Dear Parents/Caregivers

Another term has drawn to a close. It seems every fortnight I write about how busy our staff and students have been and how much has been going on around the school. I know for at least all our students, and quite a lot of the staff, the mid-year break is the perfect time to take a decent holiday, reflect on what has occurred so far and recharge, ready for the run home. It’s hard to believe the year is more than half over!

Over the past two weeks a multitude of activities have taken place. Our Café 43 students achieved great success at the Culinary Challenge, coming home with two bronze medals; the Science and Engineering Challenge students received the award for the Most Outstanding School at the recent competition in Mount Gambier; our 8/9 football teams achieved high levels of success at the recent 9-a-side competition in Naracoorte and only yesterday a small group of Year 11 students returned from Adelaide having undertaken a tertiary learning experience that included all three South Australian universities. As usual a big thank you to all the staff who volunteered their time to make these trips possible, especially those who were willing to sacrifice a night or two, away from home.

With the end of semester one comes to the conclusion of quite a few subjects for all students. The new semester has started smoothly and the majority of students have made positive in-roads into this next stage of their learning. Reports will be going home this Friday afternoon and I would encourage students and parents to use them as a reflection tool and consider the individual reasons why grades were achieved (good and bad) and then use that to inform students’ direction and practice in Term 3. Year 12 students will also receive a brief comment and these should be used to navigate a way forward to achieving success by the end of next term, as most course will then come to a conclusion, in preparation for revision, polishing of assignments and exams.

I wish everyone a restful break, ready to come back and tackle next term re-energised. If you are travelling, have a great time and drive safely. I look forward to seeing everyone back on deck next term.  

Kind regards
Science & Engineering Challenge  
Scott McCulloch

Twenty-six students from Years 9 and 10 attended the annual Science and Engineering Challenge in Mt Gambier. Our students worked in teams and were highly engaged and focused on problem-solving and strategic activities. This included building a support structure for different weights, investigating alternative sources of power and their incorporation into a sustainable supply system, designing and building a working model of a hand, investigating pathways in a network, building a hover craft, designing a tower built from paper to withstand vibrations while carrying a load, and the perennial favourites: construction of a Mars rover and a bridge.

Our students won the hover craft competition, tower design and ‘string ways’ and, highlight of the day, the bridge building competition, when our bridge held all of the weight put on it and was the only one to not be destroyed. Overall, Penola High School was placed first of the eight schools attending, with students from Grant High finishing second.

Construction of a bridge and the Mars buggy are traditional events and making its second appearance this year was the construction of a model hand, which was assessed by its ability to pick up a range of objects. The students maintained their focus on their allocated activity and this was evident when the final results were announced.

Maths teacher Scott McCulloch said “The Science & Engineering Challenge is an exciting event as it provides students with opportunities to solve construction problems that are modelled on real life, but require problem solving skills, communication and teamwork to be completed successfully. The focus and sustained efforts of the students made it a most worthwhile day. I would like to acknowledge the input of the University of Newcastle who design and coordinate the event and the support of Mount Gambier Rotary Club and local engineering businesses who act as judges and support people during the event.”

Feeder School Soccer Carnival  
Chloe Long

The Penola High School oval was a hive of activity for the annual Feeder Schools Soccer Carnival this week. The schools involved were Penola Primary School, Kalangadoo Primary School, Mary McKillop Memorial School and Nangwarry Primary School. As a lead up to the carnival some feeder schools took part in soccer clinics to prepare themselves. Despite the heavy rainfall the night before the oval bounced back and all soccer pitches were of a high quality. Once again it was evident that all involved had a fantastic day with students actively engaged throughout the day. It was great to see the students from different schools interact positively with one another, even though it was the first time they had met some of their team mates.

The Year 11 Health & Physical Education students who coached paid particular attention throughout the day to players who showed great improvement in either their skills, confidence or teamwork, or players who used positive talk during games. These players were then awarded a soccer ball and a certificate for their achievement. Each of the 82 students who participated also received a certificate of participation to recognise their efforts on the day.

The day was very successful - many thanks to the Year 8 students for cooking the BBQ lunch, the Year 11 PE class for their coaching, and several Year 10 students for umpiring throughout the day.
State Schools Culinary Challenge
Jodie Allen

Café 43 students from Penola High School recently participated in the State Secondary Schools Culinary Challenge which was held at Regency International College on Monday the 27th June 2016. Two teams, from Penola High School entered and both came away with bronze medals.

Students participated in teams of two and had to cook and present two serves of a main course with a specific protein content in 60 minutes. The high standard of the food reflected the time and preparation spent by students & teachers in practising for the event. The judges were most impressed, not only with the kitchen skills, but also the attention to detail in the plate presentation and, importantly, the taste.

The following Café 43 students should be very proud of their achievements.

Gorgia Robbie & Lucy Butler   Bronze Medal
Erin Fielder & Rachel Murphy   Bronze Medal

The Secondary Schools Challenge was organised by the Australian Culinary Federation SA Chapter. All Australian Culinary Federation Competitions follow WACS guidelines; this means all competitors start with 100 points and a gold medal. Points are deducted for incorrect skills and preparation, personal hygiene, taste and flavour of dish, unsafe storage and food handling procedures, and excess wastage. The team with the highest points was announced the winner.

The students, assisted by Food & Hospitality teacher, Jodie Allen and mentored by local chef, Ryan Dear, were very passionate and committed in their preparation for this challenge. Workshops took place on a weekly basis, using lesson and after school time, to perfect time management, preparation, cooking techniques and knife skills. As well as the cooking time of one hour, students had 30 minutes to set up prior to the competition starting, and 30 minutes to clean up after the competition. Points were deducted for late service and for failure to clean up to an acceptable level and within the allocated time frames.

Students had to use a rack of lamb as the main component of their dish. They had to trim and french the lamb rack within the allotted competition time. The dish had to contain an appropriate starch, vegetable and garnish, of their choice. Each team was responsible for providing all ingredients, other than the protein, as it was kindly donated by Holco Fine Foods. No prior preparation of these ingredients was to be done and nothing was to be pre-prepared.

Gorgia Robbie & Lucy Butler’s dish consisted of a Crumbed Lamb Rack with Balsamic Glazed Carrots, Potato Fondants, Pumpkin and Parsnip Puree, Red Wine Jus and Sweet Potato Crisps. Erin Fielder and Rachel Murphy’s dish consisted of a Mustard and Herb Crusted Lamb Rack, Baby Carrots, Minted Pea Puree, Creamy Parsnip Puree, Potato Rosti and Red Wine Jus. It was rewarding to see the hard work, determination and strong team work from both teams. The students should be very proud of their achievements.

One of the highlights from the day was Australia’s Culinary Olympic dessert champion, Jenni Key. Her Chocolate Masterclass had everyone mesmerized, as she demonstrated curls and coils and shards, and shared some of her dessert knowledge with the competitors.
9-A-Side Football  
Chloe Long

On Thursday 30 June 2016 the Year 8 and 9 students braved the wet and cold weather to take part in the Upper South East 9-a-side football carnival. The competition included teams from Naracoorte, Keith, Lucindale, Kingston and Penola. This year we were able to fill three teams: two in the boys’ competition and one in the girls’ competition. Everyone involved enjoyed themselves as the nature of the day was more focussed on participation and fun rather than serious competition.

Players were able to play in every position throughout the day and there were multiple goal kickers for both teams. Joel Virtanen was award goal of the day for the year 8 boys team, with Henry Berkin getting the same award for the year 9 team. In the Girls team Tyler Batt won goal of the day. Kasey Morton was an unstoppable tackling force in the back line for the girl’s team. Across the board some exceptional skills were shown in all teams, with both boy’s team winning 3 games each. In the final game of the day the Year 8s played off against the Year 9s for bragging rights; in the last seconds of the game the Year 9s pulled away.

Max Beighton, Connor Eastwood and Bentley Gaplin carried out goal and central umpiring duties throughout the day and did an exceptional job. Coaches Hayden Hutchesson, Ella Kain, Romi Eckermann, Josh Currie and Sam Klemm, did a great job coaching, inspiring their players with some motivational speeches before games. All Penola High School students did the school proud, demonstrating great sportsmanship and fair play throughout the day.

From the Deputy’s Desk  
Jason Plunkett

Communication Approaches
As we wind down to the end of term it is a good time to remind people of the various tools we have in place for communication with families.

This term we have been utilising our School Stream mobile phone App. This provides access to sports results, competition results, newsletters, and the ability to register an absence amongst other features. School Stream is available for both Android and Apple smart phones; we strongly encourage families to install this “App”.

For those who utilise the Facebook social media tool, we also now have a Facebook page, like us (or follow us) on Facebook to also get access to information from Penola High School.

The last tool we have is our Parent Portal. This is a secure environment providing information specific to your child. Currently this includes access to school reports, their attendance data and contact details. Gradually we will add further features to this portal. Information on how to access the portal will be provided with the reports.

Cafe 43
After achieving two bronze medals for their work in the culinary challenge in Adelaide, the Cafe 43 class rushed back to run the CAFÉ the following day. This was a busy occasion, with meals served to community members as well as staff. The Café is now closed and will reopen late next term. This break allows the students to focus on skill development and theory aspects of the course. We thank everyone who has supported the Café this term and look forward to your support again when it open again.

Sarah Stokvad Farewell  
Rob Thorne
Sarah Stokvad, Penola High School’s Rotary Exchange student from Denmark, departed Penola High School and Australia on Monday, 4 July. She returned to her family with a host of stories of her experiences in Australia and hopefully a new perspective of the world. Sarah has certainly left her mark on the Penola community and the farewell assembly on Friday reflected the strength of the friendships she has made with students and staff. She has been a wonderful ambassador for her homeland and a number of Penola students are making plans to travel via Denmark when they see some of the world. A special thanks to the families who had the pleasure of Sarah’s company in the year she was in Penola.
- Term 2 in Pictures -

Nick Rowe and Max Beighton
- First Aid

Gerard Merrett, Connor Eastwood, Tom Abbey, Phoebe Tregenza
- Cows Create Careers Program

Nathan Rowe, Joel Virtanen, Ryan Zerk, Kane Whitehouse
- Interschool Cross Country

Jacob Ellery and Romi Eckermann
- Year 11 Outdoor Education Camp

Joanne Drury
- Cafe 43

Claire Ambagtsheer-Murphy, Emily Winter, Ebonie Moulton, Darcy O’Connor
- Rostrum Voice of Youth

James Krieger, Cameron Perry and Chad Dinnison
- Science & Engineering Challenge

nurturing individual successes
nurturing individual successes