Principal’s Report
Andrew Stockley

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Wow, it’s hard to believe this year is over. It only seems a few weeks ago that I began my time here, and now it’s all but complete. It is safe to say this has been a very successful and rewarding year for all members of the school community. The learning that has taken place is amazing and I am confident that every student here has made huge strides forward in their education over the last 12 months.

For some, this year was the end of their Penola High experience and I’d like to once again wish our departing Year 12s all the best for the future. It was great to be invited and have the opportunity to share in their Graduation Dinner at Hollicks’ Winery. It was a fantastic night with a few fun and humorous awards given out by staff and students alike.

Given the size of our school, the number of opportunities afforded to students here has been incredible. While I’m sure I will miss a few I’ve tried to capture the kind of opportunities that exist:

- Swimming Carnival and Athletics Carnival
- Interschool and Adelaide Athletics
- Knock Out Sports
- Camps
- Science and Engineering Challenge
- Wine Making
- STEM Project
- Year 8 Capability Folio
- Year 9 Initiative
- Work Experience
- Variety of curriculum based excursions
- Chance to study at TAFE and other local schools

All students who took advantage of these opportunities appreciated what was offered and I’d like to thank all staff, not only for going on the excursions but also taking the time to organise, contact parents, calculate costs etc. These kinds of activities require a team effort and that has certainly been the case here during 2016.

It is also the time of year where we say farewell to some staff and this year brings one of the larger staff turnovers seen here in recent years. Jodie Allen, who has done an amazing job in her first year teaching is heading back home to Clare High School. I’d like to thank Jodie for her work in Home Ec and with running Café 43. Tom Sutterby is heading to Mount Gambier High School next year. Tom has done some great work revamping Tech Studies and his energy, sense of humour and ability to create learning opportunities for students will be missed. Scott McCulloch is leaving us for Grant High School where he will take up a leadership position in 2017. Scott will be sorely missed and I know that many students will be sad to see him go as he engages students in their learning and has made Maths a subject that students look forward to and enjoy – no easy task. Finally, Kristen Bence will be heading to Oakbank Area School next year where she will be taking up their Middle School Coordinator role. Kristen has been an energetic and community minded staff member for the past 9 years. She has not only engaged students in their learning within Art and Photography but she has also been responsible for developing and writing many of the school’s policies and guiding principles over the last 5 years as our Teaching and Learning Coordinator. Kristen’s dedication extended beyond school and I am sure the Coonawarra Arts Festival will be poorer for her leaving. Kristen was also heavily involved in the Penola Show. I’d like to thank all these staff for their efforts, energy and dedication to ensuring successful learning outcomes for all students during their time at Penola High School.

Finally I’d like to thank everyone who has made my time here so enjoyable. As I said at our staff meeting and farewells last night it is the people who make a place great to work in and Penola High has certainly provided me with some fantastic relationships and many that I am sure I will continue to develop and strengthen once I am back at Millicent High next year. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here at Penola High and I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone involved in the school a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

Kind regards

Andrew Stockley
Principal

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nurturing individual successes
STEM
Kristen Bence

Australia faces some tough decisions in reshaping its economy and preparing for an uncertain future, with predictions that up to five million jobs are likely to be automated by 2030. Nearly 40% of Australian jobs that exist today are at risk, with an even higher likelihood of job losses in parts of rural and regional Australia. It is how we adapt to this technological change that will determine our future economic prosperity. Therefore we will need this generation to focus their attention on real world problems and develop the skills to find creative and innovative solutions to these problems.

Our Penola High School STEM Connection Project was developed exactly for this purpose. It provided opportunities for students to develop:

- The learning capabilities and support pathways to make a successful transition from school to further education, training or employment.
- Strategic partnerships with industry, allowing them to access real world applications, with a focus on problem based learning.
- Responsible and active participation in our school and local community.
- An understanding of the Australian Curriculum through inquiry learning.
- Strong literacy and numeracy skills.
- Competencies to be active and successful participants in an increasingly globalized and knowledge based society.

All Year 9 Students participated in this project once a week over second semester. Students firstly brain stormed a range of issues in our local area, and then developed a range of topics and questions to explore. Some of the topics were:

- Over-population of foxes
- Animal Welfare in our local area
- Town Square project development
- Computer Game Making and Retro PI
- Creating a boat from sustainable materials
- Solar Powered Android phone charger
- Solar, Wind and Battery operated farm gate

Students were supported to be creative, connected and powerful learners through the mentoring of four teachers. This project was then showcased at an end of term EXPO in our school hall.
From the Deputy’s Desk

Jason Plunke

Glancing over this final newsletter for 2016, it is quite apparent the broad opportunities that this school offers for its students. Students have the opportunity of participating in a vast range of sporting activities and other extra-curricular activities from first aid to driving lessons to the Science and Engineering Challenge.

As I write this final report for the newsletter our team of intrepid World Challenge travellers have already completed their 5 day trek and have begun their community project in which they support a community in Vietnam. This is an exciting experience that I am sure both the students and teachers will find very rewarding. Penola has had a strong team of teachers who ensure the best learning outcomes for students, going above and beyond to give students these opportunities. I thank the staff for their valued contributions to the school culture and providing these opportunities. At the beginning of next year we welcome a number of new families to the school community and I am sure that you all will help support me in making them feel welcome to our community. Finally I would like to farewell Andrew Stockley. Andrew stepped up to the acting Principal role this year, whilst managing a young family and needing to travel each day. Andrew will return to Millicent next year, we wish him well and good luck in pursuing future leadership roles.

Year 7 Transition

Sarah Walker

During Week 7 students who will be enrolling in Penola High School in Year 8 in 2017 attended 2 orientation days to give them a further taste of what it would be like to be at high school. The students were introduced to the Year 8 Year Level Organiser, Ms Chloe Long, who took them through the daily routine and gave them a tour of the school. Students then moved between classrooms taking part in a variety of lessons. Their Technical Studies visit allowed them to learn different wood working techniques to produce a peg note holder. Students were also treated to a Home Economics lesson where they prepared, cooked and decorated biscuits. Other various lessons were undertaken including Art, English, Science and Physical Education. The transition visits were held to ensure the Year 7 students are thoroughly prepared for life in secondary school and are comfortable with their new environment well before the start of the 2017 school year.

Activities Week

Sarah Walker

During this final week of term, Year 8 and 9 students participated in Activities Week. The beginning of the week saw students working hard to help tidy up areas of the school. This time will be put towards students’ community service in their Year 10 Personal Learning Plan. Students were then able to soak up the sun participating in activities such as T-Ball, bike riding, ultimate frisbee and a golf session at the Penola Golf Course. Other activities included Art sessions, board and computer games. Each year level was also treated to an excursion to Mount Gambier for games and a movie. The week finished with the annual Robin Ey Tennis Tournament on Friday.

The Staff and Students of Penola High School wish everyone a safe and happy holiday over the Christmas Break. We look forward to seeing you in 2017
Presentation Night
The 55th annual Presentation Night of our school was held in the school hall on Wednesday 14 December 2016. Prior to the ceremony, guests, family members, students and staff gathered in the foyer to share nibbles provided by Ms Jodie Allen and her students. They also enjoyed the art works which were on display in the school foyer. The Art Exhibition was formally opened by Kristen Bence.

A number of awards were presented on the night and we congratulate the following major award recipients:

Lions Leadership Award
Alana Winter

Wattle Range Mayoral Award
Cory O’Connor

Peter Muller Citizenship Award
Aliza Pfitzner

RSL Award
Gabrielle Clarke

ADF Long Tan Youth Leadership & Teamwork Award
Alana Winter and Joe French

Caltex Best All Rounder Award
Ella Kain

Tom Foran Memorial Sport Award
Emily Winter

Reuben Goldsworthy Award
Joel Moore

Excellence in Technology Award
Max Beighton

Aspiring Science Student Award
Brad Tregenza

Open Access Award
Aliza Pfitzner

Community Pathways Award
Felicity Drury

Barker Shield Awards
Alana Winter, Ella Kain and Charlie French

UniSA Academic Awards
Alana Winter, Cory O’Connor, and Tom Walker

Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths (STEM) Awards
Alana Winter, Cory O’Connor and Tom Walker

Dux Awards:
Year 8 Dux – Ebonie Moulton and Amy Whitehouse
Year 9 Dux – Phoebe Tregenza
Year 10 Dux – Joe French and Gorgia Robbie
Year 11 Dux – Hamish March and Aliza Pfitzner
Year 12 Academic Excellence – Alana Winter

Merit Certificates:
Will Cadzow
Montana Freeman
Hannah Klemm
Lucy Tonkin
Bailey Walker
Cheyenne Faux
Brooke Hutchesson
Phoebe Tregenza
Ebonie Moulton
nurturing individual successes
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