2014

Week 0
All staff returned to school by 23rd of January. Two busy days were spent in preparation for the year ahead, with teachers dealing with administration matters, attending performance development meetings with Fleur, attending faculty meetings, undertaking individual preparation and attending professional development organised by Kristen Bence.

Australia Day Celebrations 26th January
At the Penola Australia Day celebration, two of our past students, Ella Kidman and Brad Merrett, received Young Citizen of the Year Awards. Both spoke well, and each of them mentioned the role PHS had played in nurturing their talents and providing opportunities. We congratulate both Ella and Brad on this formal recognition of their contributions to our school and the wider community.

Day 1 Programs
The first day of the school year was spent in Home Groups. After devoting the first part of the morning to administrative matters and emergency procedures, the Year 8s, in the care of Scott McCulloch and Jackie Poumako, spent the remainder of the day in group activities aimed at students getting to know each other better and beginning working together as a group.

Year 9 Program
The focus for the Year 9 Orientation Program was on team-building. Many bonding and group activities were undertaken including a name race in which Casey Stephenson received an award for being the fastest to name every student in the class, a blindfold walk where students had to rely upon only four senses and their partner to get from the art room to the stadium – definitely amusing to watch for the teachers – and blind soccer. Blind soccer was a hit, but very confusing as only the blindfolded partner was able to kick the ball while their sighted partner dragged them into position. Students also created a portrait based on themselves and their interests, likes, dislikes and goals for the year. The Year 9 Initiative program and Year 9 Camp were introduced with lots of students expressing an interest in the range of activities on offer. Another hit activity was newspaper tower building in teams. Students undertook a team river crossing challenge where they had to problem-solve, working out how to get from one place to another with only three different routes on offer and a plank. Each student also created a large holiday postcard of a main event of their holiday. The group also participated in other smaller team activities and getting to know you activities with some goal setting and time management work in between. Overall the day was great fun and successful and it was a great way for Kristen Bence and Simone Combe to bond with their class for this year.

Yr 10 Orientation Day Program
Dee Hutchinson and Tom Sutterby are Year 10 Home Group and Year Level Organisers this year and were impressed by the students’ adoption of uniform and generally excellent behaviour.

The morning of their first day was devoted to administration and routine procedures. The afternoon program was modified due to the extreme heat. Rather than a visit from the Apprenticeship Consultants from the Trade School, students listened as Michael Hentschke introduced some
requirements of Stage 1 SACE, particularly the Personal Learning Plan, which will part of Semester 2 studies and assist the 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 or misuse of power in relationships are some main themes to be developed in Learning for Life. Students will be encouraged to use goal setting as part of their decision making processes.

Year 11 Orientation Day program
The Year 11 students participated enthusiastically in a range of first day activities. Highlights included visits from past students Jade Tranter and Ella and Nick Kidman who spoke of their experiences in the senior school and life beyond Year 12. Despite the heat, students voted to adhere to the initial plan of a shared lunch at Vintage. Carol Marcus provided excellent baguettes and the students really enjoyed the cold drinks. Fleur Roachock led the students through an introduction to the Research Project and the pitfalls of plagiarism and Mike Hentschke spoke about the SACE.

Year 12 Orientation Program
Mr Rob Thornett and Mrs Kathleen Phillips led the Year 12 students through a very busy day. As well as dealing with the nitty gritty of Year 12 organisation, the program included visits from past students Jade Tranter and Ella and Nick Kidman, a ‘Walk and Talk’ activity related to goal setting and a talk from Mike Hentschke entitled ‘Understanding SACE’.

Election of House Captains
As the first day back was a ‘red alert’ day and some students were unable to attend, the election of House Captains was held over until day 2. Those elected captain were Melyssa Steed and Doug Blow-Oeser for Moyanga, Georgie Beighton and Lewis March for Torilla and Laura Price and Luke Gray for Yalluminga. Vice Captains are Kara Martin and Gus Eckermann, Moyanga, Kate Rowe and Joel Moore, Torilla and Jade Lythgo and Scott Merrett, Yalluminga.

Swimming Carnival 31st January
The annual swimming carnival was held in warm conditions with a great turn out of supporters cheering on the side lines.

Year 8 students Emily Winter and Sophie Sharpe were hard to separate in the U14 girls competition, while Josh Currie and Nick Rowe competed well in U14 boys’ races. It was very pleasing to see some new students adding great excitement to the day with some exceptional performances. Cory O’Connor was too strong in the U15 boys, and Will Cadzow swam well to receive runner up. Alana Winter and Ella Kain were separated by a single point in the U15 girls, with Ella coming very close to the U15 girls breaststroke record. Hannah Klemm dominated the U16 girls competition, with new student Sharnie Driver taking out runner up position. It was a case of history repeating itself with Bailey Walker taking out the Age Group Championship and Jordan Lovewell being runner up in the U16 boys. The two boys finished in the exact same positions in the U15 Boys age group last year. Laura Price finished as Open Girls Champion for the second year in a row, with Melyssa Steed also
swimming strongly. Finally, Cameron Merrett snuck over the line by a single point to be the Open Boys winner over Sam Burgess.

The House Captains did exceptionally well in organising their teams and making sure all the events were filled throughout the day. Their moral support and enthusiasm on the side lines proved to be effective in getting their competitors to the finish line. It was great to see all House members contribute to their team’s success both in entering events and encouraging and supporting fellow House members.

At the end of the day it was Yalluminga who proved too good for the other Houses with a convincing victory. This makes it two years in a row that they have taken out the Swimming Carnival shield.

Final House Results
Yalluminga 248.5
Moyanga 200
Torilla 186.5

Year 8 Barbecue 3rd February
On the Monday of week 2, parents of year 8 students attended a meet and greet BBQ in the hall. About half the parents were able to come and meet their students’ teachers. Both parents and staff found the occasion to be valuable and enjoyable.

SACE Information Evening 5th February
Mike Hentschke and Rob Thornett organised a SACE Information Evening for parents of students in Years 11 and 12.

Basketball Success
Our congratulations go to Emily and Alana Winter on their recent successes in the Australian Junior Basketball Cup held recently in Albury. Emily was a member of the winning team in the Under 14 division, while Alana’s team was placed second in the Under 16s.

Dylan Wiliam Training and Development 6th February
Fleur Roachock, Jackie Poumako and Winsley Wighton travelled to Adelaide to hear legendary educationalist, Professor Dylan Wiliam. Professor Wiliam started by painting a challenging picture of the world our children will face as they leave us and move out into the wider community and emphasised the attributes our students will need to have if they are to be successful in a world where most of the job opportunities they will have have not even been thought of yet. He followed this up with two inspiring sessions around formative assessment, and all three teachers returned to Penola inspired to introduce a range of new techniques.

Visit by Brevet Sergeant Chris Nelsen Friday 7th February
The Year 11 students warmly welcomed Brevet Sergeant Chris Nelsen to their Learning for Life session. Chris spoke of the journey that has brought her to Penola and then opened the session up to questions from the students. The students had many questions, mainly related to traffic rules and regulations. The session finished with morning tea. We thank Chris for her time and for making the effort to get to know our students and answer their queries.
Open Boys Cricket 10th February

Mr Scott McCulloch oversaw the Open boys in their pursuit of cricket glory. Here is his account of the day.

The weather was perfect, the boys were keen and there was a feeling of optimism in the Penola dressing room. The Millicent boys rocked up and the toss was immediately organised with the inspirational Lewis March representing Penola. He promptly won the toss and sent the visitors in to bat on a flat, hard wicket in perfect batting conditions.

The match started in an average way, with Ben Casey producing an edge from the batsman that somehow managed to go between first and second slip. Ben was bowling a tight off-stump line and was hard to get away. Luke Gray opened from the other end and started with genuine pace but couldn’t find the pitch. He improved significantly each over and ended up taking two wickets. Lewis March’s first ball went over square leg for a four but the batsman got over confident and was bowled next ball. Other highlights of the fielding were an easy catch going down and the fieldsman saying don’t worry he won’t score many more……..the Millicent player went on to produce a fine score of 164 not out at a much better rate than a run a ball. When a change of bowling was called for a keen Thomas Walker put his hand up to bowl spin but quickly realised he had forgotten how. Tom Price was forced to bowl an over and let’s just say his last ball was on the pitch and that was a win! Finally Scott Merrett was able to run back with the flight of the ball and take a miracle catch which helped limit Millicent to an average score of 310 off 35 overs.

The boys were upbeat in the changeover with Tom Price discovering his long lost brother (They were dead ringers, seriously) and with Lewis and Joel looking keen. The opening pair started well with a steady scoring rate until Joel decided it was too hot and walked himself out. Luke Gray came in at three and, needing to lift the run rate, unfortunately missed the ball and was bowled. With the quick wickets of Ben Casey and Lewis March this left Sam Burgess and Scott Merrett at the crease. Sam batted bravely and scored 10, but the highlight of the innings was Scott Merret’s huge hitting. He produced five sixes, three of which ended up in the vineyard and had the Millicent team jumping fences searching for the ball. A late stand from Logan (Herschille) Gibbs ensured we only just fell 200 runs short in what turned out to be a highly entertaining game.

Winemaker’s Visit 13th February

PHS old boy and acclaimed winemaker, Luke Skeer, visited the Stage 1 Chemistry students and delivered an engaging presentation on the opportunities and experiences winemaking has given him and the processes of red and white wine production. The students are now looking forward to visiting Wynns winery and making their own wine.

Interschool Swimming 14th February

Simone Combe and Tom Sutterby took our students to the Interschool Swimming Carnival. They were particularly impressed with the way in which students were prepared to be flexible and go in events at the last minute and the students’ manners and behaviour in general. Here is Simone’s account of the day.

On Friday 14 February 2014, some Penola High School students, along with Ms Combe and Mr Sutterby, travelled to the Bordertown Swimming Pool to compete in the annual SESSSA Swimming Carnival. In rainy conditions, Penola had 11 students representing the Combined Team this year, with students from Naracoorte, St Martins and Millicent. Students representing Penola High School
were Nick Rowe, Emily Winter, Josh Currie, Ella Kain, Hannah Klemm, Cory O’Connor, Bailey Walker, Alana Winter, Sam Burgess, Laura Price and Melyssa Steed.

The day began with Bordertown and Tenison Woods dominating early. Once again this year our team continued to show great improvement with many of our swimmers making an impression in the pool and placing in the top three, resulting in a higher overall score at the end of the day. 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.

The Bordertown team was placed first, followed by Tenison, with the Combined Team bringing up the rear in fifth place. Our students were part of the Boys U15 and U16 relay teams, both of which were placed third.

The following Penola High School students swam exceptionally well against tough competition and were rewarded with a blue, red or green ribbon: Emily Winter, 2nd U14 Backstroke (filling in), Ella Kain, 2nd U15 Breaststroke and 3rd Open Backstroke, Cory O’Connor, 2nd U15 Breaststroke, 3rd U15 Freestyle, and 3rd U15 Backstroke, Hannah Klemm, 3rd U16 Backstroke, Bailey Walker, 1st U16 Freestyle and 1st U16 Backstroke, and Melyssa Steed, 3rd Open Breaststroke.

Year 10 Netbook Distribution 18th February
Considerable excitement resulted from the distribution of netbooks to Year 10 students.

Year 8 Camp 19th-21st February
By Jackie Poumako

On Wednesday the 19th of February, 18 eager students, 3 nervous teachers and John gathered in the school car park about to embark on an incredible journey. Our group was once again joined by experienced and ever helpful bus driver, Deb. With a final kiss goodbye to loved ones, we departed for Year 8 Camp at Cape Bridgewater.

Students were treated to Miss Poumako’s favourite childhood movie during the bus trip, *The Mighty Ducks*, which was so well received they found themselves watching the sequel later that night at the camp’s onsite cinema.

Arriving hungry and full of anticipation at the camp site, we were disappointed to find the weather had turned on us. The threatening black clouds, and sporadic showers, saw us shuffling the day’s plans and venturing in to Portland. Students demonstrated their responsibility and were free to shop and sightsee in groups. Following that, we reconvened and headed to the heated swimming centre at the YMCA, where students staged medley relays and kept warm in the outdoor spa.

Back at the camp, dinner time signalled a chance for students and staff to set some ground rules and organise kitchen duty groups. From this point onwards, all kitchen duty groups were punctual and efficient, displaying great maturity.

Thursday, also known as ‘The Energy Zapper’, saw students rally together for a hearty breakfast prior to Raft Building, Canoeing, Caving and Beaching. The raft building challenge saw only one team victorious – their construction was faultless, even allowing one member to act as a stabilising force. The successful team joins the hallowed halls of ‘raft-building’ fame and consisted of Joe French,
Connor Eastwood, Beck Ansell, Georgia Robbie and Sophie Sharpe. Unfortunately for other teams, they were rewarded with a freezing cold dip in the lake after their vessels capsized. Luckily, students were also treated to canoes to explore the lake from a drier vantage point.

After lunch, students split into two groups for the Caving activity. With our trusty guide, Chloe, we set off to explore Hut Cave and Chimney Cave. The young people excelled underground, twisting and contorting their way through a series of tunnels and chutes. They even waited patiently at checkpoints for participating staff members to squish themselves along after them. Caving saw a number of students face their fears and come out triumphant and I must make special mention of the support and care each member showed for each other during the activity.

Back at the camp, and all cleaned up after the muddy Caving experience, students once again worked well together to prepare and tidy up after a delicious dinner of Hamburgers on the barbecue. Once finished, we were ready to take on Mr Sutterby’s game, Night Stalker, a spin on the tried and true Storm The Lantern. After a few false starts, and a change of venue, students displayed their cunning and strategy while trying to stalk the opposing team’s players and lanterns.

Following Night Stalker, students used their last ounces of energy to complete the annual Camp Quiz. It was pleasing to see the groups working cohesively, with many correct answers for all teams. Fading fast, students were pleased to be released for bed and, thankfully for staff, found the second night much easier to fall asleep on.

Friday arrived much quicker than students would have liked and they began their day with their final Rock and Water session with John. After breakfast we packed up our gear and headed off for our final activity, Sand Boarding. After a bumpy ride on the bus, we met Chloe once again, grabbed our boards and trekked out to the largest sand dune we had ever seen. Being the final day of camp, we feared that the young people were suffering from a lack of energy, however they proved us wrong, making a number of trips up and down the enormous dune. Max Beighton, who must have made at least 12 trips up, spent the morning trying to perfect a 360 degree turn, while Elyshia Dekoning preferred to roll down the hill. This was especially entertaining for those observing when she got up to walk and treated us to a show similar to a foal’s first adventures in walking. But in true Elyshia style, she recovered quickly with a huge smile on her face.

After the Year 8’s were thoroughly worn out, we returned to the camp for lunch before packing up and heading home. We were treated to a mostly silent bus ride as camp goers used their down time to listen to music and rest.

A major focus of our camp was to build new relationships and strengthen those that already existed. I am pleased to relate that all students participated readily in the random groupings and have laid the foundations for successful friendships during their time at high school.

**Kids’ Time 20th February**

Even though there were many apologies for the first Kids’ Time of the year, there were still ten families, three of them new, who came to join in the session ‘Come Ride the Little Red Tractor’. A wonderful red tractor decorated the seminar room. Our thanks go to Shane McPherson for donating the cardboard from which the tractor was constructed and to John Bond for building it. The children loved driving it. After the hello and reading songs, Rob Thornett, suitably gum-booted and attired, performed ‘Pigs in the Pond’, with the littlies joining in the refrain. Then it was time for action
songs: ‘Baa, Baa Black Sheep’, ‘Old McDonald Had a Farm’, and ‘I Went to Visit a Farm One Day’. Heather Stone read ‘Cock a Doodle Doo’ with the children joining in enthusiastically and then it was time for craft. The children cut out the pieces needed to make a rooster and then stuck them together. A counting game based on farm animals followed and the morning finished with ‘Pigs in a Blanket’ for morning tea. Ali Bond chose each item and activity to provide the greatest possible learning, stimulation and skill development (not to mention enjoyment) for the children and was thrilled to bits by the visitors’ responses.

First Aid Training 21st February
Students undertaking Year 12 Phys Ed and the new Stage 1 subject, ‘Outdoor Education’ undertook a full day’s First Aid training to prepare them for the camps that lie ahead.

Geography and History Teachers’ Conference 22nd February
Kathleen Phillips travelled to Adelaide to attend the Geography and History Teachers’ Conference. She found it to be very supportive and stimulating and came away with many new resources which she will be able to use in implementing the Australian Curriculum in these subject areas.

1500m 24th February
The annual Athletics Carnival had a great curtain-raiser this morning, when the 1500m was run in near-perfect conditions. The whole school assembled by the track to watch as long distance runners and those prepared to have a go gave of their best for their House. Winners were Emily Winter (Under 14 Girls), Brandon M’Murtrie (U14 Boys), Ella Kain (U15 Girls), Cory O’Connor (U15 Boys), Hannah Klemm, (U16 Girls), Jordan Lovewell (U16 Boys), Ashlee Sullivan (Open Girls) and Luke Gray (Open Boys). Runners-up were Sophie Sharpe, Max Beighton, Amy Wetherall, Bentley Galpin, Montana Freeman, Tom Walker, Geogie Beighton and Gus Eckermann. At this point, Yalluminga and Torilla are tied in second place on 42 points, while Moyanga is just ahead with 44.5 points.

Leadership Assembly 24th February
The Year 10 students ran the Leadership Assembly. Rayna Denton read the Acknowledgement of the Lands and introduced Mrs Roachock who spoke about the responsibilities which each of us has as a member of our school community and congratulated those who have been elected to leadership roles. Cory O’Connor introduced John Stayte who inducted members of the SRC. Certificates were presented by Mrs Roachock. Bailey Walker introduced Simone Combe who presented the House Captains to the assembled students and visitors. Hannah Klemm introduced Winsley Wighton, who in turn introduced Mr Alec Bowden of the Masons. Alec congratulated Jess Frankling on being awarded the Masons’ Grant to support her in undertaking her tertiary studies in Nursing.

It was pleasing to see family members in the audience in support of their young people. After the assembly, SRC members, House Captains and the visitors enjoyed a sumptuous morning tea in the seminar room provided by Year 9 students under the guidance of Dee Hutchinson.