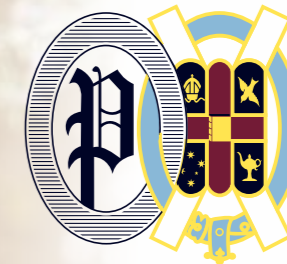




PENLEIGH AND ESSENDON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Altior et Sapientior

December 2023



From the Principal

Reflecting and Recharging: A Farewell to Another Remarkable School Year

As we stand at the threshold of summer, I am filled with a profound sense of gratitude and reflection. The end of the school year is always somewhat bittersweet—it is a time to celebrate our achievements, bid farewell to students and colleagues who are leaving us, and recharge for the adventures that lie ahead.

This year has been nothing short of extraordinary- and not in the way we described the COVID years as extraordinary. Rather, it has been so in a way that frequently stops me in my tracks, when I see some of what is documented here in *Altior et Sapientior* occur in real-time. There is not a day that I am not impressed, inspired, encouraged, by what I see from our young people here at school, and the members of our community who support them. This year, our students have shown resilience, curiosity, and an unwavering commitment to the education of their whole self. The teachers and staff have dedicated themselves to fostering a positive and nurturing learning environment. Together, we have overcome challenges, embraced new opportunities, and continued to strengthen the bonds that make our school community what it is- remarkable.

Reflecting on the year gone by, I am reminded of the countless moments that have defined our journey together. From the joyous moments, to the challenges that have tested our collective resolve, each experience has contributed to the growth and development of our community. It is heartening to witness the spirit of collaboration and camaraderie that permeates every corner of our school.

As we enter the well-deserved break, I encourage each of you to take the time to reflect on your accomplishments, both big and small. Celebrate the friendships forged, the knowledge gained, and the personal milestones achieved. This is also a moment to express gratitude to those who have supported us along the way—parents, caregivers, and the broader community who contribute to the fabric of our school.

Summer is a season of rejuvenation and self-discovery. It's an opportunity to recharge our minds and bodies, to explore new interests, and to spend quality time with loved ones. Whether you embark on exciting travels or enjoy all that Melbourne has to offer in the summer, I hope you find moments of peace and joy that replenish your energy for the upcoming school year.

Kate Dullard



In appreciation of our students

Early this term, we welcomed the parents and caregivers of current Year Six students to an Information Evening about Year Seven. The heavens burst just as tours of Gotty House got underway, but our intrepid visiting families were undeterred thanks to the friendly, self-assurance of our excellent student tour-guides. Three current Year Sevens, Thomas, Hamish and Krish eagerly took on the role of welcoming families and did so with the ease and confidence with which they might don a comfy jumper. As the formal part of the session unfolded, the same three fabulous students took to the stage. Armed with microphones and plenty of amiable good humour, they sprinkled thoughtful advice with a colourful snapshot of what it's like to start secondary school. To hear from students who have only just made the big transition from primary school to Gotty House is a compelling narrative for any parent or caregiver facing that same journey next year with their own child. To hear it done with such relaxed confidence, charm and gentle humour was an absolute delight. It confirmed what I already believe: that our students are pretty marvellous and when given a challenge or opportunity, they rise to it with warmth and good will. For this, I commend these three fine ambassadors.

Caroline Horton Andrews
Head of Gottliebsen House

A young woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a dark blue school jacket over a striped shirt, is smiling and looking at a tablet computer. She is sitting at a desk in a classroom, with another student's head visible in the foreground. The background shows a green wall with various posters and notices.

An enriching present and an exceptional future

At any time in the school year, students at McNab House are engaged in a whole host of activities designed to prepare them for what lies ahead.

Our rigorous academic program – involving rich texts, advanced mathematics, languages, science, history and the humanities, and a vast array of experiences in the creative arts – lays the foundation for students to explore the big ideas of their world in later schooling and beyond. It is complemented by an extensive cocurricular program and numerous opportunities for enrichment and extension, and together this learning program helps our students to become courageous, creative, curious, ethical, persistent, reflective and strategic thinkers.

But with so much of education about 'becoming', it can be easy to forget that it is also about 'being'. The Year Eight City Experience does help students build capacity for tackling the challenges of the future, but it is also lots of fun in its own right. And it is for this reason that it is so highly anticipated by our students. Debating and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award may look great on a future resumé, but this is not why these activities bring smiles to the faces of the students who participate: winning a debate or helping at the Salvos is its own reward.

By its very nature, education is future focused, and our Strategic Plan identifies very clearly Our Vision for a community engaged and empowered in learning for an exceptional future. But it also acknowledges the importance of an enriching present, and our learning programme provides experiences that provide joy, reward and satisfaction in and of themselves.

Anthony Simmons
Head of McNab House

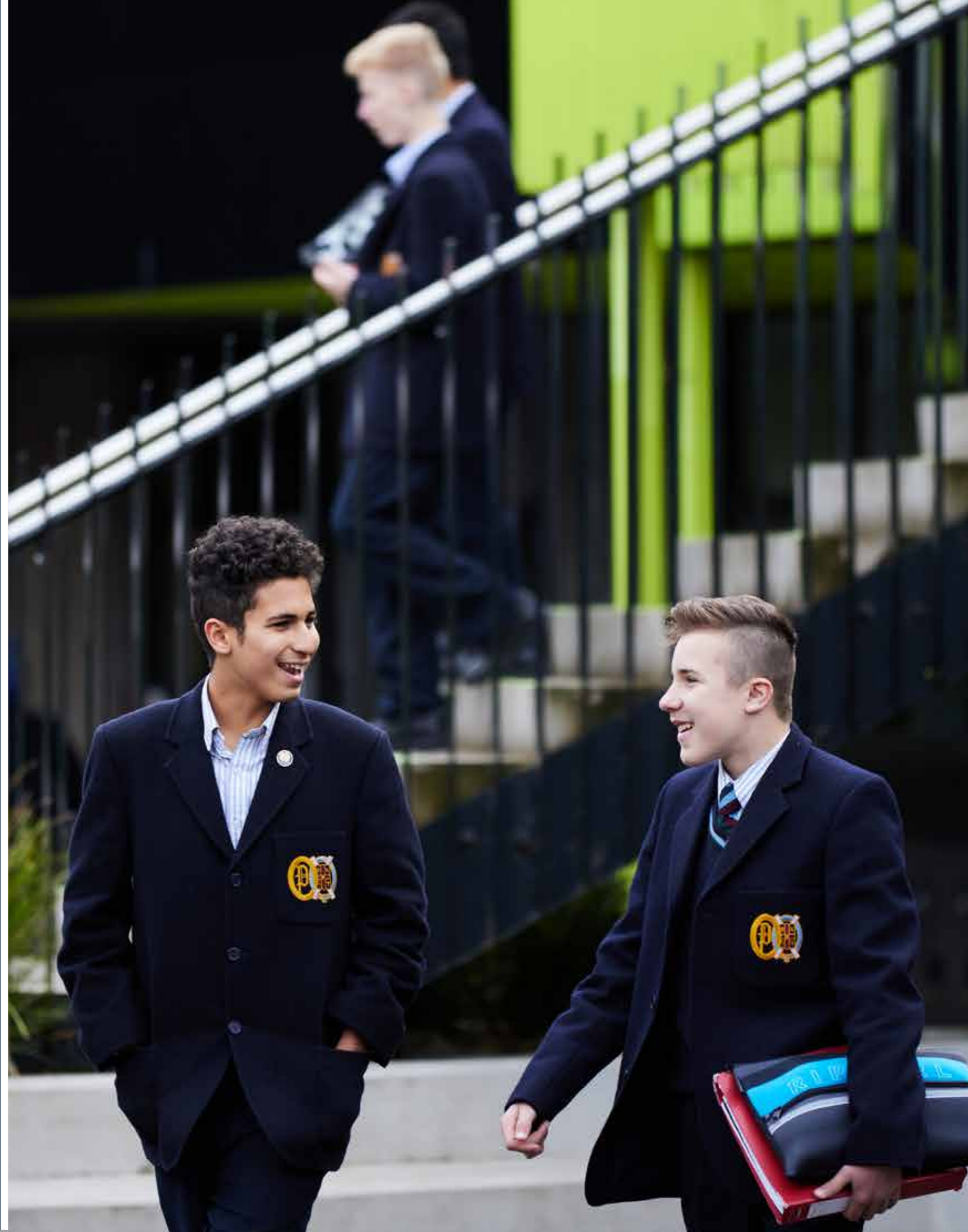
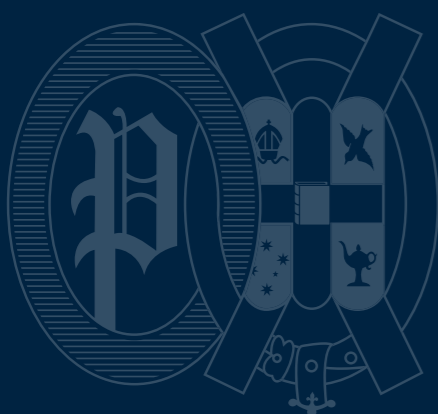
Year Ten visit the Holocaust Centre

Kindness: eight letters and two syllables, the word really just does rolls off the tongue, something that sounds so simple, but what does it really mean?

It means showing unconditional empathy and perspective to everyone, as we are never fully aware of what someone may be going through. It means being brave and not fearing judgement of others. It means standing up for what is right and emanating positivity, wherever you are.

Learning about the Holocaust has helped us understand the importance of kindness, empathy, and respect for all people. By studying this tragic event, we can see the dangers of prejudice and discrimination, and learn how to prevent such atrocities from ever happening again. Learning about the Holocaust helps us to become better people. The practice of kindness and fairness to all can be demonstrated through showing empathy for others and developing different perspectives. Helping each other, standing up for each other and being kind to each other: these were the traits highlighted during our visit to the Holocaust Centre. They are communicated to us to guide us through our lives and teach us not to waste a minute on being mean, but to be kind and enjoy life. It's shorter than you would expect.

Madi Spring-Brown
Year Ten



More than a game

On Friday 13 October, the Gottliebsen House students and staff had great fun competing against each other in a nail-biting three games of Dodgeball. With lots of intense moments, the day was a success, and everybody had fun. But the day was more than just a few rounds of Dodgeball. The event helped to raise funds in support of the RSPCA and Lifeline. The game helped strengthen bonds between fellow students, and staff too, and the positive energy and sense of community created by the event has fostered great friendships. Each person participating had a value on the teams, and there was a great deal of support from the sidelines too. We hope that this event has formed new bonds and added to the life of the school.

Max Trogrlic and Charlie Merritt
Year Nine

International Chemistry Quiz

The International Chemistry Quiz is an annual competition in which 100,000+ students from 21 countries across the globe participate. The quiz consists of 30 problem-solving style questions that are designed to challenge students. This activity aims to promote interest in chemistry and the role of chemists in our society through an exciting and stimulating challenge.

This year, Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School had 87 Year Eleven and Twelve students participate in the quiz, with 50 students achieving within the top 25% of the state. 25 of these students achieved within the top 10% and were presented with a certificate of 'High Distinction' by Mr Tim Watson and Ms Kate Dullard.

The Chemistry department would like to thank all students for their participation in this voluntary quiz and congratulate them on their fantastic achievements! We look forward to seeing what problems they can solve with innovative solutions as future chemists in our global society.

A year's growth

At the beginning of the year, the children entered our educational programs with wonderings, curiosity and a natural inclination to question and explore.

Through our inquiry programs, the children experienced a year of growth that was filled with curiosity, exploration, and discovery. Their learning was driven by their own questions and wonderings, supporting them to actively engage with the world around them.

The children asked meaningful questions, investigated, and sought answers both independently and as a collective. Their communication skills flourished as they expressed their thoughts, ideas, and findings with confidence. They became more independent learners, taking ownership of their education and developing a love for inquiry-based learning. This growth empowered the children to think creatively, develop a growth mindset, and approach challenges with resilience and perseverance.

Over the year, the children's cognitive abilities prospered as they strengthened their critical thinking and problem-solving skills. They became experts at observing, predicting, and drawing conclusions. Moreover, as the children collaborated with their peers, respected diverse perspectives, and communicated their ideas effectively, they further developed empathy, resilience, and a sense of agency as they took ownership of their learning journey.

By the end of the year, the children have grown into inquisitive and independent thinkers. They have developed a love for learning, a thirst for knowledge, and a strong foundation for future academic pursuits. The growth they have experienced in our inquiry programs sets them on a path of lifelong learning and exploration. Through hands-on experiences, they develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills. They learn to ask meaningful questions, investigate, and find answers through experimentation and research.

Lauren Olcorn
Director of Kindergarten





Camp

The purpose of life is to live it... to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experiences
- Eleanor Roosevelt

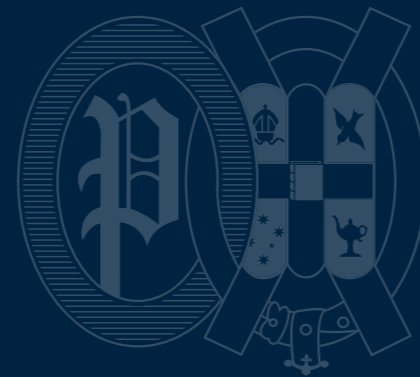
Term Four truly captures the essence of living life to its fullest by embracing new experiences with a growth mindset. In Year Nine students spend a day at the Cathedral Ranges experiencing a 25m abseil from the top of Mount Sugarloaf, and rock climb on a natural rock face. In Year Eight we offer a 'challenge by choice' on the high ropes course to provide a 'low entry, high ceiling' activity.

Activities are designed in the camp curriculum to challenge parameters of personal growth. Students develop resilience and a crucial understanding each individual approaches and processes a similar experience. The development of new skills and knowledge is then debriefed to allow students to connect these experiences with the wider world.

Term Four sees Year Three students begin their camp journey at Eildon. While there is a shift in curriculum, the critical element of offering new experiences to these students remains as powerful. These activities include a Welcome to Country with Aunty Jo, sharing cabins with friends and exploring the site.

We are proud that our students immersed themselves in Outdoor Education experiences in 2023, and we appreciate the energy that they bring to Eildon Camp. Each year we look forward to providing the canvas in which our students grow, develop, and engage in the outdoors.

Steve Collins
Deputy Camp Manager



Transition in the Early Years

Effective transition processes are essential in every year of school as they ensure continuity of learning, and allow students to begin their next phase of education in a position of optimal preparedness. The first year of school, in particular, involves a significant change in independence and expectations. As early as September each year, kindergartens turn their focus to school readiness and work with our Prep teams to begin the process of transition.

Families are invited to share their insights of their children during their visit to the school, and many questions are asked and answered as we explore the Prep classrooms and the wider grounds. Transition Development Learning Statements are delivered to the school, and these statements give voice to the child, educator and parent. The educator of every enrolled student is contacted to ensure a conversation about the student's interests and what sort of support each student might need. These conversations are valuable in helping us match students with teachers and new friends.

There are many transition activities, however, the highlight of the process is our two Prep Orientation sessions which bring the students together on their new campus. They are always a scene of colour, movement, music, stories, laughter and a wide-eyed appreciation of what is to come. Our staff remain focused on making sure all students leave these sessions secure in the notion that they will be well cared for and supported, new friends will be made, and learning will be fun.

Amelia Turner
Prep Coordinator, Junior School (girls)



Junior Mathematics Successes

2023 has been both a very busy and a highly successful year for our Mathematics students at both Junior School campuses.

Maths Games Days, organised by the Mathematical Association of Victoria and run by host schools, resulted in strong results at each year level with a first place in Year Five, and a first and second place in Year Six.

The Maths Talent Quest generated a large number of creative and ingenious investigations produced by students from Years Two to Six. After state judging, 18 of these went on to be awarded Distinctions, 23 received High Distinctions with one project by Anastasia Kasapis (Year Six) received the Jim Trotter's Award for Mathematical Excellence in Years Five and Six. A further two projects by Sarah McGinley (Year Two) and Henry Marques (Year Four) were selected to represent Victoria in the National Maths Talent Quest and won National Prizes.

The Australian Mathematics Competition, conducted by The Australian Mathematics Trust, saw 226 of our most able young mathematicians from Years Three to Six compete against the best and brightest in the state. Of those who competed, 99 of our students were awarded Credits, 76 Distinctions, 15 High Distinctions and a prize to Dilan Wickramasinghe (Year Six) for a perfect score.

The Australasian Problem Solving Mathematical Olympiad contest, conducted by The University of NSW, ran over four months and presented our Junior School teams with both challenge and competition. Seven of our students achieved a perfect score and our teams were placed in the top 10% in the country.

We would like to congratulate all of our students on these remarkable achievements.

Peter Maher and Phuong Choo
Junior School Mathematics Coordinators



Building our capacity in Melbourne CBD

At Year Eight we spend much of the year grappling with two key developmental questions: Who am I? and Where do I fit in? Whilst these questions immediately bring to mind social groupings and changing hairstyles, they also promote wondering about capacity, resilience and the wish to function independently without really knowing how.

Our annual City Experience brings much of this together. Students are placed in groups of around 10 students, many of whom they have not worked with before. They work together across three weeks to devise, plan and prepare for a tour of Melbourne CBD, on which they are expected to lead their mentor teacher. Students choose from a pre-set list of themes (fashion, architecture, history etc...) and must consider timing, transport, budgets and other logistical questions.

Every group has a unique adventure ranging from National Gallery explorations to Chinatown dumpling feasts to escape rooms and laser tag. Following the excursion, groups create a short video presentation and a screening is held. Students are always amazed at the breadth of activities other groups have engaged in and speak with pride about overcoming conflict, troubleshooting last minute obstacles and enjoying the fruits of their labours on the day.

All of our students have experienced something truly transformative – to focus on any one experience would do them a disservice. As one student noted at the end of the day, "I thought City Experience would be fun because we could hang out with our friends in the city. I actually found getting to know new people and making choices beforehand to be the best bit!"

Emily Atkins
Year Eight Coordinator, McNab House



Year Six Games Day winners Back Row: Krystal Nguyen, Elizabeth Xue, Rebecca Li and Olivia Nelson Smith
Front Row: Mihin Kaluarachchi, Toby Gilbertson, Zachary Symons and Jason Long

Millie Nardella

17 December 2007 – 29 August 2023

Kind, empathic, funny; these are all adjectives her friends and teachers use to describe Millie.

Millie came to Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School in 2022 and quickly found her place as a much-loved member within the cohort. She was a focused student, dedicated to her studies with aspirations to one day become a journalist or work in sports media. Millie was involved in many aspects of school life and she was a keen soccer and volleyball player. She loved school, life, her friends and her family with passion. Millie's sudden passing has left a mark on everyone that knew her. She will forever be missed but never forgotten. Rest in peace Millie.



Chess

Chess in Year Seven has been an enriching experience. The school chess community has been very warm and welcoming, with weekly chess club, zonal tournaments and the Northern Star state finals. With the assistance of our incredibly strong team and our amazing chess culture, and lots of competitions and tournaments, I was able to improve as a chess player.

At the start of Term 4, students qualified from the zonal tournaments to attend the Open State Finals and the Girls' State Finals. Fortunately, I had the pleasure of being able to represent PEGS at both tournaments and contribute to us winning the girls' champion title for a second year.

Myiesha Maunders finished in first place, winning 7 out of 7 games, and was awarded Year 11 to 12 Top Player, Crystal Du with 5.5 points was awarded Year 9 to 10 Top Player and Madeline Grant with 5 points was awarded third place for Year 9 to 10. With 6 points, I was awarded Year 7 to 8 Top Player.

PEGS is achieving great triumphs and we can only hope for more victories in the years ahead.

Claire Marasinghe
Year Seven

Middle Schools Cultural Assembly

In a remarkable display of unity and inclusivity, the Year Ten Social Justice Team hosted a captivating cultural assembly. This assembly, which involved both McNab and Gottliebsen Houses students, aimed to embrace diversity and foster understanding through an enriching program of speakers and performances.

A diverse array of speakers shared their personal experiences and talked about their cultural traditions. The speakers eloquently highlighted the importance of cultural appreciation, unity, and acceptance.

Adding a touch of musical excellence, the Chinese Orchestra mesmerised the audience with their enchanting melodies. The Orchestra's performance not only showcased the beauty of Chinese music, but also symbolised the acceptance and celebration of different musical traditions from around the world.

One of the most visually striking aspects of the assembly was the vibrant display of cultural clothing. Many of the speakers proudly wore traditional garments, expressing their cultural heritage and identity.

The assembly concluded with a video featuring individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds from across our school warmly welcoming the audience in their native tongues, exemplifying the diversity within our community at PEGS.

The cultural assembly provided a valuable platform for students to learn about different cultures, fostering a spirit of tolerance and appreciation. It encouraged young minds to celebrate differences, debunk stereotypes, and forge meaningful connections with their peers.

Let us continue to embrace diversity, celebrate our differences, and create a truly inclusive community at Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School.

Arshina Ahsan,
Year Ten



Valuing the Artistic Journey

The vast array of artwork displayed in Limerock Hall during our Biennial Art Show in October not only served as a celebration of our students' achievements but instilled a sense of accomplishment and pride. It was a wonderful opportunity for students to see their work displayed for an audience and for the community to come together to appreciate Art at Junior School (girls). The journey of an art student is a transformative and enlightening one and the exhibition was tangible proof of their skill development and artistic growth throughout the year.

While the focus is often placed on the final product, it is equally important to value the process that leads to the creation of these works of art. As students learn to push through challenges and embrace uncertainty, they find joy in the journey and a love and appreciation of art, and art making. Creative learning experiences often involve trial and error and require students embracing mistakes as opportunities for growth and overcoming obstacles such as ceramics exploding in the kiln.

During the creative process, students are encouraged to explain the inspiration behind their pieces and to engage in meaningful conversations with peers and teachers. In learning to critique artwork and respond to feedback, students build a deeper understanding of themselves and the world around them and are more prepared for the rapidly changing world where flexibility and the ability to generate new ideas are highly prized skills.

Our students' creativity has inspired us all and we look forward to seeing how their artistic journey unfolds.

Julie Neylon
Acting Head of Junior School (girls)



Bike Education

One important aspect of growing independence is developing cycling skills to safely navigate bike paths and roads. Year Five students have been excited to participate in a Bike Education Course in Term 4 to support this goal.

The course enhanced students' awareness of road and path safety. This includes wearing the right safety gear, obeying traffic rules, using hand signals to communicate intentions, and recognising potential hazards. These skills lay a strong foundation for a lifetime of safe cycling. The course also introduced students to simple bike mechanics which can help prevent accidents and keep cycles in tip-top condition. They learned how to check tyre pressure, oil the chain, and ensure brakes are working properly.

Students practised skills to assist them to confidently handle various situations experienced on suburban roads, bike paths and trails; adapting their riding style, following road signs, and to be aware of the unique challenges each setting presents.

The Bike Education Course is an investment in the students' future cycling. We hope they will be safer cyclists and also develop a love for physical activity and recognise the sustainable mode of transportation that cycling can offer.

Brett McQueen
HPE and Sports Coordinator, Junior School (girl)



STEM Education in Year Four

This term, Year Four delved deeper into STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education with exciting experiments, incursions and fervent discussions about the world we live in. As Zoe Li aptly put it, "There are so many things in everyday life that I didn't realise included forces".

Using paper aeroplanes and parachutes, students investigated the non-contact forces of air resistance and gravity. Parachutes cascaded from the library steps, while classmates timed their aerial descent. Following their observations, students were encouraged to evaluate their designs and improve upon their original prototypes. While conducting these investigations, students honed their skills in hypothesising, measuring, and drawing conclusions.

To culminate the term, students undertook a STEM project: designing a vehicle with a 3D-printed number plate. During the design process, students embarked on a continuous cycle of experimentation, embracing the valuable lessons embedded in failure and building resilience through trial and error. The resulting vehicles were proudly raced at the annual Wacky Races event which showcased their creativity and ingenuity.

Enhancing the curriculum, incursions enriched students' science literacy and sharpened their 21st-century skills, such as critical thinking and collaboration. The 'Mad About Science' incursion introduced them to timeless simple machines. With DIY catapults and giant levers, they grasped the historical significance of these tools.

Meanwhile, the 'Dream City' incursion offered a STEM activity rotation. They programmed robots using Sphero Edu, navigated virtual realms, and underwent sport science drills to assess agility and strength. This immersive experience highlighted the real-world application of technologies, broadening their understanding of potential career paths.

Kalliopi Geromanolis
Year 3/4 Coordinator, Junior School (girls)



Farewell and thanks to Alan Shipp

After 35 years as a career advisor and 38 years as a specialist maths teacher here at the school, Alan Shipp is retiring. His long term professional commitment to career education was recently recognised by the Australian Centre for Career Education when he received their Fellowship Award. Overseeing the development of a highly regarded career program, Alan's key strength has been his ability to build strong connections with alumni and the wider community and draw on these connections to develop innovative career programs and opportunities for students that have inspired and informed generations of students. Alan's commitment to the school extends beyond the classroom to the sporting field where he coached Girls First Softball to a memorable double premierships and he continues to play cricket for PEGS Cricket Club. We wish Alan the best as he starts this next adventure and enjoys more time with his wife Jenny, children and grandchildren.



Preparing for a Career in Medicine?

At PEGS we get by with a little help from our friends!

With over 3500 students applying for 234 Victorian undergraduate medicine places each year the PEGS Careers Team know that competition to gain a place is intense. Successful students must achieve a high ATAR, excellent University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT) scores and make a great impression in the Multiple Mini Interviews (MMI). Luckily, each year we have wonderful alumni studying medicine who volunteer their time to support the Career Team and our current students as they undergo the rigorous process and prepare for the UCAT and the MMI.

In early March, students from the Class of 2022, Quinton Nguyen, Ruchi Bath-Samarakoon, Gitaanjali Nair and Alexander Sarossy presented on their preparation strategies and tips for sitting the UCAT and in late November ran an excellent MMI workshop. The Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) is designed to assess communication skills, specifically verbal and nonverbal skills that cannot be measured by standardised exams or transcripts. The team took the students through what to expect on the day and encouraged them to prepare by researching issues in health, reflecting on their own experiences and motivations for studying medicine. The students were exposed to a mock MMI gaining insight and feedback on scenarios and possible questions. It was great to see them honing their ability to articulate their critical and reflective thinking processes and gaining valuable feedback. We are so lucky to have the help of our friends at PEGS.

Investigating Defence Science Careers

On the final day of Term 3 a group of passionate Year Eleven science students travelled with the careers team to Fishermans Bend; one of many research bases of Australia's Defence Science and Technology Group (DSTG). The mission of DSTG is: to "safeguard Australia by delivering valued scientific advice and innovative solutions for Defence and national security." We spent the day exploring the base, seeing innovative technologies and participating in interactive activities.

First thing on our schedule was a chemistry activity simulating the analysis of "ricin" in a sample of sand from the beach, demonstrating one of the key tasks of the DSTG Chemistry Department. Competing against each other, we used a mass spectrometer to see whose sample obtained the highest peak, with the winner receiving an intensity of over 9000. We then toured a wind tunnel that was completed in 1941, which copies the actions of objects in flight in order to improve the aerodynamics of fighter jets, missiles, and submarines. The nearby QinetiQ Lab was also fascinating - equipped with large-scale manufacturing equipment and engineers that design and build mechanical solutions for various sectors of the DSTG.

Finally, the instructors reminded us about the importance of communication as we attempted to defuse bombs in VR, while our teammates relayed the instructions verbally to solve the puzzles.

The experience allowed us to gain insight into the work done by these scientists and engineers everyday and to learn about different career pathways within the umbrella of STEM that benefit us all.

Claire Hammond
Careers Advisor



Year Seven Debates

Term Four has seen McNab House open its doors to many schools from the Essendon region for the Debater's Association of Victoria Junior Secondary Program. We've been greeted with a sea of excited young faces keen to put their argumentative skills to the test.

Hannah Steel
Coordinator of Debating, McNab House

PEGS debating team participated in two rounds of debating on October 26th. Nine teams from around Melbourne competed. Each team consisted of 3 team members with different roles. The first positive speaker introduced the topic and identified each member's arguments. The first negative member looked at the opposition's arguments and created a rebuttal as well as implementing their own arguments. This back-and-forth debate continued until the last members summed up their team's arguments.

Our experience with debating was engaging and a learning experience. It was wonderful to learn about the structures of debate.

Then the debating began!
As the negative team, we were second to speak. At the conclusion of the first affirmative speaker, Andrew started our arguments. We went on to have a tense debate filled with arguments and rebuttals. Speaker after speaker, the debate went on. Until our last speaker, Austen, finished our debate in spectacular fashion, rebutting all our opponents' arguments. At the end, both teams waited tensely, as the adjudicator evaluated our debates. The room went silent. The adjudicator announced, "The winning team is... negative!"

The room erupted in applause with parents and opponents congratulating us. We felt on top of the world.

We then thanked the adjudicator and the opposition for such an extraordinary debate. It was an amazing experience that I will value forever.

Austen Jiang and Alex Wong
Year Seven



Senior Debating

The curtains have closed on another season of Public Speaking at the Larkin Centre with students toasting success in a number of competitions.

Our DAV A Grade Debaters made the state semi-final, finishing top four in the state. The team, consisting of Alexis Xerri, Adonna Woldeyes, Caroline Xie, Josephine Nguyen, Louie Zhao and Rachel Farish went undefeated in eight debates before bowing out to Dromana Secondary College in the semi-final at Melbourne Grammar. The B Grade team, comprising of Lila Teng, Eliza Murphy, Louisa Zhu, Sarah Macphee, Ivy Zhang, Induni Hendahewa, Amber Nguyen and Ella Stevens made it to the Octo-finals (final 16).

In the Evatt Competition (mock United Nations Security Council), Mustafa Hamdan and Simran Kaur (Year Eleven) went all the way to the state final, representing the school at State Parliament during the September holidays.

The Plain English Speaking Award, is the VCAA's flagship public speaking competition and Adonna Woldeyes advanced to the State Semi-final for the second year running while Alexis Xerri, (Year Twelve) Mustafa Hamdan and Simran Kaur participated in the Ainger Peck Public Speaking competition earlier this year.

The highlight for many, though, was the inaugural House Debating series held during lunchtimes in September. Students teamed up with teachers to put on an entertaining and witty display of rhetoric for packed audiences.

With more than 50 senior students participating in the program this year, Public Speaking continues to grow and be seen as a way for students to combine their interest in global and current affairs with crafting and presenting argument, all in a fun and inclusive social space.

Lee Crossley
Coordinator of Public Speaking



Ducklings

The Year Two cohort at Junior School (boys) has been investigating the lifecycles of different organisms in the General Studies unit 'Watch it Grow'. The highlight of this unit of study has been the introduction of ducklings into the classrooms. Each student has had the opportunity to observe a lifecycle stage change in real time and learn in a hands-on way, how to care for living things. Students have been tracking the weight of the ducklings and graphing their growth, as well as budgeting costings for raising ducklings if they were to raise them at home. A highpoint for all the students was watching their ducklings take to water and swim for the first time. Comparisons of the lifecycle of a duck have been made to the lifecycles of different organisms and similarities and differences have been discussed. Students were amazed that a duckling can swim after four or five days, yet it takes a human two years to learn how to walk.



A letter to myself on the first day of school

Dear Lucia,

Today is your first day of high school. I remember how nervous you are feeling. This year you will be reading 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens, in which Scrooge is visited by the spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Future. It illustrates ideas that you can apply in life, such as change, priorities and reflection.

High school is a unique experience, and every day comes with a new challenge, yet somehow it is just as rewarding as it is demanding. I know you are worried about making new friends, finding your classrooms, and doing well in your classes. Once you overcome the first couple of weeks, time will fly and you won't believe that you were ever that scared.

At first, your familiar routine is uprooted, but while it might seem scary now, remember that this is but a fleeting moment. You will grow to adapt to your timetable and soon you will wonder how you ever felt so nervous.

You'll learn many new concepts in each of your subjects. You'll particularly enjoy English classes and the study of different books and literature, experiences like One School Day, house events, and lunchtimes on the oval with friends.

Remember, as you navigate assessments and exams, "there is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good-humour."⁽¹⁾ So don't be too hard on yourself and enjoy this chance to build new skills.

This year will be an enlightening experience where you will grow as a person, and when you reflect you will be filled with happiness.

Lucia Dag (December 2023)

(1) Dickens C., 'A Christmas Carol' (1843)



Libraries in focus

During 2023, the PEGS libraries have been in a state of flux, with dynamic improvements made in each campus library. Modern school libraries are important learning centres and partners to teachers, students, and community.

Recent redesigns to the Larkin Centre and Junior School (girls) libraries have created delightfully inviting, functional and enjoyable learning hubs, that nurture teaching and learning. Endorsement for the library changes has been *deafening*, with students eager to enjoy, engage and find their new favourite space to work, read or study.

All PEGS libraries hosted National Simultaneous Storytime (NSS), with library sloths (teacher/librarians) reading to our junior school students and VCE students silently enjoying the gift of being read a storybook, *The Speedy Sloth*.

Bookweek 2023 was a truly auspicious occasion with PEGS libraries seizing the opportunity to celebrate literacy in all its splendour. Libraries hosted a plethora activity for students to engage and enjoy. Prince Charming lead a truly amazing Bookweek Prep-Yr2 Parade at the Essendon Campus, along with his delightful gnomes as ushers. Middle School library held its inaugural book week with students partaking in activities and winning prizes along the way.

Throughout 2023, the Junior School (girls) library has played host to many inspiring authors who've entertained and shared their love of literacy. Recently, the wonderful children's author Jacqueline Harvey weaved brilliant stories to Year 1 and 2 students. Jacqueline's warmth and humour shone as she read from some of her best-selling series' including 'Willa and Woof', 'Alice-Miranda', 'Clementine Rose' and 'Kensy and Max'. Jacqueline captivated her audience, but also sparked the creativity and imagination in the hearts and minds of every student.

Important inroads have been forged during 2023 and now PEGS libraries are poised for exponential greatness, after a tremendous effort from the library team.

James Durston
Director of Library Services

Year Eight Visit

The month of November reminds us that the end of the year is fast approaching, exams are imminent, and reports are not far behind. More recently, however, the month of November has been linked to facial hair above the upper lip on men all over the world as they celebrate 'MOVEMBER'.

November is about changing the face of men's health and while I won't bore you with the statistics, there is much we can do to improve these statistics and it starts with a conversation. In Year Eight, we have started these conversations and will continue to have them, not only throughout November, but as we continue through Gottlieb House.

Earlier this term, voice artist Nathan Robb joined us to talk about the importance of sharing a conversation with a friend or loved one. He shared with us some personal health issues he had endured recently and in the past and discussed the importance of not only looking after ourselves, but those around us, too. Nathan outlined the steps he had taken to achieve better physical and mental health and how it had helped him enjoy all aspects of his life just that little bit more.

Being a voice artist, Nathan was also kind enough to demonstrate his talents to the students who were entertained by his versatile range.

His final message for the group was for us to give our family, friends, and teachers the opportunity to help us when needed as that is what they want to do.

Gavin Tippett
Year Eight Coordinator, Gottlieb House



Maths Games at Middle School

2023 has been a strong year for the Gottlieb House and McNab House students who had the opportunity to compete at the Maths Games days supported by the Maths Association of Victoria. Represented by two teams of four students from each school, Games day activities include problem solving questions, puzzles and some fun games as well. In each round, teams accumulate points for correct answers.

On the 10 August, our Year Nine Gottlieb House team came first at St Albans Secondary College. Congratulations to Brendan Plover, Louis Suzuki Bevan, Aarush Walia and Raj Singh.

Our Year Seven Gottlieb House team also came first at Overnewton Anglican Community College on the 28 August Another amazing effort by James Zhen, Tim Lu, Lochitha Subasinghe and Jack Huang.

Trinity Grammar School held the Year 10 day on 30 August and we were on the podium again, with the Gottlieb House team of Aaron Goyal, Dan Ngo, Jamie Kuan and Lachlan Thai coming third.

One of the largest events was held on 6 September when we hosted the Year 8 day. Over 70 teams from schools as far away as Ballarat attended. Congratulations to the McNab House team of Ashley Liu, Catherine Heywood, Kathleen Ma and Zara Nathanielsz who achieved first place.

Congratulations to all of the students who participated and thanks to all of the students who helped out on the day of the event for your enthusiasm and support.

Silvana Nuspan and Tina Darestani
Middle School Mathematics Enrichment Coordinators



Australian Maths Trust State Awards

The Australian Maths Trust State Awards were presented at Wesley College on Tuesday 28 November.

Dilan Wickramasinghe from Year 6 received the Best in School and Peter O'Halloran Awards. This award is for any student who achieves a perfect score irrespective of other awards given and is named in honour of the founding Executive Director of the Australian Maths Trust.

Jack Huang from Year 7 received the Best in School and Australian Maths Competition medal. This award is for any student who achieves outstanding results within their year group for their state, territory or country.

Congratulations to Dilan and Jack on their outstanding results.



Dilan Wickramasinghe Year 6

ISV Poetry

Each year our students have the option of entering one of their poems in the ISV Poetry Competition. The boys at Junior School (boys) are always engaged when participating in poetry. Poetry is an outlet for expression, energy and passion. It is an opportunity to experiment with vocabulary and to understand the power words can have when placed thoughtfully together.

Maverick Lawrence Politis is one boy who embraced this opportunity to craft a poem titled 'My Greek Big Grandfather Who Came from There to Here'. This poem was the overall winner of the ISV Year 5/6 section.

He is a young sailor who became...
An immigrant
A husband
A taxi driver
A father and a grandfather

He is...
An exceptional handyman
A mathematical mind
Healthy of appetite
And, has a sharp eye for design

He is...
Rambunctious and loud
At times, volatile
Generous of heart
Memorable to all he meets

He is...
A committed worker
Loving father and grandfather
Glass half full person
Cares for everyone

He is...
Half deaf
And has a hug that can crush
Stronger than he knows
A gentle giant

We love him

He is...
My Παππου
George Politis - Γιώργος Πολίτης

Antonio Stamatis also wrote a thoughtful poem entitled 'My Dad's Valiant'. Written from the heart, Antonio showed his obvious passion in this piece. He was awarded an honorable mention in the ISV Year 3/4 section.

Two of our senior students (Jasmyn Carr and Marianna Mossonidis) won the written poetry section. The students can be seen reading their poems on the ISV Arts Learning Festival website. We congratulate Jasmyn and Marianna on their success. We also congratulate Malinsa Harshadeva who received a notable mention.

Ouroboros

Please,
Oh please,
won't you cry me the ocean?
Penelope, my love, my love
I'll sail for the stars
in your silver threaded eyes,
as you watched for the heavens above,
You've always been good,
you've been good to me, my lover
Against my heart, as it bears
on you, and you,
my lover,
my bearing
Take me like a Shrike
And impale me
with your tongue,
hungry like thieves,
yearning for more
cunning words, sharper thorns
to prick at the hands
that want,
'On to the next,' you say,
You indelible song bird
of prey
For you, my lover,
Penelope, my love,
Unweave your shroud and
lead me back to your
hallowed ground
A voice, tearing,
screaming at me,
You are not God-chosen,
you are just ordinary.
Penelope, my love,
My lover, Penelope.
Teach me how to sail
through this wine dark sea
You are the beginning
and the end of my
errant conviction
You, the wind,
guiding
Me, the voyager,
In my odyssey, in my love
for you,
for the sea
Though my ending is not you,
I would prefer the tender woven words of the Shrike
to pierce my skin
Than the soundless strike in ocean blue ink
from a stranger,
My own kindred kin
I raise my sails
to a fate sealed by
Blind devotion
To you,
To the sea,
My love, my lover,
My Penelope.

Jasmyn Carr, Year Twelve

The Death of The Sun - Part 2

Little Moon ponders,
Why must I watch
These humans consumed by hate?
They ruin me.
Their cries echo the ghosts of their past.
Poor Little Moon.
Does she not realise that she too is a ghost?
She stalks the world each night,
Not to be seen nor heard.
And when dawn rips through her,
It's like she was never there to begin with.
Earth's children were locked away and kept
Under a mask of crimson worshipping eyes.
When the darkness opens its mouth,
the children are blind.
They yearn for the Sun
And finding her in dayspring fairytales
That lull them to sleep, and bring them respite.
Little Moon weeps, for she knows the truth,
That the sun is a tyrannical being, the ruler of all.
Little Moon's craters and scars
Are handmade by the Sun.
Her embers get snatched on Earth's breath
And the trees whimper as they all become tiny suns too.
Little Moon watches a stream of vermillion
And purple bloodshed in the sky
Each time the sun sets,
Weighed down by the day's affairs.
Finally her fiery orange fists can no longer silence the moon
And steal the glory from her.
Little Moon aches,
yet she bathes us in silver each night.
A silent guardian
Protecting us from the creatures of the dark.
Who will watch out for you, Little Moon,
When we're all sleeping beneath your soft gaze?
The eclipse; the cure.

Marianna Mossonidis, Year Eleven



Memories Kaylene Humphry

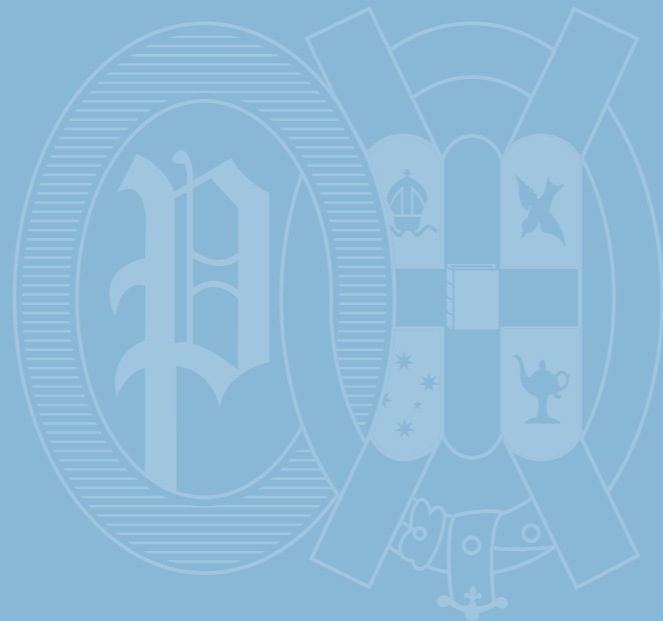
The school community was saddened by the recent death of Kaylene Humphry, a much valued and respected member of the Library team for almost 18 years. We offer our deepest condolences to Kaylene's family; her loving husband, Andrew, and three children who attended PEGS: Rachel (Class of 2019), James, and Laura (Class of 2021). Kaylene will be remembered with affection by all who knew her.

Memories of Kaylene Humphry by Kerrin McCrum, Director of Library Services

Kaylene Humphry started work at PEGS in 2006. She was an experienced and professional Library Technician who had worked in school libraries in Warrnambool and Heidelberg and the public library in Williamstown. She had special expertise in audio visual and computer technology. At PEGS she had dual responsibilities between the Library, where she managed all the audio visual equipment, recording and dissemination of programs and the Information Technology section, where she managed all the school photocopiers, computer audits and technology repairs.

Kaylene was exceptionally competent and skilled in everything she did. Her organisation, attention to detail, reliability, understanding of libraries and emerging computer technologies, skills in developing work processes and procedures, willingness to learn and to innovate and follow up, completion and evaluation of everything she did, made her an outstanding worker.

When I first met Kaylene in 2008, she greeted me with a big smile, immediately made me feel welcome, provided an overview of the facility and its resources, explained how everything worked and offered assistance for any queries. She loved her job, was committed to excellence and the provision of help and service to staff and students. Everyone was important, no request was too small and everyone was recognised and valued. She took pride in everything she did, shared her knowledge and understandings, provided help wherever she saw the need and demonstrated, each day, incredible empathy, kindness, understanding and support to colleagues and clients.



Duke of Edinburgh Award



I first heard about the Duke of Edinburgh Awards from my great uncle, Paul Nolan, who completed it in England in 1956 at the age of seventeen.

The award has three levels; Bronze, Silver and Gold. Each level is made up of four sections which include Physical Recreation, Skills, Voluntary Services and Adventurous Journeys. Approximately half of the Year Nine students at McNab House participate every year and we have meetings fortnightly on Wednesday mornings. I have recently been awarded the Bronze Award. For the Adventurous Journeys, I completed abseiling, rock climbing and solo navigation at Camp. For the Skills section, I played the harp and completed my Grade Six AMEB Harp exams. For the Physical Recreation section, I chose golfing, and for the Voluntary Services section, I volunteered at the Salvation Army in Sunshine.

The highlight was co-organising the Charity Recital at the Salvation Army, to collect toiletry donations for women in prisons. Many friends including some PEGS students showcased their musical talents. I also volunteered in the Bunnings sausage sizzles, food packing, children's mentoring sessions and the Red Shield Appeal. This opportunity has allowed me to make our society a better place through service and to make new friends. I am so grateful that PEGS provides us the opportunities to participate in the Duke of Ed!

Gracie Luong
Year Nine



Austrian Summer Camp

In March of this year Mrs Riley informed our German class about an opportunity to apply for a scholarship to a summer camp in Austria run by the Goethe Institute, an organisation which promotes the learning of German all around the world. The application process involved a 2-minute video, followed by an interview with Goethe Institute representatives. I was one of six Australian students selected to attend the summer camp on a full scholarship. We arrived at the Jugendhotel Tauernhof on 2 July with students from around the world. I shared a room with boys from Spain, Turkey, and the UK.

Our days at the camp consisted of structured German lessons in the morning and we were also afforded the freedom to explore an autonomous class project and time for independent social interactions with our peers. This enabled me to form a number of friendships and close connections with others from different countries around the world. I have maintained these relationships and we are in contact often, enabling us to continue to practise German speaking skills together.

The memories I made in Austria are some that I will treasure, and I'm glad to have built bonds with like-minded students who are passionate about German language and culture.

Xavier Engel
Year Eleven



München - Welten in einer Stadt

Munich – worlds in a city

During Term Three this year I joined twenty other teachers from countries around the world to study German language and culture at the Goethe Institute in Munich. Many of our lessons took place in the city itself, including a walking tour where we learnt all about historical buildings like the Glockenspiel, the Siegsäule statue and fountain at the Marien Platz square, and the Alter Peter and Frauenkirsche churches.

One afternoon I visited the 'Sophie Scholl' memorial and museum at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, which was special as we had been studying the resistance fighters of the 'White Rose' in our Year 12 German class. I stood in the atrium where Sophie threw leaflets to her peers, and I saw the leaflets in the pavement in front of the University, reminding us of the incredible sacrifice that these brave young students made to speak out against Hitler.

At the Viktualienmarkt, we had to find something to represent the market for every letter of the alphabet and sampled many of the local specialties from sausages to cheese, flowers and local handcrafts. At the Lenbachhaus art gallery I completed a research project based on an oil painting by Franz Marc, Blue Horse I, painted in 1911. You can't taste, touch, see or hear culture from sitting at your computer screen. You can only truly begin to understand another country by speaking the language and immersing yourself in the culture.

Vielen Dank für eure Aufmerksamkeit! Viel Spaß beim Sprachenlernen!
Thank you very much for your attention! Have fun learning languages!

Jenine Riley
Coordinator of German

French Journey

In Term Three, the Year Eleven and Twelve French students participated in the Berthe Mouchette Competition. While this is an exciting event on the calendar which I look forward to every year, naturally there was a mixture of nerves and jittery anticipation in the weeks and days leading up to the date. Entering VCE French furthermore meant that there was the additional challenge of a daunting nine-minute oral exam instead of a poem recital. Nevertheless, this presented a valuable opportunity to further our French skills and immerse ourselves in the language.

Though there were some failed pronunciation attempts, hastily written practice essays and unexpected mind blanks along the way, I gave it my best shot and was satisfied that the end result was well worth the effort. Little did I know my journey in the competition had not ended there...

A month later, I was ecstatic to find out that I had gone through to the finals. Anxiety once more became a familiar companion and I found myself rehearsing my oral again and again. Yet, my sense of pride and achievement was indescribable once the final word was written and the final sentence said. In the end, I won First Place in the Year 11 Written Exam and Overall Best Year 11 Student!

Learning a language is an ongoing journey, one that perpetually expands one's horizons and enriches one's life. Similarly, this competition too was a journey and one for which I'm forever grateful.

Ivy Zhang
Year Eleven





The last day

One of the few certainties in life, is that when Year Twelve PEGS students leave their final church service, tears will be shed and embraces had – Literature students, Specialist Maths students, hardened AFL players, violinists, people with a strong sense of their futures and others with no clear sense of what the following year holds for them; different people unified by a feeling that they have shared something they will never have again.

The other thing we have come to rely on is a dry sunny Celebration Day. But not this year. The Snow Whites and Steve Irwins had good reason to be jealous of the Santa Clauses, Storm Troopers as the cold wind blew across the oval. Yet when the rain came, the smiles remained. Picnic rugs were turned into umbrellas, burgers and burritos were collected, and people huddled together to enjoy their meals – an image that spoke of the close friendships, adaptability and resilience of the year level. At PEGS, we value Year 12s celebrating their final days with generous good humour, respect and gratitude. This was laudably evident in 2024, given the trying conditions. It is no wonder that tears were shed by so many the following day. Confucius observed that “they must often change, who would be constant in happiness or wisdom.” Leaving can be a sad time, but we are confident that something exciting lies before the Class of 2023. We wish them well.

Anthony Quirk,
Senior Year Twelve Coordinator

Art award

On Thursday, 5 October, I was fortunate to be awarded first place in the 'Interschool Art Competition,' which took place at renowned Manyung Gallery in Strathmore.

Manyung Gallery has been a part of Moonee Valley for about 2 years now, hosting wonderful events that engage with the art-loving community. The 'Interschool Art Competition', hosted beautiful artworks from many students in the district and four prizes were presented.

The experience itself I will fondly remember for years to come. My parents and I had arrived later than expected, and right as we entered the door my friend Robbie ran down the stairs, plate of food in hand, and exclaimed, "Frankie you won!" Heads turned as I followed him up the stairs and past the artists and friends who had come to support us, to be congratulated with a welcoming handshake from the Gallery's Director, David Wemyss-Smith, in front of where my portrait hung.

Receiving first place was a gratifying and humbling experience. The award signifies not only my personal achievement, but also a connection with the art community alongside my artistic classmates. Of course, this opportunity wouldn't have been possible without the guidance and support of my dedicated art teacher, Mr Brown. His mentorship and encouragement throughout played a vital role in helping me achieve this recognition, as he was the one who entered my self portrait and those of my classmates, Robbie Ly and Laura Novelli, into the competition.

I'm deeply grateful to the team at the Manyung Gallery.

Frankie Dawson
Year Eleven



Chinese music

We were very lucky to have two music teachers teach us about traditional Chinese musical instruments. They gave us a live performance of three different Chinese instruments and explained how each one worked. The first instrument was the 'Hulusi' which plays chords through pipes similar to a bag pipe. The second instrument was the 'Dizi', which looks like a modern flute. The final instrument was the 'Erhu' which requires the musician to drag a bow across the two strings to create different notes. It was so wonderful to see a different aspect of Chinese culture and hear the unique tone of each instrument.

Maddie Hateley
Year Eight

In all honesty I wasn't all that interested at first, when Mr Leubin introduced the performer. I watched as Mr Ma brought his Erhu out of the case and readied his bow. The first song he played was a song called "Horse racing". The song was animated and fiery, the music faded in and out, building up a suspenseful effect. The second song played was majestic yet sorrowful. It was bewildering how many tones and emotions a single instrument with only two strings could express. I had never properly learned an instrument before, but now I decided to take a step forward and try something new, so that maybe one day I could be proud that I made the decision to start playing Erhu.

Peisen Xu
Year Eight



Junior Sport successes

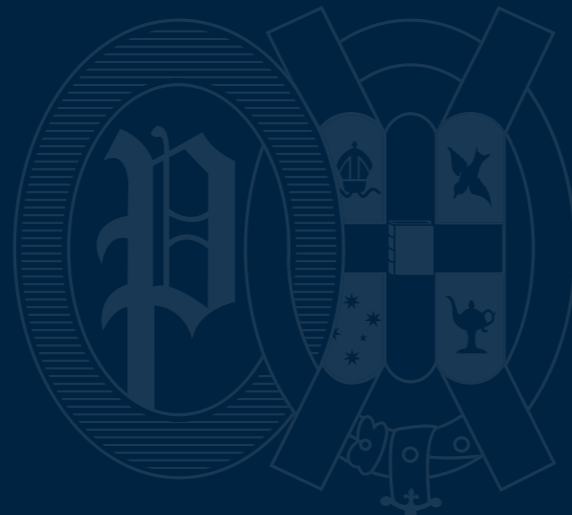
During Term Four a number of Junior School students were involved in sporting events at the elite level for primary schools.

Year Six students Eli Rados and Aston DeMarco represented the school with great distinction in the National Schools Soccer Competition. Having endured a rigorous selection process involving hours of training and matches the boys were selected in the two Victorian teams. Both boys demonstrated extraordinary skill and sportsmanship throughout the tournament with Eli's team going on to win the National Championship.

Four Junior School students also participated in the State Athletics carnival. The 10 years 100 metre relay team of Antonio Stamatis, Henry Marques, Yuthmin Hewage and Leo Jackson (Year Four) performed remarkably well to finish fourth in the state final.

Antonio Stamatis also represented the school in two individual events, the 800 metres and 1500 metres. Antonio finished fourth in the 1500 metre final and was the silver medallist in the 800 metres. This capped off an incredible year for Antonio, having finished fourth overall in the Victorian Cross Country Championships earlier in the year.

Graeme Sharman
Head of Junior School (boys)



Music in Term Four

As we draw to the end of this busy year for music, we have had many exciting performances to share with our community.

The Year Two String Programme concerts on 15 and 20 November presented some of our youngest musicians, mostly at their first concert. The Adventures of Peg story was accompanied by students playing pieces they learnt during the programme. The audience was delighted and amazed at the ability of these children and the appeal of the cute factor.

Our final concerts were the Suzuki Graduation Concert, Junior Christmas Concert and the Carol Service.

The Suzuki Graduation Concert is a celebration of student achievement and receipt of their certificates. It was also held in the HR Stevens Music Centre Auditorium at the Keilor East campus, which provided an acoustic and visual treat.

The Junior Christmas Concert was held in the Ian Morton Centre at the Essendon campus for a near capacity audience of family and friends. All the major junior ensembles performed to celebrate the end of the school year and the beginning of the Christmas season.

The Carol Service at St Paul's Cathedral was the formal marking of the Christmas story celebrated in prayer and song. This exceptional venue always adds to the wonder and anticipation of Christmas.

Amanda Rowarth
Director of Music



Concerto Concert delights

The annual Concerto Concert is always a special event because it showcases our most advanced musicians as soloists. It is also a challenge for the accompanying ensembles, Symphony Orchestra and Curro Strings, as the music is challenging for them too!

This year we had seven students and one staff soloist presenting a wide variety of instrument. We also heard music from various composers ranging from the 18th to the 20th century (Mozart – Arnold).

The student soloists were
Tiara Tubman (Year Eleven) piano;
Samuel Lee (Year Ten) guitar;
Lisa Zhang (Year Eleven) oboe;
Xavier Martin (Year Twelve) trumpet;
Charlotte Nguyen (Year Eleven) cello;
Cameron Truong (Year Twelve) clarinet;
Alan Huynh (Year Ten) piano.

Our special guest soloist was our Coordinator of Voice, Claire McDonald who sang a beautiful operatic aria by Handel.

If you haven't been to a Concerto Concert before I recommend that you attend this special evening on 5 September 2024.



Claire McDonald



Charlotte Nguyen (Year Eleven) cello;



Samuel Lee (Year Ten) guitar



Alan Huynh (Year Ten) piano



Tiara Tubman (Year Eleven) piano



Lisa Zhang (Year Eleven) oboe



Xavier Martin (Year Twelve) trumpet



Drama in the Spotlight

The highlight of the VCE Drama calendar is the virtuosic seven-minute solo performance held in October of every year. The externally assessed solo performance examination is unique as students have a list of ten characters they may select from to create their performances. The VCE Drama class of 2023 are a talented group of performers who have seized this opportunity to make entertaining and compelling original solo work.

It has been an honour to work with the class as they have researched, crafted, and rehearsed their solo performances. The class have also enjoyed the expert counsel of past PEGS students Eliza Carlin (Class of 2017) returning after graduating from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) last year, as well as Hugo Iser-Smith (Class of 2022) and Amy Todd (VCE Drama Premiers Award, Class of 2022) who offered valuable feedback and guidance to the group. The outcome for each student was an exceptional polished performance that truly showcased their performance skills. Chookas to the class of 2023!

Lauren Barnes
Year Level Coordinator, Larkin Centre

Lawn Bowls

Warning, this article will be bias! However, for a group of our Senior students they are already converted and agree that lawn bowls is a fantastic summer sport. Each week our squad train at the Essendon Bowls club under the expert guidance of their coach Wayne. Wayne develops and refines the squad's skills and technique to ensure the bias of the bowl is utilised correctly, kept in the rink and stops as close to the jack as possible. While also teaching our students how to read the green and set-up play. Strategies on how to achieve the most shots in an end are plotted and the importance of effective communication is emphasised as a critical element for success. These tips and techniques are put into action each week at the Heidelberg Bowls club as our squad rolls against opposing AGSV schools. While the physical actions on the green are less vigorous than other sports, the competition itself is fiercely contested. As players eagerly compete for the ultimate praise made famous by the classic 2002 film Crackerjack. The tip of the skipper's, or in this case, Wayne's cap.



Gold!

Congratulations to Year Ten student Josh Leszczynski who represented Victoria at the National lawn bowls Championships in September at Tweed Heads. Victoria won gold and Josh was selected for the All-Australian Merit team as one of the top 10 players at the Championships!



Victorian All School Athletics

After amazing results at the AGSV Athletics Championships, which saw our girls squad finish second by only 25 points and our boys fifth. Ten of our students elected to compete in the Victorian All School Athletics Championships. Over the two weekends of competition, each of our students represented the school with pride as they competed in a variety of track and field events. Amongst our athletes some very impressive results were achieved. Madigan Carroll (Year Eight) crossed the line in second place of the U15 girls 800m. Dilan Egodawatte (Year Eleven) dominated the U18 distance events placing 3rd in the 1500m, 2nd in the 800m and became the State Champion of the 3,000m in a time of 8:48.53! In the sprint events Luca Sebastiano (Year Eleven) lit track up by achieving a brace and winning both the U18 100m (10.86 sec) and U18 200m (21.94 sec).



Two Twenty Twenties

On Friday 8 December, our Firsts and 10A cricket teams played host to two touring teams from Brisbane Boys College. All teams enjoyed playing the reduced over format on immaculately prepared wickets at the Keilor East campus. Post-match the teams were able to socialise and enjoy each other's company in the new gym's function space.

Student Leadership

In 2023 we launched our new leadership structure involving a number of committees each chaired by captains. The different committees each have a responsibility for providing student leadership in the areas of student learning, student wellbeing, performing arts and speaking, music, sport, and community service and activism.

Each captain is a member of the student executive which is chaired by our School Captains.

Students that wished to apply for a leadership position were required to submit a written application. Those that applied for a Captain position then presented a speech to the 2024 cohort and a vote took place involving Year 11 and 12 students and staff across the school. Students were then invited to interview for the position they were interested in.

A full list of successful candidates can be found below.

We congratulate these students and look forward to the important work they will do in 2024 in providing student voice, agency and leadership at Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School. We also wish to thank the students that were unsuccessful in attaining a position for the courage they have shown in putting their hand up to be involved.

Tim Watson
Head of Larkin Centre



School Captains 2024

- Community Service and Activism Captain
- Music Captains
- Performing Arts and Speaking Captain
- Sports Captains
- Student Learning Captain
- Student Wellbeing Captain
- School Captains

- Juliette McCarthy**
- Noah John**
- Simran Kaur**
- Lachlan Steward**
- Louisa Zhu**
- Victoria Dellas**
- Ella Nunan**
- Michael Sena**
- Olivia Powell**
- Benjamin Gray**

School Leaders 2024

- Big Blue Bonanza Leader
- Community Service Leader
- Dance Leader
- Debating Leader
- Drama Leader
- Environment Leader
- Feminist Collective Leader
- Music Leaders

- Samuel Baker**
- Christian Failla**
- Isabella Sloan**
- Sarah Macphee**
- Ruby Parkin**
- Dylan Tran**
- Aish Sharma**
- Nicole De Silva**
- Marsianna Mastrantuono**
- Maddison Papadatos**
- Tiara Tubman**
- Amy Hawking**
- Anvita Mehta**
- James Tran**
- Lisa Zhang**

- PEGSequal Leader
- Public Speaking Leader
- Reconciliation Action Plan Leader
- Social Justice Leader
- Sports Leader: Badminton Captain
- Sports Leader: Basketball Captain
- Sports Leader: Cricket Captain
- Sports Leader: Swimming Captain
- Sports Leader: Swimming Captain
- Sports Leader: Table Tennis Captain
- Sports Leader: Tennis Captain
- Sports Leader: Tennis Captain
- Sports Leader: Touch Football Captain
- Sports Leader: Triathlon Captain
- Sports Leader: Triathlon Captain
- Sports Leader: Volleyball Captain
- Sports Leader: Volleyball Captain
- Student Learning Leader

- Jackie Chehade**
- Malindu Wickramanayake**
- Marsiana Mastrantuono**
- Stella Hughes**
- Ashlee Cox**
- Gus Papal**
- James Martin**
- Keira Daquino**
- Lachlan Steward**
- Domenico Gallicchio**
- Jessica Nuen**
- Charlie Louros**
- Rachel Wooden**
- Audrey Box**
- James Sarris**
- Chloe Mott**
- James Tran**

- Student Wellbeing Leader

- Vansh Agarwal**
- Hamish Brewer**
- Lillian Sun,**
- Daniel Golding**
- Zoya Kailani**
- Amber Nguyen**
- Lily Bird**
- Ella-Bleu Paterson**
- Jadelyn Tran**
- Thomas Hart**
- Henry Moffitt**
- Sophie Testro**



School Awards

School Awards recognise leadership, dedication and excellence and honour the contribution made by students to the life of the school.

Principals Award

The Principal's Award is the highest category of school awards. It honours an ongoing, outstanding and broad contribution to the school by a graduating student who has set the highest standards of commitment to the academic and cocurricular life of the school.

In 2023 thirteen students are recipients of the Principal's Award. We commend and thank these graduating students for their lengthy and exceptional contribution to the school.

Xavier Martin	Trixie Quach
Sebastian Italiano	Ronan Kelly
Máire McEvoy	Luke Yuan
Joseph Monitto	Jasmyn Carr
Eadie Milne	Christian Labagnara
Chloe Petranis	Cameron Truong
Adonna Woldeyes	

School Colours

Full Colours holders are the leaders within the school community and, through their continued commitment, set a fine example for younger students as well as enjoying the personal rewards to be had from a school experience which establishes a balance between studies and wider interests.

We congratulate the following students who have been awarded Full Colours in 2023 and thank them for their valuable contribution:

Year 12

Fayzan Abdul Sathaar	Cricket
Charlie Ackerman	Contribution to School Sport
Jesse Armstrong	Contribution to School Sport
Alanna Atanasovski	Contribution to School Sport
Bonnie Autupuna	Contribution to School Sport
Alara Bagdadi	Contribution to School Sport
Nethuli Bandara	Contribution to School Life
Melis Benli	Contribution to School Life
Asha Brydon	Senior Choir Vox Populi
Jasmyn Carr	Drama, Contribution to Music
Sebastian Carta	Triathlon, Football
Maximus Carta	Triathlon, Football
Kieran Chau	Chindamo Jazz Combo
Ryan Cox	Contribution to School Sport
Jessica D'Souza	Drama, Cheetham Singers, Senior Choir Vox Populi
Josh Davidson	Academic
Chelsea De Silva	Cricket, Soccer
Falak Desai	Senior Choir Vox Populi
Georgia Duggan	Contribution to School Sport
Portia Farah	Contribution to School Sport

Rachel Farish	Drama
Florelle Fernando	Contribution to School Life
Maximilian Fortelny	Hockey
James Gale	Hockey
Christopher Gan	Contribution to Music
Megan Gan	Music Technology Ensemble
Amy Gaylor	Contribution to School Sport
Amy Gong	Chinese Orchestra
Dylan Gough	Stage Band
Lachlan Hall	Football
Malinsa Harshadeva	Social Justice
Ben Holub	Community Leadership
Eric Huang	Tennis
Kiara Istanto	Soccer
Sebastian Italiano	Cheetham Singers, Concert Band, Senior Choir Vox Populi
Vanessa Jacob C	Community Leadership
Oliver Kal	Football
Madison Kelly	Hockey
Ronan Kelly	Triathlon, Cross Country
Christian Labagnara	Guitar Ensemble, Chindamo Jazz Combo, Stage Band
Koby Lack	Swimming
Maggie Le	Touch Football, Hockey
Lorren Maccora	Cross Country
Xavier Martin	Fencing, Cheetham Singers, Stage Band
Charlotte Mason	Senior Choir Vox Populi
Aarzu Mavi	Football
Lachie McArthur	Football
Marie McEvoy	Athletics
George Mihailidis	Soccer
Angela Milisic	Fencing
Estelle Millard	Contribution to School Sport
Eadie Milne	Drama, Senior Choir Vox Populi, Academic
Joseph Monitto	Social Justice
Lachlan Montebello	Public Speaking
Jas Nguyen	Curro Strings, Symphony Orchestra
Josephine Nguyen	Drama
Keilana Nguyen	Touch Football, Social Justice
Thomas Nightingale	Contribution to School Life
Vincent Nigro	Cross Country
Angelina Novelli	Senior Choir Vox Populi
Lachlan O'Rourke	Swimming
Onaya Peiris	Contribution to School Sport
Chloe Petranis	Contribution to School Life
Julian Phang	Music
Tiffany Pickett	Senior Choir Vox Populi

Benjamin Pitcher
Trixie Quach
Jade Reaburn
Jack Read
Yasmin Ritter
Charlotte Roberts
Alannah Salvador
Chanel Sassine
Dhiran Senanayake
Paityn Still
Callum Timms
Aiden Tran
Rosemary Trinh
Cameron Truong
Imogen Webster
Jack Whitehead
Katie Wo
Adonna Woldeyes
Alexis Xerri
Luke Yuan

Hockey
Curro Strings, Symphony Orchestra
Tennis, Football
Contribution to School Sport
Symphony Orchestra
Contribution to School Life
Touch Football, Symphony Orchestra
Curro Strings, Symphony Orchestra
Contribution to School Sport
Triathlon
Contribution to School Sport
Music Technology Ensemble
Senior Choir Vox Populi
Volleyball
Senior Choir Vox Populi, Social Justice
Football
Senior Choir Vox Populi
Public Speaking, Social Justice
Public Speaking
Table Tennis, Chinese Orchestra, Senior Choir Vox Populi, Symphony Orchestra
Community Leadership
Senior Choir Vox Populi, Symphony Orchestra

Liyana Yusuf
Elissa Zartaloudis

Year 11

Ayushi Amarasekera
Matthew Arthur
Samuel Baker
Chloe Baker-West
Audrey Box
Abbi Burns
Milla Conn
Frankie Dawson
Charlee Duff-Tytler
Dilan Egodawatte
Jason Fabiano
Christian Failla
Domenico Gallicchio
Sienna Gauci
Holly Gong
Tony Gu
Jensen Hancock
Chloe Hang
Amy Hawking

Contribution to School Life
Academic
Contribution to School Life
Football
Contribution to School Life
Contribution to School Life
Contribution to School Sport
Contribution to School Life
Contribution to School Sport
Contribution to School Sport
Tennis
Community Leadership
Table Tennis
Contribution to School Sport
Academic
Academic
Tennis
Academic
Contribution to Music, Athletics

Induni Hendahewa	Contribution to School Life
Stella Hughes	Contribution to School Life
Noah John	Stage Band
Mia Landgren	Community Leadership
Sienna Lee	Academic
Thomas Legudi	Contribution to School Sport
Sarah Macphee	Academic
Marsianna Mastrantuono	Contribution to Music, Social Justice
Sienna May	Dance
Juliette McCarthy	Social Justice
Anvita Mehta	Contribution to School Life
Jack Mihailidis	Soccer
Oliver Neo	Hockey
Jacob Nimmo	Swimming
Noah Nimorakiotakis	Hockey
Jessica Nuen	Tennis
Maddison Papadatos	Contribution to School Life
Gus Papal	Contribution to School Sport
Ruby Parkin	Dance, Drama
Olivia Powell	Contribution to School Sport
Molly Rawson	Drama
Kalan Roach	Contribution to School Sport
Michael Sena	Concert Band, Senior Choir Vox Populo, Symphony Orchestra, Cheetham Singers
Isabella Sloan	Dance, Drama
Mingjun Song	Academic
Lillian Sun	Academic
Sophie Testro	Community Leadership
Jessica Tran	Academic
Dylan Tran	Contribution to School Life
James Tran	Contribution to School Life
Tiara Tubman	Contribution to Music
Joshua Whitfield	Contribution to School Sport
Rachel Wooden	Community Leadership
Lisa Zhang	Academic

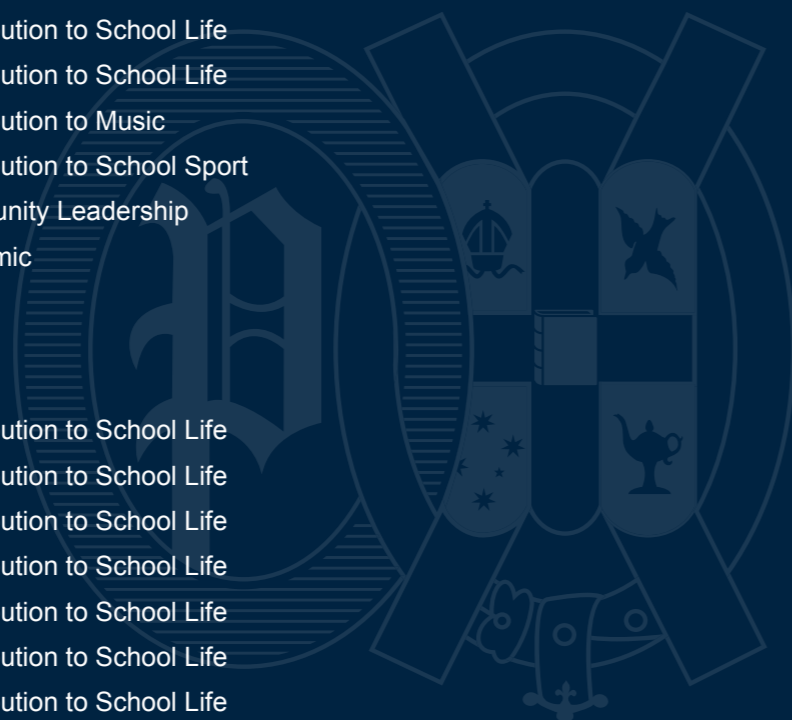
Year 10

Sejal Agarwal	Contribution to School Life
Lloyd Birch	Contribution to School Life
Alexander Cirone	Contribution to School Life
Mia Cook	Contribution to School Life
Jemima Daniell-Edwards	Contribution to School Life
Ella De Zoete	Contribution to School Life
Mia Dellas	Contribution to School Life

Crystal Du	Contribution to School Life, Community Leadership
Cooper Duff-Tytler	Contribution to School Sport
Alicia Gec	Contribution to School Life
Aaron Goyal	Contribution to School Life
Kate Hannan	Academic
Alessandra Heywood	Academic
Alan Huynh	Contribution to Music
Noah Irwin	Contribution to School Life
Samantha Klinkatsis	Community Leadership
Daniel Kostandinov	Contribution to School Life
Alanah Anh Le	Dance
Max Le	Contribution to School Life
Janice Leung	Community Leadership
Audrey Li	Basketball
Camryn Liddle	Community Leadership
Alessia Mancarella	Contribution to School Life
Lily Newman	Community Leadership
Elin Oveisi	Contribution to School Life
Eason Paini	Contribution to School Life
Aalia Rashid	Contribution to School Life, Community Leadership
Simon Roseman	Academic
Thomas Sagar	Community Leadership
Thamindri Samarasinghe	Contribution to School Life
Stevie Siafalis-Tsiatsios	Contribution to School Life
Greta Tatham-Thompson	Contribution to School Life
Cameron Thompson	Contribution to School Life
Lachlan Toussaint	Contribution to School Life
Queena Xue	Contribution to School Life
Jessica Zhu	Academic

Year 9

Jayda Bagdadi	Community Leadership
Edessa Jacob	Community Leadership
Chloe McCulloch	Community Leadership
Allegra Passarella	Community Leadership
Zara Read	Community Leadership



Half Colours

Half Colours are the school's second highest award and, again, are normally awarded to senior students.

We congratulate the following students who have been awarded Half Colours in 2023 and thank them for their significant contribution.

Year 12

Grace Astell	Contribution to School Life
Yiannis Attilakos	Brass Ensemble
Tom Avramopoulos	Contribution to School Life
Gabriel Barnes-Moslaves	Contribution to School Sport
Asha Brydon	Volleyball
Ethan Bugeja	Soccer
Alexander Chrisant	Soccer
Darcy Cooke	Contribution to School Sport
Tessa Cristiano	Touch Football
Josh Davidson	Tennis
Jessie Farrell	Senior Choir Vox Populi
Dylan Gough	Chindamo Jazz Combo
Tessa Hughes	Cheetham Singers, Senior Choir Vox Populi
Sebastian Italiano	Clarinet Ensemble
Timothy Jose	Volleyball
Andy Ma	Music Technology Ensemble
Khushi Mahida	Tennis
Caitlin Marshall-Pearson	Touch Football
Xavier Martin	Chindamo Jazz Combo
Aarzu Mavi	Volleyball
Eadie Milne	Cheetham Singers
Marianna Mossonidis	Social Justice
Asher Newell-Glaisyer	Soccer
David Nghiem	Volleyball
Tiffany Pickett	Symphony Orchestra
Trixie Quach	Senior String Quartet
Yasmin Ritter	Concert Band
Dante Rosini	Cross Country
Alannah Salvador	Curro Strings, Senior String Quartet
Chanel Sassine	Senior String Quartet
Niirvek Shah	Public Speaking
Bim Silva	Contribution to School Life
Paityn Still	Football
Amelia Tran	Tennis

Brendon Trieu	Public Speaking
Rosemary Trinh	Cheetham Singers, Music Technology Ensemble
Cameron Truong	Clarinet Ensemble, Chinese Orchestra
Katie Wo	Cheetham Singers
Elizabeth Woerndle	Football
Leontien Wright	Social Justice
Alexis Xerri	Cheetham Singers
Caroline Xie	Chinese Orchestra, Stage Band, Senior Choir Vox Populi, Symphony Orchestra, Public Speaking, Social Justice

Year 11

Matthew Arthur	Chess
Chloe Atkins	Drama
Conner Bassett	Football
Caitlyn Burnside	Senior Choir Vox Populi
Camryn Bux	Football
Isabella Cvetkovski	Soccer
Mia Daskalovska	Soccer
Nicole De Silva	Contribution to School Life
Quinn Digney	Soccer
Olivia Falzon	Soccer
William Forsythe	Contribution to School Sport
Domenico Gallicchio	Stage Band
Imogen Giles	Basketball
Daniel Golding	Basketball
Benjamin Gray	Basketball Referee
James Hately-Williams	Drama
Katie Iliopoulos	Soccer
Marko Jovcevski	Soccer
Lucas Jurgec	Soccer
Billy Karambelas	Percussion Ensemble
Audrey Kerlin	Soccer
Charlie Louros	Tennis
George Matsoukas	Symphony Orchestra, Senior String Quartet
Chloe Mott	Contribution to School Sport
Eliza Murphy	Contribution to School Life
Charlotte Nguyen	Symphony Orchestra
Ella Nunan	Clarinet Ensemble
Ruby Parkin	Hockey
Alannah Perryman	Softball
Loc Pham	Senior Choir Vox Populi

Molly Rawson	Senior Choir Vox Populi
Oscar Richards	Cross Country
Samuel Ryder	Senior Choir Vox Populi
James Sarris	Contribution to School Sport
Luca Sebastiano	Athletics
Michael Sena	Drama
William Sophocli	Contribution to School Sport
Sienna Stathis	Soccer
Ella Stevens	Senior Choir Vox Populi
Lachlan Steward	Swimming, Hockey, Athletics
Lila Teng	Contribution to School Life
Sophie Testro	Contribution to School Sport
Mia Tully	Football
Eliza Vargiu	Soccer
Emily Vassiliadis	Soccer
Jasmine Walker-Johnson	Basketball
Malindu Wickramanayake	Senior Choir Vox Populi
Rachel Wooden	Girls Touch Football 1sts
Lisa Zhang	Senior Choir Vox Populi, Symphony Orchestra
Louisa Zhu	Contribution to Music

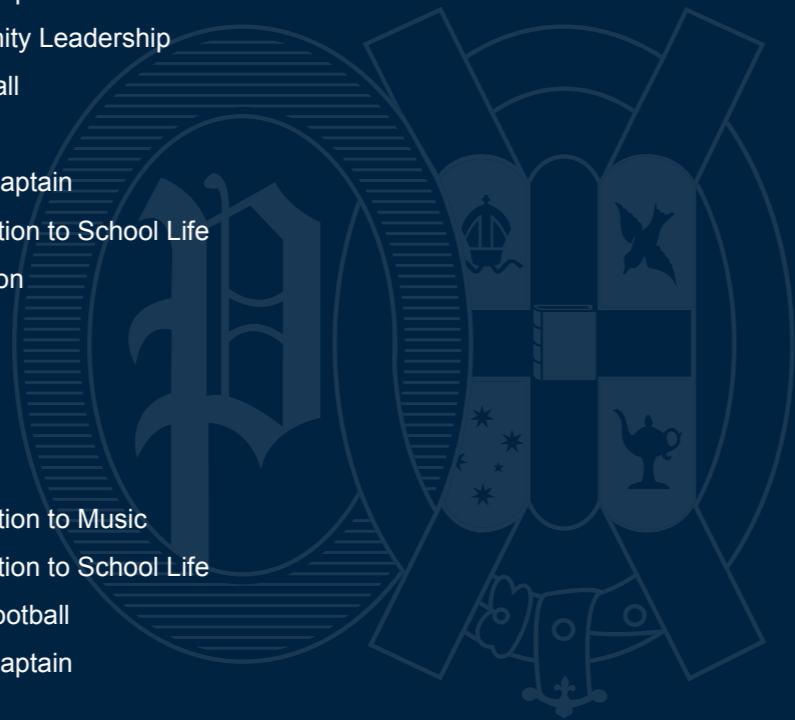
Year 10

Isabel Allen	House Captain
Ethan Arkininstall	Hockey
Liam Clark	Fencing
Zain Deen	Athletics
Joshua Feil	House Captain
Aaron Goyal	Community Leadership
Amelia Gray	Basketball
Maddison Hall	Football
Alessandra Heywood	House Captain
Calvin Hua	Contribution to School Life
Elizabeth Joseph	Badminton
Zara Kemal-Yates	Hockey
Natasha Labagnara	Netball
Edward Lanting	Soccer
Angus Le	Hockey
Samuel Lee	Contribution to Music
Hannah Lim	Contribution to School Life
Charlotte Marshall-Pearson	Touch Football
Chiara Mazza	House Captain

Noah McMenamin	Contribution to School Sport
Bailey Mercieca	Community Leadership
Bao Nguyen	Badminton
Tony Nguyen	Badminton
Jasmine Nguyen	Touch Football
Demitra Petrellis	Contribution to School Life
Sebastian Pitruzzello	House Captain
Charlotte Ristig	Contribution to School Sport
Dillon Sassine	House Captain
Vera Sondhu	Community Leadership
Madi Spring-Brown	Contribution to School Sport
Oscar Steward	Contribution to School Life
Archer Tatham-Thompson	Community Leadership
Lachlan Thai	Contribution to School Sport
Jason Tran	Contribution to School Life
Sophia Wang	Contribution to School Life
Shaun Wong	House Captain
Lara Wynn	Contribution to School Sport

Year 9

Mia Arkininstall	Community Leadership
Ayaan Chowdhary	Tennis
Mia Layton	Contribution to School Sport
Gracie Luong	Community Leadership
Eliza Rendina	Community Leadership
Ella Tran	Community Leadership
Raissa Tubman	Contribution to Music





From the Archives Brigid Cooper Archivist

Significant Anniversaries

Along with the 50th Anniversary of the opening of McNab House for Senior Students in 1973, there are other significant events from years ending in three.

1953 – 70th Anniversary of Limerock Hall

An account in the Penleigh Magazine 1953 shows that Penleigh Presbyterian Girls' School students were very excited:

Goodness knows how it all happened, but immediately after Christmas there were rumours of terrific activity in Penleigh's eastern school-yard. Earth-removing monsters following hard on the heels of tree-fellers had to make way for a team of colourful Italian trenchers. Then brick walls began to rise at incredible speed ... Finally the roof was on, and hey presto! We had a large gymnasium and two new classrooms! Fathers to the rescue once more, providing all the extras – lights and blackboards, paint and more paint, so that in second term we were able to move in and enjoy our elbow-room. Riches indeed!

The "gymnasium" is now known as Limerock Hall. It was a single storey building initially with upper classrooms added on later.

Opening of the New Block

On the afternoon of Sunday, June 7th, a large number of Penleigh parents, friends and pupils gathered to see the new gymnasium and two classrooms officially opened.

Miss Limerock, who has had such close and long association with Penleigh, came to perform the opening ceremony, and when she had untied the ribbons of gold, blue and white, the doors were thrown open and the visitors entered.

After the singing of Psalm 100 and a portion of Psalm 24, the Rev. T. G. Allan proceeded with the dedication of the building. The Rev. R. G. Foyster, Chairman of the Presbyterian Board of Education, and Rev. F. Sadler, Moderator of the Presbytery, also took part. At the conclusion of the service, Rev. Allan and Miss Pearson thanked those who had contributed in any way to the new building. Miss Limerock was presented with a set of teaspoons embossed with the Penleigh crest.

Afterwards visitors had an opportunity of inspecting the new classrooms at the rear of the hall, and everyone present felt that this was another forward step in the progress of the School.



Limerock Hall with Mrs Klen at the lectern. This photograph was included in the Centenary History "Splendoured road from Dorset." (PEGS Archives [PH04525])



Penleigh Presbyterian Ladies' College 1971 Assembly in Limerock Hall with Mrs Klen at the lectern. (PEGS Archives [PH04525])

1983 – 40th Anniversary of the PEGS Board of Management

On 24 March 1983 the PEGS Board of Directors held their first meeting. This was the final piece in building the PEGS we know today. In 1969 the two school councils of Penleigh Presbyterian Ladies' College and Essendon Grammar School integrated and began to hold joint meetings with one Principal, Rev H R (Bert) Stevens, instead of functioning as separate entities. When the school finally officially amalgamated in 1977 it became known as Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School and was governed by the PEGS Council.



Some members of the PEGS Board of Management in 1998. (PEGS Archives [PH05717])



Board Members and Senior Staff on their first visit to the newly-purchased Eildon Camp 1985. (PEGS Archives [PH07563])

2003 – 20th Anniversary of winning Rock Eisteddfod 'The Secret of the Taj Mahal'

2003 was an amazing year for the PEGS Rock Eisteddfod team. The team, made up of students from Year 7 through to Year 12, competed in the Open Division and won their Heat in August. Here's the write-up in the Term Three Principal's Newsletter:

Each school develops a theme through the music selection and dance that is performed. The romantic and exotic tale of the Taj Mahal, constructed in northern India (1638) by the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife who died in childbirth, provides a splendid vehicle for our dancers. Considerable research went into the production of the piece with its Indian music, costumes and dance moves. This was acknowledged by one of the judges who praised the "explosion of colour that captured India so well."

Then, in September PEGs won the Grand Final, but that wasn't all:

The school secured an astonishing nine awards: Performance Skill, Costuming, Set Design and Function, Stage Use, Drama, Soundtrack, Visual Enhancement and the prestigious duo of Entertainment and Choreography. Principal's Newsletter Term 4 2003



Students, Luisa Navanteri, Ben Williamson and Emma Notarfrancesco, rehearsing in the East Keilor Gymnasium. (PEGS Archives [PH08553])



2003 Rock Eisteddfod Team. Back L-R: Justin Murray (Dance and Drama Director), Nelson Estrella (Dance teacher), Joan Whitfield (Art teacher), Noel Thomas (Carpenter). Front L-R: Jennifer Adams (Art teacher), Luisa Navanteri (Dance Leader), Ben Williamson (Dance Leader), Kylie Hammond (PEGS Archives [PH08547])

PEGS Former Students Association and Business Network

2024 Events

FSA Reunions

- Class of 2014 10 Year Reunion - Friday 22 March, Penny Young, Young St, Moonee Ponds
- Class of 2004 20 Year Reunion - Friday 1 March, Penny Young, Young St, Moonee Ponds
- Class of 1994 30 Year Reunion - Friday 15 March, Penny Young, Young St, Moonee Ponds
- Class of 1989 35 Year Reunion - TBC
- Class of 1984 40 Year Reunion - TBC
- Class of 1973/1974 50 Year Reunion - TBC

In order to hear about upcoming reunions please make sure we have your recent contact details by emailing us at fsa@pegs.vic.edu.au. You are also encouraged to join your 'PEGS - Class of' Facebook group for event information, booking details and photos of your reunion afterwards.

LinkedIn

PEGS Business Network's specific purpose is to connect all members of the PEGS community in business, creating opportunities for collaboration and growth that benefit the community as a whole. To request membership, please login to LinkedIn and search for 'PEGS Business Network'

Facebook

If you have a Facebook account, please search for PEGS Former Students' Association and PEGS Business Network and like our pages. If you are a Former Student, be sure to find your Facebook 'PEGS Class of' closed group to stay in contact with your peers and get regular updates on reunions and other PEGS Community events.

Announcements

AWARDS

Kathryn Mumford [Class of 1998], promotion to Full Professor (2024), Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology, University of Melbourne

DEATHS

Norma Carter (née McPherson) (Penleigh 1934 - 1944, Prefect, Chaucer House Captain, EGS Ladies' Social Club, EGS Old Grammarians' Mothers Group "Old Mums"), wife of Raymond (wife of Raymond (PEGS Council/Board 1977 - 1985), mother of Dr John [Class of 1970], Ross [Class of 1973], grandmother of Laura (2003), Penny (2004), Sasha (2009) and Edward (2011), on 19 November 2023, aged 95.

FRASER, Kitty (née Johnston) (Penleigh 1946 - 1949), in Boort Hospital 2013, aged 85.

HUMPHRY, Kaylene (Staff - PEGS Library 2006 - 2023), mother of Rachel [Class of 2019], Laura [Class of 2021], James [Class of 2021], on 23 September 2023, aged 57.

KNEE, Janet (née Robertson), (Penleigh 1943 - 1952), wife of Donald Knee (EGS 1943 - 1947), mother of John [Class of 1975], Jennifer [Class of 1977] and Peter [Class of 1979], grandmother of Matthew Knee [Class of 2003], Kathryn Knee [Class of 2004], Benjamin Knee [Class of 2005], Sarah Lawrence [Class of 2006], Christopher Knee [Class of 2007], Bronwyn Knee [Class of 2008], Tamsin Lawrence [Class of 2008], on 4 July 2021, age 86.

Chloe Saltou inspires Class of 2023



Persistence and perseverance - these were the key messages The Age's sports editor and PEGS Class of 1994 member Chloe Saltou imparted to the PEGS class of 2023 at their Valedictory dinner held recently at the Melbourne Showgrounds. The nearly 1,000 guests on hand at the lavish, state-of-the-art Victoria Pavilion listened on in awe as Chloe told of her rise from a 21 year old cadet to The Age's chief cricket writer for over a decade before becoming the paper's very first female sports editor.

From being ignored by cricket great MS Dhoni to being eyeballed by AFL legend Mick Malthouse, Chloe's capacity to embrace change despite not always being ready for it, a curious mind and ability to think outside the box saw her succeed in an area for too long dominated by her male counterparts. Her drive and determination saw her cover some of sport's greatest contests including Commonwealth and Olympic Games, cricket World Cups and one of sport's oldest rivalries - the Ashes series between Australia and England.

Today Chloe's love for her role is only matched by her passion for mentoring young journalists, especially females looking to break into the business, and she continues to advocate for women being represented equally in sport and the media and being paid equally for it.

James Lavender Senior Golf Champion

James Lavender (PEGS 1979) was recently crowned the Australian Senior Amateur Champion for 2023. After three days of competition in Western Australia, James prevailed by a slim margin at Lake Karrinyup Country Club, marking a successful defence having also claimed the 2022 title.

Not content with his victory however James backed it up a week later with a win in the West Australian Senior Amateur at Royal Perth making it two 54-hole championships in the space of eight days. He now holds state titles in Tasmania and Western Australia alongside the National title and 24 Club Championships at Northern Golf Club.

James travelled to Western Australia hopeful of defending his national title and improving his world ranking in the Age 55+ category however he exceeded even his own expectations returning home with two trophies and a world ranking of number two. An outstanding effort!



Pegs Soccer Club Youth Clinic

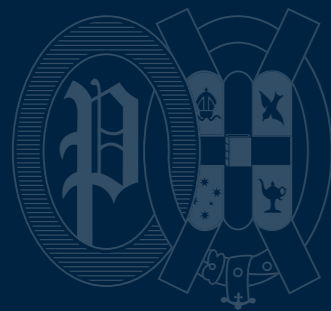
Following on from the success of their Term 3 event the PEGS Soccer club is holding another clinic at the PEGS sports field on Saturday 16 December. Open from ages 5 -13 for all levels of ability this is a chance to learn new skills in a safe and fun environment.

For further information please contact the club at pegsoccerclub@gmail.com.

PEGS Teddy Bears

Get your teddy bears dressed in the PEGS Summer Uniform now!

The Former Students' Association & Business Network is selling PEGS Teddy Bears dressed in the PEGS summer uniform. At a cost of \$80 each they are an ideal gift for those starting in Kinder or Prep or for those finishing Year 12 as a graduation present. Email fsa@pegs.vic.edu.au for an order form now!



Class of 63

We met for lunch at The Kent, North Carlton, on 14 October, and talk soon turned to school days sixty years ago. The first of the Baby Boomers, 43 of us crowded into Form 1 (Year 7) in 1958, setting a class size record at Penleigh. Ten of us remained in 1963 for Matriculation.

Friendships and happy memories have lasted and as Karen Kent (Robottom) reflected, 'We were all so fortunate to attend such a lovely school and to enjoy our schooldays'.



Form 1 1958

Back Row: Carol Taylor, Jillian Burnside, Lesley Rosier, Heather Macpherson, Claire Hird, Kaye White, Karen Robottom, Deidre Cowan, Helen Watts

Second Row: Dianne Boden, Glenda Johnson, Name?, Heather Burgess, Jill Clough, Helen French, Sandra Thompson, Diane Jackson, Heather Weir, Roslyn Hazeldine

Third Row: Susan Raisbeck, Rosemary Pickett, Lesley Aaron, Robyn McKernan, Kerry Jones, Marilyn Black, Josephine Vereker, Kaye Hughes, Pam Fisher, Margaret Wing, Helen Spear

Fourth Row: Carol Davies, Pam Grinham, Gail Robertson, Dianne Steedman, Kristine Forge, Susan Johnston, Anne Morrison, Jill Stewart, Helen Migios

Front Row: Janifer Mellor, Lesley Eagleson, Yvonne Ruane
Absent: Patricia Russell



2023

Standing: Jill Cayzer (Clough), Tricia Vine (Russell), Rosemary Stayner (Pickett)

Seated: Claire Moore (Hird), Helen Dapiran (Watts), Anne Atkins (Morrison), Karen Kent (Robottom), Susan Griffiths (Johnston), Jill Oreo (Stewart), Glenda Kueng (Johnson), Robyn Neilson (McKernan)

Reunion Program

The School reunion program offers PEGS former students the chance to catch up with their fellow alumni and reminisce about those wonderful school years. The last few months have seen reunions from 1983, 1993 and 2003 as well as an unofficial 5 year reunion for the class of 2018.



Friends of PEGS

Craft Market

On any other occasion the resounding scream of kids in the schoolyard may raise cause for concern. For our crowd-roaring blockbuster Craft Market, not all squeals are driven by sheer terror. For most, it is the sheer delight of speed-defying thrillrides, or succeeding at a game of Splat the Rat. Maybe it's the gleeful surprise of bumping into a school friend on Saturday that raises the spirits, or was that a slightly singed tongue from biting into 'hot-off-the-press' sausages that squealed?

It is dizzyingly noisy. It is celebratory carnivalesque. We love it. On Saturday 7 October, FoPEGS annual Craft Market was a rousing festival event. The mainstage platformed our student ensembles, kicking off with a rock band and swinging us throughout the day with showcased talent from classical pieces to jazz combos – in sound and movement.

Thank you all devotees of PEGS who rolled up your sleeves and worked to make Craft Market successful for our School and our students. Thank you volunteers, parents, teachers, Committee members and budding dessert chefs. Behind-the-scenes and audience-facing, it is generosity of spirit, time and effort that makes PEGS Craft Market a gloriously, noisily lively event. We applaud you. Our students revel in and remember the moment.

At PEGS, we work hard. We play hard. Our annual Craft Market is dedicated to play – all day.

2023 Reflection

From picnic-blanket family huddles at Movie Night in February; to a welcome embrace for our new-to-PEGS Year 7 Meet 'n Greet in March, Friends of PEGS celebrates milestone moments across the year – for parents and their children.

In 2023, we revisited and revived crowd-favourites, including the spark that ignites our students' eyes. Brimming with choice at Mothers, Fathers, Carers Day Stalls, students were enthusiastically searching for a surprise gift. FoPEGS Committee team love presenting a surprise. Our mid-year Trivia Night tests trivia minds and cements warmly vibrant memories with heels-a-clack on the dancefloor. End-of-Year Luncheon, in December, is an admirable way to colourfully dress the past year's celebrations and welcome the next.

Enriching the life of the school

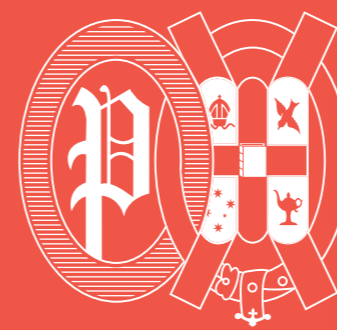
A vibrantly active and welcoming committee, Friends of PEGS is the school's parent association, which contributes to strengthening and enlivening the school community with a calendar of celebratory events for parents and students.

We thankfully acknowledge the dedicated voluntary commitment of FoPEGS Committee members, and welcome you to our spirited team. If you are interested in joining or contributing to our committee in 2024, we would love to hear from you. For more information, please contact Lyn LoMoro: 9016 2183 lyn.lomoro@pegs.vic.edu.au

2024 FoPEGS Events

Friday 23 February	Movie Night
Thursday 14 March	Year 7 Meet and Greet
Monday 18 March	Class Reps Meeting
Thursday 9 May	Mother's Day Stall Junior School (girls)
Friday 10 May	Mother's Day Stall Junior School (boys)
Thursday 29 August	Father's Day Stall Junior School (girls)
Friday 30 August	Father's Day Stall Junior School (boys)
Saturday 12 October	Craft Market
Friday 29 November	End-of-Year Luncheon





Strategic Plan

update

December 2023



Learning and thinking

Strategic objectives

- Set high expectations for all to promote intellectual engagement, complex problem solving, growth and self-awareness
- Use evidence-based strategies that drive academic and personal success
- Challenge every student to apply new knowledge through deep learning
- Use rigorous assessment practices and feedback to improve teaching and learning
- Cultivate tenacity, courage and drive

New initiatives/developments in 2023:

Learning and thinking are at the core of what we do, driving much of what we offer to our community. High expectations coupled with high support lead to student development. Our staff actively contribute to our learning community and play a crucial role in fostering a Culture of Thinking at PEGS.

Research points to the link between teacher development and student learning. Therefore, we provide opportunities for teachers to learn with and from each other, thereby building collective efficacy. A focus on evidence-based strategies continues to shape staff professional learning. In 2023, there has been a range of school-wide, sectional and smaller group foci. Under the guidance of Bron Rylie-Jones, teachers have concentrated on responsive teaching. This has been supported by ICT and e-learning, in providing better access to data to shape teaching and learning programmes via a new data dashboard. Emina McLean has guided staff in their approach to research in the Science of Reading. Teachers working with Terri Campbell have had a focus on improving student literacy and using feedback as a tool to drive ongoing growth.

Standardised testing data has been used to tailor support programmes for students. In addition, support

for Middle School students has been offered via Numeracy Plus and Language Plus. A review of results after one year of targeted intervention through Numeracy Plus reveals gains in mainstream mathematics for students involved in this subject. MYAT testing of all Year Seven 2024 students has taken place to enable planning for interventions from the beginning of the school year.

The Middle School Thinking and Learning Committee established three subcommittees:

- Assessment and Feedback
- Curriculum
- Classroom Culture and Pedagogy

Each subcommittee is researching the current evidence base and creating best practice statements in their area. The subcommittees will continue to meet throughout 2024 to discuss our alignment with best practice in each area.

At Larkin Centre, full implementation of Communities of Practice has taken place. This programme encourages teaching staff to engage in professional conversations about best practice teaching and learning. Eight groups were created based on 'best practice' research from AERO and in December, findings from these groups were presented to colleagues.

Further to this, teachers at Larkin Centre have implemented a research-based observation framework, Quality Teaching Rounds (QTR), to support effective reflection on teaching practice. The QTR group involved four staff that have completed training and a full set of rounds. A further QTR group has been established involving middle and senior school staff.

A peer observation system has been introduced for Music Staff. Instrumental teachers have observed a classroom lesson; an ensemble lesson; an instrumental lesson of the same family; and an instrumental lesson of another family, to build collective efficacy through evidence-based professional conversations.

At Kindergartens, staff have utilised the Inquiry Club to exchange readings, ideas and professional experiences, encouraging conversations around pedagogy. Kindergarten Staff were also recognised for their contribution to the Reggio Emilia International Conference held in Melbourne this year.

At all sections of the School, the energy teaching staff are devoting to developing their practice is testament to their commitment to supporting student learning and development through an evidence-based approach.



Care and wellbeing

Strategic objectives

- Foster of a culture of individual and community care
- Identify and develop initiatives to support the wellbeing needs of students and staff.
- Demonstrate our commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion

New initiatives/developments in 2023:

The School continues to strengthen its culture of care and wellbeing. The appointment of school nurses has provided improvements not only in the consistency of care that is offered at times of illness or injury, but also in the opportunity to review our practices at a system level. An example of this is the new Passtab system used to support record-keeping and the administering of first aid. In addition, automated absence notifications have been introduced this year to provide parents and caregivers with more timely information regarding student absences.

The School ensures that staff are given adequate training and support to be able to maintain a safe environment. Senior staff and OHS committee members have also had training and briefings around the new Workplace Health and Safety legislation, particularly regarding psychosocial hazards. In addition, an updated sexual harassment policy has been developed in line with employers' positive duty to recognise sexual harassment in the workplace, and all staff have completed a sexual harassment training module.

Our Health Administrator has supported staff in wellbeing roles by delivering Mental Health First Aid Training. There has been ongoing work to strengthen our commitment to inclusion and diversity. Kindergarten teachers' participation

in REAIE The Inclusive Community broadened their understanding of inclusion and responsiveness to both individual and group needs

The Reconciliation Action Plan group continues to make progress. Key actions for 2023 included: Having an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander presence on our RAP Committee; inviting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People to work with our staff and students; cultural competence training for staff; where appropriate, commencing significant events with a Welcome to Country; regularly conducting an Acknowledgement of Country at meetings and events; celebrating National Reconciliation Week; flying Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags; broad staff engagement with the RAP; celebrating the progress of our RAP; taking action against racism; through current affairs and formal curriculum, teaching about Reconciliation and planting an Indigenous Garden at Junior School (girls).

Various student programmes were delivered to support care and wellbeing. Examples of where this occurred include drug and alcohol education for Years Ten, Eleven and Twelve students, education about vaping through Middle School form programmes, and cyber safety incursions at Junior School. Victoria Police have also supported the school by delivering education sessions to students at

various year levels. To support parents and caregivers in managing issues related to care and wellbeing, the PEGSpace parent resource pages were established. These pages include resources on safety and screentime, mental health, relationships, managing grief.

In the cocurricular programme, work continues on practices to support care and wellbeing. A major development in 2023 was the introduction of Clipboard, an app to support all aspects of the programme. This app is being used to manage, schedule and monitor our summer sport season. As well as managing teams and fixturing training and games, it provides improvements to first aid reporting. Performing Arts will be using Clipboard for their summer Dance season and productions during 2024. The Music Department started a trial in Term Four to explore how Clipboard can be used to help with their scheduling of cocurricular lessons, concerts and recitals and other music management.

As well as the introduction of the App, other improvements to health and safety procedures include the development of documents such as Theatrical Hair and Make-up Guidelines, Drama Theatre front-of-house procedures, and Victoria Police Guide to Imitation Firearms (Theatrical Use), which improve child safety and reduce risk.



Engagement and connections

Strategic objectives

- Promote an environment of mutual respect
- Collaborate and share our story within and beyond the school community
- Build positive and productive relationships with parents and caregivers and alumni
- Promote a culture of open communication and feedback

New initiatives/developments in 2023:

The School has continued to develop opportunities for parents and caregivers to connect with school programmes, and for students to engage with the wider community.

A major project initiated and completed in 2023 was the development and release of the PEGSpace app. The app aims to make communication with parents, caregivers and other members of the community faster and easier to access. It also provides simpler options for payments, student information and absence notifications.

In the Kindergartens and Junior Schools, parent presentation days have been well-attended and allowed students to showcase their learning. Students have used the PEGS Podcast to share their stories with the wider community. Five episodes were released in 2023.

At Larkin Centre, Give Back Week included the promotion of a number of key voluntary groups and encouraged students to be more actively engaged in the community. The Social Justice group has expanded its focus and promoted a range of charities. Students have engaged with Elders from Indigenous communities via

Wurundjeri education sessions, and through Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremonies led by Wurundjeri and Taungurung Elders at our Melbourne and Eildon campuses respectively. An International Women's Day afternoon tea took place, supported by the McAuley Foundation. The afternoon tea was well attended by parents, staff and students and featured alumni women in science.

The introduction of a formal student leadership system at Larkin Centre, including School Captains and a Student Executive was announced in 2023 for implementation in 2024. Over 70 students applied for leadership roles, submitting an expression of interest, delivering a speech and for executive roles, completing an interview with senior staff. Student leadership roles were announced in Term Four.

The Year 9 Careers Expo was restructured and connected students with alumni and current parents from a range of fields as they explored careers relevant to their identified strengths. With the appointment of the Alumni Relations Coordinator in 2023, plans are in place to improve communication and connections to support the development of a more vibrant alumni community.

The School continues to refine its programmes to ensure students are engaged and have opportunities to learn and lead. This was evident when Year Seven interschool debating was introduced for the first time and met with great enthusiasm. Feedback from students, parents and staff has been gathered as part of our commitment to ongoing improvement, with formal surveys being conducted at all sections of the school.



III

Continuity and sustainability

Strategic objectives

- Embrace environmental, social responsibility and governance (ESG) best practice to ensure our school is sustainable for the future
- Ensure we follow best practice in compliance, and financial and risk management to continue to flourish regardless of external impacts
- Maintain the recruitment and development of outstanding and diverse staff
- Continuously develop resources and create assets, including ICT and facilities

New initiatives/developments in 2023:

Continuity and sustainability continues to be a critical factor in all decisions made regarding financial, physical and human resources. Our awareness of the impact of decisions, on our immediate community and on the community on a broader scale, informs our considered approach in these matters.

A major step towards maintaining the recruitment and development of outstanding and diverse staff was reaching agreement through the Enterprise Bargaining process, with the Fair Work Commission signing off on the PEGS agreement on 13 January 2023. To follow up on the commitments made during this process, a number of new positions of responsibility being developed and filled across the school. Several new roles, designed to reduce risk and support compliance, include a Risk Officer (whole school) and School Nurses (at Essendon, Moonee Ponds and Keilor East campuses).

Another key step taken, was the development of an Employee Value Proposition. This process involved surveys, interview and focus groups, and the outcomes give the school insight into why employees apply for positions at the school, why they stay, and also the factors that may prompt them to leave.

A Napier Street property was renovated and converted for use by the Friends of PEGS, Former

Students Association and Business Network, and Archives. The properties at 74-78 Fletcher Street, have been demolished and a new playground constructed on this site.

Works on the former Social Club at the Keilor East campus were completed and the Wellbeing Centre is now in full use. Students attending Eildon Camp enjoyed the use of new bathrooms, following renovations.

Other projects have included the upgrade of interactive screens in Gottlieb House, and the Limerock Hall projector. Attention has been paid to sustainability, both in terms of larger-scale construction projects, and day-to-day practices. Work has commenced on the installation of electric car charging stations in the McNab House car park, which will be powered by the solar panels on the gym. Hardware is to be installed in January 2024.

Food waste bins at Keilor East, have been installed as part of a plan to reduce landfill and use the food waste to either feed livestock or compost. More lights have been changed to LED and 78 Solar panels were installed on the social club roof as part of the renovation project in January 2023. 25 extra recycling bins have been added at Keilor East to reduce landfill. The school also purchased additional water rights to the Maribyrnong River to offset our water usage at Keilor Park. This water is also

recycled into our water holding tank on site. Our relationship with Cranbourne Botanical Gardens has continued, with new garden beds being installed at the Moonee Ponds campus in Raising Rarity programme.

The school has also taken steps to reduce its environmental footprint by reviewing printing and printers/copiers in the school. The school is moving to reduce paper-based processes, and a full transition to online enrolment processes was completed in 2023. Invoices and receipts are now available for viewing via PEGSpace. Payment via PEGSpace with payments being reflected instantaneously in fee accounts.

As a risk mitigation strategy, the School undertook a project this year to migrate all Single Sign On (SSO) systems to Azure Active Directory. This has allowed the school to protect all our applications with Microsoft Defender and provide greater visibility across our application suite.

All school-owned staff devices now have a cybersecurity agent installed to improve data security. Phishing training and campaigns have been conducted. The School has reworked its financial plan in 2023 to ensure that the school remains in a strong financial position going forward. This was particularly prudent given the impact of the new Payroll Tax that has been imposed.



2024 Dates for the diary

Term dates 2024

Term One

Thursday 1 February – Thursday 28 March

Term Two

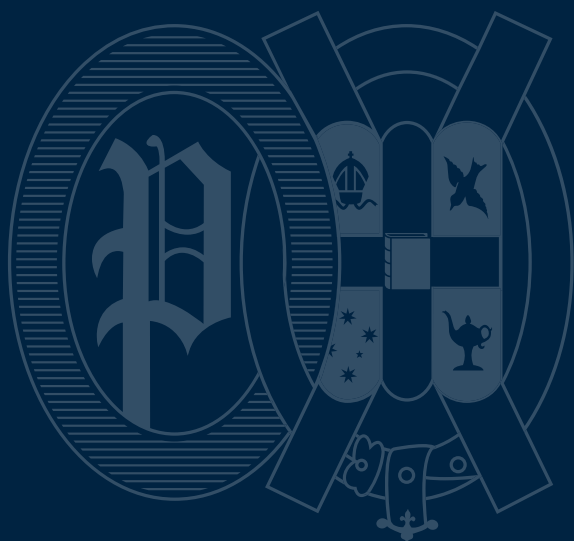
Tuesday 16 April – Friday 28 June

Term Three

Tuesday 16 July – Friday 13 September

Term Four

Monday 7 October – Wednesday 11 December



Contact details: newsletter@pegs.vic.edu.au

