Dear Parents and Friends,

NAPLAN assessments are over for another year, and I am pleased with the way in which our students went about these assessments. It can be an anxious time for students, but from the teachers’ observations, students seemed quite relaxed and were able to use strategies learnt to cope with the uncertainty of the test. Results for these are expected to be available in August / September.

As a school it is important that we recognise these tests only measure a very small aspect of their abilities. What we value can’t be measured by standardised testing. Qualities and dispositions as illustrated below are just as important.

Pupil Free Day

Just a reminder that we will be having a Pupil Free Day on Friday, May 22nd. This has been approved by the Governing Council. Teachers will be visiting a school in Adelaide to look at how playful learning environments are set up in middle and upper primary. The junior primary staff will be having a planning day and will also be looking at how they can improve their learning spaces.

A Pupil Free Day on Friday August 28th (Term 3) has also been approved by Governing Council and the Education Director.

Playful Learning Forum

You will soon be receiving an invitation to attend the Playful Learning Forum held on Tuesday, May 26th at 7:00pm in the school library. This is a joint initiative between Penola PS and McKay Children’s Centre and will feature spotlight presentations from both sites as well as Penola High School. The presentations will be followed by a Q&A session featuring parents, teachers and leaders from all three DECD
sites. Lisa Burman, an expert on playful learning, will also be on hand to answer any questions surrounding the philosophies of playful learning and flexible learning environments. This style of learning is not limited to just the early years, but benefits exist throughout their schooling. This session will explain the philosophies behind future changes in classroom environments.

The following week we are hosting an Open Day on Tuesday 2nd June from 9am until 11am. All classrooms across the school will be open for parents, grandparents, other relatives, friends and prospective parents to come along and see learning in action. This will also be a great opportunity to see the use of flexible learning spaces throughout the school. The morning will conclude with a morning tea around 10:45am.

**Working Bee**
This Sunday, May 17th, we are holding a working bee. We will start at 9:30am and hopefully will be all done by lunchtime. If you are available and can spare a few hours, we would greatly appreciate the help.

Following the clearing of the old hall, we will have a few items to take away for a donation. Items such as old tables, chairs, disused sporting equipment, will be on offer. This ‘sale’ will tie in with Penola’s biggest garage sale.

**Discovery Time**
The Early Years team is looking for donations of some everyday items! If you have some or any of these items at home that you no longer use, we could make very good use of them at school. If you do have any of the following items to donate, would you please drop them into school when convenient, and if possible before next Friday, 22nd of May. If you have larger items that require collection, contact Olivia Thomas as school and she will happily organise collection. Thanking you in advance.

If you have something that is not on the list that you think may be of interest, please let us know and we will see if we can find a use for it!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job</th>
<th>Tools Required</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weed front rose garden</td>
<td>Gloves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cut tops of branches off all rose bushes – leave bushes approx. 600mm (2 feet) high</td>
<td>Gloves and secateurs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spread mulch in garden beds</td>
<td>Rakes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spread mulch in native garden behind F/1 classroom – cover asphalt area first</td>
<td>Wheelbarrows, shovels, rakes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prune grapevine in F/1 area – all canes to be put in area between JP toilets</td>
<td>Ladders, gloves, secateurs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trim trees along Scott Street – remove branches sticking out of fence and at head height – take waste to western end of oval or directly to dump/farm</td>
<td>Secateurs, shears, loppers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trim all branches along pathways in school which are below head height - take waste to western end of oval or directly to dump/farm</td>
<td>Secateurs, shears, loppers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clear gutters in JP toilets and bike shed – put waste under trees between JP toilets</td>
<td>Ladder, gloves, buckets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cut up/remove Melaleuca next to old hall – take rings to end of oval to be split for firewood – keep separate from dry pile please</td>
<td>Chainsaw and appropriate PPE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cut up wood at end of oval into pieces that will fit into house fires</td>
<td>Chainsaw and appropriate PPE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Split wood at end of oval and put on existing split pile</td>
<td>Splitter and appropriate PPE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collect branches/sticks from around the oval and take to western end of oval</td>
<td>2 feet and a heartbeat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pull weeds at NW corner of oval – leave there</td>
<td>Gloves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clear out old hall – See Paul Harmer</td>
<td>Gloves, sack truck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take furniture from bike shed to old hall</td>
<td>Gloves, sack truck</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Toilet Refurbishment**
Part of the Governing Council’s Strategic Plan priorities is the continual improvement of facilities. One of the priorities for this year was the refurbishment of the Unit toilets. Feedback from students, staff and parents has indicated this is an area of need.

After planning a scope of works and contractors putting in tenders, the project has been approved by the Finance Committee and Governing Council and will commence shortly. The refurbishment will include:
- Floor to roof tiling
- Replacement bowls and cisterns
- Replace internal ceiling
- Install new lighting to brighten up the room
- Replace windows
- Put air vent in boys toilet
- Repair or replacement of sinks, toilet roll holders

This will be a welcome redevelopment and I am sure the students will be very pleased with the outcome.

**Cross Country**
Good luck to the 70 students competing in the Naracoorte Cross Country tomorrow. Once again it is fantastic to see so many students choosing to take part. This is the 30th running of the event, so they are expecting a big crowd.

**Book Mending Working-Bee**
Many thanks to the enthusiastic group of parents who helped to mend books in the library last week. We appreciate the help and now we have all our sick and sorry books back in the library to be appreciated by more children.

**Canteen News**
The Year 7 students have given some feedback and for the next lunch special they would like to see nachos on the menu. Rosalia is pretty sure she will be able to accommodate, so expect to see an order form come out soon! Don’t forget we have soup for sale on Mondays for $3.00 at recess and lunch. The flavour will vary from week to week. Hot chocolates are also on the Term 2 menu for $1 per cup.

**Roster**
- **Friday 15th May**—Michelle Petrie
- **Thursday 21st May**—Benedetta Rusconi

**Munchies**
- **Tuesday 19th May**

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**Volunteers Week**
I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers who give up their valuable time to help make our school what it is. The children value having people to:
- Listen to children read
- Help out with craft, cooking etc.
- Be on Governing Council and Parent Club
- Be on rosters for fundraising events
- Help out at camps and excursions
- Mend and cover books
- Volunteer in the canteen or make munchies
- Assist with camps and excursions
- Help out at working bees
- Coach school sporting teams
And all the other little things you do give our children the best school experience they can have. From all the staff and students at Penola PS, THANK YOU!

**SA Excellence in Public Education Awards**
*Share Celebrate Reward*
Nominations are now open for the 2015 SA Excellence in Public Education Awards.

The awards recognise and reward the outstanding contributions made by teachers, leaders and support staff from across the state.

Don’t miss your chance to nominate an outstanding education professional within DECD to recognise and reward their dedicated and inspirational contribution to young South Australians.

For more information and to nominate an employee at your school or preschool go to: [www.decd.sa.gov.au/awards](http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/awards).

Like us on Facebook and follow the progress of the Awards: [www.facebook.com/SATeachingAwards](http://www.facebook.com/SATeachingAwards).

Nominations close 5pm, 3 July 2015

For further information contact the Awards team on 08 8226 3079 or email [DECD.Recognition@sa.gov.au](mailto:DECD.Recognition@sa.gov.au)
During Week 1 of Term 2 the Year 7 students from Penola Primary School attended a 3-day camp at the Grant High School campsite in Robe. It was a very active camp which provided plenty of time for the children to explore through the scrub, challenge themselves and build friendships. On the day of arrival we unpacked and discussed our camp rules, values and expectations before walking the perimeter of the boundary so the class knew where they were allowed to explore. After lunch we went on a 6 kilometre hike to the back beaches and spent time exploring huge sand dunes. We all had a great time jumping and rolling down the dunes and enjoyed the view from the top. That night we played a game of Stalk the Lantern in the scrub. The children tried lots of different tactics but not many of them got past the teachers who were guarding the lantern. On the second day we travelled to Rendelsham for a day at Noorla Yo-Long. Des and Bec taught us about being good team members and communicators and we had to do a range of team work tasks. The highlight of the day was when we had to move out of our comfort zone and try the high ropes course. This involved climbing trees and walking on ropes and posts suspended high in the air. It was physically and mentally challenging but all students had a go, despite their nerves and apprehension! On the final day of camp we went to Long Beach in Robe and enjoyed the morning relaxing in the sunshine before heading home for a good night’s sleep.