Dear Parents,

Term 1 proved to be the busy time on campus that it always is, with a myriad of events and activities: classroom and sports programs getting underway, Year Level camps, rehearsals for our annual musical, robotics competitions and Learning Dialogues between teachers, parents and students.

Our 2015 House program is up and running with several events already being held. Well done to Clarke House which took out our Athletics competition. Special congratulations to Alexis Loizou (Year 11) who narrowly defeated Molly Wallace (Year 7) in claiming the 1st place in the inaugural running of The Peninsula Gift – a variation of the famous sprint which is held at Stawell each year. Clarke also stormed to victory in the House Swimming competition so they are obviously a force to be reckoned with this year!

Our Prefect group has already had a number of official duties to perform which they have managed in very impressive fashion. This year’s senior leaders are as follows:

Grace Neville
Head of School

Michaela McMenamin
Senior Prefect

Matthew Blair
Head of School

Please make a note in your diaries.

Parents may have heard reports from their children about a great guest speaker we hosted at our various sub-School assemblies in March. Lorin Nicholson has now given his presentation Climb Your Own Mountain to more than 1 million students worldwide. Lorin shared his life journey in overcoming the adversity of being born blind. As well as being impressed by his wonderful guitar playing, our students were inspired to hear of Lorin’s life accomplishments which include: being married with 4 children, owning a very successful business and touching the lives of so many in a positive way. His powerful messages of perseverance, resilience, respect and inclusion fitted beautifully with our Positive Education program which focuses on building student resilience and promoting optimism.

I am very much looking forward to seeing our performers on stage at the Frankston Arts Centre when they present Into the Woods in Term 2. Tickets will be available from the FAC from 21 April. Best wishes for the Term ahead.

Stuart Johnston
Principal

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
Chinese New Year

On Friday, February 19, the fortunate students who have Dr Zhou as their Chinese Teacher, celebrated the Chinese New Year, also called Spring Festival, which Chinese people celebrate for two weeks. We always have fun in Dr Zhou’s class room activities and enjoy her teaching very much. With love and care for her students, she made us her very own delicious dumplings with spring onions, pork, cabbage, brown onions, carrots and many more delicious ingredients.

Year 7’s and their language.

Zhou’s Rhymes for Learning Chinese. They have memorized 4 songs in the past 5 weeks from the book called “Dr Zhou’s Rhymes for Learning Chinese”. Among them are songs that focus on pronouncing certain things and Chinese strokes. We have developed a keen interest in studying how organisations can adopt a high performance culture in order to thrive in challenging and evolving times.

Dr Adam Fraser

On our Staff Conference Day at the commencement of the school year our staff was privileged to hear from renowned human performance researcher, Dr Adam Fraser. Adam, who originally trained as a psychologist, decided to leave behind a career in academia after developing a keen interest in studying how organisations can adopt a high performance culture in order to thrive in challenging and evolving times.

While many speakers rely on research performed by others, Adam personally conducts the research himself to ensure that he remains at the forefront of how neuroscience and positive psychology can be used to improve workplace performance. During his career he has worked with a wide variety of people from diverse workplaces including elite level athletes, the armed forces, schools and business professionals from all levels.

Alongside his busy schedule as a highly sought after key note speaker, researcher and consultant, Adam has found time to encourage me to read one of Adams books entitled The Third Space. The book had a profound effect on me so I arranged for him to come and address the staff at my previous school. Such was his impact that people were still talking about his presentation some 12 months later when I left this school to come and work at Peninsula. The book is all about getting the small stuff right – not ‘sweating’ it! It is about using that moment of transition between a first activity and the one that follows it to mentally ‘show up’ right for whatever comes next. Gaining control of the Third Space enables you to do this any time and every time. This means you will consistently be your best for your work, your family, your friends and yourself and in doing so find the key to balance and happiness.

I encourage you to consider getting a copy of The Third Space to find out how easy it is to change your life for the better. The principles invoked in managing the Third Space are universal in their application whoever you are and whatever you do.

Peter Ford
Deputy Principal – Student Wellbeing

The Third Space

The free dress day for Years 7-12 was held recently and the Service Learning team is delighted to say we had a terrific turn out! Thank you to all of those who got on board to support our chosen charity, The Fred Hollows Foundation. We chose to raise funds for this charity as we came to the conclusion that it was a cause extremely worthy of supporting.

Among other targets, this Foundation helps to cure avoidable blindness in developing countries and also does a lot of work in Australia with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. With just $25, this charity is able to restore the sight of one individual through cataract surgery.

The students were able to support this cause by donating a gold coin and wearing free dress and glasses and/or through buying a sausage or a mango lick which were sold at lunchtime. Thank you so much to Luke from The Mango Lick Company who was kind enough to donate two boxes of his frozen mango icy poles! Everyone seemed to take on the initiative well as we were not selling lolloes or soft drinks due to diabetes being one of the leading causes of blindness. Despite those loss of sales, we still managed to raise $1800 overall!

So thank you to all who contributed to the cause, The service learning team :)
Commerce students improve their Asia capabilities

With China hitting the Number 1 “spot” in 2014, Asian economies are the world’s fastest growing, and this means they also offer major opportunities for Australian business. Research by AsiaLink at Melbourne University, shows that while Australian businesses have a healthy engagement across Asia, one of the biggest challenges for us is to realise these opportunities is the absence of Asia capabilities.

During Term 1, the new Commerce elective subject in Year 10 ‘Engaging with Asia’, explored this issue. Students learnt about a range of Asian countries, with a particular focus on culture and the importance of this to increasing their global skills as they enter the workforce. They explored a range of Asia capabilities needed to give them an edge, researched the economic state of different countries, looked at the importance of major sites in Asia, and identified some key dates in recent history that have impacted on business.

On 27th March, the students visited the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) in Swanston St to better learn about their success in Asia and why this 150 year old, global business is still so strong today. The students were also able to visit Chinatown and have a traditional Chinese banquet for lunch (chopsticks only!)

Meissa Wolesley-Findlay
Head of Commerce

Robotics the future is now

On Friday the 20th of March, a group of 13 Year 9 students represented The Peninsula School in the robotics competition in the Ansett Hall. They arranged themselves into groups of either 2 or 3 students and had worked since the start of the Term on building, programming and designing their robots. There were 5 teams:

Team 1: Aaron Keble, William Smithwaker and James Hansen.
Team 2: Matthew Rodway and Alyssa Leong.
Team 3: Rhys Lees, Ted Canbolte and Luca D’Alberto.
Team 4: Jason Davancens, Mitchell Taberner and PK Kusonchukul.
Team 5: Mason Symons and Jorde Daves.

These teams selected two drivers for the Individual Driving Skills challenge, in which they would work individually to get the coloured blocks from one end of the field into the scoring zone. You could receive bonus points if you were able to stack the blocks in the designated areas.

The second part of the competition was the Teamwork challenge. In this, groups would team up with another group and work together to score as many points as they could. The scores were added up at the end of the 20 rounds to see which teams would make the finals.

Throughout the competition, teams were also asked to make a quick 3 to 4 minute presentation, about engineering, to the judges. The judges would then ask questions about how well you worked as a team and about robotics.

At the end of the day, there were 5 awards handed out to the winning teams. The Individual Driving Skills award, which went to the best team in the first challenge. The Teamwork Skills award, which went to the best two teams in the second challenge. The Stem Research Project award, which went to the best presentation. The Excellence award, which went to the team that did well in all parts of the competition. These awards went to:

- The Individual Driving Skills award
  - Team 2, Matt and Alyssa
  - Team 3, Rhys, Ted and Luca, and a team from another school.
- The Teamwork Skills awards (Two awards)
  - Team 3, Rhys, Ted and Luca
  - Team 2, Matt and Alyssa
- The Stem Research Project award
  - Team 3, Rhys, Ted and Luca
  - Team 1, Aaron, Will and James.

Congratulations to all who participated and a special congratulations to the award winners.

Matthew Rodway
Year 9

Olivia’s Climb to the Top

Year 7 Camp

The idea is to challenge her, but this is one monster of a challenge! What some person would consciously climb a ladder to a platform 20 metres high and then take it further by climbing 3 more metres, of what looks like the thinnest pole they could find and stand on a tiny platform wide enough for only two shoes? But that's not the climax; she then has to trust the harness entwined around her wrist and legs and lean backwards over the abyss. Oh yes, she is not about to push through her fear, this is going to take every ounce of thrust, drive and sheer determination she can muster.

So, with encouraging words from the camp instructor and not so encouraging challenges from those who haven’t actually faced this ladder of purgatory yet, she makes her ascent. It’s best to tune out of her surroundings and focus on the prize, the very top, rising like a beanstalk to the clouds. As she takes each tentative step, the chatter of her fellow campers disappears below and nature takes over. Today it is quiet. There’s only the rustle of leaves and the swish and clink of the harness as she places one foot higher than the other. At the time, there’s a little voice fighting with another one: “You can make it. No, you’re going to chicken out!” Her muddled, anxious mind momentarily loses focus, “Do chickens even fly this high?”

Remember, this is one of the hardest challenges on camp... She reminds herself to keep her eyes on the prize.

Reaching the platform she does a little dance in her head, there’s not enough room to actually dance. Before her is the sweeping panorama that comes with being among the treetops. It really is a window, a window on the life that surrounds us on this wilderness camp. Below, there’s the controlled chaos of 150 Year 7 students tackling different activities with a handful of teachers and instructors, the camp buildings and general hustle of people moving about in brightly coloured casual clothes. Above, there’s a kind of gentle peace, of everything at one with the wind, the sky and the earth below.

With renewed determination, she embarks on the last few metres of the climb. Will she make it, or will she have to face the taunts of her classmates below? To her amazement her feet actually keep going when, she’s there! It’s the last rung on the pole. She rises to full height; confident the harness is tight and secure. The breeze has become wind, rushing at her face.

But the feeling, oh the exhilaration! It’s more than freedom. It’s a kind of negative gravity feeling. She can literally reach for the sky. She looks up and follows the path of the sun across the sky and leans backwards; she closes her eyes and takes a deep breath. There’s only one thing she can think of now, “Do I really have to come down?”

This moment challenged me because I was a bit nervous about how high it was. I’m not scared of heights but they still make me a bit tense. I encouraged myself to keep going because I’d been told of how amazing it was when you were up there and I want to see it for myself.

I learnt that even if I feel anxious or scared about something I still like to push myself so that I can experience it for myself. In the future I will know to not doubt myself so much and to just try everything.

Olivia Tucker
Year 7

Come With Us

Into The Woods

Rehearsals are well under way for this year’s Senior School Production of “Into The Woods”. The musical features plenty of the classic fairy tale characters you know and love, but as you’ve never seen them before. Everyone has their secret wish and “Into The Woods” shows just how far some people will go for their ‘happily ever after’. One of Stephen Sondheim’s most popular works, “Into The Woods” is a timeless yet relevant piece, and a rare modern classic which provides a moving lesson about community responsibility, and the stories we tell our children. The show is suitable for all ages and is a great family night out at the theatre.

“Into The Woods” is on May 21st, 22nd and 23rd at the Frankston Arts Centre. Tickets will be on sale from 25th April at the Frankston Arts Centre Box Office 9784 1060 or www.thefac.com.au

Jess Zintschenko
Producer
Medieval Day

Year 8 Style

On the 29th of March the Year 8s were able to experience some of what life would be like in the Medieval Period. We first started out with a period about medieval crimes and punishments. There we learnt about the different types of crimes and their fitting punishments. We then headed to an exciting experience where we reconstructed some weapons and armour of old. Soon after it was time for our last adventure, the Tournament. The Tournament showed us how peasants and nobles enjoy their days watching Knights battle to prove their honour.

Crimes and punishment: The punishments ranged from branding, disembowelment to hanging or decapitation. Truly gruesome ways to go. Though usually it wasn’t the deaths that were worst. Most of the time it was when they kept you alive that was the worst punishment. Therefore it was unfortunate that not many people died quickly.

In the construction activity we’d love to tell you that we really made catapults and armour but sadly that would break too many child safety rules. Instead we were able to make some smaller models made out of cardboard and hard paper while we listen to period music compliments of Dr Monro. The fun part was when we tested the effectiveness of our catapults by firing marshmallows across the floor.

The Tournament was probably the most enjoyable of the three. Our instructor talked to us about how knights trained, their involvement in tournaments and then he showed us some fighting techniques. Towards the end some people were able to fight with him but sadly he won every time. I guess we need some more training.

Finn Ayres, Nick Gristwood and Sarah Taylor
Year 8

Winter Sport

– all year levels

Training for Winter sport will commence on the first day back at school, Tuesday 21st April.

A copy of the winter training schedule has been placed on Zenith for all students to check.

The first round of AGSV/APS sport is on Saturday 2nd May. Details of each round of Saturday sport will also be placed on Zenith each week.

Early Notice

Please note that there is a full round of sport on Saturday 20th June and the School Term officially finishes at 2.30 p.m. on that Saturday. All students will be expected to represent the school in their team on this day.

If a student is not available to play on that day parents will be required to request official leave from the Principal.

If you have any queries re Winter sport please feel free to ring me – 0429 947 479

Stephen Brennan
Director of Sport

Summer Sport

– Presentation Nights

The following Summer Sport Presentation Nights will take place in the H.A. Macdonald Pavilion at 7.00 p.m.

Swimming Presentation Night – Wednesday 22nd April

Girls’ Summer Sport Presentation Night – Tuesday 28th April

Boys’ Summer Sport Presentation Night – Tuesday 5th May

Individual Sporting Achievement

AGSV selection

Congratulations to the following boys who were selected in the Combined AGSV teams which competed against the Combined APS Schools.

Badminton – Ziyuan (Dean) Zhou

Cricket – Brodie Symons, Harper Leonard and Kyle Bendle (emergency)

Table Tennis – Khushal Shah

Tennis – Bailey Harris (emergency)

Volleyball – Jacob Weitering, Hamish McShane, Joshua Holloway

Basketball – played in August. William Peirce (emergency)

Touch Football

Congratulations to Emily Reid (L), Isabel Kahan (R) and Lachsley Parton who were selected in the Victorian T20 Women’s Touch Football team to represent Victoria in the National Championships which were held at Coffs Harbour in March.

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Masked Ball

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

Masked Ball

FINAL TABLES FILLING FAST!
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), Bookings and payment through Reception, 9788 7777.

Tables of 10. Numbers strictly limited. Payment required at time of booking.

If you are yet to pay for your place on a table, please attend to this asap as places cannot be held indefinitely.

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 and we will do the rest.

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

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