Next Tuesday 4th December is our Grade 6 into Year 7 Orientation Day and we look forward to the 170 new students coming into our College. Orientation Day is always a day of mixed emotions for our Grade 6 students. While excited about the thought of entering secondary education, 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. Our 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 Transition Coordinator over the last few months. Grade 6 students enrolling at Echuca College attended interviews in term 4 and the College has conducted additional orientation days that were linked to programs provided through the Innovations and Excellence program. Next Tuesday the students will experience a complete day’s timetable at the College. If parents have any concerns about the procedures for next Tuesday, please contact the College and ask for Mrs McAsey or Ms Murphy.

On Monday evening a number of students, parents and staff attended the annual Careers Connection Student Excellence Awards for VET students. Our College had five students nominated for awards, Michael Naismith for Automotive, Billy Warren for Furnishings, Kacey Heywood for Sport and Recreation, Jessica Keech Community Services and Ben Lubke Automotive. Each student was presented to the audience as part of the formal ceremony of the evening. Michael Naismith, Kacey Heywood and Billy Warren won their individual sections. I would like to congratulate all our student who were nominated for awards and also thank the teachers and School Service Officers who work in the EDVET program.

Regional sports awards saw three of our students, our 2006 State Champion Year 8 Girls Basketball Team and one staff member receive recognition for their performances and contribution to sport during the year. Brock Norwood (Tough Ruby), Josh Grover (Individual Excellence) and Jesse Dundon (Individual Excellence) all won awards. Although our Year 8 Girls Basketball Team won the title in 2006, the awards were presented before the state finals, thus the award this year. Mr Paul Leach was also recognised for his outstanding contribution to sports programs in education. Mr Leach has coached, organised and supported countless sporting teams and events during his years in education. On behalf of the College Community congratulations to all our students and staff who have been involved in all the programs mentioned above.

As mentioned in our last newsletter, Echuca College entered the RACV Energy Breakthrough for the first time as a new College last weekend. In very difficult and hot conditions the team experienced success in their first competition by completing the 24 hour endurance race. The team was lead by Mr Scott Hore, Ms Nicole Case, Mrs Simone Hore and Mr Greg McKeown. The team of Clayton, Adam, Josh, Issac, John H, Nathan, John W, Tejana, Bekky, Bridgett, Holly, Daniel, Mason and Dallas finished 25 in their division (HPV-B Years7-10 mixed). There are eight riders in a team and a support crew who help to prepare meals and maintain the bike. It was a great team effort and already students are looking towards the 2008 race with great enthusiasm. As a consequence of the support shown by the students and the interested generated within the College community, the College will investigate the acquisition of a second bike for 2008 so more students can be involved in this outstanding event.

It has been very pleasing to hear that some of our Year 12 students have already received tertiary offers for 2008. This has been achieved through students researching university websites for early entry programs. These students can now sit back and consider their options in light of offers that may come their way January, knowing they have secured a position in 2008. A reminder to all Year 12 students and their families that tickets for the 2008 Celebration Dinner are still on sale at the College but will close next week. The Year 12 Celebration Evening will be on the 12th December at the Rich River Golf Club.

Next week all students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 will be involved in transition programs at the College. Our Year 10 students finish the school year on Friday the 7th, followed by the Year 10 Formal that evening. All Years 7, 8 and 9 students are expected at school until the 18th December. On Friday the 14th and Monday 17th we will be conducting ‘Activity Days’ and on Tuesday 18th normal classes will be held before reports are issued in the afternoon at the end of the school day. ‘Echuca College Celebrates’ (presentation evening) will be held on the evening of the 18th in the gym at College Drive and all students and parents are invited to attend.

Chris Eeles
College Principal
Absences
A reminder to parents that notes are required to explain student absences. The College sends home reminders to families to account for days of school missed by their child. It would be appreciated if notes could be sent in to home group teachers to account for any absence from school.

Facilities
The senior learning neighbourhood has now been completed and is available for use as of next week. Built for VCE/VCAL classes. This space will be used as a Year 9 Learning Neighbourhood in 2008.

Orientation Day
On Tuesday December 4th, all students at the College Drive Campus will undergo an orientation program for 2008. We will host approximately 175 Year 6 students who will be going into Year 7. These students will be placed in their home groups for next year and will undergo a range of activities with their teachers for next year. Year 7 students will go to the Year 8 learning neighbourhood for an introduction to Year 8. Year 8 students will go to the new senior learning neighbourhood to undergo an introduction to Year 9. Our current Year 9 students will have their classes at the Crofton St campus. All students are expected to attend.

VET In Schools Excellence Awards
Last Monday night our College had a very successful night at the Careers Connection VET Student Excellence Awards. I am pleased to announce we had 5 students nominated for various certificates and they are to be congratulated for being nominated for the highest achievers in their various industries. Students nominated from our College were Ben Lubke, Jessica Keech, Michael Naismith, Billy Warren and Kacey Heywood. Three of these students actually won the awards in their particular area. They were –

- Automotive Award – Michael Naismith
- Furnishing Award – Billy Warren
- Sport & Recreation – Kacey Heywood.

Congratulations to Mick, Billy and Kacey on their awards for the year. They were competing against students from around North-east Victoria.

Congratulations Eljay Connors
It was great to hear, that Eljay Connors a Year 12 student at our College, has been drafted to St.Kilda next year in the AFL. We wish him all the best and we are very proud of his achievement. Well done Eljay.

Year 12 Formal
A reminder to all Year 12 students that tickets for the Year 12 Formal are available from the General Office. The formal is on Wednesday 12th December at Rich River Golf Club commencing at 7pm. Tickets are $30.00 per person.

Year 10 Formal
Year 10 formal is on Friday 7th December at Rich River Golf Club. The evening begins at 7pm and tickets are available from the General Office at $25.00 per person.

Second Hand Book Sale
Second hand books will be available for purchase at a reduction of between 50% and 75% of the full price for new books.

Booklists will be mailed home with details about the second hand book sale.

College Drive Students
Year 7 students are asked to return their books to the conference room at the College Drive Campus by Tuesday December 4th between 8.30am – 10.00am

Year 8 students are asked to return their books to the conference room at the College Drive Campus by Wednesday December 5th 8.30am – 10.00am

Year 9 students are asked to return their books to room 3 at the Crofton St Campus – room 3 by Wednesday December 5th between 8.30am – 9.00am

Students should have these books in a bag with their names clearly labelled on the bag and on the books.
SPORT NEWS

NORTHERN ZONE CRICKET.
The Intermediate boys travelled to Melbourne on Monday November 19th to play in the Semi Finals of VSSSA cricket. After being sent into bat by Oberon Secondary College, Geelong, Brad Jones and Tom Edgar made a very good opening partnership of 25. After 18 overs Echuca were 2 for 60 with Brad Jones having made 19, and in a very good position. After the drinks break we lost Ryan Hon, 25, Josh Cairns, 19 and Axel Childs 15 who all got a start but could not go on with it. We were all out for 121, which was a little short of expectations. In the field the boys were magnificent having Oberon in early trouble at 2 for 9. Two solid partnerships had Oberon at 4 for 74 with plenty of overs to get the runs. The boys did not give up and wickets started to fall. At six for 117 all looked lost but Tom Edgar came into the attack and with 3 wickets for only 3 runs scores were tied and only one wicket was needed. After a tense over the Oberon tail ender managed to scramble two runs to give them the victory. A fantastic effort by all the boys and Mr Stenning to get to this stage of the competition. Congratulations to Brad Jones, Tom Edgar, Ryan Hon, Josh Cairns, Axel Childs, Jordan Williams, Brad Sanderson, Jake Henson, Nick Dolan, Ayden Walton, Jarrod Hudson, Judd Lanyon, Ben Eade and Alex Larcombe. A special thank you to parents Trevor Childs and Debbie and Darren Jones for their support on the day.

Results: Oberon 9/123 defeated Echuca 121. Ryan Hon 25, Brad Jones 19, Josh Cairns 19, Axel Childs 15, Brad Sanderson 10, Jake Henson 10. Tom Edgar 3 for 14, Brad Sanderson 2 for 23.

RUGBY UNION.
On the hottest 15th of November ever recorded, 22 fearsome Year 9 and 10 students ventured to Shepparton to complete in the Victorian Rugby League10’s rugby Championship. Echuca College had two teams competing, the Gregan’s and the Campese’s.

In the first game the two Echuca College teams played each other which was a good introduction to the game for the boys. Tries to Troy McLean, Kyle Spencer, Josh Nathan, captain Lachlan Smith, Gene Hitchens and Bart Phillips resulted in a 30-0 win to the “Campese” side. Conversion kicks for goal was an area in which the boys struggled. The Campese’s next game against St Mary’s saw a 25-0 win with tries to Kyle Spencer, Matt Costello, Broddy Dickson and Gene Hitchens and still no conversion kick points. A very tough game against Notre Dame followed and we ended up losing 5-22 with Bart Phillips scoring a try. The last round-robin game against Wanganui was also close with Echuca winning 10-0. The “Campese” team had qualified for the semi-finals but we were starting to tire as it was an extremely hot day, the boys were sore and we only had one replacement player. Tries to Lachlan Smith and Brodie Dorgan resulted in a narrow 10-15 loss to Wanganui in the semi but the boys could be very proud of their efforts. Best players for the “Campese’s”: Matt Costello, Lachlan Smith, Brodie Dorgan and Kyle Spencer

In the Gregan’s second game the boys combined well against a strong St. Mary’s outfit. In a nail biting finish St. Mary’s scored a try in the dying seconds and won 10 to 5. The first and only try scorer for the game was Ben “Elusive’ Abela, and best players were Drew “Smasher” Richards and John “Skipper” Simpkin. In our third game the boys fought hard against a team from Notre Dame who would not have been out of place in France this year, and probably would have gone better than the Aussies too. The final score was 29 to 0 but to the boys credit they fought hard in the second half, allowing only two tries. The highlight of the game was Chris’s forward pass.

In the final game against Wanganui the pressure was on as a win could get us into the finals. Our Captain John Simpkin got us off to a blinder with a strong finish after Chris “The enforcer” Russell busted open a ruck. He then made it a double after he scored strongly under the posts. Unfortunately for us the tries could not be converted and we went down 19 to 10. Best players for the Gregan’s: John Simpkin, Drew Richards and Luke Fuller

SPOT CONTACTS.
For all Victorian Secondary Schools Sports Association information visit the website: vssa.org.au (EC are in the Northern Zone)
David Pearson / Katrina Shirley - Sport Co-ordinators
Email: pearson.david.g@edumail.vic.gov.au

Luke Fuller’s team mates help him to fly high, whilst playing rugby in Shepparton.
A review of this Year’s highlights are included in the following.
In Community Competition, we gained third place in the Cross Country and fourth place in the Athletics and Swimming Sports. I would like to thank all students who represented their Community in these endeavours. Our participation rate was high and our Wharparilla Warriors strived to achieve their best. In Swimming notable performances included Brock Norwood the under 14 Boys Champion, Brock set new records in the U14 Breaststroke, Freestyle, Butterfly and the Wharparilla ‘Super-fish’ also set a new record in the U21 Open Freestyle. Congratulations to Clayton Zanella, the U16 Boys Champion. Clayton also set new records in the U16 Freestyle and Butterfly. The emerging swimmer was in the Under 13 girls with Jessie Naughton who set new records in Freestyle and Breaststroke. In Cross Country, congratulations to the Under 15 girls who finished first. Congratulations to Bevan Charlton-White and Jordan Williams who were College Age Champions, while Renee Smith and Kirsten Pocklington finished second and Daniel Edwards and Olivia Bish were 3rd in their Age Groups.
In the Athletics Wharparilla produced three Age Champions Javais Ham, Tim Burke and Jordan Williams. New records set were Kirsten Pocklington U15 800m, Bevan Charlton-White U17 800m, Harley Cobbedick U15 Javelin, Kierryn Mc Kemmish U14 400m, Sarah Craft U21 Long Jump, Jordan Williams U16 400m and Triple Jump, Sarah Craft U21 Triple Jump, Nathan Whitten U21 Triple Jump, Zoe Keele U13 High Jump, Clayton Zanella U16 High Jump, Javais Ham U13 Discus, Olivia Bish U15 Javelin and Harley Cobbedick U15 Long Jump.
Participation is the key and for Wharparilla to be more competitive and I hope we can improve in this area this next year

Many Wharparilla students gained their Bronze Commendation Certificates and congratulations to Rachael Duke, Kayla Lavars, Cassandra Telford, Kayla Slattery and Khysha Keil on also achieving Silver Commendation Certificates.
In Wharparilla we have had outstanding student leaders across both campuses and Home Group/Community Meetings have been productive.
The Community Sports Days were a major focus and proved to be outstanding days of fun and competition. We have had many worthy recipients for Student of the Month and I would encourage all students to strive for this most prestigious award in 2008. The opportunities to engage in a number of co-curricular activities, excursions, Rock Eisteddfod, sports and camps have been extensive and I would recommend that all students take advantage of the many future activities on offer.
I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the support of my fellow Community Leaders and in particular Wharparilla’s Crofton Street Community Leaders - Petra Ogden, Helen Fontana and Warren Duffy for their professionalism and support.

Wharparilla is the Way!
KANYAPELLA
Kanyapella Karma

Community Leader:
Mr Stewart Cheal Crofton Street

Assistants: Mr Warren Duffy - Crofton Street
Mr Trevor Mellington - College Drive

The Leadership day was an unqualified winner.
Each student who participated should be labelled a 'grinner,
The Year 12 exams are over and the Year 11s too,
We focus on 7s, 8s and 9s, after 10 and 11 'Step Up' bid the others adieu,
Preparations begin now for the incoming Grade Sixers,
Following interviews we are certain they will be great mixers,
Kanyapella looks forward to a whole new bunch!
Students who'll continue to achieve success, we have more than a bunch!!

Another wonderfully busy fortnight for all at Echuca College. Exams are well and truly over for most senior students and our juniors are busy preparing for final assessments including tests, reports, projects and assignments. It is a terrific opportunity for Kanyapella (and all) parents to actively support and be involved with your children. Ask them how their work is going, share some of their successes and anxieties...Would you like me to read over that report? “...Revise some of that test information with me whilst we are clearing the table...” It is these little things which contribute to your relationship and reinforce a sound preparation.

We were treated to yet another terrific dance performance at Crofton Street last week. These impromptu efforts must be acknowledged for the students show great fortitude when they have to perform with such little preparation, it is testament to their self-confidence and tireless work from Jacqui. The Year 9 danciers have been working with students from the special school too and will perform next Wednesday. The sporting front, as always, has been a successful one, with our crickets narrowly missing the State Grand Final last week by a mere wicket and as this edition is published the girls and boys basketballers go into action and as former winners, must be rated a great chance!

Our students all continue to prepare for transition to higher levels. They Year 11s gained some insights to expectations in Year 12 whilst the Year 10s are moving into VCE. We hope they all heed the advice of staff and are prepared to start making holiday sacrifices with some solid work preparation for 2008. This will provide a sound base from which to build.

A lucky group of Echuca College Year 9 students have returned from and outdoor education adventure at Rubicon with students from a Melbourne College. Rock climbing, rafting, mountain bike riding, abseiling, hiking, horse riding, rogaining and demanding bushwalking. These students have pushed their personal boundaries, been challenged and worked as cohesive teams, in so doing achieving unexpected heights.

“...fantastic, but the rafting and abseiling was sometimes scary...”

Finally, to our November Students of the Month. At College Drive this goes to Rebecca Hore. Rebecca is a ‘quiet’ achiever with a very good academic record, sets an excellent example to fellow classmates and all Year 7 students. She is a student who always gives her best and will deservedly represent the College as part of the Alpine School Team next year. Emily Pellegrino earns our final award at Crofton St. She has exhibited admirable improvement in her academic results setting higher goals as the year has progressed. She has also achieved great heights in athletics, netball, volleyball and enthusing her Homegroup. Emily is a natural leader who is already focused on performances in 2008!

MOIRA

Community Leader:
Ms Jennie Ward          Crofton St Campus

Assistants:
Mrs Jenny Morris        Crofton St Campus
Mr David Armstrong      College Drive Campus

It is time to reflect upon successes achieved and to prepare to meet the challenges that present in the coming year.
Year 12’s are about to embark on a challenging year away from the security of school life whether it be working or at university or TAFE, year 11’s will have just found out what year 12 entails and the commitment involved and year 10’s are learning about VCE, course content and assessment tasks.

It is all new and exciting for our wonderful young people.

On Crofton St we still have year 10’s working hard to finish the year well. Reports are being written down so get all outstanding work in please.
The year 10 formal is coming up soon and we hope all Moira year 10’s have an elegant and fun evening.
All year 10’s returning next year will be involved in course counselling for next year during the transition program.

Students of the Month for Crofton St are Kim McDonell and Thomas Oldham, both of whom are hardworking unassuming students who always do their best, are cooperative and pleasant to have around the community. Well done and keep up the good work!

On College Drive there are many great activities happening:
Year 9’s are coming over to Crofton St on orientation day, next Tuesday, to have some classes and for the two groups of year 9’s to get to know each other better before they are together next year. Moira has continued to contribute positively to Echuca College in many ways.

Well done to Jessica Keech M4 who was a finalist in Community Services - VET in schools Student Excellence Awards.

Congratulations also go to Moira boys Ben Eade, Jarrod Hudson and Tom Edgar for their recent cricket participation. They were unlucky to just miss out in the state semi-finals.

At present two of our students, Elia and Jordana Pellegrino are in India assisting in training in swimming and athletics. This has been a wonderful opportunity to experience a different culture.

Congratulations from Moira to our new College Captains for 2008- Chelsea Ludeman and Riley O’Neill and their assistants Aleisha Turner and Tom McQuillan. We wish to offer our support in this important role in the school community.

We look forward now to the presentation evening when the effort and contribution of our students will be recognised.

Kanyapella will keep on revvin’ in this year 2007!!
WELLBEING

Whilst many of us are enjoying the recent spring sunshine, some people with asthma might notice an increase in wheezing and asthma symptoms. This is because spring is a time when there is an increase of pollen in the air, which is a common trigger for people with asthma.

Hay fever is a common allergic condition that affects 8% of children and adolescence, particularly in springtime. Up to 80% of people with asthma also experience hay fever. If hay fever is poorly controlled then it can be more difficult to control your asthma. For a majority of people hay fever is due to pollen, which are tiny, dust-like particles given off by certain types of trees, grasses, weeds and flowers. Pollens are small enough to be airborne and penetrate indoors and out.

Whether you are in the city or rural areas here are some tips to prevent asthma and allergy in spring:

- Always carry appropriate medication with you in case you need it (i.e. blue reliever puffer)
- Try to avoid going out on windy days or after thunderstorms
- Avoid activities in areas where grass is being mowed
- Keep windows closed at home and particularly when in the car and use recirculated air in the car when pollen levels are high
- Avoid hanging washing outside on high pollen days. The pollen sticks to your clothes.

The Asthma Foundation of Victoria website asthma.org.au offers a pollen count during the peak allergy period of October to January, from The University of Melbourne’s School of Botany. This forecast can be used to alert people with hay fever and people with asthma of the likelihood of being exposed to high levels of pollen, enabling them to take preventative measures in danger periods. If you would like more information or would like to speak to an Asthma Advisor, please call 1800 645 130 or visit www.asthma.org.au or www.asthmafriendlyschools.org.au

Information on asthma and other health topics can be found on the Better Health Channel, www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au.

Cheers!

Denise

Echuca College’s Energy Breakthrough team

HOW WE TRAVEL AT THE ECHUCA COLLEGE COLLEGE DRIVE CAMPUS

During September 2007, TravelSmart surveys were sent home with every student at Echuca College Drive, to be completed by families and students in year 7 & 8. 50 surveys were returned to school and the results of the surveys have been analysed. These results will be used to form a School Travel Plan, which will look at ways that students and families can use sustainable travel more often. Benefits of School Travel Plans include less traffic congestion around the school, and environmental and health benefits

Some interesting facts discovered include:

- 27% of students live within walking distance (2km) of school, 18% of students walk, and 16% of students ride.
- School Bus trips made up 34% of all trips to and from school.
- Car trips made up 20% of all trips to and from school.
- The most common reasons given for driving children to and from school are that it is convenient for parents as they can drop off/pick up children on the way to work or somewhere else, weather, and my child has a lot to carry.
- 53% of parents would like their child to cycle more, 53% of parents would like their child to travel by bus more and 50% of parents would like their child to walk more.
- Changes that families identify that would encourage them to drive less include safer routes and crossings to school, cycling improved and reduced traffic around the school.
- The top three student responses for the benefits of walking/cycling was improves health and fitness, can walk or cycle with friends and better for the environment.
- Data collected from the traffic counters that were located on Butcher street just east of College Drive and College Drive just north of Butcher street show an increase in traffic between 8am – 9am and 3pm – 4pm. Butcher street just east of College Drive traffic nearly tripled during morning drop times to an average of 199.6 vehicles, and afternoon pick up times to an average of 218 vehicles. College Drive just north of Butcher street traffic increased nine fold during the morning peak time to an average of 19.9 vehicles, and afternoon peak time to an average of 92.4 vehicles, as well as in the afternoon peak time to an average of 91 vehicles.

Echuca College Drive Campus will use this data to create a School Travel Plan, with support from the Shire of Campaspe. We are looking for interested parents and carers to form a working group to put together the plan which will look at actions that can be implemented to encourage more students to use sustainable travel to and from school. The Working Group will need to meet several times to develop the plan, and then once per term to monitor the implementation of the plan. If you are interested in being part of the Working Group, please see Ruth Grigg (School TravelSmart Coordinator).