Dear Parents and Friends,

It was fantastic to see the students involved in so many book-related activities last week to celebrate Book Week. It is important to make sure books are the focus and a love of reading is promoted throughout the week.

The passionate SSO's did a great job to ensure that there were a number of activities available each recess and lunchtime for students to take part in. The reader’s corner was a great opportunity for students to share some of their own work as writers in their bookmaking and writer’s notebook sessions.

The assembly on Thursday was a chance for all the classes to present a book in an artistic way. It was fantastic to see so many parents stay for one of our longer assemblies. See the back page for lots of great photos from throughout the week.

ACER-PAT Testing
The Australian Council of Education Research (ACER) has spent many years designing, implementing and reviewing tests so that they can accurately track students’ abilities in a number of areas. These assessments (Progressive Achievement Tests) have now been mandated by DECD in Maths and Reading Comprehension. Our students from Year 2-7 have been sitting these tests this week and these will continue next week. The instant results we get enable us to look at common trends in areas of strength and development, as well as mapping individual progress. Next term, students will sit Spelling as well as Grammar and Punctuation assessments.

If you have any further queries about these assessments, please see your child’s class teacher.

Play is the way
Last Friday, the majority of the staff attended a Professional development on Play is the Way. This program is designed for schools to focus on students doing the right thing because it is the right thing to do, as opposed to a ‘carrot and stick’ punishment system. The program uses games to help reinforce ideals and positive choices. The benefit of all the staff being involved is that it allows for common language and consistent expectations across the school.

Look out for future articles from Play is the Way author, Wilson McCaskill in the next few newsletters.

University Of NSW Spelling
The standard of the Uni NSW spelling assessment this year was pretty high with only three students achieving a credit...
These awards went to:

**Spelling**
Stella O’Brien  Yr 3  Credit
Anders McShane  Yr 6  Credit
Dylan Morton*  Yr 6  Credit

*Dylan Morton won the Principal’s Award for the highest individual percentile in the school.

**Pupil Free Day**
A reminder that **Monday 14th September** is a Pupil Free Day. Most of the South East Coast and Vines Schools will be having a Pupil Free Day to allow staff to work together to plan learning tasks that promote thinking and create powerful learning.

**SAPSASA Basketball**
Congratulations to our two Year 6/7 teams which competed so well against some very tough opposition at last Friday’s regional basketball tournament in Mt Gambier. Thanks to Alana and Emily Winter who coached the girls’ team and to Scott Hunter who coached the boys’ team. Thanks also to the parents who provided transport and helped with scoring and other duties on the day.

**10 TIPS FOR PARENTS**
1. Accept your importance as a role model and make every effort to be the best role model you can be. Recognize that this may call for personal change and improvement.
2. Trusting that your children love you, allows you to do the “parent things” that may sometimes make them dislike you for a while.
3. Try to always be the adult you claim to be and have the emotional self-control to offer firm guidance, support and moral leadership. Sympathize with them but try not to solve their problems for them.
4. Separate your needs from those of your children. They can’t live your dreams.
5. Try to always use reason not rage. Avoid fighting fire with fire. Be in control of your feelings and your actions so that your children can learn to be in control of theirs.
6. Show faith in your school. Prepare your children to work hard so that teachers can help them to learn well. Establish rights, rules, responsibilities and routines in your household and let every child do their bit. Give them chores, square meals, the time to talk and the sleep they need.
7. Turn the TV off when you can and turn the conversation on where possible. And remember; loving them is easy, it’s rearing them that’s hard but it does get easier with practise.
8. Role model good manners at all times and ask for them in return. Good manners often diffuse conflict situations.
9. By acknowledging small improvements in behaviour you make it easier for big improvements to follow.
10. Try to avoid thinking that you can save your children from getting hurt (emotionally or physically). Instead, prepare them to cope.

From Play is the Way website: [https://playistheway.com.au/content/53-tips-for-parents](https://playistheway.com.au/content/53-tips-for-parents)

**Sports Day**
The 2015 School Athletics Carnival will be held on Friday 23rd October. As in previous years, there will be a number of championship events held in the two days prior to the event. Teachers have been given a list of students and their houses. Any new parents who maybe unsure of your child’s allocated house, please ask the class teacher or Tony. Students are encouraged to wear their house colours on Sports Day. House t-shirts
are available from the front office. These are optional.
The first tryouts for championship events have been planned be held on Wednesday 16th September between recess and lunch.

Facebook
We have launched our new Facebook page and it is now available for parents and friends to ‘like’. This page has been set up to provide up to date information about school events as well as linking to articles on learning; and showcasing some of the learning taking place at Penola PS. Our school Social Media Policy prohibits the use of photos of students. To find the page, simply search for ‘Penola Primary School.’

Parent Club
Thank you to everyone who sold raffle tickets for the Father’s Day raffle. We raised about $1500 which will go towards IT upgrades in the classrooms. The winners were:

1st Prize: Dionne Klemm
2nd Prize: Helen Devlin
3rd Prize: Jeff Pahl

Thanks also to Denise Powell who took the time to collect all the prizes. Thanks also to all the local businesses who supported the raffle.

Please also look out for our Lorraine Lea flyer for a school fundraiser on Thursday 10th September.

SRC
Today was Super-hero dress up day for Muscular Dystrophy. Thanks to all those who dress up and donated a gold coin to Muscular Dystrophy.

Wanted—spare clothes
Do have any second hand clothes your children may have grown out of that you could possibly donate to the school for 'emergency supplies'? School uniforms are especially welcome. Sizes 6-10 are in demand! Please drop into the front office.

Canteen News
There will be another student special coming up soon. The Year 7s have selected Chicken Parmigiana as their choice of menu. Look out for order forms soon.

Roster
Friday September 11th — Mel Catlin
Friday September 18th — Sally Skeer

Munchies
Tuesday 8th September
Jessie Denton
Heidi Boyd
Lee-Ann Smith

Tuesday 15th September
Teegan Galpin
Susan Sharman
Rachael Messenger

Community News
Penola & District Little Athletics
We are pleased to say that the 2015/2016 Penola and District Little Athletics are due to get underway on Friday 11th September, at 4.00pm at the Penola Primary School Oval.

Registrations from keen athletes aged from 3-17 are welcome and can be made on line, which we highly recommend or on the night along with payment.

Our registration fees have had an increase due to association fees. We have tried to keep this to a minimum for all athletes. Keeping in mind, some families may not have used their $50 sports voucher as yet. We are a registered Sports Voucher Club.

Tiny Tots and Child is $60
2 Children $110
3 Children $140

We encourage FUN-FAMILY-FITNESS
Children also develop athletic skills, co-ordination and social skills. The focus is not on winning but doing your own personal best and improving as the season goes on.

The club relies heavily upon the support and help of parents every week. At least one parent or guardian MUST ACCOMPANY their children to and at the meets. If this does not happen the child may not be able to compete in the meet. We require at least 2-3 chaperones per age group to run the meet.

There will be Regional Day in Mount Gambier later in the year. For any further details please contact Andi Zerk on 0419827511.
Spring is upon us and it’s time for a fresh look.

PPS Parent Club would like to invite you to a
Lorraine Lea Fundraiser
held in the
Penola Primary School Staff Room.
Let Christy Radford show you the extensive range of linen, homewares and decorat- tor items with some
great specials for the month of September

Thursday 10th September
at 6.30pm
Drinks and nibbles are supplied

If you can’t make it on the night please call Christy on 0408858408 for any early orders. All proceeds go towards upgrades of school classrooms.