Dear Parents and Friends,

The week marks the halfway point of the term. With so many things happening, it is not surprising it has gone so quickly. We have had a great week working with Lisa Burman which started with the Pupil Free Day on Monday. This was followed by two days of teachers having learning team meetings with Lisa. This process ensures consistency across the school as we look to deliver a comprehensive writing program that engages students as well as delivering key aspects of writing structure and grammar. The older students have been very keen to get stuck into their writer’s notebooks and it is great to have children wanting to write. If you get the opportunity, talk to your child about their writer’s notebook.

**Pupil Free Day— Tuesday March 29th**

To complete our comprehensive Literacy focus for 2016, we have been looking at ways we can improve our students’ spelling. The staff has agreed to a program but in order for a consistent approach, we have been negotiating to have Chris Killey work with all staff for a Pupil Free Day. The session will be called *Independent Spelling for life: a whole school approach.*

Covers:
- Alphabet knowledge
- Spelling strategies
- Stages of development
- Grammar
- Assessment
- Classroom management

This day will be held on **Tuesday 29th March** (following Easter).

We understand that this is quite short notice, but when planning dates, it was quite a difficult process. We wanted to have a date that was sooner rather than later, but also would be the least disruptive for students and parents. Due to camps, NAPLAN, SAPSASA events, this was the most workable date. This has been approved by the Governing Council.

**Swimming Carnival**

Last Friday capped off our swimming program with a fantastic Swimming Carnival. In beautiful sunshine, the students all put in a great effort in all their events. Congratulations to Woods for winning in a very tight finish. Results were:

- **Woods** 108
- **Dickson** 104
- **Rymill** 83
- **Gordon** 73

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Term 1 & 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Monday 14th</td>
<td>Public Holiday (Adelaide Cup)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Friday 18th</td>
<td>Assembly — F/1 Sheppard</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fri-Sat 18th-19th</td>
<td>Lucindale Field Days</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tuesday 21st</td>
<td>Governing Council — 7pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Wed 23rd</td>
<td>Millicent Athletics Tryouts</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Friday 25th</td>
<td>GOOD FRIDAY</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Monday 28th</td>
<td>EASTER MONDAY</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tuesday 29th</td>
<td>PUPIL FREE DAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>Friday 1st</td>
<td>Assembly — 4/5 Williams</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sunday 3rd</td>
<td>Rose Farm Open Day Fundraiser</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Monday 4th</td>
<td>James Parker~ Pool Mural (Yr 7)</td>
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<td>Mon-Fri 4th-8th</td>
<td>SAPSASA Softball</td>
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<td>Tues-Fri 5th-8th</td>
<td>Yr 4/5 Camp</td>
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<td>Wed 13th</td>
<td>SAPSASA Athletics—Millicent</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Friday 15th</td>
<td>9:00am Alpha Productions: Hercules Assembly 1:30pm</td>
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<td>Last day Term 1—2:15pm dismissal</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Monday 25th</td>
<td>ANZAC DAY</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>Mon-Wed 2nd-4th</td>
<td>Year 7 Robe Camp</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tue-Thu 10th-12th</td>
<td>NAPLAN</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Friday 27th</td>
<td>PUPIL FREE DAY</td>
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A full report compiled by guest journalist, Tony O’Connell, appears later in this edition.

White Ribbon
Yesterday I attended the second White Ribbon Workshop where our awareness program was showcased amongst other schools. Following the completion of the workshop, Penola PS is now officially recognised as a White Ribbon School. We have already been in talks with Penola High School to plan a joint community event for later this year to continue to raise awareness of a serious social issue.

Stand Like Stone Back-to-School Vouchers
The Stand Like Stone Foundation has been contributing to families for the past few years to help offset the costs of getting back to school. Heavily subsidised by the Penola Coonawarra branch, these vouchers have been anonymously distributed to families to help purchase stationery, clothing, footwear etc. These will be distributed shortly.

Student Representative Council
Positions for SRC were highly sought after this year with 17 students putting in written applications, making the decision process very difficult. The staff commented on the quality of all the applicants which meant that those who missed out were unfortunate. After much discussion the SRC executive will be:
President: Angus Croser
Vice-President: Hugo Balnaves
Secretary: Annie Pollard
Treasurer: Charlotte Neale
Principal’s Rep: Connor Hunter
Class Representatives:
Yr 7: Tom Skeer, Stephen Ryan
Yr 6: Ruby Black, Lachie Croser
Yr 4/5A: Ava Copping, Anders McShane
Yr 4/5B: Jimi-Lee Wagland-McCarthy, Lucy Catlin

Their official presentation will be at assembly on Friday, 1st April.
We look forward to seeing their positive contribution to the school and activating true student voice.

Breakfast Program
This has been a very successful addition to our Discovery session as children continue to develop their independence and literacy skills (writing down orders, oral language etc.)
We would like to thank Windara Bakery for supplying the bread. Geoff and Mardi were very happy to support this program and we are very grateful for their generous donation.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH, WINDARA BAKERY!

Youth Environment Leadership Program (YELP)
Congratulations to Lachie Shields, Ella Hutchesson, Mia Crewe and Amelia Henry who are our YELP representatives this year. They have already attended the first YELP meeting at Naracoorte Caves a few weeks ago and are looking forward to planning their project for 2016.

Lock Your Cars
Just a reminder from the local police that it is a good idea to lock your cars when they are parked around the school for pick up or drop off. Even though you may only be parked for a short time, thieves have been targeting this opportunity.

Uniforms
There are a number of second hand uniforms, available including house tops, if you are looking to top up the wardrobe with a cheaper alternative. Most have been retuned from ex-students, or good-condition lost property that hasn't been claimed.
New uniforms are also available all year round, and thanks to Cindy and the parent club are usually all in stock. See Kerry or Marcia in the Front Office for sales.

Canteen
Thank you to all our wonderful parents who have volunteered to help out in the canteen or do munchies. Having many volunteers means that each person does not need to be rostered on as often.

New products:
Nippy’s flavoured milk now available—Flavours:
- Chocolate
- Strawberry
- Banana
- Honeycomb
- Vanilla
All are $2.50.

Community News
Karate
No Karate this Monday due to Public Holiday

PENOLA PRIMARY SWIM CARNIVAL 2016
In ideal weather conditions, Penola Primary School conducted a most successful swimming carnival for its Years 3 to 7 students at the Penola Swimming Pool last Friday in front of a large contingent of parents, relatives and friends.

Children demonstrated their skills in freestyle, breaststroke and backstroke, along with a variety of novelty events, including the ‘rope rescue event’, the ‘tube race’, and ‘horse and jockey’. Events are tailored to cater for swimmers of all abilities, with 95% of the children competitively swimming at least one of the 3 major strokes as well as participating in 2 or more of the novelty events.

The championship races were keenly contested in all divisions. In the Junior Girls section, Lucy Catlin (12 points) took out the title with rising star, Olivia Balk in second spot on 9 points, whilst in the Junior Boys, Anders McShane (15 points) proved too strong for his opposition with the Year 3 young gun, Jack Sharman claiming the runner’s-up prize with 10 points. Annie Pollard (14 points) was crowned Senior Girls Champion after finishing just one point ahead of her team mate and colleague, Lucy Sharman. There was just centimetres between them all day and they provided the crowd with some fantastic competitive swimming. Angus Croser scored 13 points to take out the Senior Boys Champion title, which was also a ding-dong battle throughout the day, with Joel Dent, Connor Hunter, Taj Messenger and Jake Klemm providing plenty of stiff opposition. Taj Messenger won the runners-up trophy with 10 points, edging out team mate, Joel Dent. It was Angus’ second senior boy championship in succession, following on from his consecutive victories in the junior boys division in 2013 and 2014. Angus is to be congratulated on claiming four successive champion titles!
Coming into the final event of the day, the Open House Relay, Woods held a narrow lead over Dickson. Dickson won the relay with relative ease with Gordon in second spot. Rymill managed to hold onto third spot in front of the fast-finishing Woods. This placed Dickson and Woods in a tie for first place but it was the Woods team that claimed the last team event enabling them to narrowly defeat Dickson and take out the Apex Shield for the second year in a row. Rymill was close behind in third spot with Gordon finishing fourth. The Woods House Leaders, Sophie McDonald, Charlotte Neale, Dylan Morton and Jake Klemm, accepted the shield on behalf of their jubilant team, paying particular thanks to the Penola Primary School Parent Club, the Penola Amateur Swimming Club, and their teachers for the roles that they played in preparing for and conducting the carnival.

Each carnival the teachers vote for the team which they believe has displayed the best leadership, organization, initiative and sportsmanship. Woods scored a unanimous decision and their aforementioned leaders are to be congratulated on an outstanding effort.

The Gordon Bannister Cup event (‘Rope Rescue’), always a crowd favourite, was won by Dickson, their sixth victory since the event was instituted in 2009. The team, which consisted of Annie Pollard, Lucy Sharman, Taj Messenger, Joel Dent, Trish Brand, Matt Crewe, Kerry Dent and Rachael Messenger was never seriously threatened, hitting the finish line strongly, several seconds in front of its nearest rival.
You’re invited to an

Open Day at the Rose Nursery

Take this unique opportunity to visit one of the largest and longest running rose nurseries in Australia. Participate in a tour with the grower where you can have all your questions about roses answered!

Sunday 3rd April 2016
10am - 4pm at Wagner’s Rose Nursery
20 Koorine Road, Kalangadoo

Discover the fabulous new release roses with over 600 varieties, go home with a new plant for your garden and a beautiful bunch of flowers!

www.wagnersrosenursery.com.au | Find us on Facebook

- $8 entry
- Children U15 free
- Great food, coffee, cold drinks and wine for sale
- Selection of potted plants and bunches of roses for sale
- Proceeds will be donated to Penola Primary School and Penola Scouts
- Play area for children