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Important Dates

NOVEMBER:

18th - 21ST

Energy Breakthrough

19TH - Young Leaders conference.

22ND - 2011 Academic year commences.

22ND - 26TH
Year 9 Rubicon Camp

DECEMBER:

7TH -
Year 7 Orientation Day.

10TH -
Reports distributed to year levels.

14TH - Celebrations Night.

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Principal's Report

Friday, 19th November 2010.

'Diversity Our Strength'

As we prepare for 2011, our Year 7 Team has started to interview families and students coming into Year 7 next year. Our interview program gives parents and student an opportunity to meet teachers for next year and to discuss in more detail the programs that our students undertake during the year. This year our Year 7 students had access to the netbook program that was supported by DEECD, Echuca College and the Loddon Mallee Region. This very successful program will continue into Year 8 with this cohort of students. In 2011, I'm happy to announce that Echuca College has joined with local business, Peats' Office Equipment to facilitate a laptop program for all students coming into Year 7 in 2011. The College will provide a new ACER laptop (with all the DEECD software) for every Year 7 student to access 24/7. We are also very happy to be able to join with Peats and in doing so support our local economy. Enrolments for 2011 are still open and if families have not enrolled as yet please contact the general office at Echuca College 54821133.

Last week I had the privilege of interviewing 20 candidates for next year's College Captain positions for 2011. The 20 candidates had a series of questions that they had to respond to during their interview. All responded in a confident manner and had clearly thought about how they would conduct themselves if elected to the position of College Captain. The candidates delivered their campaign speeches to the Year 11 students and this was followed by a ballot later in the week. They were all very impressive. I am happy to announce that our Captains for 2011 are Amelia Densen and Josh Patten and our Vice Captains are Angus Fraser and Sarah McCluskey. We wish them all the best for next year.

We have had a very busy week at the College with lots of extra curricula activities taking place and some great news around student achievements. Congratulations to Sarah Head and Zoe Keele who have been selected to participate in the prestigious Melbourne University Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars Program. Both students will attend the initial welcoming program on the 10th December. On Wednesday Year 10 Beacon students enjoyed the 'Big Day In' program from 11am -1pm that saw students involved in a Police Q & A session, past students' forum, Zumba fitness class and a meditation class. Thank you to the Ms Roberts and the Beacon Foundation for their support and organisation. We also had our Pro Arts students perform for their parents and friends on Wednesday evening. Many thanks to Mr Muller and Mr Spizzica. On Wednesday evening we also enjoyed 9 dance performances from the College's great young dancers from Years 7-12. The girls have been supported by Ms Johnson and Mrs Kornmann. A big cheer also needs to go out for our debating students who competed in the Echuca Regional Debating Competition on Wednesday. There were four awards for this competition (2 awards for each of the two divisions). Winning Senior Team (years 9 & 10) was Echuca College. Best Senior Speaker (years 9 & 10) was Eleanor Denson and Winning Junior Team (years 7 & 8) was Echuca College. Best Junior Speaker (years 7 & 8) was Tegan Milne. Well done and many thanks to Mr Bailey.

Equally impressive has been the positive approach our Years 10 and 11 students have taken into their examinations. All examinations finished last week and next week will see the College start its academic year for 2011. This program is compulsory; and students who don't attend will be disadvantaged and will be behind their peers at the start of next year. In previous years the College offered a 'Step Up' program for the senior students but this year the whole College will start their program for 2011 and remain in the 2011 year levels until the end of the year. For our senior students this provides an opportunity to get work underway in their VCE. Texts for English and other pre-reading can start before the interruptions of Christmas and the January holidays. The program runs for two weeks for Years 10 and 11 (2011 Years 11 & 12) and finishes on the 3rd December. Our Year 10 students participating in our Peer Support Program will continue until the 7th December and as part of that program they will meet the 2011 Year 7s on Orientation Day 7th December. Students in the remaining year levels are expected to attend school until the 17th December.

Next year we will continue our 'Peer Support' program for Year 7 students that will run for all of first term. The focus of the program is to support Year 7 students during the first few months of the year and also to provide a senior student as a friend to talk to if the need arises. As mentioned earlier, Year 10 students will be trained as 'Peer Support' leaders and while their main function is to support their younger peers, the training is valuable to them as leaders in the College. The leaders and their group meet once a week and during this time complete activities that provide an opportunity for conversations about school, classes and how the transition from primary to secondary school is going. Students will meet at different times each week to avoid missing the same class and at the end of the term all Year 7s and their leaders will meet for a final celebration. The goal of the program is to help Year 7 students to feel comfortable in their new environment and to also make their secondary experience a great experience.

As mentioned, Tuesday 7th December is our Grade 6 into Year 7 Orientation Day and we look forward to meeting our new students. Orientation Day is always a day of mixed emotions for our Grade 6 students; whilst excited about the thought of entering the College, most are uncertain on how this transition will take place. Over the last 12 months Echuca College and its partner primary schools have worked hard at reducing the concerns held by students moving from primary to secondary schooling. Transition Program' started in Term 2 with school visits, an Open Day at the College in Terms 2 and 3 and further visits from our Year 7 Transition Coordinator over the last few months. In addition to these activities, students and parents have had an opportunity to attend an interview at the College to ensure that all questions and concerns can be addressed before the start of the new school year. On Tuesday 7th December the students will experience a complete day's timetable at the College. If parents have any concerns about the procedures for 'Orientation Day', please contact the College and ask for Mr. Trehwella. We look forward to meeting and working with all our new students and their families.

The final Year 12 examination was held on Thursday and now our Year 12 students must wait until Monday the 13th December for their Tertiary Entrance Rank and a breakdown of all the elements of their formal assessment. The VCAA (Victorian Curriculum & Assessment Authority) will forward certificates and formal documentation to the College for distribution at the end of the year at our celebration evening on the 14th December. To celebrate their 13 years of education and completion of examinations, the College will hold its Year 12 Graduation Dinner this Friday at the Rich River Golf Resort. We are looking forward to seeing all the students dressed in formal attire and celebrating their achievements with them and their families.

Our preparation for the 2010 RACV 24 Hour Energy Breakthrough at Maryborough on the 18th-21nd November has been well underway during this term. The College has again entered two bikes/teams in the race and each week over the last few months our riding teams have been practising after school in preparation for the race. While the track around the College is far flatter than the Maryborough track, time spent in the bike is most important. This year our combined team will see over 30 students and 5 teachers/parents attend the Energy Breakthrough. We wish them all the best in what is always a very exciting weekend.

In today's newsletter I have included a letter written by a couple who were staying in the same caravan park as our Year 9 Science Oceans excursion to Phillip Island. Echuca College has great kids attending our school and this letter reinforces what we already know but it is great to hear it from elsewhere.

Dear Sir/Madam.

We would like to complement you on the behaviour of the students at the Big 4 Holiday Camp in Newhaven, Phillip Island. My husband and I were in a unit opposite the Camp Kitchen, and we didn't hear anything of the students. We saw them there, and one morning we woke to find that they had had breakfast, boarded the bus and departed the camp site. We did not hear a thing. We saw them passing our unit, walking round the camp site, with a basket ball, they spoke quietly amongst themselves. It was a delight to see the youngsters from the country, some of whom are from families who are finding it extremely tough going, able to have a break and see what goes on in the city. Both my husband and myself are Justices of the Peace, and occasionally sit in on police interviews with young people, my husband is a retired Bail Justice, an Independent Witness, and an Independent Third Person. In these capacities, he sat in on Police interviews with young people (under age) also intellectually handicapped people, so we have seen plenty, and the behaviour of these students is a credit to your college.

We would like to congratulate the teachers who were with them. These students are a credit to your college, also the families that they represent.

Regards Heather & Murray MacGregor.

Year Level News

YEAR 10 OUTDOOR EDUCATION CAMP

Wed Nov 3rd 7am saw 13 eager Yr 10 boys depart EC for 3 days of fun, challenge and adventure. First stop – Myrtleford, grab some supplies (Solo), meet some friendly locals, then head of to Valley Homestead for an afternoon on the high ropes, vertical slide and flying fox. The 220m long flying fox was the best – fast, fun, time your run at the end so you don't get dragged along the ground. Everyone had about 8 or more turns (depends on how quick you walked back up the hill). Then the 10m high pole had to be climbed, stand on the top, then jump to catch the ring or trapeze – the challenge was to not let the wobbling pole get the better of you, and of course to hang on the ring – woops, someone slipped off, lucky the belayers held on tight! How far can Marcus jump? Then race up the vertical challenge course without falling, and who could do it the quickest – was that award given to Gerard or Darcy????



Then a nice swim in the pool, or hot dip in the spa – weren't the girls from the other school friendly?? After spaghetti bol from the nice little Italian lady cook, and double helpings of ice cream, time to make sure that backpack has everything you need for the next 2 days – warm sleeping bag, tent, Trangia, water, loo paper, food, heaps of food.... how does it all fit in the pack???? A short practice walk across the river, turn off that strobe, back for supper... Milo, and a little bit more Milo for later... that'll do Brayden! A quick glimpse of Sri Lanka beating the Aussies on the television – then off to bed.



Up early for brekky, then a packed lunch – a wholesome filled roll and fresh apple, then off up the mountain we go. Its getting colder, windier, colder.... much colder.... snow... in November.. yes, get out of the comfy bus, find your pack, get rugged up, find those gloves, woops – I know I should've packed some glove says Jason. Elijah was set with his snow jacket and camel pack – shame he didn't have a spare pair of socks! Jeans & volleys with no socks – good look! Shorts – Miss, aren't you cold? Off we set, through the blizzard, hope Mr Colcott can see where he's going up front – what a pace the boys set – those long legs of the Keech boys, fit trio of Marcus, Jason & Luke all set a cracking pace. Nice leisurely stroll 10km to Federation Hut – We must get to the hut before the other school – go ahead boys we'll catch up later say Leah & Mrs O. After 3 or so hours, the hut in sight, snow on the peak. Set up camp, then off to the summit of Mt Feathertop (taller than Mt Hotham). After a bit of snow play, why not bring snow back to camp... snowball fight of course! Better cook tea, set up the Trangias – better teach Darcy how to use one boys so he can he cook his ravioli. Stoke that fire up in the hut. Rug up for the night – going to be a cold one – minus 3 degrees or so!



With Brayden & Matt's tent blown down, a cold night spent in the hut – at least they could get up early to get the fire going! A quick pack up of icy tents, a lovely brekky – great omelette Mr C! Then for the 10 km hike down the mountain – very steep, cross the creeks, walk straight into Harrierville to wait for the bus for the trip home. A great three days of fun and adventure in the alpine environment!

YEAR 10 NEWS

Year 10 Exams – Last Thursday and Friday Year 10's completed exams in all subjects in the Senior Learning Area. It was a big couple of days for the students and the vast majority did an excellent job.

Big Day In – Miss Roberts ran a "Big Day In" for students this week involving a Zumba Fitness Class, Police Q & A session, Meditation class and Past Student Panel which was very successful.

2011 New Academic Year – Good luck to all the Year 10's who are heading into VCE next week. Make sure you have pens and exercise books to begin your studies. Thanks to this year's Tute teachers – Mr Muller, Mrs Lunghusen, Miss Roberts, Ms Carroll, Miss Johnson, Mr Abramovitch, Mrs Dunn and Mr Jones for all their help. A special thanks to Mr Hewitt and Mrs Jenner as Year 10 Assistants.

David Pearson – Year 10 Team Leader.

YR 11 AGRICULTURE/HORTICULTURE 'COWS CREATE CAREERS' PROGRAM

The Yr 11 Agriculture/Horticulture class were involved in the 'cows create careers' program as part of their Unit 2 course. Students were required to raise 2 heifer calves for three weeks on the school grounds. While they cared for the calves, the students produced a scientific report on the calves health and growth rate, a power point presentation on how they were cared for and a poster on a issue relating to the dairy industry. Two teams entered the competition: Team 1, comprising of Amanda Carrington, Shaye Columbro, Erin Teasdale and Stephanie Fairweather, produced work of an excellent standard and achieved first place for the region. Team 2, comprising of Brittany Warren, Jak Van Roy and Renee Smith, also did a fantastic job, taking out third place for the region. I would like to congratulate their efforts and diligence while looking after the calves.

- Debbie Dunn



School Councillor Profile

Bernie Teasdale, This will be my tenth year coming up as a school councillor.

I was born in Fawkner a northern suburb of Melbourne.

What do you do for employment? I am a Dairy Livestock agent and Auctioneer with Elders.

What are your hobbies - Military history and most sports.

Favourite music? All types except the 'Doof Doof'.

Favourite food? Seafood, Italian.

Favourite movies? Blues Brothers, The Castle

What do you do to relax? I love to cook (Closet Masterchef).

What is your ultimate holiday? I would love to tour around the world and visit the sites of the battles of the first and second world wars.

EMA CHEQUES SEMESTER 2

Just a reminder that there are still a few Semester 2 EMA cheques left at the General Office to be picked up.

Could those who have not collected them please do so as soon as possible. Any queries phone the office on 54821133.



CANTEEN NEWS

The Echuca College canteen needs more volunteers for the busy end to the year this term. As summer approaches the canteen becomes a busy place, so all help is appreciated. If you are available this term or for Term 1, 2011 please contact Jeanette in the canteen on 5482 1133. A big thank-you to all the volunteers that have helped out this year and current volunteers. The canteen would not be able to run without the volunteers that help out.

YR 8 BOOKLISTS AMMENDMENT

Echuca College wishes to apologise about the misprint on the Year 8 Booklists.

The total payment amount is in fact wrong. The correct amount is actually \$482 as opposed to \$412 as stated on the booklist. Sorry for the inconvenience this may have caused.

Turkey Tour 2010

During the September holidays Scott Hore and I had the pleasure of accompanying 12 students to Turkey. We had an early departure from Melbourne and set off on our way to our first stop Korea, where we had an overnight stay. The highlights of our short time in Korea included the bidet, the food being prepared by an "Iron Chef" winner and a brief look at some of the sights. We then continued on to Istanbul.

Whilst in Istanbul we were guided through the Hippodrome (where chariot races used to occur), Hagia Sophia, the Blue Mosque and Topkapi Palace. We also participated in a cruise on the Bosphorus and a spot of shopping at the Grand Bazaar and Spice Market. The students practiced their haggling skills, some were natural others require more practise.

After two days in Istanbul we headed to the Cappadocia, staying in the old Greek village of Mustafa Pasha. Over the next three days we visited the Fairy Chimneys, learning about the geographical formation and being amazed by their beauty and the stories of their creation. Cappadocia was one of the trip highlights. It was here that we participated in a cultural evening, showcasing the culture of the seven regions of Turkey. We saw belly dancing, whirling dervishes and more; also being given the opportunity to participate in some of the dances.

From here we headed to Pumakkale, where we visited the ancient Roman city of Hierapolis and the calcium baths. We continued on to Konya, the home of the dervishes and the Green Mosque, stopping at a caravansari and taking part in more shopping activities.

The next stop on the way was Kusadasi, where we had some down time at Adaland Water Park. We visited Ephesus, had a fashion show at a leather outlet (complete with the runway debut of Scott Hore), visited a pottery outlet and more shopping. After Kusadasi we headed to Troy, to see the Trojan Horse, and the remains of nine ancient civilisations.

After a night in Chanakale we woke up early and headed to Gallipoli, where we were guided around the battle fields. It was an emotional journey, particularly

for those of us who had relatives fight at Gallipoli. It was a fantastic opportunity for us to pay our respects at the graves of our family members and those people who bravely went to battle so that we could live the way we live today.

We finished our journey with a drive back to Istanbul, where we visited Miniaturk- a miniature version of many of Turkey's most famous historical and geographical sites. This was followed by an afternoon of revisiting some of our favourite sites and last minute shopping for gifts.

It was an absolute pleasure taking the students to Turkey. They behaved impeccably and were a credit to Echuca College and their families. All students would say they got a lot from the trip and would recommend it to students in the future, many planning to return again.

I am in the process of putting together the next trip to Turkey, possibly coinciding with ANZAC Day. Keep an eye on the newsletter for further information. Nicole Case



Community Notices/Events



LBU Netball Club AGM

November 29, 2010

Lockington Rec Reserve at 7pm.

Applications open for all coaching positions

Senior: A, A Reserve, B

Junior: C, D, Primary

All enquiries to

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