Dear Parents,

You may recall that I informed our community in Term 1 that we were seeking an exemption from the Equal Opportunity Act to enable us to even up the gender balance of students in the School. I am delighted to now let you know that VCAT has granted the exemption which, in effect, will further enhance our coeducational environment. Rest assured that we remain committed to the notion of educating all siblings within each family and, for this reason, brothers and sisters of current students will continue to enjoy the top priority within our waiting lists.

Term 1 was also a time when we launched Peninsula+, our social media platform. Our community can now follow us on Facebook and on Twitter (@TPSMtEliza). We have also created a TPS App which has proven to be very popular with our students and parents who are particularly appreciating having calendar information at their fingertips. To date, over 700 individual users have downloaded the App which is available free from the iTunes store for iPhone and iPad users and from the Google Play App store for those with an android smartphone. As well as enabling us to stay better connected with our community, the ‘Alerts’ functionality of the App also serves to enhance our critical incident response systems and will be used in the event of an emergency, allowing us to send urgent ‘push notification’ messages to parents.

I am delighted to let you know of the great professional accomplishments of three of our staff members. Firstly, my congratulations go to Mr Justin Whelan whose Rotary International Scholarship has seen him spend time in the Netherlands this Term, researching the teaching of Literature and the use of ICT in the classroom, as well as looking at ways to improve student engagement. The Netherlands leads the world in many of these areas so this is a wonderful opportunity for Justin to bring best practice back to Peninsula.

Congratulations also to Tim Patston and Phil Doi who have each been invited to present papers at the prestigious 2013 World Congress on Positive Psychology to be held in Los Angeles during the midyear holidays. Tim’s presentation is entitled “Accentuate the Positive: A Proposed Model of Appreciative Inquiry in Studio Music Education”, whilst Phil will be presenting on “Leading a School-wide Cultural Change: A Systems Theory Approach to Positive Psychology”. These invitations further confirm our School’s reputation as a world leader in this field.

Finally, I would like to pass on my gratitude to our students who continue to be outstanding ambassadors for our School. The fact that they are well presented and respectful is not overlooked by members of the public, as evidenced by the regular congratulatory messages I receive from the wider community. Well done!

Stuart Johnston
Principal

Looking forward

Friday 17 May
Bus Man to Channel 10 excursion, 4.30pm-9pm

Saturday 18 May
AGS Boys / APS Girls Winter Sport
Second Hand Snow Gear Sale, 8am-12pm, Old Gym
Guys & Dolls rehearsal, 12.30-6pm, Ansett Hall

Sunday 19 May
Chapel Service, 10am, Chapel of the Resurrection
The Greedy Woman of Szechwan excursion, 4.30-10.30pm
Senior Musical Bump In - staff only, 9am-3pm, FAC

Monday 20 May
Yr 3 Briars Camp depart, 9am
Senior Musical Tech Day, 9am-11pm, FAC
UNSW Science Competition, Senior/Mid Schools
Communications, Yrs 7 & 9, 8am

Tuesday 21 May
Yr 3 Briars Camp returns, 3.00pm
Senior Musical Tech Rehearsal Day, 9am-10pm, FAC
House Cross Country, Senior School, 10:10am
House Cross Country, Middle School, 11.15am

Wednesday 22 May
Year 8 Market Day, 9am-12.30pm, Ansett Hall
Guys & Dolls Dress Rehearsal, 2pm-10.30pm, FAC
Yr 7 to The Briars excursion, 9am-1pm
PDP Activities, pm
DAN Public Speaking Competition, 9.30am-3pm

Thursday 23 May
Box Man to Channel 10 excursion, 4.30pm-9pm
Senior Musical Tech Rehearsal, 9am-10am, FAC
District Cross Country Junior, 12.30am-2.30pm
Yr 7 to The Briars excursion, 9am-1pm
Guys & Dolls performance, 7pm, FAC

Friday 24 May
Primary Chess Tournament, 9am-2.30pm
Yr 5 Evans, Ansett Hall
Yr 7 to The Briars excursion, 9am-1pm
Guys & Dolls performance, 7pm, FAC

Saturday 25 May
AGS Boys / APS Girls Winter Sport
Guys & Dolls performance, 5pm, FAC
Reunion, Class of 82/83, 7pm, Pavilion

Sunday 26 May
Chapel Service, 10am, Chapel of the Resurrection

Monday 27 May
Cybersmart Presentations, Jrn 11am / MS 2pm / Staff 3.40pm, Ansett Hall
Parents: Cybersmart Information, 7pm, Pavilion
Mornington Peninsula Choral Festival, 7pm-9pm, Ansett Hall
Yr 9-10 B Camp, Yr 9/10 P2C, Yr 9eF Pathways

Tuesday 28 May
Mornington Peninsula Choral Festival, 7pm-9pm, Ansett Hall

Wednesday 29 May
Unit 1 To One Man, ‘Two Gunvis production excursion’
10.45am-4.30pm
Mornington Peninsula Choral Festival, 7pm-9pm, Ansett Hall
Yr 5 Art/French excursion to NGV - “Melbourne Winter Masterpieces”, 9am-3pm

Thursday 30 May
Mornington Peninsula Choral Festival, 7pm-9pm, Ansett Hall

Friday 31 May
UNSW Science Competition, Yrs 10-12, 2pm-3.30pm, Ansett Hall
Class of 2008 - 5 Year Reunion, 7pm, Pavilion

Saturday 1 June
AGS Boys / APS Girls Winter Sport

Sunday 2 June
Chapel Service, 10am, Chapel of the Resurrection

Monday 3 June
VCE Information Evening, 7pm-8.30pm, Lecture Theatre
UNSW Science Competition Yr 8

Tuesday 4 June
Yr 10 & 11 Exams commence, Ansett/Pavilion
Arts Plants Concert, 3.45pm, Chapel

Wednesday 5 June
French Day in Junior School, 8.45-3.20pm
UNSW Science Competition Yr 7

Car sticker enclosed

Please find enclosed with this edition of the newsletter a car sticker for you to display proudly on your rear window. More are available from the Uniform Shop free of charge.

Introducing PENINSULA+
Ways to connect with our school

From our Principal ...

We are delighted to announce the development of Peninsula+, our social media platform. This will allow additional ways for us to communicate with our community and those who have an interest in the School. It also adds a new dimension to our ability to invite, remind and update our community.

Smartphone app
The Peninsula School App for iPhone and Android smartphones provides alerts, calendar events, School news and lots of information for parents.

Twitter
Follow us on Twitter to keep up to date with the latest news, announcements and alerts! Find us at @TPSMtEliza.

Facebook
Like us on Facebook! Find us at The Peninsula School.

YouTube
View a snapshot of our school in action at ThePeninsulaSchool.
World Challenge Vietnam

On the 25th of November 19 students, 2 teachers and one nervous leader were dropped off during the night in the City of Saigon in southern Vietnam. After months of fundraising the money to go on this trip through paracetamol, pizza rights and discoes, we had finally made it. We had wads of cash for our every need for the month, a translation book that helped with just about nothing, and our hiking bags full to the brim of everything we would need over the next month from the sweltering south to the mountains of Sapa in the north. To say we were thrown in the deep end is a gross understatement. We soon learned that the only road rule is that there are no rules and that a five person room was a cozy situation.

The first few days in this seemingly backwards country were a shock to the system. But after a while, if we weren’t so tall, we may just have managed to blend in. One of the highlights for all was spending one week working in an orphanage in the developing Go Vap district in Saigon. While we were there we managed to build the children a library and buy computers, books and pencils for their use. I think that we all agree in saying that this week had the greatest impact on us all.

Over the next month we went on two challenging, breathtaking, beautiful treks, jumped off a waterfall, made friends with lots of cute and cuddly animals and immersed our self in the amazing culture. This trip is something that I know I will never forget; it had a huge impact on me and only overshadowed a bit by the feats of the more aggressive wildlife.

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For my next physical activity I chose skiing. This worked out well because I was going to the snow with my family. I set myself the goal of skiing a blue run. I worked really hard improving my skiing skills by going to ski school, having private lessons and practicing. Skiing the blue run was a real challenge but I was proud of myself when I did it and then I felt brave enough to tackle other blue runs.

On the school holidays I completed my physical activity for level 3. I competed in a triathlon with my sister. We swam 300m, biked 10km and ran 3km. I trained all term for this and had to work hard to improve my fitness. I found the bike ride really tough but it felt really good to finish and I was one of the youngest competitors.

I would really encourage students to be part of the Compass Award. I have had lots of new physical activity experiences, which, have been challenging and fun. I have learnt how to set goals and achieve them. It feels really good to train for something and learn a new skill. I have set my goals in activities that I am already doing so that I don’t overload myself. I hope that this report gives students some ideas and inspires them to be part of Compass.

Zahli McFarlane
Year 6 Compass Award Leader

A matter for debate!

On Wednesday 1st May 2013, twelve keen Year Nine debaters participated in two debates that were recorded to be broadcasted on RRP 98.7. The topic of the first was “Euthanasia is a legal right”. The second topic was, “All Australians in their Gap year should be required to do Civil Defence Training”.

Each debate was contested by two teams, one affirmative and one negative. Each of these teams had a first, second and third speaker. All of the debaters put enormous effort into preparing for the debates, although not every possibility can be prepared for!

During the debate, speakers were allowed the opportunity to rebut against the arguments that the opposing team made. This requires a lot of thinking on the spot and is very difficult. Despite these difficulties, everyone presented fantastic arguments and spoke very well.

The affirmative teams in both of the debates won, as voted by the audience of Year Nines.

Well done to the students involved:
Alexandra Karamesinis, Alexandria Anthony, Max Jones, Lucy Grant, James Woodland, Yoann Colin, Ben Jones, Bethany Dwyer, Oscar Raggs, Kiani Devies-Scott, Noah Szzo and Chloe Hodder.

We look forward to tuning into RRP 98.7 to listen to the fabulous debates!

Alexandra Karamesinis
Year 9
Photography: Rab Siddhi.
The ANZAC spirit continues...

The Peninsula School Marching Band

The Anzac Day 2013 March to the Shrine of Remembrance was a truly memorable experience for all members of The Peninsula School Marching Band and their families.

The band's playing and marching was of the highest standard and many parents who came along were simply lost for words at their polished performance.

The many photos/videos taken by parents as well as the ABC1 footage attest to how far the band has come since its inception last year.

Last year was beset by rain and icy winds and though we got soaked our spirits remained high. This year however, the weather was truly glorious and we had a most enjoyable march up to the Shrine cheered along by record breaking crowds.

The students witnessed some of the best marching bands in the state and were swept up in the excitement, significance and occasion of this iconic event.

The Peninsula School Marching Band will continue to represent the school at the Anzac Day marches to the Shrine and at the Remembrance Day commemorations in Mt. Eliza.

I'd like to thank all of the staff and parents who supported me during this frantic yet exciting time and of course the members of the Peninsula School Marching Band. We're going from strength to strength guys! Well done!!!

Piet Collins
Conductor

Mixing it with the best!

Generations in Jazz Competition

Thousands of students from across Australia flock to Mount Gambier in South Australia each year to compete in the annual Generations in Jazz competition. They participate in workshops, perform for fellow students, public jazz enthusiasts and judges, and get the chance to see some of the world's best jazz musicians play live. This year our Stage Band competed for the very first time.

The enormity of this event can only be realized upon entry to the Big Top, where 4000 people witnessed an incredible concert featuring James Morrison and the amazing Gordon Goodwin and the Big Phat Band direct from the USA. Our students had never experienced anything like this before; they left the concert excited, pumped up and ready to compete the next day.

Saturday was competition day and we joined the 2,900 other students in a day of serious competition over 5 Divisions.  It was with some trepidation that we made our way to the Division 3 marquee and played our set. The students really lifted for the performance and the two members of the Big Phat Band who addressed the students afterwards were suitably impressed with the energy levels on stage.

As a result of our performance, Quentin Roth was selected from the 48 bands in Division 3 to be the keyboard player for the Division 3 Superband. This band is made up of the best of the best players in the Division. Further to this, Noah Szto and Nathan Harris were chosen to have a private lesson with a member of the Big Phat Band, something I am sure they will never forget.

Sunday arrived and it was time to see just how our band had measured up against the rest of Australia. In 3rd place was Lavalla Catholic College with 84 points, second place went to The Peninsula School on 84 1/3 points and in first place was Scotch College with 84 2/3 points. It does not get much closer than that!

Having been a music educator for over 25 years I have been to many festivals and band competitions, Generations in Jazz blew me away. Nothing could have prepared us that moment when we walked into the Big Top for the first time.

Congratulations to all those who were part of this major musical trek across Australia and many thanks to the parents who supported us in undertaking this new venture.

Bring on 2014!

Adam Wesley
Music Faculty

Victor Kahan
more than a quiet achiever

Many of our students will be familiar with Victor Kahan (Class of 2008) who is currently working in our IT Service Centre.

Victor will be with us until midyear while he finishes his degree at Monash University and then commences his new career with Deloitte. I would like to acknowledge Victor's achievement in his final unit (IT based entrepreneurship) where he topped the class and received the GE Capital Excellence Award.

Well done Victor on an outstanding achievement!

Craig Wines
Director of I.T.
Congratulations to Piper Harrison of Year 7, who recently won the Victorian Individual School Surfing Under 13 Girls Title representing The Peninsula School. Piper dominated the event and won a huge margin with all competitors in the final requiring a combination of new scores to win against Piper.

Other recent results include:
- Surfing 5th Under 14 Girls
- Australian Junior Surf Titles Tasmania December 2012
- Under 14 Girls State Surf Champion March 2013
- Victorian Team Australia Surf Titles December 2013.

Well done Piper!

**Individual Sporting Achievement**

Peninsula secured the Coeducational School Premiership, helped along the way by Gold Medals in the U14 Boys’ team and the U18 Girls’ team. Particular congratulations go to Shaun Walton who achieved the fastest split for the day when competing in the U18 Boys’ event. Well done to all team members!

Peninsula Gold Medallists:
- U14 Boys: Sam Torey, James Paton, Ned Burton and Jasper Hayes
- U18 Girls: Riley O’Callaghan, Katelyn Chatfield, Imi Hoyle and Kelsey Walton

Well done Piper!

**P.O.G. Soccer**

It is with great excitement that I can report the Peninsula Old Girls Soccer team, as part of TOPSA Soccer Club, has played its first match. This is significant in that the Old Girls Soccer team is the first Peninsula School Old Girls Alumni team of any kind.

This was only possible due to the achievements made by TOPSA Soccer Club last season on and off the pitch with our Peninsula Old Boys team. The POB were crowned League Champions in 2012, and that success has rubbed off enormously on our club. Our boys’ team has doubled in size which now comprises of a seniors and a reserves side, but impressively our girls’ team is flourishing with numbers and is preparing for the season ahead with gusto.

Recognition should be given to all the girls who have participated so far this season and shown great commitment over the past couple of months. Kat Crow (2010) and Molly Patton (2011) have taken on the role as inaugural coaches, and we look forward to working with them this year.

The Peninsula Old Girls Soccer side should be enormously proud of what they have achieved over summer, as should the TOPSA Soccer Club Committee and its members. 2013 is set to be a huge year for the club, and the girls will be at the forefront of that action. For the record, the girls first friendly match was played on March 17 against Rosedale, and it ended 1-1.

All teams began their seasons on April 7.

Current Year 12 girls are most welcome to join.

Joshua Sinclair
TOPSA Soccer Club President