Dear Parents/Caregivers

Welcome back to the start of a new term, and what a busy start it is. I hope everyone enjoyed a relaxing and enjoyable holiday, but for many I am sure the holidays already feel well and truly over. Over the course of the next few weeks we have the following to look forward to:

- NAPLAN
- Knockout Sport – Open Football and Touch Footy
- Year 11 Outdoor Education Camp
- Penola Coonawarra Arts Festival
- Year 11 Work Experience
- Year 7 Information Night & Tour
- Pupil Free Day – Friday 27 May 2016
- Geography Competition

Our Year 9s are undertaking NAPLAN over the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of this week and after speaking with a few students most seem confident about the work they have completed so far. It is important to recognise that these tests are simply a snapshot of student learning and should not be considered the ‘be all and end all’ of student assessment. This Friday will also be the ‘catch-up’ day for any students who were absent for any of the days.

On Tuesday night our Parent/Teacher interviews were held and, from a personal point of view, it was a fantastic opportunity to meet and converse with a variety of parents from across our community. Overall the evening was a success with plenty of questions asked and answered and hopefully a better picture of student learning has been gained, beyond our end of term one reports. I would like to thank all the staff and parents who made the night the success I believe it was.

Beyond the first few weeks of this term we have several other important times ahead. Year 12s are heading toward the first assessment period of the year, specifically related to Research Project. I cannot encourage students strongly enough to, do everything they can to meet the deadline for semester one. It relieves so much pressure and allows them to focus on their other subjects for the rest of the year. Experience tells me that students who continue with Research Project into semester two tend to struggle to achieve their best across all the subjects they are undertaking.

Year 11s are about to meet the first assessment deadline for the Literacy and Numeracy courses. With both of these being compulsory SACE subjects where a C or better is required I would again strongly encourage all those students to do whatever is necessary over the next few weeks to ensure they achieve a passing grade.

All going to plan our semester two timetable will be finalised in the not too distant future. Once this is ready students and parents will receive a semester two timetable and the conversations regarding any possible changes to study patterns can begin.

Finally, a reminder to all members of our school community that Friday 27 May 2016 is a Pupil Free Day. All staff will be undertaking Training and Development related to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) with the plan that they will then begin incorporating what they have learnt into their lesson and unit planning. Another Pupil Free Day is planned for Friday June 24th and will be connected to Task Design and planning for semester two. More detail on this will be made available closer to the date.

Kind regards

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From the Deputy's Desk
Jason Plunkett

Swinging with the Stars
Looking for a fun ride this Saturday? Support Nick Kidman and the Stand like Stone foundation within our local community. Nick's fundraiser “Riding with the stars” will see riders leave from the Lady Nelson Information Centre at 8:30am for a 103km trip or from Penola Park for a 70km. Cost to join this venture is $20 a person. Also a friendly reminder regarding the Movie Night - this will be held at the Coonawarra Hall on Friday 20 May 2016. It would be great to see as many people as possible support this worthy cause.

Transition
The transition process has begun and teachers and students will begin visiting primary schools in the coming weeks as we begin the process of transitioning year 7’s to high school. Transition packs will go out to students at the same time, as students consider their educational needs for 2017. I am sure you will help me in welcoming any new families to our community.

Parent Portal
Many of you will have accessed our new parent portal that we opened up for Parent/Teacher Interviews. We have gained feedback from parents on this and other communication strategies we are considering at the interviews. The Parent Portal has many features and we are gradually adding extra functionality to this service.

Currently you can:
- View and amend personal contact details
- View and amend student absences
- Access student reports and newsletters
- Book in for parent teacher interviews.

Keep an eye out for more exciting communication enhancements in the coming weeks.

Breakfast Program
Penola High School has recently begun a BREAKFAST PROGRAM. The program provides students who have been unable to have breakfast at home with some nutrition before the school day begins. This program will run every morning from 8.30-8.40am in the school hall. The school would like to thank Windara Bakery for supplying the bread. Any donations of spreads such as vegemite, jam etc would be greatly appreciated.

Benefits of regular breakfast
- Improves your energy levels.
- Improves metabolism.
- Provides many beneficial nutrients, and boosts your fibre and calcium intake (compared to no breakfast).
- Reduces you chance of over-consuming high kilojoule foods later in the day.
- Stabilises your blood sugar levels.
- Improves memory and concentration.

Rostrum Voice of Youth
Jackie Poumako

Eight Penola High School students donned blazers and highly polished shoes to represent us at the Rostrum Voice of Youth at St Martin’s Lutheran College on Wednesday 11 May 2016. This year’s Prepared Speeches highlighted the growth and determination of our orators and the strength of our schools Public Speaking program. Beautifully prepared by Ms Jackie Poumako, students spoke on such topics as A Change of Heart, Moving the Goal Posts and Humble Beginnings across the Junior heats before attempting the dreaded Short Notice speeches, at which we are definitely improving.

Our Senior competitors demonstrated this development in their own short notice speeches, speaking confidently for three minutes on such topics as There Must Be a Limit and The Bills Need to be Paid.

Alana Winter, Aliza Pfitzner, Camryn Schriever and Imahgen Hecht were our Senior competitors this year, while Ebonie Moulton, Claire Ambagtsheer-Murphy, Darcy O’Connor and Emily Winter filled out the Junior ranks.

School Buses
Louise Clayfield

Could the families of bus students please note the following points.
- If your family will be away for a family holiday during term time and your child(ren) will not be travelling on their normal bus route, please make sure you notify the bus driver of the dates your child will be absent so the bus is not waiting at your stop unnecessarily. Also, as a courtesy, please keep your bus driver informed if your child(ren) will be not be travelling on the bus on the afternoon run if they are attending football/netball practices or other after school commitments or the morning run if they are absent due to illness etc.
- Parents are reminded to please be at your stop at least 5 minutes before your allocated pick up time in the morning so that buses are not kept waiting and the timetable can run to time. Drivers are not obliged to wait for students in the morning if they are not at their stop at their designated time.
- A number of bus routes are currently at or near capacity for eligible travellers. Therefore, please do not expect that any ‘extra’ students will be able to access your bus if you are hosting a birthday party or a sleep over as there is no guarantee there will be room on the bus.
Every public school in the state’s Lower and Mid-South East will close on Friday, May 27 - all in the name of science.

In an Australian first, more than 600 teachers and educators will be attending a Regional Education and Community science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) Summit.

Mount Gambier Education Director Adam Box said teachers and educators were embracing the SUMMIT initiative to help ensure children possess the skills to be powerful thinkers and learners with the ability to flourish in their chosen environment.

Mt Gambier City Council has also committed to supporting the summit with planned activities that will form the basis of the City’s first ever STEM Weekend. Some of the planned activities for children, parents, families and the community will include billy cart making, 3D printing, Google Cardboard and a windsock alley.

The Limestone Coast, as a District/Partnership of Schools and Kindergartens, has a regional STEM initiative that is working towards bringing together science and research agencies, education providers, industry and business and community organisations at a regional level.

This will provide a platform for a coordinated approach to advance student learning in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and to building community awareness of STEM skills.

The strategy is supported by the Inspiring Australia Regional Science Hub and is focused on developing a sustainable ‘whole of community’ approach to maximise potential benefits which science and innovation can bring to a region.

The ultimate outcome is to break the cycle of generational poverty in the area through effective teaching and learning of STEM and by lifting the expectations of students, teachers, parents and the entire community.

The day will include keynote presentations from Director of the Flinders Centre for Science Education in the 21st Century Martin Westwell, ABC Kids Surfer Scientist Ruben Meerman and futurist Bernard Salt as well as over 40 STEM based Learning Workshops.

Quotes attributable to Mount Gambier Education Director, Adam Box

It is an incredibly exciting time for our community.

We want to influence a whole community to become powerful and resilient learners.

Educators attending the summit will discuss and discover specific STEM implementation strategies that will resonate with students including encouraging children to actively participate in their learning, make decisions based on sound evidence, skilfully solve problems and deal proactively with new situations while communicating and collaborating effectively with others.

Part of the new STEM strategy will be to involve schools, universities, businesses and community partnerships working together creating powerful, creative learners.
John Shaw Neilson Acquisitive Art Prizes

Penola High School invites you and your friends at 5.00pm on Thursday 19 May 2016 to 43 Cameron Street, Penola to attend the 2016 Official Opening of the Penola Coonawarra Arts Festival Celebrating its 25th Anniversary and announcement of the John Shaw Neilson Acquisitive Art Prize, Local Prize, Youth Art Prize, Design Prize and Creative Writing Competition.

Official Opening by Rhett McDonald, President of the Penola Coonawarra Arts Festival

From 5.30pm the winners will be announced. Open daily from 10.00am—4.00pm Exhibition closes 27 May 2016

Also happening...

Kids Time in the Community Library with Penola High School Librarian Ali Bond
Saturday 23 May 2015, 9.30-10.30am Free entry, 3-7 years
Bookings essential—8737 2838

Sculpey Sculptures Workshop
Memorial Park Marquee with Penola High School Art Teacher Kristen Bence
Sunday 22 May 2016 10.00-11.00am Free entry, 5-12 years
Bookings essential—Book online or phone 8737 2855

Dare to Dance Workshop
Memorial Park Marquee with Penola High School Art Student Samantha Sims
Sunday 22 May 2016 11.30-12.30 Free entry, 5-12 years
Bookings essential—Book online or phone 8737 2855

nurturing individual successes
Family Fun! 19-22 May
Memorial Park, Penola artsfestival.com.au

PANTS DOWN CIRCUS ROCK: PERFORMANCE
BOOK: artsfestival.com.au
Sun 22 May 3.30pm-4.15pm, Rymill Hall
Tickets: $30 Family, Adult $10 Child $7
Part circus/part rock show – be wowed by this highly skilled award winning act.

PANTS DOWN CIRCUS ROCK - WORKSHOP
BOOK: artsfestival.com.au
Sat 21 & Sun 22 May 10-11am, Penola Primary School Gym
$5 per ticket. All ages.
Learn some moves from this dynamic circus troupe.

KIDS OPEN MIC
Sun 22 May 1.30-2.30pm. Memorial Park. Gold coin. All ages.
Sing and play it from the rooftops! Ahoy, young musicians, singers, writers and poets, it’s time to shine with ’Kids Open Mic’!

SCULPY SCULPTURES
BOOK: Penola Info Centre 08 8737 2855
Sun 22 May 10-11am, Memorial Park. FREE
Think 3D, recycling and found objects. Then put them all together.

#yourbestselfie

[Image of a person taking a selfie]

#YOURBESTSELFIE COMPETITION
Thurs 19 - Sun 22 May. Free. All ages
Upload a selfie of your ‘best self’ to Instagram or Facebook, with a splash of the 2016 Arts Festival. Hashtag #yourbestselfie

SMARTPHONE PHOTOGRAPHY FOR YOUTH
BOOK: LOUISE AGNEW
louiseagnew2@gmail.com
Sat 21 3-3.45pm and Sun 22 11-11.45am, Petticoat Lane, $10. All ages
Learn about positive self-esteem, mindfulness and how to be healthy online - all you need is your smartphone.

DARE TO DANCE
BOOK: Penola Info Centre 08 8737 2855
Sun 22 May 11.30am-12.30pm. Free. 5-12 years
Get those bodies moving! Bust some groovy dance moves to the latest beats.

DANCEXTEND
Sun 22 May 10am-3.30pm. Free. All ages.
A ‘Dance Jungle Gym’ is coming to Penola’s Memorial Park, use it to learn a contemporary dance!

and many more events ....
COUNTRY ARTS SA MURAL PROJECT

SUNDAY MAY 22
NANGWARRY SWIMMING POOL 10.00AM – 10.30AM
PENOLA SWIMMING POOL 11.00AM – 11.30AM

You are invited to be impressed by the opening of the brand new murals at Penola & Nangwarry.

In the lead up to the festival the Arts Festival, Country Arts SA, Wattle Range Council, local schools and community have come together to produce 2 brand new murals. Community members, youth and students have worked tirelessly with artist James Parker to consult and produce a permanent art piece.

We invite all school students, parents and community members to join us for the official opening.