Dear Parents/Caregivers

Term 3 is well and truly underway with sports successes, excursions, visiting pre-service teachers and visits from guest presenters already occurring at Penola High. And that’s only the first 8 days!!

Last week Penola High welcomed 3 pre-service teachers, all from Flinders University. Georgia, Jacob and Nick have been quick to build great relationships with staff and students and I know the classes they are observing and teaching are enjoying their presence and the new ideas they bring to teaching. It’s always fantastic to be able to integrate pre-service teachers into our practice and provide them with a solid footing for their future teaching careers. All have made very promising starts and we wish them the best, not only for the rest of their time with us but also for their teaching careers.

Yesterday saw our Girls’ Basketball team build on the earlier successes of our netballers. Another resounding success over local Limestone Coast opposition sees our basketballers off to Adelaide in the next few weeks for the next round of this knockout competition. Our Open Netballers meanwhile are off to Adelaide next week to compete in their round of the competition and I am sure all of the school community joins me in wishing them the best of luck.

As I type this our debating teams are in Mount Gambier representing Penola High in the Eisteddfod. Based on all the other successes being enjoyed by PHS I have no doubt I will be hearing more about how well they have done before the end of the day. In addition to this our Science and Engineering Challenge team, which won the Limestone Coast division of this competition late last term is heading to Adelaide at the end of August to represent the school in the next round of this competition. At the moment, after the first round, we are... 3RD IN THE COUNTRY!!!!. This is an absolutely amazing result and reflects the high level teaching and learning taking place here at Penola High School.

Today also sees a presentation from Street Smart to our Year 8, 9 and 10 students. This presentation involves information about saving money, finances, getting your first job, managing your mobile phone and giving students what they need to know as they get ready to make more and more choices about their future and particularly the financial implications of these choices and decisions.

Finally, today, saw the release of semester one’s Research Project results and I am pleased to inform you that all students who were resulted achieved the minimum standard required, with all obtaining grades above the actual minimum requirement. This is a great result for these Year 12 students and will hopefully provide them with a kick-start for the last full term of their schooling. Congratulations to all the students and their teacher, Kathleen Phillips, on this achievement.

As always I’d like to thank all staff who make these opportunities available for students, often at the expense of their own time. It’s amazing to work in a school where such sacrifices are the norm and where everybody is working for the improved achievement and learning of all our students. Stay tuned for more information next newsletter as this is shaping up to be a very busy term but one that promises further success for Penola High School.

NB. To all parents: please be advised the the Penola High School Pupil Free Day scheduled for Monday 22 August is now subject to change.

Kind regards
Open Knock Out Basketball

Scott McCulloch

Open Basketball for both the boys and girls of Penola High School is an eagerly awaited day on the calendar. There has been growing optimism in the girl’s team with a maturing list and developing chemistry with the players being together for a number of years. The boy’s team was there to have fun and hopefully see people “do some cool stuff”. Six enthusiastic girls lead by the experienced, enthusiastic Chloe Long and ten boys with very little experience (excluding the Year 9’s) lead by the inspirational Scott McCulloch loaded onto the bus where we were informed it was Chloe’s maiden voyage as the driver for the school. After much coaxing and kind words we managed to reload the kids onto the bus and all fears were quickly forgotten as the boys quietly hummed the team song “Eye of the Tiger” from the back seat.

In game one the girls accounted for a skilled Naracoorte side with Emily Winter leading the way in the scoring. The highlight of the game was the girls’ defensive work with Ella Kain and Aliza Pfitzner getting countless steals and forcing turnovers through their high pressure acts. Regular readers of this column will recognise an ongoing discussion about Alana Winters’ foul shooting and she responded with a made up figure of one from seven attempts. Alana’s other aspects of her game however shone and the tandem work she did with her sister in completing a suspected triple double (10 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists) was confirmed by the resident statistician Charlie French. The girls went on to win the game.

The boys were up next against Naracoorte and for the entire game except the final minutes. The team leader and all round good guy Bailey Walker top scored and recorded double digit rebounds. Man Mountain Will “the big lad” Cadzow was hosting a block party and was striking fear into the heart of any opponents hoping to drive into the key. Cory O’Connor’s underrated defence lead to many turnovers, but unfortunately it wasn’t enough to get the boys over the line in round one.

Game two for the girls was a riveting affair with the girls going down in a close one. Romi Eckerman started her yoga training courtside to warm up her back and when she was injected into the game she bought much enthusiasm and toughness to the defence. The highlight of the game came late when Alana Winter was lining up for some critical foul shots and nailed both to silence all critics (that idiot McCulloch) and let her emotions show with a fist bump and a stare at the press box.

The boys then fought out a hard match against Millicent going down in a close one with Bailey again the star. All boys showed incredible toughness which, combined with a lack of real skill, led to a very enjoyable experience by all.

The final game for the girls was against Millicent with the winner progressing to the next stage in Adelaide. The girls started interestingly with Emily Winter winning the tip off and Alana running towards the wrong basket. Luckily she quickly released and made up for her mistake with a quick score. Aliza and Ella once again provided tough defence and started developing confidence in their attacking prowess and the girls managed to pull away in the end to add to the already esteemed coaching career for Chloe Long.

The boys’ final game against Grant provided a final chance for all the Year 12’s to be on the court together to finish the game in what might be their final school sports competition. The entire bench was in tears remembering the good times they had had in basketball competitions and although their record of 0 wins – plenty of losses, doesn’t provide great reading for their careers, they will go down as legends.

GovHack

Jason Plunkett

Over the weekend three students from Penola High School travelled to Mount Gambier to participate in the National GovHack event, locally this event is called Unleashed.

The three students split into two groups, with Cameron Schriever participating with two others who were involved last year and Bradley Tragenza and Daniel Meek-Fennell working in a team on their own.

Through this challenge the students need to access government data sets such as toilet locations, locations of jetties and crime data and then pitch an idea for a website/app that utilises this data. They then produce a three minute video to sell their concept to the judges.

Teams arrived at the library at 6.00pm on Friday and worked through to 10.00pm that night, before returning for the remainder of the weekend, with entries submitted by 6.00pm Sunday. Both teams did very well producing some excellent videos. Results will be announced over the next few weeks.
The following information has been provided by Wattle Range Council. Although primarily intended for parents of primary school students, there is much in here that is relevant to us all as drivers, whether old or new.

KEEPING YOUR CHILD SAFE AROUND SCHOOLS AND BUS ZONES

Young Children’s perception, judgement and awareness of potentially dangerous situations is not adequately developed to enable them to cope with the road environment and due to the chaotic nature of traffic around schools at peak time, streets can be an extremely dangerous place for children.
Children are not easily visible and often act impulsively, which means if you are driving around a school, you must follow the road rules and take special care to ensure we keep our children safe. Remember that children copy grown-ups, so encourage good road sense by watching them closely and leading by example.

5 Helpful Tips for School Zones
As parents and caregivers we have a great responsibility to ensure children stay safe in school zones. We also play a key role in educating children about road safety.
Here are 5 helpful tips for safety in school zones.

1. Allow enough time to take your child to the school gate safely and without rushing.
2. Always observe parking signs and speed limits in and around school zones. They are designed to keep your child safe.
3. Talk about signs and traffic lights with your child. Identify and discuss places where it is safe to get out of the car and cross the road.
4. Teach your child how to cross the road using the ‘stop, look and listen’ process – stop at the kerb, look and listen for traffic and then decide whether it is safe to cross.
5. Park a few streets away and walk your child to school. This is also good exercise and helps teach your child road safety rules.

Behaviours to Avoid
- Speeding
- Double Parking
- Parking too close to an intersection
- Parking across driveways
- Parking too close to pedestrian crossings

Common Traffic Signs
Going against the road rules places not only your child’s life at risk, but those of others as well. Tragedies can occur if care is not taken to abide by these rules. Below are some explanations of signs that are placed around schools to ensure your child stays safe.

No Stopping Signs
You must not stop in a No Stopping area at any time. Fine $91.00

Bus Zone Signs
You must not stop within a bus zone at any time. Fine $124.00

Solid Yellow Line
You must not stop in an area marked with a solid yellow line for any length of time. This includes around the “road crossing lights”. Fine $93.00
Naracoorte High School invite you to attend

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT
HELPING YOUNG AUSTRALIANS TO BE MENTALLY HEALTHY
PARENT COMMUNITY INFORMATION NIGHT

Tuesday 6th September 2016 at 7pm
at the Naracoorte Town Hall,
Smith Street, Naracoorte

Enquiries phone: Nadine DiGiorgio, Naracoorte High School, Ph: 87621333
Admission fee: Gold Coin donation

www.theresilienceproject.com.au

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Friends of the Community Market!
9am - 1pm
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Sandford Football Reserve, Sandford Reserve Rd, Sandford Victoria 3312 Ph: (03) 5582 0191