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## Important Dates

- Thursday 29 October 2020
  - SRC Handover Party
- Friday 30 October 2020
  - Last Day for Year 12
- Friday 6 November 2020
  - Disc Golf
- Monday 9 November 2020
  - 5-A-Side Soccer!
- Mon 9 Nov-Fri 13 Nov 2020
  - PE Week

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Government  
of South Australia

Department for Education

## Principal's Report

*Lesley Okholm*



Dear Parents and Caregivers

It has been wonderful to return to Penola High School after a restful term on leave. I am reminded of what exceptional qualities our students possess. I was greeted warmly and welcomed back enthusiastically. In what has been a challenging term for most, this positive school culture is a credit to all.

### Site Improvement Planning

Work on our improvement agenda continued throughout Term 3. Actions and strategies to achieve our two goals of Literacy (writing and reading) improvement and Numeracy improvement included professional development for our teachers and classroom support SSOs and the implementation of a Guided Reading program for our Year 8 students as part of their English course. In Term 4 we will meet several times as a staff to review and evaluate our progress towards achieving our goals. When we review our work we will ask ourselves "have we met our improvement goals?" "What have we learned?" "What are our next steps?" As part of the evaluation process we may also refine our site improvement plan. We may change our targets (especially if we have met them), refine our success criteria and implement new strategies. All of this information will be available in the Annual Report which all Department for Education schools publish at the beginning of each school year. Annual Reports are published on schools' websites.

### 7 – High School

The Department for Education has been gaining insights into the move of Year 7 students to high school through a pilot program with three schools, Wirreanda Secondary School, John Pirie Secondary School and Mitcham Girls High School. While these schools are quite different to Penola High School, their experiences are very informative in shaping the planning for 2022 at our site. I have included the Term 3 update for parents in this newsletter as I think it may have missed publication in Term 3. The key ideas from the pilot program have been described in the update.

Early this term, I will receive applications from Year 7 teachers who have expressed interest in being employed at Penola High School in 2022. The Principals of our feeder primary schools (Penola Primary, Kalangadoo Primary and Nangwarry Primary) and I will meet again this term and discuss meetings with families of Year 5 and 6 students in order to keep communication lines open by sharing and discussing Year 7 and 8 students who will move to high school in 2022.

### Students

The final stages of Year 12 for 2020 are rapidly approaching. Last day for Year 12's is Friday 30 October 2020. This will be followed by exams and then their Graduation Dinner on 13 November 2020. It is with great pride that we farewell these students who have had many challenges in completing their secondary school studies in a pandemic year.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the work and commitment of Lesley Okholm, Chloe Long, the Penola High School leadership team and all staff during my leave in Term 3. Penola High School is a wonderful school with excellent staff, students and families; I know this because I have worked in many schools in 4 states in Australia!

Stay safe.

Kind regards

## Year 10 First Aid

Chloe Long

As part of their Personal Learning Plan, students in Year 10 undertook First Aid Training at school last week. Students learnt skills and knowledge required to provide a First Aid response to an incident, life support and management of casualties in a range of situations, including in the home, workplace or within the community, until the arrival of medical or other assistance.

Students were also required to do a practical demonstration of CPR on both adult and infant mannequins.



## Transition News

Jane Pryor

We have a busy Term 4 ahead with our transition plans. We are hoping to have a site learning visit early in Week 6 with Year 6 and 7 students from Kalangadoo and Nangwarry Primary Schools, and Mary Mackillop Memorial School. The day is yet to be confirmed.

Our Parent Information Night will be held in Week 7 on Monday 23 November 2020 at 7.00pm. This will be an opportunity to ask any questions relating to the transition process commencing in 2021. Staff will be available to answer questions.

The final site learning visit for students will also occur in Week 7, on Wednesday and Thursday, 25 and 26 November 2020. All transitioning students will engage in a two-day program where they will be able to meet teachers again and enjoy new experiences. It is particularly important that students attend these days to enable them to begin building relationships with the students from other feeder schools and their teachers. Interviews with students last term were very encouraging. Without exception all students indicated their excitement about starting high school with just a few expressing being a little nervous. We are very much looking forward to the students being part of our school in 2021.

### PLEASE NOTE

Parents of bus students are reminded if they have a bus issue 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 who manage the buses. Parents should NOT be contacting bus drivers directly.

## 2021 Leaders

Olivia Jaeschke

The school community would like to congratulate our newly elected SRC President and House leaders for 2021. SRC Year Level representatives will be elected early in Term 1, 2021.

SRC Co-Presidents: Ella Hutchesson and Charlotte Neale

### House Leaders

*Moyanga*

Captains:

Indi Venables & Lachie Summers

Vice Captains:

Kasey Venables & Bailey Lindner

*Torilla*

Captains:

Stella Glynn and Aaron Zerk

Vice Captains:

Shandeen Balshaw and Max Gartner

*Yalluminga*

Captains:

Georgia Winter and Tom Skeer

Vice Captains:

Breanna Lythgo and Ty Dinnison

## Year 8 STEM

Lesley Okholm

During a recent STEM lesson, Year 8 students were required to construct a boat using a piece of aluminium foil. Boats were then placed in water and weights were added to see how much they could hold. Students worked together in teams to come up with a design, and used problem solving skills to make improvements. Students also managed to stay dry during the process!



# YEAR 7 TO HIGH SCHOOL



## Parent Update Week 10, Term 3 - 2020

### What students can expect as a year 7 in high school

We've been engaging with hundreds of our pilot school families through workshops and feedback forms about how their child has found year 7 in high school this year.

Parents and students involved in the pilot at Wirreanda Secondary School, Mitcham Girls High School and John Pirie Secondary School have largely been highly supportive of the move.

### Gains in maturity

Many pilot group parents reported positive changes in their children's attitude to school work and their organisational skills. They said their children appreciated the opportunity to learn a more diverse curriculum from specialist teachers in specialist classrooms.

### Diversity of subject choices

The diversity of high school subjects and greater depth of subject knowledge earned praise from parents involved in the pilot. Comments included students enjoying sport, science, cooking and interactive experiences.

### Making new friends

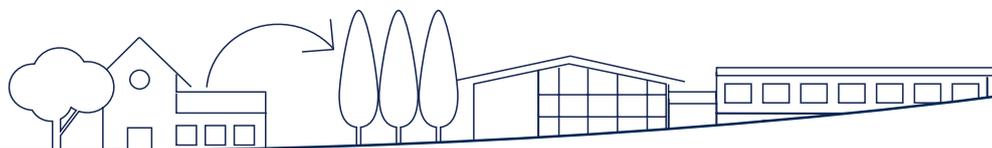
This was the top concern of students entering Year 7 and also a concern for many parents in the lead-up to the school year. When we surveyed families and students in May, 97% of students said they had made new friends, and this had in fact been a highlight of the high school experience. Many of them found the high school transition days and getting to know you activities, such as camps, beneficial.

We'll be sharing more experiences from our families with you in term 4, as we continue to learn more from our pilot schools.

### Where to find out more

Stay informed through your school and the Department for Education's website: [www.education.sa.gov.au/7toHS](http://www.education.sa.gov.au/7toHS)

Or share your feedback with the project team by emailing: [Year7toHS@sa.gov.au](mailto:Year7toHS@sa.gov.au).



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# Australian Government Mobile Service Centre



centrelink

medicare

## Serving Regional Australia

Visit the Mobile Service Centre to find out about Australian Government payments and services for rural families, older Australians, students, job seekers, people with disability, carers, farmers and self-employed people.

Information about Department of Veterans' Affairs programs and support services for veterans and their families will also be available.

Staff can provide you with information and support. They can also help you create a myGov account. myGov is a simple and secure way to access government services online.

## PENOLA

Wednesday, 28 October 2020      9 am to 4 pm

Thursday, 29 October 2020      9 am to 12 pm

Penola IGA Supermarket car park, Church Street

For more information, go to [servicesaustralia.gov.au/mobileoffice](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/mobileoffice)

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Services Australia

[servicesaustralia.gov.au](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au)

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RURAL STUDENTS**

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*freemasonsfoundation.com.au/scholarships/noelfairweather*  
to be submitted by 1 February of the coming year  
including confirmation of acceptance into chosen course**



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# Seeking SA regional or remote lived experience

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is working on changes to support services for families. These changes are intended to enable more children to be safe and well living in their families, communities and cultures.

An important part of getting these changes right is to make sure we are informed by the knowledge and experiences of people who have experienced family challenges and can identify how the services can be helpful.

**DHS is looking for up to three people from South Australian country areas, including remote areas to join the Lived Experience Network.** This includes people with lived experiences of:



significant family stresses that make it harder for children and families to feel safe, secure and nurtured



supporting family, community members or friends who have been living with family stresses



seeking and/or receiving help from child and family support services, or helping others to do so



cultural knowledge about what services need to be and do to be truly helpful.



the design of a website to safely and easily reach families going through tough times



the design of flyers, posters and communication to the public



advice to service providers about how best to work with families



contributing to policy development



sharing the perspectives of diverse communities - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, culturally and linguistically diverse, LGBTIQI, regional and remote families, families with additional needs

The Lived Experience Network members are reimbursed \$30 per hour for their time and contribution. If you are interested or would like more information please contact Yasmin Sinclair on 0435 366 394 or at [Yasmin.sinclair@sa.gov.au](mailto:Yasmin.sinclair@sa.gov.au)



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