inside ...

13
The Peninsula School Golf Classic 2016
Results from the National Golf Club

20
Music & Technology
Cutting-edge technology making music fabulous

30
Leaders in Sport
Swimming and Cricket success

44
TOPSA - our alumni
Presidents and sports reports

Peninsula
IN PROFILE

The quarterly magazine of The Peninsula School
## CONTENTS

**Cover**
- Alison Pinney, Year 11
- Visual Arts

**Back cover**
- Holly & Jackson Smith, Year 5
- House Swimming

### Our School
- From the Principal
- From the Heads of School
- Our new Science Building emerges
- Staff Update
- Positive Education flourishes
- Staff in profile - Emily Davenport
- Model UN Conference
- The Peninsula School Golf Classic 2016
- Music creates a connection - RaVE

### Leading the way
- Learning in the 21st Century
- Australian Physics Olympiad
- SmartMusic - Music and technology
- TPS Presents big names in music

### In the Community
- Hands for the Community Day
- Clean Up Australia Day
- World Challenge
- Congratulations Sam Mackie

### A Global School
- China: an economic powerhouse
- Our International education
- The Peninsula School India
- The French come to Peninsula

### Leaders in Sport
- Samantha Howe - School Swim Captain
- AGSV Cricket Premiers
- House Competition

### Reflections from our Learning Areas
- The Junior Years: K3 - Year 4
- The Middle Years: Year 5-8
- Pre Senior Year 9
- The Senior Years: Year 10-12

### PSPA
- Peninsula School Parents Association (PSPA) calendar of events for 2016

### TOPSA - our alumni
- Presidents report
- Peninsula Old Boys Football & Cricket Clubs
- 2016 TOPSA events
- TOPSA Soccer Club
- Where are they now?

Inside back cover - Upcoming School events
WELCOME to our new format Peninsula in Profile. We hope that you find it full of the same interesting and informative news that we always have to share about our School – but in a much more engaging style.

I’ve really enjoyed this school year so far. There is a lovely sense of community and positivity through the School emanating from staff, parents and students alike. I think it’s the warm weather, the new year enthusiasm and the excitement of what’s ahead for 2016 making it a joy to arrive through the School gates every morning. Thank you.

A focus on the future

This Term I attended the 2016 National Education Forum in Canberra with over 300 Principals from Independent Schools from across Australia. The topic was leading future learning, particularly the relationship between innovation and autonomy. This was a unique opportunity to hear from people highly respected in their own domains about how they see independent schools contributing to future learning and, indeed, the future of this nation.

The forum gave us time to reflect on the world in which our students will live and work and how we must help prepare them for it, the demand for teaching quality and possible directions for school reform. I was particularly interested in the attention given to science and maths – this needs to be a particular focus for our future especially in the earliest stages of learning, our early years students.

The conference was also a good reminder that many aspects of school life today were first launched or modelled by independent schools like ours, driven by leaders demonstrating those entrepreneurial qualities for which so many independent schools are renowned – vision, strategic foresight and a healthy tolerance for risk.

It’s exciting times ahead and I’m looking forward to working with our team to ensure The Peninsula School continues to lead the way in preparing students for their next step in life.

It’s been a busy Term

This first Term for 2016 was a short one of only eight weeks but that didn’t stop us from making the most of it. There were some significant achievements within these weeks including the commencement of our new leading edge Year 5 to 8 program in our Middle Years. Our staff and students have settled in well to the new format and we’ve seen some positive results through enhanced student engagement and targeted teaching.

Our Music Department launched a new program that uses the latest technology and innovation in teaching our music students and it is already seeing some impressive results.

Getting to know one another a little better was a key objective in Term 1 and our outdoor education program greatly helped in bringing our year levels together as a group to bond and share some amazing outdoor adventures.

We’ve seen some impressive sporting successes with our First XI cricket team winning the AGSV Premiership and a number of local, state, national and world record achievements across a range of sporting fields including equestrian, swimming, surf and pool life saving, touch football, kayaking, athletics and swimming. Our House athletics and swimming were very busy days and it was lovely to see the students working well together and enjoying the camaraderie that comes with sporting challenges.

We have also had some great events at the School this Term - our Open Day in particular is worth mentioning. Over 100 student tour guides did an exceptional job in showing parents around the School but even more importantly, in sharing their experience of what it means to be a Peninsula School student. It was very rewarding to hear the students talk about the opportunities and the different parts of our School that they value.

Our Parent Association (PSPA) has been incredibly generous with their time and support for the School with their Parent Welcome to 2016 night providing a warm and friendly event for new and more familiar parents alike. They have a busy calendar of activities ahead that I’m sure will entertain and support our parents.

TOPSA has continued to engage our past scholars well with a growing community of passionate Alumni members. I’m looking forward to seeing where they are now at the upcoming reunions.

Next Term

Next Term looks to be another busy and exciting time with works on our new Science building nearing completion and our Senior Years production, Legally Blonde hitting the stage in May. I’ve seen the rehearsals and it will definitely be another exceptional Peninsula School performance.

Thank you again to all staff, parents and students for a wonderful Term 1 and I hope you enjoy this new Pen in Profile.

Stuart Johnston
Principal
WHAT an amazing start to the year! After receiving our new red Prefect ties, we were not sure what was in store for us as Heads of School. This first Term has been a whirlwind of activities, events, study and celebrations. And it’s been incredible!

As Heads of School, we have many new responsibilities that we’ve both taken on with great enthusiasm, excitement and interest (and perhaps a little nervousness!). There are so many opportunities to be involved and support our School both on campus and in the broader community and we’re extremely proud to be representing The Peninsula School.

This Term we were given the opportunity to go to Adelaide to attend the 5th National Leadership Summit for the School. We were amongst 118 student leaders from 36 South Australian, Victorian and Western Australian Government, Independent and Catholic schools. It really was an amazing experience, despite the 6:30am flight! We heard a lot about the opportunities for entrepreneurship, the role of philanthropy and the need for innovation when engaging with young people. We really enjoyed the discussion and meeting with so many like-minded students.

That same week, we also attended an AGSV forum where we met with the Heads of other AGSV schools to share ideas and discuss the operations of our own schools. It was another stimulating day with the topic of gender equity and sexism in schools and gave us something to think about. We developed models for our own schools and how we can create gender equality for male or female students, and raise awareness within our communities.

Whilst we have been extremely busy studying for our SACS, Year 12 students have also been able to celebrate our last year of school with our Year 12 formal held at the Mornington Racecourse. It was a great evening and everyone loved getting dressed up and having a special night with their friends. We’d like to say thanks to the organising committee who did an incredible job in making the evening one that we’ll all remember.
Our new Science Building emerges

Building for the future

OVER the past few months we have watched the new Science building become a reality as the construction starts to reflect the years of planning and fund raising to create this world class science facility. This impressive architecturally designed complex will merge the worlds of theory and practice allowing students to move from the classroom to the laboratory to apply their thinking in leading edge science experiments and tests.

There is still much to do to complete the building with the next Term focusing on the fit out and then the mammoth task of moving in and making sure everything has its place. Tracey Carter and her team of Science staff are doing an exceptional job in preparing for day 1 of classes in the new building which they are very much looking forward to. Works are on track to open the centre in Term 3.
Staff Update

We warmly welcome our new staff to The Peninsula School

**Alison French**  Director of Communication and Community Engagement

Mrs Alison French has 20 years’ experience working in communications, market research, organisational change and community engagement with specific and relevant experience with the education sector. As a consultant with Essence Communications for the past ten years, Alison worked on a number of high profile and often complex communication campaigns for a range of State and Federal government programs and private sector clients. Prior to this she spent three years heading communications for Victoria’s largest State government department, the Department of Human Services (DHS) and six years with the Department of Defence in Canberra.

Alison is already familiar with our school after successfully working with us in 2015 on key projects including the Board strategic review and facilitating staff and parent consultation.

**Ross Patterson**  Head of Senior Years

Mr Ross Patterson comes to us from Geelong Grammar School where he was Head of Clyde Girls Boarding House and teacher of VCE and IB Biology and Positive Education. Prior to this Ross held various roles at Westbourne Grammar School including Head of House and Head of Biology over a number of years and he has also taught Biology, Science and Mathematics at Scotch College.

Ross brings with him a great deal of experience in many co-curricular areas; he has coached debating teams, tennis, athletics, soccer and cross country, and taken overseas tours to Cambodia, Germany and South Africa. He is a very keen sports person and has played and coached tennis to a high level. He also has a strong interest in cricket and golf.

Ross has moved to Mt Eliza with his family and is looking forward to becoming part of our community. Ross will be teaching VCE Biology this year.

**Dean Pearman**  Director of Learning Technologies and Innovation

Mr Dean Pearman is taking on this new role following ten years at Caulfield Grammar School, where he held various leadership roles including Head of House and Learning Area Leader. Dean is a Visual Arts teacher who teaches across Art and Design. He has authored numerous Visual Art textbooks, developed curriculum for VCAA in Visual Arts, been a Assessment Reviewer for Studio Arts and Multimedia and a panel member for the redevelopment of the Studio Arts and VCD study designs, Units 1–4.

Dean has had extensive experience in blended learning, flipped classroom, education 3.0, PBL and CBL. Dean’s passion for innovation in learning will soon become evident to all those who meet him.

**Therese Joyce**  Director of Positive Education

Ms Therese Joyce’s most recent role has been as Associate Director at the Centre for Positive Psychology at Melbourne University’s Graduate School of Education and she brings broad practical experience in the application of Positive Psychology and positive education. Therese has many years of experience in Education Management including ten years in training design, delivering workshops in 16 countries, and almost ten years as the Director of EF International Language School in Toronto where she was responsible for the daily running of an International School with 2000 students.

Therese completed her Master’s degree in Applied Positive Psychology at the University of East London in 2012. We look forward to the influence she will have in taking our positive education programs to the next level.
**Lorna Griss**  International Student Coordinator

Mrs Lorna Griss will be taking on the newly established role of International Student Coordinator. Lorna has significant experience in teaching EAL in schools in the UK and Australia. Most recently Lorna has held the position of International Student Coordinator at Mentone Girls’ Grammar School where she has also taught English at Years 7 – 9 and VCE EAL. She is a member of the VCE English/EAL text advisory panel and a VCE Assessor. Prior to taking on her role at Mentone Girls’ Lorna was International Student Adviser at Deakin University, responsible for all aspects of student welfare for international students so she certainly brings a huge amount of experience to this role. Look forward to the positive contribution Lorna will make to the team of staff caring for our international students.

**Brendan Cian**  Head of English Years 9 – 12

Mr Brendan Cian is a highly experienced teacher of VCE English and Humanities including teaching for the last thirteen years at St Michael’s Grammar School following nine years at Brighton Grammar. He has also held various leadership positions at St Michael’s including Community Action Coordinator, Co-Head of House and Acting Dean of Pastoral Care and Students. Brendan has a love of theatre and drama and has worked on numerous productions doing everything from costuming through writing, directing and producing.

**Lionel Carbonel**  French Teacher

Born in France, Mr Lionel Carbonel completed his undergraduate study at Lycee Carnot in Cannes and Universite Lumiere 2 in Lyon before relocating to Australia where he worked as a French language assistant at Wesley College and MLC before gaining his Graduate Diploma in Education from Monash University in 2010 with teaching methods French and EAL. Lionel taught French from Year 7 to Year 12 at Balwyn High School where he was Head of Languages for three years and more recently taught at St Leonards College in Brighton. He also has experience as a VCE French Oral Assessor. As a keen soccer player and coach Lionel is looking forward to becoming involved in the co-curricular sporting program at TPS.

**Ben Procter**  Year 1 Teacher

Mr Ben Procter will be replacing Storme Fraser in the ECC whilst she is on leave this year. Ben has taught at Cranbourne Primary School, Mt Eliza North Primary School and Kingston Health Primary since completing his Bachelor of Primary Education degree at RMIT in 2009. Ben is a keen landscape gardener and botanist and has held the role of Landscape Coordinator at his previous schools. Ben brings significant experience in using data to enhance teaching and learning and the team in the ECC will benefit from his skills in this area.

**Georgina Bishop**  Year 5 Teacher

Ms Georgina Bishop is joining the Year 5 team to replace Rachael Higgins who is on Maternity Leave. Georgina graduated from Monash University with degrees in Primary Education and Arts (majoring in Geography and Behavioural Studies) and received the Dean’s Award for Academic Excellence as the top graduating student in her degrees. Her most recent teaching experience has been at Toorak Primary School where she has taught Year 4 for the last two years. Georgina has also held the positions of Digital Literacy Deputy Leader and Reporting and Assessment Coordinator at Toorak Primary School and her technology skills and experience will be highly valuable to the 1-1 laptop program in Years 5 & 6. Georgina will be known to many in our community due to her voluntary work in the Year 5 program in 2013.
Fiona Cohen  PE Teacher

Mrs Fiona Cohen will again be working with the PE department in addition to being a Year 8 Mentor this year. Fiona is well known to our school community following various short Term replacement roles over the last couple of years.

Adela Partila  Mathematics Teacher

Mrs Adela Partila, who was with us for the last part of Term 3 and all of Term 4 last year replacing staff who were on leave, will be part of the Maths team this year, teaching across the Middle and Senior Years programs. Adela’s enthusiasm and passion for mathematics will be an asset to the team.

Riley Cridland  AFL Trainee

Ms Riley Cridland is our AFL SportsReady trainee for 2016. Riley has been involved in a wide range of girl’s sport during her time at the school. She was the captain of the 2015 girl’s premiership AGSV Athletics team and was a member of the AGSV Premier Cross Country team. Riley was also involved in school netball and many House activities for which she received a Full Colour Award. We believe that she will be an excellent role model and mentor for girls sport.

Sandra Wylie  Senior Years Administration Assistant

Ms Sandra Wylie has 15 year’s experience in a fast-paced office environment and has key strengths in MS Office, planning and co-ordinating along with excellent communication skills. She is highly organised and will be a significant asset to the Senior Years team.

Kate Billson  Department of Learning Support Integration Aide

Mrs Kate Billson’s new role includes supporting students in the 3 and 4 year old Kinder programs. Kate has previously worked in a variety of management roles in specialist medical consulting suites but her passion for education led her to her training as an Integration Aide through Open Colleges Australia. Kate completed her workplace training with us in Term 3 in 2015 and did further voluntary work at the School in Term 4.

Drew Robinson  IT Assistant

Mr Drew Robinson is currently studying at Monash University – Bachelor of Business Information Systems and will be a valuable part-time assistant to our IT Department.
Vale Moreen Clark (22/1/1930 – 19/2/2016)

The Peninsula School community extends its deepest sympathy to the family of Moreen Fay Clark who passed away on 19th February.

Moreen was involved with The Peninsula School from its beginning in 1961 when her husband, Bruce Clark (deceased), became our first Deputy Headmaster and her son, Nigel, became a Foundation Student.

From that time she remained an active member of our School community, attending countless School functions and events. In recent years she particularly enjoyed catching up with past-staff at our staff reunions. It was wonderful to have Moreen attend our 50th year celebrations in 2011.

Our sympathy and thoughts are with her family.
FOLLOWING the successful hosting of the Positive Education Schools Association (PESA) Australian conference, The Peninsula School is off to a wonderful start with some great new PosEd initiatives. Positive Education is more than just feeling happy. Based on scientific evidence from the field of Positive Psychology, it helps students learn how to build good relationships, cope with challenges, develop resilience, and to understand how they can manage their emotional responses, and employ a range of age-appropriate strategies to learn, grow and flourish.

In addition to joyful times where we feel surrounded by love and support, sometimes life can be difficult, and we are faced with disappointments and challenges. It is vital for our young students to develop ways they can cope with adversity and return to a state of wellbeing.

For young people today, life can be much more complex than in previous generations. To help our younger learners develop a strong sense of wellbeing and resilience, we are introducing the award-winning Australian program BounceBack! across the Junior Years. All staff will be trained in the program, and information sessions and resources will be available for parents. In the ECC we are using Kimochis to help children understand their feelings, and how to best manage their emotional response.

The Middle Years will continue to teach explicit lessons in the science of Positive Psychology. Having met with numerous students over the past few weeks, there is a keen interest for young people to understand how their brains work. A core focus will be on developing mindfulness to manage emotions and anxiety, and to build positive relationships and joyful engagement in the classroom.

Across Australia, levels of anxiety increase as students enter the Pre Senior and Senior Years, with a greater focus from students, and parents, on exam results, and “what happens next” beyond secondary school. Here we are encouraging students to review their toolkit of evidence-based strategies and identify relevant ways they can manage stress, and intentionally increase their own wellbeing and sense of purpose.

There is no one-size-fits-all. Needs may vary from developing better study techniques, reviewing expectations and setting clear and realistic goals, to taking a break from study and stress entirely, and ensuring there is time for play.

It is so important to give our brains some respite from the anxiety and stress of a purely academic focus. The best solutions can be quite simple: going for a run, practicing yoga, returning to nature (a bush walk or stroll along the beach), having a laugh with friends and family, taking a break from technology and switching off the phone and laptop, and simply getting a good night’s sleep.

It has been such a delight to join the team at The Peninsula School, to meet students, parents, and staff, and to help build on the excellent work that is already being done. Our theme for 2016 is “Other People Matter”, and the potential for our students to make a lasting impact on the world around them is extraordinary.

Therese Joyce
Director of Positive Education
The Peninsula School was delighted to host this year’s annual national conference of the Positive Education Schools Association (PESA) in early March.

Titled ‘Schools Creating Flourishing Communities’, the conference attracted 250 delegates from across Australia and many overseas countries.

Long time friend of The Peninsula School, Professor Lea Waters, delivered a fascinating keynote address - Strength Based Parenting. Lea’s book with this title will be available later this year.

Dr Hector Escamilla, Rector of Tecmilenio University, Mexico applauds schools such as ours who have made a strong commitment to Positive Education. His own University has 48,000 students spread over 30 campuses, all of whom are required to include a course in Positive Psychology in their studies. He echoed our own beliefs that a quality education must include a preparation for life, as well as a preparation for specific career paths.

Over the two days, delegates were able to choose 5 workshops daily to attend from the 60 on offer. Workshops offered by The Peninsula School staff proved to be very popular:

- Muriel Bakker: Teaching Positive Psychology in the Middle Years.
- Louise Nicholls-Easley and Amanda Davis: Positive Education in the Early Years.
- Sarah Roney and Lyn Bylart: Positive Parenting

Impressively, more than 20 parents from our School took up our offer of a place in the pre-conference seminar: PosPsych 101, to gain a better understanding of our wellbeing program.

Australian schools are definitely leading the way in Positive Education and The Peninsula School is certainly at the forefront of its worldwide development.

Phil Doll
PESA Executive Officer
I HAVE spent a lot of my life thinking about Art; how to make Art, why we make Art, other peoples’ Art, and most often the how and why of teaching Art. Like most artists, I have always had more questions than answers and have been fortunate to have spent a great deal of time exploring them.

Last year I was very privileged to take over the helm in the Junior Art Room, after four enjoyable years teaching Senior English I found myself once again reaching for my paint spattered apron and using my questions to shape an Art curriculum.

"I love art more than V8s" was Charlie’s announcement in the middle of my Year 2 class and it was not only heart-warming to hear but a gentle reaffirmation of the joy to be had in art making. It is also a reminder that each student brings their own points of reference into the Art room and experience their time here in their own way. Art is not only about hands-on skill building but learning strategies to develop and share ideas and feelings.

Many of you will have seen the ECC & Junior School Art Show last year, and while I am immensely proud of the finished artworks that the students create, what continually buoys me is the extraordinary persistence, creativity and critical thinking they employ throughout the process of creating. I often think of my role as the maker of ‘art problems’, someone who challenges the students’ creativity to reveal new and individual ways of seeing.

Together we embark upon a journey exploring the ways in which a diverse range of artists have been innovative or used a variety of materials and techniques to achieve their aims. Critical thinking skills are encouraged to help students recognise the choices available to them as they generate ideas to trial and develop their own imagery. Creativity does not always strike like a lightning bolt – what students need are the strategies and support to experiment as well as explore many possibilities before selecting the very best ideas with which to proceed.

By the end of Year 6 my aim is that not only will our students have many experiences with a wide range of materials and techniques but have confidence in their own ability to be original, resourceful, flexible and innovative thinkers with a battalion of strategies to draw upon when faced with new and exciting challenges.

And now a few questions for you, Charlie. Did you know Andy Warhol did a whole series of prints inspired by racing cars? That he even painted a whole BMW for the racetrack? Now, how can you show me something new about V8s?

Emily Davenport
Art Teacher, Junior Years
The heat is on: climate change and the environment

Model United Nations Conference

The topic of debate
THE UNHCR estimates that currently there are 25 million ‘Environmentally Displaced People’ in the world and this figure is predicted to rise as the world edges ever closer to the devastating effects of climate change. Meanwhile the international community struggles to reach consensus on the best way to tackle the situation. While targets are set and good intentions are couched in evocative speeches, a gulf has emerged between the developed world and that part of the globe that is developing. The devil, it seems, is in the detail.

So it proved when over 70 students came together at The Peninsula School for the 2016 United Nations Model Conference (The Heat is On: Climate Change and the Environment) in the Pavilion on 2 March. Year 10 and 11 students from The Peninsula School Peak Performance Program were joined by over 30 students from Frankston High School, Mount Erin College, Flinders Christian College and Padua College as the students debated the issue from the perspective of their allocated country. Rwandans, Mexicans, South Koreans and Finns argued the merits of a draft resolution and a series of amendments that were debated and voted upon throughout the day.

A lively caucus
Public speaking, compromise and effective listening were put to the test as a crowded Pavilion argued to and fro. The conference heard from specialist guest speaker Rob Asselman, the Manager of Digital and Innovation at Climate Friendly, a carbon reduction and off-setting company who spoke about the science of climate change and the nature of the different greenhouse gasses affecting the environment. Students were then required to issue a position statement on behalf of their respective countries and then the conference went into a lively caucus mode in which deals were struck and compromises reached.

From this, the delegates – guided by the Honourable Secretary General of the conference, Adjunct Professor Ian Howie – struck a series of amendments to the draft resolution. The most contentious issues centred on money, notably whether or not wealthy nations should fund the research and development of alternative energy sources in the developing world and whether or not it was fair for western nations with a long history of carbon emissions to impose limits (that they never had to observe) on the developing world.

Diplomatic and articulate
The day was a huge success and the delegates were challenged to think on their feet as they drew upon a range of disciplines: science, economics, history, law, geography, mathematics and international politics. By the end of the day they were au fait with the language of diplomacy and the conventions of UN debating and they grew in self-confidence the longer the day progressed. It was a wonderful opportunity for our students to mix with some very talented and articulate young people from other schools around the district and it provided a learning environment seldom experienced in the traditional classroom setting.

An impressive performance
The resolutions, the debates and the amendments were all completely student driven and active participation was the order of the day. We were joined by representatives from the NSW UNAA, Treasurer Paul Malliate and Secretary Kel Gleason who hope to introduce a similar program of student conferences in their State; they were both very impressed with The Peninsula School model.

Our guests were made to feel very welcome in the Pavilion and this was in no small part due to the work of Bizzy Butterworth. Our thanks go out to her for the delicious catering and organisation of the Pavilion. It was a most successful day and we are already eagerly anticipating next year’s conference.

Craig Townsend
Director of Academic Peak Performance

ISSUE ONE April 2016
Sian Prior: a shy extrovert
Lyceum Breakfast, 19 February 2016

Self-describing her personality as a ‘shy extrovert’, Sian explained how throughout both her childhood and adulthood she has battled with social anxiety that had her ‘trapped like an insect in amber, by chronic embarrassment’. Limited by her predilection for self-doubt - a perpetual and unrelenting cascade of ‘what ifs?’ - she found herself weighed down by a constant fear of rejection. With aspirations to realize her talents for communication and expression she found herself in a challenging situation.

DeTermined to overcome the impact her acute shyness was having on her life, she responded by developing a confident and resilient persona of ‘Professional Sian’. Through a dichotomous compartmentalisation of her own sense of self (an outgoing public self and the reclusive ‘Shy Sian’) she was able to overcome the limitations of debilitating shyness whilst embracing the whole of her personality. Sian came to realize – almost in spite of herself - that she was energized by the company of others, leading to her acceptance that while she was a ‘shy introvert’, her shyness need not be the defining characteristic of her personality.

Testament to her success in overcoming her struggles, Sian now has a side career as a musician and recording artist, and she is a producer of concerts across a wide range of venues. Her Lyceum Breakfast demonstrated that shyness can be overcome, and that resilience and a growth mindset for change can have a profound impact on one’s future.

James Woodland
Academic Prefect
THE Long Island Course is a classic sandbelt course with gentle undulations, distinctive featured fairways, magnificent bunkering and quality putting surfaces which makes it one of the finest championship golf courses in the country” – well known course architect and professional golfer, Mike Clayton.

On Friday 11 March we were blessed with another beautiful day for golf for our ultimate golfing event, The 2016 Peninsula School Golf Classic. Once again, we played a “Three Ball Ambrose” competition which, in addition to matching abilities, also promotes camaraderie and networking amongst the teams.

The Peninsula School Golf Classic continues to be a very popular event on our Calendar. Since 2004, it has been the only annual School-based fund raising event to raise funds for our Building Program. It’s been wonderful to see the results of this fund raising effort with the recent opening of the new Senior School, R.J Zammit Centre featuring state-of-the-art facilities and we will soon complete our new VCE Science Centre.

After playing 18 holes, the golf groups sat down to a delicious luncheon, while the final scores were tallied. 12 raffle prizes were drawn, the major prize, a silver iPad Air, was won by Matthew Ford. Peninsula School Alumnus, Mick Molloy (1984) joined us for the day and our Principal, Stuart Johnston took the opportunity to present him with his TOPSA Hall of Fame Award, for Services to the Arts. Mick’s entertaining acceptance included thanking his English teacher, Hilary Abeyaratne for awarding him Dux of Humanities, whilst at The Peninsula School.

The Hilary Abeyaratne Perpetual Trophy for the best (team) gross score, donated by Mark and Ravi Abeyaratne and their families, was awarded to Matt Steven, Matt Finnis and Jeff Gardner.

The winning teams for The Peninsula Golf Classic 2016 were:

1st
Annette Coombes, Susan Dawson, Jacqui Chaplin, Andrew Poh (Winners of the Ray Hille Perpetual Trophy)

2nd
Matt Steven, Matt Finnis, Jeff Gardner

3rd
Leon Newton, George Fletcher, James Fletcher

Nearest the Pin
9th hole – Julie Zammit, 12th hole – George Fletcher

Longest Drive
6th Hole: Conner Broderick

Straightest Drive
1st Hole: Craig Fitch

Stuart Johnston congratulates the winning team
We were delighted to have Higgins Coatings continue as our Albatross Sponsor this year. Our Eagle Plus Sponsor, Bluegum, have been supporters of this event since 2004 and they continue to amuse us with their good humour, creativity and matching team polo shirts, made especially for the event. Blue Gum also generously provide us with the Peninsula Golf Classic caps for the event. We offer our sincere thanks to both Brett and Jannine Kellerman.

We are also proud to partner with Drummond Golf as our Eagle Sponsors, and we thank Mark Abeyaratne, Craig Thomson (Drummond Golf Frankston Store) and their teams for their support as well as the many golf prizes they so generously donated.

Special thanks to our Birdie Sponsors who continue to support this event. They are:

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Fineline Printing Australia
Lamattina Group
National Australia Bank
NGS Super
PSPA (Peninsula School Parents Association)
Quayclean
TOPSA (The Old Peninsula School Association)
Upstream Solutions
Ventura Bus Lines

Thanks to our Par Sponsors who donated magnificent prizes:
Crittenden of Dromana (Rollo Crittenden ’94)
Soy Restaurant (Danny Wong ’89)
Mitre 10, (Stuart Womersley ’85)
Mornington Peninsula Brewery (Matt Bebe ’87)
Finders Golf Club
The National Golf Club
Mornington Golf Club
Sorrento Golf Club
Kingston Heath Golf Club
Woodlands Golf Club
The Rodman Family (Current parent, Belinda Rodman)
RACV Auto Glass and RACV Batteries (Current parents, Lina and Stuart Davies)
Mt Eliza Chiropractic (Current parent, George Cipurovski)
Elan Vineyard (Past parent, Selma Lowther)
Peninsula Hot Springs (The Davidson family)
Core Health Club (Past parent, Joe Russo)
Alliance Catering
Le Garrett Scarves (Current parent Mei McLorinan)
Entertainment Publications
Peninsula Dairies
Advance Trophies.

The golf day is the School’s major annual fund raising event and it is through the ongoing support and participation of our School community, sponsors, donors and suppliers that the popularity of this event continues to grow. We offer our thanks to all involved for making this event thoroughly enjoyable. The event raised over $20,000, with all funds being directed towards the School Building Fund.

Suzanne Ashley
Convenor
Thank you

Our major sponsors of The Peninsula School Golf Classic 2016

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IF YOU have seen Legally Blonde: The Musical, you must know how much fun we have been having at rehearsals during Term 1 this year! To begin with, the hilarious dialogue has kept us laughing every time we try to bring a scene to life.

The score is so incredibly catchy that you can often hear the lyrics being sung in corridors and classrooms all over the school... and even from students who aren’t involved with the musical. The choreography is so energetic and vibrant that each rehearsal is like a small CrossFit session.

From day one, the students in the 65 strong cast have been bursting with eagerness and excitement to begin working on Legally Blonde: The Musical. They have been working long and hard hours and at each rehearsal, I am in constant awe of the level of professionalism and commitment displayed by the cast.

There is a reason The Peninsula School is known for the quality of its musicals and it is because of our students.

Legally Blonde tells the story of Delta Nu sorority president Elle Woods, as she follows her ex-boyfriend across the country to Harvard Law School. Elle is the eternal optimist but you don’t quite understand how she can remain so hopeful and positive. Even through the hardest times, she reminds you: ‘To thine own self be true’.

We have an amazingly talented cast and production team working on the performance. The set design, lighting and costumes are all looking spectacular and most importantly the show itself is turning into another stunning Peninsula School musical.

Performances will be held at the Frankston Arts centre on 19, 20 and 21 May – keep your eye out for tickets which will be on sale early in Term 2. Book early to guarantee the best seats in the house!

Brendan Carroll
Director

IN FEBRUARY, the Peninsula School Senior Drama excursion hit Adelaide for the 2016 Fringe Festival. The opening of the festival took us into a whole new world - it was like stepping off a plane into a world full of ghosts, acrobats, scuba divers and fireworks.

The festival had everything you could ask for from a piece of theatre. There were solo performances, duets, ensembles and large groups of actors on stage. There was comedy, cabaret and circus from Canada (Barbu Electric Trad Cabaret), there was dance from the Australian Dance Theatre (Habitus), there was puppetry and multimedia from Western Australia (Alvin Sputnik), there were epic stories of trust and betrayal - from Scottish kings and Danish queens (James III) to Greek tragedies played out on the western Front (The Bunker Trilogy – Agammemnon).

There were stories that captured you (The Events), scenes that made you cry (Echoes), scenes that made you laugh (the Pianist) and scenes that left you contemplating what you just saw. There were plenty of opportunities to learn and to work and occasionally to just stretch out and enjoy yourself.

It was an unforgettable experience that left us overwhelmed and inspired. Only 2 more years to see the next adaptation. Who can wait that long?

Johanna Schlegel
Gap student
CHAPLAINS in Anglican Schools face major challenges when presenting the gospel to the modern, tech savvy, short attention span generation that is today’s student. Further to this, there is a clear message that few families are sending their children to Anglican schools because of the Christian foundation upon which they are built. Often the chaplain is introducing the Christian narrative at a grass roots level and cannot assume any prior knowledge or understanding of the gospel message.

This means that the gospel message needs to be presented in an innovative and fresh way which allows students to engage on a level they feel comfortable with and can relate to. It’s not an easy task.

However, at The Peninsula School we’re making headway. It is fair to say that our chapel services are non-traditional in nature. We can see the opportunity to use music in our services to not just engage our students so they are entertained but to share the gospel message.

The Peninsula School students are not just presented with the gospel message, they are challenged and, on occasions, confronted by it. They are also called to action because of it. Our school motto, ‘hold fast to that which is good’ (1 Thessalonians 5:21) is reinforced not only in chapel services but at major school events and assemblies whenever possible.

Although The Peninsula School does not have a choral tradition within its chapel services, voice and, on special occasions, choirs are actively involved, enhancing services while injecting energy and vitality in the process.

Music of all kinds becomes an important mode of outreach to a generation that puts so much emphasis on what sounds and voices they are listening to at any point in time. Music is a very important part of young people’s culture and this should be recognized in order to maximize opportunities to share the gospel message with them.

At The Peninsula School we are well known for the quality of our musical productions across our Junior, Middle and Senior Year levels. This is not only driven by our exceptional music and drama staff but by the incredible support and commitment from students to be involved. This means we have a large numbers of students participating in choirs.

They are constantly training, developing their singing voices, promoting teamwork and enhancing their ability to harmonize and they are always eager to practice with an audience. In a sense there is always a choir on ‘tap’ ready to contribute to our chapel services at any given moment.

Students perform at our services as a means of focusing the audience’s attention, settling them down and giving them a chance to reflect on the message to come.

Music creates a connection

These songs are sung with enormous enthusiasm and bring great joy to all who attend

Inexperienced or nervous performers have the chance to play in front of a ‘friendly’ and appreciative audience who have already been asked to focus on key gospel elements surrounding kindness, compassion, respect and integrity towards those who perform. In the Middle Years chapel services this particularly helps support the theme of ‘Becoming Me’ as learning a new instrument or finding a voice is very much part of the process of ‘becoming’ in Years 5 to 8. It helps build confidence and self-esteem.

Fortunately, the School’s current Choral Director has a keen interest and love of gospel music which makes it very easy to incorporate the choirs into the services.

A choir features in two main chapel services: our recent Easter service and our end of year Christmas service. Both offer stories that unfold through the singing of carefully chosen songs that spell out easy to understand aspects of each of the stories particularly for our younger students. These songs are sung with enormous enthusiasm and bring great joy to all who attend.

Without question the highlight of the School’s chapel program centres on the Early Childhood Centre’s involvement and immersion in the telling of the Easter and Christmas stories. All student’s in K-1 participate and have a role in the storytelling. Costumes, simplified readings and appropriate songs are a very important part of this.

Music is essential to building and creating a strong chapel culture within our School. Without a doubt, The Peninsula School’s injection of choral performances into the main chapel services greatly enhances the spiritual development and wellbeing of our students.

Mark Sweeney
Chaplain
Innovation

What does innovation look like in a 21st century classroom?

WITH many advancements in technologies that make our world a smaller and more accessible space, we now have as educators an unlimited knowledge base with which to engage our students. We know more about how our students learn than ever before and we can leverage this understanding with a considered approach to technology integration.

As Prensky highlights, the technology our learners have grown up with has ‘induced today’s students to think and process information fundamentally differently from their predecessors’ (Prensky 2001). We know our students access, process and create information in very different ways and are moving away from more classical approaches to teaching and learning in order to engage students and move beyond retention. It is a mistake to focus solely on the technology as it’s the active lesson which really makes this a powerful pedagogical approach to learning.

Who is in control of learning?

One of my main driving questions with my students is: Do students learn robotics or do they do robotics? Currently with my Year 9 Robotics class we have been using the ‘Flipped classroom’ model - students are engaging with knowledge based videos at home and then working collaboratively to apply this knowledge in creative ways the next day in class. This changes what the classroom looks like from the ‘sage of the stage’ style of learning to a more autonomous student controlled learning environment.

This means, in our robotics class students work collaboratively to solve complex problems in coding their robots. Each student is set a challenge in which they have to solve. They are connecting their knowledge and applying critical thinking, collaboration and creative skills with their learning.

What is the Flipped Classroom?

The concept of the flipped classroom is a simple one: homework is flipped. At home students work on the ‘easy stuff’, the remembering and understanding of content knowledge - the consumption of learning. This is done at home via videos. The next day in class is then the important part. This is where learning comes alive. The students work on the ‘hard stuff’ the things they would normally do in isolation. This is a great example of innovation in schools where technology has the power to enable both teacher and student.

Gone are the days where the teacher owns learning - ownership of learning is firmly placed in the hands of the students with the flipped model. My main goal is to have students participate in a richer active learning experience where I become more of a coach to guide their learning. The classes become much more collaborative in nature where students are solving complex problems with an emphasis on higher order and critical thinking skills.

The use of the flipped classroom really allows educators to listen for learning and provide feedback for learners, teachers included. It is student centered and enables students to self regulate their learning.

Student learning is at the center of a flipped classroom and one which enables students to dig deeper with their learning and move from passive learning to active learning in class. From consumption of learning at home to creation of learning at school. For many schools this is a large paradigm shift but one which is necessary for students to truly be owners of learning. And one that The Peninsula School is taking head on.

Dean Pearman
Director of Learning Technologies and Innovation
Over the summer holidays, I spent two weeks at the Australian Physics Olympiad Summer School in Canberra. These were the two most academically challenging weeks that I have ever experienced. However, despite the workload and the lengthy exams, they were two of the most enriching weeks of my life. A typical day at Summer School involved three lectures, a lab session and two tutorials, finishing at about 9:30pm, usually followed by card games and socialising in the common room.

Weekends and weekdays were alike, so we made the most of our precious free day, visiting Parliament House and sourcing the best milkshakes that Canberra had to offer! With this intense university-based physics course, I learnt more than I could have imagined, both theoretical ideas and experimental processes. The problem solving based style of the camp certainly pushed the boundaries of my thinking. Between this and the dinner table discussions with tutors and other students from around Australia, I learnt so much both in and out of the classroom.

Boarding in Ursula Hall at ANU tested my independence, giving me the opportunity to discover more about university life. The sense of camaraderie that quickly developed amongst the physics cohort was fantastic; many lasting friendships were formed during the camp. The Summer School was a brilliant, inspiring experience which demonstrated the exciting times that await us in the field of science.

Alexandra Karamesinis
Year 12
SmartMusic

Technology takes our Music Studios to the next level

ON WEDNESDAY 2 March The Peninsula School Music Staff held a captivating demonstration of some of the new technological developments that we’ll be rolling out over the coming years.

A key feature of the improvements is the introduction of the latest audio hardware and software in each of our music studios where we conduct private lessons. This will enable teachers to design new ways of enhanced teaching in our lessons.

Using this technology, we have developed a range of custom made Ableton Live Sessions tailored specifically for our students. These platforms, beautifully malleable to cater for every level of ability, ranged from simulating enhanced sound (‘training wheels for tone production’), practising relative pitch, applying varying rhythm combinations and the fundamentals of looping.

The introduction of SmartMusic has students excited about being able to practice ensemble music at home with the full band and a virtual teacher noting all mistakes and successes.

On the night of our demonstration, Year 12 student Isabella performed a stunning cover of Mat Corby’s ‘Resolution’ using Ableton Live and Launchpad, triggering samples she created entirely with her cello and voice whilst playing and singing simultaneously. It was an impressive performance.

Later in the year, we will also be providing our students with the opportunity to take private lessons in digital music production. It’s an exciting time for music at the School.

Richard Vaudrey
Head of Ensemble & Studio Music
THIS Term, we were pleased to launch the new TPS Presents program from the Music Department. This is an exciting concert series held in our very own Lewington Room featuring both local and international quality musical acts. The series has already impressed with a diverse range of professional performances of all music styles. It’s been great to see our community so eager to embrace the wonderful world of new and emerging music.

TPS Presents has been a sensational addition to our concert program which, in the past has only featured our student showcasing our home-grown talent. It allows students and families to experience performances normally only found in large city environments.

In March, TPS Presents showcased Ross Irwin – an exciting musician who has cemented himself as somewhat of a musical mastermind in Australia. He has worked with Paul Kelly, Passenger, Angus and Julia Stone, Josh Pyke, Thelma Plum, Seth Sentry, The Paper Kites, Brooke Fraser, Gossling and You Am I.

Ross played to a large crowd of 180 people from our Peninsula School community after conducting a workshop with our student stage band and singer/song writers and recording a track in the Principal’s office. Ross, like our School, sees music and performing arts as life-changing for young people.

“I am a true product of music education in Victoria. Music gave me an outlet and an identity when I otherwise would not have had either. A sense of purpose and belonging as well as a social setting that had creative purpose and goals,” he said passionately.

The next TPS Presents concert is on Wednesday 20 April at 7pm featuring the 2015 National Young Virtuoso Performer of the Year, Arcadia Quintet with Magdalenna Krstevska. It will be a performance not to miss.

Richard Vaudrey
Head of Ensemble & Studio Music
IN DECEMBER 2015 The Peninsula School staff took a day ‘out of the office’ to give to the community as part of our annual Hands for the Community Day. It’s a wonderful opportunity for staff to choose a charity or cause we feel strongly about and donate some time and energy to help. All 250 Peninsula School staff members turned up ready to roll our sleeves up at over 20 local organisations including:

- Mornington Park Primary School
- Wallara - Sages Cottage
- Abacus
- Baptcare
- Fusion
- Mornington Youth Enterprises
- Balcombe Estuary
- Moonlit Sanctuary
- Vinnies Retail Shops
- Royal Children’s Hospital – Education Unit
- Backyard Blitz
- Hampers
- The Briars
- Southern Peninsula Foods for all
- Friends of Hooded Plovers
- YMCA Mornington – Camp Manyung
- St Luke’s Church Christmas Luncheon
- Mums & Bubs
- Days for Girls
- Frankston Special Development School
- Mornington Toy Library.

We wrapped Christmas presents for those in need, pulled weeds from the bushland, sourced donated food and prepared Christmas lunch for 60 locals, taught unwell children in hospital, sold secondhand clothes at the Vinnies store, packed hampers for the homeless and entertained some local elderly residents. It was an amazing effort and we’re so pleased we can contribute to our local community in this way. We’re looking forward to what we can offer in 2016!

Leanne Stewart
Hands for the Community Coordinator

AFTER helping to wrap gifts for Mums Supporting Families in Need in Seaford (MSFIN) in December it quickly became obvious that the organisers and volunteers were struggling to keep up – they had an increased influx of donations from businesses and the public and urgently needed help. So I took it upon myself to find more people, mainly friends and colleagues within the Chinese teachers’ community across Melbourne, to come and participate in this important charity work. To my great delight I received an amazing response to my appeal through WeChat and even more surprising was the fact that some teachers had an interest in participating in community work like this but did not know where and how to go about it.

Dr Xiaokang Zhou
Chinese Faculty

Hands for the Community follow-up

We organised 45 volunteers including Chinese teachers, their family members and friends, to join other local volunteers at the MSFIN and sort, wrap and pack hundreds of gifts into big hampers. Through our combined efforts all the work was completed on time, which at the beginning was a seemingly impossible task.

The organisation was thrilled with our great effort and contribution to their cause. Such a fantastic effort and result!
FOR the first time, The Peninsula School participated in ‘Clean Up Australia Day’ on Sunday 6 March 2016. With nine students and two teachers giving two hours of their time, we were able to clear a significant amount of rubbish from Kunyung Beach making a great contribution to this extremely worthwhile cause.

‘Clean Up Australia Day’ originated as a result of Australian Yachtsman, Ian Kiernan’s, increasing concern regarding the build of rubbish ‘choking’ the world’s oceans. In 1989, Mr Kiernan sparked an initial idea to make a difference in his own backyard; ‘Clean Up Sydney Harbour’. After an overwhelming response of more than 40,000 keen volunteers donating their time to the event, ‘Clean Up Australia Day’ was born the following year. There are now in excess of half a million eager volunteers contributing their time annually. Australia has managed to remove over 16,000 tonnes of rubbish collectively across the nation so far this year.

Mr Kiernan’s vision provides every Australian with the chance to clean up the litter that surrounds our enviable landscape. It would be great to grow our Peninsula School ‘Clean Up’ team next year.

In the words of Ian Kiernan, ‘simple, easy actions can protect the health of our water resources and help save drinking water supplies. There is not one individual who cannot help to make a difference to the health of the environment.’

Annabel Lock
Year 12
Challenge of a lifetime

Training for Costa Rica and Nicaragua

AS BOTH World Challenge teams set off for their Training Expedition in early March, the anticipation was high on a hot and humid day. We knew that we would be practicing scenarios in preparation for our in country trek but we did not expect to be practising in the same weather conditions as we would likely to be experiencing in Costa Rica and Nicaragua later in the year.

The expedition took place around the gorgeous countryside of the Bunyip State Forest and the Puffing Billy even made an appearance for us!

Food budgets and food shopping were made the responsibility of the challengers so the responsibility was high with regards to the happiness of the group. Hungry hikers were not an option!

We rehearsed many “in country” scenarios including broken legs, river crossings, lost backpacks and people and the hilarious bus booking. in Spanish with an unsafe bus and a drunk driver. We realised that our Spanish skills needed vast improving especially for the phase in Nicaragua – a largely non English speaking country.

However most importantly, the time spent together as a group was the highlight. Getting to know each other better, identifying the character strengths of the team, practicing leadership skills and having a sing and a laugh as we walked.

This trip has highlighted many things, but most of all, what a fantastic time we will have when we do the ‘real thing’ later this year. Nicaragua and Costa Rica better watch out! The Peninsula School is coming...

Lucy Smith, one of the challengers, summed it up perfectly: “I am most looking forward to helping the less fortunate communities of Central America smile a little more, discovering more of what our world has to offer, creating unforgettable memories and experiencing new and exciting challenges with such an awesome group of people.”

Sue Barlow
World Challenge Expedition Leader

Congratulations!

HEAD of Drama, Sam Mackie, has been at The Peninsula School for 18 years. Four years ago he had what he describes as a mid-life crisis, and started his Masters (he is still completing the research phase). As part of his Masters, he pursued a series of extracurricular activities, running a workshop at the Drama Australia National conference and starting a network to support Theatre Studies teachers in Victoria. There are now nearly 200 participants. In 2014 Sam was also lucky enough to present at the “IDEA” conference in Paris. His workshop was on ’The Arrival’, a performance project that explores the immigration experience.

Each year Sam leads up to 5 workshops and discussion papers at various theatre venues including the Arts Centre Melbourne, The MTC, and the Malthouse (he is hoping to formalise a unique partnership with the Malthouse this year). In addition, he has been writing and delivering specialised VCE education packs and forums for The Arts Centre Melbourne, most recently for ’Black Diggers’, ’Adventures in the Skin Trade’, ’Sugarland’ and the highly acclaimed ’The Secret River’.

We are very proud and pleased to have Sam Mackie in our amazing Drama and Performing Arts team.
China: an economic powerhouse

Students tour China combining Commerce and Language

ON 29 November 2015, 18 students from Years 9 to 11 headed off for our inaugural Commerce and Languages Tour of China. The trip was in recognition of the huge links between China and Australia and the importance of Chinese culture and language to the future of Australian business and economy. In two weeks, we were kept busy visiting four cities:

Shanghai

With our local buddies, we went to Chinese lessons, History lessons, English lessons, sport classes and an amazing class on Chinese calligraphy. We ventured around Shanghai, learning about the role of China as a powerhouse in the world economy. We visited SAIC car manufacturing plant and met with Austrade to discuss the important relationship between Australia and China. We also visited M on the Bund, a restaurant owned by an Australian followed by a meet and greet with Creative Merchandise Solutions, a business producing AFL trading cards and owned by a past Peninsula School student.

Suzhou

The ancient city of Suzhou is built around canals (just like Venice!) and known as the city of gardens. We visited 3 gardens, walked along the city gate and along the city moat. Also included in this city tour was a boat ride through the canals to see how people live in ‘real’ China followed by a visit to a silk factory.
Xi’an

Xi’an was so incredibly different from Shanghai and Suzhou and many students commented that here, they truly felt they were in China. Locals dancing in the park at 7am, red lanterns, signs of old emperors, crazy street markets and very different food from other parts of China. Without a doubt, the highlight was the Terracotta Warriors – a truly fascinating place. We ended our time in Xi’an with a bike ride on top of the city wall and a very fancy 6 course dinner and traditional Chinese dancing show. This time, our transport to the next city was by overnight train - what an experience!

Beijing

Initially air pollution kept us inside but once it passed, it was blue skies for the rest of the trip. We started with the Great Wall – and what a way to start! We saw a smattering of snow everywhere as we climbed the Wall - and we really climbed, it’s extremely steep. We also saw pandas at the Beijing Zoo and took a rickshaw ride around old Beijing to see Hutongs and speak with local Beijingers. Here we also met up with 3 past students before ending our time in Beijing with a bang at Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City.

Two weeks, 4 cities, 5 plane trips, boat/bike/ rickshaw rides – a truly wonderful two weeks. What an amazing opportunity for our students to apply their Chinese Language skills and expand their Commerce studies. We look forward to our next trip in 2017.

Melissa Wolsley-Findlay
Head of Commerce
Our International education

The Peninsula School in China, Kuala Lumpur and Malaysia

OVER the past few years, The Peninsula School has played a pioneering role in the internationalisation of the VCE and the broader Victorian curriculum. Our senior teachers mentor a growing number of VCE teachers working in China – offering many opportunities for both local and international teachers.

The Peninsula School is one of a number of Victorian providers delivering the Victorian curriculum in China, East Timor, South Africa, Vanuatu and The Middle East. We currently provide 4 international VCE programs in China – Nanjing, Shanghai, Zhengzhou and Heze. And our plans are progressing to deliver the VCE and a Years 1-10 Victorian program in Kuala Lumpur and Ipoh in Malaysia with the teaching program in Malaysia expected to begin in 2018.

In 2015 there were 3 schools in China with Year 12 graduates and the academic outcomes were outstanding - the product of marvellous collaboration and hard work from teachers on both sides of the equation. It must be said, the work ethic of the Chinese students cannot be overstated - classes run from 7:30am to 9:30pm and may also extend to Saturday mornings and during national summer holiday breaks.

The work ethic of Chinese students cannot be overstated

Our Dux in China, Ms Sun Heqi, at 16 years of age, achieved an ATAR of 99.35 and capitalised on every learning opportunity to achieve her goal of studying Commerce at Melbourne University. Her story was big news in her city of Zhengzhou.

I must say that the Chinese approach to success at school is traditional and narrowly academic and not particularly aligned with our Australian focus on the broader development of young adults including their social, sporting, artistic and other co-curricular skills. This reflects a history in which officials of the Emperor’s court were chosen by a grueling academic examination requiring an extraordinary memory and attention to detail and open to young men outside of the ruling class. Once selected by this process, the official was guaranteed wealth, power and influence. In some cases they were nominated to marry one of the Emperor’s daughters.

We will continue to constructively and creatively engage with globalisation and look forward to further exciting developments.

Gary van den Elsen
Director of International Operations

TPS Students at Welcome Reception with Stephen Graley

FOUR of our new international students were warmly welcomed to Victoria at the annual Victorian International School Student Welcome Reception on 2 March at Government House, Melbourne. Amos Li, Jack Huang, Eric Li and Hoang Phuong Vu enjoyed the experience of meeting some of our senior politicians and other international students.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Premier, Judith Graley MP addressed the group and personally welcomed our students – her husband Stephen is a past scholar (Class of 1975) and their two boys also went to The Peninsula School. They both congratulated the school on its achievements.

Stephen Graley, Amos Li, Jack Huang, Eric Li and Hoang Phuong Vu
The architecture is dominated by Hindu and Sikh temples and a Moslem Mosque and, on face value, religious life is the key and dominant activity. Indeed, from around 4am the religious communities compete with amplified prayers to dominate the airways. Next to the Bishop’s home you can observe from above families living under canvas and subsiding largely on buffalo milk and the fruits of casual labouring work, and cooking using dried cow manure for fuel.

In late 2014, with the passing of the foundation Principal Mrs White Rose Prakash, the school was dealt a heavy blow in a practical and psychological sense. I am very pleased to report that with the appointment of a new Principal, Mrs Roop Mala Dutt, all are feeling reassured and confident about the future. She and her team of largely female teachers are clearly working very hard to educate the children in 3 languages – Hindi, Sanskrit and English together with other core academic skills.

The children are very welcoming and appreciate the support that we give them through key fund raising activities such as the Women’s Breakfast and the Book Fair.

So, to the many members of The Peninsula School community who have contributed directly and indirectly to TPS India, I relay gratitude and ask that you continue to do so whenever possible.

Gary van den Elsen
Director of International Operations
The French come to Peninsula

Notre Dame students embrace the Australian way

This Term saw 15 Senior Years French students arrive at our School as part of our amazing exchange program. The students visited our school for two and a half weeks and it went very well. Those 13 girls and 2 boys had a wonderful time!

First of all they had a fantastic welcome from our students and their families. They discovered the Australian way of life (the Mornington Peninsula in summer is very different from the Parisian way of life in February!). Our students also introduced them to school life here, which is always a highlight for the French students. Everything at school is so different, from the size of the classes (34 students in any class would be the average number in a French Senior school) to the style of learning (dynamic, practical, with laptops... whereas the French style is still traditional). They love our school!

The French group also discovered the Australian culture thanks to visits to museums and places of interest, both in Melbourne and more locally. The families also showed them many of their favourite spots, beaches and little creeks. The group spent four days along Great Ocean Road, went bushwalking in the Grampians, photographing wildlife in Halls Gap, and also heard about the Gold Rush in Ballarat. Their last two days in Australia were spent in Sydney, enjoying the nice temperature and the great views over the Opera House and the harbour before flying back to a cold winter.

Peninsula School families and students deserve an enormous thank you for welcoming the French students and their two teachers here, and also for giving the exchange such a great start this year.

We are now all looking forward to going to France in June-July to meet our French host friends again and meet their families! It will be a fantastic opportunity for our students studying French this year to develop their speaking skills and be immersed in French culture.

Merci à tous, étudiants, parents, collègues! À bientôt pour la suite de l'échange!

Axelle Mathot
Head of French
Samantha Howe

School Swim Captain

“TAKEme out of water and I'm not particularly good at sport – I'm quite uncoordinated,” says youth World Record holder, Sam Howe. After starting Nippers 12 years ago in Prep, the Year 12 student has taken on the world in the slightly different sport of pool lifesaving and is making waves. When Sam’s parents started looking for a sport that allowed her sister to recover from various injuries and still train in a pool, they found pool lifesaving – a competitive take on keeping people safe in pools. Sam agreed to join her sister and soon found that she has a particular skill for the sport. She is incredibly adept in the water – specifically in the Manikin Carry events where the competitor swims a distance and dives to recover a 70kg submerged manikin to return them to the end of the pool.

Sam’s speed and strength ensured she soon progressed to the Victorian State Team and then on to the Australian Junior team, breaking numerous Australian records along the way.

“I just love it and I love the people. It was a shock to the system to realise that I’m actually pretty good at this,” says Sam appearing genuinely surprised yet reassured by her own ability. “My sister also does really well too and made the Australian team beside me in 2015 after a national competition; I was honoured to receive ‘Lifesaver of the Meet’ alongside a previous Australian Lifesaving Team Captain, and broke five Australian records, one of which was the relay and that was the most exciting one because it was with my sister.”

“After joining the Australia team again in 2015, I broke five Australian records, one of which was the relay and that was the most exciting one because it was with my sister.”

Her more recent World Record in the 50m Manikin Carry event is actually the second time she has broken the record yet only the first time it has been recognised. Late last year, Sam broke the youth world record at a pool lifesaving competition but was unaware of the requirement to undertake a drug test within 24 hours of the event in order for it to become official.

“I want a drug free world of sport so it was important that I met this criteria,” says Sam. However she didn’t have to wait long to have another attempt. In January, she competed in the Australian Pool Life Saving Championships on the Gold Coast and fortunately, ASADA were on hand to ensure the appropriate drug test was taken and the record was made official.

Sam explained that her PE studies at school actually helped her in preparing for the drug test which she describes as ‘very intrusive’. “We studied drug testing so I knew what to expect and understood why they needed to do things in certain ways – and they were very strict,” she says.

We congratulate Sam on her World Record and her achievements to date and can see a bright future for her. She is also doing well with her studies and while she hasn’t decided what to do next year, she is considering the option of studying pre-med overseas with a swimming scholarship. She says, “I’m not exactly sure where I’m headed but I know I’ll keep swimming.”
AGSV Cricket Premiers

Congratulations to our Peninsula School First XI Cricketers who won the AGSV Premiership on Saturday 5 March 2016!

IT’S a real achievement for our boys with our last cricket premierships being 23 years ago in 1992. Coach Peter Buchanan and the team performed brilliantly with all players contributing throughout the season and especially well on the day amidst the excitement of finals fever.


Our fielding in the Mentone innings was exceptional and we managed to run out two of their top batsmen, giving us the edge we needed to have a flying start.

Although the intensity shifted briefly after losing our first wicket in the first over, a great partnership between Brodie Symons and Patrick Rowe ensured we successfully passed Mentone’s score, finishing at 3 for 93.


Congratulations go to all members of the team and coach for a notable win.

Stephen Brennan
Director of Sport
House competition

THE House Sporting competition began with the House Swimming Sports. Once again Clarke House dominated early establishing a large lead at the conclusion of the Years 7 to 9 program. In the Senior School program both Carr and Ansett made significant gains however they were unable to bridge the gap.

Final House Swimming placings

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A beautiful March day was the backdrop for a sensational House Athletics Competition with the six Houses battling it out for the coveted athletics trophy. The early showing saw Country House take a commanding lead with a number of strong performances on the track led by Tasmin Elwin, Lexi Loizou, Bella and Lachlan Enno, Scarlett Murdoch, Molly Wallace and Tom Small. As the day progressed the Houses began to reel in the leaders until Clarke House surged to the front with a number of excellent wins from Samantha Batty, Tom Sinclair, James Thomas, Holly Sweeney, Tyler Warne, Frazer King, Dylan Burrows, Billy Armstrong, Daniel Pryce, Kate Duigan, Lachie Cox, Lily Riley, Batikah Duncan, Charlotte Crouch, Sam Sturt, Brodie Symons, Lachlan Kimpton, Max Freeman, Mason De Ridder and Georgia Cassell-Ashton.

Final House Athletics placings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Clarke</td>
<td>3080 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Carr</td>
<td>3061 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Country</td>
<td>2993 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Ansett</td>
<td>2966 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Newton</td>
<td>2758 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>Town</td>
<td>2745 pts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The Peninsula Gift is a handicap event that pits the best sprinters in the secondary school against each other. The best male and female sprinter from Years 7 and 8, Years 9 and 10, and Years 11 and 12 (as determined by their 100m times), are handicapped using a complicated formula designed by Mr Verwey. This year the race was fought out between Molly Wallace (Year 8), Tom Crosier (Year 8), Mia McNaught (Year 10), Lindsay Davies (Year 10), Lexi Loizou (Year 12) and Adam Burton (Year 12). Lexi Loizou defended her title to once again hold aloft the Peninsula Gift trophy.

This year saw the addition of a House March On to the program. Houses paraded onto the athletics arena and were judged according to the sound - both quality and loudness - that they were able to generate, their formation and style, their costume creativity and the number of House participants, and capped off with the very esoteric criteria of ‘overall impact’. The inaugural champion and winner of the House March On was Town House.

Years 7 to 9 Tug of War

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<th>Place</th>
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<td>1st</td>
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<td>5th</td>
<td>Country</td>
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<td>6th</td>
<td>Clarke</td>
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Senior School Tug of War

<table>
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<th>Place</th>
<th>House</th>
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<td>1st</td>
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<td>2nd</td>
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<td>5th</td>
<td>Clarke</td>
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<td>6th</td>
<td>Country</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
AS SOON as the school bell sounds, the corridors become a sea of young people all scrambling to get in to their classrooms to be the first to catch up with their teachers and start the day’s learning. That is exactly what we want from the students in the Junior Years. Enthusiastic learners who are ready for the adventures that are ahead. There is something really special about teaching and learning in the Junior Years - just ask any of our teachers, they will tell you we have the best jobs in the world.

So much happens every day! Our Kinder children have settled in really well to their new classes. They’ve been developing skills in a play based environment, using their strengths and interests to contribute to the curriculum. Our teachers have been focusing on their social and emotional skills to engage and connect in their environment.

Our Preps have become relaxed and at ease in their new learning environment. They are enjoying their new routines and are excited to learn with their new friends.

Over the January holidays the final part of our garden development was completed. This included a wonderful new garden bed for us to use. Huge thanks to Matt Curtis- Jasmin in Prep B’s dad for supplying us with all our seedlings and plants for this project. The children have been super busy planting and tending to their new garden space. Our Year 1s have also been really involved in the maintenance of this space.

Year 2 brings a whole new range of learning spaces. Some of the children have started their ‘strings program’ which is a wonderful school initiative allowing each Year 2 student an opportunity to learn a string instrument and perform at the end of semester. They also visit the Science Room in the Discovery Centre and they have loved the hypothesising and experimenting with their learning.

The Year 3 students dazzled us all as they led a Junior Years assembly during Term. We were so proud to see the students take this level of responsibility so seriously and show strength and bravery as they took to the stage. We were all impressed by their wonderful ‘sizzling starts’ – a great way to show how a story can begin. Special mention goes to our musicians who performed- Jacques, Lachie, Amaya, Jack and Lola (Year 4).

The Year 4s loved their Bay Play activities this Term. Developing positive relationships and working together to develop trust and resilience is a great way to start the year. Bay Play also allows students to try something new in a supportive environment. The children loved it!

Louise Nicholls-Easley
Head of Junior Years
What is new in 2016? Well almost everything!

We have:

- Nearly 100 new students to the School across Years 5, 6, 7 and 8
- New laptops for every Year 5 and 6 student
- New touch screen panels in every Year 5 and 6 classroom
- Camps for both Year 5 and Year 8 at new locations
- New staff to the Middle Years program including staff from the Junior and Senior Years
- Impressive new Year 7 and 8 Program Coordinators.

In what can only be described as a frenetic beginning to the year, already so much has been achieved. Students from Years 5 to 7 have all participated in an Outdoor Education Camp, allowing them to get to know one another and to know more about themselves through ‘challenge by choice’. Our Class Captains and House Captains have been appointed and House Swimming was held with all the usual colour and fanfare. Parents met with mentors at our Mentor evenings to learn more about the classroom activities and discuss the learning needs of their child.

Muriel Bakker
Head of Middle Years

**Year 5 Literacy: the language of the 21st Century**

Literacy, for me is about immersing students in the written and spoken word, inspiring in them a passion for the way words make us think and feel whilst enabling us to use the language of the 21st century.

As we are currently focusing on persuasive writing, I asked a class to write a speech on controversial topics ranging from why Barbie is a bad role model to why we should welcome all refugees. With resounding enthusiasm, the students poured their knowledge and skills into the task and in less than two periods produced some of the most inspiring, meaningful and accurate presentations I have witnessed in a long time.

Here’s a snapshot of one of the persuasive presentations in response to our topics:

Do you wonder where your child is at night? Is she locked in her room alone, playing with a perfect, beautiful doll called Barbie? If so you need to take action, Barbie does not represent your child’s future, she is in fact setting a bad example for the next generation. I was a child and I know what Barbie made me dream of was not real and I don’t want this to be the future for your child. Our way of life is being threatened by perfection that no one can ever achieve.

What is going through your mind as we speak, do you think that your child believes Barbie to be real? Do you know how this is going to end?

Their fearlessness inspires me; their determination and motivation instils in me not only an acute awareness of the responsibility I have but a true belief in their endless potential. I am so excited by the road ahead, with its twists and turns, its bumps and even its roundabouts. It is a privilege to not only work alongside like-minded, driven educators but to be gifted someone’s child in order to help them see that the road ahead, while fraught with unknowns, will be a truly awesome journey.

Lucy Gowdie
Years 5-8 Literacy Coordinator and Year 5 Mentor

Reflections from our Learning Areas
Reflections from our Learning Areas

Year 8 Medieval: The Great Saladin Founder

As part of our Humanities studies, we are looking at medieval history. Here is my Medieval Saracen:

"Salaam-Alekoum fellow men and women, I am the great Saladin founder of the Ayyubid Dynasty in the Levant defending against the horrible pointless wars for the great lands of my kingdom. I lived from 1137AD to 1193AD and am the ruler of my Sultanate and have supreme power of all my subjects and am known for being great, generous and an infallible commander of men in my conquest of crusader lands modern day Yemen, Egypt, Syria and ruler of all in-between. My life consists of great battles with crusaders and neighbouring tribes always victorious.

I am responsible for the safety of my lands and conquest of neighbouring territories. My everyday chores would consist of praying 5 times a day at the mosque because of my Sunni religion, looking after lords, troops, future and current conquests is my main occupation in life, I have been told by Allah that this is my duty to protect my lands and people from all harm may it come their way. My subjects are very supportive and grateful of my rule and my countering of the horrible self-proclaimed 'holy war' by the Europeans."

Thomas Burgess
8D
IT HAS been a very enthusiastic start to the year with Pre Senior students eagerly engaging with the Year 9 program. The theme of the program is ‘Challenging Me’ and it provides numerous opportunities for students to experience the broader world in an independent and positive manner; developing a zest for life and a passion for learning.

Our program identifies that adolescent students learn best when they are given the opportunity to be actively involved rather than simply listening in the hope that information will be absorbed. The aim is to challenge the students in the learning process and enhance their academic capacity.

Although a large part of the program focuses on academics, we also challenge students socially and physically. On the first Wednesday of the school year, the Pre Senior students undertook a bushwalk through the picturesque Arthurs Seat State Park. This activity challenged the students in several ways. Firstly, they needed to organise themselves - their attire, food and water. Complicating this was that individual student photos were being taken prior to our departure meaning students were required to wear their school uniform to school and then change.

The second challenge was the physical task of conquering the steep rise at the start of the walk. Some students found this very difficult but showed great determination. The students also undertook a social challenge to find out three significant pieces of information about a person they had not engaged with over the previous two years. Many students reported that they found this to be the most difficult of the challenges they faced on that day.

Our Personal Development Program kicks off
At the Pre Senior level students participate in a specialised Personal Development Program (PDP) every second Wednesday. The first session saw the year level travel to Beauty Park in Frankston. Students were called upon to determine their own physical challenge for the 50 minute exercise session. Some set very challenging goals of maintaining a running pace for the entire time while others set about achieving three laps of the one and half kilometre undulating circuit.

All the staff were very pleased with the way the students tackled this challenge and their obvious desire to achieve their respective goals. The second session saw the year level venture to The Briars in Mornington and students did the 45 minute walk to Mount Martha along the Mount Martha Boardwalk. With the very warm conditions and the time constraints this activity provided a significant challenge to staff and students.

As part of our specialised PDP students also engage in service learning activities with a number of organisations on the Mornington Peninsula. Students completed one session in Term 1 and will rotate through the six activities over the course of the next three Terms. The activities include visiting the Andrew Kerr Aged Care Centre in Mornington and conversing with the clients, visiting Wallara’s Sages Cottage Property in Baxter to meet the clients and assist in grounds maintenance while also learning about the work that Wallara does for over 400 adults with different disabilities, helping the Mornington Railway Preservation Society maintain their site in Mount Eliza, strolling the Mt Eliza foreshore to assist in the Friends of Williams Road Beach as they endeavour to retain habitat quality by removing weeds, and visiting the McClelland Gallery property in Langwarrin to gain an insight into the work done by their staff with a number of projects.

In the final week of Term 1 all the Year 9 students ventured to Bendigo and then on to Ballarat to explore the processes associated with gold extraction and to examine the influence that finding gold had on the region. This interdisciplinary project has both individual and group work components.

Worth mentioning...
On an individual note, Fox de Roche-Jarrett, who joined the school this year on the Lomholt music scholarship, performed at a recent Principal’s Assembly displaying his impressive vocal ability. He then sang at the School’s singers’ concert along with Sam Dahlsen. We look forward to further contributions to our music programme from both Fox and Sam.

Patrick Rowe was selected to represent the Melbourne Cricket club against a visiting Hong Kong team on the hallowed turf of the MCG. He was also selected as captain of the Victorian Country U/15 cricket team to play in the national championships.

As the summer season of sport drew to a close it was interesting to reflect on the number of Pre Senior students who gained selection in Open squads for various sports throughout the season:

Steve Wiltshire
Head of Pre Senior Year 9
THE PENINSULA SCHOOL proudly presents

LEGALLY BLONDE
The Musical

Music and Lyrics by Laurence O’Keefe and Nell Benjamin
Book by Heather Hach
Based on the novel by Amanda Brown
and the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer motion picture
Licensed exclusively by Music Theatre International (Australasia).
All performance materials supplied by Hal Leonard Australia.

FRANKSTON ARTS CENTRE

THURSDAY 19TH MAY 2016 7PM
FRIDAY 20TH MAY 2016 7PM
SATURDAY 21ST MAY 2016 5PM

TICKETS:
$30 Adult
$20 Child/Concession/Senior
$90 Family (2 Adults 2 Children)
GST INCLUSIVE • BOOKING FEE

TICKETS ON SALE FROM THE FRANKSTON ARTS CENTRE
BOX OFFICE 9784 1060 OR WWW.THEFAC.COM.AU
YOU may be aware that my family and I relocated to the Mornington Peninsula for me to take on this role at The Peninsula School. Prior to making this decision, my wife and I created a very large pros and cons list – as most people would. At the time of making such a large decision you are never quite sure if you have made the correct choice. Three months into the new chapter of our journey I am pleased to say that we can wholeheartedly confirm that we have made the right decision. The change of lifestyle has been refreshing, the beaches are just beautiful and I have been flattered by how welcoming people on ‘The Peninsula’ are. This includes the students, staff and parents of this wonderful school.

A Wonderful Community Spirit
The students have had a busy and challenging start to the year, both inside and outside of the classroom. However, thus far they are approaching all happenings with enthusiasm, hard work and a cooperative spirit.

The willingness of students to give up their time for others has been particularly impressive to witness. Our positive education theme for the year is: ‘Other People Matter’ and it is pleasing to note that many Senior Years’ students are dedicated to making a difference.

The atmosphere in our Service Learning meetings this Term has been ‘electric’ and it is pleasing to note that the students are willing to offer new ideas, challenge one another and most importantly support one another and the community. Pleasingly, our first initiative for the year was a success.

Earlier I mentioned the beautiful beaches of the area and on a Sunday morning in March a small team of students gathered with some passionate Ecologists from the area and assisted in cleaning a region of the Mount Eliza foreshore for Clean Up Australia Day. The Service Learning group is a special group to be part and I encourage all students to become involved at some stage throughout the year. Not only will it make a difference to the community, but it will also enhance one’s wellbeing.

Wellbeing makes a difference in Senior Years
Linking into wellbeing, the tailor made Fit 2 Learn wellbeing program was launched earlier this month with sessions on Resilience and Balance. The Senior Years’ staff are a proactive group of teachers and they are enthusiastic about providing guidance that will assist the students with their Senior Years’ journey. This Term, we have offered the following opportunities:

- Study skills for Year 12s – presented by Elevate education
- Edrolo training for those studying VCE Science subjects
- Leadership session with the REACH foundation
- Notetaking skills
- Collaborative Learning time
- Mindfulness tips
- Sleep and nutrition advice.

However, for me one of the most exciting sessions that I attended this Term was facilitated by eight of our Year 12 students. They conducted a workshop for the Year 11s on how to best manage the Senior Years’ journey. Everything from study tips, to phone blocking apps to obtaining balance in life was covered. I really believe it is vital that our senior students do this on a regular basis as research shows that young people interact less with adults and move more toward their peer group during adolescence and teens, meaning that information provided by their peers will seem far more relevant and potentially more credible than that provided by adults. When young people are exposed to positive role models they can be provided with the knowledge and skills needed to avoid risk and problem behaviour, as well as empowering peers to maintain or improve their health and wellbeing.

End of Term already!
It has been a busy Term, but a very exciting one indeed. Our three House competitions have been very successful – it was wonderful to see students come together and chant with gusto. Our Peak Performance program continues to excite with two wonderful Lyceum breakfast guests and a very successful model UN conference. I have called for the student voice and I am excited that many students are responding.

At the beginning of the year a colleague jokingly informed me that I would not be able to take a breath until the end of Term. Our Peak Performance theme across the Senior Years is based around the Term Optimism and I must say that I am very optimistic about the year ahead.

Ross Patterson
Head of Senior Years

Reflections from Ross Patterson, Head of Senior Years
WE KICKED off the 2016 School year with a fantastic Welcome Evening in the Zammit Centre on Friday 26 February. With the largest turn out to date, many new and existing parents enjoyed catching up and welcoming new families to our School. The Parents Association is all about ‘friend-raising’ – making new friends and keeping in touch and this event definitely achieved that. It’s a great time to be involved with the School with so many new families and a new and refreshed sense of School community.

We’ve been working in partnership with the School to put together a full and interesting calendar of events for the year and we hope that you’ll all come along. There are also some wonderful projects that we’re working on with the School that both parents and students will be excited by. We’ll provide more information over the next few months.

We’d love to see more parents at our Annual General Meeting on 25 May. Come and hear about what’s happening with the Association, have a chat and share your views. Details are on Zenith.

All the best for the year.

Tracey Tobias
President

2016 PSPA Events

**PSPA Mother’s Day Market**
Friday 6 May, 9.00am – 11.00am
H.A. Macdonald Pavilion

**PSPA Year 7-12 Mother’s Day Breakfast**
Friday 6 May, 7.15am - 8.30am
The Commons, Zammit Centre

**PSPA Trivia Night**
Friday 12 August, 7.00pm – 10.00pm
Venue to be advised

**PSPA Year 7-12 Father’s Day Breakfast**
Thursday 1 September, 7.15am - 8.30am
The Commons, Zammit Centre

**PSPA Prep – Year 6 Father’s Day Breakfast**
Friday 2 September, 7.15 - 8.30am
H.A. Macdonald Pavilion, Classrooms and Junior Gym

**PSPA Spring Luncheon**
Friday 21 October, 12.00pm – 3.30pm
Ranelagh Club, Mt Eliza

**PSPA Christmas Market**
Details TBC

**PSPA Coffee Mornings**
9.00am - 10.00am, H.A. Macdonald Pavilion
   - Wednesday 20 April
   - Wednesday 18 May
   - Wednesday 15 June

**PSPA Annual General Meeting**
Wednesday 25 May, 7.00pm – 9.00pm
H.A. Macdonald Pavilion
Mother’s Day

YEAR 7-12 BREAKFAST

Choose either Thursday 5 May or Friday 6 May

7am to 8.30am, Zammit Centre - The Commons

Come with your children and join us in celebrating Mother’s Day at our annual breakfast.

Start the day with a lovely fresh breakfast, enjoy some time with the students and hear from our in-house Positive Psychology expert, Therese Joyce. Therese will share some insights into the wonders of the mother-teenager relationship: the ‘good’, the ‘not so good’ and the ‘could be quite difficult but doesn’t always have to be’.

Light breakfast provided. This is a free event kindly sponsored by the Peninsula School Parents Association (PSPA).

RSVP by 28 April 2016 to https://www.trybooking.com/LDDV

THE PENINSULA SCHOOL
WE WILL shortly have access to improved digital resources utilising a specialised Alumni management software platform. The system will provide an efficient means to communicate with our past students and to locate and reconnect with those with whom we have lost contact with over time. With over 8000 TOPSA Life Members, living both within Australia and around the world; we will continue to seek opportunities to ensure active engagement with our Alumni and The Peninsula School. We are also increasing engagement with our Alumni on social media via Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. We have our TOPSA app for iOS and Android, which can be downloaded from the app store of your favourite device.

Overseas and Queensland Reunion
We would like to progress an overseas reunion program in conjunction with The Peninsula School, and to provide opportunities for our international Alumni and their families to reconnect. We are also hopeful of arranging a Queensland Branch reunion in November this year, most likely in Brisbane and will advertise details when finalised. We will be inviting our Alumni based in Queensland to attend with personal invitations.

TOPSA Scholarships
Currently, TOPSA annually awards the Stephen Longley Scholarship. Stephen Longley was a staff member at the School in the mid-sixties, renowned for his leadership in many areas of our then fledgling school’s program. We would like to enhance our scholarship offerings and encourage our Alumni to ‘give back’ to provide opportunities for current and future students. We will be including scholarship donation options as part of our new website and are eager for the support of our community to ‘pay it forward’.

TOPSA Hall of Fame
The inaugural TOPSA Hall of Fame, held in October 2015, was a great success. The event recognised and celebrated the achievements of our Alumni. Details are on our website www.topsa.com.au.
Our next Hall of Fame will be held in 2017 and we welcome peer nominations.

Women’s Breakfast
We plan to hold the 2016 TOPSA Women’s Breakfast in October, and are currently reviewing speakers for the event. Final details will be advised as soon as possible. This special event celebrates the journey of girls at The Peninsula School and we are delighted to support The Peninsula School in India, by donating all of the funds from ticket sales.

Reunion Program
The dates for our 2016 Reunions are listed on page 45. This year we will hold reunions for the Classes of 2011, 1976, 2006, 1986, 1996 and 2015. The reunions are wonderful occasions that provide regular opportunities for our Alumni to get-together, often with past staff and reminisce about their school days and the memories that only your year level can share.

TOPSA Clubs
Our Sporting Clubs are a great way to keep in touch and their reports are included on the following pages.

2016 TOPSA Committee
Many thanks to the 2016 TOPSA committee members who volunteer their time and energy for the benefit of our Alumni - Greg Sugars (’89), Peter Cook (’76), Lachlan Patton (’80), Mason Sugars (’11), Eleanor Barry (’13), John Kilborn (’76), Simon Offor (’75), David Clarke (’81), Stuart Johnston (Principal), Rev John Leaver (Past Staff Representative) and Suzanne Ashley, School Liaison Officer. We have a great TOPSA team!

Ian Cockle (’79)
President, TOPSA
POBFC
Peninsula Old Boys Football Club

Coaches
Nick Claringbold has been re-appointed to the Senior coaching position.
Ben Mitchell has been appointed to the Reserves coaching position.
Peter Williamson has been reappointed as the u19 coach.

Awards
James Fletcher was awarded the VAFA ‘Rising Star’ award for his efforts last season. A fantastic accomplishment and recognition amongst all of his VAFA peers.

Recruits
The coaching staff are delighted to sign on three key senior recruits and several promising u19 players.
Ash Collins
Ben McKay
Tom Wilkinson.

Pre-Season
Training has been in full swing for several months and our first practice match, which to the delight of St Kilda supporters was played at their training facility in Seaford. We played against Caulfield Grammar School, who were relegated to C grade from B grade last year. A close encounter ensued with our boys able to get a reasonable amount of game time. It was great experience for POBFC to play on a large AFL facility.

Social
As we are looking forward to a big year it is imperative we give the players and staff all the support they need. We welcome any assistance, and importantly, please come to our games and also to some of our social events.

23rd April  First year players function, CBs, Mt Eliza
23rd April  Presidents Lunch (Premiership Reunion), H.A. Macdonald Pavilion
21st May   Hypnotists Night with Kevin Grise, CBs, Mt Eliza
28th May   Kids Pirates Dress up Day, The Peninsula School
25th June  Ladies Luncheon, H.A. Macdonald Pavilion
25th June  Theme Night, CBs, Mt Eliza
23rd July  Mark Andrews Legends Night, H.A. Macdonald Pavilion
20th August Annual Ball, Gunnamatta Room, Mornington Race Club
14th October Presentation Night, CBs, Mt Eliza.

First Game
Our first game is an away game versus Ormond on the 9th April. It will also be the club’s first game wearing their new CLASH jumpers.

POBFC would like to extend its gratitude to both the The Peninsula School and TOPSA for its outstanding continued support. We look forward to building on these relationships as the year unfolds.

GO PIRATES!
A HUGE roar went up last month, when Pirate skipper Matt Hyden belted his seventh boundary to secure the Peninsula Old Boy’s third MPCA Provincial premiership in six years. The hero of the Grand Final was opening batsman Dylan O’Malley, who plundered 101 runs off just 117, including 13 fours and 3 sixes. Opponent Crib Point batted first, were dismissed for 203 with Adam Jones 4/66 (off 20 overs), Zac Fillipone 3/60 (off 30) and John Forrest 2/42 (off 27) doing the damage. Dylan’s opening stand of 89 with Wade Pelzer (33), took the game away from Crib Point. Captain Matthew Hyden (36no) and Brandon Lawler (25no) were unbeaten when Crib Point conceded the game at 2/207.

The premiership players were Matt Hyden (c), Eiv Bowen, John Forrest, Wade Pelzer, Dylan O’Malley, Glen Prendergast, Brandon Lawler, Tom La Brooy, Will Crowder, Adam Jones and Zac Fillipone. The firsts were dominant all year, and were justly crowned Premiers.

The club as a whole enjoyed its most successful season ever, with the thirds making the semi final, and the fourths making the grand final. It is hoped that with the continual influx of talented juniors, and the retention of experienced senior players, that the club can continue to build on its strong foundation.

The club fielded seven junior sides, with the u/12 winning a premiership, and the u/16s coming runner up. A huge thanks must go to Andrew Quill, Jonny Rowe and all the other parents and helpers who ran the junior program, a crucial part of our club. Many boys played representative cricket, the stand out player being Patty Rowe, who was selected to play for the u/15 Victorian Country side in Brisbane.

The POBCC also congratulate the school first XI on winning the AGS premiership, great to see ‘old boys’ Lachie Curtis, Luke Gandy, Oscar Craig and Patty Rowe helping the school team secure the long awaited flag.

2016 TOPSA Events

REUNIONS will be held in the H.A. Macdonald Pavilion. See how your School has developed and enjoy reminiscing!

**Past & Current Staff Reunion**
Sunday 1 May, 2pm-5pm. Past and Current Staff welcome!

**Class of 2011 – 5 Year Reunion**
Friday 13 May, 7pm

**Class of 1976 – 40 Year Reunion Dinner and tour**
Saturday 28 May, 6pm tour, 7pm main function

**Class of 2006 – 10 Year Reunion and tour**
Friday 3 June, 7pm tour, 8pm main function

**Class of 1986 – 30 Year Reunion and tour**
Saturday 31 July, 7pm tour, 8pm main function

**Class of 1996 – 20 Year Reunion and tour**
Friday 26 August, 7pm tour, 8pm main function

**Class of 2015 – 1 Year Reunion**
Friday 7 October, 7pm

**Women’s Breakfast**
For Year 11 & 12 Girls and their female family members. Past students most welcome! 7.15am for 7.30am sit-down to breakfast. All proceeds to The Peninsula School in India. Details to be advised.

**Keep in touch!**
Do we have your current mailing address and contact details? If not, please contact School Liaison Officer Suzanne Ashley: 9788 7925 or sashley@tps.vic.edu.au

Find us on

[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com)
[LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com)
[Twitter](https://twitter.com)

**www.topsa.com.au**
TOPSA Soccer Club

As we head into our fifth year, TOPSA Soccer Club is gearing up for its biggest season yet.

OVER the summer, we’ve welcomed new members and new sponsors, and we are continuing to grow each year.

The committee has been hard at work since November in preparing the club for 2016. We enjoyed our pre-season trip to Geelong in March, giving new and old players the opportunity to get to know each other. These trips have become season highlights for our members, and I’d like to thank everyone who attended this year’s trip.

As we approach Round 1 (mid-April), we will be hoping for a large level of support from The Peninsula School community. Our matches are played on Sundays between 11am and 5pm at The Peninsula School Soccer pitches (The Detmold).

For information about how to get involved with our club, either as a player, supporter or sponsor, please visit our website at www.topsasoccer.com.au and ‘like’ our page on Facebook at www.facebook.com/topsasoccer.

Joshua Sinclair (*10)
TOPSA Soccer Club President

Where are they now?

Michael Da Gama Pinto
Class of 1997

Mike was awarded the prestigious CFO of the Year Award 2015. After completing Year 12 at The Peninsula School he went on to become a cadet with PriceWaterhouseCoopers whilst studying Accounting at RMIT University. He completed his Chartered Accountancy and after 8 years at PwC, he worked for ANZ and Harbert both in Private Equity. In 2013 he joined the Swisse Wellness Group as Chief Financial Officer.

Belle Brockhoff
Class of 2011

Belle claimed her first World Cup win of her career in Spain at the Snowboard Cross World Championships in March. Belle defeated the reigning Olympic champion Eva Samkova, placing her 3rd overall in the World Cup Standings at the end of the season in Boardercross.

Steph Reid
Class of 2014

Steph scored the winning shot to put the Buffalo Women’s Basketball team into their first ever final and won Most Valued Player for the entire tournament. Steph captained The Peninsula School’s first basketball team (and touch football team) and is on a basketball scholarship to Buffalo University.
Upcoming School events

Term 2 2016

April
Year 10 Social 15 April
Year 11 Social 16 April
Swimming Presentation Evening 19 April
TPS Presents - Music Concert 20 April
ANZAC Day 26 April
Winter Sports commence week of 25 April
Debating Association of Victoria 26 April
Year 9 Drama Performance 27 April
Girls Summer Sport Presentation 28 April

May
Open Day 4 May
Generations in Jazz Concert 4 May
3K, Prep and Year 1 Mother’s Day Celebrations 4 May
Boys Summer Sport Presentation 4 May
4K Mother’s Day Celebrations 5 May
Years 7 to 12 Mother’s Day Breakfast 5 and 6 May
Years 2-6 Mother’s Day Market 6 May
Debating Association of Victoria 17 May
Senior Production: Legally Blonde 19, 20 and 21 May
Year 6 Market Day 26 May
Year 10 and 11 Exams from 30 May

June
Queen’s Birthday holiday 13 June
Year 8 Interdisciplinary Week 14-17 June
TPS Presents - Music Concert 15 June
Term 2 concludes 18 June

Term 3 2016

July
Term 3 commences 12 July
Year 10 VCE and Careers Expo 13 July
Debating Association of Victoria 19 July
The Australian National Chemistry Quiz 21 July
TPS Presents - Music Concert 21 July
Australian Mathematics Competition Years 5 to 12 28 July

August
Languages Week 1 August
K to Year 6 Art Show Week 1 August
Science Week 15 August
Open Day 17 August
Junior Years Children’s Book Week 22 August
4K Father’s Day Twilight Lantern night 30 August
3K Father’s Day Breakfast 31 August
Grand Music Showcase 31 August

September
Year 7 to 12 Father’s Day Breakfast 1 September
Prep to Year 6 Father’s Day Breakfast 2 September
3K Father’s Day Breakfast 3 September
TPS Presents - Music Concert 7 September
Year 10 Work Experience week 12 September
Brownlow Breakfast 16 September
Term 3 concludes 16 September