Dear Parents/Caregivers

As we draw near to the end of term three things still haven’t slowed down much. Over the past two weeks we have seen the opening of Café 43 for the remainder of the term; course counselling and subject selection for Year 10s and 11s; a visit by Nangwarry Primary School; a student free day connected to staff development and pedagogy and, of course, Year 12s growing ever closer to the completion of their studies.

Café 43 reopened last Tuesday and will be open every Tuesday lunchtime until the end of the term. Bookings and/or orders are encouraged and can be arranged with a call to Sarah in the front office. From personal experience the food is amazing, the service first class and with a few new menu items now is the perfect opportunity to get in there and find out for yourself.

Last Thursday was our course counselling and subject selection afternoon/evening for all 2017 Senior School students. It was great to see so many parents and students making appointments and having some insightful conversations into possible future pathways for our students. I know the parents I spoke to on the night appreciated the opportunity to discuss options and find the best pathway forward. I’d like to thank all the staff who assisted in this process and gave such valuable advice to our parents and students.

Recently we hosted the Year 4s-7s from Nangwarry Primary School. The students thoroughly enjoyed their day and made the most of the experience. A new environment and the opportunity to engage in some different learning was certainly appreciated and the primary students who I worked with only had positive things to say about our school and how much they were looking forward to the chance to come back and be actual students, rather than just visitors for the day. Again, a big thankyou to all staff who offered their time to engage with the primary students and give them a small taste of a secondary education.

Last Friday week was a student free day and while students enjoyed a break from school, and maybe a trip to the Adelaide Show, staff were busy updating skills and working on improving delivery of engaging pedagogy. Several workshops were run over the course of the day, covering topics such as Inclusion of Student Voice, Growth/Failure Mindsets and the work of John Hattie and how to deliver engaging, relevant curriculum to today’s students. All sessions were delivered by staff and I’d like to thank those staff who not only delivered on the day but made sure their workshop sessions were well prepared and thought provoking. The dedication of staff is one of the strengths of this school and this day proved how determined we all are to see improved outcomes for our students.

Finally, Year 12 is rapidly drawing to a close for those students. With only 6 weeks (plus holidays) until exams the year is almost over. Some subjects have work due at the end of this term, ready for marking in Adelaide over the holidays. It’s not too late for any student to drag that little something extra out of themselves and ensure they gain the level of achievement they desire. I’m sure this will be said many times over the next couple of months but good luck to all our Year 12s as they finish off their studies. And good luck also to the parents of our Year 12s, it’s going to be a stressful time before it’s all done and dusted!!

Kind regards

Andrew Stockley
Encounter Youth
Rob Thornett

On Wednesday 13 September 2016 Amber Bailey, an Encounter Youth representative, visited Penola High School to provide information about alcohol and drugs to the Year 10, 11 and 12 students. Encounter Youth do a lot of work in this arena, and their public face is known as the Green Team who look out for young people’s safety at Schoolies weekend at Victor Harbour. Amber covered a range of topics for our students and had a special focus on the Year 12s as they approach or have already reached the legal drinking age. The students were very attentive and enjoyed some of the discussion and feedback opportunities that were offered. We hope this will provide some safe alternatives for young people to make sensible decisions about these issues in our community.

Australian Geography Competition
Rob Thornett

Geography students from Penola High School tested their geographical skills and knowledge against students from all around Australia in the 2016 Australian Geography Competition during Term 2. Geography teacher, Rob Thornett said he had just received the results and was pleased with how the students had performed. “We have a number of student geographers at our school who performed at a high level in the competition this year with one student receiving a distinction and another five students credits across Years 9 and 10.”

“Over 65,000 students from 670 schools across Australia entered the Australian Geography Competition so the results give us an external benchmark as to how our students are going in certain aspects of geography,” he added. Following on from last year’s state winner, Bradley Tregenza, the students certainly have a very high standard for which to aim.

Bernard Fitzpatrick, the competition’s national coordinator, said; “The competition aims to encourage student interest in geography and to reward student excellence.”

“Geography is an important subject which develops a student’s understanding of the spatial interrelationships between people and place. It helps students appreciate the complex nature of local, regional and global social, economic and environmental interactions,” he said.

In 2017, Penola High School, will once again enter its students into this competition.

The competition is a joint initiative of the Australian Geography Teachers’ Association and the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland, and is sponsored by Macquarie and Queensland universities.

Water Quality Survey Testing
Rob Thornett

On Monday 5 September 2016, Ms Phillips, Mr Sutterby and the Year 8 students went to Bakers Range Drain on Claywells Road as part of a joint Geography & Science excursion. This excursion allowed students to test the quality of the water in the drain in terms of the aquatic life living in the drain and the chemicals. We were joined by Vanessa Freebairn of the Natural Resource Management Board to conduct the water quality testing of the drain. Students were lucky enough to find a number of shield shrimp, seed shrimp and tadpoles. They also discovered that the salinity and pH level were normal, indicating that the drain was healthy. The information gained from the testing will be used by the Year 8 students to include in their field study of the local drainage network for their Geography class.

Vietnam Raffle Winners

1st Prize - Beard Grooming Kit
Richard Clayfield

2nd Prize - Hair Straightener
Alana Foster

3rd Prize - Hair Products
Jenna Bignell

SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY
Friday 28 October 2016
SRP QUIZ NIGHT
AT PENOLA HIGH SCHOOL / FRIDAY OCTOBER 21ST
7PM / 11PM
BYO FOOD + DRINK
$10 PER PERSON / 10 PEOPLE PER TABLE
BOOK TICKETS THROUGH SARAH

8737 0000
nurturing individual successes
The benefits of Yoga for Teens are MANY and some include –

- Reduce stress and anxiety
- Improve focus and school performance
- Improve self-esteem, self-worth and body image
- Increase confidence
- Help develop self-discipline and willpower
- Improve fitness and physical and mental health

Tuesdays
Yoga for teens at Penola High School
straight after school finishes.
3.30pm – 4.30pm
$8.00 per class – mat provided – all fitness levels!
Please phone call Bec 0428398002 (bookings are essential)

Friends of the Community Market
is moving to the
1st Sunday of the
Month
Our next Market is
Sunday 2nd October 2016 9am - 1pm
Sandford Football Reserve, Sandford Reserve Rd. Sandford, Victoria 3312
Contact Kerrie Tallangamurt@gmail.com P: 03 5582 0191

Welding Course
At Naracoorte Campus-
Nationally Accredited Competencies:
Fabricate & Repair Metal Structures
(AHCINEF204A) &
Use Hand Tools (MEM18001C)

Tuesday evenings, commencing 18 October 2016
Limited positions, Enquiries to Lynne Selig, phone:
87628309

**Small Regional Funding available to eligible participants**
($50 incidental/materials fee will apply)
$350 fee will apply to non-eligible participants