

Contents

Principal's Report
Student Illness
Buses
Bio Blitz
Outdoor Education Aquatics Camp
Interschool Athletics Carnival
Road Awareness Program
Year 9 Agriculture
Year 8 Camp
Materials & Services, School Card
Community Notice

Important Dates

Thursday 1 April 2021

- Swamp Project

Friday 2 April 2021

- Easter Good Friday

Monday 5 April 2021

- Easter Monday

Wednesday 7 April 2021

- Adelaide Athletics

Friday 9 April 2021

- Last Day of Term 1

Tuesday 27 April 2021

- First Day of Term 2

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**Government
of South Australia**

Department for Education

Principal's Report

Lesley Okholm



Dear Parents and Caregivers

Last Friday I attended a Leaders' Conference in Adelaide, my first flight for 16 months, and was able to hear our Chief Executive Rick Persse speak about the work of schools from now until 2028.

Rick made it very clear that we WILL be a world class education system by 2028! He reminded us that we will do this by 'doing the right things over the long run.' He talked about our teachers needing to be dynamic and adaptable and to keep the goal posts in sight.

On reflection, I wondered if our community know what our goalposts are at Penola High School?

We are aiming for:

1. 100% SACE completion for Year 12 students
2. Teaching and Learning comes first at all times
3. ALL teachers will use the right tools over the long haul (High Impact Strategies) ALL of the time.
4. All students will maintain or achieve growth in their grades
5. We will know our students as LEARNERS.

100% SACE completion for Year 12 students

This means every Year 12 will be monitored and supported to achieve their SACE. This means great communication between our young people, home and school. This means that teachers will keep you in the loop to ensure timelines are met and students are on track.

If we do this, our students have their best chance of following the pathways they are passionate about.

Teaching and Learning comes first at all times

This means that now our busy sport term is over, we have a dedicated focus on learning, with minimal distractions. This means we need your support to ensure students attend school, and complete home tasks. This means our teachers will be communicating with you in numerous ways, by text, by phone, by reports – to ensure you know where your young person is in their learning. This means time away from classes MUST be caught up by all students. If we do this, our students have their best chance of keeping their options open when choosing their learning in future years.

ALL teachers will use the right tools over the long haul (High Impact Strategies) ALL of the time.

This means that when we teach, we use tried and tested methods. This means when we come upon learning difficulties, we use strategies that are proven to work. These are high impact strategies. Differentiating, ensuring learning fits the student not the student fitting the learning, is one of these. Giving feedback to young people that guides them in their future learning is another. Ensuring students know why they are learning what they are learning and what it will look like if they get it right....is another. If we do these, we have our best chance of making learning meaningful for every

student, and their best chance for high achievement.

All students will maintain or achieve growth in their grades

This means that if your young person is getting a B, we help them understand how they can achieve an A. This means that we do not accept students declining in their achievement without talking with you and planning how we can do things differently. This means students need to know what an A looks like and teachers need to ensure there are ways to get them there if they put in the hard yards. If we do this we will see happier students with options for their futures wide open.

and finally...We will know our students as LEARNERS.

This means we not only know your family, your story and can share a laugh at IGA, but more so, we know what our students strengths and weaknesses are in all subjects and adapt what and how we teach to maximise their success. This means that when we hit a glitch and students say 'it's boring' or 'I don't get it' we work our hardest to 'unglitch' things. If we do this we are maximising learning times.

All sounds easy?

Well it isn't. And to do this as a teaching and learning school we need your support every inch of the way. We need to know that you partner with us, not against us, with the best intent for students as is possible. This means we need you to communicate with us, maybe a little as you did when your young people were at primary school or kindergarten. Right now they still need you and WE still need you. So when reports come home, let's look at them with a lens of 'how can I as a parent work with the school to help my child do even better'.

Mobile Phone Policy

The difference in our Year 9 and 10 classrooms has been enormous since I decided to remove access to mobiles during the school day. Students are more focused, and social problems which often occurred at break times through Snapchat and other social media, are not coming back into classrooms. Our Governing Council is considering where to next. A strong feeling is that mobile phones are a distraction at school and that we may look at a policy limiting them for all year levels. All students and parents will be consulted, however, I will follow the lead of our Governing Council when making a decision long term. Keep an eye open for how you can give your input.

Easter and End of Term

School will dismiss at normal time (3:15pm) on Thursday before Easter. As is usual, at the end of term 2 however, we will dismiss at 2:15pm and buses will run to fit this.

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.



Sat 27 & Sun 28 March

Don't miss this free, weekend event to join experts from Nature Glenelg Trust and the South Australian Museum and explore our natural environment!

**Naracoorte Parklands:
Moore Street, next to Swimming Lake**

Tickets and more info:

www.landscape.sa.gov.au/lc/get-involved/events/BioBlitz



Outdoor Education Aquatics Camp

Tara Millard

In week 6 I had the pleasure of taking 16 Year 11/12 students to the Murraylands Aquatic Centre for our annual Physical Education/Outdoor Education camp. As part of the Year 11 Outdoor Education curriculum students are required to participate in 2 experiences in nature. In preparation for our aquatics camp the Year 11 students worked together to plan a menu for the duration of the camp, as it was their responsibility to cook for everyone. The students had the opportunity to sail both catamaran and 420 sailboats, kayak, knee board, ski and windsurf. Students faced individual challenges throughout the camp, demonstrating and developing their leadership and communication skills and building resilience.

Year 12 students spent their days on camp sailing 420 sailboats as part of one of their Physical Education assignments - investigation skill development. This camp gave these students the opportunity to learn about movement by doing. I was blown away by how quickly Indi, Tom, Shandeen and Dylan all picked up sailing as most had never been sailing before. A highlight for me was watching each group practice capsizing the sailboats. I watched these students demonstrate their leadership, communication and collaboration skills.

The feedback from the instructors at the end of camp was fantastic and they look forward to seeing Penola High School students back at the centre in 2022.



Interschool Athletics Carnival

Tara Millard

Last Wednesday Penola High School staff and students banded together to host the 76th Annual Interschool Athletics Carnival. With 8 schools competing and over 400 student competitors on site, weeks of organising and planning was required, which would not have been possible without Chloe Long. To all those who were involved you should feel proud to have been a part of running such a successful carnival highlighting what Penola High School is capable of.

I was lucky enough to organise the athletics team on the day, and watched over 40 students represent Penola High School, demonstrating respect and true sportsmanship. Although the overall results for the day were not in our favour, I could still celebrate competitors who pushed themselves and put in their best efforts for their events. There were competitors who stepped up and competed in events for higher age groups and in events that were out of their comfort zone. There were many competitors who could celebrate individual success by setting new personal records and beating times/distances from our Interhouse Athletics Carnival. I look forward to taking these students to Adelaide in a few weeks for the South Australia School Sport Athletics to once again represent Penola High School. Penola High School students who experienced individual success included:

Archer Virtanen	2nd Discus
	2nd Shot Put
Lilly Allen	2nd Javelin
Cameron Perry	3rd Long Jump
Shandeen Balshaw	3rd Hurdles
Lachlan Summers	3rd Long Jump
U14 Female Relay	3rd
Open Male Relay	3rd



nurturing individual success

Road Awareness Program

Lesley Okholm

Last week, through the South Australia Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS), we were fortunate to have visitors run our students through a Road Awareness Program.

The Year 10,11 and 12 students heard real life stories from 2 fire fighters and a car crash survivor, as well as about the long term impacts of being a risk taker on the road. The key message presented, was you can choose the risk, but you can't choose the consequences. Students said it was confronting in a good and very emotional way, but can now see how the impact of their actions could affect their life plans.



Year 9 Agriculture

Michael Hentschke

After 21 days of waiting the eggs incubated in the Year 9-10 Agriculture class were due to hatch this week. Eggs were provided by Dylan Raedel and Andi Zerk and with 9 eggs showing signs of development, our hopes were high. Much to the excitement of our Principal the first chicken arrived early Wednesday, but sadly as we near Thursday there are no others. So, this spoilt chick has its own home at 37 degrees in the brooder, its own feeder and waterer and 20 kilos of feed for the next 6 weeks. It sure should live a pleasant, if lonely, life.

Yet to be named, could it be McCauley from "Home Alone", Lee Major from the "6 Million Dollar Man" for all the costs to get and house it or perhaps Rob Dickson, the first winner in "Australian Survivor"? But there is a 50% chance it could be a pullet? What then? Watch this space for future updates on the chick's progress.



Year 8 Camp

At the time of printing this newsletter, the Year 8 students were still on their Year 8 Camp at Tailem Bend. Students had been taking part in go karting at the Tailem Bend Motorsport Park and visiting the Monarto Zoo. A full report will be in the next issue of the Penola High School newsletter.



Materials and Services Charge & School Card

Vicki McDonald-Burgess

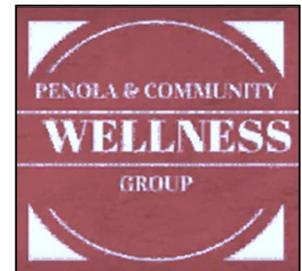
Material and Services Charge

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. The Materials and Services charge is due and payable by all parents as soon as possible.

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. For Families that were eligible for School Card 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.

WOMEN CONNECTING CULTURE



Join us in welcoming the Yazidi Women from our region
Share their story, culture and food celebrating

International Women's Day 21

Supported by Sttars and Penola Wellness Group

WHERE:

RAIDIS ESTATE

WHEN:

7PM FRIDAY 26th MARCH

WHAT:

SUPPER, MUSIC, WINE

ALL WELCOME

Bookings via Penola Wellness Facebook Page

**\$5 COVER CHARGE – Donations
welcome - proceeds towards Tandor
Gazi for the Yazidi Community**

