Dear Families

Last week Mike and I attended this year’s South Australian Secondary Principals Association conference in Adelaide. The focus of the conference was ‘World Class Learners’ and we had the opportunity to listen to international speakers as well as leaders from local secondary schools who are providing world class learning programs.

A consistent theme throughout the conference emphasised that the ever changing world in which we live means that education needs to look different in order to prepare the next generation for an unknown future. The employment options that our students will have, have not even been thought of as yet. Consequently schools and education systems need to think differently about the emphasis we place on learning skills. One of the facts that resonated with me was the large quantity of data that people across the world have available to them at any given time and how that amount is changing each second as a result of technology. In fact, 90% of the world’s data has been created in the last 2 years. What this means for our students and staff as life long learners is an increased emphasis on the skills associated with learning, focusing on and teaching students how to learn.

The Australian Curriculum contains general capabilities which were identified by the ‘Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians’ as essential skills for twenty-first century learners. These identified skills include: literacy, numeracy, information and communication technology (ICT), critical and creative thinking, personal and social capability, ethical understanding and intercultural understanding. These capabilities encompass the knowledge, skills, behaviours and dispositions that, together with curriculum content in each learning area, will assist students to live and work successfully in the twenty-first century.

At Penola High School much work has already occurred in this area, including defining the ‘ideal learner’. Based on the community work completed last term ideal learners at Penola High School “are committed and prepared to value new learning. They are resilient and learn from their mistakes. They can reflect on and identify areas for improvement and are confident and motivated in their learning”. The work on growth mindsets will also continue to develop these skills. Programs such as the Year 9 Initiative and the upcoming Capability Folio project provide additional opportunities for students to extend their personal knowledge and skills. We look forward to sharing this learning with Year 8 parents in week 10.

On Monday 14 September 2015, staff will have the opportunity to work with colleagues across the partnership when we focus on ‘Intellectual Challenge for Powerful Learners’. Please be reminded that this is a Pupil Free Day.

Kind regards

Kirsty Trahar

Principal’s Report

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Important Dates

Monday 14 September 2015
• Pupil Free Day

Monday 21 September 2015
• Governing Council

Mon 21 - Thu 25 Sep 2015
• Year 11 Tertiary Trip & Year 10 Rural Reconnect
Book Week
Rob Thornett

The week of 22-28 August 2015 was National Book Week. Staff in the Penola School Community Library worked to make the week a celebration of reading and literacy. This year’s theme was ‘Books Light up the World’ and a ‘light-themed’ display made by Heather Stone and John Bond as well as a selection of the Children’s Book Council of Australia’s Short-Listed Books caught the eye of many patrons. A special thanks to Heather Stone who put the display together and Ray Paine who provided our lighthouse light. Three classes from our local schools (Penola Primary and Mary Mackillop Memorial) visited and enjoyed activities incorporating our theme. A special Book Week Kids Time was held on Friday with the session fully booked and parents who attended had a wonderful time finishing with one of Heather’s lovely chocolate cakes.

In Week 7, as part of Literacy and Numeracy Week, the Library ran a Library Literacy Quiz. Prizes were won by the following students:

YEAR 8  Brooke H
YEAR 9  Rachel M
YEAR 10  Ella K
YEAR 11  Sarah S and Alana W (equal first)
YEAR 12  Ashlee S

Congratulations to all participants.

School Uniform

Parents are reminded that the school has stocks of the Penola High School uniform available for purchase throughout the year.

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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Windcheater</td>
<td>$49.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Polo Top</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys Shorts</td>
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<td>Boys Grey Pants</td>
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<td>Girls Shorts</td>
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<td>Unisex Jacket</td>
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<td>Beanie/Bucket Hat</td>
<td>$7.70/$7.70</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scarf</td>
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Catnook Winery Excursion
Kristen Bence

On Tuesday this week students from the Year 9 and 10 Design and Photography class visited Catnook Winery as part of this year’s “Kanoodling through Catnook” Photographic Competition for the 151st Penola Show. They spent two hours creatively photographing a range of locations throughout the winery, including the barrel sheds, wine storage areas, the old buildings and vineyards. We would like to thank Chris Brodie and the winery staff, who were very helpful showing us around on the day and providing us with safety gear. Students will enter the photos they have taken of a range of scenes into the Penola Show Photographic Competition early next term. It was a fun experience as most of the students were able to practise and learn how to use a digital SLR camera and a range of different camera functions and techniques, especially low-light functions which is difficult when hand-holding a camera. Students will now spend several weeks learning Photoshop to digitally enhance their images.

Penola Amateur Swim Club

AGM
WEDNESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2015
7.30PM
PENOLA PRIMARY SCHOOL
All past and future parents are invited to attend and are looking forward to a successful 2015-2016 season.

Penola & District Little Athletics
Season Begins Friday 11 September at 4.00pm
Penola Primary School Oval.
Registrations from keen athletes aged from 3-17
Tiny Tots and Children is $60
2 Children $110
3 Children $140
$50 Sports Vouchers can be redeemed.
For further details contact Andi Zerk on 0419827511

VERY IMPORTANT
Pupil Free Day
Monday 14 September 2015
BUSES WILL NOT RUN
nurturing individual successes