Dear Families

As Term 3 begins and staff and students return to the routine and rigor of their learning, I would like to acknowledge the warm welcome that I have received from staff and students alike. I look forward to meeting more of the school community over the next six months, as I recognise the importance of a close community network to positively influence achievement and success. Please feel free to ‘pop’ in and introduce yourself.

My most current leadership role was as deputy principal at McDonald Park Primary School. McDonald Park has an enrolment of approximately 600 students and a teaching staff of 40+. Prior to this appointment I was principal of Moorak PS for a period of 9 years and OB Flat PS before this. Consequently I am familiar with and thoroughly enjoy the privilege of working with a small community. My leadership career began at Millicent North PS in the deputy role. Whilst I believe that I have the leadership experience to effectively manage Penola High School, I am also looking forward to expanding my knowledge in the area of the secondary curriculum and working with staff who are highly regarded for the work they are currently doing to ensure that students at Penola are well equipped for the future. The work that has occurred in the area of developing growth mindsets in students and providing quality learning opportunities which are supported by informative and constructive feedback to drive the learning and achievement forward, are areas that I am also passionate about. It has been very exciting for me to see the work that is familiar to me in a primary context being developed further at high school level. Students of Penola HS are fortunate to have such dedicated and professional staff.

On a personal note, I live on a property on the outskirts of Mount Gambier with my husband Gary, who manages the property and our two daughters, Kaitlin and Alicia, both of whom attend Grant High School. Living in a country environment has always been a priority; in fact it is the only lifestyle that I have known. We are fortunate to live in the Limestone Coast.

Thank you once again for the warm welcome that I have received. I look forward to working closely with the Penola community for the remainder of the year.

Kind regards

Kirsty Trahar

Principal’s Report

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Important Dates

Monday 3 August 2015
• Governing Council

Wednesday 5 August 2015
• Maths Quiz Night

Friday 7 August 2015
• Pupil Free Day

Mon 10 Aug - Fri 14 Aug 2015
• Year 9 Initiative
• Year 10 Work Experience

Wednesday 19 August 2015
• Course Counselling
• Information Evening

Paracetamol is not administered in any DECD schools or preschools without a doctor’s prescription and medical authority. Penola High School must have written instructions from a medical practitioner or dentist for Paracetamol administration. If possible, the first dose of any medication containing Paracetamol must be given to the child before they come to school. As per SafeWork SA and DECD guidelines Penola High School will not be storing Paracetamol.
Knock Out Netball
Chloe Long & Jo Skeer

SESSA Knock Out netball was held at Olympic Park in Mount Gambier on Monday 27 July 2015. All the girls did their best on the day and the two Penola High School teams were very competitive with both teams winning more games than they lost, against teams from much larger schools.

The Open Girls managed to finish in third position for their division and finished fifth overall for the day. Romi Eckermann and Hannah Klemm worked hard under the goal ring to score for Penola, Amber Smart-Cunningham and Montana Freeman provided plenty of drive through the middle of the court. Ella Kain and Alana Winter were unstoppable in defence. Lucy Tonkin made her presence known on the court at Wing Defence, making her player work twice as hard. Ashlee Sullivan came onto the court with perfect timing, she was the only girl for the day not to get wet while playing. The girls should be commended on their efforts and skills, with many smooth passages of play. The girls should be very proud of the way that they played; it was a great day.

The Year 8/9 Girls played strong netball and supported each other brilliantly throughout the day. They had a win first up against Millicent and then played the much taller Mount Gambier High School team. The girls gave it all they had but unfortunately couldn’t take a win from this game. Next the girls played Bordertown, this was a very even match when at times we were in front but at the final whistle, the girls went down by 4 goals. In the first game for final positions the girls played St Martins and played strong netball to finish with a win. Emily Winter was accurate in goals and very speedy at centre to set up play with skill. Gorgia Robbie was a consistently strong player and provided great talk on court. Kasey Morton chased down and picked up the loose balls in defence and Joanne Drury read play cleverly and took some great interceptions. The girls then played off against Millicent for 5th or 6th position. In this game the attack line played fantastically together to set up smooth play. Lucy Butler ran all day and provided plenty of drive throughout the mid court, as did Kate Skeer with her strong passing and clever feeding into the circle. Katie Colbert tried her hand at goal keeper and as a goalie herself was able to shut down the shooters and pull in many valuable rebounds. Kelsey Hutchesson worked tirelessly in attack and defence where she came through with many intercepts and deflections. The girls finished the game with a 16 to 0 goal half which they thoroughly deserved to take the win convincingly and finish the day in 5th spot. We had excellent support again this year. Thank you Angela Drury, Jo Skeer, Ellie Wilson, Maddie McPherson and Sarah Walker who all played large roles on the day to support our girls. We have some very talented netballers at this school, and I look forward to next year’s competition.

Course Counselling
Michael Hentschke

Term 3 will see the course counselling and subject selection for our Year 8 to 11 students taking place. This will require counselling interviews with Year 10 and 11 students as they select subjects for Stages 1 and 2 of their SACE. There will also be a Parent Information Night on Wednesday 19 August 2015. Our curriculum booklet for 2016 will be available on this night as well as information for senior students including subject selection with the SACE. The roles of Vocational Education will also be covered in this session.

Students will receive information during Learning for Life sessions and Personal Learning Plan (PLP) lessons to allow them to make the most suitable selections for their future. Well considered selections are important as they provide the data for class allocations and timetabling for 2016. We encourage parents to discuss the options and selections with their child to help them complete the relevant subject selection forms.

The key dates for the counselling process:
- Wednesday 19 Aug  - Parent Information Night
- Friday 14 Aug  - Curriculum Booklet to students
- Friday 21 Aug  - Subject Selection Forms to students
- Thursday 3 Sep  - Course Counselling Day (Year 10/11)
Australian Geography Competition
Rob Thornett

Year 10 Geography student, Bradley Tregenza, was recognised for his first place in South Australian schools in the Australian Geography Competition held at the end of Term 1 this year by the presentation of a medallion and a book. Bradley, along with the rest of the Year 10 students at Penola High School, entered the competition as part of his coursework in Geography.

Robert Thornett, the Year 10 Geography/History teacher said “In over 20 years of preparing and submitting students’ responses to the AGC, Penola has always had some high achieving and enthusiastic geographers”.

This was again the case in 2015 with three students receiving either Credit (Hamish March), or Distinction Awards (Logan Gibbs and Camryn Schriever). However, the icing on the cake was Bradley’s achievement. It is a well-deserved award for a student who always makes sure he completes a task thoroughly and is not content to put in less than 100% effort. Bradley puts his success down to having an interest in Geography from a young age and the hard work he is willing to undertake to achieve these results. He is definitely a wide reader and hopes to pursue his studies in the areas of Medicine or Health Sciences.

National Science Competition
Mark Heyn

Penola High School students recently took part in the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools Science competition. This year the competition centred around the scientific areas of interpreting data, including observing, measuring and interpreting diagrams, tables and graphs and applying data, including inferring, predicting and concluding.

Penola High School would like to congratulate the following students for their achievements:

Brad Tregenza  Credit
Jack Walker  Credit

SA Training Awards

Penola High School would like to congratulate Steph Smart-Cunningham on reaching the final round of the 2015 SA Training Awards. Steph is one of 24 to reach the final series and we wish her all the best in her quest to receive this prestigious award. If you would like to support Steph please go to http://www.tasc.sa.gov.au/SA-Training-Awards/Peoples-Choice-Award-2015 and place your vote.

School Buses
Louise Clayfield

Could the families of bus students please note the following points.

- If your family will be away for a family holiday during term time and your child(ren) will not be travelling on their normal bus route, please make sure you notify the bus driver of the dates your child will be absent so the bus is not waiting at your stop unnecessarily. Also, as a courtesy, please keep your bus driver informed if your child(ren) will be not be travelling on the bus on the afternoon run if they are attending football/netball practices or other after school commitments or the morning run if they are absent due to illness etc.

- Parents are reminded to please be at your stop at least 5 minutes before your allocated pick up time in the morning so that buses are not kept waiting and the timetable can run to time. Drivers are not obliged to wait for students in the morning if they are not at their stop at their designated time.

- A number of bus routes are currently at or near capacity for eligible travellers. Therefore, please do not expect that any ‘extra’ students will be able to access your bus if you are hosting a birthday party or a sleep over as there is no guarantee there will be room on the bus.

Parent Feedback on the Australian Curriculum

Parents are invited to contribute to DECD’s submission to ACARA monitoring the Australian Curriculum by participating in an online survey.

DECD would like to hear from parents/carers about the Australian Curriculum so that we can feed into the national process of curriculum monitoring. This curriculum is used by Reception to Year 10 teachers to plan what students will learn. Your opinions will be a valuable contribution to DECD’s feedback to the national monitoring process. The survey can be accessed at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Feedback_Parents_Carers_Aust_Curric. The survey closes on Friday 7 August.

Contact: a/Manager, ACARA Policy and Liaison, Malcolm McInerney, telephone 8226 2154.
The Annual SRC Quiz Night
Have you got the smarts?

Friday 28th August
Penola High School
7PM - 11PM

$10 per person
10 people per table
To book tickets call - 8737 0000

BYO beverages and nibbles