Dear Parents/Caregivers

It’s hard to believe but term one is coming to an end tomorrow. A quick reminder that the day will finish earlier than normal this Friday, at 2:15pm. It’s hard to believe that the term is already over. It seems like only yesterday that I was starting off and getting used to a new school, now I feel comfortable and accepted as part of the school and broader community, something I am very thankful for. I thought this would be a good time to quickly reflect on what has occurred this term.

- Swimming Carnival
- SACE Information Night
- Lions Youth of the Year
- Athletics Carnival
- Geography Trip to Beachport
- Clay Target Shooting
- Art Trip to Adelaide
- Adelaide Athletics
- Open Boys Cricket
- Interschool Swimming
- Year 8 Camp
- Chemistry Trip to Wynns Winery
- Outdoor Ed and Phys Ed Camp
- Interschool Athletics
- Pool Mural Design and Creation

And this is only including the trips, camps and excursions that were out of school. The long list of what has been achieved by students and staff in class this term is too long for a newsletter, but a significant amount of it will be coming home soon in the form of student reports. I have only just finished reading through all student reports and the one thing that stood out clearly is the outstanding amount of academic achievement occurring in classes, across all year levels. The majority of students at Penola High are engaged and interested in the development of their own, personal learning. I look forward to seeing and chatting with plenty of parents at our Interview Evening early next term and I will also endeavour to share some of the exceptional achievements by students in my report next term. All students and staff should be commended for their efforts this term. Term one is the longest term with the most going on, and to see so many great results is a credit to all involved.

Parent-teacher interviews are early next term and I know there is some information regarding how to make an appointment elsewhere in this newsletter. I strongly encourage all parents to make a time and come along to have a chat with teachers. If you can’t make it that night then by all means contact the school to arrange a mutually agreeable appointment at another time.

Kristen Bence has been busy the last couple of weeks. Firstly with her Year 12 Art trip to Adelaide. This is an invaluable opportunity for students to access new and different learning not normally accessible to country students. In addition to this Kristen has also been creating a new mural for the Penola Swimming Pool. Working in conjunction with James Parker, a Adelaide-based artist, a group of Year 9 and 10 students have been involved in the design and creation of this mural and last week saw their efforts come to fruition. I’d like to commend Kristen for her organisation and drive in creating these opportunities and also the students who put in the effort to make the mural a success.

Finally I’d like to wish all students, families and staff a very safe and enjoyable holiday break. Year 12 students will probably believe they don’t get a real holiday and while this may be the case, their year is already over a quarter done, so really, there’s not far to go and the extra efforts made now will come in very handy and beneficial at this time in Term 3. To all those travelling away please have a safe drive/flight/bus/boat trip and make the most of the next two weeks!!!

Kind regards
At the end of March this term four year 12 SACE Visual Art students ventured to Adelaide for the annual art pilgrimage. We spent two days immersing ourselves in the Adelaide arts culture to support the development of the students’ folios and major practical works. On Wednesday afternoon we visited the Year 12 SACE Art Show, which showcases the best Year 12 Visual Arts and Design work from the previous year at the TAFE Light Square gallery.

Students spent time talking with the head arts moderator in attendance and looking at a range of folio and practical work displayed to get ideas for their own artwork development. That night we stayed at our penthouse suite at the Oaks on Wayville Street, where we were delighted to find we had a 180 degree view of the Adelaide CBD – nice work Vicki on the accidental booking of the most amazing camp accommodation ever! We went to Norwood for an Italian dinner and a movie.

The following day we arose early (to an amazing sunrise view over Adelaide) and headed to a tour of the University of South Australia Visual Arts Campus, where we viewed the facilities and saw students creating numerous interesting artworks in a range of mediums. From there it was a short walk to the Art Gallery of South Australia where we had a guided tour of the 2016 Biennial exhibition, which I was unsure if the students would like, but to my delight I found they actually loved the exhibition where much “Contemporary” art was on display. They were even able to interact with one of the main art pieces and leave their own mini artwork behind. In the afternoon we headed to a SACE Arts Forum where students listened to four Stage 2 Visual Arts students from last year present their work, including the processes they took to create their folio work and final prac finals.

It was really interesting hearing from the students’ perspective and how much they relied on the support of their families and teachers throughout the year to get them through. Overall it was a very rewarding trip and gave the students some really interesting ideas for the concepts they were already developing.
From the Deputy’s Desk
Jason Plunkett

Student Reports
At the conclusion of Term 1 you will receive your child’s report. A progress report is a snapshot of work completed by your child to date. For students in Years 8 to 11 a final semester grade will be given at the conclusion of Term 2.

Parent Teacher Interviews – New Electronic System
Parent Teacher interviews will be held Tuesday May 10. In previous years parents have been asked to complete the Parent Teacher Interview reply slip that accompanied Term 1 reports. This year we are changing the process for interviews to an electronic system. Accompanying your child’s report will be a letter that will give you directions allowing you to access the parent portal. Please follow the instructions to book your Parent Teacher Interview. For families who do not have internet access or experience blackspots we request that you ring the school on 87370000 to book an interview. Bookings will be available from 2.30pm Friday 15 April through to Monday 9 May.

In the event that you have not requested an interview and a teacher wishes to see you, you will receive a call from the school to schedule a time.

Student Laptops
All Year 9-12 students currently receive loan laptops for use during their time at Penola High School. Unlike other schools, Penola continues to provide these devices at no additional cost. In previous years this has also included repairs to damaged laptops, however, due to increased damages this process has been revised.

If a student damages a laptop, there is the expectation that they (or the family) will be responsible for paying for the repair. This was written into the new user agreements that were sent out at the start of the year. If students look after their devices, we do not anticipate that this will be a financial burden to families.

Please do not try to fix the laptops yourself, or get them serviced elsewhere as this will void any warranty that we have.

If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact me at the high school to discuss this matter.

Information Night
Each year we run an information night for prospective parents considering Penola High School for their child’s secondary education. This year the information night will be held on Tuesday 24 May 2016. At this session we will discuss what Penola High School offers your child. Alongside the opportunity for a first class academic experience, we offer support structures for students and exploration of their future directions.

We look forward to welcoming new families to our learning community, whilst also encouraging any current families to attend to consider our future directions.

Student Drivers
At the start of each year we have a process for gathering information regarding parental permission for both students who drive to school and students who have permission to be a passenger in a vehicle driven by another student. As you can imagine this changes quite rapidly as students achieve their probationary licence.

It is important that the school maintains an up to date list of those students who have permission. This is to ensure we maintain our duty of care, and consider the safety of both drivers and passengers. We request that parents advise the school of any new or amended student permissions.

Swimming Pool Mural
Kristen Bence

Last week students from Penola Primary School and our high school spent some time with Adelaide based artist, James Parker, who is visiting as part of a pool re-development project sponsored by the Wattle Range Council. The project was organised by Rhett McDonald and members of the Penola Coonawarra Arts Festival Committee, to re-develop the murals at both the Penola and Nangwarry Community Pools. Penola High school Art students from years 9 and 10 spent many hours last week assisting James to develop a design for the mural, from collaborative drawings, created by students at both the local schools, then supported him to paint the designs onto the wall at the back of the pool area. The designs reflect inspiration from artists, such as Hokusai and Paul Klee, and represent flora and fauna from our local swamps and surrounding area. It also represents a quirky and fun representation of pool use, including many images drawn by the students. The mural will feature as part of the 25th anniversary for the Penola Coonawarra Arts Festival and both murals will be opened from 11am on Sunday the 22 May 2016 as part of the festival weekend.
SSSSA Athletics
Chloe Long

On Sunday 10 April 2016 the Penola High School athletics team travelled to Adelaide in preparation for the SSSSA D Grade State Athletics Championships. The following morning, in perfect conditions, we arrived at SANTOS Stadium at 9.00am with the squad, ready for an intense day of competition. Having completed five weeks of training, most students were at their peak and ready to go. There were many exceptional performances on the track and in the field events, with a substantial number of students finishing in the top three for their event(s). The boys finished third, with the girls having a massive improvement from last year and also finishing third. This meant that Penola High School finished third overall for the day.

One of the highlights of the competition was the dominant performance of Josh Currie in his hurdles where he came first in a time of 17.03 seconds. Other highlights include Nathan Rowe’s Javelin throw of 29.28m which also earned him first place. Gerard Merrett showed this long distances skills coming in 2nd in the open boy’s steeplechase at just 14 years old. Special mention goes to Bailey Walker and Thomas Walker for another competitive year placing in all the events they competed in. However the strongest performances of the day were from Ella Kain and Sarah Stokvad, both coming home with 3 first and a second in the open girls relay.

The Penola High School students must be commended on their true sportsmanship throughout the day, with every competitor shaking hands with their rival competitors after each event. They also assisted Sarah Walker and Mr McCulloch in running the javelin all day, and were instrumental in the smooth running of that event. Students who filled in for higher age groups should pride themselves on their courage to fill in for these events, and some students even experienced great success in these higher age groups. Well done!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alana Winter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aliza Pfitzner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ally Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caleb Lythgo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bailey Walker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Meek-Fennell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ella Kain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily Winter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerard Merrett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imahgen Hecht</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Walker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacob Robbie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jesse Martin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joanne Drury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe French</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joel Virtanen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josh Currie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katie Colbert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathan Rowe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nick Rowe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sam Gartner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Stokvad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Abbey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Walker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Stand Like Stone - Nick Kidman

Former Penola High School student Nick Kidman, will be participating in the Stand Like Stone Dancing with the Stars event. He was interviewed and some excerpts appear below.

Why are you participating in the Stand Like Stone Fundraiser? Because education is one of the most important investments a person can make. One of the fundamental reasons I agreed to face the humiliation of showing off my poor dancing skills, is to help promote and keep students at Penola High school. Penola High has enabled students to obtain the necessary skills to be successful in a variety of forms. For example there are Jake Rowe, Marcus Devereaux, Hugh McColl, Claudia Bissell, Sam McPherson, Max Palm, Hayden Lambert, Lewis March, Madeleine Honner and Nicole Lear. These are just a few. Unfortunately however, finances can be quite tight for some families. The Stand Like Stone Foundation has a “Stay at School Program” to help ease the financial pressures. This program can help keep students at Penola High. I see this as a great benefit to the local community. In addition, supporting your community is very important. This was one of the reasons why I moved back from Adelaide to work at DeGaris Lawyers. A lot of the students I went through University with would never consider working in the country. This is unfortunate because we offer the same services as those offered by the larger city firms. The Stand Like Stone foundation is also all about giving back to the community. If anyone is interested I would recommend visiting the Stand Like Stone webpage to seek further information. Nick will be holding a movie night fundraiser. Please support it if you can.

Congratulations

Penola High School Staff and Students would like to congratulate the following past students on their recent success:

Georgie Beighton and Aimee Galpin

On Saturday 9 April 2016 Georgie Beighton and Aimee Galpin competed in the Young Rural Show Ambassador Competition in Lucindale. Both girls were required to go through an interview process and a Q & A session. Georgie was chosen as the 2016 Young Rural Show Ambassador winner and has the opportunity to attend the Royal Adelaide Show in a behind the scenes capacity. She will now compete later in the year in Adelaide for the state title.

Casey Meek

Currently working at Meek Butchers in Penola and undertaking a Meat Retail Butcher Certificate III with the Independent Institute of Food Processing, Casey Meek was recently named Runner Up in the 2016 Meat Industry Vocational Student of the Year Award. Being very passionate about the meat sector Casey hopes to become the owner of a value added food business, and employ young people who are excited and passionate about food.

Movie Night

Coonawarra Hall

Friday 20 May 2016

7:00pm

There will be a wine raffle kindly donated by Banks Thargo and Balnaves of Coonawarra.

YEAR 12 HOLIDAY SESSIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Week 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Monday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maths Apps/PE</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Monday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPP/Research Project</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Monday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual Arts</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Monday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STUDENT ILLNESS

Parents and students are reminded that if a student is feeling unwell or is injured at school, they are to report to the front office for assistance. Students are reminded not to text message their parent from their mobile phone to ask if they can be collected; they are to report to the front office and they can then wait in the Sick Room while staff contact their parent/guardian to arrange transportation home and the absence can also be recorded.

STUDENT DRIVING LESSONS

Student driving lessons with Peter Sims will occur Tuesdays during Term 2, however, the commencement date is not until June due to personal commitments. Letters to secure lessons will be sent at the beginning of Term 2.

WANTED

The Penola Community Library is currently in need of empty Pringle chip containers for their Kids Time program. If you have any spare, please drop them into the Library.

LOST PROPERTY

The Front Office is currently housing a large volume of lost school uniform items. If your child has misplaced an item of school clothing, please have them see Sarah in the Front Office.
- Term 1 in Pictures -

Ryan Dear & Lucy Butler
- Cafe 43 Program

Gorgia Robbie
- Penola Swimming Pool Mural

Jesse Martin
- Interhouse Swimming Carnival

Alexandra Attenborough
- Year 8 Tech Pencil Case Making

Joanne Drury & Emma Ryan
- Year 10 Science Slime Making

Dale Cunningham, Justus Burford, Caydan Jones
- Year 8 Camp

Bailey Walker, Tom Walker, Charlie French, Cory O’Connor, Alana Winter
- Diabetes ‘Blue’ Day Fundraiser

nurturing individual successes