Dear Parents/Caregivers

The end is in sight for our Year 12s with their official schooling at Penola High ending next Friday, 4 November 2016. Apart from a few exams, and maybe a handful of assignments to tidy, all Year 12 work is completed and ready to be submitted to SACE. At this stage my expectation is that results will be released on Wednesday 21 December 2016, but this date will be confirmed by SACE in the coming weeks. Year 12 is arguably the toughest year of study most students will face and I’d like to congratulate all our Year 12 students and staff for their efforts this year. I’d also like to acknowledge the efforts of parents who have encouraged and coerced at home for the last five years.

In other news the Penola Show is upon us and the school has been busily preparing its contributions for this year. Silvana Stevens and Jo Skeer have been flat out organising the school’s display over the last few days and I’d like to thank them for their efforts. A number of staff are heavily involved in the show and it has been fantastic to see the input from all members of the community toward making this another successful Penola Show weekend.

The SRC Quiz Night was a huge success last Friday with plenty of community participation and a great night of fun and frivolity. Scott McCulloch is to be congratulated for his organisation of the evening and the SRC students who also contributed in both the lead up and on the evening itself.

The Year 8 Capability Folios were finished and presented this week and while there were some nerves amongst students all were very successful in the presentations and I know all appreciated the efforts of staff but, more importantly, the attendance of parents to help support this initiative.

Lastly, next week sees our Super 8 Girls Cricket team head off to Mount Gambier for their full day of competition and, while they looked a little scratchy earlier this week, I have no doubt they will be highly competitive on the day.

Hopefully everyone enjoys our School Closure day this Friday Oct 28th and enjoys the Penola Show, at least the weather looks as though it’s going to stay clear and provide two great days.

Kind regards

Andrew Stockley

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Important Dates

Friday 28 October 2016
• School Closure Day

Tuesday 1 November 2016
• Super 8 Cricket

Friday 4 November 2016
• Year 12s Last Day

Friday 18 November 2016
• Festival of Sport
•

Monday 21 November 2016
• Governing Council

SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY
Friday 28 October 2016
(Week 2, Term 4)
Students in Year 8 have presented their Capability Folio Project this week. This project is based on students identifying and showcasing their learning success and strategies from a range of learning areas. Students had to collect seven pieces of evidence that best demonstrated each of the Australian Curriculum learning capabilities below:

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- ICT
- Critical and Creative Thinking
- Personal and Social Capability
- Ethical Understanding
- Intercultural Understanding

Students were then required to evaluate their own learning strategies and how we can assist them to improve their learning further. We want the students to be able to experience, connect and grow through their learning, so they are able to:

- Set goals to challenge them
- Identify their barriers for success
- Access available support when appropriate
- Transfer knowledge between learning areas
- And involve their parents in their learning

The feedback we received from all students about their learning was very positive and provided us with a range of feedback to:

- Identify common themes in the student learning
- Give us strategies for how we can respond to this feedback in the classroom

Thank you to all parents for their support of this project and I am sure you found it a valuable experience as well.

On Wednesday 19 October Penola High School student Ella Kain accepted the Young Rural Ambassador Position at this year’s annual Penola Show dinner held at the Penola Bowls Club.

Ella Kain is one of our Year 11 students, and has experience in public speaking. She is an excellent role model at our school. She grew up on a farm just outside of Penola and has been involved in the show for many years through cattle. Penola Show President, Jill Fiebiger presented Ella with gifts from sponsor Koonara Wines and a Penola Show Society badge. Ella then made a lovely speech about her connection with the Penola Show and our local area. Ella is an excellent candidate for the award due to her enthusiasm and knowledge of rural life and agricultural shows.

Ella will carry out various duties at this year’s show, including judging and stewarding roles.

The aim of the Young Ambassador award is:

- To highlight the importance of youth in rural South Australia and in particular the agricultural show movement.
- To identify and encourage enthusiastic, skilful, industrious and unselfish young people.
- To give young people a forum to express their views through education and experience and develop closer links with the primary industries in South Australia.

On Thursday 20 October 2016 the Penola School Community Library held its monthly Kids Time session on the theme ‘Bread’! An odd theme I know, but I am now confident that Ali Bond could do a Kids Time on any topic at all.

Even with a clash of Sports Day at Mary MacKillop Memorial School we still had 12 preschoolers attend. All enjoyed stories, singing, games, craft and did some bread making to finish off the morning. (Writer’s note: and the bread was very warm and crusty too).
Points of Interest...

Year 10 PLP Mock Interviews
All Year 10 students took part in mock interviews conducted by Kevin Gritton, Leanne Cameron from Business SA, Julie Howe from MGET and Luke from GTE. Feedback from the interviewers was that our students were all well prepared, with resumes and cover letters appropriate for the positions they were applying for. This activity also allowed the Apprentice brokers to get an idea of students at our site who may want to go down that pathway.

Past Students visit Penola High School
Past students, Nick Kidman and Marcus Devereaux visited the Year 11 and 12 students during Learning for Life and conducted a friendly question and answer session about school life, career pathways and their own successful journeys. We are not surprised when our alumni are successful, but we are delighted when they want to give something back to our school.

University of NSW Maths Competition
The results of the Uni of NSW Maths Competition have arrived, and we congratulate Jack Walker on achieving a Distinction and Cheyenne Faux a Credit. All who participated are to be commended for taking this challenge.

Penola High School Quiz Night
On Friday 21 October 2016, Penola High School held its annual SRC Quiz Night. This is a major fundraiser for the SRC every year and the turn out was great again this year. Scott McCulloch, Jodie Allen and SRC members are to be congratulated for their excellent organisation. Also congratulations to Alana Winter and Cory O’Connor for hosting an entertaining and thought provoking evening.

Parent Opinion Surveys
Louise Clayfield
It is time to collect our parents’ opinions regarding teaching and learning, your child’s sense of wellbeing and safety at school, and your experience of how well staff work with you to support your child’s learning.

All responses are anonymous. Surveys will be sent out over the next week to our email list, with responses due by Friday 11 November 2016. It is most important that we hear your opinions and you take the opportunity to give feedback about what works well and what can improve.

Penola & District Little Athletics
Penola and District Little Athletics season kicks off this Friday 28 October 2016 at the Penola Show at McCorquindale Park. Start time is 4.15pm arrival for a 4.30pm start of events.

The season will continue every Friday thereafter with Little Athletics being held at the Penola Primary School Oval.

BBQ tea and refreshments will be available to purchase on the Friday nights. A roster will be sent out to families shortly for Set up/Pack up and BBQ/ Starter for the season. We are looking forward to an enjoyable season. We thank Penola Primary School for the use of their grounds for the season and Matt Crewe for keeping them maintained for all to enjoy. If you have not registered please go online to Little Athletics SA or contact Andi Zerk with any questions.

A friendly reminder to all families: parents or a responsible adult must remain with your child/ren at all times.

2017 Materials & Service Charge
All parents are invited to attend the Penola High School Governing Council Meeting on Monday 21 November 2016 in the school library at 7.00pm. This meeting is to approve the 2017 Materials & Services Charge.
Are you in years 10, 11 or 12 and interested in studying Medicine?

Please join us and meet local Students studying Medicine who will discuss their experiences getting into Medicine and issues related with relocating to study.

Where: Flinders Rural Health SA – 24 Vivienne Avenue, Mt Gambier, parents welcome to attend.

When: Wednesday 23rd November from 4.30pm – 6pm with pizza afterward

RSVP by Friday 18th November to:

Michele Summers: E: michele.summers@flinders.edu.au P: 08 8726 3934
Penola High School is located in a low-risk bushfire area.

While we have a have an emergency and bushfire response plan for our site it is important that we are all prepared for a bushfire emergency.

Parent and family checklist
We all need to be ready for the fire danger season and to keep your children as safe as possible please ensure you:
- read all of the bushfire information provided to you
- talk with your children about what will happen if a bushfire occurs when they are at school or preschool
- update your emergency contact details with us before the start of the fire danger season
- make a personal Bushfire Survival Plan for your family and let us know if this will affect your child’s attendance
- download the AlertSA app if you use a smart phone.

‘Catastrophic’ fire danger days
‘Catastrophic’ fire danger days occur when conditions are the worst for a bush or grass fire. If a fire starts and takes hold on a ‘catastrophic’ day it will be extremely difficult to control.

Find out about site closures
DECD is working towards school closures appearing on the Alerts SA website and mobile app. By downloading the Alert SA app to your mobile device you will be able to obtain real-time information and warnings.

If a bushfire approaches us
The safety of children in our care is our highest priority if a bushfire approaches our site.
We have a designated bushfire refuge, which is the safest place for staff and students to be in this situation. Evacuation is our last option unless advised otherwise by emergency services.
When we move to our bushfire refuge we:
- move everybody inside, close windows, doors, and turn off the air conditioning
- fill available containers with water
- turn on all sprinklers and irrigation systems if it is safe and time permits
- remain inside with the children until the main firefront passes
- listen to local radio or monitor the CFS or AlertSA website for bushfire updates and information
- liaise with DECD Security, Bushfire and Emergency Management team and the CFS to stay informed about changing conditions.
Further information
Department for Education and Child Development
Parent Bushfire Information Hotline
1800 000 279

The Parent Bushfire Information Hotline operates during business hours, with an out-of-hours messaging service at other times.

The hotline is the best source of current and up-to-date information on bushfire emergencies.

Bushfire and Emergency Management website www.crisis.sa.edu.au

Country Fire Service
Bushfire Information Hotline
1300 362 361
Website www.cfs.sa.gov.au

Penola High School has a ‘low risk’ bushfire rating.
This means on days of forecast catastrophic fire danger rating, our site will remain open.

School buses and taxies will not operate within the Fire Ban District.

Our phone number is 8737 0000
If this number is engaged during an emergency, contact the DECD Parent Bushfire Information Hotline on 1800 000 279