



We have set up a Blackberry communication for the Penryn community and scholars to whom you may SMS or BBM your comments, concerns, suggestions to. **The number is 0761572306 and Blackberry pin 26B356B3.** All communication to this number is treated as confidential and will be responded to by either the Head of College or Prep.

Dear Parents

Entrance road to Penryn off the R40

We are aware of the number of potholes and road surface deterioration on the entrance road off the R40. The heavy rains last week did not help. We are attempting to find the correct authorities to report the matter to in the hope that something can be done about it. Till then we are waiting for the natural spring which has sprung up to dry out before any repairs can be made to the holes. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and assure you that we are doing everything in our power to correct the problem. Hopefully this is done by next weekend.

Deputy Heads' split of responsibilities

Please note that, with the appointment of two Deputies at the College, their roles have been described as follows:

- All academic queries are to be directed to Dr Sproule;
- All sport, discipline and boarding queries are to be directed to Mr Viljoen.

Thursday, GRASP and Cultural period

Penryn College teaches a holistic curriculum. One that does not focus on any one aspect, but which works with all aspects of the human being.

We attempt to make space for all aspects of the curriculum in the school day. Academics clearly take up most space in the timetable and determine how much of the day is free for other activities. Sport too is governed by outside leagues and fixtures into which we need to fit.

Which leaves us with culture and service.

Up until the end of 2011, these activities were accommodated in the LEAP programme. Unfortunately this structure was not flexible enough to accommodate the increasing complexity of cultural and service needs. We have proposed a change to the timetable this year and you would already have seen it.

It is more sophisticated and allows for a greater offering of opportunities.

Accordingly, cultural and service opportunities exist in a number of different slots on the timetable. These are as follows:

Mondays - 14:15 to 15:00.

During this time Junior GRASP, Grade 12 English and Peer tutoring take place. GRASP attendees are identified by teachers and the process is compulsory. Grade 12 English is compulsory. Peer tutoring is optional, and you have heard Ms Joubert and scholars talk about this project. You volunteer for it. Also during this time we have Choir practice and this is compulsory for all members of the choir. Where there is a clash between the Choir and Grade 12 English, matrices go to English. A partner school reading programme will also take place on Monday and Thursday afternoons from 14h00 to 16h30. Scholars are welcome to volunteer for one or more of these sessions as their other commitments permit.

Thursdays - 10:10 to 11:10 (Assessment period)

There are a number of assessments planned for this period. A programme has been given to scholars. When there are no assessments scholars will have an enrichment period. During this time, outside speakers, debates, discussions, watch movies, do war cries, sing, listen to music, dance or any one of a number of different and enriching activities will be organised. The choir will also use this time and there may well be other school activities according to our needs, e.g. plays. The programme for this time will be worked out in advance and published, but there will always be something on the go.

Thursdays - 14:00 to 14:45

This is another period available for activities. Planned already for this time are Senior GRASP scholars and Peer tutors. This is also a Clubs period. A number of clubs will be offered by teachers and outsiders during this time and there will be some very exciting ones indeed. Scholars will choose a club next Thursday. Scholars will be ticked off by the convenor of the club and they will be required to attend for the whole year. These are taken seriously and to be frank, if scholars mess around in the activity they will be asked to leave. Please note that we expect all scholars to be involved in a cultural activity at Penryn and tutors will follow this up. There will also be the opportunity for teachers to offer extra lessons during this period. And where there is an assessment in the morning the Choir will operate here. Practices for plays will also take place here. During the club period, there is also an opportunity for service activities where educational toys and games will be made. Matrices clearly will be involved in academic endeavour during this time and this will be outlined by Mr Schurink at the next grade meeting.

Of course these are not the only opportunities for cultural activities and there will be after hour play practices and the like according to College needs.

Annual Calendar

We have attached our annual calendar for your information. Please note that dates and activities reflected on the calendar can be subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. We will however, strive to keep to the calendar as best we can.

Penryn lockers

Lockers are rented out to scholars on an annual basis. The rental needs to be renewed at the start of the new academic year. Scholars' who have lockers assigned to them, may continue to use the same locker provided the rent for 2012 has been paid. It has however, been brought to our attention that there are some scholars who are using lockers that have not been booked and / or paid for. All locker rentals for 2012 must be paid by 31 January 2012. Please see details below.

Refundable deposit:

- Small & small x-wide locker – R200
- Small double, small double x-wide locker – R250
- Large & large x-wide locker – R300

Rent and size of each locker:

- Small – R235 (adequate for books)
- Small extra wide – R250 (can hold a small kit bag)
- Small double – R310 (school bag and small kit bag, no sports equipment)
- Small double extra wide – R330
- Large – R350 (will hold a hockey stick & a slim kit bag)
- Large extra wide – R375 (big enough to hold a bag for hockey goalies)

Lockers which have not been paid for by 31 January will have their locks removed. Should you wish to update your rental or have any queries, please contact Mrs Sandra Hogg on 082 601 5808 or via e-mail to sandrahogg@tiscali.co.za.

Bus service from Nelspruit to Penryn

The bus service offered is a morning's only service. The cost is R 800.00 per child, per term. The bus times are as follows:

- * The bus arrives at Van Riebeck Park at 06H30 every morning
- * The bus departs from Van Riebeck Park at 06H45 every morning
- * As always, I am present every morning to ensure all goes smoothly

There are currently around 15 places available. Anyone who is interested can contact Mrs Gilda Mavromatis on 084 357 1213.

Congratulations to:

- Cassandra Mönning who has been chosen to play first flute in the National Youth Orchestra – The "Sinfonia Juventi". This is an unbelievable honour – well done Cassandra!

The past week

Gr 8 Orientation Week

A special word of thanks and congratulations to the 2012 Scholar Exec and staff who co-ordinated and organized the Gr 8 Orientation Week. It is a wonderful opportunity for the Grade 8's to get to know their peers and the Leaders of the College.

Inter House Gala

Thank you and congratulations to all our scholars who supported their Houses as swimmers or spectators at the inter house gala on Wednesday. This is always (but perhaps the best yet?) a wonderfully spirit filled event to kick start the year. Congratulations to the following swimmers who achieved awards:

House points: 1st - Harrier (496); 2nd - Kestrel (421); 3rd - Goshawk (412); 4th - Kite (274)
Spirit award: Kite

Junior Victrix:	Jaimie Myhill	Junior Victor:	Ryann Begg
Senior Victrix:	Christine Grobler	Senior Victor:	Dean Myhill

New Records:

Dean Myhill	Senior Boys IM 100m; Open Boys 50m Butterfly; Open Boys Backstroke 50m
Jaime Myhill	U15 Girls 50m
Christine Grobler	Open Girls 50m Backstroke; Open Girls 50m Crawl

The week ahead and important dates to diarise

Grade 8 Inauguration

The Grade 8 Class of 2012 will officially be welcomed by the 2012 Scholar Executive Committee at a special Inauguration ceremony to be held in the Chapel on Friday, 3 February at 10h10. Parents are welcome to attend the ceremony should they wish to.

IEB User Group Conferences

Members of the High School staff attend the Independent Examinations Board National Senior Certificate (IEB) User Group Conferences next week where Examiners report back on the Grade 12 examinations of 2011. It is important for all staff to attend as they gain valuable curriculum information.

The week ahead

Saturday 28 January
Wednesday 1 February
Thursday 2 February
Friday 3 February

Athletics @ Barberton High School
I House Debating
Gr 8 Transformation workshop
Gr 8 Sudwala trip
Gr 9 Kaapschehoop trip

General

PPA General meeting

The PPA, chaired by Mark Schormann, has a monthly committee meeting of elected members and organizes several social events during the course of the year as well as raising funds for special projects around the school and for bursaries. The PPA furthermore is a conduit to Council for parental comment and form a very important link between the parents, school and community. The Heads of Penryn and the PPA are keen to promote a collaborative school atmosphere with adequate resources and support to enable both parents and teachers to participate effectively in decision making.

We encourage our parent body to attend the AGM on **6 February at 18h00 in the Penryn Chapel** to hear more – you will not regret it.

Recycling

Are you passionate about recycling? We need you! This year we plan to upgrade recycling @ Penryn. This will extend to scholars in the classroom and on campus, staff, the hostel, dining hall and families of scholars. This is a complex process. Discussion and co-operation is needed from all sectors to make it work. If as a parent, scholar, teacher or staff member, would like to help talk through and implement this project, please contact the **Environmental Officer, Lynne Stone**, (enviro@penryn.co.za; 076 104 2919).

Sincerely

Greg Theron
Executive Head