



BTA NEWS

Better Together Alliance Newsletter
prepared by Sandy Gunn

April / May 2017

Term II is off to a great start, thanks to so many in our BTA schools and community who continue to support and deliver outstanding programs and activities to our students.

Australian Ballet Education Program

This fantastic program commenced on the 23rd May with over 70 students participating from across the BTA schools. Students are enjoying the workshops and the preparation for their own choreographed performances. Learning new skills and rehearsing solidly every day for 9 days towards the presentation of their work in a spectacular Showcase performance to our community on the 2nd June is a tremendous challenge. The BTA wishes each student every success and looks forward to seeing the results of their hard work on the 2nd June. Thank you to Kyla McGregor (WPSC), Jamason Lopez (McGuire College), Rebecca Lansdown (SHS) and Tanya Sayer (MSC) for their outstanding support.

*“We will do better for
young people by
working strategically
together”
BTA Focus*



Upcoming Events

- Network Meetings – Week 5 Term III
- Australian Ballet Showcase Performance – 2nd June
- BTA Production GREASE – July
- La Trobe Uni Science Outreach Program – September
- Central Australia Trip – Sept



Network Meetings

The second Network Meetings were held at McGuire College. Thank you to the Learning Area Leaders at McGuire College for their leadership, organisation and coordination for these meetings. The meetings were well attended, the sharing and future planning was fantastic. Thank you to McGuire College who will continue with the network meetings for 2017.



Boundless Work Experience

During the week of the 1st to 5th of May, students from across the Better Together Alliance attended the Boundless Work Experience in Melbourne. Students had a positive experience of living and working in Melbourne over the week.

Many thanks to the Boundless Foundation for their exceptional work in providing this opportunity, The Lighthouse Project for their continued support and the provision of student care packs. A big thanks to the dedicated staff from the 4 schools who made this experience one to remember for our students. Students from the Better Together Alliance would like to thank the following business for their placements

- Allens Law Firm
- Crumpler
- Department of Justice
- Elenberg Fraser
- Fair Work Commission
- Maurice Blackburn Law
- Victorian Bar
- Victorian Law Reform Commission
- MathsPathway
- Meteir3
- Publicis
- Royal Melbourne Hospital
- Mercedes Benz Australia Pacific
- Monash Diabetes Research



BTA Student Council



Students in the BTA Student Council met again during Week 4, where their planning for 3 large joint events continued. Students are collaborating to present a BTA Junior School Social, BTA Fete and BTA Alternate Sports day. The students are to be commended for sharing of ideas and for their enthusiasm to work together to produce great events.

The Casual Clothes days held during Week 8 of Term I raised the money to support a BTA Lift Off Scholarship through the Goulburn Valley Education Scholarship Program. Thank you to all students from across the BTA for their donations for this Scholarship to be offered through the Liftoff Scholarships.

facebook.

www.facebook.com/BetterTogetherAlliance

This social media page includes updates on events, activities and items across the BTA.



BTA Production

Rehearsals are in full swing for this large scale inclusive production of Grease by the BTA schools. Dates for the performances are: Wednesday July 26th Matinee (Primary Schools), Thursday July 27th Evening Performance, Friday July 28th Evening Performance, and Saturday July 29th Matinee and Evening Performance.



Central Australia

The BTA Central Australia Trip for 2017 is set for 18th to 28th September. 44 students from across the BTA will be attending the exciting adventure to Central Australia. Thank you to the teachers at each school for their commitment to this camp and I look forward to seeing all of the campers and parents at our Information Night on Tuesday 6th June at Shepparton High School.

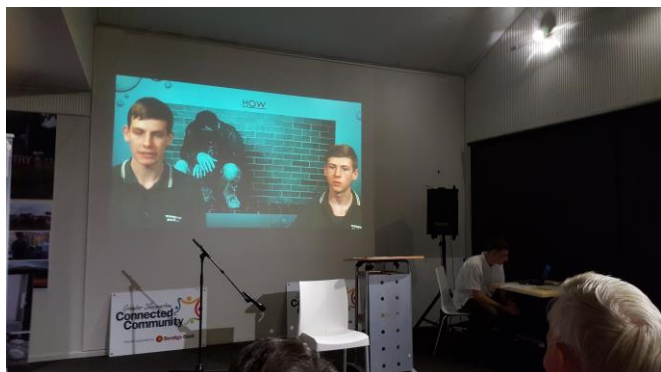
Mentor Program (Lighthouse Project)

The Lighthouse Project Mentor Program at McGuire College is running for the second year with a fantastic new group of volunteers spending time with their Mentees on a regular basis. The Lighthouse Project is also running a Mentor Program with a Literacy focus at Shepparton High School in 2017. Great thanks to the Lighthouse Project and their volunteers for their outstanding commitment to our students and the program.



Cooking For a Better Future Dinner

On Thursday 11th May I attend the inaugural Cooking for a Better Future Dinner at The Connection. It was a great night with delicious food. Congratulations to Seb Wright from WPSC for his outstanding work to bring this exciting program to fruition for Greater Shepparton's youth. Seb's idea for this program was developed through his involvement in the Big Ideas Project in 2016 through Slap Tomorrow and Lighthouse Project.



Women in STEM Conference

On Tuesday 30th May a bus of students from across the BTA attended the Women in STEM conference, held as part of a joint partnership between the Victorian Department of Education and Training and Quantum Victoria to promote the participation of women in STEM training and careers. The key themes for the conference were: **Coding and Arduinos, Additive Manufacturing (3D Printing), Advanced Materials, Robotics and Engineering, and Cyber Security.** This was a fantastic opportunity for students to gain more insight into future STEM opportunities in careers and training. Thank you to the attending teachers from each school and thank you to Emma Adam and Paige Martin from McGuire College for their great insight, organisation and involvement in this event.

World Challenge

World Challenge has been to Shepparton and students from across the BTA have been invited to be a part of the 2018 expedition to Thailand. Students involved in this program will be supported to develop their own itinerary and budgets, to explore and assist the community as they travel and experience Thailand. Thank you to Lachlan Gallacher and the teachers at each school for supporting their students through this program into the future.

Transition

During May Year 6 Students from across Greater Shepparton have attended Information Nights and Open Days at each of the BTA Schools. Placement forms are currently being processed. The BTA Schools are looking forward to welcoming our new Year 7s in 2018.

Bridge in Schools

Thank you to the U3A Bridge Club for their fabulous support in providing our BTA students with Bridge sessions during lunchtimes. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated.

Contact Us

Any news or concerns, please contact

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