23rd February 2015

Before Week 1

SAPOL Leadership Camp 11th-16th January
Ryan Gruetzner was one of twenty-four students selected from a pool of about 150 to attend the SAPOL Leadership Camp held at Echunga. At the camp, there was an emphasis on team work and each student was placed in one of four teams. The camp was arduous, with the days, which started with rigorous physical exercise at 6am, long and challenging. The students were engaged in a range of team building activities. The camp provided an opportunity to forge new friendships. Ryan enjoyed the experience to the full and highly recommends it to others.

Flinders University Science Camp 19th - 21st January
Four of our senior Science students, Ashlee Sullivan, Alana Winter, Joel Moore and Alex Male, travelled to Adelaide in the care of Mark Heyn to attend the inaugural Science Camp for senior, country students at Flinders University. Our students were joined by others from Millicent High School – a fortunate circumstance as both groups of students will be working together throughout the year as they undertake some of their studies by Local Delivery.

Throughout the camp, students stayed at Flinders Hall and enjoyed this brief taste of uni residential life. The camp organisers devised a full and stimulating program which engaged all the students. The workshops included using chromatography to carry out a CSI-style analysis of a ‘crime scene’, collecting water samples for government analysis from the Flinders Lake during a Marine Ecology session, a trip to a wetlands, computer based circuitry, making an app for an android tablet, working with extremely powerful neodymium magnets, and using liquid nitrogen to make icecream. This last was, to quote Alex, ‘cool in more ways than one’. The evenings were spent on social activities such as bowling.

This was a great experience for our students and they are to be congratulated for the enthusiasm which they brought to the trip and on their attitudes which saw them happy to undertake this learning during the holidays. Our thanks go to Mark for the gift of his time and for enabling our students to attend.

Week 0 at School 19th – 23rd January
Staff began returning to school during Week 0 and all staff were back on board by Thursday of that week. Two days were dedicated to organisational meetings and preparation for the year ahead. The Strategic Learning Committee, which evolved from the Literacy and Numeracy Committee, held its first meeting. Its work will contribute to the new Site Improvement Plan, and, as part of this, ideas and information will be sought from parents as the year progresses.
Australia Day Celebration  26th January
The annual Penola Australia Day celebration in the park held particular significance for our school community this year. The reason for this is two-fold. Firstly, Lewis March received his Young Citizen of the Year award, and, secondly, Fleur Roachock was the guest speaker. Fleur outlined the personal journey which has brought her to our community at this stage of her career and her hopes for PHS and our community’s students for the future. She spoke of our emphasis on challenging students and preparing them for their lives in the wider world and pointed to our success in achieving this for our students in 2014.

Tuesday 27th January: First Day Back!
There was a definite buzz around the school as students assembled for their first day of the new school year. The new Year 8 students were flushed with excitement and anticipation while senior students looked forward with determination to succeed in the demanding year which lies ahead. After a formal whole school assembly where Mrs Fleur Roachock addressed the students the day was devoted to Home Group activities, the election of House captains and swimming carnival nominations.

First Day Programs: Year 8
The first day program for Year 8 students focussed on ‘Getting to Know You’ activities which were undertaken with considerable enthusiasm. Students were also challenged with problem solving and team building activities which included a ‘Save the Egg’ challenge, a story and name race, and a Worst Case Scenario task where the students had to devise a way of leaving a deserted island. In the afternoon, some activities were shared with the Year 9 students.

First Day Programs: Year 9
On Tuesday 27th January, the Year 9 group had their very first day of not being 'the little kids' anymore. After all the necessary admin work was over, the students participated in a trust activity which involved them leading each other around the school while blindfolded. It was very entertaining; and, with only one minor casualty, considered a great success.

Students also undertook several team bonding activities, which included building the highest newspaper tower possible, untangling themselves from a Human Knot, and picking up a bucket of water from 2 metres away using only two pieces of rope and their very best problem solving skills.

The afternoon saw a Year 8 vs Year 9 Challenge in the stadium. In what has become a popular tradition, the Year 8s took on the Year 9s in a variety of physical challenges, including a planking competition, basketball shooting, Jail Ball and even a competition to see which year level could hit a teacher with a dodgeball! (Throwing with their non-preferred hands of course!). This session provided a great bonding opportunity between the two year levels, and, judging by the level of competitiveness on display, the Year 8s will certainly give the Year 9s a run for their money this year.

First Day Programs: Year 10
Dee Hutchinson and Mark Heyn are Year 10 Home Group and Year Level Organisers this year, and have been very impressed by the students’ presentation in uniform on a regular basis and their generally excellent behaviour.

The Year 10 Orientation program began with administration and routine procedures. During the afternoon, some career planning tools were introduced by Kevin Gritton, Student Pathways and
Apprenticeship Consultant from the Trade School, who discussed Industry Pathways and Careers Directions with the students. This session also included input from Taylah Tranter who is currently undertaking a School Based Apprenticeship with Hollicks Restaurant and Ryan Gruetzner who has completed Vocational Education and Training Certificate II in Automotive at Millicent. Michael Hentschke introduced some requirements of Stage 1 SACE, with emphasis on the Personal Learning Plan. This will be undertaken in Semester 2 and will assist students with their future subject selections.

The students viewed the movie ‘Shattered Silence’ as an introduction to the Year 10 Learning for Life program. ‘Shattered Silence’ portrays issues that are very relevant to teenage life and therefore appropriate for Year 10 students. Themes such as thinking of others, tolerance of others, respect and respectful relationships, abuse of social media and bullying are portrayed in this movie. Aspiring to achieve, being ‘true to yourself’ and the use/misuse of power in relationships are some main themes which will be focussed on in Learning for Life. Students will also be encouraged to use goal setting as part of their decision making processes.

First Day Programs: Year 11
Year 11 students enjoyed a full day of activities which included advice about saving documents safely from Scott McCulloch, a reminder about individual responsibility in discouraging bullying from Suzanne Gray, an account of his SAPOL camp from Ryan Gruetzner and a short presentation from those who attended the Flinders Uni Science camp. Former students, Kara Martin, Heidi Hutchesson and Jess Frankling, spoke of their survival tips for the SACE years and their adventures since leaving school. Fleur Roachock reflected on ‘The Highs and Lows of Seniority’ and Mike Hentschke provided information about the SACE. Students enjoyed baguettes for lunch at Vintage and a quick group activity involving chocolate to round off the day.

First Day Programs: Year 12
Much of the day was taken up with administrative matters, consideration of what it means to be a Stage 2 student and the steps needed for success. The students also enjoyed visits from past students Heidi Hutchesson, Jess Frankling and Kara Martin.

Election of House Captains  27th January
The following students are congratulated on their election to leadership roles in their Houses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>House</th>
<th>Captains</th>
<th>Vice-Captains</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>Boys</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>Boys</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moyanga</td>
<td>Ashlee Sullivan</td>
<td>Gus Eckermann</td>
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<tr>
<td>Torilla</td>
<td>Georgie Beighton</td>
<td>Joel Moore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yalluminga</td>
<td>Alena Tranter</td>
<td>Bailey Walker</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Girls</td>
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<td>Girls</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Montana Freeman</td>
<td>Ben Casey</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Hannah Klemm</td>
<td>Sam Burgess</td>
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<td>Alana Winter</td>
<td>Cory O’Connor</td>
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PHS Swimming Carnival Results  30th January
Simone Combe’s detailed report following the PHS Swimming Carnival appeared in the Newsletter. Here is a summary of results.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>Runner-Up</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>Boys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 14</td>
<td>Brooke Hutchesson</td>
<td>Tom Abbey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>Boys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Emily Winter</td>
<td>Jack Cain</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Under 15</th>
<th>Elysha Dekoning</th>
<th>Josh Currie</th>
<th>Phoebe Tregenza</th>
<th>Nick Rowe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 16</td>
<td>Alana Winter</td>
<td>Cory O’Connor</td>
<td>Ella Kain</td>
<td>Will Cadzow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Hannah Klemm</td>
<td>Bailey Walker</td>
<td>Montana Freeman</td>
<td>Gus Eckermann</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Final House Results:
Yalluminga 236 points; Torilla 221 points; Moyanga 164 points

Year 8 Barbecue 2nd February
Around about forty people attended the Year 8 barbecue and were warmly welcomed by Fleur Roachock who spoke briefly about our philosophy and the plans to collect data to inform the new Site Improvement Plan. Scott McCulloch talked about activities the students will be involved in, particularly the Year 8 camp. Tom Sutterby manned the barbecue heroically and James Braddy set up loops of last Year’s Camp and the 2015 Swimming Carnival to provide an engaging backdrop. Staff were thrilled by the number of parents who attended and greatly appreciated the opportunity to talk with them.

Kristen Bence’s Photography Success
Last year, Kristen Bence wrote an application to be awarded a Photography workshop, and has just learnt that she has been selected. The workshop will be delivered by members of the Sydney-based Doug Moran Photographic Portrait Prize group. Thirty students from Years 8 to 11 will participate in the workshop which will focus on visual story telling. The presenters will provide all the cameras to be used and each student will receive five prints of their work at the end of the day.

SACE Evening 4th February
A well-attended SACE information evening was held for parents, caregivers and students in Years 11 and 12.

Merit Award Presented 10th February
From Mike Hentschke
In recognition of his A+ Merit Award in Mathematical Applications Lewis March attended the SACE Merit Ceremony at Government House on February 10.

This ceremony recognises the top students from the SACE through the Governor’s Awards and also the students receiving merit awards in individual subjects. Lewis was presented with his award by Dr Jonathan Ross, Associate Professor in Applied Mathematics at Adelaide University.

Lewis was accompanied by his parents, Andrew and Pia, and his subject teacher, Mike Hentschke. This award reflected Lewis’ high levels of achievement, not only in tests and exams, but also in folio tasks. His concise, relevant and thoughtful analysis of his results reflected his attitude and determination to ensure all tasks were completed to an exemplary standard.

Lewis was also able to use his time in Adelaide to complete his enrolment with UniSA to study a degree in Accounting. He will study this course externally while working full-time with an accountancy firm in Naracoorte.
**Interschool Swimming 13th February**

Fifteen of our students joined others from Naracoorte and Millicent High Schools and St Martin’s College to form a combined team for the annual interschool swimming carnival held in Mt. Gambier. Many of our swimmers made an impression in the pool with top three placings. Some late withdrawals from other schools meant that our students were relied upon to fill many events, and it was pleasing to see them do this cheerfully and experience success. Successful PHS swimmers included Tom Abbey, Gorgia Robbie, Ella Kain, Cory O’Connor, and Bailey Walker who was declared joint Open Boys Champion—a considerable achievement. Notable contributions were made by Tom Abbey who competed in every event for which he was eligible, even stepping in for another student who balked at butterfly, Ella Kain, Cory O’Connor and Bailey Walker who scored identical back-to-back results compared to 2014, and Emily Winter who still swam even though she had had a double dental extraction earlier in the day.

**Open Boys Cricket 16th February**

Our team played Grant High School. We batted first for 79 runs with Logan Gibbs top-scoring with 34. He was in solid partnerships with Year 8 recruits Sam Klemm and James Foggo. We were only able to take three wickets before Grant reached our score. Logan Gibbs took two wickets with catches taken by James Foggo, Bailey Walker and Ben Casey. Overall the game was played in good spirit with solid efforts from a younger, less-experienced team.

**Leadership Induction Assembly 17th February**

A whole school Leadership Assembly was held in the Hall where students and staff were joined by parents and friends. Fleur Roachock welcomed everyone and Suzanne Gray read the Acknowledgement of the Lands. Winsley Wighton introduced Mr Alec Bowden of the Penola Masonic Lodge who presented Melyssa Steed with a certificate acknowledging her receipt of the Masons’ grant for 2015.

Fleur spoke of the nature of leadership and the examples set so far this year by our student leaders. She then presented certificates to the House Captains and Vice Captains who were introduced by Simone Combe. Certificates were also presented to the SRC representatives.

Following the assembly, light refreshments were served in the seminar room to the student leaders and visitors.

**Year 8 Camp 18th – 20th February**

Kristen Bence, Scott McCulloch and Dave Vannini accompanied most of the Year 8 students on their ‘getting to know you’ camp for three days at Cape Bridgewater. All staff were most impressed with the students’ general behaviour and their willingness to take on new challenges and to support each other. Highlights included sand boarding on a very high dune, a boat ride to explore the seals’ habitat from the seaward side and a spectacular 12.5km hike along the top of the cliffs.

**World Challenge 18th February**

A well-attended information evening was held in the seminar room.
First Aid Course  19th February
A full day First Aid course was conducted in the Hall for all students undertaking Outdoor Ed and the Café program.

Lions Youth of the Year  19th February
Twelve students undertaking a Stage 2 English subject participated in this year’s Lions Youth of the Year Quest. Two local quests, one hosted by Penola Lions, the other by Kalangadoo Lions, ran concurrently. Students completed a detailed application form and attended an interview during the afternoon. In the evening, family members, friends and members of the Lions clubs were treated to the public speaking section of the Quest. Students delivered a five minute prepared speech on a topic of their choice. Then followed the demanding two-minute responses to unseen questions. The students chose a wide range of topics for their prepared speeches. Ben Casey’s responses to the impromptu questions were remarkable, as he managed to speak convincingly for the whole two minutes in response to each question.

Students who participated were: Shauna Allen (My Heroes: the Royal Flying Doctors), Monica McIntyre (Gender Equality in Rural Areas), Sam Burgess (Should Australians Risk their Safety to Help?), Ryan Gruetzner (Leadership Potential), Alana Winter (The Dying Art of Reading), Joel Moore (Beauty is Better than Brains), Gab Carr-Foster (Should Juveniles be Charged as Adults for Particularly Serious Crimes?), Ashlee Sullivan (Is Media Giving Teens a Negative Body Image?), Georgie Beighton (Are Animal Rights Activists Giving Farmers a Bad Name?), Alex Male (Atheism vs Religion), Ben Casey (Why the Bouncer Should Not be Banned) and Thomas Price, (Where Do We Go from Here?).

In the Kalangadoo Lions Club section of the Quest, Alex Male won the public speaking award while Georgie Beighton won the overall award. Alana Winter received both awards in the Penola Lions Club’s section of the Quest. Georgie and Alana will represent the clubs at the Regional competition to be held at Millicent on Saturday March 14th.

Our thanks go to the two Lions Clubs for enabling our students to have this demanding challenge, the MCs, Sue M'Lure and Ray Haines, and particularly to the judges who gave so much of their thought and time:

Kids’ Time  20th February
The seminar room was packed as 21 participants, five toddlers, one baby and their associated mothers gathered for the first Kids’ Time of 2015. Theme for the session was ‘Dogs’ and one undoubted highlight was the visit by Indy West who allowed herself to be admired and petted by one and all in a very well-mannered fashion. Three books were shared, craft, where the children made cuddly dogs to take home, was undertaken and the children made pizzas for morning tea. As well, there was singing with actions and a cleverly thought out Maths activity involving number, shape and size. Everyone joined in the activities and the parents appreciated Ali’s explanations of the reason for each of the activities. This program makes a significant contribution to our role in the community and we thank Ali Bond, Heather Stone and Rob Thornett for their dedication, vision and effort.
Teacher T & D  14th February
Kathleen Phillips spent a day at Prince Alfred College in Adelaide attending the 2nd Research Project Teachers Association Conference. Over 200 teachers attended the event. The event focused on all aspects of the course - the Folio, the Outcome and the Evaluation. Kathleen focussed primarily on the Evaluation as this where our students need the most support. The conference was very informative and Kathleen has begun to put in place changes in the course that will benefit our students’ understanding and performance in the Evaluation.