Penola High School

Issue 1

9 February 2017

Principal's Report

Ngaire Benfell

Dear Families

It is with great pleasure that I begin my first Newsletter report as Principal of Penola High School. I have been warmly welcomed by the school and wider community and am very much looking forward to our journey together over the next five years.

Penola High School has made a strong start to the year. We began with a whole school assembly in the hall where the orderly and respectful behaviour of our students impressed me. Equally as impressive, was the number of achievements our students made in 2016.

I learnt that in 2016, Penola High School students successfully participated in the Rostrum Voice of Youth. I believe developing public speaking skills is a big ticket to a strong future. During 2016, the PHS basketball team made the State Finals. PHS’s Café 43 students catered for the Coonawarra Arts Festival where PHS students had winning entries in the writing competition and 2 winners of Junior Art Prizes. Café 43 students also won bronze medals at the Culinary Challenge.

In the Science and Engineering Challenge, PHS’s Year 9 and 10 students came first in the District which meant they represented the whole district in Adelaide. In the Debating Eisteddfod, PHS had the winning Year 9 team, best and 3rd best junior speaker and 3rd placed senior speaker. Year 12 art pieces from PHS were chosen for the SACE exhibition; an exemplary achievement.

There is much to look forward to in 2017. Penola High School’s motto and commitment is “Nurturing Individual Success” of each and every student. There are again, many opportunities this year to engage in success and achievement. I am passionate about student participation in leadership and the creation of a strong student voice in the future of PHS and, at the assembly, urged all students to take every experience they can to develop these skills.

Week one ended with one of the most enjoyable and smoothly run Swimming Carnivals I have attended. It was fantastic to hear the level of encouragement that house captains and fellow students gave to all swimmers. Congratulations to the age champions and the winning house carnivals last Friday, the Family BBQ on Monday night and the SACE information evening on Wednesday night. Parent-school engagement is widely known to be an important factor in educational outcomes. Evidence dating from over 40 years, shows that positive parental engagement can and does significantly influence student academic achievement. In fact, to maximise their full potential from schooling, students need the full support of their parents or caregivers (Emerson, Fear, Fox and Sanders, 2012).

Beyond educational achievement, parental engagement is associated with:

- more regular attendance
- better social skills
- improved behaviour
- greater engagement in school work, and
- a stronger belief in the importance of education.

Family-school-community partnerships create conditions where students learn more effectively and take education ‘beyond the gates’. Parent involvement, parent participation and family-school partnerships are what make a good school great.

Our core business is learning and improvement. With our strong school values of tolerance, respect, integrity, commitment and healthy lifestyle, 2017 will be a very successful year!

Kind regards

Ngaire Benfell

Government of South Australia

Department for Education and Child Development

nurturing individual success
2016 Stage 2 Results
Jason Plunkett

SACE result for 2016 were released in mid-December last year and Penola High School senior students produced some excellent results. 100% of students received a result of C- or higher for their subjects with every student who completed the year achieving their SACE. The highest ATAR was that of Alana Winter who will receive the 2017 Reuben Goldsworthy Award.

When results were released, Alana said, “I was honestly very shocked. I was so happy to see that all my hard work paid off.”

Former Principal, Andrew Stockley said, “These results reflect the application and effort made by students and staff alike. Year 12 is a stressful and challenging year for students and for all to successfully gain their SACE is a fantastic achievement.” He also went on to say, “Congratulations to those students who also achieved individual results of a significantly high standard, particularly those students who were in Year 11 in 2016.”

Our top three SACE students all received an A grade in one subject, Alana in Research Project, whilst Montana Freeman and Thomas Walker receiving an A in English Communications.

The school had a total of 6 A grade students, with Aliza Pfitzner, who was in Year 11, achieving As for Stage 2 Visual Arts and German, which was delivered via the Open Access College. Aliza and Montana Freeman, who both received As for their Visual Arts practical work have had their work selected for presentation at the Year 12 SACE Art Show in Adelaide in 2017. Stage 2 Art teacher Kristen Bence said, “It is a fitting tribute to the outstanding effort of both students who worked very hard to produce some very challenging concepts through a range of mediums. I congratulate both girls for their efforts this year.”

The final two students, who achieved an A, were both Year 11 students, Ella Kain for Research Project and Cody Faux for Health. All Stage 2 students did particularly well in English Communications, with the class average being B+. The other academic subjects, also had strong results from students, which was a positive result for local delivery, as Biology and Physics were delivered through this model.

Vocational Education also had strong results with many students looking at Vocational pathways. Students undertook TAFE subjects including Mechanical, Rural Operations, Individual Support and Retail. Most of these students have already found themselves employment in these areas.

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Bushfire Season
Louise Clayfield

Bushfire season is upon us. The school has a detailed plan where each staff member has specific roles to undertake to ensure each person on site is safe. There will be a drill soon to make sure that we are all well versed in these responsibilities.

Important things for families to know:
- On days declared as “Catastrophic” our school will be open, but there will be no buses operating.
- Total Fire Ban days will be publicised to all students via signs in all classrooms and entrances.
- Total Fire Bans may result in excursions being cancelled as a result of a risk assessment.
- In the case of a local fire, students may be kept at school after the usual dismissal time, on advice from CFS and Police.
- If specific school bus routes or local roads are impacted upon or threatened by fire, staff will make arrangements to supervise the affected students until Emergency Services report that the situation is safe to release them from the site.

Bushfire Season

Student Absence SMS (only)
Notification number:
0400 134 993

nurturing individual success
PHS Swimming Carnival  

Chloe Long

On Friday 3 February, the three Penola High School houses once again battled it out in the annual Interhouse Swimming Carnival. Conditions were nice and warm, with many supporters turning out to cheer on the sidelines. 2017 brought a fantastic year of swimming, with high numbers of students participating. Strong swimmers in every age group made for some fantastic finishes. The team scores were close all day, with Aroona and Yalluminga fighting it out all day to be crowned Swimming Carnival champions.

Ella Hutchesson has started high school off strongly, showing off her swimming ability and taking out the Under 14 girls trophy. Simone Skratek also had a cracker of a day taking out the runner up Under 14 girls trophy. Tom Skeer and Jye Whitehouse had a strong battle all day with Tom coming away with the Under 14 boys trophy and Jye runner up. Ally Jones continued her good form from last year to take out the Under 15 girls with Amy Whitehouse close behind as runner up. Jack Kain and Jack Walker stepped up their swimming this year, Jack Kain taking out the Under 15 boys trophy with Jack Walker coming runner up. Brooke Hutchesson was too strong in the Under 16 girls, and Emily Winter put in a great effort to receive runner up. Gerard Merrett had a fantastic day in the pool, winning multiple events for the day, narrowly taking out the Under 16 boys trophy over Jesse Martin. Aliza Pfitzner was crowned Open Girls Champion with Ella Kain also swimming strongly. Finally, Josh Currie performed strongly to be the Open Boys winner with Nick Rowe as runner up. The House Captains did exceptionally well in organising their teams and making sure all the events were filled throughout the day. Their moral support and enthusiasm on the side lines proved to be effective in getting their competitors to the finish line. It was great to see all House members contribute to their team’s success both in entering events and encouraging and supporting fellow House members. At the end of the day it was Yalluminga who proved too good for the other Houses with a convincing victory.

Final House Results
Yalluminga 228
Torilla 203
Moyanga 187

Individual Age Group Winners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U14</td>
<td>Tom Skeer</td>
<td>Ella Hutchesson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U15</td>
<td>Jack Kain</td>
<td>Ally Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U16</td>
<td>Gerard Merrett</td>
<td>Brooke Hutchesson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Josh Currie</td>
<td>Aliza Pfitzner</td>
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Week 1 - Year Levels

Year 8
The Year 8 transition program saw the students familiarise themselves with Penola High School’s policies and facilities. The Year 8 Day 1 program focused around the students getting to know each other and the teachers. Miss Cram ran STEM activities with the students, while Miss Long spent the afternoon doing PE activities in the stadium.

Year 9
The Year 9s got off to a fabulous start on day one of the new school year. They met their new ‘Year 9 HG squad’, including new teachers Keren Asser and Richard Newsum. We also welcomed two new students, Hailee Barnes and Bree Turner. This added to the excitement of the games undertaken to reacquaint ourselves after a long break. Our program included many team building activities designed to promote communication, trust and problem solving among students. These activities included the well-received ‘blindfold’ games where students relied on each other to carry out simple, and some more difficult, tasks such as organising themselves into height order without sight or verbal communication, leading and being led on a tour of the school and the final challenge – blind treasure hunt! Things are off to an enthusiastic start in Year 9!

Year 10
As a part of the Year 10 program, the focus was on familiarising ourselves with the school values and developing class expectations based on these. Students were also introduced to the SACE by Mr Plunkett. In regards to students starting their SACE with Personal Learning Plan, they developed personal goals and strategies in regards to their success this year. Kevin Gritton also came to talk to students about School Based Apprenticeships.

Year 11
As part of their first day program, the Year 11 students, accompanied by Ngaire Benfell, Mark Heyn and Winsley Wighton, visited Vintage Café for a shared lunch of delicious baguettes. The outing provided students with the opportunity to catch up with friends after the long break and to welcome the two students new to the group. The students’ behaviour was exemplary. Their good manners and respectful bearing provided a great advertisement for our school in the wider community. It was delightful to be seen in public with such a fine group of young people. Our thanks are extended yet again to Carol Marcus for making us welcome in her establishment and feeding us so well.

Year 12
The Year 12 students were keen to get started on their course work, but they had the day to sort out their lockers, timetables and make a confident start to their final year of secondary school. The new principal gave students her perspective on how success is achieved in Year 12. Ms Gray worked through some scenarios of possible ‘stumbling blocks’ in the year ahead. Students worked in small groups to come up with suitable responses to these events. After lunch we viewed a TED Talk on ‘How to make stress your friend’, examining how humans respond to stressful situations when they arise and what we can learn from this.
Open Boys Cricket

Michael Hentschke

The Open Boys Cricket competition commenced on Tuesday 7 February with Penola hosting a team from Grant High School. As our local teams are doing well this season we were able to field a team of experienced cricketers and this helped us to a comfortable win.

We won the toss and elected to bowl. The Grant openers hit out strongly, but good catching especially by Gerard Merrett saw us capture early wickets with the Grant score still on 25. Henry Capewell then batted to the end of their innings to score 48 runs. However, we were able to minimise the scoring of the other batsmen due to tight bowling from James Foggo, Logan Gibbs and Joel Virtanen and Grant was dismissed for 93 runs. James, Logan and Josh Currie each took 2 wickets for the game and they were well supported by the team in the field as they caught all the chances given, and gave away very few runs through mis-fielding.

Set a target of 94, Hamish March and Sam Klemm were steady early with Hamish batting carefully until dismissed with the score on 33. James Foggo then batted with style to support Sam who was scoring freely and finding the boundary with ease. Sam managed to reach 50 before being caught from a mishit, but had taken our score to 84 before the fall of the second wicket. Logan Gibbs brought up the winning runs in a quick-fire innings with a six bringing up the winning runs. James Foggo was not out on 23 runs at the end of the game.

The game was played in good spirit and all players were able to contribute, especially with their efforts in the field. The next stage is to play Millicent in Round 2 at a date still to be determined.

Materials & Services Charge & School Card

Vicki McDonald-Burgess

Families who were eligible for School Card in 2016 MUST re-apply for School Card in 2017. Application forms are available from the school. If you have children attending different schools (ie secondary and/or primary), a separate application form must be completed for those attending secondary school and those attending primary school. We encourage all parents to review their financial circumstances carefully to see if their students’ education costs can be financed in this manner. Please note that those students in receipt of School Card will have the School Materials & Services charge automatically deducted.

Payment of Materials & Services Charge

Parents have the option of paying the Materials and Services charge in full or in instalments by cash, cheque, credit card, eftpos or centrepay system. Parents who wish to pay the Materials and Services charge and any other school costs, ie camps either in instalments and/or by direct debit and centrepay system please phone Vicki at the school on 8737 0000 to make the necessary arrangements. The Materials and Services charge is due and payable by all parents as soon as possible.

If you want to experience things you don’t do in everyday life, then the Australian Army Cadets (AAC) is for you. The AAC is a community-based youth development organisation focused on the Australian Army customs, traditions and values. As a cadet you’ll learn leadership, team building and survival skills that will set you up for life. The 48th Army Cadet Unit, Mount Gambier, is holding an information night on Friday 17 February at 7.00pm at the Army Depot on Shepherdson Road. The AAC is open to all boys and girls who are 12yrs old and turning 13 during 2017. For any enquires please contact: 0417 603 508 or 48acu@hotmail.com.au

2016 School Magazine

The 2016 School Magazine will be printed within the next month. If you wish to purchase a copy of the 2016 School Magazine, please fill in the reply slip below and have your child return it to Penola High School NO LATER than Friday 17 February 2016 or alternatively reply to this notice via email to sarah.walker532@schools.sa.edu.au indicating your wish to purchase the magazine. Payment must be made before magazines will be issued.

Student Name ________________________________

I wish to purchase a 2016 School Magazine and understand an invoice will be forwarded to me shortly.

Signed ________________________________ Dated ________________

(Parent/Caregiver)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position/Responsibilities</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Keran Asser</td>
<td>Art &amp; Design Teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ngaire Benfell</td>
<td>Principal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ali Bond</td>
<td>Library Support Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Braddy</td>
<td>Network Manager, IT Support Officer, ICT Support Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louise Clayfield</td>
<td>Student Information Manager, EDSAS/Sentral/Schools Online, Student Reports, Buses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olivia Cram</td>
<td>Home Economics and Hospitality Teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emma Dear</td>
<td>Canteen Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suzanne Gray</td>
<td>Coordinator: Learning Support &amp; Counsellor, English Teacher, Attendance/Absences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Hentschke</td>
<td>Maths and Physics Teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Heyn</td>
<td>Science &amp; Biology Teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karen Jackman</td>
<td>Library Support Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chloe Long</td>
<td>Year 8 Year Level Organiser, Interschool Sports Manager, Physical Education, Outdoor Ed and S&amp;E Teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan Marcus</td>
<td>Library Support Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justin McDonald</td>
<td>Groundsperson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vicki McDonald-Burgess</td>
<td>Finance Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Newsum</td>
<td>Design &amp; Technology Teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathleen Phillips</td>
<td>Year 10 Year Level Organiser, Geography, History, PLP, Japanese and Research Project Teacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jackie Poumako</td>
<td>Year 9 Year Level Organiser, Coordinator: Middle School &amp; 21st Century Pedagogy, Public Speaking, English Teacher, Results Plus Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Plunkett</td>
<td>Deputy Principal, Student Management, SACE Manager, Maths/IT Teacher, Buses, Enrolments, Reliefs, Fire Warden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jo Skeer</td>
<td>Student Support Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Silvana Stephens</td>
<td>Laboratory Technician</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heather Stone</td>
<td>Library Support Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rob Thornton</td>
<td>Year 12 Year Level Organiser, Geography &amp; History Teacher, Teacher Librarian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dave Vannini</td>
<td>Student Support Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah Walker</td>
<td>Receptionist, Media Liaison, Transition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winsley Wighton</td>
<td>Year 11 Year Level Organiser, Maths, Science and Chemistry Teacher</td>
</tr>
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