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Important Dates

Monday 24 May 2021

- Year 10 Summit

Wednesday 26 May 2021

- Boys Touch Football - Adelaide

Tuesday 1 June 2021

- PPS Year 6 Visit

Wednesday 2 June 2021

- Year 6 Visit
- Interschool Cross Country
- Twilight Tour

Wednesday 2 June 2021

- Twilight Tour

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**Government
of South Australia**

Department for Education

Principal's Report

Lesley Okholm



Staff News

It is with much sadness that I share with you that, due to ongoing ill health, Gavin Kernot has resigned. His work in Home Economics and in Cafe 43 has been enormous and he will be sorely missed by staff and students alike. We hope that once recovered, he is able to work with us in a relief capacity or for short contracts. We also farewell Mia Tran next week. Mia came to us at the beginning of the year to take our Art subjects. While she is not leaving Penola until July, and she will likely continue to do relief work for us, we wish her well for her return to Adelaide with her partner, and for her future.

Penola Coonawarra Arts Festival

As my first time in Penola seeing the wide spread impact of this Festival, I was absolutely thrilled to see the commitment and work ethic of the Cafe 43, Year 9 \$20 Boss, and photography students who worked over the 3 day festival and were fabulous advertisements for our school. Events like this enable us to give back to our community, but more so, allows the community to see what we can offer at this school. Well done and thank you to all involved. On staff I must acknowledge Vicki McDonald-Burgess for her untiring and thorough organisation of the John Shaw Neilson Acquisitive Art Prize, and Andi Zerk, Olivia Jaeschke and Gavin Kernot for their work on the catering. We are so fortunate to have them here and on our team.

Mobile Phones

Over the past term I have mentioned in newsletters and on social media that our school, like all public schools in South Australia, was reviewing our Mobile Phone policy for students, and invited those interested to attend our Governing Council meeting on Monday 18 May 2021 if they wished to share their views. At the meeting, after some healthy discussion, our new policy was accepted unanimously by council. The full policy has been sent with this newsletter. The essence of the policy is as follows:

Beginning Monday 24 May 2021 students (all year levels) MAY NOT use mobile phones or similar on the school grounds at any time. With this change comes follow up for students who do not comply.

1. Warning and phone taken to office to be collected at the end of the day
2. 2nd time in the year, a warning of internal suspension will occur and the phone will be taken to the office for collection by a parent.
3. 3rd time in a year, an internal suspension will occur and the phone will be taken to the office for collection by a parent.

At this point there will be discussion about whether the phone can be brought onto the site in future by this student. The policy seems harsh to our students; I guess any time we lose something we had it hurts, however in the case of mobile phones, there is significant evidence world-wide that allowing them in a school environment is problematic. Most certainly we see distraction and time wasting as hugely impactful at Penola High School, especially at Senior Secondary level in study lessons. Since removal of phones for Years 8-10 last term, we have noted less bullying, more attention to task and far deeper listening and learning. We anticipate this starting to benefit our 11s and 12s from next week. Please read the policy carefully so you as a parent are aware of the implications for you and your young person. I expect that we will see many students try to test the policy, however we will be firm and consistent in our follow-up. Whilst I am happy to speak with individuals about the policy, there is no room for review until 2022.

Teacher Learning: Monday 17 May 2021

On Monday all staff spent the day challenging their thinking around how we can raise achievement at Penola High School. Our data has been showing little growth in student grades over some years and this concerns us greatly. We know the huge role we play as educators in the success of our students. We worked hard to look at ways we could increase student capacity to get higher grades, either by how we present assessment tasks, or how we enable them to share their understanding of what they have learned. We studied how we might better cater for students with differences in how they learn, about how we might teach more explicitly to ensure deep learning and how to sequence our learning and lessons to optimise success. Individual teachers have set their own goals for improvement and as a school we believed we need to have consistent expectations about timelines for task completion. We ask for your support from home in checking in with your young people about where they are up to in their work and by establishing home routines that support regular homework. We will fail students who do not complete classwork without good reason.

Pastoral Care Worker

We are excited that we have been given funding to employ someone a couple of days a week to work at Penola High School. We hope to find someone soon and will ensure parents are consulted if their child is to be in any programs. As a parent said last night at our Governing Council meeting, 'The more people who care about our kids, the better?' I agree.

Kind regards



BENEFITS OF GOING TO SCHOOL EVERY DAY



more likely to stay on track and progress academically



opportunities to take part in social and learning activities organised by the school



more likely to have stronger social and peer connections



learning positive life skills



safe in the care of school staff with access to support and services when needed



will reach their full potential and have a range of opportunities in life

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Touch Football

Tara Millard

On Friday 7 May 2021 the Penola High School competed in the local round of Knock Out Touch Football. The Open Girls and Open Boys' teams travelled to Mount Gambier for a day of competition and lucked out with a sunny day. The Open Girls started the day with a tough game against Mount Gambier High School. Coming up against a team with some experienced Touch football players meant our girls had to work hard in defence and be clever moving the ball forward in attack. The girls, led by Indi Venables and Shandeen Balshaw, improved dramatically through the game, however, did not come away winners. Next up the girls took on Grant High School. Reese Balshaw and Stella Glynn showed their speed in defence with Nakita Bormann's voice encouraging the team.

The Open Boys took to the field, with the pressure of previous years of success; could they uphold the Penola High School legacy. The side was full of experienced players such as Tom Skeer, Jake Klemm and Dylan Morton. With quick ball movement from Aaron Zerk and Bailey Lindner, it wasn't long before Penola High School scored their first try. From here the boys worked well as a team to come away with a win. The Open Boys will be heading off to Adelaide in Week 5 for the state finals. Thank you to Bob Reece for driving the bus and a huge thank you to Tom Skeer and Dylan Morton for umpiring.



Open Girls Football

Tara Millard

The Open Girls football team played in the School Sport SA Knock Out game last week. Penola High School combined with Naracoorte showing a strong duo between schools taking the win against Millicent High School (71-12). The wet weather conditions didn't stop the girls demonstrating a team first mentality with both teams playing in high spirits. The side had mixed experienced players with Shandeen Balshaw and Stella Glynn showcasing their leadership skills to support newer players. It was fantastic to see two schools come together so swiftly and support each other, as for some football is an unfamiliar game. The team will progress through to the next round played against Mount High School later in the term. The game would not have been possible without a combination of student helpers who scored, umpired, boundary umpired, timed and co-coached. Once again Penola High School demonstrated how sports highlights community spirit.



Harmony Day

Olivia Jaeschke

On Tuesday 11 May 2021, the Penola High School Student Representative Council celebrated Harmony Day, joining with students and staff from Nangwarry and Kalangadoo Primary Schools for a day of recognition and fun activities. With the message of the 2021 Harmony Day being 'Everyone Belongs', the student body engaged the school community by asking them to join with the community in respecting cultural and religious diversity and allowing everyone to belong. With students adorning themselves in the Harmony Day colour of orange to signify social communication, the students began the activities welcoming the primary schools in the quadrangle. During the welcome, students learnt about the importance of cultural diversity in Australia.

After the welcome, students tried out their culinary skills decorating cupcakes, getting physical on the basketball court playing indigenous games, enjoying arts and crafts in the seminar room, and getting their groove on with some cultural dancing.

SRC Co-Presidents Ella Hutchesson and Charlotte Neale said, "The day ran smoothly and the kids were getting involved in the high school community. We had many compliments from the activities we chose and appreciated everyone who helped."

The SRC was very happy with the way the day ran with many students and staff participating in the day by wearing an orange garment. The SRC hopes to have more successful and harmonious days like this.



Saint Mark's College Visit

Kathleen Phillips

For our Year 12 students, the focus on career pathways and life after school involves them thinking about their journeys that they will take. One of those journeys is learning after school especially university pathways. The Year 12s were visited by Katherine Radoslovich and past student Brooke Hutchesson from Saint Marks College a residential college in Adelaide, to explain accommodation options for students who choose to study at a university. Students were informed about the meals, type of accommodation, social events and study support the college gives those living there. Check out their website and other residential colleges for more information about accommodation options. Also look at the scholarships offered <https://www.stmarkscollege.com.au/>



Career Immersion Day

Kathleen Phillips

As a part of the department's new VET in school focus, our Year 10 students were invited to Lucindale Area School to see the career pathways offered in Agriculture. Students chose 3 sessions based on interests to attend ranging from the diary, sheep, and wool industries; agronomy session with PIRSA; understanding technology uses in agriculture by Lachie Sears and also viticulture with Kerry DeGaris. These immersion days are to allow students to understand career pathways available in these industries which will allow them to make more informed choices about their future pathways. Our next session is Wednesday Week 6, visiting Allendale East Area School with a focus on engineering and civil construction.



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We invite you to join us at our

TWILIGHT TOUR

Wednesday 2 June 2021
5:30-7:15pm

All prospective families from Penola and surrounding areas are invited to a student-led guided tour to view Penola's extensive facilities and spacious grounds, discovering our broad range of academic subject choices, co-curricular and activities. It is a chance to learn about 7- High School, Senior Secondary, SACE and VET pathways.

Our Year 12 student leaders Ella and Charlotte will welcome you along with Principal Lesley Okholm and Coordinator of 7-High School and Wellbeing Olivia Jaeschke.

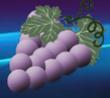
Our Teaching Team and Student Leaders will be on hand to answer any questions at the end of the tour.

Please RSVP to Penola High School on 8737 0000.



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STUDENT MOBILE PHONE POLICY

RATIONALE

While mobile phones and other such devices have significant advantages for use in the broader community, their use in schools is highly problematic. In schools, mobile phones can be significant distractors to learning and they can also pose significant risk to the safety of students through unfiltered access to the internet. There has been significant research around the impact on adolescents of extended exposure to screen time.

PURPOSE

This policy provides direction to students, staff and families about managing personal mobile phones and other digital devices that students choose to bring to school. Digital devices include, but are not limited to, **smartwatches, tablets or laptops that are not part of the school Laptop scheme**. This policy applies while students are at school or attending an authorised school activity such as an excursion, during school hours.

MOBILE PHONE USE FOR STUDENTS

Our school recognises that there are legitimate reasons for students to bring a mobile phone or personal device to school. This may include:

- to ensure their safety whilst travelling to and from school
- so that parents can contact them outside of school hours.

EXPECTATIONS

- Students **may not** use mobile phones or similar devices while on school grounds at any time. In addition, school staff are not to see or hear student devices of this kind at school.
- This policy applies to all times students are at school and on school grounds including during and between classes and at all break times such as recess and lunch. Please note: 'school grounds' extends to school excursions, sports carnivals and other events off the school site, where an approved school activity takes place.
- There may, on occasion, be the requirement for students to have access to their mobile phone for their safety. eg City based camps and excursions. This will be directed by Principal and school staff on a case-by-case basis.
- Contact between students while they are at school and their parents/carers should only occur through the school office on 8737000. Office staff will happily pass on urgent messages to students.

STORAGE OF PERSONAL DEVICES

Students must ensure that their phones and other devices are always stored in their locker. For this reason the school recommends that students lock their lockers. **Locks must be provided by students.**

The school takes no responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged phones. If students choose, they can be stored in the front office securely until collected.

IF STUDENT DOES NOT COMPLY

There are three steps which will be used in all cases of non-compliance. They are as follows:

Step 1: Students who choose to use their mobile phones for any reason will first be issued with a **warning**. Students will be required to give the phone/device to a staff member, this will be noted on Sentral and it will be securely stored in the school office until the completion of the school day when they can be **collected by the student**.

Step 2: Students who choose to use their mobile phones for any purpose for a second time within a calendar year, will be issued with a **warning of internal suspension**. Students are required to give the phone/device to a staff member, this will be noted on Sentral and it will be securely stored in the school office so that **the parent/carer of the student may collect** the phone at their earliest convenience.

Step 3: Students who choose to use their mobile phones for any purpose for a third time within a calendar year, will be **internally suspended** for repeated non-compliance with school rules, consistent with our school policy. Students are required to give the phone/device to a staff member, this will be noted on Sentral and it will be securely stored in the school office so that **the parent/carer of the student may collect** the phone at their earliest convenience.

At this point consultation between the school Principal and parent/caregivers will occur to make decisions about a student's ability to bring their phone onto school grounds in future.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

PRINCIPAL

- Ensure this policy is clearly communicated and accessible to all students, staff and families
- Ensure there is a process for regular review of the policy
- Enable secure storage is provided for student personal devices that are handed in to school staff and individual lockers that the school provides for students to store their belongings are appropriately secure, however students will need to provide their own functioning locks.
- Ensure processes are in place for monitoring internet and school network use.
- Enforce the school's policy and responses to instances of non-compliance.
- Report and respond to incidents of inappropriate use of personal devices in line with department policy and procedures and any legislative requirements.
- Consider requests for exemptions from the school policy from parents, adult or independent students on a case-by-case basis. Make sure that approved exemptions are documented, and that relevant staff are informed about students' exemptions.
- Model appropriate use of mobile phones and support families to understand the importance of promoting safe, responsible and respectful use of mobile phones to their young people.

SCHOOL STAFF

- Deliver learning opportunities and maintain a safe and productive learning environment.
- Respond to instances of non-compliance in line with the school's policy.
- Report and respond to incidents of inappropriate use of personal devices in line with department policy and procedures and any legislative requirements.
- Make sure that any student personal devices handed in for their care are stored in a secure location in the front office and are returned to the student (or their parent).
- Model appropriate use of mobile phones and support families to understand the importance of promoting safe, responsible and respectful use of mobile phones to their young people.

STUDENTS

- Comply with the requirements of the school's policy and follow all reasonable directions from the Principal and school staff.
- If permitted to use a mobile phone or personal device in line with this policy, do so in a safe, responsible and respectful way and support peers to do the same.
- Communicate respectfully with others and do not use a mobile phone or other personal device to bully, harass or threaten another person.
- Respect others' rights to privacy and do not take photos, film or audio records of other people without their knowledge or permission.

PARENTS

- Support the implementation of the school's policy, including the consequences for non-compliance with the policy.
- Use the school's formal communication channels in all instances to communicate with the school (including where a student requires early collection from school).
- Encourage their young person to always report to a school staff member in the first instance if they become unwell or experience an issue at school.
- Recognise the important role they play in supporting their young person to use their mobile phone (or other personal device) in a safe, responsible and respectful way.

COMMUNICATION AND REVIEW

Consultation of policy has occurred with staff and the governing council who have sought feedback from the school community.

The school policy will be made available to staff, students and families through SENTRAL, school website and parent information pack at the beginning of each year.

The school policy will be tabled for discussion at one Leadership and Staff meeting in Term one each year to be reviewed, any amendments will be forwarded to Governing council to discuss, at which point policy will be published for discussion before formal adoption.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- School Behaviour Code
- Behaviour Support Policy
- School Anti-bullying Policy
- ICT User Agreement

REVIEW DATE

Term 1 2022