Principal’s Report

Fleur Roachock

Dear Families

In terms of extra-curricular activities, the past fortnight has been somewhat quieter than the early part of the term, giving us the opportunity to consolidate learning and complete assignments before the end-of-semester grades are calculated. It has been particularly pleasing to see the Year 12s continue to “knuckle down” and focus strongly on their studies, resulting in some pleasing outcomes so far.

Across the school, students have had the opportunity to contribute their thoughts to what they think the “ideal student” is like, how they go about their work and where they will end up. Student responses to this question were very interesting – they overwhelmingly believed that being confident is the key to success. This is very useful information for our staff who will continue to work towards defining the “ideal student” at our Student Free Day this Friday. Once we have a definition, we will then need to work very hard to convince every young person to aspire to be one!

To this end, our Student Free Day will also continue our focus on developing Growth Mindsets in young people through the use of appropriate feedback and the setting of appropriate tasks. Carol Dweck is the researcher on whom we are basing our work in this area. If you Google her, you will find some interesting clips on Youtube!

Work also continues on the Year 8 Individual Ideal Learning Plans and we hope for them to be completed by the end of Week 7. They will then be accessible to students, parents and staff to support student learning throughout their Penola High School careers, with opportunities for periodic adjustment as students’ needs and aspirations change.

Work continues on “A Midsummer Night’s Midterm” with sets and costumes nearing completion and nearly all actors “off book”. Performances will be on the Wednesday and Friday of Week 9 (24 and 26 June 2015), so make sure you get your tickets for a very entertaining night out!

Likewise, I commend the Ice Forum to you all as an opportunity to find out more about this scourge on regional Australia, in the hope that we might prevent it impacting on the Penola community. Please see information about how to book tickets for that event elsewhere in this newsletter.

Last, but certainly not least we would like to congratulate Alana Winter on being accepted into the RDWA (Rural Doctors Workforce Agency) MedSpace Ready program where she will have the opportunity to work with professors in the medical field. We also congratulate Alex Male for being selected into the Youth ANZAAS Program (the Australian & New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science.) Alex will have the opportunity to participate in science activities and experiences over a period of a week.

Kind regards

Fleur Roachock
Penola Coonawarra Arts Festival

Kristen Bence

The official 2015 Penola Coonawarra Arts Festival kicked off with a gathering of about 150 people in our school foyer and hall. Kristen Bence of Penola High School introduced the $500 Design Prize Winner with co-sponsor Cathy Hughes, a Friend of the Festival. Judge Anika Williams from the Art Gallery of South Australia, declared local Kane Ransom the winner and spoke of the features of his work. “Kane’s work was inspired by Andy Warhol’s Campbell's Soup Can and awarding the design prize was a difficult decision, but this one in particular caught my eye as soon as I walked in the room. The winner for next year’s 25th Anniversary Arts Festival won because of its uniqueness in representing what the festival is all about. It is a tin full of exciting things to come.”

There was a short interlude during which guests enjoyed wines donated in-kind by Raidis Estate and an array of hors d’oeuvres prepared by our Penola High School Café 43 students and Canteen Volunteer Emma Dear. The students, under Chloe Long’s guidance, prepared beautiful food and backed it up with excellent service. They richly deserved the many compliments they received.

The official opening of the Festival and the Exhibition commenced at 6.15pm with the acknowledgement of the land delivered by Fleur Roachock. Fleur went on to welcome those present, acknowledging the exhibition hangers, and Kristen Bence’s contribution as curator. She also welcomed Anika Williams, thanked all the sponsors, especially the major sponsor The Balnaves Foundation and described some of the highlights of the Festival program. Finally, Fleur declared the Exhibition open. Doug Balnaves, representing the Balnaves Foundation, spoke briefly of the contribution of the Foundation and the importance of the Arts to communities such as ours.

Finally, Anika Williams spoke about the winning art works and then announced the winners. Steve Salo and Amber Gittins were highly commended for their works – “Woman in the Crowd” and “When Kisses are as Strawberries”. The first Local Prize of $500, sponsored by Penola and District Business and Tourism Association was won by Diana Wiseman who interpreted the poem “It is a Lake”. The judge said “The work stood out with strong, confident lines and brush strokes; representing Australia’s unique landscape. This painting is a beautiful narrative of the vision John Shaw Neilson must have had when writing the poem “it is a Lake”. The second Local Prize of $500, sponsored by Lois Hodge, Wagner’s Rose Nursery, Must See Want Have Buy and Balnaves of Coonawarra was won by local Mt Gambier artist Jennie Matthews and entitled “Ride Him Away”. The judge said “the work interprets John Shaw Neilson’s poem at face value. The painting first appears to be child-like, but at further investigation not only the technique of paint application, but the thoughtful composition are carefully calculated.”

The $7000 John Shaw Neilson Acquisitive Art Prize sponsored by the Balnaves Foundation was won by Ross Morgan, an Adelaide based artist, using the poem “The Girl with the Black Hair” as his inspiration. The judge said “I have chosen a work that is not just technically outstanding but tells a thousand stories. The Layering of imagery, medium and the written word expresses the complex emotions that John Shaw 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 this girl with the black hair.”

The night was a great success and was followed by an outstanding performance of Cosi Fan Tutte by Co Opera at Rymill Hall.
**Kids Time**

*Kristen Bence*

On the Saturday of the Festival 30 children and their parents enjoyed Kids Time in the library with Ali and John Bond, Jo Skeer, Alicia Bennett, Tom Edwards and Rowena and Simon Fennell. The theme this year for the children’s program was “Under the Sea”, a sub-theme taken from the greater kids program theme of Imagine. The children were introduced to music, literacy, numeracy and fine motor skills through the range of activities developed by Ali and her team, including a wool octopus, feeding the shark, music/dance, face-painting, a lead-light fish, and feeding the treasure trail under the sea. The children were read many stories including, ‘Winnie the Witch under the Sea’, ‘Bright Stanley’, ‘The Cave Monster’, and ‘Hermione the Anemone’. The final story was ‘Sea Animals’ where the animals had an end of year party under the sea – reflecting Ali’s sentiments of how the Kids program was received and sending a big “Happy to Sea you again next time!” message. Ali would like to thank her major sponsor Bendigo Bank for their kind donation towards her program.

The second workshop was held in the Penola High School marquee in the park for older children and was called Imagine. Kristen Bence, the Penola High School Art Teacher and Pauline Bence, took students on an imaginative journey where students had to add their own personality to a cloud installation mobile. They used a spray painted cloud background to create a cloud to reflect their mood and interests using words and symbols to hang from the mobile. We ended up with some really creative designs and all very individual. Even though it was challenging they all persevered and a big thank you needs to go to the parents and helpers who assisted when needed. The rest of the Festival weekend was a hit with every workshop sold out and thousands of people attending the many events that packed into the 3 day Festival. A big thank you must go to all the volunteers who supported each event and especially our staff and SSOs who put a lot of time and effort into making sure these events ran smoothly.

**Student Teacher Diary**

*Emma Bellgrove*

Over the past five weeks, I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the Year 8, 9, 10 Science and Year 11 Biology students during my final teaching placement. The Year 8 students have been exploring the human body, including making skeletons, dissecting hearts and lungs, and understanding what happens during a heart attack. Students in Year 9 have learnt about plants and ecosystems including using brainstorming activities to describe the components of food chains and trophic levels. An introduction to Physics was the focus for the Year 10 Science students, with activities such as designing egg capsules and rollercoaster tracks to explain the laws of motion and energy. The Year 11 Biology students have continued through their busy schedule and I was lucky enough to visit a few of them during their Work Experience. I wish all the students the best of luck for the rest of the semester.

Finally, I would like to thank all the staff for their warm welcome, support and laughter throughout my placement.

**Primary School Transition Days**

*Sarah Walker*

During this term students from Kalangadoo Primary School and Nangwarry Primary School attended a day at Penola High School as part of their transition program. Both schools visit annually and were eager to take part in High School lessons again. The Kalangadoo students took part in an Art lesson with Art teacher, Kristen Bence, painting with watercolour to create a fish tank collage. Students also enjoyed a Tech Studies lesson with teacher, Tom Sutterby, where they learnt woodworking skills, producing their own key chains. The upper Primary students utilised their culinary skills under the guidance of Hospitality teacher, Chloe Long, by making pizzas for their whole student body.

Some Nangwarry students began their day with a Chemistry lesson with teacher Winsley Wighton where they had fun making and playing with slime, while the senior students produced their own computer game during an Information Technology lesson. Upper Primary students also made pasties for their peers for lunch during a Home Economics lesson with teacher Bob Reece. Other lessons for both schools included SOSE, English, Physics and Japanese. Students from both schools also learnt about the skills involved in Soccer from Physical Education Teacher Simone Combe, to help prepare them for the Feeder School Soccer Carnival to be held later in the term.
UNDERSTANDING THE ICE FACTOR

Are you concerned about the illicit drug ice? Do you want to learn more?

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT FEATURING VIDEO FOOTAGE OF THE ORIGINAL MOUNT GAMBIER FORUM, FOLLOWED BY A LIVE Q&A SESSION WITH A LOCAL PANEL OF EXPERTS.

The Penola High School Governing Council is pleased to bring this major event to the Penola Community.

Where: Penola High School Hall
When: Thursday 11 June 2015
Time: 7.30pm start for presentation
Bookings: Penola High School – 87370000

Bookings are essential.
Please phone Penola High School on 8737 0000 to book your ticket.

Free sausage sizzle available 6.00-7.00pm
Tea and coffee available
Entry is free

For more information and to book, please contact:
Limestone Coast Police Crime Prevention Section - 8735 1047

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