Respect and Responsibility

Governing Council Chairperson: Stuart Sharman
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Newsletter 1
5th February 2015

Dear Parents and Friends,

Welcome to the 2015 school year. I am really looking forward to this year and building on from our achievements in 2014. 2015 also sees the commencement of a new Site Improvement Plan with a slight change in priorities for 2015 -17. With a focus on building powerful learners, our priorities in 2015 will be directed towards:

- Quality pedagogy in numeracy
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- Building quality dispositions in children through play.

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We are very excited to welcome our 22 new Foundation year students to our school. Most are very familiar with our school and surrounds due to transition programs in 2014 and have settled in well.

A big welcome to Taya-Lee Wright, Georgia Williams, Maggie Bell, Fleur Croser, Chiara Wagner, Matilda Marlow, Zain Fatchen, Jaeda Rowsell, Bryce Catlin, Jacob Howlett, Dylan Stevens, Nash Radford, Hamish Wilson, Clancy Eastwood, Ella Skeer, Emmity McElroy, Finn Woolston, Harrison DeGaris, Stirling Nankivell, Coby Higgs, Maddison Ellery and Jayden Aughtie.

We also welcome other new families to our school. Annabelle Denton (Yr 2) from Kalangadoo via Tasmania, Jessica (Yr 4) and Abbey (Yr 2) Gerritsen from Eudunda, Lucy (Yr 4) and Bryce Catlin from Meningie and Kane (Yr 7), Amy (Yr 7) and Jye (Yr 6) Whitehouse from Tasmania via Clifton (Qld). We hope all our new students have settled in well and will have a great experience at our school. (See back page for more photos)

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Welcome our new staff members, Karmel Finch (Foundation), Nicole Lear (Yr 4/5) and Melanie Sims (Yr 7)

Welcome back to Stacey Walters (Yr 3) and Olivia Thomas (Curriculum and Intervention Coordinator)

From my visits to classes so far, students seem to have settled in well, with many positive comments from teachers about their class.

Leadership Structure

Due to the positive feedback from both parents and staff about our existing leadership structure over the past three years, we are once again running with two coordinators. Both positions were advertised with Olivia Thomas and Tony O’Connell being the successful applicants. Olivia will take on the role that Anna Copping had previously filled, which is, Quality Teaching and Learning Coordinator, as well as taking on the Intervention role. Olivia will be working part time, with Monday and Tuesday being her standard days. Tony will be School Management Coordinator and his role will be very similar to last year.

We believe a team approach will give us a broader range of strategies to solving problems and allow delegation of responsibilities to areas of expertise.

Tony has also been selected to fill the role of Numeracy Coach. An overwhelming majority of staff supported the school’s decision to continue this position, regardless of whether it was funded by DECD or not. The positive impact it has had on teaching quality and student achievement has been noticeable and we are confident this will continue in 2015. As part of the DECD results+ Strategy, there is a possibility this position will be externally funded. We are still waiting to hear whether or not our application has been successful.

Staffing

As mentioned at the Parent Information Night, the rest of our staffing for 2015 will be:

Foundation: Karmel Finch / Fiona Holberton
Yr 1: Jamie Sheppard
Yr 1/2: Julie Hogg
Yr 3: Cathy Heyn / Stacey Walters
Yr 4/5L: Nicole Lear
Yr 4/5W: Julianne Williams
Yr 6: Kathy O’Connell
Yr 7: Melanie Sims

R-7 Science: Merran Jolley (0.8)
R-7 History (and Geography for F-2): Cathy Heyn (0.4)

Our support staff includes:
Marcia Hunt—Administration / Finance
Kerry Dent—Administration / classroom support
Toni Cadzow—Classroom support
Dione McDonald-French - Classroom support
Janet Brodie—Library / Classroom support
Michelle Barry—Classroom Support
Rosalia Faux—Canteen and Catering Manager / Classroom Support
Matt Crewe—Grounds Superintendent and facilities manager/ Classroom Support
James Braddy—ICT and network manager

Parent Information Night

On Tuesday, we held a successful Parent Information Night and thank the many parents who came along to listen to what we have in store for 2015. It was a good opportunity for parents to meet all the staff and their child’s teacher.

Interviews

In response to feedback from previous years, we will be holding our first round of interviews in two weeks. This is an opportunity for parents to have 15 minutes to speak one-on-one with the teachers about your child’s learning needs and set goals for the year. Information and notes for this will be distributed via your child’s teacher/s. Please take this opportunity to be a part of your child’s learning.

Play and Early Years Education

Research is increasingly proving that developing strong characteristics or dispositions in children is essential to their ongoing success, not only at school but in decision making ongoing for life. With that in mind, our staff is developing and changing how we teach in the early years. This has become even more important with Same First Day policy in place and students starting school younger than ever before.

To ensure our practice is research-based, teachers will be involved in observations and visits of other schools, working with Early Years expert, Lisa Burman and attending other training days.

This will mean that on occasions, teachers will be out of school. By using familiar relief teachers, we hope to maintain structure for our Early Years students. The benefits of this professional development will ultimately ensure our students are getting a quality curriculum, incorporating play, and setting themselves up for future success. Please speak to Olivia or any of the F-2 teachers if you would like to know more.
Cybersafety Information sessions
Penola Primary School in conjunction with Penola High School and Mary MacKillop Memorial School supported by Bendigo Bank will be hosting Cybersafety Awareness sessions for all students from Year 4 and up in March. Importantly, a parent and community awareness session will be held on Thursday March 12th for all parents and community members who wish to attend. How much do you know about what your child can access on the Internet? What is Snapchat, Facebook, Instagram, Kik, etc, and what impact does it have on your child? World Renowned Cybersafety expert, Susan McLean, will present a very informative 2 hour session aimed at parents. Times and venues are to be confirmed, but please put this in your diary as an important event to attend. It is planned that this will be a free event, funded by all three schools and the Penola Branch of Bendigo Bank.

Governing Council
The Governing Council welcomes any parent or caregiver who would like to become more involved with the running of the school to come to the AGM which will be held on Tuesday 17th February at 7:00pm in the school library. A new council will be elected for the year and will meet 2 times per term. Being part of the Governing Council gives you an insight into the decision-making of the school and allows your voice to be heard. Positions of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary will also be elected on the night.

Current Governing Council
One year to serve
- Stuart Sharman
- Pete Balmaves
- Louise Perry
- Silvana Stephens
- Heidi Boyd
- Melissa Hunter
- Sandy Moorhouse

Tenure finished and /or need to renominate
- Pete Crewe
- Trish Brand
- Darren Skeer
- Kirsten Croser
- Cindy Hutchesson

We are always looking for more new people to be interested in joining the Governing Council. For more details contact Paul Harmer, Stuart Sharman, or any of the above Governing Councillors.

Parent Club
The Parent Club Committee hopes that everyone has had an excellent school break and welcomes you back to the new school year. The AGM will be held next Monday (9th Feb) at 7:30pm. All parents are welcome to attend.

Swimming
Swimming Lessons have begun with our instructors, Jo and Sue. We have been fortunate that the weather has been not too cold so far with hotter weather on the way. It is pleasing to see the participation rate has been very high. The Reception to Yr 3 students will celebrate the end of their swimming with a Splash Carnival on Friday 13th February.

Students from Year 3-7 will be having time trials on the 17th-18th February in preparation for their Swimming Carnival. It is encouraged that all student from Year 4-7 have a go at qualifying for the tabloid freestyle event. Students in Year 3 who are capable of swimming a lap, will be invited to tryout. Students should be prepared by bringing their swimming attire for these days.

The Swimming Carnival will be on Friday 27th February.

School Fees
The school fees for 2015 are set at $215 for the year. An invoice for the fees has been distributed with the Day 1 forms that went home. Parents have the option of paying fees in one lot or in instalments. If you have had a change of circumstances or think you may be eligible for school card, please see Marcia for the forms.

Parking
Please be aware of the areas you are and are not permitted to park. The area across the road from where the buses pull up is not only inconvenient for the drivers, but also a dangerous place for children to cross. Be aware that parking inspector and other authorities may be monitoring the school over the next few weeks.

Buses
With good numbers at all the local public schools, many buses are reaching capacity. This means that it is essential to have good communication. Please be aware of the following points:

- If your child/ren will not be travelling on the bus either on the am or pm route, we ask that you please inform your bus driver and if your child/ren are on the bus in the morning but will not be travelling home on the bus, please advise your
driver in the morning. This will alleviate the driver waiting either at the school or at your bus stop (in the morning) unnecessarily.

- The Monbulla/Wattle Range, Nangwarry and the Kalangadoo bus routes are currently running at or near capacity. We ask that families on those bus runs do not ask or arrange for ‘extra’ students to travel on those bus routes to go to your home for sleep overs, birthday parties etc. There is not enough room on these two bus routes for extra ‘ineligible’ travellers at the moment.

- All bus families on the Casterton Road, Coonawarra, Dorodong and Maaoupe bus routes are reminded that there are LIMITED SEATS available on these bus routes and if you wish an extra ‘ineligible’ student to travel on your bus route to your home, that you need to complete the ‘green’ “Unauthorised student to travel on a school bus” permission slip prior to the student travelling. The green forms are available from the office at the High School, Primary School and Mary MacKillop School and are to be signed by the Parent/Guardian and ALSO the Principal/Delegate of your school. This form is then given to the bus driver when the ‘ineligible’ student gets on the bus. This has been the procedure for the past couple of years and bus drivers may refuse travel for that student if they do not have the signed permission slip when they get on the bus.

- You are reminded that on days of a declared Catastrophic Fire Ban, Penola Schools will remain open BUT buses will not operate. You will be notified via SMS (or landline for Dorodong & Kalangadoo township families) the afternoon prior and a letter will also be sent home with students if we receive notification in time. However, you are asked to please monitor weather forecasts during the summer months and to be fully aware of these procedures in case we cannot contact you.

Volunteers
We are indeed fortunate to have many volunteers who help out with camps, listening to reading, cooking etc. It is strongly advised and in some cases (such as camps, driving students etc) made compulsory by the Department that volunteers have police checks. Parents are not permitted to attend school camps without a current police check. The school is able to offer this as a free service to any current or potential volunteers. All that is required is that Paul sees 100pts of ID, some paperwork and it is then sent off. These are valid for three years. If you would like to have a clearance, please see Paul.

House Captains
This week students have been electing House Captains through a secret ballot. The process involved students in Years 6/7 nominating for the position. They gave a short talk last Friday after which their house mates were given the opportunity to vote. Voting will be on a preferential basis. The result of the vote will be announced at a quick house meeting on Friday morning. The captains will be presented to the school at the next assembly.

Student Representative Council
In the coming weeks, students in Years 4 – 7 classes will vote for student representatives. Nominations will be called and classes will work through a process prior to voting.

This year we are continuing with a streamlined approach, with fewer students being part of meetings. This was found to be a much more effective way of getting things done and elected members having their say. The process for electing the executive will be finalised shortly, with students from Year 6 and 7 given the opportunity to nominate. Karmel Finch will be coordinating the SRC in 2015.

No Hat No Play
You are reminded that this term is a No Hat No Play Sun Safe term. We have had a fantastic response to date – thank you. We have plenty of new hats in both sizes in stock available for only $12.

The Garden
Thanks to Matt and his helpers, the garden has been growing beautifully over the holidays, with lots of fresh herbs and vegetables ready to harvest. We will be implementing Market Day on Fridays when there is an assembly. After assembly the gym kitchen will open up for sales of the fresh produce. Notice of what is for sale will be e-mailed out and included in the newsletter if known.

Year Book
The 2014 year book is in its final stages of being put together. The teachers have put all their pages together and with the very capable Laura O’Connell helping to compile it, we are not far off sending it to the printers. The cost of the book is $15 and will be ready in about 3-4 weeks time. Books will need to be pre-ordered through the office, if not already done.
Canteen News

The canteen is up and running for 2015 with our fabulous manager, Rosalia Faux, continuing in the position. She has already spent many hours in the last few weeks preparing and cooking lunches so that our food is fresh and home made where possible. We also source all our bakery products and groceries from local businesses. All the pastas, fried rice, wraps, salads etc are all made by Rosalia in the canteen.

A price list and menu has gone home with the start of the year notes.

To help keep our canteen going, we also appreciate the efforts of parents who volunteer to help out on Fridays or to make munchies. Rosalia has been amazed with the response, with over 45 overs of help alone. Thanks to everyone who has put their hand up to help out or make munchies.

Piano and Guitar Lessons

Guitar (Tuesday) and Piano (Friday) Lessons will continue this year with our very capable and DECD accredited instructors. Costs and lesson structure varies with each instrument. There are currently places available If you are interested in your child taking part, please contact Paul for more information.

Penola and District Bendigo Bank is pleased to begin school banking at Penola Primary School for 2015 on February 12th and continuing every second Thursday thereafter.

Bendigo bank is a community bank that gives back to the town in the way of donations and community involvement, we’re a community bank that’s about more than just money, we’re about the good money can bring and the things you don’t expect from a bank. When you, and your children, are account holders you’re involved in the giving back to the community and supporting community events that make a difference in Penola.

All students with a Bendigo Bank account are invited to participate in the school banking program and children that would like to begin school banking can drop into the bank to set up an account or ring the bank on 87 372 400 to enquire.

Students can bring bank books to school on school banking days, they will be collected by their teacher, the money banked and returned that afternoon to the school.

$10 gift deposit for students and $10 donation to school fundraising kitty.

Throughout the first term, for every new Incentive Saver Account opened by a student from your school, BankSA will donate $10 to the school’s fundraising kitty and credit $10 into the child’s new account, to help them get started with their savings efforts.

Children will also receive a Digger the Wombat Money Box, LittleSavers Calculator, LittleSavers Library Bag and a School Bank Wallet, while stocks last. The offer is open to new customers only, aged 12 years and under. Limit of one $10 credit per child and one $10 school donation per child. This offer is available for new Incentive Saver Account opened before 10 April, 2015. For more details or to collect a BankSA Application Pack, please call into the school office.
Found
A black and red digital watch was found after the PIN night. Please see Paul if you think it may be yours.

Community News
1st Penola Scouts in 2015
Our group is still running 3 sections and our year has started this week.
The Joey Scouts, for children from 6&7 yrs old (Tues 3.30-4.30pm). Joeys have a great time with games, stories, craft, songs, and sleepovers.
Cubs is open to boys and girls of ages 8-10 (Wed 3.30-5pm) and Scouts is for 11-15yrs old (Wed 6—7.30pm). Both groups have fun in earning badges in bushcraft, camping craft and other challenging activities.
The Scout Hall is on Riddoch st opposite Penola Primary School. If your kids would like to try out a few evenings come along for free.
For more information call Group Leader Silvana 87372404 or 0448537215

Leader needed
Are you looking for a rewarding worthwhile experience? Consider being a leader, in particular a Joey Leader. You would be fully supported by a parent committee, group leader and district leader. We are desperate to continue this section but it is at risk of closing if we get no-one to lead it. Please call above number.

Milo Cricket
Milo Cricket recommences on the 7th Feb 2015—9am to 10am at the Mary MacKillop Memorial School oval.
The remaining dates are the 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th of February.
Any queries call Jackie on 0409 693 239.

Meet some of our new students...

Top left: Annabell and Abbey. Individuals (l-r) : Kane, Amy and Jye
Right: Jayden Aughtie
Below Left: Harrison, Finn and Stirling
Below Right: Emmity, Coby and Maddison