Looking forward

Saturday 14 September
Cadet Annual Camp - Puckapunyal Depart
Sunday 15 September
Chapel Service, 10am, Chapel of the Resurrection
Monday 16 September
Year 10 Camps / Work Experience commence
Singers’ Concert, 7pm, Wellington Pen
Tuesday 17 September
Jnr School Production Rehearsal, 3.45pm-6pm, Ansett Hall
Wednesday 18 September
PDP Activities, pm
Yr 11 Macbeth Incursion, 2pm-3.30pm, Ansett Hall
Snow Sports Presentation Evening, 6pm, Pavilion
Thursday 19 September
Lyceum Lecture, 7.30am-8.30am, Pavilion
Cadet Annual Camp - Puckapunyal returns
Friday 20 September
Breakfast Club, 7am-9.15am, FAC
New Caledonia French Trip departs
Year 10 Camps / Work Experience conclude
Friday 20 September
Jnr School Production Rehearsal, 3.45pm-6pm, Ansett Hall
Tuesday 24 September
Chapel Service, 10am, Chapel of the Resurrection
USA Tennis Tour departs
Adventure Club Fiji Surf Expedition departs, 5.30am
Monday 23 September
Adventure Club Bali Dive Expedition departs, 5.05am
Friday 27 September
New Caledonia French Trip returns
Sunday 29 September
Chapel Service, 10am, Chapel of the Resurrection
Adventure Club Fiji Surf Expedition returns, 11.15pm
Tuesday 1 October
Adventure Club Bali Dive Expedition returns, 8am
Sunday 6 October
Chapel Service, 10am, Chapel of the Resurrection
USA Tennis Tour returns
Monday 7 October
Staff Conference Day
Yr 9A/B P2C, Yr 9C/D Pathways, Yr 9E/F Camp
Tuesday 8 October
Term 4 commencements
Jnr School Production Rehearsal, 3.45pm-6pm, Ansett Hall
Wednesday 9 October
Division Athletics Carnival, 9am-3pm
Yr 6 Parent Information Evening, 7pm-9pm, Ansett Hall
Thursday 10 October
TOPSA Men’s Breakfast, 7am, Pavilion
Friday 11 October
Class of 2012 - 1 Year Reunion, 7pm, Pavilion
Saturday 12 October
AGS Boys Futsal Basketball Pre-season Tournament
Sunday 13 October
Chapel Service, 10am, Chapel of the Resurrection
Tuesday 15 October
Jnr School Production Rehearsal, 3.45pm-6pm, Ansett Hall
TOPSA Women’s Breakfast, 7am, Pavilion
Night of Notables, 5pm-8.30pm, Pavilion / Perry Building
Wednesday 16 October
Yr 9 Camp concludes
PDP Activities, pm
Thursday 17 October
Yr 10 Romeo & Juliet Incursion, 2pm-3.30pm, Ansett Hall
Boarders’ Valedictory Dinner, 6pm, Pavilion
Southern Metro Athletics Carnival, 9am-3pm
Friday 18 October
Yr 4 P2C Pathways conclude
PSPA Spring Lucheon, 11.30am-3pm, Ranelagh Club
Saturday 19 October
AGS Boys Summer Sport commences
Cadet Annual Drill Day, 7pm, Pavilion
Sunday 20 October
Chapel Service, 10am, Chapel of the Resurrection
Monday 21 October
VCE Art Design Technology Exhibition opens, Pavilion
Yr 6 Canberra Camp departs
Yr 5 City Camp departs
Yr 3 Echuca Camp departs

From our Principal …

Dear Parents,

My thanks go to those of you who responded to our invitation to complete the LEAD Parent Satisfaction survey recently. The data coming from the parent, staff and student surveys will enable us to benchmark our performance against similar schools, better understand community expectations and identify areas for improvement. Parents of Kindergarten students will be surveyed later in the year.

As we approach the “business end” of the year for our VCE students, I must say that it is very pleasing to receive so many positive comments from staff about the dedication being shown by our senior students. The Class of 2013 has been well known for getting down to the task at hand and following staff up for extra assistance when necessary. It’s certainly full steam ahead now in the run up to the exam period.

A very successful Winter sports season came to a conclusion this Term, yielding many highlights. Most probably, none was better than the performance of our Girls’ 1st Basketball team which captured our first-ever premiership in the very tough Combined AGS/APS competition. Congratulations to all involved! A similarly memorable achievement came from our Girls’ Cross Country Team – champions again this year, for the 10th time in the past 11 years. My gratitude goes to the staff who prepared our team, so well, to the parents who supported their children’s participation and to each of our students who represented Peninsula with such obvious pride and enthusiasm.

After 24 years of outstanding leadership and service to the school, Phil Doll, has announced that 2013 will be his final year of full time employment at the School. Phil has spent the last 17 years in the role of Deputy Principal, where his contribution to the culture of the School has been inestimable. Phil will move to a part time position in 2014, leading our Marketing Department and directing our Positive Psychology program.

Corresponding with Phil’s move to his new role, Steve Wiltshire (Deputy Principal, Operations), has indicated that he wishes to align himself more closely with the teaching and learning program. Whilst Steve has very much enjoyed his executive role since taking on the position of Deputy Principal two years ago, he has now decided that his professional ambitions are more student and classroom focused. He has decided, therefore, to relinquish his current role at the end of year. I am most pleased that Steve will remain at the School in a leadership position.

In alignment with our strategic plan which focuses on quality teaching, excellence in learning and positive education, we are now in the process of appointing two outstanding leaders to the following senior positions which have attracted applications nationally and internationally:

- Deputy Principal (Learning & Development)
- Deputy Principal (Student Wellbeing)

In closing, whilst we certainly hope that all of our students will return in 2014, I take this opportunity to remind parents that, in order to avoid a financial penalty, a Term’s notice in writing is required if your child will not be returning to Peninsula in Term 1 next year. Please forward any such notice directly to my office.

Best wishes for the upcoming holidays,

Stuart Johnston
Principal

Raising Resilient Families

A PSPA sponsored presentation

Earlier this Term we hosted clinical psychologist, Andrew Fuller, who gave a fabulous presentation to our parents on the topic of “Raising Resilient Families”. Andrew, who has a very down-to-earth, “tell it as it is” style, both entertained and educated the audience as he shared his wisdom about issues that present from early childhood through to the adolescent years.

Andrew reiterated the benefit of focusing on each child’s strengths and the importance of parents finding things to talk about that affirm, in their child’s mind, that they are loved and valued. He also emphasised the importance of parents teaching their children to lose graciously from time to time in order to build levels of resilience.

Andrew described the current ‘click & go’ generation as being different from those of the past in several important ways:

- Shorter attention span
- More anxious
- Greater reliance on external sources for stimulation and happiness
- More demanding of immediate outcomes
- A desire to be good at school but not wanting to be seen to be working too hard.

These descriptors were good for the parents and teachers in the audience to hear as they will help to shape their interactions with today’s adolescents.

Phil Doll
Deputy Principal
Community Relations & Positive Psychology

A reminder that our social media platform, peninsula+, is a great way to keep abreast of the happenings at the School. Our TPS app, our Facebook page and our twitter feeds have been incredibly well embraced by our community. See our website for details.
You may have noticed that the ECC playground is undergoing a development program to extend our outdoor learning spaces. As a staff group we have done a lot of research as to how learning can be taken outside and how we can differentiate our teaching and learning to cater to the whole child in this process. We want to further develop this pedagogy by incorporating the principles of Claire Warden, a proponent of Natural Curriculum, Inside, Outside and Beyond. The indoor, outdoor learning spaces and connections the children make to their environment are the cornerstones of this type of curriculum and sit well with our Developmental Curriculum in the ECC. We formed a working group and consulted parents, staff and children in this planning stage. We were also lucky enough to work with Helen Tyas Tunggal from Learnscape Design and a landscape architect who helped us to develop our master plan.

The yard development has been divided into 3 stages. Stage 1 was completed at the end of July and we are now planning for stage 2 to take place over the Christmas holidays. Stage 3 would then be completed in the following year, thus completing our redevelopment. This project is a culmination of many years of planning and research. Staff have visited many schools and play spaces to ensure that we provide the best opportunities for our students.

Many people have been involved in this process and I would particularly like to thank Peg Pike, Louisa Cook and Mary Grummet who initiated the working party. They have worked with the Grounds and Maintenance Staff to ensure that this playground development will be something really innovative and special.

If you are ever up this way call in and say hello, the children would love to share their new space with you.

Louise Nicholls-Easley
Head of ECC

ECC Learnscape

What's Up Doc?

the importance of feedback

I recently had cause to visit my doctor, twice. On the first visit, I had a theory as to what my symptoms meant. I thought: “I know myself fairly well. I’ve felt like this before and what it meant.” Actually, this attitude had been the reason why I had delayed visiting the doctor and let the symptoms evolve. Needless to say my own ideas were completely misguided.

Following the first visit and diagnosis the symptoms persisted, so I returned. On the second visit, drawing on the misdiagnosis almost solely, she was able to prescribe the required course of treatment. Sure enough, the symptoms vanished.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of my return visit was how useful the earlier “misdiagnosis” had been in her ability to treat me. I could not help but ask at the conclusion of the second consultation, “do you get feedback like this often?” Her reply surprised me.

“No, not really. Usually patients ask to see another doctor if they feel they have been misdiagnosed.”

I persisted with one final question. “Did it help?”

“Yes,” she replied. “It does. The first time it happened, many years ago, I was so embarrassed. But I learnt to view it as a learning experience. In this case, if I saw the same symptoms again, I would now ask one further question before making my diagnosis.”

Conscious that we might be straying slightly from the usual doctor-patient consultation, I said my thank-you and made my way out; but I kept thinking. I thought about feedback in schools and learning amongst the teaching staff and to model their teaching for others, particularly new and younger staff who join the school. In fostering collaboration and open classrooms, the leading teachers have an invaluable place within the fabric of the school.


Cameron Bacholer
Director of Teaching and Learning
cbacholer@tps.vic.edu.au

Cadet News...

leadership and training

Congratulations to the following year 9 Cadets who attended Cadet Leadership and Development Courses, held at Puckapunyal Military Training Area during the July holidays:-

• Travis Garret
• Nicholas Arnold
• Brenton Barling

The three Cadets joined others from all over Victoria for 9 days of leadership and practical training. I am delighted to report that all three were successful and have now returned to our Unit with practical and theory skills that they will use to assist in the delivery of the Cadet program to their fellow cadets. They are also eligible for a promotion as soon as a place becomes available.

This is a fine achievement for Year 9 students and a very positive reflection of their commitment to the continuing success of the Peninsula School Army Cadet Unit.

Captain (AAC) Jacky Howgate
Officer Commanding TPSACU

Homestays WANTED!

Monash Homestay Accommodation Services is looking for families interested in hosting International students studying at The Peninsula School.

Homestay hosts must be able to drop off and pick up their student, provide them with a single room, 3 meals a day, use of utilities and lots of TLC!!

Families will be paid $259 weekly.

For additional information please contact:
Karen or Evangeline from Homestay
Ph: 9905 8326 or 9902 0318
(between 9:00 – 5:00)

The School with spirit!
The ECC is a very busy place...

During the last week of Term 2 I had the opportunity to attend ‘The Happiness and Wellbeing Conference’ in Melbourne. Presenters from many different disciplines (e.g. neuroscientists, psychologists, social commentators, educationalists,) spoke to the delegates about a range of issues during two very full and interesting days. On the third day I participated in a workshop led by Linda Lantieri, an American educationist who specialises in social and emotional learning. I had read Linda’s book “Building Emotional Intelligence” and was excited to hear her speak.

She spoke passionately about the need to provide children with quiet places for reflection and peace; places to relax the body and mind. Her research and experiences with children during times of high stress (the Twin Towers collapse for example, and conflict experiences with children during times of high stress) and between children who meet there. They understand that it is an area to go to, to play quietly with a friend, read or just snuggle down with blankets, cuddles and doonas. Quiet music plays in the corner and several children ask me to put it back on again when it has stopped! I am a firm believer in the notion that children need to feel calm and in control to be able to learn. As soon as anxiety levels rise, learning is made more difficult as the chemicals and hormones that travel through the body at high levels for long periods of time (such as cortisol) actually prevent the pre-frontal cortex from absorbing and processing information. “The pre-frontal cortex holds circuits both for inhibiting disruptive emotional impulses and for paying attention – for calming and focusing.” p3 Building Emotional Intelligence - Linda Lantieri, 2008.

Learning how to decrease stress levels is beneficial to children (and adults) and methods include:
1. Developing self-awareness and self understanding (i.e. identifying the feelings that occur in the body when you are experiencing stress) and practising ways of dealing with stressful situations more effectively by “creating a more relaxed way of responding to stress.” p10 Building Emotional Intelligence - Linda Lantieri, 2008.
2. Learning how to relax the body and release physical tension. (e.g. breathing techniques are easy to teach to children)

Both of these skills assist concentration and the ability to pay attention, which is critical to learning.

The Peace Corner will be a permanent area in the Kindergarten M room during Term 3.

Prep Grandparents and Special Friends

As part of their History unit of study, the Prep have been exploring the key inquiry questions of:
1. What is my history and how do I know?
2. What stories do other people tell about the past?
3. How can stories of the past be told and shared?

After studying their own family structure, mapping out family trees, learning what a generation is and examining the common features that define all families, who better to share a greater perspective than our grandparents and special friends? On Thursday 15 August, a morning was organised to celebrate these very special people in our lives. Grandparents were asked to share their memories of what school was like in their time and they joined the children in completing a book that compared school features such as uniform, the whole school, classroom design, playtime games and special toys. The students were surprised to hear that children were subject to being smacked if they were naughty at school and the grandparents remarked how friendly and welcoming today’s learning environment is. They were then treated to the incredible Junior School/ECC Art Show in The Pavilion and enjoyed scones and a cup of tea. We would like to thank all the grandparents and special friends who came to this function and those who managed to bring memorabilia from their own school days, which was truly fascinating and helped bring these stories to life. Quite a few grandparents travelled considerable distances to attend- Traralgon, Euroa, Mildura and Noosa to name a few, and we deeply appreciate their commitment. We were honoured that some families were able to have 4 generations represented. Perhaps the most stunning example of how the generations connect in a unique way in 2013 was Max Kheryakhos and his grandparents, who currently reside in Canada, but were present throughout the whole morning via Skype on the ipad!

Apart from enhancing this unit of study beyond measure, what was most apparent was how important these family relationships are to our wellbeing especially in these formative years, and how utterly, utterly treasured each child is.

Amanda Davis and Jane Conquest-McDyre
Prep Teachers

International visitors

Here are some photos from a recent visit to the Prep from the Chinese international visitors. The Preps loved having them and were spellbound to have their names written in Chinese!

Musical Notes...

Percussion Master-class

The School’s Junior, Middle and Senior Percussion Ensembles were given a special master-class on August 15th by John Arcaro from the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. As a Master Percussionist, John has been with the MSD for many years and our students were given the opportunity to learn first hand his advanced techniques and approach to ensemble playing. In the lead up to Grand Music Showcase it was extremely beneficial for the students to be given this extra learning opportunity.

Piet Collins – Percussion

Melbourne Chamber Orchestra Workshop

On Saturday, 22nd June, seven of our advanced sitting students performed with the professional ensemble, The Melbourne Chamber Orchestra. String students from the region applied to participate in the MCO Advanced Strings Workshops which involved two full Sunday rehearsals and an additional, after-school rehearsal - including an informal performance to parents a few days prior to the public performance. The major performance with the MCO formed part of the Peninsula Music Society’s Winter Solstice concert series at the Pavilion Community Theatre, Mornington.

This year’s collaboration with the MCO was the fourth consecutive year our students have enjoyed working and performing with professional musicians as they prepared the delightful but challenging Divertimento in D – K. 136 by Mozart. The rehearsals and performance were directed by Rachael Beesley, a world renowned professional chamber musician, soloist, recording artist and educator. Her enthusiasm, vast knowledge and incredible energy inspired our students to achieve a most musical and successful performance on the night.

Our talented students who took part in the event were Lauren Pinney, Emily Wong, Ichika Matsumoto, Emily Whitney, Tully Robertson, Jack Cook and Isabella Nolan-Sannia.

As part of the concert, we were also treated to a performance of the famous Octet for Strings by Mendelssohn and the Haydn Cello Concerto in C Major, by this energetic, professional ensemble. A brilliant opportunity!

Sue Dowdell
Head of Strings

Eisteddfod Success

Britten Choir recently competed in the Primary Choirs Section of the Waverley Eisteddfod. There were 11 choirs in our section and a few truly excellent performances amongst them. We won our section, and now have a trophy to add to the cabinet in the Junior School foyer!

Our students behaviour during the very long section, and demeanour towards the other competitors was both professional and respectful (after the very jubilant reaction when the winner was announced). The Britten Choir students give up their Tuesday lunchtime every week to be involved in this choir. Congratulations to all involved.

Lidia Mancini - Choral
AGSV Selection

Congratulations to the following students who have gained Combined AGSV Selection:

**Cross Country**
- Kayla Cheasley, Georgina Torey, Riley Cridland, Kaitlyn Egan, Kelsey Walton, Annabel Hayes, Imogen Hoyle, Christiana Lees, Shawn Walton, Justin Wolsley
- Emergencies - Kate Cassell-Ashton, Laurene Colin

**Football**
- William Crowder, Jeremy Gleeson, James Hammond, James Freeman (emergency)

**Soccer**
- Grady Vickers

**Basketball**
- Christiana Lees (captain), Stephanie Reid, Eliza West, Kristy Brockway

**Netball**
- Madeline Peirce

AGSV/APS Basketball Premiers

On Saturday 3 August The Peninsula School Girls’ First Basketball team comfortably defeated Mentone to finish their season with 9 wins and 1 loss for the season. This outstanding achievement meant that our girls were equal on points with Caulfield and Carey and therefore finished equal 3rd amongst APS Basketball Premiers for 2013.

This is the first time our girls have won the Basketball premiership. All girls, and coach Andrew Harms, are to be congratulated on an excellent season. Their dedication and commitment to training and their performance in games throughout the season has been excellent.

Members of the team were; Christiana Lees (Captain), Stephanie Reid (Vice-Captain), Kristy Brockway, Eliza West, Alexandra Harringtons, Leah Carpenter, Grace Glen, Zoe Craig and Claudia Balfour. Well done girls!

Touch Football Success

On the weekend of Saturday & Sunday 20 & 21 July Touch Football Victoria ran a State selection camp at Lake Dewar lodge just outside Bacchus Marsh. After an exhausting weekend selection process ten Peninsula girls were selected for State teams to represent Victoria at the National Championships later this year. Our girls comprise a significant number of those selected in Victorian teams and we look forward to a very successful Touch Football season in 2013/2014. Well done girls!

U18 Girls Team to contest at National Youth Championships from 9-14 September at Brisbane:
- Lachlcy Parton
- Stephanie Reid
- Emily Reid
- Eliza West.

U15 Girls team to contest at School Sport Australia Touch Championships from 14-18 October in Darwin:
- Tiarni Bross
- Anne Buntine
- Isabel Kahan
- Lachlcy Parton
- Emily Reid
- Shea Sanders
- Ruby Wilson.

Gymnastic Invitational

The Peninsula School recently entered a team in the APS Gymnastics Invitational held at Wesley College. The team of Maddie McDonald, Ebony Dike and Zali Cohen were extremely successful, finishing 1st overall, with Wesley and Caulfield Grammar in 2nd and 3rd places. Maddie McDonald and Zali Cohen finished equal 2nd in the individual competition which was a great achievement.

The Peninsula School • 20 Wooralla Drive • Mount Eliza • VIC • 3930
The School with spirit!