 students and associated staff repaired to Vintage for breakfast on the last day of term to celebrate the achievements of first semester. Each student was presented with a personal tablemat which included comments from other students and staff. It was great to see how many students received positive comments about their preparedness to take on challenges and to persevere when faced with difficulties. There was a buzz in the room, with students enjoying the opportunity to share a meal and relax in each other’s company. Carol Marcus and her helpers did us proud, with everyone enjoying pancakes or scrambled eggs and a complimentary orange juice. We thank them for their support for this function.

End of Term Assembly
A brief assembly was held to mark the end of term. Fleur congratulated the students on all that they had achieved in the first half of the year and wished them well for the break. Reports were distributed and the students were free to begin their break.