Dear Parents/Caregivers

With the Year 10s out of the school on Work Placement this week one could be mistaken for thinking Penola High was enjoying a quieter week than usual, this could not be further from the truth. Year 9 Initiative is up and running and both staff and students are incredibly busy getting projects, ideas, models, posters, research studies and constructions under way. This Friday will see the culmination of a lot of hard work with the final presentations and assessment. From what I have seen over the last few days the amount of work and research being undertaken by students is first class and everyone should be congratulated on their hard work and endeavour.

This week is also SSO Week and it’s a timely reminder of just how important a role our support officers play in the running of the school. From front office duties, to finance, to admin, to IT, to student support, to library support, to canteen, to work, health safety, to grounds and maintenance, to laboratory organisation the list of what these staff contribute to our school is invaluable. It’s safe to say that Penola High would be a different place and enjoy far less success without the on-going efforts of this amazing group of people. From all of us here, and I’m sure the wider school community, I’d like to publicly thank and acknowledge the incredible input they have into our school.

Later this week our Open Girls Basketball team heads off to Adelaide to compete in round two of their knockout competition. As always I am confident they will represent our school with pride and no doubt enjoy more success following their successful endeavours in round one.

In two weeks’ time our Science and Engineering Challenge team our also off to Adelaide for round two of their competition. As I mentioned in our school Facebook page we are currently placed third in the country, an incredible effort against significantly larger interstate schools. This is a perfect example of where you go to school being irrelevant in the level of success you want to achieve. Absolutely anything is available to any student who wishes to make the necessary efforts and go for it!! Nothing should stop a student from achieving any goal they set for themselves.

A quick reminder to parents that our Student Free Day had changed from next Monday 22 August 2016 to Friday 2 September 2016. This change occurred due to a Work Health Safety audit being done at the school from the 22 -24 August 2016.

Kind regards
Interschool Debating Eisteddfod

Jackie Poumako

Once again Penola High School students donned spiffy blazers and highly polished shoes to attend the Interschool Debating Eisteddfod on the 3rd and 4th of August. Following some stiff competition in a year 10 versus year 11 intra-school trial debate, which saw some of the year 10 cohort punching well above their weight divisions, our seniors took to the stage at the Wehl Street Theatre in Mount Gambier. And boy did they open with a bang! Our first team, Sam Sims, Ella Kain and Aliza Pfitzner, commanded the audience and moved confidently around the stage before being named the winners of the ‘That medical technology will replace medical personnel’ debate. I must also mention that the girls scored the second highest overall score for the day and Ella Kain the second runner-up for Senior Secondary Best Speaker trophy. The girls set a blistering pace, raising the expectations for many of our following students who were first time orators. Camryn Schriever, Bradley Tregenza and Imahgen Hecht were passionate in their pleas for animal rights. Cody Faux, Logan Gibbs and Daniel Meek-Fennell got down and dirty in fightly contested arm wrestle about the benefits of medical marijuana which threatened to overfl ow into the streets. And Jamie Colbert, joined by two wonderfully able pinch hitters, Emily Winter and Rachel Murphy, showed that he is the person you want in charge during a storm. He conjured confidence and bravery in the face of obstacles and was clear winner of the Coach’s Award.

The junior competition proved just as fierce. Our year 8 team, Matt Perry, Amy Whitehouse and Ebonie Moulton fought the good fight against a more experienced team from Grant High School. Matt Perry was every inch the Laban Punch as he stalked around the stage delivering his lines with zing and zip, Amy provided the compassion and created some tender moments which were the perfect foil for Matt’s pugnacity and Ebonie Moulton’s powerful final words as third speaker for the affirmative team. Despite not quite having enough in the tank to put the other team away, our newest school members gave the other schools something to worry about for the years to come. Our year 9 team, Phoebe Tregenza, Brooke Hutchesson and Cheyenne Faux, fared much better in their ‘That all sports stars should be role models’ debate, making short work of their opposition. Perhaps the mock debate against the teachers, featuring a starring turn from McCulloch, could be considered a contributing factor for the win as the girls’ arguments were broad, tightly locked down (thanks to a few holes exposed by the aforementioned SMc) and delivered with strength and poise. Cheyenne Faux’s dramatic closing argument was much talked about on the day and one of the reason why she secured second runner-up for the individual gong. Alas, it give me great pleasure to announce, and it must be shouted from the roops, that young Ebonie Moulton took home the prestigious, Junior Secondary Best Speaker award. Congratulations Ebonie! Congratulations all who participated! I can’t wait to do it all again next year.

Open Knock Out Netball

Chloe Long

On Monday 8 August 2016, Penola High School students, represented our district when they travelled to Murray Bridge to participate in Round 2 of the SSSSA Netball competition. The girls played two games, the first game they played against a strong Eastern Fleurieu, narrowly losing. In the second game the girls came up against a Unity College team where the girls won in overtime by 5 points. Their exemplary leadership and teamwork contributed to a great day.
MASA Maths Quiz Night  
Winsley Wighton

Our Hall provided a welcoming setting for the annual Maths Quiz Night held on the 10th August. About 160 students, in 42 teams, supported by teachers and parents, gathered to enjoy an evening of Maths and General Knowledge quiz questions. Forty-one of our students, well over a third of the school, were joined by students from Grant and Mount Gambier High Schools, Lucindale Area School, St Martins Lutheran College and Tenison Woods College. It was great to see our friends from Lucindale and St Martins back after their absence in recent years.

Throughout the evening, students worked together to solve Maths problems and puzzles, answer general knowledge questions, and tackle an extended Maths problem. Sudoku and Shikaku, an area puzzle, were included for the first time and proved very popular. The Hall was alive with enthusiasm, student discussion and debate. Some chocolate was also consumed. As well as providing a different setting for tackling Maths problems, the evening provided students with a great opportunity to get together and share a good time with friends.

Prizes were awarded to the Best Overall, Best Mathematical, and Best General Knowledge teams in both Junior and Senior sections. The team from Tenison Woods College won the Best Overall section for the Juniors, with Grant taking home the Best Mathematics award and Lucindale the Best General Knowledge Award. The Senior Best Overall Award went to a team from Mt Gambier High School, while a team from Grant took out the Best Mathematics award. The Penola team of Hannah Klemm, Cory O’Connor and Tom Walker was successful in the Senior Best General Knowledge section.

Course Counselling  
Jason Plunkett

Term 3 will see the course counselling and subject selection for our Year 8 to 11 students taking place. This will require counselling interviews with Year 10 and 11 students as they select subjects for Stages 1 and 2 of their SACE. There will also be a Parent Information Night on Wednesday 24 August 2016. Students will receive information during Learning for Life sessions and Personal Learning Plan (PLP) lessons to allow them to make the most suitable selections for their future. Well considered selections are important as they provide the data for class allocations and timetabling for 2017. We encourage parents to discuss the options and selections with their child to help them complete the relevant subject selection forms.

The key dates for the counselling process:
- Wednesday 24 Aug - Parent Information Night
- Friday 2 Sep - Subject Selection Forms to students
- Thursday 8 Sep - Course Counselling Day (Year 10/11)
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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