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Important Dates

Thursday 16 September 2021
• Year 10 Immersion Day

Wednesday 22 September 2021
• Year 11/12 P.A.R.T.Y.

Friday 24 September 2021
• Last Day of Term 3 - 2:25pm

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Government
of South Australia

Department for Education

Principal's Report

Lesley Okholm



Dear Parents and Caregivers

Spring has arrived and has provided us with a few beautiful sunny days. It is amazing just how much this can lift our mood!

Term 3 is nearing an end, and so far, we have been largely immune to COVID-19 interruptions in SA. However, we remain ready, and will be able to support all students at school or online at any time. Please keep us updated if your circumstances change in this regard, especially if your Internet access becomes an issue. We are able to help out in this area, however, the sooner we know the earlier we can address this. Currently around 10 families have accessed Internet support this way.

This week our work around improving our teaching and learning has continued with every teacher working closely with Jess Cannon in their Professional Learning Communities. These small groups have been working hard to identify strategies they can use across all age groups, which might enable deeper thinking and understanding from students. One way teachers can do this is to use questioning. Moving away from questions which have answers directly in front of them, to questions which ask students to compare, contrast, add their ideas to, expand or even totally change their thinking. To give an example, as a very keen cook, I can follow a recipe word for word, and the result may or may not be as the picture shows. However, if I question myself as I read the recipe, and ask clarifying questions I am more likely to be successful. If I read 'preheat the oven to 180c' and ask myself, what might happen if it is not up to heat? How will fan forced effect the result? As I am a Jamie Oliver style 'whack it all in' type cook, I often ask myself questions like, 'If I double the chilli will it still be edible?' or 'My baking powder is out of date, so what else would give the same result?' All this questioning of myself will probably ensure a more successful outcome for my cooking. We hope as teachers, by asking these deeper questions, that our young people begin to do the same in all parts of their life, aiming to improve, improve and IMPROVE!

Our school has had a couple of weeks of extreme highs, and extreme lows. As I mentioned last newsletter, Sam Matthews is most unwell. Sam has been diagnosed with an aggressive bowel cancer and has begun a long treatment regime to attempt to stop this and return him to good health. I witnessed the most inspirational catch ups with classes when Sam and his family came to the school last week. Sam spent time with each class he teaches, being open and honest about his illness, treatment and plans going forward. I felt privileged to be there for these; watching the real concern and care shown by our students, and the bravery of Sam. Sam will have chemotherapy for 3 months, and then will likely have surgery and further chemo. Our love and best wishes go out to Sam, his wife Erin and children Audrey and Frank, today and every day until he is able to return to teach at Penola High School.

Last week was also a very exciting one for me. After a rigorous selection process, where Kevin Knott and Ben Henry represented our staff and community on the panel, I was offered the ongoing position of Principal of this school until January 2027. I accepted this without hesitation, and now look forward to working together towards Penola High School being reinstated as a school of choice in this area. I am most thankful to every person who has touched base with me to offer their support and congratulations. As a result of this, we are now advertising for a Deputy Principal for the next 4 years (as this is the position I held prior to this appointment). We hope to have this person selected early next term, to complement our Leadership team. I can also announce that we have appointed another middle school teacher to our school for 2022, we congratulate Jessie Cope on winning this position. She joins Rikki Helps and Josh Pearce to form a pretty formidable team!

My term ends next Thursday, as I take an extended holiday break. Unfortunately, all my best laid plans to visit family in NSW and my son in Melbourne are out of the question, but I look forward to a short break with my dogs near Goolwa. In my absence Judy Goodes will take the lead with support from Olivia Jaeschke and Jessie Cope.

Kind regards

Feeder School Olympics Carnival

Tara Millard

The Penola High School oval was a hive of activity this week for the Annual Feeder School Sports Carnival held on Wednesday 8 September 2021. The event first started in 2011 and has proven to be a huge success with many students participating again this year. This year the theme changed to an Olympics version, a welcome variation to the previous traditional Touch and Soccer carnivals. Challengers this year included Penola Primary School, Kalangadoo Primary School and Nangwarry Primary School. Despite a few drizzles in the morning the weather was fine with the sun shining later in the day and only a slight breeze blowing. After students from all schools were split into mixed teams, Physical Education coordinator, Tara Millard, turned the days activities over to the her Year 11 sport students who are currently studying a unit on sport organisation.

Students participated in stations such as Continuous Kick Ball, Grippy Catch, Extraordinary Tag and Macca Ball. From early on students were enjoying the fun and the smiles all round showed the day was going to be a success. High quality skills were displayed at all stations and it was great to see the students from different schools interacting positively with one another, even though it was the first time they had met some of their team mates. Each student received a certificate of participation to recognise their efforts on the day. A huge thank you to Physical Education Teacher, Tara Millard, and her Year 11 Sports class and Sarah Walker for her organisation of the event. Also thank you to the staff and students who ran the Canteen to help refuel the students in their lunch break.



R U OK Day

Jesse Cope

Thursday 9 September 2021 is R U OK Day. A day for looking out for your mates or loved ones and checking in to see how they are travelling. R U OK Day is a conversation starter around mental health and wellbeing. While we shouldn't just check in on people one day of the year, this day is an excellent reminder to take a look around and notice if we think someone is not going ok. R U OK Day also has a range of resources to help facilitate how to ask the questions and where to get extra help if someone is not ok. As part of R U OK Day this year, Year 12 student Charlotte is organizing an R U OK Day event for Friday 10 September 2021. This will include yummy treats from the canteen, comfy clothes day and a presentation to students.

If you or anyone you know is struggling please use the following contacts.

Lifeline: 131114

Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636

Kids Helpline: 1800 551 800

As always, students and families are welcome to make a time to chat to me for support (I work Monday – Wednesday) or our Pastoral Care Worker, Lucy Williams (who works Tuesdays and Thursdays). I also have resources and service information available if you would like that, please call me at the school or email: jessie.cope810@schools.sa.edu.au

Course Counselling

Judy Goodes

Over the last few weeks all Year 8-11 students have completed their subject selections for 2022. The next part of the process is to create a timetable for 2022, looking at student choices, current staffing allocations, and staff we may need to employ. For some subjects we will look to access learning from the Open Access College and from our local WREN group at Naracoorte and Lucindale schools. Some examples of subjects to be offered next year include Stage 1 (Year 11) Media, Digital Technology, Food Technology, Child Studies and Legal Studies.

Year 6 and 7 Parent Information Night

Olivia Jaeschke

Penola High School recently held a very successful information night with more families attending than expected. Lesley Okholm opened the night and discussed Penola High school's Culture of High Expectations with Transition Coordinator Olivia Jaeschke, Rikki Helps, Josh Pearce and Jessie Cope introduced as the middle school teaching team for 2021. The team outlined the upcoming transition program, the Year 7 and 8 curriculum outline, the plans for the dedicated middle school space, as well as showcasing a video created by Year 9 Multimedia students Yasmin Sedman and Skylah Petrie. The video demonstrated what Year 8 learning looks like.

We look forward to exciting times ahead as the school grows to include Year 7s in 2022.

Year 11/12 Food & Hospitality

Andi Zerk

The Year 11/12 Food & Hospitality class, under the guidance of Food & Hospitality teacher Andi Zerk, and community member Beck Hunt, recently investigated layered cakes as part of their Specialty Cakes task. From the initial design, through to decorating, students learnt everything they needed to know to create their individual layered cakes. Students then assembled the cakes by applying frosting or filling in between each layer and then enjoyed the art of decorating using buttercream, cream cheese frosting and white chocolate. Techniques used to decorate the cakes included piping, brushstrokes and spider webbing. The school thanks Beck Hunt for donating her time and expertise to the school.



nurturing individual success

really
Are they OK?

Ask them today

Have a conversation using these 4 steps



1. Ask R U OK?

How are you travelling?

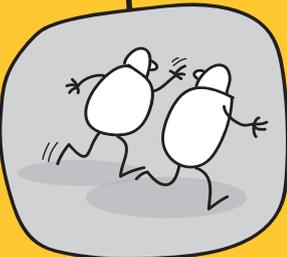
You don't seem yourself lately – want to talk about it?



2. Listen with an open mind

I'm here to listen if you want to talk more.

Have you been feeling this way for a while?



3. Encourage action

Have you spoken to your doctor about this?

What do you think is a first step that would help you through this?



4. Check in

Just wanted to check in and see how you're doing?

Have things improved for you since we last spoke?

Learn how to ask
at ruok.org.au

R U OK?TM

A conversation could change a life.

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