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Important Dates

Tuesday 27 April 2021

- First Day of Term 2

Mon 10 May - Thu 13 May 2021

- Year 10 Immersion at Lucindale

Wednesday 12 May 2021

- Harmony Day

Friday 14 May 2021

- School Closure Day

Monday 17 May 2021

- Student Free Day

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**Government
of South Australia**

Department for Education

Principal's Report

Lesley Okholm



It has been a long and invigorating term for Penola High School. Term 1 is known to be overfull, with a range of activities on offer which impact on one, some, or all of our students and it has been rewarding to see the results of the hard work put in across the board.

Year 11/12 Retreat was a big success. This annual event, held at Beachport, set these students up for success as leaders and for their crucial final years of secondary learning. Knowing each other better provides them with an array of supports of peers and teachers who can be there if the going gets tough.

Swimming Carnival is a remarkable event, held so early in the year to fit with district carnival selections. This event is a testimony to our student team captains, who have their first chance to step up at this event. Whilst numbers were low, those who attended put in 100% for their teams and the school.

Our **Student Forum** day was a significant milestone for our student body. We need to value what our students think and see as important in life and learning. This day helped us view the school through their eyes. We do not always agree with, or like, what we hear as educators, but certainly we cannot ignore them. Student voice leads to student engagement and ultimately student achievement.

Our own **Athletics Carnival** was our dry run ahead of **Interschool Athletics**, which was held here for the first time in 8 years. A glorious day showcased our school, our students and staff in the best way possible, in the spirit of good sportsmanship. And this then leads to our participation this week in Adelaide where our talented students pitted themselves against like schools and aimed for personal bests.

The **Industry Forum** held the same evening as **Acquaintance Night** was a view for local businesses and some students and their families, into the range of future pathways they have at their doorstep. This event will be followed by Industry Immersion Days for our Year 10 students across Kingston, Kangaroo Inn, Allendale, Lucindale, Millicent and Penola, beginning in Week 3, Term 2 at Lucindale, with a focus on Agriculture.

Lions Youth of the Year created a hive of activity amongst our Year 11 students as they prepared for this public speaking event. A culmination of many years of learning and practise, our students exceeded their own expectations, leading to Georgia Winter and Amelia Henry representing us in Goolwa a week or so ago. Their ability to draw emotion for listeners, and respond to unseen prompts is a credit to them.

Our Year 8s have had the **Swamp Project** guiding their learning, enabling them to get hands-on in our environment. On top of this they planned and went on their **annual camp**, this year to Tailem Bend where apparently the Go Carts were extremely popular. Camp experiences are exciting for students and aim to bolster a sense of belonging. This group has been hugely successful in becoming self-supporting this year. Despite some late night antics, these students did us proud!

Student Reports

At the end of this week you will receive Term 1 Student Reports.

At Governing Council some parents have asked great questions about the reports and how to interpret them. It is, for example, possible to get a low grade and a very positive comment and attitudes, because, for that student, they are doing the best they can at that time.

As a parent myself, this is how I used to read reports.

1. The grade was my least informative source of information so I left that until last.
2. I read through all comments for all subjects with my son, and asked him to tell me

his understanding of the comments. These comments can be an eye opener to you as a parent.

3. I looked at the attitudes section, again with him, and discussed why there might be difference in behaviour, task completion etc in different subjects. Sometimes we get a hint of 'where to next' in learning from these attitudes, for example, if his Numeracy is DEVELOPING in Science, then he obviously will be unable to get a high grade.
4. Finally, we looked at the grade he received and in light of those comments and discussions, talked about what some simple steps that he could take to improve.

In doing this, I found my son was forced to reflect on the whole subject, and every subject rather than look at the grade and discard it. This is hugely important! I then knew if we needed to meet with any teachers for clarification or support. Our report comments try to give a goal for where to next for each student and these are what makes a difference to their learning outcomes. Two big words of advice:

1. When you do not understand, contact the teacher and ask.
2. Be positive and use words to reward them. Do not create rewards for your young people around grades as this can cause extreme pressure and sometimes backfires if they find they cannot get there.

Community Support

I have thoroughly enjoyed this first term as Principal of our proud school. I am enjoying being a resident here and am rewarded daily by the friendship and caring of the community.

In a small community we often 'hear' about people or things second or third hand and with every good intent, form an opinion from what we hear and at times, share it further.

Like any school, we have our great days, and we have occasions when not so nice incidents occur.

Social media and mobile phones mean that many times we hear about something which has no relevance to us, but because it mentions Penola High School we are invested in the story.

As we work so hard to rebuild community confidence in our school, and begin to increase enrolments with this, I am hopeful you can support the school by shutting down conversations which do not involve you, where at all possible.

Sometimes you might consider responding with "That's interesting, have you checked this is accurate?" or "The High School is working really hard at the moment to improve. Perhaps we shouldn't talk about things we know nothing about."

As you would well understand, privacy is the right of every student and family, so your help with this is much needed to reframe talk from the negative, to the positive about Penola and Penola High School. Please trust us.

We are a proud school, determined to provide for every student. With your help we can do it!

Kind regards



Student Illness

Parents and students are reminded that if a student is feeling unwell or is injured at school, they are to report immediately to the front office for assistance. Students are reminded NOT to contact their parent from their mobile phone – students are to report to the front office to wait in the Sick Room while staff contact their parent/guardian to arrange transportation home and then the office staff can record the absence as an early departure if the student goes home.

Buses

Parents of bus students are reminded that if you have a concern regarding behaviour/issues on the bus, it must be directed, in the first instance, to the Principal of that young person's school, and then if need be, to Penola High School, as they manage the bus routes. Parents should NOT contact bus drivers regarding any bus issues.

Materials and Services Charge & School Card

Vicki McDonald-Burgess

Material and Services Charge

Parents have the option of paying the 2021 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, eg, 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.

School Card

All families are encouraged to review their financial situations as the School Card limits for 2021 have increased. If you were ineligible in 2020 you may be eligible in 2021. If eligible in 2020 a reminder that you must re-apply for 2021. Applications can be completed online at <https://www.sa.gov.au/education/schoolcard> or by contacting the school for a paper application form. For further information again please contact Vicki McDonald-Burgess on 87370000.

Year 8 Camp
Taylah Burr and Ethyn Yates

During Week 9 this term, Year 8 students, along with two Year 9 SRC reps, Shelly Crawford and Taylah Burr, and two Year 10 peer leaders Lochy Neale and Ethyn Yates went on the Year 8 camp to Tailem Bend... it was epic!

We left school just after 9:00am on the Monday morning, with music blaring from our bluetooth speaker all the way to Tailem Bend. We made a short stop at Keith where we enjoyed lunch and had a quick play on the playground (still kids at heart),...we then continued on to Tailem Bend. We settled into the Bend Holiday Park and then headed off to Monarto Zoo for a tour. We saw hyenas, lions, giraffes, meerkats, rhinos as well as many other wildlife. (the teachers were deciding which kid to throw out to the lions., we are sure). For dinner we went to the OTR and spent money that we brought on food and drinks. When we got back Taylah and Shelly held a quiz night which we all enjoyed.

The following day we had breakfast and went to The Bend Motorsport Park for a tour of the facilities and some of the race cars. After the tour we had the opportunity to try Go Kart racing!! Some of us did some great lap times, some of us, not so much. For lunch we went back to the holiday park and ate wraps supplied by The Bend Motorsport Park. Once we finished our lunch we went to Murray Bridge to see the bunyip and play on the playground. Just before free time we had a quick scrub tour. For free time we jumped on the jumping pillow and swam in the pool. For dinner we went to the Bend Motorsport Park.

On the third day we got up early, packed our things, cleaned our dorms, coz they were soooo messy, then at 10:30, we all got on the bus, said goodbye to the campsite and left.

On the way home, we stopped at Keith to have lunch and play on the playground for a while. We then got back on the bus and went the rest of the way back to school!!

"The best thing was the go karts!" Tyler, Willow and Charlee-Jean.



THANK YOU

It is with much gratitude that we have received and accepted a \$200 donation from IGA Penola's Treasure Chest. This money will help us to beautify our front entrance, making it far more welcoming and inviting.

What a great community we have!

Lions Youth of the Year

After their success in the Club Finals of the Lions Youth of the Year, Georgia Winter and Amelia Henry took their speeches to the next level when they participated in the District C2 Lions Youth of the Year Final. The girls were interviewed, answered two impromptu questions and delivered their prepared speeches. Despite being nervous, Georgia and Amelia completed each of these stages confidently, speaking with sophistication and fluency. Penola High School was wonderfully represented by both Georgia and Amelia, both for their well-written speeches and outstanding stage presence. We would like to congratulate, and thank, Georgia and Amelia for their representation of Penola High School.



2021 School Sport SA Athletics

Tara Millard

On Tuesday 6 April 2021 the Penola High School athletics team travelled to Adelaide in preparation for the School Sport SA Track and Field Championships. The following morning, in perfect sunny conditions, we arrived at SANTOS Stadium at 9:00am with the squad ready for an intense day of competition. This year we had strong competition for spots within our athletics squad, with all students focused on their goals for the day. Miss Millard started the day with a quiet, but inspiring speech to the students – and the day was ready to begin. There were many exceptional performances on the track and in the field events, with a substantial number of students finishing in the top three for their event(s). There were many individual highlights from the day, however, a team highlight was all events being filled, with many students competing in events above their age level. Students really worked hard all day. Some individual highlights from the girls’ team included Shandeem Balshaw finishing 1st in the Open Girls Triple Jump and 3rd in the Hurdles and Shelly Crawford finishing 1st in the Under 15 Girls 1500m, 2nd in the Hurdles and gaining a credible 3rd in the 800m. Reese Balshaw ran strongly to finish 2nd in the Under 16 Girls 800m, with Chloe Cutchie throwing strongly in the Under 16 Girls Discus to place 2nd. The boy’s team also had an incredibly successful day, with most of the boys placing within their events. Dylan Morton ran a very impressive race in the Open Boys 800m, knocking nearly 30secs off his Interschool Athletics Carnival time to finish 1st. Aaron Zerk also ran strongly in the Open Boys 400m going under 1 minute to claim 1st in the Open Boys 400m. Bailey Lindner placed 1st in both Shot Put and 100m, capping off a nice day, with Lachie Summers gaining a 1st in the Open Boys 800m. Tom Skeer ran strongly in his last Adelaide Athletics competition gaining a 2nd in the Open Boys 2000m and a 3rd in 3000m. Archer Virtanen also continued his dominant performance in sports gaining a 1st in both Under 14 Boys Shot Put and Discus and a 3rd place in the 100m. After the individual events were over, it was time for the relays. All teams ran strongly over some very tough competition, with the Open Boys Relay running strongly to finish 3rd.

The Penola High School students must be commended on their true sportsmanship and determination on what was a very warm day. The team was ably assisted by Sarah Walker, Justin McDonald and Andi Zerk who were instrumental in the smooth running of the day. Students who filled in for higher age groups should pride themselves on their courage to fill in for these events, with some students even experiencing great success in these higher age groups. Every single student should be extremely proud of their efforts for the day. Well Done!

