Dear Parents and Friends,

It is hard to believe that we have arrived at the last week of school already. It has been a very busy, yet fulfilling year. We have had many achievements both with students’ learning and with maintaining the school facilities. The Governing Council is instrumental in guiding the needs of the school, particularly in terms of strategic planning to ensure your children are able to access the best learning opportunities with well-maintained facilities. Melissa Hunter will mention a few of the achievements at the concert on Tuesday night.

I personally would like to thank everyone who has had any input into the school this year. We are indeed fortunate to have so many parents and community members willing to donate their time or services to our school. The staff has again done an amazing job and their dedication to the children goes beyond their job description.

At the end of next week we farewell Kathy O’Connell and Mel Sims. We thank them for all the work they have done, whether it be over a number of years or only one. I know the students they have taught and nurtured are better for having had them as teachers. We wish them all the best in the next stage of their teaching careers.

Finally to the students who make this job worthwhile. I thank them for the effort they have put into their learning this year. It has been pleasing to read about the growth of many students this year which is reflected in the improvements in learning across the board.

We farewell our Year 7 class as well. This group is unique in the fact that only half started their journey at Penola PS with the rest transitioning at some stage of their schooling. Yet they have been very accepting of new students and have bonded as a group. As they head in their different directions next year, they will go knowing they have formed many great friendships.

I look forward to catching up with many of you at the concert. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and enjoyable summer break. To those returning in 2016, I look forward to seeing you back in February.

Reports
Reports are going through the final editing process and will be sent home early next week. The report will also contain the absence report for the entire year. If you would like to discuss any aspects of the report, I encourage you to speak to your child’s teacher.

Staffing and Classes 2016
Last week I sent out an interim newsletter with staffing information. Here is the information repeated in case it was missed.

Today you will be receiving a letter with your child’s class placement for 2016. The placement exercise is a very thorough process which takes into account a number of factors. The decisions made are done so in the best interests of each child.

Staffing for 2016 is almost complete, with only leadership positions yet to be finalised. For your information, class teachers in 2016 will be:
F/1: Ms Jamie Sheppard
F/1: Mrs Anna Copping / Mrs Karmel Finch (2 days)
Yr 2/3: Mrs Julie Hogg
Yr 2/3: Ms Stacey Walters / Ms Fiona Holberton (2&3 days)
Yr 4/5: Mrs Julianne Williams
Yr 4/5: Ms Nicole Lear
Yr 6: Mr Sam McDougall
Yr 7: Mr Tony O’Connell / Ms Regan Wood (2&3 days)
Science: Mrs Merran Jolley
HASS / Library: Mrs Cathy Heyn

Our three leadership positions will be panelled next week:
- Coordinator: School Management
- Coordinator: Early Years Coach
- Coordinator: Student Wellbeing and Intervention

Next Tuesday, students will have a short transition session where they will spend time in their new classroom with their new teacher/s and classmates. This will help familiarise them with the surroundings making the first day next year less stressful. Both new teachers will be here to meet the staff and students.

White Ribbon Day
Thank you to all the parents and students who supported White Ribbon Day last week. Recognition of the need to support respectful relationships and stopping violence against women starts with our young people. I know the Upper Primary students had some engaging discussions about the issues, and all made personal pledges about how they can make a difference. Hopefully these messages will not be with them for just that day, but will remain with them over time.

ACER PAT testing
Earlier this year, students from Year 2-7 completed the PAT Reading and Maths Assessments. We use the data to help improve teaching programs as well as look at progress. It was pleasing to see positive growth in nearly all year levels, particularly in Numeracy. This can in some way be attributed to the Numeracy Coach program we have run for the past two years. It is not intended for individual student data to be sent to parents as it needs to be interpreted in context. However, you are welcome to have a conversation with me or your child’s teacher on your child’s growth.

The results form part of the school data performance report, which is sent out annually. Numeracy and Reading data for our school is below:

### Numeracy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>SEA PAT-M Scale Score</th>
<th>% of Students</th>
<th>School Mean</th>
<th>% of Students</th>
<th>School Mean</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>106.4</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>109.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>110 or above</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>111.7</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>115.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>115 or above</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>116.1</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>121.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>120 or above</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>130.6</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>125.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>124 or above</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>125.7</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>134.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>125 or above</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>135.7</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>121.5</td>
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### Literacy

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>SEA PAT-R Scale Score</th>
<th>% of Students</th>
<th>School Mean</th>
<th>% of Students</th>
<th>School Mean</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>n/a</td>
<td>94.8</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>99.8</td>
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<tr>
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<td>62%</td>
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<td>76%</td>
<td>120.3</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>121.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>115 or above</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>123.9</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>125.8</td>
</tr>
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<td>118.7</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>132.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>124 or above</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>131.8</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>121.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Blue Lake Fun Run
Well done to all the students and parents who competed in our Blue Lake Fun Run. Not only did we have some great results, but we were awarded champion school and received $500 to go towards our School Sports Program. Thank you to Kate McDonald for coordinating it all. Also to Trish Brand and Merran Jolley who assisted with training and on the day, and to Tony O’Connell who greeted the runners home.
Arts Festival Grant
You may have read in the Penola Pennant that we were part of the successful application for a grant to help redo the mural at the Penola Pool. We look forward to this great opportunity to work once again with James Parker. One of the benefits of these grants is that the students not only get to produce art that stays as part of the community, but learn lots of skills from a professional artist. We look forward to working with James and the High School on this project.

SRC
The end-of-year disco will be on again this year on the last Thursday of the term (10th December). It will begin at 7:00pm and finish at 9:30pm. The theme this year will be Celebrities and Sports Stars. We will not be doing photo orders this year. However, there will be an area set up so parents can take photos of their own children within the first 30 minutes. The JP games day will be held on the same day in the afternoon. They will be having a shared lunch for $5 per student on the day.

End-of-year Library Book and Reader Returns
It’s that time of year, when all books need to be returned to the library. Please search under beds and behind shelves for any readers/books that may be hiding there.

Every year hundreds of dollars worth of books go missing. We would really appreciate your help with locating and returning as many books as possible.

Canteen News
Thanks to everyone for their support in the canteen this year. The canteen wouldn’t exist without all the support of volunteers coming in and also making munchies.

Thank you also to Rosalia and Jessie who have provided so many great snacks and lunches to staff and students throughout the year.

Rosters
Friday 11th December:
Sue Bell

Munchies
Tuesday 8th December
Melissa Hunter
Jo Skeer
Leolla Balk

VACSWIM at Penola & Nangwarry January 2016
Swimming is a skill for life!
SA Water VACSWIM - it’s the holiday fun thing to do!
Dates: 4th to 8th January 2016
Programs Available
Penola - Swim & Survive Levels 1-7 / Royal Life Saving Society Bronze Awards
Nangwarry - Swim & Survive Levels 1-7

Enrolment Fees:
$30 for Children 5 to 13 years (plus $5 surcharge for onsite enrolments)
For teenagers participating in higher awards contact RLSS-SA (08) 8210 4500
Equipment & Location Fee:
$1.50 (applicable to each child enrolled in the program).

Options for enrolment & payment:
Enrol online: www.royallifesavingsa.com.au/vacswim/
(online enrolments close 18th December 2015)
Download an enrolment form and post with payment details to PO Box 2075, Hilton 5033 (postal enrolments close 11th December 2015)

Penola Community Library
43 Cameron St PENOLA 5277
Phone 8737 2838
Email: dl.0931.library@schools.sa.edu.au

Library will close
Wednesday 23 December 2015 at 7.00pm and re-open
Tuesday 5 January 2016 at 8.30

Sunday CLOSED
Monday CLOSED
Tuesday 8.30am - 4.00pm
Wednesday 8.30am - 7.00pm
Thursday 8.30am - 4.00pm
Friday 8.30am - 4.00pm
Saturday 9.30am - 12noon

Closed for lunch 12.30pm - 1.00pm