

Staff News

February 18th

Week 0 21st-25th January

All staff were back on deck and fully engaged in our 2-day Introductory Program on Thursday 24th January, with many busy at school before then. It was great to be working with our five new staff members who appear to be fitting in seamlessly and have much to offer our community. Highlights from the program included reviewing last year's SACE results, focusing on attendance improvement, curriculum planning, investigating Google classroom, revisiting the Essential Skills for Classroom Management, working on the new OnePlan site in order to support individual students, revisiting the Site Improvement Plan, and some interesting numerical insights from Mike Hentschke. Staff built relationships during a shared morning tea and two shared lunches and strengthened bonds with the Penola Primary School teachers who hosted a relaxed social occasion late on Friday afternoon.

Introductory Program 29th-30th January

The new school year began with a formal assembly in the Hall. Jason Plunkett welcomed new and returning students, Ngairé Benfell delivered a motivating message, new staff were introduced and SRC Co-Presidents, Brooke Hutchesson and Jesse Martin, spoke about the SRC in 2019.

All students were then engaged in a two-day program designed to help them set their year up in the best possible way to meet with success. Some of the activities are described below.

Senior Retreat

Year 11 and 12 students and those engaged in the FLO program travelled to Beachport along with our new Year 11 Home group teacher, Kate Jones, and staff members Chloe Long, Mike Hentschke, Dave Vannini and Winsley Wighton. Following House meetings and a 'Setting Up for Success' session at PHS, everyone embarked for Beachport. After setting up camp, students participated in a scavenger hunt around the town before relaxing at the camp site or visiting the front beach for a swim. Tea was prepared by barbecue maestro, Mike Hentschke, and was followed by a trip to the Bowls Club. Here, students focused on a time management activity where they identified those things or people which are most important to them. A reflection activity where students responded to items showing their PHS journey to date and a letter from a teacher was undertaken, with some students working by torch light as the dusk descended. A quick game of 'Mafia' followed before bed.

Day 2 began with another of 'Mike's Marvellous Meals' and then it was on to an hour of yoga. The students' behavior throughout the camp was of a consistently high standard, but their involvement in the yoga program was exemplary. This activity left everyone thoroughly stretched and wonderfully relaxed. Following morning tea, students participated in three separate challenges organised by staff before purchasing lunch and heading home.

Junior Program

As with the Senior Retreat, the Orientation Program for students in Years 8, 9 and 10 clearly demonstrated a focused team effort by staff and students. Our school places great importance on building relationships and team work to enable students to feel valued in all aspects of their schooling.

The first day back at school involved students working in their Home Groups, addressing administration processes, as well as participating in some 'getting to know you' activities and working on goal setting. Students developed class expectations to assist in developing safe and productive study environments. Wednesday's programs focused on collaboration between students in different year levels. In pairs, the boys walked to Greenrise, discussing their holidays and sharing conversations about their strengths and areas for development, reaching their potential, and more specific topics related to success such as resilience, discipline, confidence, motivation and persistence. Kicking the footy and brainteasers led into lunch in the park. Further work on values completed the day.

Our girls joined together in a variety of enjoyable and purposeful activities. They engaged in three sessions of the Shine program where gender issues and expectations were the focus. They were involved in a practical session of yoga, enabling them to focus and contemplate on their thoughts and actions. They found the preparation of food for their 'High Tea', held in Café 43, to be particularly enjoyable. This was a great way for them to work collaboratively and bond as a group. The afternoon activity involved small groups of girls in designing and creating garments fashioned from newspaper. Each group was challenged by being given a different focus for their garments. A fashion parade saw the culmination of much hard work, lots of decision making and, of course, much successful communication. The afternoon was lots of fun.

Aliza Pfitzner Visit 1st February

Former student and school leader, Aliza Pfitzner, visited the Stage 1 and 2 students to share the story of her SACE journey and share tips for success. Aliza has successfully completed the first year of her Arts degree at Melbourne University and is relishing college life.

Swimming Carnival 1st February

Ideal pool weather saw students, teachers, family and friends gather for the annual Swimming Carnival. There was some intense competition throughout the day with much encouragement from the sidelines. Particular mention should be made of those students who, while not expert swimmers, were prepared to get in the pool and give events their best shot to score points for their House.

After several year's absence from the winner's podium, Moyanga triumphed on the day with House Captains, Jesse Martin and Jess Lucas, claiming the shield. Moyanga was followed by Torilla (second) and Yalluminga (third).

Individual division winners were Olivia Berkin, Lochy Neale, Amelia Henry and Breanna Lythgo (tied), Jake Klemm, Ella Hutchesson, Joel Virtanen, Brooke Hutchesson and Ryan Zerk. Runners up were Jessica Gerritson, Rhys Fiebiger (on a count back), Skye Petersen, Aaron Zerk, Indi Venables, Tom Skeer, Kasey Morton and Jack Kain.

School Photos 6th February

School photos were taken on 6th February, with the whole school gathering on the front lawn for a group photo followed by individual and family photos.

PHS Barbecue and Year Level Meetings 6th February

The quadrangle was alive with the chatter of parents and teachers, punctuated by 'thunks' from balls on the basketball court, as members of the school community gathered to celebrate the start of the new school year and to welcome our new families. Mike Hentschke and Dave Vannini performed minor miracles on the barbecue, much to the delight of the assembled multitude. Tea, and a welcome from Ngaire, were followed by Year level meetings for those with students in Years 8 to 10 and a SACE presentation for older students and their parents delivered by Jason Plunkett. Year 12 parents then had an opportunity to meet with Mike Hentschke to discuss the particular needs of those undertaking this last year of secondary education.

Open Cricket 7th February

Open boys cricket started off in our usual fashion with Grant High School winning the toss and sending Penola into field. It didn't take long for Penola to get the first wicket, with James Foggo bowling and the safe hands of Jesse Martin. The boys kept the chat up in the field, keeping the spectators entertained. The next three wickets went to Ryan Zerk. Sam Gartner and Ty Dinnison came in to clean up the bottom order, taking 2 wickets, giving Grant High a total of 102.

Bowling statistics were: James Foggo 2/13, Joel Virtanen 1/29, Ryan Zerk 3/23, Ty Dinnison 2/13, Jacob Robbie 1/9 and Sam Gartner 2/0.

Jacob Robbie and Sam Klemm opened the batting, starting off strongly and hitting multiple boundaries. Sam Klemm was caught on 45 with Jacob Robbie making a total of 34. Other batsmen followed with some success, but the hard work was done.

Batting statistics were: Sam Klemm 45, Jacob Robbie 34, Aaron Zerk 8, James Foggo 6, Ty Dinnison 0, Joel Virtenan 1, Sam Gartner 7, Jesse Martin 12, Jack Kain 9, Ryan Zerk 3 and Tom Skeer out for a duck.

Lions Youth of the Year Rehearsal 8th February

Students from Years 8 and 11 provided an appreciative audience for the Year 12 English students who are participating in the Lions Youth of the Year Quest as they practised their speeches during Learning for Life. With more time ahead to refine their speeches, the students will be providing a real treat for the Quest audience.

Year 8 Camp 11th-13th February

News to come

Edmed Training and Development 13th February

Verity from Edmed attended the Staff Meeting to inform teachers about the Ronald McDonald Learning Program to enable us to better understand the educational and medical issues of a range of serious conditions that impact on a child's ability to attend school and learn.

IUPAC Centenary Celebrations 12th and 14th February

The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry was established 100 years ago. The work of this body has an impact on the chemistry our students learn. Through the Royal Australian Chemical Institute, the centenary was celebrated in Adelaide with speakers and a breakfast. Not to be outdone, our Year 10 students marked the occasion with the chemistry of snowballs and candles while the combined Year 11/12 Chemistry class held a celebratory breakfast at Vintage.

Maths Hub Meeting 14th February

The first hub meeting for teachers of senior Maths was held in Naracoorte, with teachers representing Penola High School, Kingston Community School, Naracoorte High School, Kangaroo Inn Area School and Lucindale Area School attending.

Interschool Swimming 16th February

A great day. Watch this space for details.

External School Review 19th and 20th February

Staff, students and parent representatives are all looking forward to our External Review, with considerable effort invested in preparing for this event.

News from the Library

Meetings of the Reading group which meets on the first Friday of each month have been well attended. Did you know? The one card Libraries SA app allows you to use your phone as a library card; search, place holds, and choose your pick up location; manage your holds and scan the barcode of a book, DVD, or audio book to see if it's available at any library state-wide.

Coming up soon, Kids Time, Friday 22nd February and the first Community Library Advisory Group (CLAG) meeting for the year, Wednesday 27th February.

Looking a long way forward, the library will also be involved in the Arts Festival in May with a twilight activity with artist Tracey Murphy (17th May), Simultaneous Story Time on 22nd May with 'Alpacas with Maracas' as the shared book and Book Week activities around the theme 'Reading is My Secret Power' (17th-23rd August).