Dates to Remember

- November 24th: Heinze Music Festival Year 5/6
- November 26th: Year 3/4 Major Excursion
- November 27th: Family Fun Night
- December 10th & 11th: Water Safety Program
- December 17th: Year 6 Graduation
- December 18th: Last Day for Students
- January 29th: Students return to school

Weekly Events

- Tuesdays 2.45pm: Bookworm Playgroup
- Thursdays 9.30am: Playgroup
- Fridays 9.30am: Mother Goose

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

ALLIANCE LAUNCH
Last week I attended the launch of the Shepparton Secondary School’s Better Together partnership. The partnership will aim to strengthen academic standards and provide better outcomes for all students. Better Together will mean students enrolled at one school can access specialised resources and teaching in a specific education area at other schools, enabling them to access a wider variety of subjects. I’ve included the article that was published in the Shepparton News after the launch.

PREP TRANSITION
Yesterday our 2015 preps had their first visit to the school. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces amongst the children. We look forward to their visits over the next few weeks.

ENROLMENTS FOR 2015
We are finalising our enrolments for 2015. If your family is moving away please come into the office and let us know. If you know of any new families moving into the area or have a Prep for 2015 who hasn’t yet enrolled, would you please encourage them to come and do so.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT - MYSTERY JARS
We are still seeking donation of mystery jars as unfortunately the number of jars is well down on last year. As these are always extremely popular with the children we would really appreciate if families would assist in sending along a filled mystery jar container. Additional containers are available at the school office.

RAFFLE
Thank you to the families who have returned their raffle books. As the draw will take place at the Family Fun night on November 27th all books and money need to be returned to the front office before then (unsold books need to be returned also).

PREP TRANSITION DATES
Transition dates for the 2015 Preps are as follows:
- Tuesday 25th November 12.00 midday - 1.00pm
- Wednesday 3rd December 9.30am—11.00am
The State-wide Orientation Day is Tuesday 9th December. 2015 Preps will attend school on that day from 9.30am—11.00am.

Steve Rogers
BILLY’S BAKE HOUSE BEE-ING MPS AWARDS

Congratulations to the award winners for the last week:

Year 5/6
Ayva Bourke for showing excellence in her school work.
Zac Godwin for putting extra effort into his writing.
Charli Law for demonstrating wonderful work habits during maths.

Year 3/4
Tehlia Epps for making positive choices towards her learning.
Tegen Cruickshanks for listening attentively during class time and contributing well in discussions.
Nicola Brown for applying a number of different skills to her mathematics.

Year 2
Ryan Atkinson for working hard during mathematics lessons on repeated addition.
Tiffany Kearns for working hard at her reading especially in trying to make her voice louder and using expression.

Year 1
Casey Bell for excellent improvement and persistence with her reading.
Kirrum Grambeau for being a positive and enthusiastic member of our class.

Prep R
Jack Maude for settling well into his new school.

Prep Y
Jorden D’Urso for reading her take home books with confidence.

Greater Shepparton Government Schools’ Alliance

– Better Together

The four government secondary colleges in Greater Shepparton are united in their vision to provide an excellent education for every young person in Greater Shepparton. By forming an Alliance of Schools, working closely together, sharing resources and bringing together the strength of each college, the schools will focus on being “Better Together”.

The four schools have committed to a better, more connected and unified way of providing the Greater Shepparton community with an integrated public education system to the area. Whilst the schools will remain autonomous, they together will make sure that:

The excellence of public education in Shepparton is ensured for every young person.

The four government schools in Greater Shepparton provide secondary education to the majority of young people in the Greater Shepparton community.

We will do better for young people by working strategically together.

The introduction of the Trades Skills Centre, in partnership with GOTAFE, will ensure a significant increase in opportunities for young people. This Trades Skills Centre will be based at McGuire College, and managed by a Committee involving representatives of each school, GOTAFE, and to be chaired by Wanganui Park Secondary College. Each school will be allocated an area of excellence that it will lead. This area of excellence will be supported by input from experts in the field. The knowledge and programs developed will be shared across the Alliance. Through this approach the Alliance of Schools will have strong academic standards in all areas of the curriculum.

By 2016, a one-stop on-line shop will be available for all our students as they plan their studies. This will enable students to have more access to different studies and experiences using a mix of home school classrooms, some travel and on-line virtual classrooms.

In all of the actions of the schools, the values, diversity, excellence and community will be highly visible.
PEOPLE CAN BE CONFIDENT A CLEAR PATHWAY TO STUDY IS DEVELOPED RIGHT FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY SCHOOLING AND BEYOND, NO MATTER WHAT SCHOOL PARENTS CHOOSE TO SEND THEM TO.

— PHIL SQUIRE

A historic alliance between our Goulburn Valley secondary schools is helping to establish the region as a centre of excellence in education.

The Better Together partnership between public schools Shepparton High School, McGuire College, Mooroopna Secondary College and Wangaruli Park Secondary College will establish an area of excellence at each school.

The aim is to strengthen academic standards and provide better outcomes for students.

Yesterday’s announcement also officially launched the region’s new $8.72 million Trades Skills Centre, an initiative of the alliance and Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE to be based at McGuire College.

Better Together will mean students enrolled at one school can access specialised resources and teaching in a specific education area at other schools, enabling them to access a wider variety of subjects.

Under the alliance schools will remain autonomous, but will share planning, resources and create more partnerships with other education providers including Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE and La Trobe University.

Shepparton High School principal Phil Squire said the alliance was a step forward towards strengthening secondary education.

“People can be confident a clear pathway to study is developed right from primary to secondary schooling and beyond, no matter what school parents choose to send them to,” he said.

Better Together will also utilise each school’s educators to share expertise for best practice and educational results.

It will also develop links to experts, employment opportunities, growth sectors, local government and local businesses.

Each school will specialise in a specific area, including science, arts, trades, arts and visual arts.

“What that will lead to is an overall strengthening of our expertise,” Mr Squire said.

Wangaruli Park Secondary College principal Ken Murray said the Trades Skills Centre would be open in 2016, with preparations to begin shortly.

“It will be accessible for all students across the region, and will engage and be able to train students to be great contributors to our community,” he said.

Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE chief executive Paul Culpin said the centre would train students in state-of-the-art facilities, armed with specific skills to address the skills shortages in the industries across the region.

La Trobe University Pro Vice-Chancellor Regions Richard Speed said the alliance would forge stronger ties between the region’s educators and form stronger pathways for students to further education.

“No-one else in the state has employed this kind of model,” he said.
Social media is more accessible than ever – with the rise of smartphones and tablets, it has never been easier to jump online. For young people, it means being more connected than any other generation – friends are never more than a tweet away. Unfortunately this has also led to a rapid increase in cyberbullying – to the point that at least one in 10 children are cyberbullied each year.

Cyberbullying can be very different from traditional bullying, and many parents can feel ill-equipped to respond if their child is being cyberbullied.

Susan McLean, a former police officer and Australia’s leading cybersafety expert, said even if parents have no experience with social media, by following a few basic steps, parents can effectively support their children to be safe online.

'Parenting in the 21st century requires you to be able to parent in the digital space,' Ms McLean said. 'Technology is firmly entrenched in our lives and that of our children so we need the tools to deal with issues as they arise.

'It’s really important that if your child is being cyberbullied, you don’t cut them off from social media and take their technology away - the vast majority of kids won’t tell a parent if they are bullied and harassed online for fear of losing access. They would much rather put up with the bad to keep the good.'

Ms McLean said when confronted with their child being cyberbullied, parents should follow the cyberbullying quick response checklist:

- Reassure and comfort
- Don’t respond
- Block and delete bully
- Report to the site
- Keep a copy
- Tell school (or relevant place) and seek action
- If ongoing inform police
- Support your child as they have done nothing wrong

The Department’s Bully Stoppers website has a range of advice for parents, students and teachers about how to respond to all types of bullying.

Susan McLean is Australia's leading cybersafety expert and was a member of Victoria Police for 27 years. She was the first Victorian Police officer appointed to a position involving cybersafety and young people. She was one of several experts who authored the Bully Stoppers Resource and is a published author. Her book Sexts Texts and Selfies - how to keep your child safe in the digital space is available now.