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Important Dates

Wednesday 27 January 2021

- First Day of Term 1

Friday 29 January 2021

- PHS Swimming Carnival

Tuesday 2 February 2021

- School Photos

Thursday 4 January 2021

- Open Girls Cricket

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Government
of South Australia

Department for Education

Principal's Report

Ngaire Benfell



Dear Families

Sadly, this is my final Principal's Report in the Penola High School newsletter.

As I reflect on each year, I am always astounded at how much is achieved at this school in the space of a year. It has been my absolute privilege and a pleasure to have been the principal here for four years. I feel excited for the future as Lesley Okholm steps into the Acting Principal role for 2021 and Judy Goodes becomes the Deputy Principal. This Leadership Team will be complemented by Olivia Jaeschke continuing as Wellbeing Coordinator for Term 1 and Chloe Long becoming the Middle School Coordinator.

Week one in 2021 begins on Wednesday 27 January 2020. Senior school students will again begin next year with a Senior School Retreat where they will learn how to create and sustain a successful year of study and achievement growth. Middle school students will spend the first three days of the year in an alternative program where they will develop their growth mindsets and form productive and respectful relationships for learning. The value of spending time to set the scene for success and the expectations for behaviour, relationships and learning is huge. Investment of time in a program such as this, pays off for the rest of the year.

Client Opinion Surveys

The recent client opinion surveys we conducted with staff, students and parents has been very informative and will help the school to focus on areas for improvement in 2021. Parents made positive responses to questions regarding respect with 78% of parents agreeing that they feel their child is important in the school. Responses to questions regarding communication indicated high satisfaction. 80% of parents' surveyed felt satisfied with the amount of communication they receive and 76% felt the communication was effective. The preferred methods of communication were by email (83%) and text (83%) followed by phone call (76%). While 72% of the parents were clear about learning expectations, 39% were unsure that they receive useful information about their child's learning in discussions with teachers. This is an opportunity to develop greater engagement in teacher/student/parent discussions about learning. 100% of parents think education is important for their child's future. 90% of students agreed or strongly agreed that teachers expect them to do their best. 64% of students agreed or strongly agreed that teachers motivate them to learn, an increase by 7% from 2019 and 61% felt that this school gives them opportunities to do interesting things. Staff agreed that teachers expect students to do their best (83%), but only 49% of students agree that they have a say in their learning, providing an important opportunity to develop greater student voice and agency. There was a significant decrease in positive opinion by students that teachers provide them with useful feedback from 74% agreement in 2019 to 56% agreement in the 2020 survey. Here is the biggest opportunity for change. A more detailed summary will be available in the Annual Report on the Penola High School website next March.

2021 Staffing

We are farewelling a small number of staff this year. Apart from myself, we thank and farewell Bob Reece who joined us this year, teaching a Maths class – not leaving us but not teaching with us next year. Thank you Jane Pryor for your dedication to the Middle School Coordinator position; Jane will join the leadership team at Naracoorte High School. Thank you Kate Jones for your enthusiasm and passion for teaching; Kate will join the leadership team at Mount Gambier High School. Thank you Barbara Gillis for coming to Penola from Port Augusta to finish the year teaching Art and HASS; Barbara will be back in Adelaide next year. Finally, a huge thank you to Jan Marcus and Ali Bond for their long and dedicated service to the school. Both Jan and Ali are on Long Service Leave with the view to retiring next year.

As we farewell some, we welcome others. Ms Judy Goodes joins us as Deputy Principal, Mia Tran joins us as Art Teacher for Term 1 until Aimee Moretti returns. Mr Nikki Cook joins us as our new English teacher and Tara Millard will join us as our PE teacher while Chloe Long is in the Middle School Coordinator role in Term 1, and then goes on maternity leave. A warm Penola High School welcome to Judy, Mia, Tara and Nikki and welcome back to Kathleen Phillips next year and Jessie Cope and Aimee Moretti from Term 2.

Presentation Night

At the time of writing this final newsletter report, I am looking forward to seeing you all at the Presentation Night on 9 December 2020 to celebrate all the achievements of 2020. I'd also like to give a huge thank you to all the members of Governing Council who have been a wonderful group to work with in 2020.

I wish you all an enjoyable Christmas break, safe holidays and all the very best for 2021.

Kind regards

N. Millard



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Penola High School Festival

Charlotte Neale

Last Friday the PHS Festival was held for the first time in place of the annual school formal due to covid restrictions. The event originally was to be held out on the oval for the whole day, however due to the COVID-19 lockdown the event was moved into the hall. Students held their own craft stalls, as well as the canteen being open to sell sweet treats including fairy floss. The hall was set up with flashing lights and music where students could dance and have fun browsing the different stalls. Novelty games were played throughout the time including musical chairs, tug of war and three-legged race, with prizes to be won. A raffle was also held to raise funds for the SRC account which will help pay for later events and equipment for the school. Thank you to the organisers of the event and to everyone that helped on the day.



Activities Week

Sarah Walker

During this final week of term, Years 8 and 9 students participated in Activities Week. The beginning of the week saw students practising their serves and volleys in readiness for the Robin Ey Tennis Tournament to be held at the end of the week. Other activities included bike riding, spike ball, yoga, indoor lawn bowls and cooking. Students also went on excursions to Mount Gambier where they had the opportunity to view a movie, play disc golf and go ten pin bowling. At the time of writing this article, the students will finish off the week with the annual Robin Ey Tennis Tournament.



Transition News

Jane Pryor

Our Transition program for Term 4 has concluded on a very good note. In Week 6, the Year 6 and 7 students from Nangwarry and Kalangadoo Primary Schools spent a day at Penola High School experiencing various subjects that will be offered next year. This was a most enjoyable day with students eagerly asking questions and getting to know teachers. The following week all students from the feeder schools transitioning to Penola High School in 2021 visited over two days to engage in a variety of learning experiences. This was an excellent opportunity for the students to familiarise themselves with our site, and start building relationships with their teachers and new class.

The atmosphere was lively and very positive. Students were asked to provide feedback about their experiences and the results were exceptionally pleasing. Primary school staff reported that students were very excitedly relaying their experiences on their return to their respective sites. It is with this knowledge that we look forward to welcoming our new Year 8 class to Penola High School in readiness for an excellent year ahead.

PENOLA SCHOOL COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Tuesday
10.30am-4.30pm

Wednesday
9.00am-6.00pm

Thursday
9.00am-4.30pm

Friday
9.00am-3.30pm

School Holidays closed for lunch:
Tue-Thu 1.00-1.30pm
Fri 12.00-12.30pm

PENOLA HIGH SCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL

FRIDAY 29 JANUARY 2021

12.45-3.15pm

No.	Event	Distance
1	Open Girls Butterfly	30m
2	Open Boys Butterfly	30m
3	Senior Girls Piggyback Relay	4x15m
4	Senior Boys Piggyback Relay	4x15m
5	U14 Girls Freestyle	30m
6	U14 Boys Freestyle	30m
7	U15 Girls Freestyle	30m
8	U15 Boys Freestyle	30m
9	Open Girls Freestyle	30m
10	Open Boys Freestyle	30m
11	Junior Girls Piggyback Relay	4x15m
12	Junior Boys Piggyback Relay	4x15m
13	U14 Girls Breaststroke	30m
14	U14 Boys Breaststroke	30m
15	U15 Girls Breaststroke	30m
16	U15 Boys Breaststroke	30m
17	Open Girls Breaststroke	30m
18	Open Boys Breaststroke	30m
19	Senior Girls Treasure Hunt	
20	Senior Boys Treasure Hunt	
21	Junior Girls Treasure Hunt	
22	Junior Boys Treasure Hunt	
23	Open Girls Medley	4x30m
24	Open Boys Medley	4x30m
25	U15 Girls Backstroke	30m
26	U15 Boys Backstroke	30m
27	Open Girls Backstroke	30m
28	Open Boys Backstroke	30m
29	U14 Girls Backstroke	30m
30	U14 Boys Backstroke	30m
31	Senior Girls Cross Dressing Relay	4x30m
32	Senior Boys Cross Dressing Relay	4x30m
33	Junior Girls Cross Dressing Relay	4x30m
34	Junior Boys Cross Dressing Relay	4x30m
35	Junior Girls Freestyle Relay	4x30m
36	Junior Boys Freestyle Relay	4x30m
37	Open Girls Freestyle Relay	4x30m
38	Open Boys Freestyle Relay	4x30m

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2021 Timetable Changes

Lesley Okholm

Earlier this year the Curriculum Committee surveyed parents, students and staff to ascertain how well the current timetable consisting of 7 subject lines each with 2 x long (105 minute) lessons per week was going.

Based on feedback trends, it was evident that for many, these blocks were too long, and by having only 2 lessons per week, students would at times have enormous loss of learning if they were absent for illness or sports.

It was important that we maintained things that were working in any tweaks to the timetable, especially around loss of learning time in lesson changeovers and the need for practical classes to have some longer blocks.

The timetable below is the result of this work which we will start next year. (2021)

- PIP refers to Partnership Innovation Projects, which is a new iteration of Genius Hour. Our staff spent last Wednesday's pupil free day working on this.
- Learning 4 life will be structured and will include sequential study/research skill development, ongoing preparation of e-portfolios and Round table presentations of learning, work education and the Shine program.
- Each Monday in odd weeks, a school assembly will be held to celebrate achievement and continue to build our sense of being one proud school community.
- These lessons are enormously important and complement other learning areas so please support us from home by ensuring all students attend.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Learning Block 1 8:45-10:05	1 HG, Assembly, Study Skills & Learning 4 Life	6	5	3	2
10:05-10:15		Home Group			
10:15-10:30	Recess 1				
Learning Block 2 10:35-11:45	2	1	Partnership Innovation Projects	4	7
	3				
11:45-12:20	Lunch				
Learning Block 3 12:20-1:40	4	3	7	6	Learning 4 Life
	5				
1:40-1:55	Recess 2				
Learning Block 4 1:55-3:15	6	4	2	1	5



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Presentation Night

The 59th annual Presentation Night of our school was held in the school hall on Wednesday 9 December 2020. Prior to the ceremony, guests, family members, students and staff gathered in the foyer to the schoolwork that was on display. A number of awards were presented on the night and we congratulate the following major award recipients:

Lions Leadership Award

Ebonie Moulton

Wattle Range Mayoral Award

Ryan Zerk

Peter Muller Citizenship Award

Jacob Robbie

RSL Award

Alex Attenborough

ADF Long Tan Youth Leadership & Teamwork Award

Kasey Venables and Ryan Zerk

ADF Future Innovators Award

Bianca Fiebiger

Caltex Best All Rounder Award

Georgia Winter

Tom Foran Memorial Sport Award

Joel Virtanen

Reuben Goldsworthy Award

Phoebe Tregenza

Excellence in Technology Studies Award

Aaron Edwards

Kwong Lee Dow Scholar

Georgia Winter

Aspiring Science Student Award

Ella Hutchesson

Barker Shield Awards

Academic Achievement - Ella Hutchesson

Community Service and Spirit - Ebonie Moulton

Vocational Education - Stephen Ryan

MacKillop Award

Georgia Winter

Youth Opportunities Karen Farmer Scholarship

Lachie Summers

UniSA Academic Awards

Growth and Achieving Goals - Amy Whitehouse

Strong Commitment to Success - Ryan Zerk

Order of Australia Student Citizenship Award

Ebonie Moulton

STEM Award:

Stella Glynn

Dux Awards:

Year 8 Dux – Roshelle Crawford and Ebony Wurst

Year 9 Dux – Olivia Berkin

Year 10 Dux – Georgia Winter

Year 11 Dux – Ella Hutchesson

Year 12 Academic Excellence – Ebonie Moulton

Merit Certificates:

Kiana Cabarrubias

Ben Hutchesson

Seth Lear

Caleb Lythgo

Charlotte Neale

Ruby-Lee Robinson

Tom Skeer

Sammy Somer

Indi Venables





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