What is STEM?
STEM Education is a term used to refer collectively to the teaching of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

Why is STEM important?
STEM touches every aspect of our lives, from our smartphones to the technologies that enable us to explore the world around us and outer space. In the future it is predicted that there will be a high demand for STEM related jobs, such as ICT professionals and engineers. We know that not every student will become a scientist or mathematician, and that is the way it ought to be, but we do want them to be aware of the role that STEM plays in their everyday lives and how important it is that STEM knowledge continues to grow. By cultivating an interest amongst students in these areas it is hoped that they will gain a greater understanding of these subjects, show improved engagement and be more likely to continue studying STEM areas as they get older.

STEM subjects are well placed to teach skills that are relevant to an 'information-rich' society, such as problem solving and creative thinking. Building STEM capacity in our students aligns with our current strategies to support children to develop a growth mindset and become powerful learners. Fostering these areas will help them develop the confidence and curiosity to:
- Actively participate in their learning
- Make decisions based on sound evidence
- Skillfully solve problems and deal proactively with new situations
- Communicate effectively in a variety of forms
- Collaborate with others.
- Believe that they are capable of learning and achieving with effort.

Regional STEM Training and Development Day, Friday May 27th
This day will provide teachers the opportunity to listen to guest speakers and participate in STEM related workshops to build their capacity and awareness to teach these areas in the curriculum. Local community events have also been organised for the weekend of May 28th and 29th, with families having the opportunity to attend various free events at the Mt Gambier Library and Main Corner Complex (Saturday) and the Railway Lands (Sunday).

Sandy Davey, Kirsty Trahar, Sharon Day, Michele Waters
SENIOR STAFF
National Volunteer Week is Australia’s largest celebration of volunteers and volunteerism. Today there are over six million people volunteering annually in Australia, representing 37% of the adult population. Volunteering Australia along with its state and territory network recognises the valuable contribution each individual provides by offering their time, skills and passion, continuing to demonstrate Australia’s proud culture of giving.

At McDonald Park School we have a dedicated band of volunteers including parents, other family members and members of the wider community who volunteer their valuable time to our school on a regular basis. The list of tasks the volunteers perform is lengthy: Governing Council and the various subcommittees that are part of the council, volunteering in the garden and kitchen, helping out in the resource centre, taking books home to cover, working in the canteen, listening to reading, going on excursions and camps, LAP Volunteers, attending working bees, helping out on special days eg sports days, fundraisers, school sports coaches and all the other little things that they do on a regular basis.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the wonderful job you do all year and let you know that we appreciate your time greatly and look forward to celebrating the year at our volunteers morning tea in term four.

**Generations in Jazz**

Generations in Jazz was an amazing first time experience. There were so many talented young performers playing straight in front of our eyes. It was great sitting in front of James Morrison, Wycliffe Gordon, Troy Roberts and the great One O’Clock Lab Band all the way from the United States. The atmosphere was electric and each band always brought something new. It was one of the best feelings of my life standing up and performing with the SESB in front of a crowd. Generations in Jazz was the best music festival I have ever been to. **Darcy W**

**Canteen News**

We recently welcomed Start Smart to deliver their free, financial education workshops to our students. Delivered in class to students by a facilitator, Start Smart changes the way young people learn about money.

Our school has proudly joined the Commonwealth Bank’s Start Smart Program in its mission to improve the financial literacy of Australia’s young people. Overall the program proved to be a highly beneficial experience for students and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. For more information on the program and each of the workshops we encourage you to visit [www.startsmart.com.au](http://www.startsmart.com.au).
On Wednesday, 25 May, our school celebrated National Simultaneous Story Time for the fifth time. Each year, an Australian picture book is chosen to be read simultaneously in libraries, schools, kindergartens, childcare centres, homes, bookshops and other places around the country. The chosen book for this year was “I got this hat”, written by Jol and Kate Temple and illustrated by Jon Foye. The story was inspired by the numerous hats the authors have collected during travels around the world.

Our resource centre was decorated in hats and students wore hats while listening to the story on Wednesday. These hats created much conversation and delight.

Mrs Byers and Mrs Mitchell’s year four classes, along with Ms Huitema’s reception class, went to the Mount Gambier Public Library to participate in their program. They sat in the City Hall and were entertained by Public Library staff member, Suzie Kranz, who read the book and ran a craft session at 11.00am.

We thank the Mount Gambier Public Library for providing experiences for our school to share. These experiences enhance literacy, promote a love of reading and become rituals which create memories. Students fondly remember past National Simultaneous Story Time sessions and these discussions reflect the passion for literature McDonald Park School continually strives to encourage.

Rooms 1 and A2 watching the National Simultaneous Story Time in the library.

Garden classes are all about identifying plants this term. Room eight is shown here taking the ‘thyme’ to identify herbs they may use in the kitchen.

Cooking classes started the term with yummy vegetable frittata last Wednesday, followed by leek and Jerusalem artichoke soup on Thursday. Jerusalem artichokes are a seasonal treat this time of year, when the tubers can be dug up to use in the kitchen. They look a bit like knobby ginger, but are used like parsnip or other root vegetables. Delicious roasted or in soups or stews, they are well worth trying. You can buy them for $1.00 a bag at the weekly school garden market.

Finally, if an award was given to the most enthusiastic planters of the week, then N4’s Josh and Jake would win it for sure as they tackled planting up the Far East nature play area last Tuesday.

N3 harvesting Jerusalem artichokes.

Lost

One silver bracelet. Chain link style with an engraved love heart charm. Of great sentimental value to Mrs Ward. If found, please hand in to the front office.

Lost

KITCHEN GARDEN

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N3 harvesting Jerusalem artichokes.

Sam Baker
GARDEN SPECIALIST
CROSS COUNTRY

Forty students travelled to Naracoorte for the Naracoorte Cross Country on Friday, 20th May. With over 1,000 participants competing in the event there were many nervous athletes, particularly for those students who were first time competitors. The cross country is a challenging event, run over varying distances dependent on age. It is a demanding course with sand and hill climbs, which many of the children are unfamiliar with.

All of the students need to be commended for the way in which they participated, competing to the best of their ability and in the spirit of the day. They need to be commended for their commitment and effort in training, which provided positive results. Many of the students achieved personal best results.

We were fortunate enough to have three successful athletes who have been selected to represent the Lower South East District in the SAPSASA Cross Country to be held in Adelaide later in the term.

Ella Ackland 11 year old girls - 2500 metres
Brooke Tonon 13 year old girls - 2500 metres
Bodey Hosking 12 year old boys - 2500 metres

A special thank you to those parents who helped out in any way, whether it was in transporting students in private vehicles, helping to organise the competitors, or to set up and pack up on the day. Your time and effort is truly appreciated.

Gaynor Arthurson

In SRC this term the children have been running the meetings themselves, with the year 6/7’s having roles of president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, project manager and publicity officer.

Fundraising
SRC’s are thinking about a fundraiser. Some ideas are a walk-a-thon, footy colours day, colour run or casual clothes day with a gold coin donation to go towards the school. If you have any ideas please tell your class SRC’s or Little Leaders.

Kayla and Niamh

LAP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are once again in the process of setting up our LAP programme for 2016.

LAP is based on the six C’s.
CARE: Positive relationship is vital
COMMITMENT: Time and motivation
COMMUNICATION: Sharing with another
CONFIDENTIALITY: Of their work
CONTENT: Work with teacher
CO-OPERATION:

If you have a spare 45 min or 1 hour per week or know someone that you think would be interested in being involved in the program or would like more information, please give Linda Ward or Sharon Day a call at school on 8724 9811 or return the slip below.

LAP VOLUNTEERS FOR 2016

I am interested in working as a LAP volunteer.

Name: ....................................................
Phone Number: ......................................
Eldest Child’s Name: ..................................
Room No.: ............................................
COMMUNITY NEWS

GAMBIER CENTRALS SOCCER CLUB & MINI ROOS QUIZ AND GAMES NIGHT
Saturday, 4th June at 7.00pm
Tables of up to 8 adults, $5 per player
Bring your own nibbles for your table, great prizes to be won

Gambier Centrals 2016 quiz and games night will be a fun night to test your knowledge and skills against others. Round up a table of friends, family, workmates and enter for some fun and a good night out. Kids will be catered for in the player’s lounge supervised watching dvd’s and playing games if you can’t get a sitter for them. As well as the standard quiz night games we will also be throwing in a few games to test your skills. It’s a great way to meet other people and have a fun night out. RSVP your table to Nicky Jellesma on 0403501227 or email Nicky.Jellesma@ttpl.com.au. Hope you can make it.

DOUBLE HELIX SCIENCE CLUB

Sounds like fun!
Learn all about sound including what causes sound, how it moves through the air to your ears, and how different sounds can be made. Make your own musical instruments and noise makers and see how in tune you are.
When: Thursday, 2 June at 6.45pm
Where: Tenison Woods College science lab
Age: 5+
Cost: $2 each child and $5 for a family
Parents are encourage to stay and assist their children (and have fun too). To book your place email courv@tenison.catholic.edu.au.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS
AWARDS - WEEK 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presented to</th>
<th>By</th>
<th>For</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indiana N</td>
<td>Ms Huitema &amp; Mrs Fox</td>
<td>her excellent growth mindset and helping others in the classroom.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oliver dV</td>
<td>Ms Huitema &amp; Mrs Fox</td>
<td>always being persistent with every learning task and his positive attitude at school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koby B</td>
<td>Mrs Spencer &amp; Mrs Fox</td>
<td>his positive hard working attitude when focusing on his learning and growing his brain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annabelle M</td>
<td>Mrs Spencer &amp; Mrs Fox</td>
<td>being a kind and generous class member who always gives up her time to help others.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophie C</td>
<td>Mrs Wilson &amp; Mrs Strachan</td>
<td>Sophie is a delightful self motivated, quiet achiever. She is making terrific progress in her learning and is a kind and gentle friend to others.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jett C</td>
<td>Mrs Wilson &amp; Mrs Strachan</td>
<td>Jett has a super work ethic. He is self motivated and able to work with quiet independence. Jett is kind and cooperative and a lovely student in our class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macy W</td>
<td>Mrs Pitkin &amp; Mrs McCracken</td>
<td>amazing effort with reading. Macy reads with such enthusiasm and fluency. We are very impressed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kasey M</td>
<td>Mrs Pitkin &amp; Mrs McCracken</td>
<td>always displaying kindness and helpfulness to all. We really appreciate your lovely manner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levi S</td>
<td>Miss Schulz</td>
<td>his participation during maths lessons and willingness to have a go.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia L</td>
<td>Miss Schulz</td>
<td>her creative Three Little Pigs artwork and effort put in.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruby B</td>
<td>Mrs Dew</td>
<td>her effort and creativity in making arcade games.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lillyana S</td>
<td>Mrs Dew</td>
<td>her effort and creativity in making arcade games.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eric D</td>
<td>Miss Eldridge</td>
<td>his original and entertaining portrayal of the shepherd in our “Boy Who Cried Wolf” plays.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imogen McLeod</td>
<td>Miss Eldridge</td>
<td>her enthusiastic participation in our work on time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kane G</td>
<td>Miss Hutchinson</td>
<td>working hard to improve his reading and sight words.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paige A</td>
<td>Miss Hutchinson</td>
<td>improving her knowledge of letter sounds and names.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taylor F</td>
<td>Ms Kennewell &amp; Mrs Bronca</td>
<td>being an interested learner in room 7, aiming to work with a growth mindset and achieving good standards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bella C</td>
<td>Ms Kennewell &amp; Mrs Bronca</td>
<td>being a keen, positive learner in room 7, aiming to do her best at independent and collaborative tasks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jake F</td>
<td>Mrs Arthurson &amp; Mrs Bronca</td>
<td>showing Grit and a positive growth mindset.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordanna C</td>
<td>Mrs Arthurson &amp; Mrs Bronca</td>
<td>good improvement in literacy and for always putting in 100% effort.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chelsea P</td>
<td>Mr Bigg</td>
<td>being an awesome reader who reads with great expression and volume.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elijah S</td>
<td>Mr Bigg</td>
<td>putting in big effort with extending himself in his writing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kai A</td>
<td>Ms Byers &amp; Mrs Bronca</td>
<td>always demonstrating respect to self and others.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malakai S</td>
<td>Ms Byers &amp; Mrs Bronca</td>
<td>settling well into the class routine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridie S</td>
<td>Ms Mitchell &amp; Mrs Bronca</td>
<td>the progress she has made with her reading and with the wonderful effort with other areas of her learning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James T</td>
<td>Ms Mitchell &amp; Mrs Bronca</td>
<td>being very well organised, diligent with his learning and responsible when working independently.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
National Volunteer Week - May 9-15

Dear volunteers,

You are usually busy putting other people's needs first, but this week it's your turn. Today marks the start of National Volunteer Week when we recognise and celebrate your contribution to our community - especially to South Australian kids.

South Australians can be proud of our record of volunteering. Despite our busy lives, almost 37 per cent of us still find the time to volunteer in our communities - the second highest rate across the country.

This figure includes thousands of parents, grandparents and others who give their time in our children's centres, preschools, schools and care and protection services. Thank you for all the roles you take on, including coaching kids' sport, serving on governing councils, listening to reading, helping out in tuck shops or on camps or excursions, teaching languages in our ethnic schools and helping kids in care with their homework, providing transport so they can visit family members or supporting older kids to learn vital life skills.

You make kids' lives better in so many ways. You support them to develop a love of reading and to know their heritage and culture, you introduce them to the fun of sports and the value of teamwork and you help to establish safe and settled environments for kids in care. And just by being there and sharing your valuable time with kids, you show them they - and their future - are important.

To all of you, I want to say thank you for giving so much to our communities. This week, the spotlight is on you - enjoy your well-deserved celebration.

Susan Close
Minister for Education and Child Development