

PENLEIGH AND ESSENDON GRAMMAR SCHOOL



# Altior et Sapientior

The Principal's Newsletter March 2016





# From the Principal

Twenty years ago, the Principal, Mrs Rae Pierce, mentioned for the first time in this newsletter that a PEGS student, Evan Symons from the Class of 1995, had received a TER (now ATAR) of 99.95. A year earlier when the current VCE assessment arrangements were introduced, Mrs Pierce's report on results for the Class of 1994 provided no special fanfare for Adrian Tramontana and his TER of 99.95. He was simply named among an impressive list of fifteen students with a TER exceeding 99.00. How things have changed. Now, a mystique surrounds an ATAR of 99.95. Many students aspire to this Holy Grail and newspapers annually report on students who have obtained this "perfect score".

It has been a source of great pride to Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School that for all but one of the years since 1994, one or more of our students have obtained this elusive honour. In two years, 1998 and 2006, the school had five students performing at this highest level. Luka Zubcic and Hasaru Kariyawasam, from the Class of 2015, have now joined this elite group.

While the school fully appreciates that these students are at the "pointy end" of the VCE, the school has been incredibly consistent on a wide range of statistics relating to the VCE. The median ATAR is often quoted by the school to give an indication of the performance of an "average" PEGS student. During the last sixteen years, the median ATAR has been within a narrow band from 86 and 91. The figure from 2015 of 88.85 sits well within this band.

Consistency at these high levels is far from a formality. It can never be taken for granted. It requires the enduring commitment of the school to academic standards, the setting of high expectations, the relentless diligence of all teachers and the provision of resources, physical and human, to maintain and expand programmes that encourage and assist students to continue to perform at their best.

Throughout this newsletter you will read about initiatives whose purpose is to ensure the ongoing success of PEGS students. There is, for example, new programmes in the Arts, an expanded student coordination structure in the Middle Schools, improved parental communication through PEGSpace and the continuing rollout of new facilities at both Junior Schools.

PEGS is a dynamic institution and it is our collective hope that it remains one during 2016 and beyond.

**Tony Larkin**



# VCE Results 2015

The Class of 2015 achieved results that once again reflect the outstanding academic programme offered at PEGS. Luka Zubcic and Hasaru Kariyawasam both achieved a perfect ATAR score of 99.95. While these two boys are to be congratulated for their academic achievements, in Year Twelve they received more accolades for their musical talents. They were both members of a five-piece ensemble that performed on several occasions for the Infinity Centre (IC) population at lunchtimes. Their significant commitment to the school music programme, along with Luka's captaincy of our most successful boys' swim team in years, again reinforces the value of a balanced school experience.

Emma Missen and Kimberley Cao both achieved an ATAR score of 99.85. As well as being a holder of Academic Colours, Emma was a recipient of Full School Colours for Choir, Infinity Vocal Ensemble and Social Justice and was actively involved in the IC leadership programme. Kimberley was heavily involved in our school music programme; her performance of Bruch's Violin Concerto at last year's Concerto Concert was nothing short of extraordinary. Kimberley also sang in the School Choir.

Alan Guo also achieved an ATAR score of 99.85. Alan's particular love was mathematics that saw him attend the National Mathematics Summer School in Canberra. He was also part of the "PEGSponentials" team that won the Melbourne University Maths Olympics in 2015. He was among the twelve students from around the country to reach the final selection stage for the Australian Mathematics Olympiad team. Alan was also a member of the school's AGSV Table Tennis team that won the school's inaugural Table Tennis premiership in 2014.

In total, twenty-eight students obtained an ATAR of 99.00 or above, which is the highest number since 2007. The additional twenty-three students were: Simone Baird, Lillian Brown, Thao-Mi Bui, Kithmini Cooray, Matthew D'Angelo, Tiffany Dai, Lauren Di Salvo, Steven Fan, Jaya Gallagher, Aylin Gunes, Joseph Ibrahim, Edward Kline-Marantelli, Jared McCunnie, Jemima McKenna, Angela Nguyen, Marc Sayers, Yiling Shen, Alison Tran, Maxwell West, Chenuka Wijayasinghe, Binari Wijesundara and Michael Williams.

The median ATAR was 88.85 and the median study score was 36. Perfect study scores of 50 were achieved on fifteen occasions, in the following subjects:

- Accounting (Hon Yi Ng)
- Biology (Sohil Chhabra, Lauren Di Salvo, Ethan Kreutzer)
- Chemistry (Emma Missen)
- English (Edward Kline-Marantelli, Emma Missen)
- French (Hasaru Kariyawasam)
- Further Mathematics (Joseph Ibrahim, Laurie Ibrahim)
- History: Revolutions (Jackson Howard, Jemima McKenna)
- Mathematical Methods (Alan Guo)
- Physical Education (Marc Sayers, Tom Stevenson)

The strength of this cohort's results led to ninety-seven percent of students receiving a first round offer for their first, second or third tertiary preference. The University of Melbourne remains the most popular destination for our students (28%), followed by RMIT (21%) and Monash University (20%). Sixty-two percent of students received their first preference. Science, Commerce and Health Science courses were again popular choices for PEGS students, with an increase in students applying for Arts courses.

The class of 2015 displayed resilience and tenacity and they should be proud of all they have achieved, both within and beyond the classroom.

## Kate Dullard

Head of Infinity Centre



Hasaru Kariyawasam



Luka Zubcic



Kimberley Cao



Alan Guo



Emma Missen

# The Year of the Acrobat

Every year the school adopts a theme around which learning activities and co-curricular events are planned. Last year the school's theme was the Year of Light, building on the United Nations International Year of Light, and in 2014 it was Trailblazers.

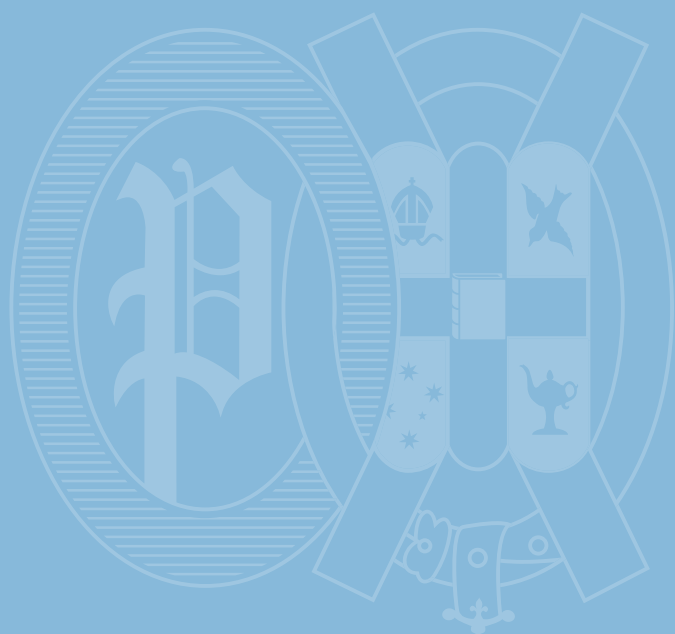
This year's theme is the Year of the Acrobat. At first glance, it might seem confusing and irrelevant, and certainly unexpected. You might ask yourself: why did they select this theme?

But upon greater reflection, we know that acrobats are flexible, agile, creative, exciting, skilled, collaborative, balanced, nimble, strong and soaring.

Acrobats are capable of extraordinary and dazzling feats, but these feats are not achieved without great commitment and repeated practice. They are risk-takers, always looking for new and creative ways to perform. As they are learning, acrobats expect that they will fall occasionally, and when they do, they know how to fall safely. They work together and support each other to achieve more than they would be able to achieve alone.

The theme is also very engaging and students certainly were on the first day of school when professional acrobats greeted them at the entrances to the school. And, the acrobat can be a noble metaphor, one that can assist us in promoting the dispositions that make good thinkers and good learners.

**Nina Bilewicz**  
Vice Principal





# Welcome home Mr Simmons



The school welcomed Mr Anthony Simmons to the position of Head of McNab House at the start of the school year. While Mr Simmons was the Deputy Principal at Balcombe Grammar School from 2013 to 2015, he previously taught at Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School and was the school's Senior Year Twelve Coordinator until 2012. His qualifications include a Bachelor of Commerce and Master of Education from The University of Melbourne. His textbooks, collectively titled *VCE Accounting: Units One to Four*, are widely used at many Victorian schools.

Mr Simmons has been introducing himself to students and parents at school assemblies and information nights and is a regular sight in the school grounds during recess and lunchtimes. He already has a fine sense for the school, its high academic standards, its focus on student wellbeing and its extensive co-curricular programme. I am certain that all members of the school community join me in welcoming Mr Simmons back to his school and wish him well in his new position.

**Tony Larkin**  
Principal





# VCE Season of Excellence 2016

Two students from the Class of 2015 have been recognised for their creative talents by selection for the VCAA Season of Excellence series. This series showcases the top works created by Year Twelve students.

*The Panda*, a ten-minute short film about an unemployed superhero, by Jack Wilson-Lee, was selected as one of twelve films from a shortlist of more than 300 submissions. This is a testament to Jack's dedication to film making, and his concerted efforts to better his skills throughout the two-year VCE Media course offered by the school.

Michael Fotopoulos, who has been heavily involved in music at the school and provided some of the musical arrangements for last year's charity concert *Big Blue Bonanza*, has also been recognised for an outstanding composition. The work that was selected for performance at the Top Class concert was written for a Big Band and was part of Michael's Music Style and Composition studies. It is titled *Buttered Toast* and is heavily influenced by Duke Ellington's style from the swing era.

We congratulate both of these students on these outstanding achievements.

## **Kate Dullard**

Head of Infinity Centre



## New Coordinator structure in the Middle Schools

The school always looks to provide support and care for all students so they can fulfill their potential as happy and successful learners and positive members of the school community. With this as our objective, the coordinator structure at both McNab House and Gottliebsen House has changed this year. A third coordinator has been introduced at each year level in each section. Year Level Coordinators will oversee each year level with a particular focus on academic progress and wellbeing with the support of two Student Coordinators whose role includes the day-to-day oversight of students. Form Teachers continue to play a pivotal role, meeting with students twice daily, building rapport with and between students and fostering a sense of community.

The new structure acknowledges the importance of providing every student with the contact, involvement, guidance and support that she or he needs during the middle school years. It enables age appropriate experiences to be tailored by the Year Level Coordinators while the day-to-day needs of students continue to be anticipated, supported and addressed by the team of Student Coordinators. The model is one from which I believe students and parents will benefit, as we work closely with families to pursue our commitment to a high-quality educational experience for the young men and women in our care.

## **Caroline Horton Andrews**

Head of Gottliebsen House







# The power of mistakes

I was having a conversation with a Year Eleven student in my class about a mistake he had made in his English assessment task. It was a significant mistake as a key term in the question had been too narrowly defined. It had cost him enough marks to take him a grade below where he might have been sitting otherwise. When I said to the student that I was really glad that he had made this mistake, he looked at me quizzically and remarked, "That's a bit rough!" I felt I had better explain.

I wasn't glad because the student was disappointed; rather, I felt that the error offered him the opportunity to undertake the reflection required to make significant improvements and lessen the chances of such mistakes being made in the future. More importantly, it enabled him to be more aware of a tendency he might have towards hasty or narrow thinking, and a heightened awareness of this will enable him to develop strategies to overcome it.

Johansson and Felten, in their book *Transforming Students*, describe the challenge of helping students find their place in the liminal space between the familiar and the unknown - making them feel comfortable while inspiring them to take risks - so that they are engaged and embrace learning as a lifelong endeavour. Navigating the pathway from the known to the unknown involves and necessitates making mistakes along the way.

At the end of our conversation, there is no doubt that my student was still disappointed with the fact he had not performed at his best, but rather than letting that disappointment deter him, importantly, he chose to see it as an opportunity for learning and growth.

**Kate Dullard**  
Head of Infinity Centre







# PEGS abroad

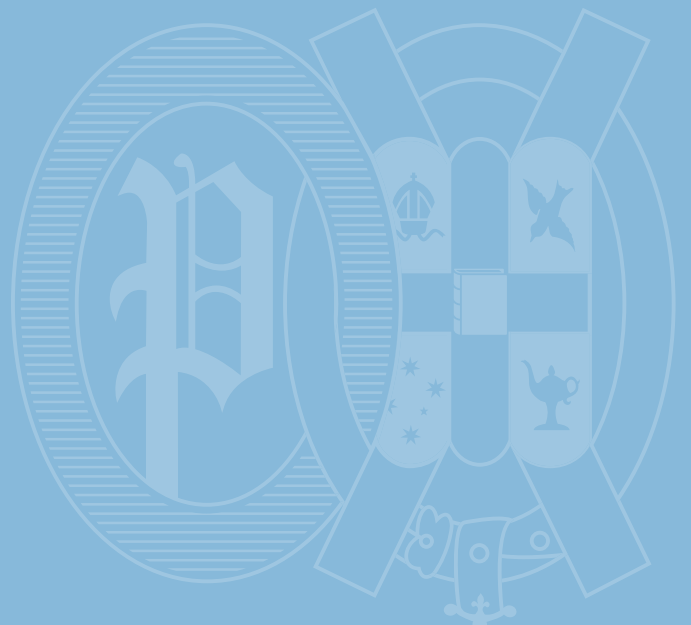
As the 2015 school year drew to a close, 48 intrepid Year Ten and Eleven students, along with eight anxiously excited staff, disembarked for Vietnam on the third iteration of the school's World Challenge trip. Contrary to previous expeditions, the four teams would not be country-hopping this time, spending the entire 21 days in central and northern Vietnam. This change of locale also meant a significant change of wardrobe, as the mountains of Sapa offered temperatures near freezing, a far cry from the oppressive humidity South East Asia is famous for.

Teams split their time between a community project (for example, our team built a flushing toilet for a family who had never had one, and spent hours playing soccer and 'Aussie Rules' with the local children), a challenging trek in the visually stunning Sapa mountain region, and some much appreciated rest and relaxation. For this phase, we spent a day kayaking and boating around the breathtaking Ha Long Bay, a couple of days exploring and shopping in the European charms of Hoi An, and even squeezed in a screening of the new *Star Wars* movie in Hanoi!

The World Challenge Expedition offers students the chance to experience not only the wonders of a foreign culture, but also the responsibilities that come with travel: managing finances, organizing accommodation, transport and food, and generally working as a team to ensure a safe and enjoyable travel experience. All four teams faced these challenges with maturity and a willingness to embrace experiences beyond their comfort zones, and everyone came back with many happy stories to tell.

## **Justin Murray**

Teacher participant  
World Challenge expedition



# The Junior School (boys) is evolving

At the commencement of the 2016 school year, the Junior School (boys) welcomed additional students, particularly at Prep Level, Year One and Year Five.

While three classes at both Years Five and Six have previously been in place, the school commenced this year a four-year plan to establish three classes with twenty-five students per class at all levels from Prep to Year Six.

To accommodate this growth, the school is planning to refurbish specific areas at the Essendon campus. Year Three boys and teachers are already enjoying new facilities. These new rooms are light and spacious with panoramic views across the playground.

Plans for a new Year Four centre are being developed.

**Craig McFarlane**  
Head of Junior School (boys)





# New classrooms at Moonee Ponds

It is a year of new beginnings, not just for our Prep girls but also the Year One girls. Both groups have classes in the newly designed classrooms to the east of Limerock Hall. Their appreciation of the new classrooms is tangible.

"I like the building because it is really bright and I love the bright yellow room," said Jocelyn Bui. Ariadne Palmer added, "I love having the lockers inside the room because it's easier to get our lunches and drink bottles."

The classrooms are large, well-lit and brightly coloured and operable doors bring additional flexibility. A conservatory overlooks the new playground at the rear of the building. Breakout spaces support smaller teaching groups.

Every classroom is fitted with speakers for assisted hearing and a large screen TV that provides clear images on the brightest of days. Staff can project images from their iPads to allow students to access and learn through a variety of apps.

The new playground includes wooden creatures and acorn seats around a large oak tree. The formal play equipment incorporates elements that encourage girls to develop their agility through hanging, swinging and climbing. "Our new playground has a good climbing wall that we can all climb up", said Emily Jenkins. Sofia Malik's rejoinder was, "I love the horsey seat. Every one loves the horsey seat!"

I am thrilled at the response to Stage One of the development of Moonee Ponds and eagerly anticipate the establishment of new classrooms for students in Years Two, Five and Six later this year.

**Christine Hallman**  
Head of Junior School (girls)



# Enjoying moments from 2015 online

Since the introduction of an eYearbook in 2010, PEGS students and their families have enjoyed the multimedia possibilities and increased breadth provided by a digital format. In 2015 we took another leap forward when the yearbook went entirely online. From December 2015 our yearbook has been accessible online with login via a student, family or staff password. Archiving will ensure that access to yearbooks from a student's school years will continue even after school days are long past.

Yearbook 2015 can be explored on a computer, as always, but also on a tablet or smart phone. This has proven to be a popular initiative as almost half of the logins to date have occurred via tablet or phone. The new arrangements make it easier for students to share moments at PEGS with family and friends, even when they are far away. PEGS families have been enthusiastic viewers of Yearbook 2015, with close to 4000 logins recorded so far. A search facility provides the opportunity to find entries for a student, team or event and users have been eager to view multiple entries on multiple occasions.

Yearbook 2015 can be viewed at <http://yearbook.pegs.vic.edu.au> with a student, family or staff password. A link is also included on the school website.

**Helen Dapiran**  
Yearbook 2015 Coordinator





# Transition

## A place “to be” and to “become”

The vision of the government’s Early Years Learning Framework is characterised by “belonging, being and becoming”. This vision connects well with our focus on transition during the early weeks of the kindergarten programme. Transition is a collaborative process between educators, children and families, where our practices need to respond to each child’s interests, abilities and strengths so that a sense of belonging is strengthened.

Children are active learners. When they play and wonder, explore the world and come up with new ideas, they are actively learning and positive relationships are being built with other children.

Kindergarten teachers look closely at ways to build positive relationships with children and their families. This includes, among many things, children drawing their families, talking about family photos and decorating their lockers. Through play and group sessions, the children learn about each other and their families as well as favourite foods and play experiences.

KidsMatter, the Australian Early Childhood Mental Health Initiative, reflects that “all children need to feel their world is a safe place where people will care about them, and where their needs for support, respect and friendship will be met”. This sense of belonging assists children to be happier and more relaxed, motivated and successful learners.

The kindergartens have a sense of community. They are places where children know they belong.

**Pam Hocking**  
Director of Kindergartens







# Leadership Day

A wise man, Warren Bennis, once said, “*Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality.*” This was the message delivered to 130 young, up-and-coming PEGS leaders on Sunday 7 February.

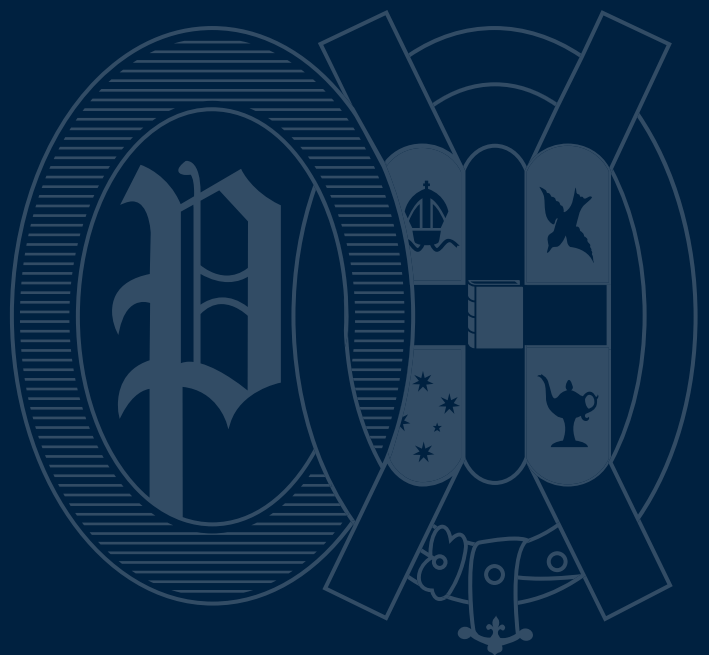
Run by yLead, the day included activities and presentations that were both telling and amusing, encouraging students to explore their interests, values and goals. The programme centred on five key areas of leadership: finding a passion, creating a vision, taking a risk, building an effective support team and balancing strengths against focus. What was stressed most was, regardless of your abilities, leadership is about turning ideas into action.

One of these actions included the challenge of getting all 130 students through a swing rope. We learnt the importance of communication and trust in our peers. Few of us believed we could do this in less than a minute but following a couple of failed attempts, we achieved it in the record time of 12.3 seconds. It was a reminder that we underestimate our own potential; we are each far more capable than we may believe.

Upon leaving the seminar, we had a renewed sense of how to make our final years of secondary education both a successful and rewarding experience. We were also left with a wide range of tools and strategies to use as a leader outside the protected walls of our school.

In the words of Marvin Gaye, “*There ain’t no mountain high enough.*” All of us left the day feeling that we had the capacity to be acrobats and the ability to achieve the unthinkable as leaders, if we only put our minds to it.

**Teagan Wicks**  
Year Twelve







# Sir John Holman visits Keilor East

On Tuesday 8 March, the school was privileged to host the world-renowned chemist and educator Sir John Holman. Sir John is Emeritus Professor in Chemistry, University of York, and adviser in Education at the Wellcome Trust and the Gatsby Foundation. Sir John's visit was part of a global inquiry into the purposes of practical science commissioned by the Gatsby Charitable Foundation.

The premise of the research is that practical work is fundamental to doing science and that scientific discoveries are made as a result of practical observations. As he tours eleven countries, Sir John's intention is to identify what if any consensus exists as to the intended purpose of practical science in schools.

During his time at PEGS, Sir John conducted meetings with school and science leaders. He took great interest in the school's organizational structures, laboratory facilities and design, innovative Science curriculum offerings and strong professional learning culture. As he engaged with our teachers and students, it was clear that Sir John is a master of his craft and a truly passionate advocate for the Sciences as being transformational, both within and beyond the classroom.

The report for which Sir John and his team are gathering data will be published in 2017 and we look forward to providing the school community with further information on the progress of the study.

**Alexandra Abela**  
VCE Chemistry teacher



# An activity centre

It is 3.30pm. The final bell has rung, formal classes have finished for the day and another day of learning has come to a close. And yet . . .

All over the school, students are changing into sports uniforms, tuning instruments and loosening muscles and vocal chords as they prepare for sport, music, drama, dance and other co-curricular activities.

Through these endeavours, our students will continue the learning journey that is an integral part of the “PEGS experience”.

Most people understand that being active makes a positive contribution to physical health and wellbeing but it also brings positive effects to brain chemistry and, as a consequence, both learning and mental wellbeing. Brain science tells us that exercise increases blood flow to the brain and increases the number of new cells in the hippocampus – an area of the brain involved in learning and memory. This is in addition to the feelings of wellbeing that are generated as a result of the endorphins released through exercise.

In addition to learning, co-curricular activities, like playing a game or performing a musical piece, provide students with opportunities to practise the dispositions that are essential for effective learning.

Some students are driven by an existing passion: they already love the joy of song or the sound of leather on willow. But for others it is participation itself that is the more rewarding. The endeavours that started at PEGS can continue long after schooling has finished, helping students and alumni to live a life that is rich and balanced; healthy, active and involved.

**Anthony Simmons**  
Head of McNab House



# The new Parent Information portal in PEGSpace

The school's new intranet PEGSpace was launched early this year and members of the school community – students, parents and staff - are now able to use it.

Parents can navigate from the school's internet through parent portals to Parent Information. Click on your child's section to find, for example, the recent Term Letter, the Student Information Booklet, bell times and the Apps list. Each section will have information about your child's learning programme.

Other information that can be found there includes the canteen menu with prices, advice on how to support the use of technology at home and material from Moonee Valley City Council about Safety Around Schools.

Parents can amend their child's information, including address or medical status, through PEGSpace. Bookings for Parent Teacher Interviews can be done through the portal.

Information about the school camp, the sport programme, the performing arts, careers, school publications and policies and uniforms can also be found. If you want to know more about the next music concert, term dates, the camp equipment list or the bus schedule for this week's Saturday sport, it can be found here.

News alerts, which might include the cancellation of sports training because of adverse weather conditions or the release of ticket sales for the school musical, will be posted regularly.

The Parent Information portal has been developed to enhance collaboration and communication between parents and the school. We are very interested in knowing about the types of information that may interest you so that we can add to our offerings.

**Nina Bilewicz**  
Vice Principal

## Music: Leaders of change

The school's private music tuition programme is now being administered through PEGSpace. Students and teachers can check their lessons on-line, email their teachers and receive alerts about private music lessons, music rehearsals and concert arrangements. It is also envisaged that parents will be able to view and receive this information on-line. Many parents have already had a small taste of the possibilities, having received emails to confirm commencement details for this year's instrumental lessons.

**Peter Chaplin**  
Director of Music







# School Awards

It is easy for students to perform within their “comfort zone”, coasting along doing things that feel familiar, easy and secure. Pushing the boundaries can mean taking risks, trying new activities and seeking higher standards or an enhanced performance.

The school provides a controlled and safe environment that supports students as they stretch themselves and it encourages them to do so.

When a secondary student participates in an activity fully, achieves excellence or demonstrates leadership in curricular or co-curricular activities, the school recognises and celebrates these achievements by presenting a School Award.

While School Awards are embedded in the practice of the school, some elements have changed over time. This year a change will be introduced providing greater scope for recognition of student contributors both at and away from school.

In the past, the School Awards programme had four tiers: Award of Merit, Middle School Colours, Half Colours and Full Colours. This year Middle School Colours will be removed and replaced by an Award of Distinction.

In other words, for 2016 the four tiers of School Awards are:

- Award of Merit
- Award of Distinction
- Half Colours
- Full Colours

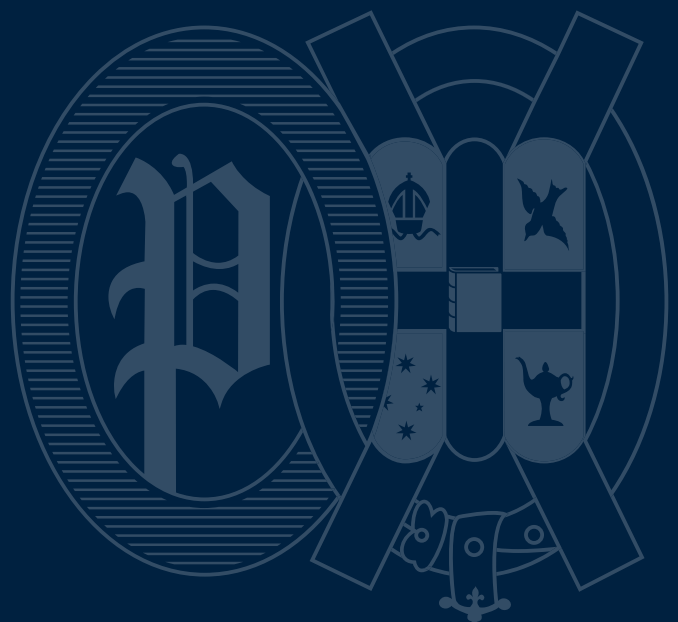
The Award of Distinction will not be limited to Middle School students and will be available to secondary students at all year levels. The citation will read:

*The Award of Distinction acknowledges students at all year levels who make a hallmark contribution to the life of the school in a particular activity or range of endeavours. The award acknowledges a student's excellence, attitude and the quality of her or his commitment to a sport or activity.*

The school believes that this change will provide students with new opportunities to receive awards not limited to specific year levels and there will be the opportunity to receive this award on multiple occasions.

The school is looking for additional ways to acknowledge the contributions of its students.

**Nina Bilewicz**  
Vice Principal



# An extraordinarily exciting time....

It is an extraordinarily exciting time to be involved in the Performing Arts at Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School. The programme for 2016 is well underway and promises to enrich the entire school community.

The first production for the year is an adaptation of Roald Dahl's *The Witches*. Featuring a cast of students from a range of year levels this show promises a quirky and fun-filled romp that is so characteristic of Dahl. Performances will be held in the Keilor East Drama Theatre from Thursday 28 to Saturday 30 April.

The tradition of the school musical has grown steadily since 2008. This year's production will be *Urinetown*. It represents a departure from our previous five musicals, but therein lies its appeal. Part Bertolt Brecht, part Kurt Weill, with a dose of *Les Miserables* and a sprinkle of *West Side Story*, *Urinetown* is an hilarious satire that features some infectious music. Four performances will be presented at the Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre from Wednesday 27 to Saturday 30 July.

PEGS Club Dance is pleased to welcome its new members for 2016. Guided and inspired by the team from dance company *Menagerie*, our students are beginning to develop ideas for a variety of performances throughout the school year.

2016 will see the presentation of our first Arts Festival. Running for two weeks from Monday 8 to Friday 19 August, PEGSFest will feature a range of Arts assemblies, activities and exhibitions that will highlight and celebrate the importance of the Arts to the life of our community.

An exciting time indeed!

**Peter Bohmer**  
Director of Performing Arts

## PEGS sports team

The school's sports programme is overseen by our Director of Sport, Miss Catherine Lane, as well as our Sports Coordinators, Mr Chris Clark (for boys) and Mr Ben Bailey (for girls) respectively.

Mr Bailey is the newest member of this team, being appointed to his role as Coordinator of Sport (girls) at the start of 2016. Previously, Mr Bailey taught Geography and Physical Education at the Infinity Centre. An outstanding schoolboy footballer, Mr Bailey's aspirations to be an AFL player were stymied by injury. While he maintained his interest in football as an elite specialist coach, he has also taught at schools in Victoria and the United Kingdom before joining the PEGS teaching staff in 2010.

The school is very pleased to have Mr Bailey in this important role.





# Basketballers in the USA

After two flights and fourteen hours of mild discomfort we landed in Las Vegas where we managed to explore a range of unforgettable experiences, from the amazing views of the Grand Canyon to an intense training session with Brian Sitter and other Elite Basketball Coaches in preparation for a game against the Coral Academy of Science, a game that showed us how teamwork and unselfishness can bring results.

With many happy faces after the boys junior and girls teams claimed their first victories, we set off to San Francisco where we met our host families. A highlight for many in San Francisco was the tour of Cal Berkeley to watch the Bears in a college game. The hilly city provided experiences such as Alcatraz and the Golden Gate Bridge but nothing could compare to the once in a lifetime opportunity for the girls side who played the California School for the Deaf.

We made a quick stop off in Los Angeles to visit Universal Studios and to walk the stars down Hollywood Boulevard but the biggest star we saw was playing for the LA Lakers at the Staple Centre when we witnessed Kobe Bryant and the Lakers defeat the Milwaukee Bucks.

After months of hard work all teams had the chance to showcase their skills in the San Diego Winter Prep Classic Basketball Tournament. The senior and junior boys teams were both crowned champions at the tournament's end and all sides showed progress and thoroughly enjoyed every minute on the court. As a reward for everyone's efforts we took a bus ride to Anaheim where we visited Disneyland and the California Adventure Park.

We will forever be grateful for the help of those who inspired us to improve in that short space of time.

**Max Philpot and Emily Fry**  
Year Twelve



# From the Archives

Brigid Cooper Archivist

## Tributes

### Mrs Gwen Hocking (nee Moncur)

5 May 1924 - 29 November 2015

Gwenneth Evelyn Moncur started at Penleigh Presbyterian Girls' School in 1930, aged 5 years. She spent a happy decade at the school while the world outside the gates reeled with the Great Depression and the start of World War II.

As well as the serious business of learning, Class Captain and Prefect duties, there were many other activities, including Christian Union, drama, music and sport. A keen writer, Gwen was on the Penleigh Magazine Committee and received the H V Lynch Memorial Prize for English in 1940. She held the Senior Tennis Cup in 1938 and 1939 and received her Full School Blues for her contribution to the team.

The Limerock Sisters believed in a strong emphasis on community and service at Penleigh. Through Junior Red Cross the Penleigh girls raised money with class collections and fundraising activities, which was sent to charities, both local and in faraway places such as India and Sudan. They also used their talents with needlework and knitting to make clothing parcels for local Kindergartens and Babies' Homes.

For Gwen, this weekday message was consistent with her home and her regular attendance at Ascot Vale Methodist Church and would be present throughout her life. She readily joined groups, including choirs and organising committees. For two decades Gwen was closely involved with Penleigh Old Collegians' Association (POCA), serving as President, Treasurer and Secretary. For fifteen years she was Convenor of the annual Debutante Ball. Each year, preparations for the Penleigh Fete took much of her time and her house!

With her interest in history, she was one of many former students who laid the foundation for the PEGS Archival Collection.

She will be remembered fondly by those who she came into contact with at school, and especially by her family: her husband, Frank, her children Greg, Pam and Russell, and her grandchildren Miranda, Christopher, Maeve, Fintan, Hugh and Angus, most of whom have their own continuing connections to the PEGS Community.



*Gwen Moncur (front row, fifth from the right, with long dark ringlets) in the whole of Penleigh photograph in 1930  
(Donor: Gwen Hocking [PH04797])*

## Miss Amy Turner

6 June 1919 - 29 November 2015

Hundreds of Penleigh girls have spent a year with Miss Amy Turner, teacher of junior primary students at the school for over 30 years. Recently on the FSA Facebook site, her students remembered her as "welcoming and kind", but she made sure they learnt times tables! One student reminisces, "She taught us kindness and respect, humility and responsibility... and had a profound influence on so many lives."

Amy's long-term family friend, Elizabeth Willis, delivered a tribute at Amy's funeral. She spoke of Amy's strong faith, her love of nature and travel, her loyal friendship, and her passion for teaching. Elizabeth remembers Amy's visits to their childhood farm. "She was the bringer of all-day suckers, marzipan, coronation coaches and photographs and slides of exotic, mysterious places. Her traveller's tales led us to be curious about the world and enlarged our horizons."

Amy was obviously a natural teacher, interested in the physical, mental and spiritual growth of the children around her. Penleigh was fortunate to have Amy on staff for so long. She will be missed by her many friends and family.



Miss Amy Turner with her Grade 2 class in 1959.  
(Donor: Kaye Gatehouse [PH00172])

## Donations

**Aysen Gazi** (Class of 1989) and her brother, **Seren Gazi** (Class of 1991), donated a school blazer, glasses and cloth badges to the PEGS Archives. The crests used on these items were the separate Penleigh crest and the Essendon Grammar crest.

**Warwick Attwood** (EGS Class of 1974) kindly lent his family photograph albums for copying. He also donated a kayak from his time in the Essendon Grammar School Canoe Club. It was built at the school under the direction of Mr Jim Armstrong.



Warwick Attwood on his first day at  
Essendon Grammar School in 1963



Warwick Attwood with his Under 13 Football team mates in 1967

Thank you to **Robert Johnson** and **Phillip** and **Peter Carey** for donating *Triunes* and other historical items relating to Essendon Grammar School.

Elizabeth Willis deposited some items of correspondence from **Miss Amy Turner** (Penleigh staff 1954 - 1985) relating to her teaching career.



# Former Students' Association News

## Alumni Spotlight

### Jessica McMillan, Class of 2003

*Jessica McMillan has been a member of the Australian Women's Volleyball Team – The Volleeyroos.*

*What have you been doing since leaving PEGS?*

I completed a Bachelor of Optometry degree, and have been working as an optometrist for the last seven years. The first thing I did when I started at The University of Melbourne was join the volleyball club. I played in the Australian Volleyball League for four years and last year was selected to play with the national team. Last year was pretty eventful as I was also married.

*During your time as a student at PEGS, what was your most memorable experience?*

I participated in the China trip in Year Eleven to improve my Chinese and the three weeks there with schoolmates were an amazing experience. We got to try different food and a different way of life. I've been back to China twice since then and always love (attempting) to speak Chinese.

*What inspired you to choose a career in optometry?*

I'd always been interested in the health sciences, and optometry offered the opportunity to learn about one particular part of the body. I couldn't be happier with my choice.

*Tell us about The Volleeyroos.*

The Volleeyroos are the Australian Women's Volleyball team. The team is hoping to regain government funding to improve the programme and qualify for the 2020 Olympics. Last year we travelled to China, Kazakhstan and Algeria and climbed five spots in the world rankings. Unfortunately we didn't climb far enough to be in contention for the 2016 Rio Games.

*What is your biggest sporting achievement?*

My biggest sporting achievement was a volleyball game played against Sri Lanka in China. It was the first international game of volleyball in which I was on court for the whole match. Games are played best of five sets, and we won in the fifth set, 22-20.

*What advice would you give to young PEGS alumni?*

Find something you love to do and dream big.



## 2015 Golf Day

The Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School Former Students' Association Golf Day was held on Monday, 14 December 2015 at the Northern Golf Course in Glenroy. Over 60 participants including school suppliers, staff, current and former students enjoyed a great day. The overall winners of the Ambrose competition were the team from Bear Projects. Special thanks for helping with the event to Mrs Sandra Bates and Mrs Frances Eames

## FSA Functions

<b>10 Year Reunion</b> – Class of 2006	30 July
<b>20 Year Reunion</b> – Class of 1996	27 August
<b>30 Year Reunion</b> – Class of 1986	22 October
<b>Hockey Breakfast</b>	14 May
<b>Footy Lunch</b>	17 June
<b>Golf Day</b>	12 December

The 10, 20 and 30 year reunions will be held at The Leveson, Level 1, 46 Leveson Street, North Melbourne at 7.30pm.

For more information on any of these events, or to assist with your upcoming reunion, please email [fsa@pegs.vic.edu.au](mailto:fsa@pegs.vic.edu.au).

## Private Functions

### Golden Girls' Luncheons

9 March, 13 July, and 9 November at Café Domain, 171 Domain Road, South Yarra at 11:30 am. Contact Judith Ross on 0417 538 335 for more information.

## Facebook

If you have a Facebook account, please search for PEGS Former Students' Association and 'like' our page.

Our aim is to establish and foster friendships between the former students of Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School and its founding schools.

## LinkedIn:

PEGS Business Network's specific purpose is to connect former PEGS Students and Alumni in business, creating business opportunities for all members while also keeping in touch with and contributing to the greater PEGS Community. To request membership, please login to LinkedIn and search for 'PEGS Business Network'

## PEGS Business Network

### 2016 PEGSBN Launch Event

Friday 8 April

Venue: RACV Club Times: 7.00am - 9.00am

### Budget, Business and Economy Breakfast

Friday 27 May

### Olympics and Business Of Sport Breakfast

Friday 5 August

### End Of Year Celebration

Friday 25 November

# PEGS Business Network Launch Event

The PEGS Business Network invites you to join the PEGS business community at the official 2016 Launch Event on Friday 8 April, 7am-9am at the RACV Club.

The event will be hosted by award winning Nine Network journalist Brett McLeod, with a panel of industry leaders:

- Greville Pabst - CEO and Co-Founder, WBP Property Group and Buyers Jury Judge on *The Block*
- Konrad Spilva - CEO, Isobar Australia / New Zealand Group
- Lisa Lawry - General Manager, People & Culture, Essendon Football Club

The morning will include dedicated time for networking and introductions.

For further information or to book via phone/email please contact Lisa Leask on 03 9016 2181 / lisa.leask@pegs.vic.edu.au

## Announcements

### Births

**Tanya** (née **Storno**) ('02) and Frank Caruso, a son, Adrian, on 26 November 2015.

**Ben Johnson** ('98) and Moran Paldi, a daughter, Lila, sister for Seren, on 1 October 2015.

**Rebecca** (née **Gauci**) ('01) and Lance Maurici, a daughter, Aurora Mariana Joan, on 28 September 2015

### Marriages

**Daniel Johnson** ('04) married Christine Mifsud on 16 January 2016

### Deaths

**Gwenneth Evelyn (Gwen) Hocking** (née **Moncur**) (Penleigh 1930-40) on 29 November 2015, aged 91.

**Stuart Jason Holloway** (PEGS 1978-80 [Class of 1991]) on 29 December 2015, on Mt Silberhorn, New Zealand, son of John and Heather (née Shankland - Penleigh 1954-58) Holloway.

**Tate Ethan Scarce** (PEGS 2009-15) on 13 January 2016, aged 13.

**Kyle Andrew Sheldon** (PEGS 1996-2007) on 21 February 2016, aged 26.

**Amy Hester Turner** (Penleigh Staff 1954-85) on 29 November 2015, aged 96.

If you have any information you'd like to share, please send an email to Lisa Leask at lisa.leask@pegs.vic.edu.au

# Friends of PEGS

## Ladies' High Tea

In early December, over 280 ladies associated with the school came together for High Tea at the Park Hyatt Hotel, Melbourne to celebrate the festive season and the end of the school year.

Over \$10,000 was raised at the event and this will be directed towards upgrades required to sound and lighting equipment at the H R Steven Music Centre, Keilor East. Once again, the year level and class representative network played a vital role in the success of the afternoon, as it does with all Friends of PEGS events.

**Caroline Allen**  
Friends of PEGS



## Dates for the Diary

5 May – Mother's Day Stall, Junior School (girls)

6 May – Mother's Day Stall, Junior School (boys)

4 June – Annual Trivia Night

1 September – Father's Day Stall, Junior School (girls)

2 September – Father's Day Stall, Junior School (boys)

15 October – Annual Craft Market

2 December – Ladies' End of Year Event



# Dates for the Diary

## April

21 April – Piano Concert One  
26 April – String Concert One  
28–30 April – Drama Performance: *The Witches*

## May

2 May – Synthesizer Concert  
4 May – Woodwind Concert  
5 May – Vocal Concert  
9 May – Brass Concert  
11, 12 May – VCE Concerts  
16 May – Guitar Concert  
18, 19 May – Secondary School Concert One and Two  
23 May – Percussion Concert  
31 May – Suzuki Concert Two

## June

15 June – Junior School Concert  
21 June – Secondary School Concert Three

## July

25 July – Suzuki Concert Three  
27–30 July – *Urinetown: The Musical*

## August

8–19 August – PEGSFest  
19, 20 August – Dance Show  
29 August – Presentation Day  
31 August – VCE Recitals

## September

1 September – VCE Recitals  
5 September – Suzuki Concert Four

## October

4, 5 October – VCE Art/VCD/Media Show  
13 October – Piano Concert Two  
17 October – String Concert Two  
18 October – Valedictory Dinner  
24 October – Suzuki Concert Five

## November

21 November – Junior Christmas Concert  
23 November – Suzuki Concert Six and Break-up

## December

5 December – Carol Service

