Dear Parents

The Zammit Centre had its doors opened for the first time for a K-12 walk-through, just prior to the end of Term. "WOW!!" was how most of our students summed up their visit to our fabulous new building. The ECC students were really taken with the highly colourful decor and the "cool swivel chairs" in the classrooms. Older students were amazed at the high-tech AV facilities, the 200+ seat cafeteria and the "tertiary" style interior of the building. Our Year 11 & 12 students will occupy the building from the beginning of Term 2.

The official opening of the Zammit Centre by His Excellency the Honourable Alex Chernov AC QC, Governor of Victoria, will take place on Tuesday 6 May. Weather permitting, the whole school will be present for this very significant day in the School’s history.

Zammit Centre Open House – all welcome!

On Sunday 25 May we will be holding an Open House for all TPS families and members of the public. This will be a great opportunity for you to see all that our new building has to offer our VCE students.

Please join us for a tour of our fabulous new building between 11am and 2pm. Parking will be on the Junior School netball courts.

From our Principal …

Positive Psychology Week

Towards the end of last Term we staged our PosPsyCh Week which incorporated our Smart Arts celebrations. The campus was abuzz with a range of Drama and Visual Arts activities. Our student musicians, dressed as gorillas, lions and pigs, entertained those who were passing by our flag pole area, photo booths in which we sought to capture the best smile in our secondary school and mob-dancing and singing abounded.

Our senior students, dressed as valets, greeted parents in the car park with big smiles and assisted younger students with their bags. Our Design Technology students completed extraordinary feats of engineering… and much more!

These activities aimed to raise the positive emotions of our community and to show that our own happiness levels are elevated when we do something kind for someone else. I thank all who lent their support to this week – you brought a smile to many faces!

We also launched our Years 9&10 Positive Teen program during PosPsyCh Week. This semester-long program, which has been designed by Sam Cawthorn (www.samcawthorn.com), aims to promote resilience skills, positive life skills, a positive attitude and a positive sense of direction in adolescents.

My best wishes for Term 2

Stuart Johnston
Principal

Celebrating 20 years of coeducation in 2014

Zammit Centre Open House
11am – 2pm, Sunday 25 May

Peninsula families and members of the public are warmly invited to tour the R.J. Zammit Senior Centre. Please park on the Junior School netball courts.

An Introduction to Positive Psychology
7pm, 20 May

Brilliant presenter and world expert, Associate Professor Lea Waters from the University of Melbourne, will return to the Ansett Hall to explain the fundamental science of Positive Psychology.

A must for all new parents to the School!
Boarders’ Camp – a weekend escape!

Over the Labour Day weekend the students from Heather Reilly House and Jaffray House ventured to Lyrebird Park in Yellingbo for their annual camp. Against the backdrop of the stunning Dandenong Ranges, our students were put through a series of challenges which incorporated a combination of outdoor learning activities such as trust and team initiatives, low ropes, lateral thinking and problem solving challenges. This helped them build their self-esteem and confidence, as well as raising the importance of communicating to achieve their goals. Working together and making wise choices, being responsible for your actions, integrity and honesty were all explored and then applied in the field. A richly rewarding experience leaving the students with a sense of belonging, connectedness and positively impacting on their lives for the future.

Wendy Lawson & Warwick Armstrong
Heather Reilly House & Jaffray House

Parent – Student – Teacher interviews

Parent – teacher interviews will take place on Monday 28th April, Monday 5th May and Thursday 8th of May for Middle and Senior School students, 4:00pm-7:45pm in The Perry Building.

The bi-annual interviews are an important component of the School’s feedback cycle and enable teachers to expand on their observations from the interim report. We strongly encourage parents to attend the evening as well as parents; facilitating a direct learning dialogue between all those involved in student learning and creating a parent-student-teacher conversation.

A reminder that, following a successful trial in Semester Two 2013, interviews will be able to be made by parents on the evening of their choice; we do recommend, where possible, leaving gaps between interviews in your schedule to enable for movement around the building.

If you are unable to attend on any of the scheduled evenings, please take the opportunity to contact your child’s Academic Mentor or specific teachers directly to arrange to conduct a direct learning dialogue between all those involved in student learning and creating a parent-student-teacher conversation.

Finally, we also encourage parents and students to bring their interim report with them to the evening as a basis to commence the discussion. Whilst specific questions and learning needs will be a part of the discussion, the report provides an important point for commencement of the dialogue.

As per the information included with your child’s interim report, bookings open via the PTO icon located on the School website (www.tps.vic.edu.au) from 4:00pm on Saturday 19th of April and bookings open via the PTO icon located on the School website as per the information included with your child’s interim report. Students remain in their nominated area for the duration of the session and are encouraged to explore other options within their initial ideas run dry.

After lunch, the children return to their own rooms for ten minutes of mindfulness and then bonding and resetting the room. Each child is given the important opportunity to discuss and record their reflections on how their activity went using criteria such as What Went Well, character strengths and thinking skills. This reflection is a crucial component of the program as it celebrates success and allows any mistakes or frustrations to be acknowledged as a necessary part of the learning process. It encourages the children to take ownership of any problems and figure out a possible solution for next time.

The Developmental Curriculum is founded on the belief that children are naturally curious and capable of conducting authentic lines of inquiry when given the opportunity and learning skills. Oral language skills rich in new and meaningful vocabulary form the basis for literacy. Academic skills such as literacy and numeracy are explicitly taught in the planning and reflective process, as well as being carefully woven throughout the active sessions. As teachers it is joyful to plan and exciting to facilitate. When learning is this dynamic, positive energy abounds.

Amanda Davis, Elisa Walters, Jane Conquest-McDyre and Storme Fraser

ECC Teachers

Developmental Curriculum @TPS - a new stage in our journey

Fridays have taken on a new look in the ECC with the expansion of the Developmental Curriculum across the four classes. All children begin in their own classrooms where they have an opportunity to plan their day’s project. They are required to nominate their activity, write the date, choose possible work partners, list the items they will need and predict the outcome with an illustration. This plan is then filed in their investigations display folders. The classroom teachers have collaborated closely to present options that have broad appeal to all ECC students.

Some key developmental areas at this early stage are:

- Building and tinkering
- Craft - threading, collage, weaving
- Art - painting, drawing
- Recycled materials construction
- Role play – costumes, figures, dancing
- Book study - creating books, quiet independent reading

As the program progresses, areas will be changed to incorporate other interests such as nature study, gardening, cooking, Maths, games and puzzles, music, Sports Science and Science experiments.

After recess, all Preps and Year Ones proceed to their nominated work area and commence or continue their project. This arrangement encourages interaction across all four grades and fosters relationships with children in other classes. Having these larger specialised areas also means all students interested in following a particular line of inquiry have the opportunity to do so and they are able to learn from other like-minded students. Teachers are able to furnish these areas with many more provocations than if each class is confined to its own room. This time of active investigation is tremendously rewarding to watch. Students are completely engaged in their passion and have a goal they have set themselves, which promotes self-regulation. The plan is a guide and something to get them started but if they see another activity that looks more interesting than their planned one, they are most welcome to follow a new line. As the program progresses they will become more familiar with the types of activities and materials and therefore be able to plan more accurately. Students remain in their nominated area for the duration of the session and are encouraged to explore other options when their initial ideas run dry.

On Tuesday the 18th of March Pastor Vinnie Munyosa, Grace his wife and Dr Michael, from the Bethel Community in Uganda came to our school. They came to thank us for the money we raised and donated for their hospital and people in need. They also came to tell us what life is like for the people in Uganda.

They told us how lucky we are to live in an amazing place like Australia. The children in Uganda have to walk for up to 2 hours to get to school every day and they eat nothing all day because food is so scarce. After school, they go out and try and find some rice or vegies for their first and only meal of the day.

The children in the local community don’t have toys like us and at school they have to write on the ground in the dust to learn. They are a very happy people, considering the fact that they don’t have much and that their lives are much harder than ours. Some of the children in this remote location rarely if ever see a motor car, although the main Ugandan cities look somewhat like ours, but much smaller.

Reverend Vinnie, on his way to the Mornington Peninsula, asked ‘Where is The Peninsula School?’, and the driver said Mt Bisa. All three of them were excited to go to see what the mountains look like in Australia. But when they got there they said ‘This is not a mountain, this is an ant hill!’ We all laughed as he explained that the mountains where they live are huge.

They also explained the dangers in Uganda, such as wild animals including snakes, baboons and rarely, but sometimes, lions. And the real surprise was the main threat, rain. Now usually rain is a blessing in Africa and relief from the constant droughts, but the rain in the Bethal Mountains can be so heavy it has kill hundreds of villagers. This is because the mountain is so steep, when it rains they get landslides that can demolish houses and tear through fences, building and across roads.

As you can tell, life there is pretty tough. But from our donations and others, they can rebuild and build more homes, help the health of people, raise standards of education and help children to grow into a world with fewer tears or worries. With this help the village people of Uganda have a chance of living a better life.

As a result of this need, The Peninsula School will have another fundraiser to help.

Sophie Burnell, Emma Oxley, Sylvie La Fontaine and Lilly Van Raay.

Year 6

The School with spirit!

Pastor Vinnie - a special visitor

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Notre Dame Exchange – always a cultural pleasure

Early in the morning, on Sunday, 27th February 19 students and 2 teachers from our twin School in Paris, Notre Dame les Oiseaux, touched down at Tullamarine Airport. Waiting excitedly for them at TPS were our own students and families ready to welcome their guest into their family for the next three weeks.

Those three weeks were filled with planned excursions to Philip Island, the Great Ocean Road, Melbourne, Cranbourne Gardens as well as a tour of the School and time spent in lessons with their exchange partner. Evenings and weekends were opportunities for our TPS families to keep their student busy with further introductions to Australian family life and culture. Students played tennis, surfed, stayed in holiday homes and hotels in the city, went to footie games, dined out, went tree-surfing, go-karting, to the movies, to BBQs, production rehearsals, sports competitions and many other activities.

The day of departure came around too quickly for everyone and luckily it was an early start and dark enough for everyone to shed a tear without being seen.

We are now planning and looking forward to catching up with our French friends when we travel to Paris in June for the second part of the exchange.

My thanks go to Daniel Casey who accompanied the group to Philip Island and the Great Ocean Road and to our wonderful families who made the first part of our 2014 exchange such a resounding success. New friendships have been made, new words and phrases exchanged and new interests discovered.

One of our TPS parents shares his family’s reflections on the first part of the exchange and his sentiments were echoed by many more families:

All too often we are trapped in our routine of “work – school – chores – sleep,” and we can forget to focus on having fun along the way. Preparing for our visiting student prompted lots of debate amongst members of our family regarding the merits of different activities and places to visit.

Juliette’s arrival was full of smiles, she was full of energy and within hours we found ourselves swimming in the pool, at the top of Arthurs Seat enjoying the view and out for dinners with Peninsula families. We visited local places we had “meant to see” for years, but had never got around to it. We revisited places that we had enjoyed years ago and all the time laughed at our own attempts at speaking in French.

Juliette’s visit brought our family closer together and showed us again how easy it is to enjoy each other’s company a little bit more if we make an effort to break out of the everyday routine. Alex is looking forward to her visit to France even more than ever.

Andrew Karamesinis, father of Alexandra (Yr10).

Jacky Howgate
Notre Dame Co-ordinator

A Visit to the Zoo – Unit 1 Psychology

On Wednesday the 26th of February, we went to the Melbourne Zoo as part of a Psychology class excursion. The purpose of this excursion was to observe the Hamadryas Baboons and to compare their dominant and non-dominant behaviours in preparation for our first Psychology SAC. It was really interesting to find out just how much the dominant and submissive behaviours differ in baboons of different hierarchical groups. We also learnt about the ethical considerations of keeping animals in captivity at a zoo and some of the hard decisions they sometimes have to make about animal welfare.

Though it was supposed to be a purely scientific activity, it turned out to be a lot of fun! The meerkats were particularly poxy, pulling their best model stances for us. Everyone enjoyed the trip and did well on the SAC.

Ashleigh Jamieson and Aly Carr
Year 10

Sam Cawthorn – and the positive teen

Recently, Year 9 and 10 students were once again privileged with the company of Sam Cawthorn, a motivational speaker who we’d met the previous year. Sam suffered terrible injuries in a car accident several years ago and has had to rebuild his life and overcome major physical and mental difficulties.

Sam talked to us about how our emotions could affect our peers and how our lives could change with an upbeat and positive attitude.

We undertook many activities and had a lot of fun, and I’m sure that many of the Year 9s and 10s left with a skip in their step. We are all looking forward to the opportunity to work with Sam again in the future.

Chelsea McGinty
Year 9

The Zammit Centre – ‘this is yours’ day

Our new ‘state-of-the-art’ Zammit Centre for Senior Students was designed with the future in mind.

This three storey building has floor space equal to 27 average sized suburban houses, a building volume equal to that of 15 Olympic sized swimming pools and is surrounded by 2700 plants that have been specially selected as species indigenous to our local area.

The building features 20 modern classrooms with furniture engineered to be flexible according to the needs of each teacher and student. Each floor has expansive breakout areas and these informal learning spaces have the equivalent floor space of an additional 17 standard classrooms. The building will support extended periods of study with access for Year 11 and 12 students from 7am – 7:30pm on Monday to Thursday and 7am – 5:30pm on Friday.

Supporting the smooth transition between high school and university the building features a shared study retreat for silent study and a café for relaxed conversations and group work. The Commons Café, which includes an outdoor deck, includes two large screen televisions featuring Foxtel entertainment with another screen notifying students of announcements for the day and the menu options.

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Winter Sport 2014

– all year levels

The first round of sport is on Saturday 3rd May.

Training for winter sport will commence on the first day back in Term 2 – Wednesday 23rd April.

A reminder to all footballers and soccer players to wear a correctly fitted mouth guard when training and playing football.

If you do not wish to wear a mouth guard, you MUST sign the Mouth Guard waiver form located at Zenith and return it to Mr Brennan.

All soccer players MUST have shin guards.

Stephen Brennan
Director of Sport

Student Sporting Achievement

AGSV Selection

Congratulations to the following students who were selected in Combined AGSV representative teams to play against the APS on Tuesday 1st April.

Girls
Tennis
Briny McKenzie
Michaela McMenamin
Badminton
Hayley Anderton
Emma Meles

Boys
Cricket
Thomas Labrooy (captain)
Brodie Symons

Basketball
Harrison Prior
Harrison Van Dorn (emergency)

Table Tennis
Khushal Shah (emergency)

Life Saving Victoria State Championships

Congratulations to the following students who put in some magnificent performances at the recent Victorian State Life Saving Championships:

Boys
Year 7
Declan Coile
1st U12 belt and reel
Craig Sanders
1st U12 beach flags and belt and reel.

Year 8
Frazier King
1st U13 beach flags
1st U13 beach sprint
1st U13 belt and reel

Year 9
James Sampson
3rd U14 beach relay
James Paton
3rd U14 board race
Dylan Burrows
2nd U15 2km run
2nd U15 beach sprint

Year 11
Matt Blair
2nd U17 beach flags
2nd U17 beach relay

Girls
Year 7
Piper Harrison
1st U13 aqua Cameron relay
3rd U13 2km run
1st U13 iron woman
1st U13 board race
1st U13 board rescue
1st U13 surf race
1st U13 surf and teams
Abby Allsopp
1st U13 mixed 2 person R&R

Term 2

- Change to Standard (Winter) Uniform

Parents and students should note that we will change from Summer uniform to our Standard (Winter) Uniform by the beginning of Week 3 Term 2 at the latest.

Students may wear their Standard (Winter) Uniform throughout the year so an earlier change is fine.

Sports

With regard to goods or services advertised in this publication, The Peninsula School and the publisher accept no responsibility for any products or services statements made herein. Any contributions may or may not be included for print and if included may be altered by the editor to suit the needs of the publication.

Frankston Arts Centre
Thursday 22nd May 7pm
Friday 23rd May 7pm
Saturday 24th May 5pm
Tickets on sale – Tuesday 22nd April
Frankston Arts Centre
Tel. 9784 1060 or www.thefac.com.au
$25 Adults
$20 Child/Concession/Senior