Wow! What an amazing experience the fete was for our students to enjoy and in which to be involved. Over 500 people visited the school during the fete, and the WDSS community put on an absolutely fabulous event. My congratulations to all students and staff, and great thanks, to all those folk who attended, and made the fete such a memorable time. Of course, such events do not happen without an enormous amount of work, time and effort by a number of people over time. Tina and Jill led our staff and together with every staff member and every class contributed in the power of work. The students all participated in their stall's planning and organisation and when we started at 2.00pm all students had 2 vouchers to spend on whatever activity they chose.

The aim of the fete was to open our school to the community, so that they could see our school and our students in their school. We also wanted our students to enjoy a fete and be able to participate, and officially open the senior play equipment which the community and the school have worked so hard to raise the $27,000 funds needed. All aims were achieved and to boot we raised, with donations, a grand total of $6173.76.

This week, staff met and debriefed, and made many notes about ways to improve and the things that we learned. If you have any ideas of how to improve or what you can offer please let us know. …

Particular thanks to our parents, friends and helpers both before and during the fete. They are - Jenny Kardol and friend of the school Bev, Kaz Briggs and her family, Mel Stone, Robyn Spiers, Kerry Melynk, Tara McNeilly, Tayla and Caleb Ramsay, Mary Verde, Alby and Colleen McIntosh.

The following people and organisations donated goods or in kind support. Wangaratta West Primary School, Bunnings, Baileys, Moyhu Farmers Market $500.00, Tull Family, Complete Garden, North east Water, Our Lady’s Primary School, Lions Club of Wangaratta, Cofield’s Wine, Campbell Wine Baileys, Corowa Auto Electrics, Tony O’Donnell, Jade Penney, Australian Textile Mills, Sarah Roper, Dinning’s Dairy, NuFruit, Rowan Street Chiropractic, Uncle Toby’s, Jill Peters, Wodonga Pet Care, Marlo Cavicciolo, Mrs McCormick, Craig Cooran, Parker family, Betty Stagg, Brian Glen, Moyhu Framers Market, YMCS, Fay Dunstan, Spence family, Moyhu Hotel, Nicki Antonello, Andrea Jenkins, Ann Gatton, Laura Watson, and Angie Pickering. There were so many people who bought

**Dates to Remember**

- **O.T. - Emma** - 24th Nov. & 1st December
- **Speech - Rachael** - 24th, 25th Nov & 1st, 2nd Dec
- **School Leavers Dinner** - 3rd December
- **School Concert** - Monday 8th December
- **Last Day Term 4** - Wednesday 17th December
From the Principal’s Desk  cont...

goods or donations, and try as we may, we did not always get their names. We are so grateful for all the support and if we have missed anyone, I apologise.

The following people won the major prizes. $100 note game - Cathy Oddie; the Christmas raffle - Dot Ashton; the three Christmas hampers were won by Ros Taylor, the Tull Family and Michael Bessell, The Lucky door prizes were won by Kaz Briggs, J. Garn, Marj Doe, Jodie Campbell, Bill Gowland and J. Kirk. Brandon Johnson was the lucky winner of the jelly bean competition.

For those who missed the fete, we had face painting and hair colouring, a guess the baby photo competition, lucky dips, mystery jars, barbeque, hot potatoes, mini pizzas, drinks, water bottles, plaster painting, juggling balls, animal nursery, jumping castle, bike riding, buskers corner, dunking machine, auction, spinning wheel, smashing plates, art exhibition and sales of Art, Stephanie Alexander stall, jelly bean guess, show bags, tie dyed books, popcorn, lucky $100 note, coffee and cake, soft serve ice-cream, raffle, decorated Christmas cake raffle, cakes and home-made produce and white elephant stall.

Cathy Mc Gowan officially and very kindly opened the senior playground about 4.00pm and thanked Lions Club of Wangaratta, Appin Park Rotary club, Bendigo Bank – Wang branch and TruValue Solar for their contributions.

New students: This term we have welcomed several new students into the school. They are – Jayden Vogel with his family Shane and Clare. Jayden has joined Stanley. Nicholas Cavicchiolo and his parents, Marlo and Gino have joined the crew in Stirling, Shannon Thomas has joined Hotham and we welcome him and his dad Shane, Grace Anderson has joined the Taminick class and we welcome Grace and her mother Jessica, Sebastian Cunneen has joined Buffalo for two days a week and we welcome he and his mother Luisa. We were pleased to see Brandon Mac Donnell and his family when they returned to the district and he has joined Mt Pilot.

Over the next few weeks we are transitioning all our new students into the school, some for a day or two, others for more time. This means that some classes will have extra students joining in their programs, learning about the routines and the way we do things at WDSS. So far all children have settled in well.

The class structures are complete and we will be having a transition day for all students when they move into their new class on December 9th - the state transition day. As you may be aware we spend an inordinate amount of time making sure that our students are best placed for their wellbeing and learning. Staffing for 2015 has also been finalised.

Thank you morning tea. Over 50 people attended the annual thank you morning tea and enjoyed a lovely spread hosted by the school, with the Junior School Councillors serving their guests.

Thanks to Chaplain Rose for her organisation of this event, with Jill and Tina’s invaluable help.

Raffle books: many families, together with staff and also our School Council President Darryl, have been busy selling raffle tickets over the last month or so. I am pleased to announce that we have raised $3170.00 and I thank all those families, and staff who contributed.

EMA: Next year EMA - Education Maintenance Allowance will not exist. I am urging families to start putting some funds aside in their weekly budgeting so that they can afford to pay school fees next year. Our school fees are the cheapest of all schools in Wangaratta and we do not ask parents/carers for payment for materials etc. It will be more important than ever that families pay their fees so we can continue with the important programs which are so critical to our students development and their future well being.
WHITE RIBBON DAY: Schools in the Wangaratta Learning Community have been approached to become part of the White Ribbon campaign. The White Ribbon Foundation (WRF) promotes a message of healthy, respectful family relationships, respect for women and safety in the home. Principals met with representatives of the Police, White Ribbon Foundation and other community groups a few months ago to consider how we could be involved. We have been invited to be part of the local White Ribbon Day march at noon on November 25th. People from throughout the Wangaratta community will march from Apex Park through the CBD. We will have a group of students representing us at this event - it would also be wonderful to have parents join us. The foundation particularly encourages men to be part of their events to show a strong stand against violence towards women and children.

The very distressing statistics is that the leading cause of death, disability and ill-health amongst Australian women aged 15-44 is violence by an intimate partner, and that, on average, a woman is killed in Australia each week by a current or past partner. Some high-profile cases make a big splash in the media, but often these deaths are reported more vaguely and as a general news item.

The national hotline is: **1800 737 732** where help and advice for anyone experiencing family violence can be found. Victoria Police are also working hard to respond more effectively to situations of family violence.

Some children will participate in the march on 25th November and you will informed of this via the planner. All parents/carers are invited to meet us at Apex Park from just after 11.30am. The march will leave at 12noon, heading up Ovens St, along Reid St, Murphy St and Faithfull St, then back to the park.

Our staff are well and truly into completing reports and are hard at work getting their concert choices finalised.

Corey Davis – being respectful by being a great helper at the fete.

Drew Schneider – being a learner by setting the benchmark with his VCAL work

Bree Bonnitcha – being safe by always setting a great example for others in the yard
Mt. Beauty - Lee and Sam

This week in Mt Beauty we have had Meg as our teacher while Lee is away. On Monday we welcomed a new student into a classroom, Shannon. Shannon has had a wonderful week exploring our classroom, playing with his new friends and even going to and from school on the bus. Our class has done an excellent job welcoming Shannon, showing him around the school and helping him in the classroom with his work.

On Wednesday we had Community Access – where Jack spent his $30 Big W voucher to purchase an Xbox game. Jack received this voucher for saving up his Goldies – received for making good choices in the classroom and around the school. Well done, Jack!

We also had the opportunity to visit the new Spotlight store in Wangaratta. We had lots of trouble finding a parking spot as there were many people there! We enjoyed looking around together – there were lots of items for sale, and they even had a trombone and saxophone player!

On Thursday we spent the afternoon doing some Science experiments. You can see the pictures below. We experimented with milk, detergent and food colouring, making exploding milk! We made some balloon rockets, and lastly we made some slime. They were all great experiments and we enjoyed seeing the reactions together. Afterwards we talked about WHY the reactions happened and being safe around science equipment.

Stanley - Donna, Jacqui, Simon and Marley

We have been cooking up a storm in the Stanley classroom this term. We have been practicing how to use a box grater to grate things like cheese, carrot and zucchini. We have also been practicing our cutting and chopping, with an emphasis on safety when using sharp knives. It is great to set ourselves up for lunch and eat together practicing our table manners and cutlery use.

Some other exciting news in the Stanley room is that our Guppy fish have had 2 little baby Guppies. They are growing really well.

We all had a great time at the Fete. The coloured hairspray and face painting stall was a real hit.
Buffalo - Lisa, Robyn, Jill, Luke and Stella

Happy Birthday to Edwina who celebrated her 11th birthday on Melbourne Cup Day.

Our teachers and ES staff were looking through our work books and commenting on what a great job we do with our school work. They thought they would share it with some of you this week. We are stars!

Buffalo
Edwina, Stella, Aiden, Noah, Sebastian, Locky, Brandon & Jhett

Maths (days of the week)

English (practicing our letters)

Writer’s Notebook.

PBS – learning about being safe near buses.

SoSAFE – learning about friends.

Buller—Allan, Suzanne, Mab & Peter

Great weather for walking in the mornings at the moment, so Mab and Jill took Emily and Vanessa to visit the wilds of Wangaratta down by the creek. Mab, an amateur naturalist and wild foods specialist, was happy to give the benefits of her knowledge to an enthusiastic Emily and a contemplative Vanessa.

Back at school and Kara-Lea and Chris, back from a morning walk slipped into a cooling soothing foot bath. All seem to be coping well with the rigours of academic life.

We were delighted to have a visit from an ex-pupil, Chris Brown, last week. Chris was accompanied by his wife, Kaisie, and his mother, Julie. Kaisie is a member of the Victorian Special Olympics Basketball team and is a top scorer in Indoor Bowling. Chris has great memories of the school, his time here and the staff. Chris and Kaisie were happy to pose for a pic with Suzanne.
Stirling - Alysha and Sharon

What a fabulous group of students we have in Stirling. For those 7 students who went to 15 Mile Creek Camp we had such a great time and all of the students challenged themselves and tried new things. Activities included getting our feet wet and looking for tadpoles on the creek walk, archery, going in pairs on the flying fox, stacking and climbing a tower of green crate boxes, going for a night time bushwalk, canoeing and swimming. The food was fantastic, especially chocolate cheesecake for dessert, and the beds were very comfortable. We all slept very well and can’t wait to return to this fabulous camp!

Our Students of the Week include Hayden for having a go at all activities on camp. He was very brave attempting the climbing tower and was very happy with his efforts. Brandon also received Student of the Week for also being brave and attempting new activities at camp. He spent the night away from mum and was so exhausted from all of the activities that he fell asleep immediately.

Mt. Pilot - Sarah and Fiona

We have had a great two weeks. First we were introduced to our latest class member. We gave a big welcome back to Brandon McDonnell. He did so well settling in he received a Student of the Week for being a learner by settling into his new classroom environment and remembering lots of our school rules. Other students who received this award were Chloe Smith for her excellent attendance during the week and Connor Heppell for doing a great job at looking after our new classmate.

We also enjoyed our school fete. Our class did a guess the number of jelly beans in a jar stall and handed out show bags. Zac did a splendid job helping Fiona and I hand out show bags. Holly also did a good job at helping collect the money for the guesses. We all had lots of fun at the fete and hope to do it again soon.
Hop’s Sports Column

On November 5th five students and two teachers went on a three day mountain bike ride to Blackwood which is situated 50 km from Ballarat. Matthew, Nathan, Rhys, Joshua and Tyreece endured a 40km mountain bike ride with students from 16 other Victorian Specialist Schools.

Our 5 students had a great time working for 3 days with each other, learning valuable life skills which will hold them in great stead for the future. Tyreece was awarded the prestigious “Woolcock Award” for great personal progress throughout the three days.

All the boys would like to thank John Mullins for accompanying them, especially as it meant he was away for Julie’s birthday.

James Elkan for being such a fantastic helper in collecting the Sports gear after lessons.

Mt. Emu - Leanne and Jack

Mt. Emu students enjoyed making, bagging and prices items for our first fete. During the fete, Tayten, Subir and James Paull took charge of the book stand. Tayten was a star on the day, he spent 3 hours selling books. They made $118.00 which goes towards our fundraising foundation. Our Kitchen garden stall made over $220 dollars- what a great effort. Mt. Emu students and the whole school community would like to thank Subir’s mum Cathy Oddie for donating a great deal of her handmade pottery. Cathy makes and sell pottery form her studio on their family farm near Greta. If you need more details just Google ‘Cathy Oddie, Greta Valley Pottery Australia’. In addition, we would also like to thank Tayten’s family especially Jo for the donations of many cooked items and objects for the White Elephant stall.

In week 6 & week 7 Mt. Emu students will be learning in Math about giving change from a given transactions. We are using real groceries and real money within the classroom environment.

In the SoSafe program we are learning about the steps to relationships with a focus on boyfriend and girlfriend. There are three main learning intentions:

1. Before becoming boyfriend/girlfriends two people should meet, be friends, be close friends before being boyfriend/girlfriend.

2. It is essential to get to know the other person well before becoming boyfriend and girlfriend.

3. There are no boyfriends and girlfriends at school.
**Hotham - Shardae and John**

Well done to all our students who worked hard to make the fete a success last week. The Hotham team provided some fun and excitement for the day with their cream throwing stall. As well as raising a few dollars they had a great time organising the stall and sharing the work.

This week Breanna reported on her recent Girl Guide Camp and the certificates that she received. Her report is worth sharing…..

*On Friday night I went to girl guides camp. I was there for Saturday and Sunday. Olivia, Zoe, Cam, Jess, Louise, Jennifer and more. We went to sleep in tents. It was fun. On Saturday we did wandering in Rutherglen. I found gold. It was very fun. We ate pancakes on Saturday. The Rutherglen girl guides came to do it with us. On Sunday we want to use the canoes. I got sick. We put the tent down. On Thursday we had a mad hatter tea party, it was funny and fun. I got my junior B.P and my Bronze with a cup and a teddy.*

*By Breanna.*

Well done to Simone who was our Student of the Week for being a respectful and always willing to give assistance to her classmates and the wider school community. Simone is a great role model to the other students and is doing an excellent job as the daily mail monitor for the school.

**Bogong - David and Kat**

Our big news last fortnight has involved the Fete. We prepared a terrific stall and sales were brisk.

We managed to partake of the various goods and services on offer and had a great time.

A big thankyou to Tayla and Caleb Ramsay for their fantastic help.
**Kosciusko - Kate and Sheydin**

We had a fete last Friday and this is a photo of Milly with her Nan and pa. I only went to the fete for the start. It started at 2pm and ended at 3pm, but it really ended at 7pm.
I got a tattoo of a love heart. - Shianne

This is me just about to go canoeing with Shianne. She is already in the canoe. I have my Jake the bad dog and my devil top that my mum gave me. I have a broad brimmed hat and some spare shoes that Michael gave me to use.
It was very hot! Shianne and I feel in the water. It was cold. Ahhhr!! Eeek! Oooh!

This is a photo of me dressed in my flying fox gear. The flying fox was scary at first, but after it was fun.
I had a go. I had so much fun.
Our instructor Mitchell is in the background. - Sarah

**Taminick—Phillipa, Keetah, Chloe and Lizz.**

Last week we went to our first school camp, 15 Mile Creek! We got to do lots of different activities throughout the day and it was loads of fun! We were all exhausted by the end of the day though. We’ve also started preparing for our end of year concert which we are all really excited about. On top of this we’ve been doing lots of fun activities to work on our fine motor and skills, such as using play-dough and doing puzzles.
Warby - Lee and Chris

Students of the Week:
Warby-

Jacob Salafia  For being respectful - supporting his friends at the sports in Shepparton
James Bryant  Being respectful - Showing a great deal of Patience waiting for his IPod to charge.

The Warby class as part of their Science program completed an egg drop experiment. The students were given limited resources including:
- Plastic straws
- Sticky tape
- Plastic cup
- Recycled paper
- Glue
- Plastic bags
- Paperclips

The goal was to design and build a system that will protect an egg from cracking when ‘dropped’ from the deck out the front of the Warby class onto the asphalt on the basketball court. Eggs that smashed or cracked failed the test while eggs that survived without a scratch passed!

Meron and Steph created the most successful egg protector creating a cardboard cone on the bottom of their egg that absorbed the energy the egg gathered as it accelerated towards the ground. There were a lot of eggs that didn’t pass the test; but plenty of smiles throughout the experiment!

Return Slip for Newsletter 21/11//2014 - Name of Student

Return slip to school office to be in the draw for a prize.

Together We Will: Be Learners. Be Safe. Be Respectful.
School Wide Positive Behaviour Support

Over the past two weeks of Goldie Trading 68 students have traded 3,040 Goldies, 8 students reached their “100 Goldies Milestone”, 8 reached their “250 Goldies Milestone” and 1 reached his “500 Goldies Milestone”. We received donations from Chris Clapham (teacher at Wang West), Edgar’s Newsagency and Steve & Linda’s IGA and postcards were sent to the families of 16 students to share the news of their great efforts.

Classroom Sessions

Junior Classes have focused on Self Esteem and our Strengths, Senior Classes have been working on Honesty and VCAL’s Life Preparation Program has involved a visit to Park Lane Nursery and a guest speaker from Gateway Health (Wodonga) speaking about Gambling.

Our Fete

What a wonderful day for all and what great students, staff, family and community support! It also turned out to be a pretty successful fundraiser! Well done all!

Thank You Morning Tea

On Monday we had yet another very successful “Thank You Morning Tea” to acknowledge the support of an amazing group of community members, agency workers, service club members, school volunteers and business owners. Special thanks to Jill and Tina for helping with preparation, Kat and Lee for coming to the rescue with kettles when the hot water service was overworked, Libby for cake donation and cleaning, the Junior School Councillors for handing the food around and Ash for room assembling.

Parent/Carer Club Meeting

Our final meeting for the year will be held at the school on Tuesday, 25th November at 2pm. It would be great to have a good attendance at this meeting and to share ideas for the continuation of this group in 2015.

Kindest regards to all,

Rose

Feathertop - Jody, Rosie and Ashley

On Tuesday 18th November, students in the VCAL class went to The Centre to assist Inner Wheel in preparing and serving a meal for 60 people. The students were involved in preparing the bread, making punch and slicing up some of the many desserts on offer. All the students did an AMAZING job serving the meat and salads at lunch and clearing the tables at the end of the meal. We are very proud of the effort each of the students put in, you did us proud.

Many of the VCAL students have completed their TAFE courses and Work Placement for 2014. Below Matt has explained why he enjoyed TAFE.

Why I Like TAFE

I decided to go to TAFE because I have a passion to follow a career in the Automotive Industry. At the moment I am learning about engines and how they work. I like being at TAFE a lot; it is good to get away from school for one day a week. I would encourage all students to think about what career they would like to pursue and see if there is a course at TAFE they could do.

It is hard work but worth it because it is something you want to do for life.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Students of the Week</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taminick</td>
<td>Darren Austin for eating in a safe manner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buffalo</td>
<td>Aiden Fallon, for being a learner by being independent at the swimming pool.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stirling</td>
<td>Hayden Riddell (being a learner) for being brave at camp, having a go at the climbing tower on camp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Pilot</td>
<td>Chloe Smith for being a learner by being eager to learn and coming to school every day this week. Brandon McDonnell for being a learner by settling into his new classroom environment and remembering lots of our school rules.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Beauty</td>
<td>Corey, Dylan, Jack, Kostya and Blake for being considerate and helpful at the fete.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotham</td>
<td>The whole class for being learners by collaborating and working as a team to design an exciting fete stall. Well done Hotham students!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt Emu</td>
<td>Vincent has been a fantastic learner this year. Vincent’s reading assessments indicate that he has gone up 5 reading levels. Well done an Excellent Emu!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kosciusko</td>
<td>Sarah Lord for being a learner by having a fantastic day at the Athletics! Sarah kept saying winning isn’t everything and to just have fun. Well done Sarah.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanley</td>
<td>Jayden – learner – listening to instructions and doing the tasks to the best of his abilities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bogong</td>
<td>Jye Lepenik for being a learner and using his spoon to eat his food.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buller</td>
<td>Christopher Bettany for respecting others’ personal space.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warby</td>
<td>James Bryant – Being respectful: Showing a great deal of Patience waiting for his iPod to charge.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Feathertop</td>
<td>Robert – For being respectful by representing not only yourself but the school at the Special Olympics last week.</td>
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<td>Sport</td>
<td>James Elkan for being such a fantastic helper by collecting the sports gear after lessons.</td>
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Together We Will: Be Learners. Be Safe. Be Respectful.
A free community event celebrating International Day of People with a Disability.

Interchange in conjunction with Wangaratta Council and other local services are providing a free event for all to enjoy.

Friday 6th December, 3pm—7pm
Kangaroo Gardens

Brass seen Wangaratta Opposite the Clarence

Music

Freebies from local services

Free activities hosted by local organisations

Jumping Castle

Bring your picnic rug, a bottle of water and sunscreen and come and enjoy the day.

Rural City of Wangaratta
Wangaratta THRC
Oak Flit Media
Open door neighbourhood house
The Centre
Wangaratta Special School