Dear Families,

Welcome to term 4. I hope that everyone, students and parents alike enjoyed the change of pace that the holidays offered and is ready to embrace the final term of the year.

Senior students are currently focused on completing final assignments and preparing for Year 11 and 12 exams. This year we will be trialling an offsite breakfast event for the Year 12 students on their final day of scheduled lessons. This will be followed by an assembly at 10:30. Please join us if you are able to.

Other events on the calendar this term include the social, which is currently being organised by SRC and is scheduled for Friday 27 November 2015. A Year 7 Parent Information Night will be held on Monday 23 November 2015 at 7.00pm with transition days for 2016 Year 8 enrolments being held on Wednesday and Thursday 25 and 26 November 2015. The final week will be designated ‘Activities Week’. Penola High School Presentation Night for 2015 will be held on Wednesday 9 December 2015.

Last week, Scott McCulloch and Simone Combe attended professional learning in Adelaide as part of the Enriching Year 8 Maths Project. The focus for this project is to examine and analyse effective teaching practice in the area of numeracy. This includes collaboratively planning tasks that students are motivated and challenged by, as demonstrated by the recent probability activity where students designed a game that involved chance. Students have been challenged by designing an original concept, working out the ‘odds’ and expressing these as ratios or percentages. Students are provided with the opportunity to participate at various levels, acknowledging that in order for new learning to occur there must be some ‘productive struggle’. Students need to persist, have confidence in their abilities and develop problem solving strategies, in order to develop their maths skills further. The work that the maths faculty is doing in this area is much appreciated and will benefit all year levels.

Please take the time to read about the Tertiary Trip, which occurred in the final week of last term. Thank you to Winsley Wighton and Dave Vannini who accompanied the group to Adelaide.

Congratulations to Ella Kain who was recently notified of her success in the National History Challenge. Ella won the state award for the category of democracy. To win at state level is a fantastic achievement.

It is that time of the year when we begin to wind down one year and begin preparations for the next. Consequently parents will be asked to provide their opinion about the school and its programs as part of the annual reporting process. Staff and students will also provide input. Please consider providing this information if chosen as part of the selection process.

Kind regards,

Principal’s Report
Kirsty Trahar
Rural Reconnect and Tertiary Trip

Winsley Wighton

Penola High School combined with Grant High School to send a group of Year 10 students to UniSA’s Rural Reconnect Program and a group of Year 11 students on a tertiary trip. Fleur Roachock and Max Donaldson came from Grant and accompanied the Year 11 students while Dave Vannini and Winsley Wighton from Penola took care of the Year 10s. The first activity was a combined visit to the Adelaide campus of Central Queensland University where Associate Professor Sarah Blunden and Dr Ray Matthews, assisted by colleagues, gave students a tour of the Sleep Research Facility. The highlight occurred when one of the more lively students was wired up and we all observed the changes in his brain waves as he relaxed in a darkened room. From CQU, we travelled to the Mawson Lakes campus of UniSA and here the two groups went their separate ways, only coming together again in the evenings for shared social activities. At Mawson Lakes, the Year 10s visited the planetarium and soldered together small devices which produced tones and which could subsequently be combined to produce simple tunes – much to the students’ delight. The afternoon finished with students vying to outdo each other bouncing electronically metered basketballs.

On Wednesday morning, the Rural Reconnect students visited the School of Business at the City West campus where they were set the task of planning a commercial enterprise to be established in their home communities. All of the groups came up with interesting ideas, but the Penola group’s vision of an electronic services hub, presented in a most lively and entertaining manner by Daniel Meek-Fennell, was deemed the best, and our students came away proudly clutching their prizes of key ring torches. A visit to the School of Art, Architecture and Design provided students with an opportunity to design and make their own badges, and the morning finished with a history quiz at the David Unaipon College of Indigenous Education and Research. A quick visit to the Adelaide museum was undertaken on the way as students walked from City West to City East to undertake the afternoon’s program. This saw our students making moisturising cream and trying their hands at blood grouping. Students also toured the campus.

On the final morning, students visited the Magill campus, touring the Sound Studio, Radio Station and TV Studio, before participating in a Cognitive Neuroscience Activity. In the meantime, on Tuesday, the tertiary trippers had their own tour of the Mawson Lakes campus before taking the train back to the city. Wednesday was a busy day with a tour of Adelaide Uni in the morning and a visit to Flinders, with lots of uphill walking, in the afternoon. While at Flinders, the students visited the Anatomy Museum and undertook a tour of the university’s student accommodation. There was a general campus tour and students finished up at an app development workshop. They were rather tired by the time they arrived at Glenelg for dinner and a walk on the pier. On Thursday morning, the students toured the Magill campus before heading home.

Photography Excursion

Kristen Bence

As part of our Stage 1 Photography Course students are studying a unit of work on famous photographers. Each student chose a photographer to research and replicate their style of photography. Most students in the class chose a famous Australian landscape/seascape photographer, so we decided to travel to Robe to create the photos. On Monday of the first week back this term Lucy Tonkin, Jayden Watson, Damon Burford and I all travelled to Robe for an afternoon and evening session of photo-taking to capture the sunsets, different lighting and a range of scenes to create their major products for this term. The outcome was excellent, with a perfect blue sky day in Robe, and the students successfully taking over 200 photos for the creation of their magazine spreads.
**Year 10 Knock Out Basketball**

*Chloe Long*

On Wednesday 21 October 2015 the Year 10 SESSSA Knockout Basketball Competition was held in Millicent. The female team was coached by Chloe Long and had a mixture of Year 8, 9 and 10 students. After some close games earlier in the year at open Knockout Basketball the girls were fired up to get a win. Emily Winter and Ella Kain showed leadership within the games, driving hard to the basket and putting on defensive pressure. Romi Eckermann and Gorgia Robbie worked the ball around and created plenty of opportunity to score. Kate Skeer, Joanne Drury and Imahgen Hecht put on defensive pressure all over the court and improved out of sight throughout the day. The girls should be proud of their efforts with a close game against Mount Gambier High School and a win against Naracoorte High School.

After tough competition at the Open Knockout Basketball, Scott McCulloch stepped down as coach of the boy’s team and James Braddy took over the roll. James had his work cut out for him as most of the boys on his team had not played competitive basketball before. Callum Sutcliffe and Josh Currie work hard throughout every game to gain possession and create scoring opportunities. Hamish March and Daniel Meek-Fennell took the advice from James and set screens and jumped for rebounds. Bentley Galpin and Logan Gibbs put up plenty of shoots for the day with Bentley sinking a 3 pointer. Meanwhile, Tom Abbey and Jack Kain put defensive pressure all over the court. Although the boys didn’t record a win for the day they should be proud of their efforts as they scored over 10 points in each game they played. A special thanks to Carol Cram for being bus driver for the day and Sarah walker for umpiring.

**2015 Rural Ambassador Award**

*Kristen Bence*

On Thursday 19 October two Penola High School girls were celebrated at the annual Penola Show Rural Ambassador dinner held at the Penola Bowls Club.

Georgie Beighton, a year 12 student who has been involved in the Show through cattle and horses was awarded the Young Rural Ambassador award. While Aimee Galpin, a previous PHS student, who is now studying to be an English/HPE teacher at University in Adelaide, was awarded the Rural Ambassador award.

They were introduced to the committee and its life members by Sarah Kidman, Penola Show President and then gave a little speech about themselves. They were also awarded gifts from sponsor Koonara Wines and a Penola Show Society badge.

Both girls will carry out various duties at the show this year, including judging and stewarding roles.

The aims of this award are:

- To highlight the importance of youth in rural South Australia and in particular the agricultural show movement.
- To identify and encourage enthusiastic, skilful, industrious and unselfish young people.
- To give young people a forum to express their views through education and experience and develop closer links with the primary industries in South Australia.

Both girls will be excellent candidates due to their enthusiasm and knowledge of rural life and agricultural shows.
Mental illness is a growing issue in today’s society and one which continues to grow every day. It can go unrecognised and undiagnosed to both the sufferer and to their family and friends for long periods of time. In Australia alone, approximately 14% of the population will experience a mental illness in any 12 month-period, with mental illness being the third leading cause of disability in the nation. In terms of this district; however, statistics show that men are much more likely to suffer from mental illness than women, with over 40 people in the Limestone Coast having taken their own lives in the last five years.

It is for this reason that the school’s Student Representative Council held a ‘Loud Shirt Day’ on Friday 23 October 2015 to raise awareness for mental illness in the district. All the students at the school were encouraged to wear the brightest, most colourful and most exciting shirts that they owned in order to raise awareness for such a growing issue and worthy cause. The Penola High School community should be very proud - the turnout of colourful shirts by both the students and teachers was extremely impressive and significant funds were raised.

The proceeds from this event were donated to the local men’s health organisation, Men’s Watch, in honour of the recent anniversary of Mark Williams’ death on the 18 October 2014. The Williams Family are very passionate about supporting this fantastic organisation who do so much in terms of supporting those with mental illness and raising awareness about mental health in the district.

As the Limestone Coast’s largest employer of apprentices and trainees Group Training Employment is encouraging all school leavers who will be looking for an apprenticeship or traineeship to register themselves on the GTE job seeker database.

It’s a quick and easy process that can be done either in person at the GTE offices at 173 Commercial Street West, Mount Gambier or online at www.gte.org.au.

All you need to do is fill out a registration form and provide an up to date resume.