Principal Report

We come to the end of another very busy and successful year.

We are very proud of our Year 12 students and I hope you saw the articles in the Shepparton News this week about the success of all students in our Alliance schools. Congratulations to Jenny Parker who is our 2014 College Dux. This is well deserved as Jenny worked extremely hard and her efforts paid off.

Presentation night was a celebration of the 2014 year with many students receiving awards. Dr Sharman Stone presented Lizzie Smith with the REAL award. We had two excellent guest speakers: Marc C. Scott (Class of 1999) and Mohammad Yassin (2005 College Dux) both of whom are completing their PhD. They were both inspirational and wonderful role models for our students.

I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and look forward to seeing you in 2015.

Jan Gregory
Principal
JUNIOR CONCERT BAND PERFORMS AT VICTORIAN SCHOOL MUSIC FESTIVAL

On Thursday, November 20 the Junior Concert Band travelled to Melbourne to perform at Deakin Edge theatre at Federation Square. They were performing in the Beginner Band Section for all band players in their first year of concert band. Our 19 students were joined by 12 students from Mooroopna Secondary College to form a “balanced Ensemble” of 31 students. The combined band played three numbers – Power Rock, Zombie and Jester Dance as a combined band. The band performed with bands from Geelong, Ballarat and Melbourne in their section. The band received excellent critiques from both adjudicators, and also performed a tutorial in front of the audience conducted by the chief adjudicator.

At Macca’s at Wallan on the way back and in the bus the players had lots of fun and games! Teachers and parents were happy to see them return home safely at 8.30 p.m. It was a wonderful trip. Congratulations to our first year band players who have now been promoted to the McGuire College Concert Band.

Students involved were Daemonette Curran, Makayla Durston, Kia Treadway, Aiden Archer, Koby Parker, Blake Brewer, Conner Stewart, Sean Ryan, Keenan Connor, Brody McKinley, Tom Strang, Nicolas Runciman-Forster, Kayla Dibella, Caitlyn Morris, Liam Nedic, Corey Reardon, Tyler Miller, Daniel Daldy, Ozcan Buyukcorduk and Josh Arthur.

Thankyou to Mr. Adams and Ms. Tennant (Mooroopna) who accompanied the students.

Gabrielle Ryan
Instrumental Music
Visiting and writing about Mercy Place

Our Year 9 English class visited Mercy Place to present what we had learnt throughout the year. Mercy Place is a facility for the elderly. We worked in teams to plan, prepare and present our projects. After the presentation we sang songs and shared stories with the residents. We became more confident because the residents there did not judge us when we made mistakes. We also learnt to speak clearly and respectfully. The senior citizens were very happy and said “Thank you and come again” to us. When we returned, we did persuasive writing on the importance of visiting a nursing home. We hope to plan another visit soon.

Ms. Jagdish’s Year 9 English class

GENERAL OFFICE HOURS
The general office will be closing Friday 19th December 12.00pm and will re-open 8.00am Tuesday 27th January 2015
CENTREPAY

The easy way to pay your bills.

Centrepay is a free direct bill paying service available to customers who receive an
- Australian Government Department of Human Services Centrelink payment
- Family Assistance Payment
- Parental Leave Pay

If you are interested in paying your sons/daughters school account with Centrepay please contact the McGuire College General Office on 58589800.

EMA Changes in 2015

As part of a change to Education funding from 2015, funding previously allocated to the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) program will now be redirected to schools, which means there is no EMA available in 2015.

Schools will now be responsible for ensuring that students, who previously attracted the EMA, are supported to participate fully at school. Schools have complete flexibility, within their annual budgets, to address the specific needs of their students, and provide additional support, as required. This new approach will see a change in the way the previous EMA funding was allocated.

Having considered this change of policy, the 4 Shepparton Secondary schools have developed a policy that will continue support to families who were previously eligible for the EMA. This new policy is very similar in its operation and in summary includes:
1. Families who hold a current Health Care Card are eligible;
2. Support up to $250 per eligible student provided;
3. Application form to be completed at the school;

At McGuire College we have called this new program McGuire Education Funding Allowance – (MEFA). Details of the new MEFA program are below.

MEFA Eligibility:
McGuire Education Funding Allowance – (MEFA) has been established to provide financial assistance to all students whose family holds a current Health Care Card or Pension concession card, or for Foster families and this assistance be provided for all students up to the age of 16. All registrations for the program close on 28th February in the relevant school year. The eligibility date of 28th Feb is the Education Department’s student census date. The school is only funded for students attending the school on that date.

Payment Amount:
$250 per eligible student will be allocated under the WEFA program for 2015, which is to be allocated on a $ for $ basis.”
For students who turn 16 during the year a pro-rata payment will be calculated on the number of months up to and including the month of their birthday.

To Access funds through MEFA
Application forms are available from the main school office. Once registered for the program parents will be able to access their allocated amount on a $ for $ basis of funds paid to the school for school charges, materials for programs, Year 7 camp (if applicable).

*Please return your application form to the General Office and also bring your current Health Care/Pension card.

Please contact the office if you have any queries.
1. Careers at Victoria Police
Victoria Police has developed a series of short videos for prospective recruits that highlight the recruitment process and what it is like to be a new member of the Force. To view the videos, go to http://www.youtube.com/user/VPBlueTube

2. Casual Employment
We have many students who come in asking for help to find casual jobs. I regularly advertise opportunities to students when they become available but I also encourage students to register their interest on the following websites as when jobs become available they will be notified as 90% are advertised on line.


Check out the following websites for more tips and also resumes and application letters:
http://sheppartonjobinfo.edublogs.org/

3. Coming Events and Links
For more information on the specific events, visit the individual websites:

- **Computer Science School**, University of Sydney, www.ncss.edu.au/summer_school/
- **Filmmaking Summer School**, Trinity College, Melbourne, www.summerfilmschool.com/
- **MU Student Union VCE Summer School**, University of Melbourne, http://union.unimelb.edu.au/summerschool
- **Discover Architecture**, University of Technology Sydney (UTS), www.utsarchitecture.net/discoverarchitecture/

“UniOptions” provides advice on the many pathways to university and makes this advice available, completely free of charge, to secondary students, parents, non-school leavers, careers professionals and anyone else who is interested. UniOptions helps students enter the university course of their choice and, unlike other sources of information on getting into university, the UniOptions website shows you all the uni options – not just the obvious ones.”

5. Engaging Parents In Careers Conversations (EPICC)

In 2015 we will be running a range of workshops for families on the Department of Education and Training EPICC resource. The aim of EPICC is to create opportunities for families to have discussions with their child, other families and the school around careers development. These discussions will be starting in Year 7 next year.

The very first and most important step in this conversation is defining what “career” means. For many of us, we have been fortunate to have been in the same career or industry for all of our working life. This will not be the same for our children. By the time our children are 38 they will have been in between 10-15 careers. We are currently educating our children for careers that have not yet been created. The only thing we are sure of is change.

If you get a chance and have access to the internet, check out the YouTube clip Did You Know 2014. We have been showing this to our students in the Senior School students as part of the Early Commencement Program and it is quite a powerful tool to demonstrate how rapid change is in our society.

The slides below are from the EPICC resource, have a look and perhaps start having some discussions with your child at home now.

How students can apply for a Tax File Number from 1st January 2015

The Australian Taxation Office in partnership with Australia Post is making it easier for individuals to apply for a TFN.

Students can now apply for a TFN online and have their identity verified through an interview at a participating Australia Post office.

Applying online is the fastest and most convenient way for students to get a TFN. More information on applying online can be found at ato.gov.au by searching for ‘QC27248’

Students who are unable to visit a participating Australia Post office will need to complete the application form Tax file number - application or enquiry for individuals form (NAT 1432). More information about lodging this form can be found at ato.gov.au by searching for ‘QC22604’
What is a Career?
A career is the paid and unpaid roles across the lifespan; life roles, leisure, learning, work

Your Future: How many of you...

... knew at 16 years of age what you wanted to pursue?

... are doing now what you thought you wanted to do when you were 16?

... made important career decisions based on researching and reading labour market information?

... are where you are now, at least in part, because of a chance encounter or unplanned event?

Source: "Lasting Gifts" Canadian Career Development Foundation