Dear Parents,
I am pleased to report that the 2015 school year has bounded away to a great start. Staff and students returned from the holidays refreshed and ready to go. Our new students have taken no time to settle into their new school with many reporting to me that they have been well accepted by our students and that they already feel very much part of our community.

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to our campus and, as always, they were delighted to be shown around the School by current students – all of whom did a great job serving as Peninsula ambassadors. It was particularly pleasing on the day to meet a number of past students who are now looking at enrolling their own children at the School which is a great testament to the fond memories they still hold of their time at Peninsula.

Soon after we returned from holidays we staged our Prefects’ Investiture Assembly at which Louise Nichols-Easley, our Head of Early Childhood, shared her thoughts on leadership. Our Prefect body this year is an impressive group and I am sure that our Senior Prefect, Michaels McMenamin and our Heads of School, Grace Neville & Matthew Blair, will lead them very well.

2014 VCE Results
By now, you will likely be aware of the wonderful achievements of the Class of 2014. Along with many high scores, a good number of “personal bests” were achieved. Special congratulations go to our joint Duxes, Nguyen Le Van Khanh (Kelsie) and Lam Nhut Hung (Ben) who each achieved a remarkableATAR score of 99.95. In doing so, Kelsie and Ben were amongst that elite group of 33 students state-wide who scored the perfect ATAR and were therefore equal top VCE students in Victoria.

I was particularly thrilled that 29 of our students scored ATARs of 90+, with 7 students recording 99+. We also celebrated 6 perfect study scores of 50/50 and an excellent girls’ median ATAR of 82.5. In doing so, we join a very select group of the State’s best schools.

In doing so, Kelsie and Ben were amongst that elite group of 33 students state-wide who scored the perfect ATAR and were therefore equal top VCE students in Victoria.

Congratulations Kate!
I am delighted to be able to inform you that our Head of Senior School, Kate North, has been appointed as the Deputy Principal of PLC, Perth. She will leave us towards the year’s end.

Presbyterian Ladies College is one of the leading schools in W.A. and enjoys an enviable reputation within the Independent School system nationally.

Peninsula’s current reputation for excellence in learning and wellbeing is in no small part due to Kate’s enthusiasm, leadership and passion for student learning. She will be leaving our Senior School in an excellent position.

Kate holds a special place in the School’s history as the first Head of the Zammit Centre. The students of our Senior School have been enabled and supported in their journey towards the year’s end.

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Our February Open Day attracted an excellent number of families to our campus and, as always, they were delighted to be shown around the School by current students – all of whom did a great...
The weather was very kind to us on Friday 20th February as 57 Unit 1/2 Psychology students enjoyed a beautiful sunny day at Melbourne Zoo. The purpose of the visit was to collect qualitative and quantitative data by conducting an observation study of primates.

The new education centre was the venue of our classroom session, facilitated by zoo educators. The main distraction was the 3 massive and beautiful lions which were pressed against the observation window which covers one wall of the classroom.

Despite the distraction, we were able to learn about ethical issues relating to the keeping of animals in a zoo environment and role play the discussions of an ethics committee in discussing and debating a number of real life case studies from Melbourne Zoo.

Our data collection was using primates – baboons or capuchin monkeys. The hierarchical structure of the groups lends itself to the observations of dominant and submissive behaviours, which was the focus of our study. Elvis and Hans, the dominant males of each group, performed their roles beautifully by exhibiting their grooming and aggressive vocalisation.

A wonderful day for all involved!

Sue Barlow
Science Faculty

From the Director of Teaching and Learning

Tracking Academic Growth in the Middle Years

The School has recently embarked on a program to track the academic growth of all students in the Middle Years, Years 5 to 8. Working with the Australian Council for Educational Research, all students in Years 5 to 8 will in February sit four tests:
- Progressive Achievement Test (PAT) for Mathematics
- PAT Reading Comprehension
- eWrite Written Communication
- ACER General Ability Test (AGAT)

Each of the tests is completed in under an hour and will be administered throughout the course of the month. Results will be made available to students and parents as well as teachers.

The testing program aims to develop an objective external measure of each student’s reading, writing, numeracy and general aptitude that can then be tracked periodically throughout their schooling. This will provide teachers, parents and students with a clearer understanding of what progress students are making in the development of their key literacy and numeracy skills, and will enable teachers to better personalise learning experiences throughout the year to match every student’s needs.

Reporting Trial – Years 5 & 7

The School will be trialling the provision of online reporting information this year at Years 5 and 7.

In Year 7, what has historically been referred to as the Interim Report, distributed to parents at the conclusion of Terms One and Three, will be replaced by more frequent feedback on student learning provided through the School’s Learning Management System, Zenith. In Year 5, the trial will complement the parent-teacher interviews that are conducted in the trial week of term.

Through Zenith, parents and students will receive feedback on student learning twice for Term One. More detail regarding the nature of the feedback to be provided will be communicated in writing at a later date. Feedback in some subjects that have a limited presence in the timetable (Physical Education, for instance) will be provided at the end of the Term only, reflective of their smaller programs of study.

An innovation of the trial will be the expectation that students reflect upon the observations of their teachers during designated class time and, in consultation with their class teacher (Year 5) or Academic Mentor (Year 7), develop strategies to improve or enrich their learning for the remainder of the Term.

It is hoped that through this trial the School will be able to provide more timely feedback to students and parents on student learning. More information will be provided by mail closer to the first scheduled date.

Learning Dialogues – Middle and Senior Schools (Parent-Teacher Interviews)

Parent-teacher interviews have undergone a number of alterations for 2015. The first and most obvious change is the name afforded to the evenings: Learning Dialogues. For some years the School has encouraged students to join parents in meeting with their teachers each semester; in 2015 the School would like to make this the expectation. Successful learning is a partnership between teacher, student and parents. The ‘triangle’, as it is known, offers perspective and support. It fosters clear and open communication between everyone involved in a child’s learning.

Learning Dialogues will also, in Semester One, be divided by sub-school. That is, two evenings will be held for Senior School students in Term One (23rd and 25th March) and two evenings for Middle School students in Term Two, the 27th April and 7th of May. This change is a response to an increase in bookings throughout the last few years and a desire to accommodate all students and parents. Meetings will continue to be for seven minutes per conversation.

Years 10-12 Senior School Learning Dialogues (parent-teacher interviews)
23rd and 25th March, 4:00pm-7:30pm

Years 7-9 Middle School Learning Dialogues (parent-teacher interviews)
27th April and 7th of May, 4:00pm – 7:30pm

Further information, including the booking process for interviews, will be provided by letter in Term One for Senior School students and at the conclusion of Term One for Middle School students.

Cameron Bacholer
Director of Teaching and Learning

A timely reminder...

Campus traffic rules

All parents and senior students who drive to school are reminded of the following traffic rules that go to greatly assisting the safety of students and staff and the traffic flow on our campus.

- Please observe the one way rule for Gate 1 between 8am and 9am, and 3pm and 4pm every school day.
- No parking is permitted in the bus bay areas at any time.
- Please consider the safety of your child/children and other children and allow them to exit your car only after parking your vehicle in designated parking areas.
- Please observe the 10km speed limit on campus which is little more than walking speed.
- No use of your mobile phones while driving in the school area.

We would also like to advise that the Shire has indicated they will be focussed on school areas in coming months including the illegal parking. We have noted a large number of parents parking on the north side of Gate 7 (Nepean Highway) which is illegal and also places exiting vehicles at risk as this practice impacts their view of oncoming traffic.

Kylie Maher
Business Manager
Constitutional Convention

Prachi is off to Canberra!

Congratulations to Year 12 student, Prachi Ranee, who has been selected to travel to Canberra in March to attend the 2015 National Schools Constitutional Convention. Prachi will be one of 120 students selected nationwide to take part in this convention which will be held at Old Parliament House. The topic of the 2015 Convention is: Checks and balances: do we need an Australian Bill of Rights? Discussion at the Convention will include a focus on the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta.

In becoming a national delegate Prachi, was selected from around 4,000 students from government, independent and Catholic schools, most of whom took part in feeder conventions in their home state or territory.

Top Acts!

Congratulations to Jonathan Carter and Sian Crowe (Yr 12) who have had their 2014 VCE Theatre Studies monologue performances selected for Top Acts, 2015.

Jonathan’s performance of Rasid from The Serpent’s Teeth (Diane Keene) and Sian’s interpretation of Lettice Douffet from Lovage (Peter Shaffer) saw them receive an A+ for the exam in November and following their successful auditions, they were selected to perform at the Victorian Arts Centre in March.

Brilliant!

50 Years of Cadets

The first intake of Peninsula School Cadets consisted of 50 boys who began their initial basic training in Term 3 of 1965 with Ken Walding as Commanding Officer. 1966 saw our first Cadet Ceremonial Parade for Anzac Day with dignitaries and guests present. Cadets proved to be very popular with the size of the TPS Unit increasing to over 100 cadets, organised in three complete platoons, by 1968.

The first Cadet Dine In was held in 1972 in the Assembly Hall, now the Ansett Hall. The dinner was prepared and served by the mothers.

In 1975, the Cadet Program was axed by the Federal Government which led to the demise of the Cadets in many schools. For a short time, it seemed that the Peninsula Cadet Unit would fold too, but strong student and parent reaction ensured that the Unit was re-formed the following year, with Ken Walding back in charge. The popularity of Cadets reached a peak in 1987 with just over 300 cadets.

Today Cadets remains very popular with our students...

TPS Cadet Unit Commanding Officers

Lt Col Ken Walding 1965 - 1979
Major Phil Stokes 1980 - 1991
Major Daryl Neal 1992 - 1995
Major Lisa Mitchell 1996 - 2006
LCDR Mangan 2007 (Royal Australian Navy)
Captain Andrew Watts 2008 - 2009
Captain (AAC) Jacky Howgate 2009 –

Nadia Doll
Archivist

Positive Psychology

Inaugural National Conference

Positive Education Schools Association

The inaugural National Conference of the Positive Education Schools Association (PESA) was held at St Peter’s College in SA recently. The conference was attended by 200 delegates, including a number from Canada, USA, Mexico, Hong Kong and Singapore. Peninsula was represented by Stuart Johnston, Muriel Bakker, our new counsellor Sarah Ronney, Amanda Davis, Peter Ford and Phil Doll.

Big congratulations go to Muriel whose presentation, “The Explicit Teaching of Positive Psychology in the Middle Years”, received a great response from the audience. It was terrific to hear Professor Lea Waters give a shout out to Peninsula for our pioneering work in Pos Ed, which traces back to 2010.

It is exciting to announce that the 2016 National Conference will be held in Term 1 next year - here at Peninsula.

2015 Program

Our Positive Psychology program this year will be focused on raising the ‘academic buoyancy’ levels of students. This initiative relates to each student’s ability to deal with low-level, everyday academic setbacks and challenges. These setbacks, which are a normal part of school life for most students, include patches of poor performance, isolated poor grades, threats to self-confidence as a result of negative feedback on the school work, competing deadlines, dips in motivation and minor negative interactions with family, friends and teachers.

Emphasis will be on raising persistence levels, class participation and educational aspirations.

The three major areas for attention will be:

- Raising positive emotion as increased well-being is synergistic with enhanced learning
- Developing growth mindsets to promote personal and academic growth
- Growth goal setting to help students to experience incremental successes

Our catch cry for students for this year will be

Work hard.

Be kind.

Be grateful.

Phil Doll
Director of Positive Education & Marketing

Zonta Winner

Eva Lee

Congratulations to Year 7 student, Eva Lee, who recently received a Zonta Education Award. Zonta is a well known organisation which aims to advance the status of women worldwide, with a particular focus on women's health.

Eva has decided to donate the prize money which accompanied the award to The Peninsula School in India. Well done Eva!

Whole School Photograph

The whole school photograph, which is taken every 5 years, will take place on Thursday 30 April or Friday 1 May - weather dependant.

All students are required to wear Standard (winter) Uniform for this event.

Please make a note in your diaries.
Individual Sporting Achievement

AGSV selection

Congratulations to the following students who were selected in Combined AGSV summer teams to play the APS at The Peninsula School at the conclusion of the summer season.

Tennis
Danielle McIntyre - Vice Captain
Michaela McMenamin
Charlotte Crouch
Aly Stannus – emergency

Volleyball

Netball
Mandy Hanegraaf has been named, once again, in the Victorian netball team for 2015. This time she is in the U19 age group and is the youngest member of the team. Mandy will travel to Sydney in April to compete at the National Championships.

Sailing
Some of the more outstanding summer results from members of our sailing team:

- National Championships Laser 4.7
  1st  Brody Riley (Year 11)
  10th  Tyronne Gowans (Year 12)
  41st  Liam Batty (Year 10)

- Youth Nationals Laser 4.7
  2nd  Tyronne Gowans
  7th  Brody Riley
  46th  Liam Batty

- Youth Nationals 420 class
  24th  Stan Austin & Kristian Tiptovsky
  26th  Jack Purcell

Equestrian
Mia McNaught, Year 9, competed in the ISJ (Interschool Show Jumping) recently and had great success. Mia rode in the Advanced section in the final jump off. In this section the students jump heights starting at 1.05m through to 1.15m. Mia and her horse Cracker Jack Candy jumped amazingly all day which gave them the overall Championship for the competition. The next day Mia and Cracker competed at the Berwick show. They competed in the Junior, 1.10 and jumped a beautiful clear round. They placed 5th overall.

Surf Life Saving
Over the Summer weeks Kate Cassell-Ashion, Year 12, was selected to represent Surf Life Saving Victoria State Team at the Australian Pool Life Saving Championships held in Hobart, following this The Surf Life Saving Australia Interstate Championships at Newport and also competed at the Manly and Freshwater carnivals on the Australia Day Weekend. She competed strongly at her age and open levels, particularly at Freshwater where she made the U19 Iron Woman final and U19 Board final. These carnivals are the closest representation to the Australian Championships in terms of the quality of the athletes, and a broader spectrum of competitors come along from other states. The large numbers of competitors at these events, adds the further challenge of competing in a number of heats, semi’s and then finals.

For the State Pool Life Saving she received 3 bronze team medals and Victoria came in 3rd overall, U19 Age group 3rd, Females 3rd overall.

For the Beach State carnival Victoria finished strongly in 4th position of the seven states, just behind Western Australia.

Archery
Oliver McNaught, Year 7, recently competed in the Victorian State Archery Championships and won. This means that he is the number one Recurve Archer for Victoria in Cub boys 10yrs/under and is also the National Champion. In early April, Oliver will travel to Penrith, Sydney to compete in the 2015 Archery Australia, Youth National Championships. He is also hoping to be chosen to be on the Victorian State Archery Squad. Only 10 recurve Youth Archers will be chosen, all ranging in ages from all around the State.

Swimming
Texas Dixon (Year 7) and Adam Howgat (Year 12) each won a State title in the 50m Backstroke at the Victorian Sprint Swimming Championships held at MSAC in February. Texas won his Gold in the 12 year old category whilst Adam took out the 17-18 Boys as well as winning a Bronze in the 50m Freestyle.

Other finalists were: Tom Cook (Year 12), Madison Howe (Year 9), Samantha Howe (Year 11), Jackson Lazzaro (Year 7) and Braden Miles (Grade 9).

Victorian Long Course Swimming Championships

Maddison Howe (Year 9)
- 5th - 100 Fly
- National QT and 7th - 200 Fly

Maddison was also selected to represent Victoria in Surf Life Saving at the Southern States Challenge.

Samantha Howe (Year 12)
Sam also had a great carnival snaring 1 Gold (200 IM), 3 Silver and 4 Bronze medals.

Both Maddie and Sam were again selected to represent Victoria in the National Pool Life Saving Championships held in Hobart in January. They amassed an amazing 27 medals between them.

Athletics
Congratulations to the following Peninsula students who finished in the top three of their event at the recent State Track and Field Championships.

- Lexi Loizou (Year 11): Gold - 100m, Silver - 400m
- Jess Dunsmore (Year 9): Gold - 2km Steeplechase, Bronze - 3000m.
- Georgie Torey (Year 9): Silver - 800m, Bronze - 1500m.
- Dylan Burrows (Year 10): Bronze - 400m

The Peninsula School has the pleasure of requesting your attendance at our Masked Ball

Saturday 9 May, 2015, Mornington Racing Club, Racecourse Road, Mornington

7pm for pre-dinner drinks. Dress: Black Tie and Mask of course!

Tickets are $125 (GST inclusive), TWO THIRDS SOLD. Bookings and payment through Reception, 9788 7777. Tables of 10. Numbers strictly limited. Payment required at time of booking.

Is organising a table of 10 a little difficult? Not a problem. Simply let the ladies at Reception know at the time of booking, give them your child’s year level or your alumni year level and we will do the rest.

Any questions or special dietary requirements should be directed to Lisa Mitchell on 9788 7787.