21 September 2015

Knock Out Basketball  30th July
In terms of sportsmanship and determination, the Penola teams emerged victorious from the Knock Out Basketball tournament. With such achievement, who could ask for sporting success as well? Our students were gracious in defeat.

Enriching Year 8 Maths Project Meeting 31st July
Our school has been selected to participate as one of only twelve schools in the ‘Enriching Year 8 Maths Project’ being run by SASPA (South Australian Secondary Principals Association). Mike Hentschke, Scott McCulloch and Winsley Wighton attended the first training session and were most impressed by the learning opportunities provided by Pauline Carter and Amanda Aulet. Simone Combe will also be involved now she has returned from leave. Amie Albrecht from UniSA was a guest presenter and had participants enthralled by her account of the challenges and opportunities she affords her tertiary Maths students. The project will run for eighteen months and we are looking forward to supplementing our Year 8 program and seeing change flow through to Maths teaching in the other years.

Health Science Visit
Adelaide University students from Medicine, Dentistry, Oral Health, Psychology and Health Sciences visited the school and spoke to students in Years 10 and 11. Students found the presentation helpful and enjoyed the practical activities they shared: testing reflexes, listening to heart beats and pulses, and putting vital organs in and out of a mannikin.

Kids’ Time  31st July
‘Balloons’ was the theme for the highly successful Kids’ Time held recently in the library. Rob Thornett read a book about a turtle with ten balloons which all met sad fates and which introduced the concept of counting back from ten to zero. The children found this very exciting and joined in enthusiastically. To enhance their spatial awareness, the children made paddles and then balanced balloons on them, choosing colours to match a rhyme. Children made cardboard turtles, took part in a balloon-balancing-number-hunt in the library and enjoyed Heather Stone’s rendition of ‘Chloe’s Surprise Birthday’. Biscuits, decorated with smarties, were prepared for morning tea. And thus ended another series of rich learning activities sourced and designed by Ali Bond.

Maths Quiz Night:  5th August  Our Students Shine
Our Hall provided a welcoming setting for the annual Maths Quiz Night held on the 5th August. About 150 students, in thirty-nine teams, supported by teachers and parents, gathered to enjoy an evening of Maths and General Knowledge quiz questions. Thirty-nine of our students were joined by students from Grant, Mount Gambier and Millicent High Schools and Tenison Woods College.

Throughout the evening, students worked together to solve Maths problems, answer general knowledge questions, sort jumbled words and tackle an extended Maths problem. There was much
discussion, debate, friendly argument and enthusiastic conversation. As well as providing a different setting for tackling Maths problems, the evening provided students with a great opportunity to get together and share a good time with friends.

Prizes were awarded to the Best Overall, Best Mathematical, and Best General Knowledge teams in both Junior and Senior sections. In the Junior section, the best overall performance was given by our team of Logan Gibbs, Hamish March, Daniel Meek-Fennel and Bradley Tregenza. Both the Best Junior Mathematical team and Best General Knowledge teams were from Grant High School. The Senior Best Overall Award went to a team from Tenison Woods College, while our team of Alex Male, Shauna Allen, Monica McIntyre and Luke Frankling took out the Best Mathematics title. Mt Gambier High School fielded the strongest team in the Senior Best General Knowledge

**Deakin University Visit  6th August**
Jenna McMeel from Deakin University spoke enthusiastically to Year 11 and 12 students about the opportunities which Deakin University offers. Her presentation was of particular interest given the proximity of the Warrnambool campus to Penola.

**Pupil Free Day  7th August**
Staff spent a busy day, beginning with ‘Reporting to Abuse and Neglect’ training and moving on to an intensive and valuable session around analysing student feedback, triads and the National Professional Standards for Teachers ably presented by Kristen Bence. The afternoon was dedicated to activities around implementing the Australian curriculum for Phase 2 Learning Areas, analysis of student performance at Maths Quiz Night and personal preparation.

**Year 9 Initiative  10th-14th August**
From Kristen Bence

The 2015 Year 9 Initiative culminated with a showcase of students’ work on Friday the 14th of August. Students presented a range of final products and spoke about their learning journey, discoveries and developments throughout the production process.

Planning for the Initiative began in Learning for Life sessions early in term 2 with students identifying an area of interest or passion. Over the next six weeks students were assisted to narrow this into a focus area and develop inquiry questions for investigation during the Initiative week. The range of areas that were investigated included Welding, the Australian Diamonds Netball Pre-Season Training, Italian Cooking, Personal Training, Animal Photography, Cartooning and Animation, Disc Jockeying, Desserts of the World, The Science behind Horse Eventing, Sub-Box Construction, Farming, Writing and Producing Music, and Student Banking/Accounting.

Many students undertook visits to different areas within the community as a part of their research. We are indebted to those members of the local community who provide an endless resource for students to advance their knowledge and skill development. The students were also supported by their Mentor teachers throughout the week.
Year 10 Work Experience  10th-14th August
All year 10 students undertook work experience from the 10th August to the 14th. Our students visited a variety of places ranging from vet clinics, radio stations, and cafes, to stock agents and beyond. Some students worked in Penola, while others travelled to Naracoorte and Mt Gambier. It was a great experience for our students who either cemented their ideas on their future career or realised that it wasn't for them. All of our students received glowing reports, with some being asked to take on ASBAs, or, in the case of one student who went to a radio station, being asked to take on a regular spot on a Friday night.

Year 12 Chemistry Trip  10th August
The combined Year 12 Chemistry class undertook an excursion to Portland Aluminium where Jim Harply, Senior Process Engineer, spoke about aluminium production and Paul Pitman, Environmental Officer, delivered a presentation on environmental monitoring. Students then undertook an induction to allow them to go onto the main site. Replete with safety gear, students were able to observe the pot room from a viewing platform.

SACE Evening  19th August
A very well-attended SACE information evening for students in years 10 and 11 was held in the seminar room. Mike Hentschke spoke of the success of our students in Year 12 and the way in which they are set up to become independent learners once they move into the wider world. He then detailed the intricacies of the SACE points system and talked about the many subjects and pathways available at PHS and the various ways in which they can be undertaken.

Stage 2 Food and Hospitality Dinner  24th August
As part of her work for Stage 2 Food and Hospitality, Stephanie Smart had to plan, cook and serve a three-course dinner party. Stephanie decided to make her party a thank you event for community members who have supported her in her Hospitality ventures. The six who were able to accept Stephanie’s invitation were treated to quite a banquet, with a choice of dishes at each course. Stephanie appreciated the help and support she received from Chloe Long and Jo Skeer in carrying out her project and was delighted with the positive feedback she received from her guests. The comment ‘a wonderful evening with great company and amazing food’ was typical of the feedback she received.

Celebrating Book Week in the Library  24th-28th August
The theme for this year’s Book Week was ‘Books Light Up Our World’ and the library staff mounted a display of this year’s shortlisted picture books illuminated by an impressive lighthouse. Groups of students from both primary schools visited and enjoyed activities related to the theme. Kids’ Time was also held. (See report below.)

SAPOL Road Safety Visit  27th August
Representatives of SAPOL made their annual visit to the school to deliver road safety programs to students in years 10, 11, and 12. Police have visited Year 11 students for many years, and we were glad to see the program expanded to other year levels this year.

The presentations were professionally delivered and pulled no punches with their road safety message. The students paid close attention and were a receptive audience.
Australian Society of Medical Research (ASMR)
Earlier this year, our students were given the opportunity to participate in a Quiz organised by the ASMR. Two of our students won prizes in the Year 11-12 section. They were Ben Casey (first prize) and Alex Male (runner up).

SA Teaching Awards Success
Our congratulations are extended to Dave Vannini who has been named the regional winner of the SSO section of the South Australian Teaching Awards. Dave has made a truly significant contribution to the young people of this school, and it is great to see him recognised in this way.

SRC Quiz Night 28th August
The SRC ran a highly successful Quiz Night, with all who attended having a great night out. Ashlee Sullivan and Alana Winter excelled as comperes and were ably supported by Scott McCulloch and Ben Casey. Ten tables were filled by participants who thoroughly enjoyed the range of challenges set for them by Sarah Walker. A considerable sum was raised for the SRC. There was an extensive list of sponsors, reflecting the support which our community provides for our school and students.

Kids Time 28th August
Books lit up the worlds of twenty young people when they came to the Book Week edition of Kids Time run by Heather Stone and Rob Thornett. Heather read the short-listed ‘Lily and the Magic Moonbeam’ and songs were sung. The littlies made an excellent job of making their own lanterns and enjoyed Rob reading ‘Scary Night’. A trail related to the challenges in this book was set up around the library and the children embarked on their own adventure trail among the book stacks. The highly successful morning finished with shared chocolate cake.

Stage 1 Community Studies Excursion 8th September
Suzanne Gray and members of the Stage 1 Community Studies class travelled to Mt Gambier to make purchases for the garden they are developing behind Café 43.

National Literacy and Numeracy Week Competitions 31st Aug – 4th Sept
National Literacy and Numeracy week was celebrated with a range of competitions. Scott McCulloch posed a series of Maths challenges which students tackled in their Maths classes and Rob Thornett ran a successful library quiz through Home Groups, with winners announced at each year level. Jackie Poumako provided several activities including writing fifty word stories, and composing haiku, sonnets and ballads.

Photography Excursion 8th September
Kristen Bence took members of her Year 9 and 10 Design and Photography class to Katnook winery to take photos. These will be displayed for all to enjoy when they are entered in the “Kanoodling through Katnook” photography competition run as part of the 151st Penola Show.

VET Training Awards State Finals Dinner 11th September
Stephanie Smart attended the VET Training Awards State Finals dinner at the Wine Centre in Adelaide. This was the culmination of a great deal of work on the part of Steph and her supporters. She was accompanied by her mother, Suzanne Gray and Jo Skeer. Dee and Kevin Hutchinson also travelled from Strathalbyn to attend.
Pupil Free Day  Monday 13th September
PHS teaching staff joined with others from across the SECAV Region in the PPS Hall to undertake a
day of training around the theme ‘Intellectual Challenge for Powerful Learners’. The first session
included everyone and focussed on setting the scene and outlining how research influences our
ideas of powerful learning. We all then attended two sessions for secondary teachers where
transferrable tasks were explored. Those of us involved in the Enriching Year 8 Maths program were
pleased to have the opportunity to share our progress with Maths teachers from Millicent and to
hear how their research in a slightly different direction is progressing.

Governor’s Reception for School Leaders  15th September
Monica McIntyre and Ben Casey travelled to Adelaide with Mike Hentschke to represent the school
at the Governor’s reception for school leaders.

Kids Time 18th September
The theme for the most recent Kids’ time was ‘dinosaurs’, and Heather Stone invested much effort
in preparing for the littlies’ visit. One of our students brought his bearded lizard for a visit and
Silvana Stephens presented a bone finding activity to illustrate the work of palaeontologists. Silvana
also provided some excellent dinosaur biscuits for morning tea. There was a dinosaur ‘egg and
spoon’ race around the library with huge ‘spoons’ prepared by Tom Sutterby and footballs for eggs.
The children made dinosaur dioramas for their craft activity. Everyone had a great and noisy time.