The new Performing Arts facilities has been well utilised since its completion in term one. Last week our dancers from Years 7, 9, 10, 11 and 12 performed ‘Pierrots’ Love’ to packed audiences. There were three performances during the day, one in the afternoon for students and two in the evening for parents and friends. The performances were part of the students’ assessment but also provided our dancers with an opportunity to perform in public. Congratulations to the students, Ms Kornmann, Mr Jones, Ms Barnes and Tyrone White. A special thanks to Tom Laughlin from the Paramount Theatre for organising and setting up our sound and lighting for the performance.

Our students continue to succeed in a range of pursuits and last month saw more great achievements. Last week, two Echuca College students won gold medals at the state swimming championships at the Melbourne Aquatic Centre. Brock Norwood won the U15 50m Breaststroke and Luke Hubbard won U16 3m Diving. Our U17 4 x 50m relay team of Elia Pellegrino, Jordana Pellegrino, Allie Sims and Zara Pearson won Bronze. Other great news last week was Jordan Williams’ selection in the NSW U18 state football team. The team will play a ‘curtain raiser’ to the ‘State of Origin’ game at the MCG next week.

Over the last week the College has held two public speaking competitions, senior students on Wednesday 30th and junior students last Monday. Mr Bailey has provided us with a detailed report on the senior competition in the newsletter but I wanted to acknowledge the effort put into this event by teachers and students. Thirteen students competed in the senior competition and over 30 students in the junior competition. All students presented prepared speeches in the first session and impromptu speeches followed. Prepared speeches had been researched during class time and covered a range for topics from ‘Binge Drinking’, ‘Generically Modified Food’, ‘Cruelty to Animals’, ‘Poverty in Australia’ and ‘Being Australian’. The impromptu speeches always provide for some entertaining responses and speakers all enjoyed the challenge of this section of the competition. Special thanks to Mr Bailey, Ms Schapper, Mr Holding, Mr Duffy, Ms Case, Ms Stokie, Ms Shay, Ms Lolthouse, Mr Jennings and Mr Hewitt.

Last week the College conducted our Information and Discovery Evening for Grades 5 and 6 students and their parents. It was great to see so many attend the evening given the cooler weather. The students and parents had an opportunity to tour the College and discuss issues as they moved around the various facilities and exhibits. All our Key Learning Areas had major displays and teachers were able to talk to students and parents about teaching practices, subject content and course requirements. The College was able to ‘show case’ extra curricula areas within the Performing Arts, Technology and Sporting areas. Those who couldn’t attend can contact the College at any time to arrange an appointment to visit our College or we can arrange to have an information package sent out to you. Our main orientation program will start in June/July, providing prospective students and their parents with another opportunity to visit our school. Echuca College takes pride in the fact that we are the community’s College and that we allow families the time to make one of the most important decisions in their child’s life. At this stage of the year, we would like families to consider Echuca College as a possible option for the future but we also appreciate and respect that this decision needs due consideration.

At our Discovery Evening last week we were able to outline to our audience the future direction and developments at our College. Tenders for Stage 2 of the building program close this week and we hope to see builders on site within the month. Stage 2 includes the construction of new Science and Food Technology areas (including an industrial kitchen) and upgraded library/resource centre. In additional to this development we also hope to see work start on the community hockey field before the end of this year. This development will provide Echuca and district with ‘all weather’ hockey, soccer and tennis facilities.

You will note the Team Leaders, in their reports, have mentioned the correct wearing of uniform. I would like to reiterate their comments. Please ensure your children are wearing the correct uniform, particularly as we head into cooler weather. Specifically, students should only be wearing Echuca College jumpers and jackets. We thank you for your support in this matter.

Chris Eeles
Echuca College Principal
Debutante Ball
A group of very enthusiastic parents have formed an organising committee for the Year 11 Deb Ball this year. At the moment we have 32 girls who have paid a deposit for the Ball this year. They will be presented over two nights. The organising committee have booked 22nd & 23rd August 2008 at the Rich River Golf Club. The training sessions for the Ball will commence on Sunday 15th June 2008 and run for 10 weeks. More details in the future. Please keep these dates free in your diary.

Congratulations
Jordan Williams from Year 11 has been selected in the NSW Under 18 State Football Team. He will be playing a number of games this week in Melbourne. We wish him all the best.

Anzac Day
On Monday 21st April 2008 we ran a full College assembly at College Drive Campus for all our students at the College. It was a special assembly to commemorate ANZAC Day and induct student leaders to our College. Seeing all students in the Gym together certainly demonstrates how big our College is when we are together. A big thank you to Father Tink who was our guest speaker for the assembly. His address to the students about the significance of ANZAC Day and his experience as an Army Chaplain in Vietnam were very enlightening.

Beacon Workshop
On Thursday 8th May all Year 10 students were involved in the Beacon Futures Workshop at the Nestle Centre in Echuca. It was fantastic to see all of our students involved in workshops, which have been organised by business groups from around Echuca. The interaction between students and business workers was pleasing to see and a great opportunity for our students to experience life after school.

Karl Stenning
Acting Campus Principal
Crofton Street

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)
The NAPLAN tests for Year 7 and Year 9 students will be held on May 13th, 14th and 15th. These tests are conducted by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA). On Monday, students will complete tests on language and writing. On Tuesday reading will be tested and on Thursday, numeracy. Each of the 5 tests will go for between 40 to 65 minutes. Students will be required to take a calculator to the numeracy testing held on Thursday period 3. The results of these tests provide diagnostic information for parents and teachers about a child’s performance in literacy and numeracy. This information can be used to support teaching and learning programs to improve student achievement.

Later in the year you will receive your child’s personal report. The report will describe your child’s particular skills in reading, writing, language conventions and numeracy. The report will also show you how your child performed in relation to national benchmark standards. For more information about the tests please visit the VCAA website at www.vcaa.vic.edu.au

Dingee Talent Quest
The school concert band will compete against 5 schools at the annual Dingee Talent Quest on Saturday night, May 10th. The band will play music from The Pirates of the Caribbean and The Lion King. Alison Koster and Jess VanZetta will also play a flute and clarinet duet.

The show commences at 7.00pm. Entry is $6 per head Good luck to the band.

Rock Eisteddfod Fundraiser
Last Friday evening about 70 people turned out for the Rock Eisteddfod ball held at Radcliffes. Thanks to Meryl Connors and Kim Wernher for their organisation and to Jacqui Kornmann for her enthusiasm. The evening raised over $1100 for Rock Eisteddfod.

Paul Hon
Campus Principal
College Drive

Echuca College Public Speaking
On Wednesday the 30th of April, the Intermediate and Senior Student division of our annual Public Speaking Competition was held at the Port of Echuca Motor Inn. 13 young and enthusiastic students from years 10 to 12 competed against each other for the titles of best intermediate (yr 10) and best senior speakers (yrs 11 & 12) – with the best two senior speakers also earning the right to represent Echuca College in the prestigious VCAA Plain English Speaking Award.

Competitors for the day included: Molly Edgar, Ben Haley, Jessica Thompson, Anthony Gambrell, Ricki-Sue King, Campbell McLean, Shelby Huggett, Braiden Fry, Alison Koster, Tara Dargan, Mel Buchanan, Tom McQuillan and Talissa Bolitho. These students were each asked to present one prepared speech (on a topic of their choice) and one impromptu speech (around a topic provided on the day).

Each student received a combined score, together with valuable feedback, from a panel of three judges – one Echuca College staff member (Ms Watson, Mr Bailey or Mr Duffy) and two external judges (ex-principal Philippa Schapper and Rotary Club member Alan Holder). The wealth of experience brought to this panel, especially by Ms Schapper and Mr Holder, provided an invaluable source of advice for all students.

All students demonstrated a high level of skill and courage in their presentations and need to be congratulated for contributing to what was a superb all round display of local talent in the art of public speaking. Unfortunately, as with all competitions, there could be only one winner in each category. This year, the best intermediate speaker award went to Jessica Thompson for her witty speech on ‘What I want to be when I grow up’, whilst the best senior speaker award went to Tom McQuillan for his in-depth and dramatic speech regarding the situation in Tibet. The runner-ups included: Molly Edgar (in the intermediate division) and Mel Buchanan (narrowly defeated by a mere one point in the senior division).

Congratulations to all competitors and a special thanks to the judges (especially Ms Schapper and Mr Holder), time keepers (Tim Fitzpatrick and Tom Vinnicombe), and staff at the Port of Echuca Motor Inn for helping to ensure that the day ran as smoothly as possible.

Mark Bailey (Debating and public speaking coordinator – Crofton Street)
**YEAR 8 NEWS**

Term 2 is off to a good start in the Year 8 neighbourhood. Our curriculum driver is ‘Back to the Future’ which looks at how history has influenced modern times with a particular focus on medieval history in Humanities. English students are immersed in fantasy and will soon be the author of an extended fantasy story. Maths students are cracking through decimals and percentages, while Science is investigating how electricity works.

Four Posts Camp was a fantastic opportunity to build team leadership skills and develop some new friendships. Students had the opportunity to work in small groups to solve problems and took part in many physical activities such as: ropes course, rock walling, golf and fishing. Most students displayed excellent team skills and a considerate attitude towards others.

Rachel McAsey (Team Leader)

**INTERSCHOOL EQUESTRIAN TEAM**

On the 26th & 27th April, Echuca College entered an Equestrian Interschool Team for Bendigo Interschool School. The girls seemed to all have a good time, despite the mud and cold weather.

The results are:
- Jarvais Ham finished with 38 points with a 1st, 2nd, and Champion Grade 2 Dressage, 2nd in Best Education Yr 8, 1st in Year 8 Rider Class and Champion Secondary Rider.
- Taylah Chandler finished with 5 points and placed 3rd in her Grade 5 Dressage.
- Brooke Nuttall finished also with 5 points and placed 3rd in Smartest on Parade Year 9 and 6th in Best Educated Year 9.
- Jess Naughton rode her new horse but unfortunately didn’t receive any points this time.

Thank you girls for all the extra time and work going in to preparing and training your horses. With close to 200 riders competing over the weekend, our Echuca College Team did very well.

If there are any riders out there that haven’t expressed their interest in attending any interschool events and would like to, please feel free to come and give me your details for future teams.

Rachel McAsey (Team Leader)

**YEAR 9 NEWS**

The Challenge Program – The Duke of Edinburgh Program/Pathways planning

Last Wednesday year nine students completed activities related to Duke of Edinburgh Award and Pathways planning. Approximately 100 students have completed their application to participate in the program. It would be great to have more students involved. The remaining students were involved in workshops about career pathways and requirements for career choices. There is still opportunity for students to join the Duke of Edinburgh program if they wish to. Students can catch up with their Home group / Tutorial teacher if they want to be involved.

Rubicon Camp – Camp 1

This camp will take place from 19th May to 23rd May. 48 students will be participating in the camp which is an outdoor adventure camp. There are still some places left for the second camp which will take place from 17th November to the 21st November.

Values for life activity

This week all year nine students participated in a workshop on relationships. It was very successful for our students. Thanks to Malcolm, the College Chaplain, for his organisation and commitment.

STS Student Exchange Program for 2009

Last week, all the Year 9 students were offered the opportunity to listen to information about student overseas exchange. 25 students embraced the chance to learn more about this wonderful program and the possibility of applying for an exchange. Special thanks to Brian Curley from STS for his time.

Student’s activities....

The following are reports from Brock Norwood and Josh Preston.

“On 29th April, I participated along with other Echuca College students in the VSSA Swimming Championships in Melbourne. I finished the meet with a personal best time in the 50m breaststroke of 33.47 seconds and won gold by 2 seconds. It was a great atmosphere in Melbourne.” Brock Norwood, Year 9

“On 20th June, I and 12 other Echuca College students will go on a trip of a lifetime, a cricket tour of the UK. Whilst in the UK, we will play 8 fixtures including a Twenty20 triangular series with Oundle School and Geelong College. We will also do plenty of sightseeing including a trip to St Andrews golf links in Scotland, Bath, Stonehenge, a few castles and London. What I am most looking forward to is playing the games and watching South Africa and England at Lords.” Josh Preston, Year 9

Paul Challis, Rhoaig Bailey & Chris Jennings

**HOMEWORK CLASSES**

Homework/tutorial classes for year levels 7 - 9 will be conducted on THURSDAY at the following times during term2

**Time**
- a) From 1.00 – 1.30 pm Thursday lunchtime
- b) From 3.30 - 4.30 pm on Thursday after school

**Venue:** Year 8 Learning Area (South)

**Staff Contact:** Kevin Remilton

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**NAPLAN Testing**

NAPLAN Testing will take place on May 13th, 14th and 15th. For any inquiries please contact Paul Challis (Yr 9) or Rachel McAsey (Yr 7) at College Drive.
Welcome Ms Tyndall

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Ms Kate Tyndall to the Year 10 Team. Ms Tyndall will be a valuable source of support and knowledge for the students. The team would also like to thank Ms Helen Fontana for all of her hard work with the students over the last term and a bit. We wish her all the best for her role in the Year 11 team. Our team now consists of Ted Down (Leader), Kate Tyndall and Carlie Jones (assistants). Feel free to contact any member on, 54823366.

Gold Coast Here We Come!

Our departure date is creeping closer and closer! Thank you to Gold Coast Here We Come! (assistants). Feel free to contact any member on, 54823366.

Congratulations!

Always happy to hear of students excelling in an array of areas – especially when they are year 10 students! Well done to all who participated in State swimming championships.

Uniform

As those cold and frosty mornings begin to creep in, a reminder to students to ensure that they are in full school uniform. Any student or parent with queries on the uniform should feel free to contact any member of the team or consult the student organiser.

Mrs. Carlie Jones (Assistant Team Leader)

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**YEAR 11 NEWS**

**Rock Eisteddfod 2008**

Five year 11 girls have taken on the challenge of leading the 2008 Rock Eisteddfod team for Echuca College under the supervision of Mrs Jacqui Kornmann. Amy Connors and Emily Simpson are the leaders, with assistant leaders Marjie Gorman, Olivia Norwood and Stephanie Werner. All involved are working tirelessly to not only produce a fantastic show but they are also spending many hours fundraising. Good luck to all involved.

**Model United Nations Assembly - MUNA**

At the Model United Nations Assembly ("MUNA"), year 11 secondary school students act as representatives of different countries, and debate problems and issues of international concern. This year, the conference is being held on Saturday May 31st and Sunday June 1st at Lake Burnbrae Conference centre, Myniong, near Bacchus Marsh.

Teams of 2 students from schools across Victoria are invited to attend. The Rotary Club of Echuca Moama has chosen to sponsor two of our year 11 students, Ali Farrell and Carissa Creammond, to attend this year. Congratulations to Ali and Carissa. The weekend will be a wonderful opportunity for the girls to meet with students from all over Victoria to share their concerns on global issues.

**Opportunities for All Year 11 Students**

There are many opportunities for year 11 students in the next few months including the three day excursion to Melbourne from June 16th to the 18th and the debutante ball on August 22nd and 23rd. Please contact one of the year 11 team if you would like any further information on any of the upcoming events.

Cheryl Watson (Team Leader)

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**'Twelve Titbits'**

We really do have a special group of Year 12s in 2008! Their leadership and teamwork qualities are truly outstanding as evidenced so often in recent times. This Year for the first time the College Cross Country was run at College Drive, yet, despite the interruption to their studies our most senior students still volunteered en masse to be part of the whole school event. It was most heartening to see so many involved.

A dedicated group of our Year 12 girls accompanied Mrs. Jones and Ms. Tyndall to the gym earlier last week to have a discussion with the Year 10 girls about matters which are very important to all at Echuca College. It has been passed on to me by both staff and the student audience that the comments made by the girls were thoughtful and powerful showing great leadership and courage. We are confident the whole College will benefit from the words of Chelsea Ludeman; Sinead Hon; Jessie Cantwell; Melissa Buchanan supported by Nicole Birkhout. Thank you for your sincerity.

Well done to Jack Wilson who adds a ‘runners-up’ and State qualification to his long list of golfing achievements. Jack informs us his game was a little ‘dampened’ but not a bad result!

Finally we must congratulate (again) our College Captains Riley O’Neill and Chelsea Ludeman who, along with Bec Larcombe and Callum Taylor from the College Dve. Campus represented the school with admirable dignity and composure in the ever important ANZAC Commemoration Services held in both Echuca and Moama. We firstly paid our respects at the Dawn Service progressing through the parade and the later service. It is truly fantastic to observe the genuine commitment exhibited by our young ambassadors at these occasions. We can rest assured our future is in very good hands!

Mr. Stewart Cheal (Team Leader)

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**VCAL VOICE**

**VCAL BEACON TRIVIA NIGHT**

Students have begun preliminary planning and organising for the annual VCAL BEACON Trivia Night. The date is the Friday, 25th July 2008 at the Echuca Workers & Services Club. This annual event raises funds for the Beacon Foundation and enables students to develop skills and meet VCAL outcomes.

Students have already decided on a theme: OP SHOP Formal, as well as begun work on the trivia questions for this year. Excitement is building and we hope to see as many people – family, friends and students at the night to support students.

**CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS AUSTRALIA AND VCAL**

On Monday, 19th May 2008 VCAL students will spend a day volunteering for Conservation Volunteers Australia. A reminder to students and parents that permission notes have been sent home. They must be returned to the school ASAP.

Any questions please contact Miss Sandy Roberts on 5482 3366.
COMMUNITY CROSS-COUNTRY.
Last Friday during periods one and two the 3km and 5km events were held at College Drive. The first 7 plac geters in each event ran on Wednesday in the Interschool Cross-Country around the Scenic Drive. Results in the next newsletter.

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<td>Bianca Williams</td>
<td>Riley Fitzpatrick</td>
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<td>Nathan Evans</td>
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<td>Holly Minogue</td>
<td>Charles Vagg</td>
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Seniors
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<td>3rd</td>
<td>Elia Pellegrino</td>
<td>Jordan Glanville</td>
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STATE SWIMMING.
Congratulations to the swimmers who represented Echuca College in Melbourne last week. Brock Norwood was outstanding winning the Boys U15 breaststroke as was Luke Hubbard who won the U16 Boys diving event. The Girls U17 freestyle relay team of Jordana Pellegrino, Elia Pellegrino, Allie Sims and Zara Pearson also were very impressive finishing with a bronze medal. The Boys U15 freestyle relay team of Brock Norwood, Bradley Mellington, Harry McLaurin and Cameron Valentine swam a brilliant time to finish narrowly out of the medals in fourth place.

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<td>Mia Childs, Jaimi Eigar, Alyce Townsend &amp; Stephanie Appleby</td>
<td>Girls U13 Freestyle Relay</td>
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NORTHERN ZONE TENNIS
A great effort by the girls to win the Northern Zone event in Bendigo recently. Kacey Heywood, Alyssa Godfrey, Nicole Horsburgh and Jessica Godfrey have now qualified for the State final to be held in Melbourne.

STATE LAWN BOWLS.
Daniel Butcher, Darcy Elliott and Jamie Riedell travelled to Melbourne with coach, Mr Armstrong last week to play in the state final playing on the same green where “Crackerjack” was filmed. Although losing all three games, one being to the eventual champions, the boys were very competitive. Well done boys.

NORTHERN ZONE GOLF
Our Senior team of Jack Wilson (76), Kacey Heywood (101) and Joel Norwood (89) won the teams event at Swan Hill last week. Congratulations. Tom Moss participated in the junior event.

David Pearson Sport Co-ordinator – Crofton St
Katrina Shirley Sport Co-ordinator – College Drive
WELLBEING

Student Wellbeing Team

Welcome back all to Term 2 and I hope you had an enjoyable break. On behalf of the wellbeing team I would like to take this opportunity to bring all up to date on some of the initiatives that have been undertaken.

The breakfast program has commenced this term on College Drive. This is available to all students on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning from 8.00 am in the Year 8 South Neighbourhood.

The Red Cross Mentor program has also commenced this term and we are fortunate to have trained and accredited adults to work with our students on a regular basis.

The Community Arts Drug Education program is a joint venture with other secondary schools and we are planning a whole day for our Year 10 students to raise awareness and educate our Year 10 students on Drug and Alcohol issues.

The Cyber Bullying Policy completed last year will be launched this term with a series of activities under the banner of “Safe at School Week” to raise awareness of an issue that unfortunately is becoming more prevalent in society.

The Echuca College Attendance Policy was ratified by School Council at the end of last term and the Wellbeing team is now charged with the responsibility of developing a school action plan to implement this policy.

Our Koori Educator has been charged with the responsibility this term of developing Individual Learning Plans for Koori students.

Lunchtime activities program will be commencing on both campuses this term with the Student Council to take a lead role in this student offering.

I hope that the above narrative gives all a small taste of some areas that are to be addressed this term.

Paul Leach – Student Wellbeing Team Leader

NURSE’S NEWS

Smoking and Asthma

Cigarette smoke is a trigger for many people with asthma, including children. Children have smaller and more delicate airways and are therefore more affected by tobacco smoke and the chemicals it contains. Unfortunately 2 in 5 children with asthma live with a smoker.

Children of smokers are more likely to have asthma symptoms such as coughing, wheezing, and breathlessness. Asthma is more common among children of smokers.

Passive smoke

Children with asthma that are exposed to secondhand smoke have a greater risk of developing symptoms at a younger age. They tend to have more asthma attacks and are more likely to use asthma medications more often and for a longer period. It is estimated that children of parents who smoke are exposed to the same amount of nicotine as if they were actively smoking 60 to 150 cigarettes a year.

Smoking in the family car

Travelling in a smoke filled car can be harmful to the overall health of your children, and can trigger an attack in children who have asthma. Therefore our school strongly encourages that parents do not smoke in the car when they have their children present, especially going to and from school.

The above information was taken from the National Asthma Council Australia, “Asthma Management Handbook 2006” and the Asthma Foundation of Victoria, 2005, ‘Information Sheet: Smoking and Asthma’.

Cheers! Denise

CROFTON ST. CAMPUS ATTACKED BY HOODS

Senior Drama students from the Crofton St. campus were treated to a day of drama performance and workshops on Thursday May 1st.

Firstly they attended a performance of the play Hoods, presented by the Real TV Theatre Company from Queensland. So successful is the play, that it is in its second year of touring secondary schools throughout Australia and was a part of the Year 12 Drama syllabus for our Drama students in 2007.

The company takes its name from a desire to explore issues that are central to the day to day existence of most young people. Hoods deals with domestic violence and the emotional devastation it causes. There were many horrific and confronting scenes, but Hoods is a play that invites its audience to better understand the issues and to look for more positive solutions to the problems.

Secondly, Year 12, 11 and 10 Drama students then had the privilege of working for two hours with Angela Betzen the playwright who wrote Hoods and Children of the Black Skirt (which our Year 11 Drama students performed to prize-winning acclaim at the George Fairfax Theatre Festival in Swan Hill in 2006.)

Angela took the students through a series of writing exercises, culminating in writing a short script and performing it to the group. Skills learnt will be of great value to VCE students as they write scripts for their SAC ensemble performances and Year 10 students who are preparing film scripts at present.

In the afternoon, the actors from Hoods worked with students to pass on skills and knowledge about transformation in theatre. It was a feature of their work in Hoods and is a compulsory element of the VCE Drama courses. Jodie LeVesconte and Chris Summers were very generous in sharing their skills and energy to make it a very successful workshop for students.

All three visiting artists were also very complimentary about the behaviour of our students as an audience, and their creativity and energy in workshops. It is a credit to the students who participated and speaks highly of the potential performing talent in the school.

Terry Muller (Performing Arts co-ordinator)

ECHUCA COLLEGE TALENT SHOW

This year’s talent show is coming soon.

Start to think of what acts you may wish to perform and who you may wish to perform with.

Remember you can perform solo or in a group, with just about any type of act being OK. Auditions will begin early Term 3.

Start planning and we’ll make this one even bigger than last year’s!

HELP THE CANTEEN!

The canteen needs vegetables that could be used in winter soups! If you can help with the donation of vegetables please contact Sue at Crofton Street on 5482 3366 or Jeanette at College Drive on 5482 1133.

Pierrot’s Love

Last Wednesday we had 100 primary/secondary school students and about 300 families and members of the community come along to watch our fantastic dance students. Well done all of you for your fantastic performance and support – Jacqui K