Looking forward

Sunday 4 May
- Yr 12 excursion to Top Arts, 9am - 3:30pm

Saturday 3 May
- Middle School PDP, various pm

Friday 2 May
- Middle School PDP, various pm

Thursday 1 May
- Cadet Bivouac departs

Wednesday 30 April
- Yr 2 Excursion to Ashcombe Maze, 9am - 2:30pm

Tuesday 29 April
- State Sailing Championships, 7:00am - 6:30pm

Monday 28 April
- Bondi/Barlari camp returns
- Yr 12 Excursion to Ashcombe Maze, 9am - 2:30pm
- Middle School Easter Chapel Service, 2:50pm - 3:35pm

Saturday 26 April
- Anzac Marching Band & Anzac Day Parade
- Cadet Bivouac departs

Friday 25 April
- Yr 9 & A & D Monologue Performance Evening, 7pm
- Yr 9 & B & E Monologue Performance Evening, 7pm
- Yr 8 & A Monologue Performance Evening, 7pm
- Middle School Easter Chapel Service, 2:50pm - 3:35pm
- Junior School Parent / Teacher Interviews, 9am - 8pm
- Yr 9 & B & E Monologue Performance Evening, 7pm

Thursday 24 April
- Chapel Service, 10am, Chapel of the Resurrection

Wednesday 23 April
- Yr 3 Drama to Neighbourhood Watch Show, 4pm - 10pm

Tuesday 22 April
- A & D Monologue Performance Evening, 7pm
- Bivouac returns, 4pm

Monday 21 April
- Staff Conference Day
- Unit 3 Drama to Neighbourhood Watch Show, 4pm - 10pm
- Room 3 Drama to Neighbourhood Watch Show, 4pm - 10pm
- Chapel Service, 10am, Chapel of the Resurrection
- Cadet Bivouac departures
- Anzac Marching Band & Anzac Day Parade

Sunday 20 April
- Chapel Service, 10am, Chapel of the Resurrection

Celebrating 20 years of coeducation in 2014

Important changes to our Student Withdrawal Policy

As parents will no doubt be aware, that under the standard terms of the enrolment agreement between the School and families, a full Term’s notice in writing is required if a student is to be withdrawn. We point to several important changes to our previous policy:

- If a student is to be withdrawn at the conclusion of a Term, notice must be given no later than 2 weeks prior to the end of the term.

We would be pleased to welcome Clinical Psychologist, Andrew Fuller, back to our campus for our Term 1 Staff Conference Day. The morning session was devoted to a staff professional development session in which Andrew focussed on the reinforcement and encouragement needed by students if they are to adopt an optimistic view of their capabilities. Andrew then spent the afternoon with our Year 12 students, developing his theme of “I’m Possible, Not Impossible”.

We have much to look forward to this year, particularly the upcoming opening of the Zanetz Senior Centre. We are currently making plans to hold an “Open House” in Term 2 at which families will be able to tour the new building.

At the very best for the year ahead.

Stuart Johnston
Principal
A Brave New World

Aldous Huxley’s vision of the future for humanity revealed a troubled world devoid of individuality, confined by order and rigid with its oppression. Indeed, late in the text, such is the clarity of vision from the controlling regime, The Resident Controller for Western Europe, Mustapha Mond, opines that: ‘we don’t want to change. Every change is a menace to stability.’ It’s a circular logic, but Mond has a point. The more things change, the more the status quo is challenged. And, as in Brave New World, if you can control and suppress change, then you can ensure stability. The trouble with this logic when applied to the real world is that we can rarely control the rate of change. Technology moves at an ever increasing pace. Social and cultural trends change with the wind and fashion, well, fashion seems to be on a near weekly cycle. (As our Head of English proudly demonstrates, bow ties, apparently, are back!)

Rather than the wisdom of Mustapha Mond, it would serve us well to instead consider the words of Greek philosopher Heraclitus, who around 475BC, quipped ‘there is nothing permanent except change.’

It’s an interesting notion, isn’t it? Change, and the need to adapt is the only constant, the only stable view of reality. Something tells me Charles Darwin, amongst others, would agree.

Thus, The Peninsula School enters 2014 firmly in the grip of change and seeking to engage it as a constant rather than a menace. Three changes I would like to draw parent attention to are the alteration to period length, changes to the Middle School curriculum and the introduction of ‘Zenith’ as the school’s learning management system.

Period Length

This year the school shifts from 80minute periods to Weeks 7-12 to 55minute periods. From a teaching and learning perspective, this change has been informed by research into concentration spans and the importance of frequency of contact. Most research suggests near daily contact between teacher and student is the optimal learning arrangement. Amongst other benefits, it enables homework to be staggered throughout the course of a week in smaller quantities and more regularly, fostering sound organisation and time management habits.

Curriculum Changes

Year 8 students may have noticed that they are spending a little more time in English, Mathematics and Science than last year. This follows a thorough review of the curriculum at Years 7 and 8 that culminated with structural and strategic changes to the program. The Year 7 and 8 curriculum now provides a consistent program of study where the development of literacy and numeracy skills are prioritised in accordance with the Australian Curriculum guidelines and expectations. Changes in The Arts sees the continuation of the classroom Music and Drama programmes from Year 7 to 8 as well.

The next step of this review process is to ensure continuity of study at Years 9 and 10 by examining the elective programme with the vision of providing a bridge between the Middle School programme and the specialisation of VCE for all disciplines.

Zenith

Finally, the School has changed its learning management system from Learning Point to ‘Zenith’ and broadened its use to the Junior School and Early Childhood Centre. Parents by now will have received their unique log in and password that provides them with access to the system and enables them to monitor their child’s homework expectations and learning whilst also accessing information regarding sport training and team selection, news items, social events and much more.

Zenith houses many exciting features that we look forward to rolling out in the Terms ahead; most significant of which will be the possibility of offering real time feedback periodically that may see the current term-based reporting cycle become obsolete.

Whilst it’s enough to make Mustapha Mond quake in his boots, we at The Peninsula School are excited by the opportunities each of these significant teaching and learning changes offers.

Cameron Bachelor
Director of Teaching and Learning

Stage One was completed last year and included the performing arts block space, a new sandpit, and an asphalt area for ball drills. Sincere thanks to the Peninsula Staff who have facilitated this dream coming to fruition, especially, Greg Alderson and Kevin Docherty. Our gratitude to the Trades people who worked through January to ensure it was ready for the start of the school year.

We look forward to Stage Three which will see the construction of a kitchen garden, a piazza and an outdoor classroom learning space. Our thanks also go to the PSPA for providing the money to purchase new, child size, outdoor tables and chairs.

Please come and visit and see this amazing Learnscape in action.

Marg Pike
ECC teacher

ECC Learnscape
– a pleasurescape

February 3 saw the opening of Stage Two of the ECC Learnscape project. Mr Johnston, Mr Peter Ford and Ms Narelle Umbers, along with Mr Kevin Docherty and ECC Staff, witnessed the children playing on their new facilities. The grounds include a dry creek bed- fed by a hand action pump, a frog bog, new climbing equipment and landscaping works incorporating native plantings and a creative stepping stone walk.

The works are a culmination of a collaborative workshop held in December 2012. Parents, students and teachers identified a priority list of changes that were needed to take the “Developmental Program” outside the classroom walls. This planning process was coordinated by Helen Tjia Turner, a world renowned consultant in outdoor play spaces. The landscape drawing was completed by Gary Shadforth from Arcadia Sustainable Design. Our dream was to create an outdoor environment that supported the children’s play and was an extension of the classroom. We wanted an area where the children were challenged and given opportunities to explore and take calculated risks.
A very warm Peninsula welcome to our new staff...

Music Matters – music leaders

We are pleased to announce the Senior Music Leaders for 2014. Each student is a talented musician in their own right, but more importantly will be a positive ambassador for the Music program and a mentor to younger students.

Head of Music – Madeleine Corbell
Head of Instrumental – Lauren Pinney
Head of Choral – Georgia Carnell

Dr Tim Patston
Director of Performing Arts

Music

On February 25th and 26th, eleven very talented students from our Music Department participated in the annual Orchestra Victoria MOVE Orchestra Workshops at the Mornington Peninsula Theatre. These workshops are an invaluable opportunity for our students to work with professional musicians of the highest calibre and the esteemed educator and conductor, Steven Williams. The Workshops comprise two intensive days of rehearsals and tutorials for the students and culminate in a Showcase performance for the parents and local community. The students were introduced to a range of repertoire covering many musical styles. Favourites were the contemporary Overture 'Millenium' by Richard Meyer and popular scores including 'The Pink Panther' and 'Star Wars'. The whole process entails a lot of work and commitment from the OV management and the schools and individual teachers participating but the end result is always immensely satisfying. I would personally like to say how proud I was of our students who were involved.

Jeremy Rodman.
Year 9

The experience of being in an orchestra is unlike anything else. Not only is there the amazing sound, there is also this strange sense of joy. It simply makes you happy.

The Orchestra Victoria mentors were on the ball and friendly the entire time, and I believe that over the course of just two days, I became a better musician.

The course was intensive and at times very challenging, but incredibly rewarding. I cannot remember a single moment where I didn’t have an enormous smile across my face.

Orchestra Victoria

Before School Care

Before School Care (BSC) is a service offered by The Peninsula School. We run this service in the ECC Art room from 8am to 9am, 5 morning per week.

The facility is staffed by qualified teachers who run a happy and inviting program to engage the children before their academic day begins.

We can accommodate children from Kinder 3 (limited numbers) through the Primary years. Children are supervised to their classroom door at the appropriate starting time.

Cost is $5 per child, per session.

We warmly invite families to use this service to assist with the busy start to the day.

For more information, please contact Jane Duke in the Early Childhood Centre.
Tel 97887832 or email jduke@tps.vic.edu.au

Zenith Learning Management System

By now you will have received an email detailing the launch of our new Learning Management system. Known as Zenith, it replaces Learning Point and is accessible by all students, staff and parents. Students in the Junior School will access Zenith as directed by their class teacher. In due course Junior School class pages will be available for parents to view. In the Middle and Senior Schools, each student will be expected to login to Zenith each day using their username and password. All class lists, assessment tasks and submission dates, bulletins, sport information and calendared events, including instrumental music lessons, will be displayed on each student’s home page.

Parents will also be able to login to their own Zenith account using the username and password sent home via email or letter. Further details have also been provided to parents at the Information Evenings held in Term One.

If you have not received your login details or have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Muriel Bakker at mbakker@tps.vic.edu.au.

The link to Zenith is https://zenith.tps.vic.edu.au/

Muriel Bakker
Head of Middle School | Director of Learning Technologies
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 this form are located on Zenith.

All soccer players must also wear shin guards.

Stephen Brennan
Director of Sport

Individual Sporting Achievement

Rugby

Domenic Shiner
Year 11

Dominic Shiner has been selected to train with the Melbourne Rebels and take part in the National Rugby U17 Junior Gold Cup competition and Pathways program. We congratulate Dom on this fantastic achievement.

Surfing et al

Piper Harrison
Year 8

In August 2013 Piper represented Victoria in the Australian Open Surf Championships in the Open Women’s division. In this high level event Piper made the Semifinals and achieved 7th overall. Piper was the youngest girl ever to surf in this open event.

At the end of December 2013, Piper represented Victoria at the Australian Junior Surf Championships in Kiama, NSW. At this prestigious event Piper made the Under 14 Girls Final knocking out the best of Australia’s junior talent and placed 3rd overall in Australia.

At the recent Victoria State Titles Piper won the Victorian East Coast championship in Under 14 Girls at Gunnamatta.

Recently Piper competed at the Victorian State Surfing Titles at Phillip Island. This event was the second of three State rounds. In challenging 5-6ft onshore, messy conditions, Piper dominated the Under 14 Girls Division. Piper won the event and also Won the overall Victorian State Title Under 14 Girls.

Piper is now the sole Under 14 Girls representative and part of the Victorian State squad for Australian National Junior Titles in Western Australia in December later this year.

A truly outstanding athlete!

Surf Life Saving

Claudia Whitfort was announced Captain of the Victorian Junior Lifesaving team selected to compete at the 2014 Southern States Challenge in Hobart over a weekend on the 11th and 12th January.

The team competed against Tasmanian and South Australia in a 2 day competition (one day in the pool, and one day on the beach)

The Peninsula School was represented by Maddie Howe, Piper Harrison and Claudia Whitfort.

Claudia won gold in the beach flags, silver in the beach sprint and bronze in the 2km beach run and won several medals in the team events, and pool events.

Piper Harrison won the iron woman, the surf swim, the 1km beach run, the board race. She came 2nd in the beach sprint.

Maddie Howe won the team events in the Aquacameron and sprint relay and several pool events.

The Victorian won both the pool and beach day, taking the overall title.

Swimming

At the recent Victorian Sprint Swim Titles held at MSAC, the following students had some very pleasing results:

Adam Howgate - U16 Boys:
Gold medal 50m Backstroke, Silver medal 50m Freestyle, Bronze medal 50m Butterfly

Sam Howe - U15 Girls:
Silver medal 50m Freestyle, Bronze medal 50m Backstroke, Bronze medal 50m Butterfly

Texas Dixon – U11 Boys - Gold medal 50m Backstroke which he adds to his 100m Backstroke State title from last December.

Touch Football

The Victorian Women’s Touch Football U20 team to participate at 2014 X-Blades National Touch league in March at Coffs Harbour has been named and TPS has 5 girls in the side!

Stephanie Reid – Year 12
Emily Reid – Year 11
Isabel Kahon – Year 10
Lachlasy Paton – Year 9
Ruby Wilson – Year 9

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Triathlon

The following students have been selected in the Victorian Triathlon team. An outstanding achievement!

James Sampson - Year 9
James Paton - Year 8
Kate Cassell-Ashton - Year 11

The Peninsula School with spirit!