Dear Parents,

It’s always pleasing to be able to report on professional achievements which serve to underline the quality of our teaching staff. With this in mind, I am thrilled to let you know that Kate Hadwen, our Head of Senior School, has been awarded a Collaborative Research Network Travel Fellowship. This is a competitive fellowship offered by a group of Australia’s leading universities to further bridge the gap between evidence and practice in education. This fellowship will see Kate spending much of January in Canada, working alongside outstanding researcher and wellbeing expert, Professor Debra Pepler. We also congratulate Dr Tim Patston, our Director of Music, who has been appointed an honorary Fellow of the University of Melbourne’s, Graduate School of Education. These are both great career accomplishments.

Term 3 came to a close with many outstanding events. Our Fathers’ Day Breakfast saw us catering for nearly 600 attendees, all of whom I am sure enjoyed a great time of celebration and fellowship. A grand total of 230 students were catered for at our annual Term 3 Legacy Lunch and this year’s lunch was certainly no exception. Our Grand Music Showcase is always a highlight of our September calendar and this year’s concert was certainly no exception. Our Music Department and our talented students certainly addressed the theme of “Music from the Movies” with great enthusiasm and professionalism. The highlights of each ensemble item really said it all!

We once again hosted the Term 3 Legacy Lunch, together with the Class of 2012’s 1 Year Reunion. The start of Term 4 signals a string of calendared Valedictory events which I am sure the families of the Class of 2013 are looking forward to. These are some of my favourite annual events as they give me the opportunity to recognise the extensive contribution of our graduating students and also to acknowledge the parent loyalty and support afforded the School, sometimes for a decade or more.

My best wishes for the Term ahead.

Stuart Johnston
Principal

Brad Smith
Young Entrepreneur of the Year

We recently hosted 25yo Bradley Smith, who spoke to students from Grade 6 to Year 12 about his journey in the corporate world. Bradley is the CEO of Braap Motorcycles, a booming multi-national business which he started at the age of 17yo.

Bradley told the story of how he had to knock on countless doors before he could obtain the financial backing to enable him to bring his vision to fruition. Not only was Bradley an exceptionally accomplished speaker who connected brilliantly with our students, his narrative linked perfectly to our Positive Psychology message regarding the benefits of adopting an optimism mindset as you tackle life’s difficulties.

Phil Doll
Deputy Principal
Community Relations & Positive Psychology

Celebration Evening 2013
Tuesday 19 November
7.30pm Robert Blackwood Hall
Monash University, Clayton

A great evening of prize giving and celebration at which we will be acknowledging the excellence of our students across our academic and co-curricular programs.

Invitations will soon be issued via our Weekly Bulletin
All secondary students are required to attend
South Street 2013

On Saturday, 31st August, the talented and dedicated musicians in the Chamber and Symphony Orchestras made their way to Ballarat to participate for the fourth consecutive year in the Royal South Street Competitions. This is the longest running and most prestigious event of its kind in Australia and as usual this year, the standard and competition was formidable.

Chamber Orchestra members had worked for most of the year, learning, refining and polishing their three pieces in readiness for competition. The wonderful thing about attending this event each year is that it provides a real and necessary goal to strive for, which is a very big motivator.

The educational benefits of our students viewing other ensembles are vast, and our students come away with a tremendous amount of extra musical knowledge and greater understanding. Our three works were vastly different in style ensuring an entertaining programme for the adjudicators and audience. With very favourable comments from the Adjudicators, Chamber Orchestra was placed Honorable Mention, 4th place. The members and staff were thrilled with this result, considering our relative small ensemble numbers.

There was a large audience present and it was wonderful to see a number of staff and students present to support our talented musicians.

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Languages more relevant than ever

Languages week in the Middle and Senior School was packed with a variety of activities for staff, students and parents. Activities for the week included: a lunchtime Boules competition, French pancakes with Robert, the master of the French cripe, a True/False French cultural quiz with the lucky winner receiving 100 Chocolate Frogs, a “What did you say?” Languages quiz where students competed in teams to guess the language being spoken, French and Chinese Poetry recitations, a staff poetry competition, and Italian, French and German performances in Junior, Middle and Senior School assemblies by chorale students, all coached by Miss Lidia Mancini who became an honorary member of the Languages Faculty for the week. Joshua Timewell, Emma Crouch and Abigail Vanderzwan all sang beautifully and were a credit to their teacher.

A vast array of brave staff and students from across all areas of the School also volunteered to be captured on film speaking in a myriad of different languages and were immortalised in the first ever Peninsula School Languages video. Holly Gray in Year 8 was the winner of the poster competition to advertise the week and Holly’s design was displayed on the school website and around the School. Each morning tutor groups were invited to answer the role in a different language and to answer French and Chinese cultural questions.

Students studying Chinese were also able to participate in Paper cutting and Chinese dancing. The highlight of the week was the inaugural Peninsula School Languages video. Holly Grey in Year 8 was the winner of the poster competition to advertise the week and Holly’s design was displayed on the school website and around the School. Each morning tutor groups were invited to answer the role in a different language and to answer French and Chinese cultural questions.

Between the PSPA and the Languages Faculty, Year 7 and 8 French students were invited to act as waiters and waitresses for the assembled guests, their parents, grand-parents, Mr. Johnston and Mrs Baidker. Guests were given a menu and were encouraged to place their order in French! Whilst the food and drinks were being prepared the guests were treated to some more vocal performances from Emily Swanton (German), Jade Rooney (Italian) and Abigail Vanderzwan (French) and our Notre Dame scholar, Kaitlyn Howgate, talked about the significance of receiving the scholarship, which enabled her to spend 6 weeks in France at the end of 2012.

Matinée du français

Towards the end of August on a fine Sunday morning, Monsieur Caseby and Madame Howgate were joined by the Year 12 French class of 2013 for a “rendez-vous” in the city with several hundred other students from around the State for a morning of preparation activities for the French VCE examination. The sessions were organised by the Association of French Teachers in Victoria and student volunteers were given instructions and guidance on practice examples for each component of the examination. Practice activities for Reading, Listening enabled students to ease their way in and accustom themselves to different voices speaking French. The presentation on the Writing component was extensive and packed with new ideas. The component culminated with a presentation on the Oral component, the shortest part of the examination in terms of minutes – only 15 – but often the component that can strike fear into even the most confident student. However, after the two brave student volunteers had been put through their paces by the examiners in a mock examination on the stage there were audible sighs of relief as students in the audience realised that with hard work, thorough preparation and just a little bit of luck with the questions that the Oral was no longer to be feared!

Students were encouraged to take every opportunity to read, listen to, and speak French in the time remaining before the examinations and the Languages Faculty would very much like to echo that sentiment as we wish our year 12 students ‘Bon Courage’!

Jacky Howgate
Head of Languages

CLTAV Competition

After lots of hard work throughout the year of 2013, Dr Zhou was faced with the hard decision to pick her top Junior Chinese students to represent The Peninsula School in the CLTAV (Chinese Language Teachers Association of Victoria) Non-background Learners Reading and Speaking Competition. On Friday the 30th of August, Jake Colletti (Year 7), Laurene Colin (Year 8) and Yoann Colin (Year 9) were privileged enough to set off to Melbourne Grammar School to compete against schools from all over Victoria. Each contestant was given a 10 line passage in Chinese written both in pinyin and in Chinese characters that we had to prepare and read to the large audience and judges. The topics of the reading passages had been given to us prior to the event which had allowed us to broaden our vocabulary in these areas before the D-day.

At 6:30 when the organisers called up the Year 7 contestants who were given their passages, only having 10 minutes to prepare before presenting it. It was Jake who courageously bravely bravely had his nerves first. The passage was to do with family and Jake’s tones and pronunciation were a real stand out to his tremendous performance.

In second, Laurene Colin started the stage to bring to life her story about birthdays. Laurene dealt with her nerves particularly well and did extremely well for someone who had only been doing Chinese for 6 months.

Finally, Yoann finished off the speeches for the night, reading out a passage about hobbies. He showed off a very entertaining style of reading with his animations from the actions from what the passage meant. Along with getting him extra marks, he even managed to get a few laughs from the crowd!

Overall, we were all very proud and honoured to represent our school at this fabulous event. The facilities of Melbourne Grammar were impeccable and it was a great thrill to compete against 75 other contestants whilst having lots of adrenaline and excitement surging through us. The evening was very well prepared and the results were announced by the judges. Jake, Yoann and I were all delighted to be presented with a Year Level Contestants Certificate before the competition concluded.

We would like to thank Dr Zhou for her amazing effort in preparing the whole excursion to the city after school, helping us at lunchtimes and recess to enlarge our vocabulary and for giving us this opportunity which really paid off. This experience truly boosted our Chinese!

Laurene & Yoann Colin
Year 8 & Year 9

Media release

KIDS AND BUSHFIRE SURVIVAL PLANNING

If you live in a bushfire prone area, planning a bushfire survival plan can mean the difference between life and death.

While children may find bushfires scary or worrying, research evidence suggests that actively participating in the planning process can help to reduce their fears and concerns. Just like adults, children get worried or scared when they feel they have no control over a particular threat.

Your child can make a solid contribution to your bushfire survival plan!

For more information go to
http://www.bushfire2uc.com/resources/product/involve-your-kids-bushfire-survival-planning-eBook

to download your FREE Involve Your Kids – Bushfire Survival E-Book.

For more information contact Jane Barber on:
3419 872 117 or j.barber@cfa.vic.gov.au

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Snowsports at the close of another season

The racing season is finished and once again The Peninsula School has done extremely well. The Junior School won most of the “silverware”. A detailed list of results can be found on the vic.sportsweb site in the “Results” folder listed down the left hand side of the Home page.

Some of the outstanding results were:

Div 5 Girls team: 1st in Snowboard GS and BoarderX; and 2nd in XC classic (Lucy Nason, Liv Barnett & Poppy Nason). The girls went on to win the Australian Championships in BoarderX and GS as well!

The Div 5 boys, Will Watson won the Snowboard GS and with Flynn Williamson they were 2nd as a team. They went on to be 2nd as a team in the GS and 3rd in BoarderX at the Australian championships; Will was 3rd individually.

In the Div 4 Girls, Ashlee Barnett was 2nd in both the GS and BoarderX at the Australian Championships. These students and the others in the team produced one of our best ever Junior School results: 4th at the Vic Interschools overall and 6th at the Nationals.

In the Senior School, Ally Stannus flew the flag for the School. She finished 2nd in the Div 2 girls Alpine GS and 3rd in The SkierX. At the Australian championships she finished 4th in the skierX. The School finished 7th in the Secondary School Division.

At the Australian Secondary Schools Teams Championships, our girls’ team was most successful finishing 2nd overall after the 6 disciplines (XC classic, XC relay, GS Alpine, SkierX, Snowboard GS and BoarderX). The boys team finished 4th overall.

Congratulations to all team members on a great season!

Neil Heron
Snowsports Co-ordinator

Individual Sporting Achievement

Football
After competing in the Nationals back in July, Jacob Weitening (Year 10) has received an AIS/AFL scholarship. There are only thirty given out nationally each year, so this is a wonderful achievement. The program involves three training camps over the next six months, one of which is a ten day tour in New Zealand, where the Australian U16’s team play New Zealand Hawks. During these camps they focus on football skills, physical conditioning, nutrition as well as personal development such as leadership and study skills. After this Jacob will hopefully get into the Level 2 AIS program which will help lead to the AFL draft.

Basketball
Braden Nelmes (Year 7) is heading to Darwin to play basketball in the Australian U14 Championships. This was an incredible achievement for his team, the Southern Peninsula Sharks, which won the Victorian Country Championship title. The top 24 U14 teams from across Australia compete for the National title. Well done Braden and all the best in the near future.

Archery
Our congratulations go to Oliver McNaught (Grade 5) who is building an impressive record of achievements in his favourite sport of Archery. Ollie recently attended the State and National Indoor Archery Championships held at Morwell Vic. The competition was held over two days on the Saturday and Sunday. After the two days of competition, Ollie finished the competition with 2 Gold Medals and 1 Silver. A brilliant effort!

Lacrosse
Daniel Taylor (Year 9) has made the State team for lacrosse. He has been working extremely hard to get selected, and it has now paid off. He will be competing for Victoria in Adelaide first week of October (2nd week of school holidays). Well done Daniel and all the best in the near future.

Baseball
Rhys Butler (Year 9) was selected by the Victoria Kangaroos representing Baseball Victoria to play in a baseball tournament hosted South Carolina USA. The Kangaroos are participants in the Ripken Baseball Challenge which is a week long tournament for teams throughout the United States and Internationally.

Karate
Jonathan Carter (Year 10) recently attended the Australian Karate Federation National Championships in Tasmania where he represented Victoria in the 16-17yo division. Jonathan narrowly missed out on a Bronze medal in his weight division, losing the medal match to a split decision after the scores were tied at full time. Jonathan went on to win a Bronze medal in the Open weight division, winning 5 matches in the process. His performance was sufficient to see him selected to further represent Victoria in the Junior teams event, in which his team secured a Silver medal. A great effort Jonathan!

Gymnastics
Jackson Findlay (Year 4) successfully competed at the State Gymnastics Championships, where he finished 1st in Vault, making him the Victorian Champion in Vault in his age group, and 3rd in High Bar, placing him 5th overall. Jackson trains 7 hours a week with Mornington Youth Club Gymnastics. Well done champ!

Archery
Adam Howgate (Year 10) has been selected to represent Victoria as part of the 2013 State Age Short Course Swimming Team, following his performance at the State Short Course Swimming Championships. Adam retained the 50m-Freestyle title which he won in 2012, and his Gold in the 16 year old 100m Backstroke brought him his second State title.

Samantha Howe (Year 9) qualified for 10 events at the same Victorian State carnival, raced 9 of them, and reached the finals in all of them. She won 4 silvers and 2 bronze. Sam has also been selected for the Victorian State Team, which qualified her to compete at the National Teams SC Championships in Canberra. Sam attended the National Open Short Course Swimming Championships in Sydney 22-24th August. She competed against some of the best female swimmers in Australia and was one of the youngest swimmers at the event. She raced 4 events and her best placing was 20th for the 100m. Great experience!

Madison Hyde (Year 7) also competed at the Victorian State SC Swimming Championships. Maddi qualified for 9 events, raced 7 of them attaining 7 PBs; finished (top 10) in all of them and attained 4th places with a bronze in the 100M.

Tom Cook (Year 10) also staked his claim to being a most promising swimmer at the Championships; great results in the 200m Backstroke (4th), 100m Backstroke (4th), 100m Fly (8th) and 100 M. (9th).

Football
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The Peninsula School • 20 Wooralla Drive • Mount Eliza • VIC • 3930
T: 03 9788 7777 • F: 03 9787 7646 • E: peninsula@tps.vic.edu.au • WWW.TPS.VIC.EDU.AU

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