School Assembly  16th September
A whole school assembly was held in the Hall where Mr Jeffrey Hoare, the President of the Penola Lions Club, presented one cheque to those undertaking the Laos trip in 2014 and another to Kelsey Batt to support her as a representative of the Girls State Football team. We are deeply appreciative of this support for our students from members of the wider community. Following this presentation, Michael Hentschke presented certificates to the Science competition entrants.
Laura Price, SRC President elect addressed the school about her vision for office and introduced the 2014 SRC members.
Finally, Kristen Bence presented prizes to the winners of the video competition held during National Literacy and Numeracy Week.

Chaplaincy Support Group Supports Staff  16th September
Members of the Chaplaincy Support Group provided morning tea and a jar of marmalade for staff in recognition of the work we do in supporting students. This generous and thoughtful gesture was greatly appreciated.

Year 12 Chemistry Portland Trip  16th September
The combined Year 12 Chemistry class travelled to the Portland Aluminium smelter where they were given a valuable insight into the operation of the smelter and a number of peripheral, but important, matters such as waste management and environmental stewardship. Mr Ron Jeffries gave the girls a tour of the recycling depot and then Ms Jodie Gould gave a presentation about the process and the monitoring and care of the surrounding area. The girls participated in an induction process and subsequently toured the site. Highlights included viewing the pot room and the ingot mill. Ron and Jodie put considerable time, effort and thought into providing an excellent learning experience for our girls and we are very grateful.

Governor’s Reception  19th September
Mike Hentschke made a flying trip to Adelaide to enable Tricia Hutchesson and Chad Marcus from Year 12 to attend the Governor’s Reception for senior secondary school students. Tricia and Chad were resplendent in our new school blazers, and were very impressed by the opulence and extent of Government House.

Year 10 and 11 Students Visit Adelaide  23rd-26th September

UniSA Rural Connect
In the afternoon of Monday 23rd September a group of 10 Year 10s and 11s travelled to Adelaide with a group of Year 10s from Grant High School to take part in the UniSA Rural Connect Program. Tuesday morning was spent exploring the centre of Adelaide in an activity designed by the Smith Family. Following this, the Year 10s embarked on the UniSA Rural Connect program while the Year 11s explored Adelaide’s three universities.
Ben Casey and Alex Male were amongst the Year 10 students. Here is their account of the trip.
On Tuesday we learnt about Engineering and IT. Throughout the day we learned how to make a game called Penguin Pong, learned about the stars and what they are called and learned what jobs might suit us.

On Wednesday we travelled to the East Campus for three sessions which were food tasting, tour of the campus and extracting DNA from a few strawberries. Once we finished these sessions we walked to the West Campus for lunch and some more activities. We learnt about law, health, marketing and we had a panel of three university students where we had the opportunity to find out how they made their way into the degrees they are doing.

On Wednesday night we went with Grant students to a Bowling complex which had Laser Skirmish in it. Everybody enjoyed themselves there!

On Thursday we headed out to the Magill Campus where we learned about what happens in a radio station, TV studio and in their sound room.

As a result of this trip, many of us now have a much better idea about what universities offer and what we might study in the future.

**Year 11 Tertiary Visit**

While the Year 10 students were engaged exclusively at UniSA, the Year11s had the opportunity to visit Adelaide and Flinders Universities as well as the Magill and Mawson Lakes Campus of UniSA. In each of these places we were given a guided tour and had the opportunity to ask questions.

Coincidentally, our Mawson Lakes guide was taught by Mrs Roachock for Year 10 English and our Flinders guide was Mr Heyn’s nephew.

We had a great time, learned a lot and hardly got lost at all.

**Year 9 Kayaking Camp 25th-27th September**

This term as part of Health and Physical Education the Year 9 students have been studying the basics of outdoor education with HPE teacher Simone Combe. During these lessons students learnt how to put up a tent, cook pancakes on a trangia (a camp cooking stove) and about the basics of using a range of camping equipment. This culminated in a 3-day Kayaking Camp, run by Kristen Bence and Mike Hentschke, in the last week of term to the Glenelg River near Nelson in Victoria.

Over the three days of the camp the students set-up and slept in tents. They cooked stir-fry and spaghetti bolognais on the campfire and trangias. Students worked in groups using a range of team skills and were responsible for cooking their own meals and cleaning-up afterwards.

This camp was also about learning the basics of kayaking. Kayaking instructor Josh Hancock, a local farmer and outdoor education teacher, worked with the students in two groups to teach them the basic skills needed to paddle and complete a range of different kayaking strokes. Finally they used these skills to play group games like All Over Red Rover and Tag and Chariots, where two students in kayaks raft together and have another student standing on the back of the kayak. These trios of students then raced each other.

Other activities on the camp included damper making, cooking campfire hot spuds, raft building, fishing and night hiking. Students had fun at night with campfire singing, where Tyren Morrison was a stand-out with his excellent guitar playing. The first night of camp was quite a challenge due to 100kph winds, with rain and hail testing the resolve of both the students and their tents. Luckily the rain held off for the rest of the camp, so everyone was able to stay dry. Everyone really enjoyed the experience, especially those who were able to test the rafts in the river and the students who went swimming, whether on purpose, or accidently after falling out of the kayaks. All students loved the adventure. Thank you to the parents who provided food donations for the camp – they were greatly appreciated.
Year 8 Theatre Excursion  27th September
Jackie Poumako took the Year 8s to the theatre. Here is her account.
On the last Friday of term, the Year 8 English students were lucky enough to travel to the Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre in Mount Gambier to view the musical, *Xanadu*, performed by Grant High School students. While some students had been to plays before, for others, it was their first time. Our students thoroughly enjoyed watching the Grant High School students as they sang, danced and roller skated their way through the one and a half hour play.
Following the show, the Year 8s were ‘staaaaarving!’ so we carried on to our lunch spot, McDonalds, which put many smiles on their faces.
The day was wonderful, and the students were enthusiastic and well behaved throughout.

International Culinary Challenge
The news of Ashlee and Taylah’s successes in Japan is so exciting, that Dee Hutchinson has prepared a separate report to cover their adventures.

Alana’s Japan Trip
Alane Winter of Year 9 is studying Japanese. As part of her studies, she visited Japan with other students from Mt Gambier High School. Here is her account of her adventures.

Ever since primary school, I have enjoyed learning about Japan and so this year being the only student at PHS who wanted to continue the subject, I began a course through Mount Gambier High School. The teacher, Mr Akita, is Japanese himself and so the learning has been extremely enjoyable and thorough.
A big thanks to Mrs Amos for getting the ball rolling last year and to Mrs Roachock, Mr Hentchke and Ms Bence for their coordination of my subjects and time. My week of Japanese involves a double lesson on my own, a double lesson with Mr Akita on Centra and a double lesson in Mount Gambier with the rest of the class, which Mum takes me to every Friday morning.
This year I had the opportunity to be a part of Mount High’s bi-annual trip to Japan with 10 other girls and Mr Akita. Our classroom learning for most of term three was aimed at preparing us for our trip.
Our group travelled to Adelaide by bus on the 21st of September to begin our 18 day tour of Japan. We flew to Osaka, Japan via Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and after a full day of travelling, we quickly had to adjust to the heat and humidity before heading to Osaka Castle. Osaka Castle was home to some of Japan’s past Emperors and like everything in Japan, was very elaborate.
I have written a detailed description of our day to day experiences for this week’s PHS Newsletter but wanted to elaborate on a few extra things for you, the Governing Council, who enable me to continue my study of Japanese.
Having this opportunity has been not only enjoyable but also extremely beneficial. There are so many good things to come out of learning a second language, for instance; while I was in Japan, I ran into ex Penola High School student, Natasha Stent. Natasha is currently in Japan teaching English to Elementary School students as a part of the ‘JapProgram’. Applications for the JapProgram are open to all university students regardless of their knowledge of the language however; an understanding of the culture and language is beneficial while living and working in Japan.
Whilst in Japan, I really enjoyed myself but it wasn’t just the sightseeing. I really enjoyed having to use the language on a daily basis and also getting to know the amazing Japanese people who were so generous and grateful. Examples of this include; Erika Ito, my host sister who took me to her grandmother’s home for a traditional meal and tea ceremony. While I was there, I was given seven traditional Japanese dolls for my collection. These authentic dolls are far older than I and have been
in her collection for decades but she insisted that I take them for myself and turning a gift down in Japan is considered extremely impolite. Also, I had the opportunity to participate in their basketball training where they treated me like Michael Jordan!

While staying with the Ito family for a week, Erika and I left for school at 6:30am and travelled on a bus, two trains and then another bus to get to school by 8:10am. School finishes at 3:30pm but is followed by after school activities or commitments until about 6pm. We then caught our two busses and two trains back home for dinner. Erika, however, was usually up until 1am doing her homework as her place at high school is valuable following an entrance exam just to get into year 10. If this entrance exam is not passed, you have to leave school and go find basic employment.

While I could go on about all the sights, food, travel, accommodation, people and experiences I really cannot thank Penola High School enough for giving me the opportunity to continue my Japanese. I have learnt language, independence, culture and the value of working hard to achieve your goals.

While I paid for this trip myself, it was worth every cent and I would do it again tomorrow if I could!

**Kids’ Time in the Library 16th October**

Library staff were thrilled and delighted by families’ positive and enthusiastic responses to their most recent Kids’ Time offering. The theme for the morning was ‘Bears’ and participating children were asked to bring a teddy or favourite soft toy. This gave them the opportunity to introduce their bear to the whole group—a great way to start building confidence for future public speaking. The ‘Hello’ action song was followed by Ali Bond reading ‘The Curious Bear’ and then it was time for more action songs with the littlies performing ‘Round and Round the Garden’ on their mothers—a hilarious episode. Rob Thornett delivered an inspired version of ‘We’re Going on a Bear Hunt’ which ended up with everyone following bear prints around the library and hunting through the book stacks for the bear cave. The craft activity which followed saw the children making ‘Bear Memory Keepers’, an activity which also involved them in sorting circles by size. Heather Stone conducted a highly interactive reading of ‘Can You growl Like a Bear?’—it turned out that the children could, and did. Proceedings drew to a close with a morning tea of fresh bread and honey.

**Maths Competition Results**

The results of the Australia-wide Maths competition have arrived. Students in Years 8 to 11 were able to participate in the competition due to the generous sponsorship of local businesses. Two students from Year 10, Alex Male and Joel Moore, are to be congratulated on achieving distinctions. Credits were awarded to Logan Gibbs, Bentley Galpin, Amy Dorling, Hamish March, Daniel Meek, Samantha Sims, Bradley Tregenza, Georgie Beighton, Kara Martin and Lewis March.

**Past Student Success**

Avid readers of ‘Staff News’ will recall that the Year 11 wine making project is supported by many in the local wine industry, and in particular, by wine maker and past student Luke Skeer of Wynns. We are delighted to note that Luke has recently been named one of Australia’s top 10 young wine makers.

**Current Students in the Wider Community**

Our students have been making their marks in the wider community. Here are some examples of their achievements.

**Cattle Handling at the Royal Adelaide Show.**

Mason Galpin won the Senior Handler Class event, while Sam Burgess followed him up in third place. Bentley Galpin was placed first in the Intermediate section of the competition.
Netballers of Renown:
Laura Price, 17 and Under Best and Fairest; Alana Winter, 15A and Under Best and Fairest; Hannah Klemm, 15A and Under runner up Best and Fairest; Amy Wetherall, 15B and Under Best and Fairest; Felicity Drury, 15B and Under Most Improved

Fabulous Footballers:
Scott Merrett, Under 17 Best and Fairest; Jack Gartner Under 17 Coach’s Award; Cameron Merrett, Under 17 Best Team Man; Tom Walker, Under 17 Encouragement Award; Logan Gibbs, Under 14 Best and Fairest; Bentley Galpin, Team Manager’s Award.

Naracoorte Show Success 19th October
Mason and Bentley Galpin along with Hayden Lambert competed in the Young Judges Championship at the Naracoorte Show and were placed first. Entrants were required to judge four cattle, four sheep and four fleeces. Bentley Galpin won the cattle section and came second in wool, while Hayden won the wool section and was placed second in sheep. The top six competitors in each section were given the opportunity to speak about their decisions, so each of our students spoke about the events in which they were placed, and Mason spoke three times. Nine teams competed in all, and the event was open to participants under 25 years of age.

Laos Group Fundraiser 19th October
Members of the Laos Group led by Vicki McDonald-Burgess held a fund raiser at Penley Estate during the Cabernet Weekend. The group provided a choice of Thai Beef Salad or Chicken Laksa, and those who partook were thrilled with their meal. A special vote of thanks goes to Andi Zerk who provided the original inspiration for this activity and followed this up by providing the recipes, undertaking the shopping and assisting with the cooking. Students involved on this sunny Saturday were Jess Frankling, Ella Kain, Kara Martin, Gus Eckermann, Sam Burgess, Melyssa Steed and Georgie Beighton.