Dear Parents,

The many valedictory events we have enjoyed in the past few weeks and, in particular, the joyful singing in our ECC Christmas Chapel Service tell me that we have reached the end of the 2014 academic year.

Once again, a great deal has been achieved by our students across a whole range of endeavours. Many of those achievements are detailed in The Pen magazine which has now been made available to families. I hope that you enjoy reading this terrific publication and delight in reliving some of the year’s highlights.

On the academic front, it has been wonderful to be able to commend so many students on their outstanding personal effort this year. The pursuit of personal excellence is fundamental to all that we undertake at Peninsula and it pleases me greatly that so many students have clearly set goals for themselves this year and that they have worked hard to achieve them. This was most evident to me at Celebration Evening and the recent Junior School Final assembly – time honoured events at which outstanding endeavour and excellence were well recognised and loudly applauded.

Semester 2 reports have been carefully prepared by our teachers and should be in all homes very soon, if not already. I would encourage parents to sit down with their children to discuss the comments and grades and to find the positives contained within their report. Goal setting for 2015 is also an appropriate part of that conversation remembering that attainable aims are often best achieved in incremental steps.

On behalf of our entire community, I particularly congratulate the following students who have excelled in their studies this year:

- Dux of Junior School: Harrison Rowe
- Dux of Year 10: Emma Qiu
- Dux of Year 11: Vo Ngoc Hai Chau

“Our Year 12 Dux will soon be known to us once we receive the VCE Results for 2014.

We have farewell the members of the Class of 2014 at a number of celebratory events, many of which were shared by their parents. The Valedictory dinner, in particular, was a very joyful occasion which drew together our Year 12s, parents and staff for a night of great festivity.

The year ended with a great sense of accomplishment across the campus. Following their VCE exams, many of our students shared with me their belief that they had been extremely well prepared for their final assessments. Our Middle School students completed the year looking forward to moving up a Year Level in 2015 and our younger students continued to amaze us all with their enthusiasm and boundless energy.

We have a lot to look forward to in 2015. The planning for our new VCE Science Centre will move ahead rapidly and the further development of our Positive Psychology program and our Peer Coaching and Mentoring programs will ensure that we remain at the forefront of educational innovation in these areas.

As always, some students will not be returning to Peninsula next year. Hopefully they are leaving the School with fond memories of their school days here. I wish them well and hope that they take the opportunity to remain in contact with us through our Past Students’ Association, TOPSA.

Gratitude, kindness and forgiveness which are amongst the most researched areas of positive psychology, have been shown to have a very powerful effect on our psychological wellbeing. Christmas provides the perfect opportunity for us all to take some time to enjoy the company of our loved ones and to reflect on the good things that life has to offer.

As this will be the final newsletter for 2014, I take this opportunity to thank our students for all that they have contributed to the life of Peninsula this year and I also acknowledge our parents for their continued and generous support of our School.

My best wishes to all for a safe, happy and Holy Christmas.

Stuart Johnston
Principal

From our Principal ...

From our Principal ...
The Yellow Crane Pagoda empty as ancestors from the earth were torn. The sky with only white clouds vacant a thousand years.

This excerpt is from a translation (by Dixie Zhou and T. Grouton) of a classical Chinese poem, Huang He Lou, by 8th Century Tang Dynasty poet, Cui Hao. It is about the poet’s feelings of melancholy and longing for his ancestors who have left the mortal world, and to depart into the realm of immortality – represented by the yellow crane. The poem provides us with a deep insight into Chinese language, culture and philosophy. It is an example of how valuable poetry can be in foreign language studies.

In August, Chinese language students from Years 7-10 participated in a poetry competition, competing against others in their Year Level. My Year 10 Chinese class studied and learnt the piece referenced in the above paragraph, Huang He Lou (The Yellow Crane Pagoda). We explored the meaning, context and language behind the poem which enriched our understanding of Chinese culture. Through practice, in both the classroom and at home, we gradually became more fluent and accurate in reciting the piece. It was quite difficult to accurately pronounce the tonal inflections and clearly express the poem. In order to articulate the words correctly we had to pay careful attention to using the correct tones. To address these difficulties in class, we studied each character in the poem to discover the exact meaning and pronunciation with the correct tone. Even native Chinese speakers appreciate the difficulty of reciting Chinese classical poems.

I personally enjoyed learning the poem because the tonal aspect was difficult to master. Every tone had to be pronounced correctly for the poem to have the correct meaning and expression. Additionally, it was interesting to learn about the cultural aspect of the poem and the significance of the Yellow Crane Pagoda.

The poetry competition was a great part of our language studies this year. It gave us a valuable insight into foreign culture and directly contributed to our spoken language abilities.

James Woodland
Year 10
2014 Chinese Poetry Competition Winner

Chinese Poetry Competition
– the Yellow Crane Pagoda

Flying Solo
– Mitch Bylart

This year, Yr 9 student Mitch Bylart began flying a Cessna 152 at Peninsula Aero Club, as part of the PDP Aviation Program at Yabbal Road. Mitch recently achieved his solo pilot’s licence and is working towards a career as a commercial pilot. Congratulations Mitch!
Peninsula Enrichment Program - National success

Tyson Lyons from Year 5 produced an outstanding maths investigation for this year’s Maths Talent Quest competition run by the Mathematical Association of Victoria. His High Distinction entry ‘360° of Treasure Hunting Fun’ has won him acclaim at a National level taking out three coveted National awards including Year 5 Individual Winner, Overall Winner Years 5-8 and Most Outstanding Investigation in Mathematics (Primary). Tyson was recently awarded three trophies and two medallations in recognition of his exemplary work. He joined twenty-one Peninsula School students at Latrobe University who were also awarded special prizes on receiving a distinction or high distinctions for their mathematical projects. The Peninsula School also received special recognition winning an ‘Outstanding School Award’. These mathematical investigations take students many months to complete and are a testament to students’ perseverance and positive work ethic.

Chess Champions

Our Junior Primary Chess team was recently crowned the 2014 Victorian Junior State Premiers. These nine, small but mighty, chess champions, strategized and outplayed a high class field of chess enthusiasts, including chess masters, to win the Victorian State Championships. Moksh Goswami captained the team to a nail biting one point win. Moksh was declared the individual player of the day, winning 6.5/7 games. Each member contributed to the team win with their combined scores enough to secure 1st place. Congratulations to the following students

Year Three: Moksh Goswami, Elliott Lloyd, Kosta Samaras, Skanda Ramanan, Charlie Reeman, Jessica McIness, Leo Merks, Jenson Teleskivi and Oliver Pay.

Our Girls’ Primary School Chess Team also enjoyed success placing third in the State Girls’ Chess Finals. It was another highly competitive field of chess players. Our team demonstrated grit and determination jumping from fifth place to third in the final round. This was an outstanding achievement from Zoe Walton, Connie Kyriacou, Terena Pfean and Jessica McInness.

Tournament of Minds

The 2014 Tournament of Minds Challenge was held at Mount Mercy College in Lilydale. Two talented teams of seven students comprised of Year 5 and 6 students undertook two separate challenges.

The Language Literature team, including Harrison Rove, Isabelle Hove, Ben Kolias, Noah Williams, Jessica McDyer, Luca Agius and Katie Styles, presented a unique and exceptionally executed performance to a panel of three judges called ‘Connect to Reading’. Inspired by the recent Book Week theme, students used well known literary characters to highlight the importance of reading. The team scored very well and impressed their audience with their knowledge of literature and articulate presentation.

The Applied Technology team including Olivia Tucker, Samuel Savage, Linus Mackie, Oscar Riley, Felicity Welsh, Charlee Lyckett and Browning Mummery also shone in their performance titled ‘iNcredibles’. Likewise presenting to a panel of three judges, these students presented a highly original TV commercial that called on the teams IT and movie making skills. Inspired by recent footage viewed in class, students produced one of the standout movies of the competition. The judges were so impressed with the team’s movie and vibrant live performance they were awarded Honours and Runners Up in their division.

Congratulations to all participation students for their dedication and excellence during this initiative.

Jennifer Kimpton
PEP Coordinator

Australian Science Olympiad – outstanding results

In August 2014 nearly 4000 students registered for the Australian Science Olympiad Exams in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Earth and Environmental Science.

These exams are the first stage of the selection process for the Australian teams competing at the International Science Olympiads. Year 10 and 11 students are able to enter the competition but the exams are extremely challenging and test knowledge of scientific concepts and their application in contemporary contexts, critical thinking and problem solving abilities and skills of scientific inquiry.

Chau Vo achieved a Distinction in the Physics exam and a High Distinction and a silver medal in the Chemistry exam.

This award reflects a wonderful accomplishment by Chau. Congratulations to Chau for her determination to set high standards of excellence for herself and to ensure that she meets them.

Tracey Carter
Head of Science

Hands for the Community – from the staff with spirit

The Peninsula School is known as ‘The School with Spirit’. Community spirit is one of our core values. We are a community in which a sense of affiliation and connectedness flourishes. An ethic of service abounds in our School family which helps account for the commonplace, selfless, individual and community actions that go to enriching the lives of others.

The staff of the School feel strongly that we are privileged in our daily working lives and understand that with privilege comes responsibility. A new initiative for 2014 will see all staff involved in a day of community service as part of our finish to the end of the year. Staff will work in groups of 10–20 to assist local organisations in completing a wide variety of projects, giving their time, energy and expertise to make a difference to the lives of others in our community.

Staff will be working with organisations such as the Frankston Nature Conservation Reserve, OzChild, The Royal Children’s Hospital, The Salvation Army, Ebdale Community Hub, and many others. We have partnered with the Frankston Volunteer Resource Centre to assist us in identifying organisations which would benefit from our hands-on support on this day and are also exploring options for extending the ‘Hands for the Community’ program into service learning opportunities for our students in 2015.

This is an exciting new initiative which will bring the staff together with a common purpose and focus during the final week of the year and allow us to support the broader local community in a very practical way at a time of the year when many are in need.

Narelle Umbers
Deputy Principal – Learning and Development

Uniform Shop sales no longer on account – from Term 1 2015

As of January 2015 all purchases from the uniform shop will be via cash or credit card only. It will no longer be possible for purchases to be added to school accounts. Cash or card sales will be available over the counter, by phone on 9788 7746 or email at uniformshop@tps.vic.edu.au

We are excited to announce that The Uniform Shop will soon be online to assist parents with purchases. This will allow orders to be placed and paid for securely online with orders collected from the Uniform Shop the following day. Further details coming soon!

Susan Shields
Retail Shop Manager
On Monday 20 October the following Peninsula students participated at the State Constitutional Convention, held at Parliament House: Chau Vo, Prachi Rane, Quang Then Tran, Remi Cameron and William Bainbridge, all from Year 11 and Holly Gray from Year 9. Only 100 students were chosen from across Victoria so it is a great achievement to have six of these come from our school.

The students showed strengths of leadership, commitment and dedication to their cause and school, as they took to the floor of The Legislative Assembly of the Victorian Parliament House to express their views on the topic: “Australia is in a ‘budget crisis' and all Australians must share the burden – directly and indirectly.” The entire day was presided over by Madam Speaker, Christine Kyile and recorded in Hansard – the official Victorian Parliamentary register. The students even met with old Peninsula Boy, Kris Schroeder, who has started his own political party – The Basics Rock and Roll Party. Kris made reference to his days at The Peninsula School and was an important figure of the day, reminding students of the need to make a stand and have their say.

These students are now also eligible to take part in the National Convention, which is to be held in Canberra next year. This is fully paid for by the Victorian Government and only 100 students from across Australia are chosen. We wish them all the best for this opportunity.

On this day many Peninsula students made contributions to the convention. William Bainbridge, all from Year 11 and Holly Gray from Year 9. Chau Vo, Prachi Rane, Quang Then Tran, Remi Cameron and Max Jones were joined by Cadet Stephanie Howgate in the Middle School Marching Band which played at the Mt. Eliza service.:- Andrew Harrison, Tully Robertson and our marching band also gained war time knowledge from a local historian and stayed to chat with local community members about the importance of Remembrance Day. This performance always serves as an important lead up to the Marching Band’s attendance at the Anzac Day commemorations in the city, which next year has special significance as it is the Centenary of the Gallipoli landings.

Music Performance

- Bringing Positivity to the Community

During Term Four I had the pleasure of showcasing the musical talents and positive attitude of Peninsula School students to the wider community. Through the PDP program the Community Performance Band, visited the Noble Park Dunblane Road Centre for acquired brain injury and gave a performance for the patients. The band members (Will Cook, Darcy Cousins, Leah Ashley, Oakley Downie and Jasmine Barlow) performed a delightful short program of varied pieces and chatted with the patients.

The PDP Band followed this performance in mid-November at Saint John of God in Frankston. Once again the band performed brilliantly to patients who had suffered strokes and heart attacks and once again the students stayed to chat with the patients, gaining insights and sharing stories. This really was a win-win for the students and the patients and I received nothing but positive feedback from the students, carers and patients on the experience.

The community performance continued on Remembrance Day when T he Peninsula School Marching Band performed at the Mt. Eliza Memorial Gardens. This is the third year the Marching Band have been involved in this Rotary organised event and this year the band’s performance was better than ever. Tully Robertson performed Last Post and Reveille beautifully and the students also gained war time knowledge from a local historian and stayed to chat with local community members about the importance of Remembrance Day.

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Piet Collins
Music Faculty

Music Performance

- Bringing Positivity to the Community

Disarmament

- Trinity Guildhall exams

Earlier this month, a number of string students undertook their Trinity Guildhall music examinations. The results were exceptional. Out of eighteen students, fourteen achieved Distinctions, two Merits and two Passes. Congratulations to all of these students, whose hard work and enthusiasm for music has certainly been justly rewarded.

Pictured:
Back Row: Jack Cook 10, Max Jones 10
Middle Row: Ali Robison 6, Chika Davidson 5, Lauren Burt 5, Tayla Bassi 4, Luca Agius 4, Daniel Pryce 6, Jackson Findlay 5, Josh Newland 5, Alyssa Leong 8, Audrey Cousins 6 Front Row: Mitch Newland 4, Erinika Mummy 4, Armeile Dugay 4, Emily Lapa Cipurovski 4, Ruby Hammond 4, Oscar Riley 6
Absent: Jeremy Rodman 9

Megan Smithies
Instrumental Music Teacher

Top Class Strings

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