Dear Parents and Friends,
Welcome to the 2016 school year. I am really looking forward to this year and building on from our achievements in 2015. 2016 also sees the commencement of a new Site Improvement Plan with our priorities building on past work as well as putting a greater emphasis on writing for 2016-18. With a focus on building powerful learners, our priorities in 2016 will be directed towards:

- **Writing:** Developing **quality writers** through a whole school approach, incorporating **spelling** and **grammar**.
- **Playful Pedagogies and Inquiry based learning:** Integrating the inquiry and playful approach into literacy and numeracy programs
- **Building quality dispositions** in students with a focus on **personal and social capabilities**

As a result, resources and training will be directed in these areas. More details about some of the initiatives and strategies to achieve outcomes will be presented in future newsletters.

**Welcome**
We are very excited to welcome our 20 new Foundation year students to our school. Most are very familiar with our school and surrounds due to transition programs in 2015 and have settled in well.


We also welcome other new families to our school. Lachlan Summers (Yr 6) from Nangwarry, Harley Davies (Yr 5) from Naracoorte and Sandy Childs (Yr 5). We hope all our new students have settled in well and will have a great experience at our school.

We welcome our new staff members, Regan Wood (Yr 7), Sam McDougall (Yr 6) and Bradley Maney (SSO). Welcome back also to Anna Copping, who returns to the classroom in the F/1 class, as well as undertaking her leadership role.
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**

In line with our strategic directions and need, we are running with three coordinators this year. All positions were advertised with Olivia Thomas, Tony O’Connell and Anna Copping being the successful applicants. Olivia will take on a new role as Early Years Coach, which is an extension of the role she had last year. Using some of the successful practices Tony utilised in his role as Numeracy Coach, Olivia will help lead literacy and numeracy practices in the Early Years. She will be working part time, with Tuesday and Wednesday being her standard days.

Anna will take on a similar role she had prior to her leave, with intervention and student wellbeing her core focus. Her main admin day will be on a Wednesday. Tony will be School Management Coordinator and his role will be very similar to previous years.

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.

**Staffing**

As mentioned at the Parent Information Night, the rest of our staffing for 2016 will be:

- F/1A: Karmel Finch / Anna Copping
- F/1B: Jamie Sheppard
- Yr 2/3: Julie Hogg
- Yr 2/3: Fiona Holbieron/ Stacey Walters
- Yr 4/5L: Nicole Lear
- Yr 4/5W: Julianna Williams
- Yr 6: Sam McDougall
- Yr 7: Tony O’Connell / Regan wood
- R-7 Science: Merran Jolley (0.8)
- R-7 HASS and Library: Cathy Heyn

Our support staff includes:

- Marcia Hunt—Administration / Finance
- Kerry Dent—Administration / classroom support
- Toni Cazow—Classroom support
- Dione McDonald-French - Classroom support
- Janet Brodie—Library / Classroom support
- Michelle Barry—Classroom Support / Admin
- Bradley Maney—Classroom Support
- Matt Crewe—Grounds Superintendent and facilities manager/ Classroom Support
- James Braddy—ICT and network manager
- PSW: Nathan McDuff (Mondays)

**Parent Information Night**

On Wednesday, we held a successful Parent Information Night and thank the many parents who came along to listen to what we have in store for 2016. It was a good opportunity for parents to meet all the staff and their child’s teacher.

**Japanese**

In 2016 it is compulsory for DECD schools to have a language as part of its curriculum. We will be learning Japanese from the Open Access College with lessons delivered via the Electronic Whiteboards. The Japanese teachers will be visiting the school on Wednesday March 2nd as an introductory lesson. We look forward to being part of this program.

**Interviews**

In response to feedback from previous years, we will be holding our first round of interviews in two to three 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.

**Playful Learning Project**

McKay Children’s Centre and Penola Primary School have been involved in a special learning project about Playful Learning with Lisa Burman. This project began in 2014 and will continue in 2016. Lisa is a leading Early Childhood Educator and has her own Facebook page and website. She is supporting educator learning in Penola to make the best possible learning outcomes for your child. Lisa will work with us in week 6 of Term 1, 2 and 3. The Monday, (March 7th) is proposed to be a Pupil Free Day. We look forward to involving you in our learning about the long term benefits of playful learning to develop strong dispositions and powerful lifelong learners. More information can be found at www.lisaburman.com

**Parent Learning Group**

Thank you to the parents who attended the screening of the Life at 9 series on Creativity. If you were unable to attend, you can download it on iView (Google it!) or borrow the copy we have at school (be prepared to go on a waiting list!) Having a greater understanding of the role that creativity plays in our society and how we can promote these skills in a school setting adds significantly to how we perceive learning and how we can parent our children. I highly recommend having a look if you have an opportunity. I would like to highlight that creativity is presented as a problem solving, thinking skill rather than an artistic skill, making it very relevant to all.

Following some conversations after the viewing last week, we would like to invite interested parents to be
part of a ‘Learning Book Club’. We will meet (probably once or twice a term) to have a look at some research around learning and have a general discussion on what we think and how we feel about a range of topics. This opportunity is open to anyone who is interested in learning more about learning and in making links between home and school life. We may look at an article, watch a YouTube clip, have a guest speaker or just have a general chat about what it means to be a learner in today’s society. Once we have an established group, meeting times and venues will be decided on a majority rules basis and are very flexible to help people participate when lives are so busy.

I’m genuinely excited about being part of this group and never tire from hearing people’s ideas and views on learning. If this sounds like something you would like to be a part of please contact me on (08) 87372300 or olivia.thomas142@schools.sa.edu.au

Olivia Thomas

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 Monday 22nd 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**
- Peta Crewe
- Trish Brand
- Leolla Balk
- Mark DeGaris
- Rachel Messenger
- Kirsten Croser
- Justin McDonald
- Megan McGuiness
- Ulrich Grey-Smith

**Tenure finished and /or need to renominate**
- Stuart Sharman
- Pete Balnaves
- Melissa Hunter
- Sandy Moorhouse
- Cindy Hutchesson

Any parent is invited to attend the AGM. If you are interested in being on the Governing Council, please speak to Paul or Melissa Hunter.

Hi...let me introduce myself...my name is Nathan McDuff and I am Penola Primary School’s Pastoral Care Worker. I am employed by School’s Ministry Group (SMG) in partnership with DECD to provide a chaplaincy service to the School. I started this role in Term 4 of 2015 and I continue in this role for 2016. I want to say welcome back to the existing students and a special welcome to the new students. My aim is to get to know you and your name as soon as possible!

What is a Pastoral Care Worker? My role is focusing on the wellbeing of a person. This includes a person’s emotional, physical, social and spiritual wellbeing. In other words, my concern is for you and how you are doing in life. At Penola Primary School my role is to make sure you feel safe, you are coping with life and, in particular, that you are able to focus whilst at School and make the most of your time here at School.

I do this through individual and/or group discussions with students, teachers, staff and parents. I try and provide some coping mechanisms and/or solutions to the way you can overcome any problems or issues you may have at school or home. One of my main strengths is to listen and then offer advice about your problem. I do this through relationship building and helping out wherever I can.

My role is also unique in that I offer a Christian perspective to life. It’s not about preaching, but about showing love through practical ways. Throughout the year, I may offer some Christian-based and/or values-based Seminars that will help you strengthen your foundation to cope with life. If you have any questions about God, ask me...I’m not afraid to talk about my faith.

Students...my goal is to support you in your friendships/relationships as you seek to make your way through School and set yourself up for life in High School. Parents...my goal is to support you in any way I can through making myself available to meet and chat about any issues relating to School or personal life. I also have available resources to help you with many and varied issues. Staff...my goal is to support you through being in your classrooms and in the Staff Room as often as possible.

I look forward to meeting you for the first time or reconnecting with you from last year…but please be gracious with me if I have forgotten your name...there are lots of you and only one of me!!

I’m here on Monday’s so if you see me, say hi...if you want a chat, my door is always open (unless it’s closed!!). Have a great year of learning and discovery.

Nathan McDuff
Pastoral Care Worker
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 Wednesday 17th February at 7:30pm in the Staffroom. All parents are welcome to attend.

Swimming
Swimming Lessons have begun with our instructors, Jo and Cameron. We have been fortunate that the weather has been sunny and warm which has made it much more enjoyable in the water. It is pleasing to see the participation rate has been very high. The Foundation to Yr 3 students will celebrate the end of their swimming with a Splash Carnival on Friday 19th February.

Students from Year 3-7 will be having time trials on the 23rd-24th 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 4th March.

School Fees
The school fees for 2016 are set at $220 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. It is a no parking zone between 8.30 – 8.45 and 3.15 – 3.30 p.m. Be aware that parking inspector and other authorities may be monitoring the school over the next few weeks.

Volunteers
We are indeed fortunate to have many volunteers who help out with camps, listening to reading, cooking etc. DECD have changed the rules regarding compulsory Police Checks if your child is involved in that class. However, some events, such as camps require a Police Clearance. Parents are not permitted to attend school camps without a current DCSI clearance.

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 the students in that house were given the opportunity to vote. Voting will be on a preferential basis. The result of the vote have been announced. The captains will be presented to the school at the next assembly.

Our House Leaders for 2016 are:

**Rymill**
Captains
Connor Hunter
Georgia Winter
Vice Captains
Jess Eastwood
Tom Skeer

**Woods**
Captains
Sophie McDonald
Dylan Morton
Vice Captains
Charlotte Neale
Jake Klemm

**Dickson**
Captains
Annie Pollard
Taj Messenger
Vice Captains
Lucy Sharman
Joel Dent

**Gordon**
Captains
Ella Hutchesson
Angus Croser
Vice Captains
Ruby Black
Hugo Balnaves

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.
Penola and District Bendigo Bank is pleased to begin school banking at Penola Primary School for 2016. The first collection was on February 11th and will continue 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 8737 2400 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.

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 for the first half of 2016.

**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.

**Nude Food Containers**

As a part of their project to reduce the amount of landfill our school produces the 2015 Environment Group (Brady Pahl, Matthew Perry, Beccy Robinson and Sophie McDonald) wanted to give each student a container to assist families in supporting our nude food initiative. Using the environment groups own funds and money contributed by our SRC committee, we also received a very generous donation from Shane and Kerry McPherson at Penola IGA. Can you please label your container and help support your child/children on our journey to reduce waste at Penola Primary School. Thank you.

**Good Quality 2nd Hand Clothes at Front Office**

**All proceeds are donations to the Parent Club**

Available All items $5.00

Sports Polo: Dickson (sizes) 10, 14Y, 16Y, M
Wood: 10, 16Y

Library Bag: x 1
School Bag: x 1

Plain Yellow Polo Top Size 12
Skorts: sizes: 12, 14
School Dress size 6-8

School Emblem Polo Shirts: Sizes 6, 10, 12
School Emblem Long Sleeve Polo Shirt: 6
School Emblem Rugby Jumper: 6, 8, 10, 14Y, 16Y Adult size: 14S, 16S, 16M
School Emblem Polo Fleece Jumper: 8, 10, 12
Canteen News
The canteen is up and running for 2015 with our fabulous manager, Jessie Denton, 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 Jessie 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. We have 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.

Community News
Penola Community Library
2016 New Opening Hours

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

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 Public Holidays

*Please note that from the 1st Feb 2016 the Library will be closed on Mondays*
Welcome to the New Foundation Students.