Principal’s Report

Fleur Roachock

Dear Families

Week 4 has found us deeply involved in the Penola – Coonawarra Arts Festival, as we hosted the Opening of the Festival, the John Shaw Neilson Art Exhibition and the Design and Creative Writing Prizes on Thursday night in the PHS Hall. The winner of the John Shaw Neilson Prize was Ross Morgan, with Local Prizes being awarded to Diana Wiseman and Jennie Matthews. Highly Commended were Steve Salo and Amber Gittens. The winner of the Design Prize was Kane Ransom and first place for the Creative Writing Prize went to Rachel Murphy, second to Imahgen Hecht and third to Bentley Galpin. We congratulate all winners on their outstanding successes.

We also congratulate Kristen Bence and her amazing team, including our own Sarah, Vicki and Jan for once again contributing so strongly to a community event by organising the John Shaw Neilson Exhibition so well. Please come and have a look during the next week while it is still hanging. The opening of the festival was also catered for beautifully by Café 43 students, led by Chloe Long and Ryan Dear as well as Emma Dear. Likewise, Kids Time in the library will be running a special festival event and we thank Ali Bond and her team for all of the effort and preparation that goes into those sessions.

In other school news, last Friday’s Student Free Day was spent by staff clarifying our mission as educators in light of research undertaken by Professor Yong Zhao. We also commenced work on writing an Individual Ideal Learning Plan for each Year 8 student in line with feedback provided by students themselves and their parents/caregivers. This was a very valuable exercise which we look forward to continuing in the near future.

Also last week, teaching staff travelled to Millicent High School on Tuesday afternoon to undertake Australian Curriculum and SACE moderation processes with teachers from both Millicent High School and Kangaroo Inn Area School. This was a fabulous opportunity for our staff to work with others in similar learning areas to share ideas and assessment tasks for the benefit of all our students.

On Tuesday of this week, several families attended a Year 7 Parent Information Evening and School Tour. If you are aware of any families who are thinking of enrolling their students here next year, please encourage them to contact us at school if they require any information about the school or our programs.

Kind regards

Fleur Roachock

Student illness/injury while at school

Parents and students are reminded that if a student is feeling unwell or is injured at school, they are to report to the front office for assistance. Students are reminded not to text message their parent from their mobile phone to ask if they can be collected; they are to report to the front office and then wait in the Sick Room while staff contact their parent/guardian to arrange transportation home and record the absence.
Year 11 Outdoor Education Camp

Chloe Long

On Monday 11 May 2015, ten Year 11 Outdoor Education students plus Miss Long and Mr Heyn loaded up the bus and trailer and headed over the border to the Grampians for a four day camp. The group stayed at Halls Gap and enjoyed a variety of activities, including rock climbing, abseiling and bushwalking. The session on Tuesday was conducted along the top of the Wonderland Range, and with temperatures reaching a balmy 10 degrees (plus wind chill) the students looked up at a 25m rock face that they were told they would be climbing that day. The students and Miss Long attacked the challenge with gusto, and didn’t let a little drizzle dampen their spirits. It was very heartening to see students face their fears and encourage one another to hang in there (literally!) to complete some of the tougher climbs.

Wednesday saw the students embark on a 20km bushwalk in two groups, completely self-managed without extra assistance from the teachers. The students shared navigation duties and managed to complete the walk with minimal wrong turns. The students pushed through the hardest section of the walk competing it 45 minutes more quickly than expected. The students continued at this pace to complete the walk in 6 hours. The students all agree the highlight of the day was seeing snow of the top of Mt Rosea. The last day saw the students complete a 5km walk to the Pinnacle; despite the wind and cold winds the students complete this walk in great time to enjoy the views at the top.

The students are to be commended for their behaviour and attitude throughout the entire trip, with each student pitching in and assisting in the smooth running of the camp.

Penola Coonawarra Arts Festival Opening

Kristen Bence

The John Shaw Neilson Acquisitive Art Prize was won by Ross Morgan, an Adelaide based Artist. The judge Anika Williams from the Art gallery of South Australia said that his work was “technically outstanding and told a thousand stories. The layering of imagery, medium and the written word expressed the complex emotions that Neilson must have felt towards the girl with the black hair. The depth of desire in this painting makes me think that the artist also has deep emotions for the girl portrayed”. The night was a great success and was followed by an outstanding performance of Cosi Fan Tutte by Coopera at Rymill Hall.

Ice Forum

Vicki McDonald-Burgess

The Penola High School Governing Council is pleased to bring this major event to the Penola Community. The original Ice Forum was held in Mount Gambier earlier this year - a recorded version of this is scheduled to be held in the school hall. Entry to this event is free of charge, however, bookings are essential. Booking WILL OPEN Monday 1 June 2015 - please phone Penola High School on 8737 0000 to book your ticket. At the time of booking arrangements will be made to either collect or have your ticket sent. It is essential that, when you attend the event, you present your ticket at the door - without this ticket you will not be permitted entry. The format of the presentation is still under negotiation. Please keep your eye on the local paper, further newsletters and publicity for further details.

SA Excellence in Public Education Awards

Nominations are now open for the 2015 SA Excellence in Public Education Awards.

The Awards recognise and reward the outstanding contributions made by teachers, leaders and support staff from across the state.

Don’t miss your chance to nominate an outstanding education professional within DECD to recognise and reward their dedicated and inspirational contribution to young South Australians.

For more information and to nominate an employee at your school or preschool go to: www.decd.sa.gov.au/awards.

Like us on facebook and follow the progress of the Awards: www.facebook.com/SATeachingAwards.

Nominations close 5pm, 3 July 2015

For further information contact the Awards team on 08 8226 3079 or email DECD.Recognition@sa.gov.au

Penola Coonawarra Arts Festival

Year 12 Past and Present Art Works on display

An exhibition of past and present Year 12 Art Work will be on display at

Mink

Tuesday 19 May-Friday 22 May
9.00am-4.00pm

Saturday 24 May
10.00am-3.00pm

Tuesday 26 May-Friday 29 May
9.00am-4.00pm