SESSSA Knock Out Netball  5th August 2013
SESSSA Knock Out netball this year was held at Olympic Park in Mount Gambier. Despite very wet and cold conditions, all the girls gave of their best and the two Penola High School teams were very competitive against teams from much larger schools.
The Open Girls managed one win, but played all games in great spirit. Many girls played out of position, but demonstrated their versatility and skill. Jess Hayes tried her hand at defence, while Brooke Klemm, Jade Lythgo and Kara Martin worked hard under the goal ring to score for Penola. Laura Price, Kate Rowe and Tricia Hutchesson provided plenty of drive through the middle of the court, and fed the ball to the goalies with precision. The Open team finished 6th overall, a commendable effort by the girls. They were superbly umpired by Sarah Walker and coached by Lene Lythgo. Thanks to Sue Price and Kathia Martin for coming along to support the girls, and to Sue Hayes for scoring.
The Year 8/9 Girls were placed in the tough Pool A, with some closely fought contests with quality opposition. Unfortunately, the girls were unable to get a win on the board in the morning despite their best efforts. The story changed completely once it came to finals – with the whole team clicking and working together. The girls won both finals games to finish 5th overall. The deciding match was played against Grant, a team against which we lost in the morning. The girls pulled out all stops and defeated Grant by a massive 19 goals – a clear indication of their improvement throughout the day. The girls demonstrated great maturity in not being intimidated by much taller opponents, and had plenty of very classy passages of play throughout the day. Hannah Klemm, Ella Kain and Amy Dorling were unstoppable in goals, and Amy Wells and Montana Freeman ran hard all day through the middle. Lucy Tonkin and Amy Wetherall both played out of position but provided many intercepts at wing defence, and Aliza Pfitzner and Alana Winter made life extremely difficult for opposition goalies. Thanks to Louise Burgess for scoring and our very own principal, Fleur Roachock, for her high quality umpiring of this team.
It was excellent to have so much parental support on the day. We realise it’s not always easy to organise time off work to make it to these events but if it’s ever possible to come along, please do. The students really appreciate the input from parents, and so does Ms. Combe.

Maths Quiz Night 7th August 2013
Despite wild and wintry South East weather conditions, over one hundred and seventy students in forty-three teams gathered in our Hall at to compete in the annual MASA Maths Quiz Night.
Twenty-six of our students in five junior and two senior teams were joined by students from Grant, Mount Gambier, Millicent and Naracoorte High Schools, Lucindale Area School 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. The students were accompanied by parents and teachers many of whom spent much of the evening scoring the
students’ efforts. 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. Although our students were not among the top scorers on the night, they still benefitted from the experience.

We appreciate all the hard work that members and officers of MASA do to organise this event across SA, but are particularly grateful to all those teachers, both at PHS and across the region, who give up their time and effort to organise teams, transport students and attend the event itself.

**Year 10 Work Experience  5th-9th August**

Year 10 students undertook Work Experience during the third week of term. All students found the experience to be interesting, challenging and rewarding. They managed to be punctual and to attend each day as required, even if, due to the nature of the industry, that meant attending on a weekend.

Responses from those who hosted our students included offers of work for students once they are qualified for the industry and offers of school based apprenticeships for next year. Some employers who had not taken work experience students in recent years were impressed by the positive attitude and maturity of our students.

**Culinary Challenge News**

Ashlee Sullivan and Taylah Tranter have selected their restaurant mains for the Japan challenge and will continue to practise over the remaining six weeks so they are fully prepared for the challenges to be faced in Japan. The girls and Dee Hutchinson are meeting with local community groups to explain the process and encourage further community support and funding. Recently the girls attended the Lions group dinner and spoke about their experiences. The girls continue to approach these events in a very mature manner and represent our school in a very positive light.

**Year 9 Initiative  5th – 12th August**

The 2013 Year 9 Initiative culminated with a showcase of students’ work on Monday 12 August. Students presented a range of final products and spoke about their learning journey, discoveries and development throughout the production process.

Planning for the Initiative began in Learning for Life sessions earlier last term 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. A range of areas were investigated including Mining Machinery, Drawing Techniques, Photography, Hairdressing, Child Care, Comedy, Guitar Performance, Architecture, AFL Umpiring, Car Drifting, Motorbikes, Horse Riding Techniques, Video Editing, Veterinary Work and Brain Disorders.

Alana Winter investigated Brain Disorders. Through her research she made connections with local people who have suffered from brain disorders/injuries, visited Benson Radiology in Mt Gambier where she was able to view the process of conducting an MRI scan on the brain in patients and also dissected a sheep’s brain in our science lab to further her research. She conducted case studies on family members and friends who have suffered from brain disorders and culminated her research in a showcase, which was extremely interesting and very well-informed. Her passion for science was apparent in the excitement she showed for her topic.

Another outstanding presentation was by Amy Wells, who developed a video demonstration of basic horse care and riding techniques. Bradley Rowe presented in-depth information on AFL umpiring
and Zac Oppelar showcased his skill with wood construction, creating a cabinet and a range of joints including a biscuit joint, butt joint and recess joint. Tom Walker used Prezzie, a new technology, to present his work on the History of Architecture with interviews from a range of local architects. Hannah Klemm and Montana Freeman showcased their high level of technique and skill in fashion design and beauty therapy, designing and sewing a dress and applying make up to a model. Many students undertook visits to different areas within the community as a part of their research. Alena Tranter visited the Penola Veterinary Clinic, Felicity Drury spent a day at a Hairdressing Salon in Mt Gambier, Hannah Deckoning visited the McKay’s Child Care Centre Facility, Lucy Tonkin spent a day photographing with Annette Balnaves and Cory O’Connor spent time filming machinery at work on his family farm. Students were able to increase their skills and knowledge through the self-directed learning undertaken throughout the Initiative. The students were supported throughout the week to step outside their comfort zones. Some, such as Brock McIntosh, who had never presented in front of an audience before, but who produced a thoughtful presentation on the Autofest in Mt Gambier, succeeded in the face of significant challenges. Charlie French researched the history of Comedy and presented some interesting versions of Comedy. Students’ final presentations were of an excellent standard and each student who participated grew through their experience in the Initiative.

We are very grateful to all parents and local community people and those in workplaces who assisted our students to achieve their best.

Primary School Transition Visits 13th-15th August
During week 4, we were visited by the Year 7 students from Penola Primary School who spent three days exploring life in the ‘Big School’ with their teacher, Ms. O’Connell. Students participated in a range of high school subjects including Home Ec., where they produced chicken burgers for recess, and Tech., where they made wooden cutting boards to take home. Science was a noisy, engaging lesson where students investigated various ways of generating sound. The students also enjoyed their exposure to Phys. Ed. And Art.

Uni NSW Maths Competition 13th August
Many of our students in Years 8 to 11 were given the opportunity to participate in the annual Maths Competition due to generous sponsorship from local businesses. This competition provides students with an opportunity to tackle problems set in a variety of contexts. Not only are they able to stretch their mathematical wings, students also benefit from the discipline of concentrating on a task for an extended period of time. This experience helps students to build skills which will stand them in good stead later in their SACE years and beyond.

Farewell Leonie Kanowski 14th August
The library hosted a morning tea to farewell Leonie Kanowski. Leonie is a teacher/librarian who has supported library staff over many years in matters such as running the library on Saturday mornings and during school holidays. She has served as a dedicated member of the Library Board and has been a key liaison person between the school/library and the Lions Club. We wish Leonie well for her new adventures in Horsham.
Course Counselling Parent Night  14th August
About twenty parents and students met in the seminar room to attend a presentation about SACE and the students’ future pathways. Mike Hentschke was MC for the evening and spoke about the SACE and its requirements. Fleur Roachock talked about the opportunities which SACE offers, its flexibility and the possibility of undertaking Stage 1 subjects in Year 10 and Stage 2 subjects in Year 11. Dee Hutchinson informed the gathering about the Personal Learning Plan, and Kevin Gritton spoke about VET courses, traineeships and school-based apprenticeships.

Farewell Pooja Moudgil  16th August
The four week appointment of Pooja Moudgil as a Teach SA scholarship holder has reached its end. During her short time with us, Pooja has established good relationships with those she has taught and staff generally and has made a significant contribution to events such as the Science/Engineering Challenge and Maths Quiz Night. We thank her for her enthusiastic contribution and wish her well in her future teaching career.

Science Competition Results
We extend our congratulations to the three brave souls who were prepared to have a go and participate in the National Science Competition. The results have now arrived, and we are very pleased to announce that Bradley Tregenza was awarded a Distinction while Madeline Powell received a Credit.

Genes for Jeans Day  16th August
The SRC organised a fund raiser for this worthwhile cause. Students were permitted to wear jeans to school for a gold coin donation, and hot chips with sauce/gravy and doughnuts were available at recess time.