PRINCIPAL REPORT

Hi everyone,

I would like to remind everybody that Monday 13\textsuperscript{th} July 2015 is a student free day at Peninsula Specialist College. Students return to school on Tuesday 14\textsuperscript{th} July 2015.

The organisation Children with Disability Australia welcomes that the Senate will hold an enquiry into the education of students with a disability in Australia. The enquiry will look into the social, economic and individual benefits of improving education opportunities for students with a disability and the impact of funding decisions.

NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life. The week is a great opportunity to participate in a range of activities and to support your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. The National NAIDOC theme for 2015 is:

We all Stand on Sacred Ground: Learn, Respect and Celebrate

The Australian Aboriginal Flag

The Australian Aboriginal Flag was designed by artist Harold Thomas and first flown at Victoria Square in Adelaide, South Australia, on National Aborigines Day, 12 July 1971. It became the official flag for the Aboriginal Tent Embassy in Canberra after it was first flown there in 1972. Since then, it has become a widely recognised symbol of the unity and identity of Aboriginal people. In view of the flag’s wide acceptance and importance in Australian society, the Commonwealth took steps in 1994 to give the flag legal recognition. After a period of public consultation, in July 1995 the Aboriginal flag was proclaimed a ‘Flag of Australia’ under the Flags Act 1953. In 1997 the Federal Court recognised Harold Thomas as the author of the flag.

The Aboriginal flag is divided horizontally into halves. The top half is black and the lower half red. There is a yellow circle in the centre of the flag. The meanings of the three colours in the flag, as stated by Harold Thomas, are:

- **Black** – represents the Aboriginal people of Australia
- **Yellow circle** – represents the Sun, the giver of life and protector
- **Red** – represents the red earth, the red ochre used in ceremonies and Aboriginal peoples’ spiritual relation to the land
Torres Strait Islander Flag

The Torres Strait Islander flag was designed by the late Bernard Namok as a symbol of unity and identity for Torres Strait Islanders. Adopted in 1992, it was the winning entry in a design competition run by the Island Coordinating Council, a Queensland statutory body representing the community councils in the Torres Strait. In the same year it was recognised by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) and given equal prominence with the Australian Aboriginal Flag. In July 1995 the Australian Government recognised it, with the Australian Aboriginal Flag, as an official ‘Flag of Australia’ under the Flags Act 1953.

The Torres Strait Islander flag has three horizontal panels, with green at the top and bottom and blue in between. These panels are divided by thin black lines. A white Dhari (traditional headdress) sits in the centre, with a five-pointed white star beneath it.

The meanings of the colours in the flag are:

- **Green** – represents the land
- **Black** – represents the Indigenous peoples
- **Blue** – represents the sea
- **White** – represents peace

The Dhari represents Torres Strait Islander people and the five-pointed star represents the five island groups within the Torres Strait. The star is also a symbol for seafaring people as it is used in navigation.

Please be reminded to observe the **No Parking** signs around the school premises.

The newsletters are also available via our Peninsula Specialist College website. Please go to the website and have a look at [www.peninsulaspecialist.vic.edu.au](http://www.peninsulaspecialist.vic.edu.au)

Have a good weekend

Peter

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### Missing Jumpers

Alex Shepheard class 5 is missing a maroon jumper and a maroon zip up jacket, both are named. Please return to class 5 if found.

Thank you
Our senior Koorie students welcomed the Koorie students, their teacher Ashleigh from Dromana Secondary College, Adam from AIME (Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience) and his great team of mentors from Monash University to PSC. Dylan (PSC Koorie Captain) did the Acknowledgement to Country recognising the Traditional Owners of the land, the Boonwurrung people and their Elders both past and present. Yarning about their heritage and identity was followed by activities and a delicious morning tea provided by Gen and her amazing hospitality team!

James proudly finding his and Scott’s clan YORTA YORTA on the Aboriginal map.
This week during music class Peter Ellis visited classes 9 and 10. He played the ukulele and the acoustic guitar for the students. The ukulele is different to the guitar. We will be learning to play the ukulele. The guitar has 6 strings and the ukulele has 4 strings. Thank you Peter!

Brody’s dad Paul Harris visited class 8 and brought many interesting instruments with him.
Playing the African guitar, the mandolin and playing the strings of the violin, 6 string guitar, 12 string guitar. Lucky us!

This was attached to instruments to make them sound louder, just like a microphone does today.
Senior students in classes 11, 12, 13 and 14 attended a careers expo at Hastings Hub last Wednesday. Our students were a credit to Peninsula Specialist College as they explored the various exhibits, asked questions and mingled with students from other schools. It was a great opportunity for students and staff to investigate post school options with a wide variety of educational, employment and disability support providers.
Class 5 and 6 are getting together on Wednesday afternoons for activities in small social groups. Students are enjoying a range of fun activities including; Australian animal stencil drawings, chalk drawings, card games, construction games and indigenous art activities. This week we will celebrate the end of term with popcorn and a movie.
Class 14 have been utilizing their OH&S knowledge while working at Sages Cottage. This week students mowed the lawn; identified weeds such as stinging nettles; corralled rabbits for vaccinations; and turned the soil in the pumpkin patch.
I liked warming up on the spin bikes at the start of the lesson. – Rylee
I had fun playing the crab racing game and boxing. Jade made it really fun to do exercise. – Caitlin
I walked 5km on the treadmill and used the elliptical trainer. I had fun exercising! – Jarod
I enjoyed using the various types of cardio machines and the lessons we did afterwards. – Bailey
I really enjoyed having a good time at the gym. I was using new equipment and giving everything a go and having fun exercising. – Kayla
I liked going really fast on the treadmill, I was running at 15 km/h! – Dylan
THE LION KING will be holding an autism-friendly performance at the Regent Theatre Melbourne on Saturday, 8 August 1.30pm.

Disney’s THE LION KING is working closely with Autism Awareness Australia to create a friendly and supportive environment to enjoy this award-winning musical. The specially adapted performance will be suitable for individuals on the autism spectrum and their families, with trained staff on hand and dedicated quiet and activity areas should anyone need to leave their seats. Slight adjustments to the production will include reduction of any jarring sounds or lights focused into the audience.

For more info please visit [www.autismawareness.com.au](http://www.autismawareness.com.au)

Class 8

An exciting Term 2 for Class 8 with Dogs for Life, Science/Gardening and learning about fractions. Well done!!