Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new school year. Schools always have an excitement about them as the new academic year gets off and running. This year has been no different, with an obvious buoyancy around the campus.

I extend a particular welcome to those students and their families who are new to our community this year, especially those who have travelled from overseas to come to Peninsula. Hopefully, by now, you have received great reports from your children about their new classes and the new friends that they may have met.

I am pleased to report that the School is in particularly good shape for 2013. Our enrolment figures are excellent and our Grounds and Cleaning staff did a great job in readying the buildings and the playing fields for the new school year. Our students are well and truly enjoying our excellent ovals which have been rejuvenated over the break.

The academic year certainly bounded away to a quick start. Soon after we returned from holidays we staged our Prefects’ Investiture Assembly at which Kate Hadwen, our new Head of Senior School, shared her thoughts on leadership. Our Prefect body this year is an impressive group and I am sure that our Senior Prefect, Christiana Lees and our Heads of School, Mattilda Newton and Quentin Roth, will lead them very well.

Once at School, students were immersed into the Active Investigations program and were busy constructing, drawing, painting, building, role playing, solving puzzles, reading and talking. The pirate ship and sandpits at recess were in high demand but the bell ringing to signify the end of playtime was a bit ‘random’, according to one student! Once back inside, it was time to master the pencil grip and begin learning the complex process of writing.

When the bell went for home. We participated in our daily ritual of ‘What went well’ and for home. We participated in our daily ritual of ‘What went well’ and the children’s responses shared themes of relief that school was not scary but “really good”, the teachers were nice and that our friends were requirements.

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As the first day is usually a little overwhelming the session is a half hour for home. We participated in our daily ritual of ‘What went well’ and the children’s responses shared themes of relief that school was not scary but “really good”, the teachers were nice and that our friends were requirements.

I am pleased to report that the students will be entertained by amputee, Sam Cawthorn, in a few weeks time. Sam is an entertaining and inspirational speaker who tells a marvelous story about how he overcame the adversity of a devastating car accident. He is resilience and optimism ‘personified’.

There was much to rejoice about when the results for the Class of 2012 were published. Along with many high scores, a good number of “personal bests” were achieved. Special congratulations go to our Dux, Le Mai Khanh (Katrina), who achieved a remarkableATAR score of 99.7. I was particularly thrilled that 19 of our students scored ATARS at 95. Our girls’ medianATAR of 85.68 was most impressive, confirming that girls do indeed flourish in coeducational schools. Moreover, Katrina achieved a perfect score of 50 for English as an Additional Language, whilst Sophie Griffins and Riddle Reynolds each recorded perfect scores in Legal Studies.

It is wonderful to also be able to let you know that several students have received invitations to audition for the prestigious VCAA Top Acts program, having received A+ for their 2012 VCE Drama Solo Performance or Theatre Studies monologues; (Theatre Studies) Ben Burton, William Blake, Matthew Saccuzzo, Brooke Brockhoff and (Drama) Hugo Williams. Our congratulations also go to highly talented singer and pianist, Jacqui Sannia, who received 100% for her VCE Solo Performance exam – brilliant!

In closing, I am pleased to let you know that Reverend Shane Hubner, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of our School. Many of you will know Reverend Hubner as he is the Vicar of the Anglican Parish of Mt Eliza based at St James The Less. All the best for the year ahead.

Stuart Johnston
Principal

Preps Shine with curiosity and excitement

There are few more memorable ‘firsts’ in a student’s academic life, than the first day of school. On Friday 1st February 2013, 45 very excited and nervous young pupils experienced their first day as Prep students at The Peninsula School. As Prep marks an important milestone and adjustment to a family’s life, the character strength of bravery was called on by the parents as well.

Once at School, students were immersed into the Active Investigations program and were busy constructing, drawing, painting, building, role playing, solving puzzles, reading and talking. The pirate ship and sandpits at recess were in high demand but the bell ringing to signify the end of playtime was a bit ‘random’, according to one student! Once back inside, it was time to master the pencil grip and begin learning the complex process of writing.

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Years 7-12
Academic Goal Setting

‘To reach a port, we must sail — sail, not tie at anchor — sail, not drift.’

— Franklin D. Roosevelt
(32nd President of the United States of America)

Empowering the analogy of sailing, ‘FDR’ makes a salient observation regarding the importance of acting with purpose. Just as the ocean currents will knock and drag a boat in any direction they desire, so too are our lives susceptible to the whims and tides of time and place. Goal setting is a means by which we can guide our path, and, not to abuse the metaphor, set sail for land.

Stephen Covey in his 1989 book, ‘The 7 Habits of Highly Successful People’, considers what it is about goal setting that is important. He identifies that central to success in life is ‘independence’ or ‘self-mastery’; moving oneself from a state of dependence upon others to instead taking control and setting our own agenda. Covey puts forward that to do this the individual must:

Be Proactive — taking initiative in life and recognising that our decisions are the primary determining factor in how our lives evolve.

Begin with the end in mind — clarify what is that we value and thus want to achieve in life. We must envision the ideal and work towards it.

Positive Psychology for Senior School Families
— Years 10, 11 & 12

Have you wondered how to apply the principles of Positive Psychology in your home? Would you like to learn more about the science of wellbeing? If so, this short course is for you.

Positive Psychology is the scientific study of the strengths and virtues that enable individuals and communities to thrive. Positive Psychology focuses on cultivating increased levels of happiness and fulfillment regardless of one’s circumstances. Simply put, it is the study of ‘what is right with life’.

Put first things first — Prioritise, plan and execute tasks based on importance rather than urgency.

At The Peninsula School, we have introduced academic goal setting at Years 7-12 to foster habits and thinking akin to Covey’s ideas on what leads to success. This semester, students will work with their Tutor to develop three learning goals that take the following form:

I want to achieve __________________________ by doing

In working with their Tutors, students are encouraged to draw on the feedback from last semester’s report, their own desires and self-understanding, and the insight of their Tutor to develop goals that are realistic and measurable; goals that will inspire them to achieve. These goals, once finalised, will be printed on each student’s Interim Report which students will be asked to co-sign with their Tutor; acknowledgement of the joint role of Tutor and student in the learning process.

Throughout the semester, Tutors will return to each student’s set of goals and engage in a self-reflective process to consider what action each student has taken to achieving their goals and how the journey is progressing. At the end of the semester Tutors will then reflect on this formally through the Tutor Report that is included within each student’s set of reports.

It is the desire of The Peninsula School that students learn to value goal setting as an integral component of learning and achieving. Through doing so, if you forgive me one final pun, each student can weigh anchor on their journey of learning towards their potential.

I can be contacted directly via e-mail at cbacholer@tps.vic.edu.au; or alternatively via telephone on 97887709.

Mr Cameron Bacholer
Director of Teaching and Learning

Notice of Council Parking Blitz

We have received notice from the Mornington Council that their Ranger Team will soon be focussing their attention on drivers who park illegally around schools during drop-off and pick-up times.

The Council has asked that we bring this campaign to our community’s attention as offending drivers are placing students at risk. Infringement notices will be issued.

Some of the infringements that Council will be attentive to:
- Parking on nature strips
- Double parking
- Ignoring ‘No Parking Anytime’ signs
- Parking in disabled parking bays
- Stopping in bus zones

Whilst this notice refers primarily to illegal parking outside of the school gates, I would note that the same rules apply within the campus.

G. Alderson
Business Manager
A very warm Peninsula welcome to our new staff...

Our new Head of Senior School, Kate Hadwen, has had a distinguished career in a variety of educational institutions. She was Head of Pastoral Care and Boarding at Penrhyn College and is currently attaining her Doctorate in Philosophy.

Jessica Neylon (Class of 2004 – formerly Rachael Butler) married during the holidays will be teaching in the Junior school. Jessica arrives via Benton Junior College where she taught Year 5.

Jodi Shephard returns to us in 2013 to work in our Mathematics Department. For the past two years Jodi has been working at Caulfield Grammar School.

Justin Whelan (Class of 1990) has joined our staff and he will be teaching a Year 5 class. Justin has been teaching at Mount Martha primary and Overport primary in recent years.

Meghan Hutchins is a graduate teacher who will join our Junior School staff. Meghan recently completed her Master of Teaching. She will assist with programs in both the Junior and Middle Schools.

Jessica Butland has been appointed to the AFL Trainee position of Assistant Captain of our Girls’ Swim Team. She was also initiated the Birthday Lunch and is currently attending a Masters in Commerce.

Mariette Peterman comes to us via Tootook College, Woodleigh School and Penbank School to teach Physical Education and coordinate the Junior School sport program.

Tahlia Butland has been appointed to the AFL Trainee position. For 2013, Tahlia was the Prefect who initiated the Birthday Lunch recognitions for Year 7 students, she was also Captain of our Girls’ Swim Team.

Debbie Harris has been appointed Health Services Manager. Debbie has a wealth of experience working with children in the health industry. She comes to us by way of Malvern Primary school.

Sean Verwey, also a graduate teacher, joins our Mathematics Department. Sean completed his secondary education at Haileybury College and, more recently, has undertaken his Master of Teaching at Melbourne University.

Xiang Lu has been appointed to cover for Wen Yang while he is on Leave. Xiang Lu had experience as a VCAA assessor, taught at Westall College and lectured at Zheng Zhou University in China.

Warwick Armstrong has been appointed as the Head of Boys’ Boarding this new career opportunity will enable him to combine his teaching skills and outdoor education experience to great advantage.

Opportunity of a Life-time

As part of The Peninsula School’s Outdoor Education program in 2013 Year 10 students have the opportunity to participate in a sail training voyage on the Tall Ship Enterprize. The trip will commence at Williamstown wharf on Monday 16 September and conclude at Williamstown on Friday 20 September.

The Voyage

Crew complement will comprise the Master, 1st &/or 2nd Mates, Cook and general purpose hands (all with Victoria Working with Children Checks and appropriate maritime qualifications). Students will be placed in a three-watch system with the officers and encouraged to participate in the daily running of the ship. During the voyage the students will have the chance to get familiar with shipboard routine and safety – and induct those eligible to climb the rigging. The voyage plan will be to our Master’s discretion around Port Phillip Bay and weather permitting, perhaps up to Port Phillip Heads.

The Opportunity of a Life-time

This voyage would comprise 5 days and 4 nights and include meals and berth from the Monday night through Friday afternoon. This opportunity, due to space on board Enterprize, can be available to only 10 Students and will cost $1200. A staff member from TPS will also be on board with our students. The journey on Tall Ship Enterprise is weather dependant. We would make refunds if Enterprize could not make sail because of weather or operational difficulties.

Camp selection forms will be available from Thursday 14th February. I encourage students to take advantage of this amazing opportunity by selecting ‘The Enterprize’ as their first camp preference and returning their forms promptly.

Tim Humphris
Coordinator of School Sailing

Daniel Davies
Director of Outdoor Education

...and especially our new students!
The School with spirit!

Pavilion Opening Hours Term 1
The H.A. Macdonald Pavilion will be open for coffee every morning during Term 1 from 8.30am – 10.30am.

All parents are welcome to use this opportunity to meet other parents in this friendly, informal setting and if you don’t have time to stay, just grab a delicious takeaway.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Individual Sporting Achievement

2013 Victorian Track and Field Championships
The 2013 Victorian Track and Field Championships were held 8th – 10th February at Lakeside Stadium. The results were as follows:

Year 7
Ryan Bolton
13th Under 15 100m
10th Under 15 200m
Jesse Dunsmore
11th Under 15 1500m

Year 8
Dylan Burrows
11th Under 15 400m
3rd Under 15 200m Hurdles
Jai Taylor
4th Under 14 100
1st Under 14 Long Jump

Year 9
Alexia Loizou
2nd Under 16 400m
5th Under 16 200m
Michael Cann
Gold U15 Javelin
4th under 16 Discus
1st Under 16 Long Jump
1st Under 16 Triple Jump

Year 10
Kayla Cheasley
2nd Under 17 1500m
1st Under 17 3000m
Riley Cridland
3rd Under 17 2000m Steeplechase
Ellie McKenzie
1st Under 17 100m
2nd Under 17 200m
Justin Wolseley
11th Under 17 1500m

Year 11
Brad Cann
3rd Under 18 Discus
5th Under 18 Shot Put
1st Under 18 Hammer Throw
Harrison Prior
2nd Under 18 Javelin
2nd Under 18 Discus
2nd Under 18 Shot Put
Shaun Walton
2nd Under 18 1500m
1st Under 18 3000m

Year 12
Trent Radin
2nd Under 20 1500m
6th Under 20 800m
Caleb Wheatley
6th Under 20 3000m
Steeplechase
Sarah Buchanan
(Class of 2012)
1st Under 20 400m
1st under 20 400m hurdles

Swimming
The following Peninsula swimmers competed at the State Age Long Course Swimming Championships held at MSAC in December:

- Charlee Cook
- Tom Cook
- Natalie Dimitrikas
- Madison Howe
- Samantha Howe
- Adam Howgate

Medals were won by:
- Adam Howgate – Gold 50 Freestyle, 1 Silver, 2 Bronze
- Samantha Howe – 2 Silver 1 Bronze
- Madison Howe – 1 Silver

Surf Life Saving
Samantha Howe and Adam Howgate have both represented Victoria in Surf Life Saving during the summer break.

Samantha was selected for the State Development Team which travelled to Adelaide to compete in the Southern States Challenge against South Australia and Tasmania.

Adam was selected for the Victorian State Team which travelled to Sydney to compete in the Interstate Championships against teams from around Australia.

Winter Sport

- mouth guards

Please note that it is official School Policy that ALL students playing soccer and football MUST wear an appropriately fitted mouth guard whilst playing and at training where contact occurs.

The only exception to this policy is for those students who have a mouth guard waiver form signed by their parents. Any waiver forms must be returned to Mr. Brennan. Copies of these forms on Learning Point.

All soccer players must also wear shin guards.

Stephen Brennan
Director of Sport

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Senior / Middle House Swimming
The final overall results were:

1st Newton
2nd Carr
3rd Ansett
4th Clarke
5th Town
6th Country

Well done to the Heads of House and good luck in catching the green machine/ Barlow juggernaut! The House Aths are next!

Karen Boag
Convener of House Activities

Disclaimer
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