Wow! Where has this term gone? Holidays provide us with a wonderful opportunity to spend extra time with our children. I look forward to hearing the numerous stories of holiday adventures when we return in April. Please note that the office will be closed over the holiday period, however, contact can be made through tiqbiz or via email if required. Please take note of the return date for students.

Soccer
Our Friday night soccer team has made it into the Grand Final. These boys work extremely hard and we are very proud of their achievements.

Ballan Autumn Festival
What a great turn up! Thankyou to Ms Crane and the P and C for their efforts in giving our lovely school a presence at this event. I have gotten excellent feedback from numerous community members from the weekend, well done to everyone involved.

Winter
This week we had a short reminder of how cold it can get in Gordon. Please note that quality jackets can now be purchased through our uniform shop for $39.00. Not only do they look great, they also keep the children warm. If you would like to order this or any other uniform items, please obtain a uniform purchase order from the office.

AGM
Thankyou to all the parents who gave up their time to attend our Annual General Meeting last week. Our School Council for 2015 consists of Shane Hall (President), Deb MacFarlane (Vice President), Dale Frawley (Secretary), Anita O’Day, Duane, Kirk, Lisa Jones, Derick Micallef and Myself. A significant focus on the Master Plan will take place throughout 2015 allowing us to plan for continued future growth.

Please Remember
Assembly will be held at 1.30pm Tomorrow — Friday 27th March and the children will be dismissed from the Assembly at 1.45pm

Enrolments
Thankyou to the parents enrolling their prep children for next year. Enrolment forms can be found on our website, www.gordonps.vic.edu.au or you can obtain one from the office. If you know of anyone looking at schools for next year please feel free to ask them to call me.

Challenge to Students
Finally I would like to issue an art challenge to the students over the holidays. Winning entry will receive a prize. Students who wish to enter are asked to come up with a piece of art that can be displayed on my office wall. A3 size would be the maximum width and depth should be no thicker than 4cm. Entries to be received by the end of the first week back in April. I look forward to seeing some great pieces of art.

Have a great Easter Break and stay safe.
Russel Cowan,
Principal

P&C ITEMS
Gordon Primary School Cookbook Fundraiser:
The P&C are producing a children's cookbook based on your family's favourite recipe that is suitable for children to cook (or assist with cooking). At this stage, we are looking for one recipe per family. It can be an entree, main course, dessert, baking, whatever! We will also include recipes from our kitchen program.

Please email your recipe as a MS Word file to nicolesmith72@hotmail.com by Monday 11 May. If you have any questions about this please don't hesitate to contact Nicole Smith on 5368 9199 or speak to one of the P&C Committee members.

Hardware Items Needed:
If your family has anything from the following list that could be donated to the building program please bring it into school in the first week of next term: any type of electrical tools.

Gardening Items Needed:
If your family has anything from the following list that could be donated to the Stephanie Alexander Gardening Program please bring it into school this week, the first week of next term or I am happy to organise pick up: hoes, forks, secateurs, rakes, grass rakes, metal buckets, metal basins, wheelbarrows, manure, mulch, compost, soil conditioner, PH kit, medium watering cans, harvest baskets.
### March 2015

All dates are correct at time of going to print however they may be subject to change.

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|     |     |     | 27  | Last Day of Term 2  
Wear What You Want Day  
Assembly 1.30  
Dismissal 1.45 |     |     |     |

### April 2015

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| 13  | Term 2 Begins  
All children return |     |     | 14  | Earth Ed Gr 4  
Excursion |     |     |
|     |     | 15  | 16  |     | 17  |     |
|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|     |     |     | 20  |     |     |     |
|     |     |     | 21  | Pink Stumps Day | 22  | 23  |
|     |     |     |     | Assembly 2.45  
Wood Raffle Drawn |     |     |
|     |     |     |     |     | 24  | School Sports Day  
at Llanberris Oval |
|     |     |     | 27  |     |     |     |
|     |     |     | 28  |     | 29  | 30  |
|     |     |     | 29  |     | 30  |     |

### May 2015

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|     |     |     |     | School Cross Country  
at Little Bendigo Primary |     |     |
|     |     | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   |
|     |     |     | School Photos  
Assembly 2.45  
School Council Meeting 6pm |     | 9   | 10  |
|     |     | 12  | 13  | 14  |     |     |
|     |     |     |     |     | 15  | Cross Country Finals |
|     |     |     |     |     | 16  | 17  |
|     |     | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  |
|     |     |     | Assembly 2.45 |     |     |     |
|     |     |     |     |     | 23  | 24  |
|     |     | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  |
|     |     |     |     |     |     | 30  |
|     |     |     |     |     |     | 31  |

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**CWA Raffle**

The Gordon & Surrounds Country Women’s Association raised $75 for Gordon Primary School from their Children’s Hamper Raffle. The raffle was drawn on Saturday 21st March and the lucky winner was Karyn Cox. A very big thank you to the ladies at the CWA for this contribution to Gordon Primary School.

**Happy Birthday**

We would like to wish a very Happy Birthday to Ethan Hounsell Bachelor, Madison Smith, Alanah Smith, Taylah Farrugia, Thomas Gardiner and also to any members of our community who are celebrating their special day.

**Advertising in the School Newsletter**

If you would like to advertise your business or community organisation in our newsletter please send through your ad to Gordonps@edumail.vic.gov.au or alternatively place a copy of your advertisement in the “Newsletter Contributions” tray in the administration office. Advertisements are $20 per issue – please speak to Shana Brooks on 5368 9223 regarding payment arrangements. Please note that all advertisements must be in by Tuesday evening to make that week’s issue.
Indonesian Masks
Have you bought your tickets yet?

Well done boys!

Good Luck for the Grand Final

GO ICICLES GO!!!!
Parents and prospective students are warmly invited to attend the Information Evening at Sebastopol Campus of Phoenix P–12 Community College.

Discover first hand how your child can share in the lifetime benefits of an excellent secondary education.

Academic Achievers Program
DEECD Accredited SEAL (Select Entry Academic Learning)

Success Through the Pursuit Of Excellence

Entry at Year 7, 2016
Selection based on academic test and interview
Applications close — Friday 27th March, 2015

The SEAL (Select Entry, Academic Learning) Program is a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) program that recognises that gifted and high-potential students are found in all communities, all socio-economic backgrounds and all cultural backgrounds. This program provides talented students with opportunities for a curriculum platform based on enrichment and acceleration. Students will be nurtured as they build their leadership skills, pursue their passions and extend their creative abilities from Year 7 through to Year 11.

Informal Evening
Tuesday 10th March, 2015
Campus and Expo tours 5pm
Information Briefing 7pm

The evening includes an Expo and tour of Sebastopol Campus, interactive displays of students’ work and musical performances.

Addresses by the Principal, Teaching Staff and Campus Leaders will provide information on Transition Programs, Curriculum Options and Phoenix P–12 Community College.

A comprehensive Information Package is provided.

Sebastopol Campus
Hertford Street, Sebastopol VIC 3356
Tel  (+613) 5349 3293
Fax  (+613) 5335 7582
Email phoenix.p12.cc@edumail.vic.gov.au
PO Box 49, Sebastopol VIC 3356
www.phoenix.vic.edu.au

"In Knowledge there is Opportunity"
Academic Achievers Program

Entry at Year 7, 2016

At Phoenix P-12 Community College we recognise that there are students who will require the curriculum to be modified to ensure there is challenge in their learning. The Academic Achievers Program supports students who are capable of learning at a faster pace and in greater depth than other students of the same age. This highly structured program offers rigorous academic learning in a stimulating and challenging environment.

The Academic Achievers Program provides students with a wonderful opportunity to pursue higher level academic achievements. Students need to have a high level of maturity and commitment, and be capable of independent learning.

A hand selected group of highly dedicated teachers will work with students selected for the Academic Achievers Program. These teachers have both experience and training focused on developing the talents of gifted students. They will closely monitor the progress of all students and ensure that every individual is challenged through engaging learning tasks.

Students in the Academic Achievers Program will be required to make a contribution to the broader College Community by pursuing a co-curricular pathway, targeted at the development of social, emotional and collaborative approaches, in one of the following fields:

- Human Movement - Rowing
- Public Speaking - Debating
- Music Performance - Instrumental Music Ensemble
- Performing Arts - Dance

Who Should Apply

Students suited to the Academic Achievers Program are those who:

- Have above average academic ability and excel in most areas of the curriculum;
- Are creative;
- Have high levels of maturity and commitment;
- Have strong and positive self-concept;
- Are capable of independent learning.

Entrance Requirements

Entry to the Phoenix P-12 Academic Achievers Program will be determined by:

- Academic Testing in Reading Comprehension, Mathematics, Written Comprehension and Spelling;
- An Interview with a member of the school leadership team;
- A review of school reports and information from the previous school.

Application Process

Parents or Guardians should complete the preliminary application overleaf and post directly to the College Registrar at the address below.

College Registrar
Phoenix P-12 Community College
Sebastopol Campus
Herford Street
Sebastopol VIC 3356

Applications Close – Friday 27th March, 2015

Further information and an interview time will be forwarded following receipt of this preliminary application.

Enquiries may be directed to the Principal and Assistant Principals.

Entrance Exam – Friday 8th May, 2015

If the Entrance Exam date cannot be attended, please contact the school to arrange an alternative.

Applications Close – Friday 27th March, 2015

Please nominate which co-curricular pathway the student would pursue.

- Human Movement - Rowing
- Public speaking - Debating
- Music Performance - Instrumental Music Ensemble
- Performing Arts - Dance

Have you also submitted an application for a Scholarship to Phoenix P-12 Community College in 2016?

- YES
- NO

On receipt of this preliminary application form, student applicants will receive a full application form which provides the date and time for the students interview. This full application form should be completed by the student applicant and returned to the College office prior to the Entrance Exam on Friday 8th May, 2015.

Following the Entrance Exam, a parent or guardian together with applicant student will be required to attend an interview at Phoenix P-12 Community College.

Parent or Guardian’s signature

Name (print)

Parents/Students acknowledge that not every student will be offered a position in the Academic Achievers SEAL Program and accept that the decision of Phoenix P-12 Community College.

Preliminary Application

Phoenix P-12 Community College

Applications Close – Friday 27th March, 2015

Student’s full name

Parent/Guardian’s name

Address

Phone

Home

Work

Email

- Preliminary application for Academic Achievers SEAL Program
- Student to nominate which co-curricular pathway they would pursue
- Student to indicate if they have also submitted an application for a Scholarship to Phoenix P-12 Community College in 2016
- Student will receive a full application form which provides the date and time for the student’s interview
- Full application form should be completed by the student and returned to the College office prior to the Entrance Exam on Friday 8th May, 2015
- Following the Entrance Exam, a parent or guardian together with applicant student will be required to attend an interview at Phoenix P-12 Community College
- Parent or Guardian’s signature
- Name (print)

Parents/Students acknowledge that not every student will be offered a position in the Academic Achievers SEAL Program and accept that the decision of Phoenix P-12 Community College.
WANT TO PLAY AT THE 2015 TOYOTA AFL GRAND FINAL? Enter the NAB AFL Auskicker of the Year competition for your chance to be there!

AFL Authorisation Code: GP AFL 15/01

Begins 18th April 5pm @ Gordon Football Oval

Phone Tim on 0438689500 for further details

Register Online

Join Our Team AFLAUSKICK.COM.AU
Welcome to our 2015 Bungaree Football/Netball Club Auskick Season.

Let's make this year bigger and better!!!!

Our new facilities are complete, which brings loads of excitement among everyone....

You may already know but Registration has changed, you now need to register online, which includes completing the registration form and making your payment via a credit card, if this becomes difficult please let me know and we can make another arrangement.

This year rather than having a registration day set aside to meet our coach, being Michael Steenhuis, we are going to incorporate this into our first training session.

Go to www.aflauskick.com.au and register today!!!!

Our Auskick training session will be held at the Bungaree Football/Netball Club Oval and will commence Friday the 17th of April at 5.00pm. Please bring along your registration receipt.

For those also interested, dinner will be available after Auskick in our new facility. Check out our website www.bungareefnc.com.au to view further dates, menus and pricing. Or visit Facebook: Bungaree Football and Netball Club.

If you have any questions please contact myself Mick on 0428 161 420 otherwise see you then.
BALLAN SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Will be holding an exhibition

“WE REMEMBER”

COMMEMORATING THE GREAT WAR

1914 - 1918

To be held in the Ballan R. S. L. Hall

146 Inglis Street, Ballan

From Saturday 18th April to Saturday 9th May 2015

10am - 4pm each day

EVERYONE WELCOME

Displays by the Red Cross, Historical Society, R.S.L.

Model Aircraft and Warship.

Static displays of Memorabilia, medals and diaries.

School Students work and Diorama (depicting the landing at Gallipoli).

Comprehensive information on the Ballan Shire Soldiers.
WHERE ARE WE UP TO?

In our second newsletter we shared some of the things you told us about your experience living, working and bringing up children in Moorabool. Based on what we found out, we identified four priority areas to focus our future planning. These priority areas will be used to develop our new Municipal Early Years Plan (MEYP). They are:

1. Availability and accessibility of child and family services: this included having more services that are conveniently located and easy to get to, a greater choice of services, and reduced waiting times.

2. Connecting and working together: this was important for service providers and families. Knowing what services were available and how to access them was also seen as important for making connections with others.

3. An improved and sustainable built environment: this included improvements to roads, bike paths, pathways, and public transport; and to sporting facilities, parks and playgrounds.

4. Consulting and communicating with community: having a greater say about issues impacting on their lives was important for families and children. Many families said they were rarely consulted, and when they were, they felt their ideas were not valued or acted upon.

The aim of this meeting was to discuss what specific action steps they will take to ensure the vision of the MEYP becomes a reality, and Moorabool Shire is an even better place for families to live, work, and bring up their children.

WHAT ELSE HAVE WE DONE?

Asking children what they like and don’t like about living, learning and playing in their community was an important part of our community consultations. We heard from more than 300 children in early childhood and school settings throughout the consultations. We value what children have to say and believe the plan will be stronger by including their ideas and perspectives.

To acknowledge their contribution, a DVD was distributed to all primary school students who took part in the consultations. The DVD included photos of the children sharing their ideas, in words and pictures, about what would make their city a great place to live.

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

Council representatives are now reviewing the draft action plan developed in October 2014. When it has been finalised, the action plan will be included in the MEYP. The MEYP will then sent to Council to be endorsed.

Thank you for your help so far. We value your input. A draft version of the MEYP will be made available to the community to read and provide comment on in April 2015. To find out more contact Sharon McArthur, Manager Early Years on 03 5366 7100.