Dear Families

The end of the year is fast approaching and for many students this means that assignments and final pieces are due. Staff encourage students to take ownership of their learning and actively seek feedback, putting into practice all that they have learnt about being resilient and approaching learning with a growth mindset. Parents can be involved in this learning by discussing timelines and assisting their child to develop a plan. Asking questions about their learning which helps reflection is also beneficial.

Last week saw the conclusion of schooling for the Year 12 cohort and this milestone was celebrated at Piper’s on Friday evening. It was a privilege to be involved in this celebration. Whilst the commitment and dedication of staff to students and their learning has been evident from the onset of my arrival at Penola High School, the evening’s speeches highlighted just how well staff knew the students. In return the students showed respect and appreciation for their mentors. This can only happen in a small school and is consequently a strength of Penola High School.

This week Governing Council held its final meeting for the year. Governing Council members are to be thanked for their time and commitment to the school, as they provide a valuable voice to the management of the school. One of their tasks in the second half of the year has been to identify characteristics and skills that they believe should be evident in the future leadership of the school – principal position 2016 and beyond. A Governing Council parent representative and a staff representative were part of a four person panel which met to review applications and make a decision on the principal appointment. The panel members decided not to make a permanent appointment at this point in time, consequently the principal for 2016 is not yet known. The panel have made this decision over considering all of the information available to them and in the best interests of the school. On Monday evening Governing Council met with Adam Box, Education Director, and agreed to advertise the position as a 12 month temporary vacancy which will be advertised across the state. The school community will be kept informed of progress.

It is with pleasure that I announce that Chloe Long will be returning to Penola High School next year in the capacity of PE teacher. We congratulate her on her appointment and wish her all the best. The flip side to this good news is that Simone Combe is leaving the school and relocating closer to family. She will be greatly missed in our community and I know that you will join me in acknowledging the contribution that she has made to the school and wish her well for the future. The second vacancy, focusing on Home Economics and Health is expected to be finalised soon.

Parents should have received via email or letter brought home by their child, correspondence that outlines end of year arrangements. Please read this and discuss with your child.

Best wishes to Year 11 students who next week will be completing their exams.

Kind regards
Last week Penola High School celebrated PE Week. There were a number of activities that took place during the week: students were involved in a 5-A-Side Soccer tournament, a Come and Try Bowls day as well as participating in a school-run Health, Sport and Fitness Quiz in home group each morning. The quiz winners for each year level were Sam G (Year 8), Joanne D and Gorgia R (Year 9), Logan G (Year 10) and Montana F, Hannah K and Sarah S (Year 11).

5-A-Side Soccer
On Monday 9 November 2015, three Penola High School teams competed in the SESSSA 5-a-side Soccer competition held at Grant High School.

The three teams consisted of a Year 8/9 girls’ team, as well as a Year 8 boys’ and a Year 9 boys’ team. They competed against students from all around the South East region, and played up to five matches throughout the day. All teams managed to record at least one win, making it a very successful day. The Year 8 boys’ team gelled well, and managed their large number of subs smoothly. Sam G was lethal in front of goals, and Sam K demonstrated smooth ball control to transition from defence to offence. Jesse M scored the goal of the day – a massive header from halfway! The only snag was that it was a goal for the other team.

The Year 8/9 girls’ team kept up a cool, calm approach all day and won their first game against Millicent 3-2. Gorgia R ran hard all day, and Joanne D managed to spend 80% of the game on the ground but the other 20% stealing the ball from the opposition, so we decided we liked her game plan. Late recruits Emily W and Katie C were strong inclusions, and they controlled the ball well.

The Year 9 boys’ team demonstrated some very smooth play, with some excellent strikes from Rory W’s left foot. Nick R worked hard to set up scoring opportunities, but benched himself after missing a ‘sitter’ from right out in front! Connor E was always on hand to yell “REF!!” whenever he got the ball stolen from him, despite there clearly being no foul against him. Many Year 8 boys helped out the undermanned Year 9 team, with several Year 8 boys scoring goals in the higher age group.

This is the third year that Penola High School has been involved in this event, with participation levels rising every year. It was lovely to see great sportsmanship, resilience, and occasionally even some soccer skills, on display. Special thanks must go to Tom Sutkerby for his coaching expertise and enthusiasm, and to Katie C and Emily W for helping out the team at the last minute.

Lawn Bowls
The sun was shining and the birds were singing as some of Penola High School’s Year 8 lawn bowlers headed off to Mount Gambier for a day on the greens on Wednesday 11 November. The Year 8s were a bit concerned about what was before them, but Ashton B, Kasey M, Cameron P and Jack C soon became very comfortable about the whole experience and celebrated their confidence with some great bowls.

The young team was physically outmatched but they showed tenacity on the green. After receiving some excellent pointers from Coach Rick, they were off and running in their matches against Tenison Woods College, Mount Gambier High School and St Martins Lutheran College. Jack C and Cameron P skippered successfully and Kasey M scored the final winning shot in the last game to ensure the team finished the day undefeated. Overall, the team came third with 12 points, narrowly missing Grant High School’s first place finish with 14 points.

Cheerfully, nothing occurred that could not be cured by Macca’s on the way home. As usual our students were fine ambassadors for our school and acquit themselves beautifully. Thanks to Jackie Poumako for her fine supervision and coaching.
To finish off the week on Friday we held the Festival of Sport, an annual event that takes place at our school. Over 200 students from Penola, Millicent, Mount Gambier, Grant, Tenison and St Martin’s competed in Year 8/9 Touch Football and Year 10 Volleyball. The Year 10 boys experienced great success, and managed to finish the day with two wins, including smashing St Martin’s 2 sets to 0. Callum S and Camryn S worked tirelessly at the net, and Josh C was ever reliable with lethal serves and smooth digs. Logan G worked out that he could block, which came in handy for the team, and Romi E stepped up into the boys competition with ease.

The Year 8/9 girls had a very enjoyable day, with a mixture of wins, draws and a loss. Erin F managed to remain injury-free for the day (a rare feat) and Lucy B drove the ball up the field with tenacity. Great on-field leadership from Georgia R and Emily W saw the Year 8 girls in the team pick up the skills of the game very quickly.

The Year 8 boys were undefeated throughout the day, and some excellent passages of play were on display. The hard work that was completed in PE lessons was evident, as the Penola students had an excellent understanding of the tactics involved with the game compared to other schools. Jesse M was slippery in attack, and Jack K (Team Captain) commanded the defensive line to ensure no opposition players were able to break through. Special mentions to Henry B for his valiant efforts all day – you’ll definitely get a touchdown next year!

The Year 9 boys’ team was made up of a mixture of Year 8 and 9 boys to ensure we had enough players. The Year 8 boys who stepped up to fill in for the higher age group handled themselves brilliantly. Silky skills from Joe F and James K, and good communication from everyone meant that lots of scoring chances were created. The games were played in great spirit; with everyone working together and communicating well.

Huge thanks must go to Brad R and Nick R for being a great help with marking the fields with myself and Justin. Thanks must also go to Hannah K, Montana F, Brad R and Charlie F for enthusiastically coaching the touch teams, and to all students for their excellent efforts in setting up as well as packing up all equipment. It was great to show off our school and our wonderful students to the other schools in the South East.
Nurture individual successes

Naracoorte Caves Visit
Winsley Wighton

Stage 1 Chemistry and Biology students travelled to Naracoorte Caves where they visited the Victoria Fossil Cave, the Wonambi Fossil Centre, the bat cave and Blanche Cave. Students had the opportunity to see how aspects of various Sciences, particularly Chemistry, Physics, Biology and Geology, came together to help develop scientists’ understanding of the caves and the development of hypotheses.

We were able to see how understanding the past and the changes that occurred over millennia can inform us now about issues such as climate change and responsible land use and enable us to make good decisions in dealing with problems arising from these issues.

We are grateful to the helpful staff at Naracoorte Caves, particularly our guide for the day, for providing students with such a valuable learning experience.

Remembrance Day
Rob Thorne

On Wednesday, 11 November, Penola High School staff and students observed Remembrance Day. The Year 10 History class ran proceedings very efficiently and respectfully. Camryn S acted as Master of Ceremonies with Romi E providing the Acknowledgement to Land. Ella K gave a presentation on the History and Significance of the red poppies worn on Remembrance Day. Daniel M then gave a moving reading of Prime Minister Paul Keating’s speech in 1993 at the interment of the Unknown Soldier at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

The Year 10 students then went to Penola Park to represent the High School at the community Remembrance Day observance. SRC members Ella K and Josh C laid a wreath on behalf of the students and staff. Camryn gave a strong reading of On Flanders Fields by John McCrae.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place: and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Class of 2015
FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER

CANTEEN AVAILABLE

PENOLA HIGH SCHOOL SOCIAL 2015

$8 ENTRY

6:30 FOR PHOTOS Samsung 7:00 FOR MUSIC

THEME: TV AND MOVIE CHARACTERS

nurturing individual successes
Penola Community Library
43 Cameron St PENOLA SA 5277 - Phone 8737 2838
Email: dl.0931.library@schools.sa.edu.au

The Penola Community Library will be closed
Wednesday 23 December 2015 at 7.00pm
and reopen
Tuesday 5 January 2016 at 8.30am

Sunday Closed
Monday Closed
Tuesday 8.30am - 4.00pm
Wednesday 8.30am - 7.00pm
Thursday 8.30am - 4.00pm
Friday July 8.30am - 4.00pm
Saturday 9.30am - 12noon

Closed for Lunch 12.30 - 1.00pm

SE DENTAL

Penola are open for dental appointments on Fridays to enable dental health care for children up to the age of 18. We welcome the current Medicare ‘Child Dental Benefit Schedule’. Examinations, X-Rays and Flouride treatment is bulk billed. We are able to provide dental prevention and restorative care and sports mouth guards.

Please call our helpful staff for further enquiries regarding eligibility, or to arrange an appointment on 8737 2246.

VACSWIM at Penola & Nangwarry January 2016

Swimming is a skill for life!
SA Water VACSWIM - it’s the holiday fun thing to do!

Dates: 4th to 8th January 2016

Programs Available
Penola - Swim & Survive Levels 1-7 / Royal Life Saving Society Bronze Awards
Nangwarry - Swim & Survive Levels 1-7

Enrolment Fees:
$30 for Children 5 to 13 years (plus $5 surcharge for onsite enrolments)
For teenagers participating in higher awards contact RLSS-SA (08) 8210 4500
Equipment & Location Fee:
$1.50 (applicable to each child enrolled in the program).

Options for enrolment & payment:
   (online enrolments close 18th December 2015)
2. Download an enrolment form and post with payment details to PO Box 2075, Hilton 5033
   (postal enrolments close 11th December 2015)

Should you have any queries regarding the delivery of the 2016 VACSWIM program by Royal Life Saving Society SA please email swim@royallifesavingsa.com.au or call the friendly customer service staff on (08) 8210 4500