Dear Parents and Friends,

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It is worth mentioning how impressed teachers were by the students’ behaviour and positive approach towards the NAPLAN testing last week. As a consequence, students at College Drive will be celebrating their achievements next week with BBQs for each year level. Our Year 7 BBQ will be on Tuesday, Year 9 on Wednesday and Year 8 (just completed their personal learning goals) on Thursday. Year 9 students have a double reason to celebrate next Wednesday as they will be attending Careers and Pathways seminars. The aim of this activity is to broaden the knowledge of students about further education and training options before selecting subjects for Year 10. The selection process for Year 10 will take place during Term 3. The lunchtime BBQ will provide an opportunity for the students and presenters to interact and discuss the various seminars.

Students at the Croifton Street Campus will also have an opportunity to celebrate the following week with BBQs for each year level. Year 10 students completed a wonderful program a fortnight ago as part of the Beacon Bright Futures Day and our VCE students, Years 11 and 12, are about to start the examination period in early June. Year 11 students will have their BBQ on Monday 2nd, Year 12 on Tuesday 3rd and Year 10 on Wednesday 4th.

Our examination period for semester one and for Unit Three of the VCE will start in early June. Year 11 students start their exams on the 5th and Year 10 on 6th June. Year 12 external examinations start on the 11th June with Biology and Physics, followed by Psychology and Chemistry. These are the only subjects examined in Uni Three by the VCAA at half year. The examinations are Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority set examinations. On Friday 13th June, all students studying a Unit 3&4 subject this year will be required to sit the General Achievement Test (GAT). If parents or students require any further information about the examination period or individual exams, please don’t hesitate to contact either Mr Stenning, Ms MacLean or Ms Costin at Croifton Street Campus.

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Chris Eeles
Echuca College Principal
Mid-Year Examinations
A reminder to all parents and students that mid-year exams for all students in Years 10 – 12 commence on Thursday 5th June, 2008. Exams for Year 12 students will be held in the “Haw Pavilion”, Year 10 and Year 11 exams will be held in the College Gym and rooms at Crofton St campus. Students will be given timetables for their exams by their Year level team leaders over the next few weeks.

UK Cricket Tour
It is only 4 weeks until our 13 boys will be travelling to England to play cricket. As part of fundraising for the trip, a Movie Night is planned for Monday 26th May 2008. The movie is “Indiana Jones” and it starts at 6.45pm with a supper provided afterwards. The tickets are $15.00 per person and can be purchased on the night or you can purchase a ticket from one of the boys before hand.

Tutorial / Beacon Leaders Induction Assembly
On Wednesday 28th May at 10am, we will be conducting a full Campus assembly to celebrate the induction of our tutorial and beacon student leaders. Parents are invited to attend the assembly and a morning tea afterwards in the College staffroom.

Mobile Phone and MP3 Players
A reminder to all students and parents that mobile phones and MP3 players are allowed at school but must be turned off before entering any classes. If any parents are unsure about the use of electronic devices at school, please refer to the section in student organiser on this.

DINGEE SCHOOLS TALENT QUEST
Echuca College was invited to take part in this years talent quest, which is organised by the Dingee Community Association and held in the community hall.

The Talent Quest is an annual event, and this year five schools in the general area were each invited to provide a twenty minute performance by a group of up to twenty students, and also to provide performers for the solo section.

The College band of ten players performed in the school group section. Music was played from “The Lion King Stage Show”, and themes from the movie “Pirates of the Caribbean”. Between the two items Alison Koster and Jessica Vanzetta played a flute and clarinet duet.

The performance of the College Band was a very high standard and was excitedly applauded by the large audience.

In the final judging Echuca College was placed second behind a varied drama performance by a group from Eaglehawk Secondary College, while the remaining places went to Boort, Loddon and Kerang schools.

Several students from Echuca College performed in the solo section where twelve acts competed. These included guitarists, vocalists, and instrumentalists. The stand of all performers was also very high. Some performed their own original compositions.

Thanks to Mrs Yvonne Koster who represented the College on the judging panel, Mrs Michelle Cunnington who drove the College vehicle and the Stephens and Dean Families who travelled out to support the group.

Paul Hon
Campus Principal
College Drive

Dingee Talent Quest
Congratulations to the College Concert Band who recently came second at the annual Dingee Talent Quest. Competing against performers from 4 other schools, the band placed second and a prize of $200 was awarded towards the school’s music program.

Thank you and congratulations to Mr Doug Morison for his work with the school band.

School Uniform
Now that the cold weather has found us, we appreciate the fact that many parents have been vigilant in ensuring that students are attending in the appropriate winter uniform. It surprises me that some students continue to wear the summer uniform, including no jumper.

Breakfast Program
The breakfast program continues to operate on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. About 30 students have been utilising this program and it’s great to see so many teachers coming across to engage in conversation with the students.

Many thanks to Murray Goulburn who have donated another 80 Litres of milk to the program and to Nestle in Tongala who have pledged to donate some cereal and Milo.

Facilities
Tenders have closed for stage 2 of the capital works. We are fortunate that many of the tenders have come in within budget. Our architects have the details with their quantity surveyors to ensure that the building companies meet all guidelines before announcing the winning tender. We still hope to have works commencing in June.

NAPLAN Tests
These tests in literacy and numeracy have been completed and forwarded for assessment. Staff members were impressed by the effort that students put into these tests. Parents will receive the student results next term.

End of Semester
The end of the semester is fast approaching. Teachers are planning their final assessments of the semester and considering what they will write in their reports. At this time of the year, students should ensure that they have coursework submitted on time and should be ensuring that their study program will prepare them for any testing that may be coming up.

Students will receive full written reports for the semester on the last day of term.

Paul Hon
YEAR 7 NEWS

Year 7 has been exceptionally busy in the last fortnight. May 13 – 15th saw them participate in the first round of National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). Whilst the format of the NAPLAN tests were similar to the AIMS tests that students have been sitting for many years this is the first time that a standard tests has been administered across the nation, as opposed to across the state. Students sat 5 tests (3 in Literacy and 2 in Numeracy) over the three days and did an excellent job – well done.

The Home Group Soccer Comp is also in full swing and getting lots of support - it runs four lunchtimes a week with all Home Groups playing each other, and demonstrating some great skill, sportsmanship and community spirit!! Our junior netballers and footballers are also in the process of trying out for the school teams – good luck to all involved.

Just a few reminders re uniform as we come into the colder months. Generally the students are looking great so there are only a few things to draw to your attention. Students are to either wear full summer, or winter uniform (eg not summer, with tights for girls), if an additional shirt is needed for warmth underneath items it should be white in colour, and be the same sleeve length as the outer garment, as always shoes should be black leather – laces also black. One of the ongoing concerns with shoes has been the ballet flats that some female students have been wearing – these do not provide appropriate protection for feet in practical activities and as such are not an accepted form of uniform.

As always if parents have any queries please contact the Year 7 Team Leader, or Assistants – we are only too pleased to help wherever possible.

YEAR 8 FOUR POSTS CAMP

YEAR 9 NEWS

Rubicon Camp – Camp 1
This week 47 students and four teachers are participating in Rubicon outdoor adventure camp. It is great to see so many involved in this great experience and we look forward to the students coming back and sharing their stories and experiences.

There are still some places left for the second camp which will take place from 17th November till 21st November.

Debaters Association of Victoria
Recently the DAV asked Echuca College to nominate a student that showed potential in debating, to attend a series of workshops to enhance their skills. The school was required to write a couple of sentences to highlight the experience of the student. Out of several students from across the state only 16 students were to be picked to attend the workshops. Rebecca Larcombe, of Year 9, was invited to attend the workshops.

Rebecca is the current junior school girl captain. In this role she represents the school at school and community services; such as ANZAC day, school assemblies and community information evenings. She has been a member of the junior, and now intermediate debating teams. In this role she helps with all facets of preparing and presenting the debates and on numerous occasions has assisted other team members and peers. Rebecca is developing her debating and public speaking skills and is happy to help others develop theirs. She is eager to further develop and consolidate her skills. Rebecca was awarded the Best Junior Debater of last years DVA tournament, in Shepparton. As you can see Rebecca is quite a deserving recipient of this opportunity.

Nicole Case, Paul Challis, Rhoana Balnaves & Chris Jennings

College Drive Public Speaking Competition

The College Drive Public Speaking competition was held on Monday 5th May. 26 students from Years 7, 8 and 9 presented a prepared speech and an impromptu speech to their peers, teachers and parents. The speeches were of a very high calibre and were highly informative. All students are to be commended for their efforts and behaviour on the day. The junior section winner was Millie Down (W71), 2nd place Georgina Bish (W71) and 3rd place Mitchell Oliver (W71). The Intermediate section winner was Tyla Harrington (9T8), 2nd place Rebecca Larcombe (9T1) and 3rd place Maddi Trotter (9T2).

Homework Classes

Homework/tutorial session for year levels 7-9 will be conducted on Thursday at the following times during term 2.

- a) 1:00 – 1:30pm Thursday lunchtime
- b) 3:30 – 4:30pm Thursday after school

Venue: Year 8 Learning Area (South)

Staff Contact: Kevin Remilton
LATER YEARS NEWS

BEACON FUTURES WORKSHOP 2008

On Thursday 8th of May all Year 10 students from Echuca College, St Joseph’s and the Moama Anglican Grammar School gathered at the Echuca Nestle Centre for a careers expo.

All students were surveyed and then matched as closely as possible to careers of interest to them. Each student attended four different workshops during the day and was treated to some highly interactive and interesting sessions with people passionate about their work.

With over 50 careers covered in over 100 sessions by over 70 workshop hosts to over 300 students it was a big day for everyone. Careers included builder, chef, architect, dancer, engineer, hairdresser, graphic artist, actor, medical scientist, plumber, physiotherapist, beauty therapist, teacher, fitness trainer, electrician, events manager, vet, accountant, photographer, pilot, lawyer, journalist, youth worker, police officer, nurse, business manager, interior designer, fashion designer, mechanic, I.T. professional and many more.

Yet again our beacon leaders did a wonderful job running the event. They played a significant role in organising the day, helping hosts set up their booths, taking charge of the juke box and just being there for everyone. Some of the leaders had a speaking role and they can be very proud of their achievements.

The Echuca and District Chaplaincy Committee organised a great BBQ at lunchtime which was a resounding success.

I hope that everyone enjoyed the day and came away with some new information, inspiration and motivation along with some new connections which will lead to a great future.

Our next event is the Pledge Day on Thursday 19th of June at the Rich River Golf Club. This is a very special occasion when every year 10 student plus many other guests will be invited to sign a pledge to their own future.

Val McGrath
Beacon Co-ordinator

'RACV Transmission – Semi-Final Success!' is a segment that may not be relevant to the main content. It might be a separate article or a sidebar feature.

Conveniently, the segment includes a real-world example of a student's success, which can be integrated with the main content.

‘Twelve Titbits’

Half-way through term and the exams are looming,
For our ambitious year 12s the year is truly zooming,
With Supportive Partners in place, extra classes offered plenty of study at home,
We can be confident with final preparation, good results will be shown!

As we approach the half-way mark of the academic year for the Year12s it is an opportunity to pause, take stock, review goals and re-commit to the demanding responsibilities which face our students in the coming weeks. Ms. Costin and myself spend valuable time last week reviewing the ‘Exam Navigator’ which provided crucial information for both the forthcoming exams including the GAT and the end of year exams, including the performance-based subjects.

It is very important that students and parents understand the importance of the **General Achievement Test (GAT)**. It is a 3-hour exam which has a clear impact on their results and score at the end of the year. Therefore, whilst it is not possible to study for the GAT, it is essential that students do some preparation by reviewing previous GATs, with which they have been provided and are available through the Year 12 Study Centre and the VCAA website [www.vcaa.vic.edu.au](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au).

You may have read about Jess Gundry in the ‘Riv’ last week when her thoughts on the youth in Echuca were aired in the press. For her input Jess’ was awarded $50 credit for her phone – you’ve become famous Jess’!

Congratulations go to the “Jack Niklaus” of Echuca College, no, it is, in fact Jack Wilson, who recently finished 4th in the State Championships for golf. He was declared the winner on handicap. Now, hopefully, off to the Nationals.

We have been the beneficiaries of some really interesting presentations this year, the latest being from the Defence forces who provided some real insight into occupational pathways in the forces and the potential for a fabulous experience for students who undertake a GAP Year after Year 12 in the army, air force or navy. Thanks to Mr. Webb and Mr. Down for their organization in the provision of such tremendous opportunities.

Finally, a reminder of a programme of which most of you will be aware, we have begun the **Supportive Partnerships Programme** whereby students have selected volunteer staff to be their ‘supportive partner’ in what is such a challenging year. This may involve staff and students spending time together in settings less formal than classrooms. The time shared has already proved of enormous value to many students who are facing their own individual challenges. Thank you for your ongoing support in this testing year.

You will be receiving your May Monthly Report on the progress of your child very soon.

Year 12 will be rewarding though the challenge is great,
We will work as a team to achieve our goals in this year 2008!!!

Mr. Stewart Cheal (Year 12 Team Leader)

Parks Victoria
Conservation Volunteers Australia
VCAL

So many great things are happening in VCAL this month!

**RACV Transmission – Semi-Final Success!**

Congratulations to all three student groups who recently found out they had been accepted as semi-finalists! As semi-finalists the 14 students have been invited to attend a one-day workshop held at the Victory Room, Telstra Dome.

Students will learn about issues surrounding road safety, enjoy workshops on topics like make-up, how to produce a Community Service Announcement for TV, as well as meet Channel 7 TV personalities.

Students travel to Melbourne via train on Tuesday, May 27th.

**Conservation Volunteers Australia and VCAL**

Students are spending a day at a site near Echuca helping Parks Victoria and Conservation Volunteers Australia regenerate a local area. Huge thanks to Michelle Toll, Josh Garbutt and Melinda Ashwell for helping provide lunch for 17 students and 2 staff. Thanks also, to Alex Geier who organised drink containers from McDonald’s, Echuca.

Miss Sandy Roberts.
NORTHERN ZONE VOLLEYBALL
Tuesday 22nd April was a big day for our College Volleyballers, especially the Intermediate Boys and Girls and the Senior Girls who all went with high expectations. Rightly so too, for all the teams were extremely competitive on the day winning matches, sets and plenty of points. Perhaps the most pleasing aspects were not only the terrific spirit in which all the matches were played but teamwork displayed and the improvement which was evident across the day in all the College Teams. They all just seemed to have a really good time!

The Senior Girls played all their matches with no ‘subs’ yet you would have had to drag them off the court anyway, such was their enthusiasm. Ably lead by Aleisha Turner, all the girls (Mel, Alice, Amber and Laura) enjoyed moments where they made valuable contributions, but as Mr. Pearson demands an MVP it goes to Jessie Cantwell who served consistently, used her fingers intelligently and talked positively.

The Intermediate Girls had a great day, despite losing a couple of matches, they only lost 3 of their sets by 2 points and this was against opposition who had State Representatives! Their improvement curve was very steep and it matched their obvious enjoyment. By the end of the day even Brittany was getting noisy (not) and gaining in confidence, perhaps the volume of Molly was infectious? Bec Larcombe, Libby Pellegrino and Tayla Maloney all became very involved whilst Kyra Naismith ‘landed’ a few serves (at last) and skipper Zara Pearson, who was MVP on the day, nearly had her wrist shattered such was her courage.

Our Intermediate Boys were a little ‘shell shocked’ after their first couple of rallies when Golden Square smashed some top spikes, though when the lads settled down they quickly became very competitive, and this after losing skipper Ryan Hon to illness before a ball was hit. Dylan Sargent stepped into the breach admirably supported by David Monaghan, Kyle Forge and Josh ‘Boof’ Nathan. Josh, Callum and Cameron Valentine of Year 9 started showing they will be ‘reckoned with’ next year with Cameron ‘landing’ a few serves (at last) and skipper Zara Pearson, who was MVP on the day, nearly had her wrist shattered such was her courage.

We thank Mr. Pearson for his organization on the day (as the designated guy was not too useful!)

Stewart Cheal

INTERSCOOL BADMINTON
Intermediate girls - Megan Thomas, Sarah Key, Bec Larcombe, Zara Pearson*
Intermediate Boys - Dylan Sargent*, Josh Anderson-Scott, Daniel Scott, Mitch Bastin
Senior Girls - Pernelle Vo Dinh*, Georgie Chandler, Aillie Sims, Kayla Hancock
Senior Boys - Hayden Holt, Ross Picone, Toby Osborne, Daniel Kavanagh*
  * MVP

Results:
- I G - W 6-0 Kyabram, L 2-4 Rochester, W 4-2 Nathalia - Finished 2nd place
- I B - W 6-0 Kyabram, L 1-5 Rochester, W 5-1 Nathalia - Finished 2nd place
- S G - W 5-1 Kyabram, W 4-2 Rochester - Finished 1st placed - go to northern Zone final
- S B - L 0-6 Kyabram, L 2-4 Rochester, L 0-6 Nathalia - finished 4th place

STATE 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 which was held this week in Melbourne. A report will be in the next newsletter.

STATE GOLF
Congratulations to Jack Wilson and Kacey Heywood who won medals in the State Golf at Medway Golf Club in Melbourne last week. Jack came fourth in the boy’s stroke event having a one under par 71. This won Jack the gold medal in the handicap event. A great effort. Kacey won a bronze medal in the girls handicap event, losing the gold on a countback. Joel Norwood’s 88 off the stick was also a very good round, being only 2 shots over his handicap.

INTERSCOOL CROSS-COUNTRY
Echuca college runners dominated the Campaspe event against Rochester, Kyabram and Nathalia winning 9 out of the 10 age groups. Mitchell Oliver, Riley Fitzpatrick and Ashley Vestey in the U13 boys have qualified for the Northern Zone event along with the first 5 runners in every other age group.

Under 13

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<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
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<tr>
<td>3rd Mitchell Oliver</td>
<td>2nd Daile-Ann Haig</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th Riley Fitzpatrick</td>
<td>3rd Bianca Williams</td>
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<td>8th Ashley Vestey</td>
<td>5th Briah Chapman</td>
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Under 14

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<tr>
<td>1st Harrison Ennis</td>
<td>1st Ellie Ralph</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Cameron Prowse-Wilkins</td>
<td>3rd Kariah White</td>
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<td>3rd Maddison Harris</td>
<td>4th Tess O'Reilly</td>
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Under 15

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<td>2nd Brock Norwood</td>
<td>2nd Aimee Sloan</td>
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<td>3rd Daniel Edwards</td>
<td>3rd Tayla Moloney</td>
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<td>4th Nathan Evans</td>
<td>4th Erryn Flynn</td>
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Under 16

<table>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Leigh Calleja</td>
<td>2nd Libby Pellegrino</td>
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<td>5th Kyle Forge</td>
<td>4th Olivia Bish</td>
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<td>6th Charles Vagg</td>
<td>5th Holly Minogue</td>
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Seniors

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<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Harley Richardson</td>
<td>1st Jordanna Pellegrino</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd Jordan Glanville</td>
<td>2nd Emily Pellegrino</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th Keaton Male</td>
<td>3rd Zara Pearson</td>
</tr>
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TERM 2 SPORT

May 26th CSSSA Netball - Kyabram
May 29th Northern Zone Senior & Inter. Soccer & Badminton - Bendigo
June 5th CSSSA Winter Sport Year 7 & 8 Badminton, Football and Soccer
June 19th Northern Zone Cross-Country - Bendigo

Peta Ogden
WELLBEING

STUDENT WELLBEING TEAM

The Year 7 and Year 9 College students recently had a presentation from the Values 4 Life Team which raised awareness and outlined strategies to deal with bullying and harassment. Thanks to our Chaplain, Malcolm Moore for organising this valuable presentation.

The College Campus Student Welfare Counsellor Paul Robinson, has organised the purchase of College Uniforms with funding from the State School's Relief Committee and has assisted over a dozen of our students and their families in this regard. Please do not hesitate to contact him for assistance with uniform, similar assistance is available at our Crofton Street Campus.

At Crofton Street, Mick Maher and Francis Lias continue to provide support, encouragement and counselling for our senior students as well as supporting the programs initiated by our Senior Team Leaders. The breakfast program has also started at Crofton Street to complement our Breakfast program at College Drive.

The Wellbeing focus on attendance continues with the trialling of a comprehensive computer recording system called ID attend.

Under the stewardship of our Principal Mr Chris. Eeles, Koori Education support continues at both Crofton Street and College Drive, and an increase in Chaplaincy support is pending. Finally I am pleased to announce that our application for funding to present Save-A-Mate (Red Cross) to our Year 9 students has been approved by the School's Focussed Youth Service.

Paul Leach
Student Wellbeing Team Leader

EMA CHEQUES
There are still some EMA cheques to be collected from College Drive. Please call in to collect them as soon as possible.

CAR BOOT SALE
Echuca Primary School will be hosting a Car Boot Sale on Sunday 1st of June at the school oval from 9am – 2pm.

If you would like to sell some of your treasures and be part of this fun day then you will need to register your vehicle. Sausage sizzle & drinks will also be available.

Contact Belinda 0409 409522 or Andrea 0407 486355 to register or for more information.

Registration is $20 per vehicle (Payable on the day).

BRING HOME A BROTHER OR SISTER- STUDENT EXCHANGE AUSTRALIA
In June/July 2008 a new group of exchange students, aged 15-18 years from 15 countries will arrive in Australia to study for 2, 3, 5, or 10 months. Hosting can be temporary, short term or long term.

Host families help provide students with the chance to study and experience life in Australia. It is a great way to learn about another country and culture, establish a life long link to a family in another country and contribute to international goodwill. If your family can offer a friendly, supportive and caring home environment, contact us today.

To learn more about this opportunity call Student Exchange Australia on 1300 135 331 or visit our website: www.studentexchange.org.au.

GIRL GUIDES
To all girls aged 10 to 15 years are you looking for something to do? Are you interested in being a part of an all girl’s organisation? Have you heard of the Girl Guides? We are the girl side of Scouting and we do lots of fun things like they do, including indoor (and outdoor) camps outdoor days and camp cooking, arts and crafts, games, learning leadership skills and enhancing many other skills and having good friends around in a group environment.

If you are interested or would like more information please contact Cecilia on 5482 5961 or Fiona on 54801597.

ECHUCA HOLIDAY AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE PROGRAM FUNDRAISER
When: Thursday, June 5th
Time: 6pm finger food 6.45pm movie
Cost: Children $12.00
      Adults $15.00
Where: Echuca Paramount
Call Jenny on 0432857905 or 54824503 for more information

SECOND-HAND UNIFORM
Do you have items of uniform you no longer require and would like to sell?

There may be another parent out there who is looking for just that item.

The college is offering to publish a list of secondhand uniform items, the price being asked and the seller’s phone number.

This way the buyer and the seller can communicate directly. Forward details to the Crofton Street office or email them directly to the College.
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Chris Eeles
Echuca College Principal
Mid-Year Examinations
A reminder to all parents and students that mid-year exams for all students in Years 10 – 12 commence on Thursday 5th June. Exams for Year 12 students will be held in the “Haw Pavilion”, Year 10 and Year 11 exams will be held in the College Gym and rooms at Crofton St campus. Students will be given timetables for their exams by their Year level team leaders over the next few weeks.

UK Cricket Tour
It is only 4 weeks until our 13 boys will be travelling to England to play cricket. As part of fundraising for the trip, a Movie Night is planned for Monday 26th May 2008. The movie is “Indiana Jones” and it starts at 6.45pm with a supper provided afterwards. The tickets are $15.00 per person and can be purchased on the night or you can purchase a ticket from one of the boys before hand.

Tutorial / Beacon Leaders Induction Assembly
On Wednesday 28th May at 10am, we will be conducting a full Campus assembly to celebrate the induction of our tutorial and beacon student leaders. Parents are invited to attend the assembly and a morning tea afterwards in the College staffroom.

Mobile Phone and MP3 Players
A reminder to all students and parents that mobile phones and MP3 players are allowed at school but must be turned off before entering any classes. If any parents are unsure about the use of electronic devices at school, please refer to the section in student organiser on this.

DINGEE SCHOOLS TALENT QUEST
Echuca College was invited to take part in this year’s talent quest, which is organised by the Dingee Community Association and held in the community hall.

The Talent Quest is an annual event, and this year five schools in the general area were each invited to provide a twenty minute performance by a group of up to twenty students, and also to provide performers for the solo section.

The College band of ten players performed in the school group section. Music was played from “The Lion King Stage Show”, and themes from the movie “Pirates of the Caribbean”. Between the two items Alison Koster and Jessica Vanzetta played a flute and clarinet duet.

The performance of the College Band was a very high standard and was excitedly applauded by the large audience.

In the final judging Echuca College was placed second behind a varied drama performance by a group from Eaglehawk Secondary College, while the remaining places went to Boort, Loddon and Kerang schools.

Several students from Echuca College performed in the solo section where twelve acts competed. These included guitarists, vocalists, and instrumentalists. The stand of all performers was also very high. Some performed their own original compositions.

Thanks to Mrs Yvonne Koster who represented the College on the judging panel, Mrs Michelle Cunnington who drove the College vehicle and the Stephens and Dean Families who travelled out to support the group.

Dingee Talent Quest
Congratulations to the College Concert Band who recently came second at the annual Dingee Talent Quest. Competing against performers from 4 other schools, the band placed second and a prize of $200 was awarded towards the school’s music program.

Thank you and congratulations to Mr Doug Morison for his work with the school band.

School Uniform
Now that the cold weather has found us, we appreciate the fact that many parents have been vigilant in ensuring that students are attending in the appropriate winter uniform. It surprises me that some students continue to wear the summer uniform, including no jumper.

Breakfast Program
The breakfast program continues to operate on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. About 30 students have been utilising this program and it’s great to see so many teachers coming across to engage in conversation with the students.

Many thanks to Murray Goulburn who have donated another 80 Litres of milk to the program and to Nestle in Tongala who have pledged to donate some cereal and Milo.

Facilities
Tenders have closed for stage 2 of the capital works. We are fortunate that many of the tenders have come in within budget. Our architects have the details with their quantity surveyors to ensure that the building companies meet all guidelines before announcing the winning tender. We still hope to have works commencing in June.

NAPLAN Tests
These tests in literacy and numeracy have been completed and forwarded for assessment. Staff members were impressed by the effort that students put into these tests. Parents will receive the student results next term.

End of Semester
The end of the semester is fast approaching. Teachers are planning their final assessments of the semester and considering what they will write in their reports. At this time of the year, students should ensure that they have coursework submitted on time and should be ensuring that their study program will prepare them for any testing that may be coming up.

Students will receive full written reports for the semester on the last day of term.

Paul Hon
MIDDLE YEARS NEWS

YEAR 7 NEWS

Year 7 has been exceptionally busy in the last fortnight. May 13 – 15th saw them participate in the first round of National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). Whilst the format of the NAPLAN tests were similar to the AIMS tests that students have been sitting for many years this is the first time that a standard test has been administered across the nation, as opposed to across the state. Students sat 5 tests (3 in Literacy and 2 in Numeracy) over the three days and did an excellent job – well done.

The Home Group Soccer Comp is also in full swing and getting lots of support - it runs four lunchtimes a week with all Home Groups playing each other, and demonstrating some great skill, sportsmanship and community spirit!! Our junior netballers and footballers are also in the process of trying out for the school teams – good luck to all involved.

Just a few reminders re uniform as we come into the colder months. Generally the students are looking great so there are only a few things to draw to your attention. Students are to either wear full summer, or winter uniform (eg not summer, with tights for girls), if an additional shirt is needed for warmth underneath items it should be white in colour, and be the same sleeve length as the outer garment, as always shoes should be black leather – laces also black. One of the ongoing concerns with shoes has been the ballet flats that some female students have been wearing – these do not provide appropriate protection for feet in practical activities and as such are not an accepted form of uniform.

As always if parents have any queries please contact the Year 7 Team Leader, or Assistants – we are only too pleased to help wherever possible.

YEAR 8 FOUR POSTS CAMP

College Drive Public Speaking Competition

The College Drive Public Speaking competition was held on Monday 5th May. 26 students from Years 7, 8 and 9 presented a prepared speech and an impromptu speech to their peers, teachers and parents. The speeches were of a very high calibre and were highly informative. All students are to be commended for their efforts and behaviour on the day. The junior section winner was Millie Down (P71), 2nd place Georgina Bish (W71) and 3rd place Mitchell Oliver (W71). The Intermediate section winner was Tyla Harrington (9T8), 2nd place Rebecca Larcombe (9T1) and 3rd place Maddi Trotter (9T2).

Homework Classes

Homework/tutorial session for year levels 7-9 will be conducted on Thursday at the following times during term 2.

- Time:  a) 1.00 – 1.30pm Thursday lunchtime
- Venue:  2) 3.30 – 4.30pm Thursday after school
- Staff Contact: Kevin Remilton

YEAR 9 NEWS

Rubicon Camp – Camp 1

This week 47 students and four teachers are participating in Rubicon outdoor adventure camp. It is great to see so many involved in this great experience and we look forward to the students coming back and sharing their stories and experiences.

There are still some places left for the second camp which will take place from 17th November till 21st November.

Debaters Association of Victoria

Recently the DAV asked Echuca College to nominate a student that showed potential in debating, to attend a series of workshops to enhance their skills. The school was required to write a couple of sentences to highlight the experience of the student. Out of several students from across the state only 16 students were to be picked to attend the workshops. Rebecca Larcombe, of Year 9, was invited to attend the workshops.

Rebecca is the current junior school girl captain. In this role she represents the school at school and community services; such as ANZAC day, school assemblies and community information evenings. She has been a member of the junior, and now intermediate debating teams. In this role she helps with all facets of preparing and presenting the debates and on numerous occasions has assisted other team members and peers. Rebecca is developing her debating and public speaking skills and is happy to help others develop theirs. She is eager to further develop and consolidate her skills. Rebecca was awarded the Best Junior Debater of last years DVA tournament, in Shepparton. As you can see Rebecca is quite a deserving recipient of this opportunity.

Nicole Case, Paul Challis, Rhoana Balnaves & Chris Jennings
LATER YEARS NEWS

BEACON FUTURES WORKSHOP 2008

On Thursday 8th of May all Year 10 students from Echuca College, St Joseph’s and the Moama Anglican Grammar School gathered at the Echuca Nestle Centre for a careers expo.

All students were surveyed and then matched as closely as possible to careers of interest to them. Each student attended four different workshops during the day and was treated to some highly interactive and interesting sessions with people passionate about their work.

With over 50 careers covered in over 100 sessions by over70 workshop hosts to over 300 students it was a big day for everyone. Careers included builder, chef, architect, dancer, engineer, hairdresser, graphic artist, actor, medical scientist, plumber, physiotherapist, beauty therapist, teacher, fitness trainer, electrician, events manager, vet, accountant, photographer, pilot, lawyer, journalist, youth worker, police officer, nurse, business manager, interior designer, fashion designer, mechanic, I.T. professional and many more.

Yet again our beacon leaders did a wonderful job running the event. They played a significant role in organising the day, helping hosts set up their booths, taking charge of the juke box and just being there for everyone. Some of the leaders had a speaking role and they can be very proud of their achievements.

The Echuca and District Chaplaincy Committee organised a great BBQ at lunchtime which was a resounding success.

I hope that everyone enjoyed the day and came away with some new information, inspiration and motivation along with some new connections which will lead to a great future.

Our next event is the Pledge Day on Thursday 19th of June at the Rich River Golf Club. This is a very special occasion when every year 10 student plus many other guests will be invited to sign a pledge to their own future.

Val McGrath
Beacon Co-ordinator

‘Twelve Titbits’

Half-way through term and the exams are looming,
For our ambitious year 12s the year is truly zooming,
With Supportive Partners in place, extra classes offered plenty
of study at home,
We can be confident with final preparation, good results will be shown!

As we approach the half-way mark of the academic year for the Year12s it is an opportunity to pause, take stock, review goals and re-commit to the demanding responsibilities which face our students in the coming weeks. Ms. Costin and myself spend valuable time last week reviewing the ‘Exam Navigator’ which provided crucial information for the forthcoming exams including the GAT and the end of year exams, including the performance-based subjects.

It is very important that students and parents understand the importance of the General Achievement Test (GAT). It is a 3 hour exam which has a clear impact on their results and score at the end of the year. Therefore, whilst it is not possible to study for the GAT, it is essential that students do some preparation by reviewing previous GATs, with which they have been provided and are available through the Year 12 Study Centre and the VCAA website www.vcaa.vic.edu.au.

You may have read about Jess Gundry in the ‘Riv’ last week when her thoughts on the youth in Echuca were aired in the press. For her input Jess’ was awarded $50 credit for her phone – you’ve become famous Jess’!

Congratulations go to the “Jack Niklaus” of Echuca College, no, it is, in fact Jack Wilson, who recently finished 4th in the State Championships for golf. He was declared the winner on handicap. Now, hopefully, off to the Nationals.

We have been the beneficiaries of some really interesting presentations this year, the latest being from the Defence forces who provided some real insight into occupational pathways in the forces and the potential for a fabulous experience for students who undertake a GAP Year after Year 12 in the army, air force or navy. Thanks to Mr. Webb and Mr. Down for their organization in the provision of such tremendous opportunities.

Finally, a reminder of a programme of which most of you will be aware, we have begun the Supportive Partnerships Programme whereby students have selected volunteer staff to be their ‘supportive partner’ in what is such a challenging year. This may involve staff and students spending time together in settings less formal than classrooms. The time shared has already proved of enormous value to many students who are facing their own individual challenges. Thank you for your ongoing support in this testing year.

You will be receiving your May Monthly Report on the progress of your child very soon.

Year 12 will be rewarding though the challenge is great,
We will work as a team to achieve our goals in this year
2008!!!

Mr. Stewart Cheal (Year 12 Team Leader)

VCAL VOICE

So many great things are happening in VCAL this month!

RACV Transmission – Semi-Final Success!

Congratulations to all three student groups who recently found out they had been accepted as semi-finalists! As semi-finalists the 14 students have been invited to attend a one-day workshop held at the Victory Room, Telstra Dome.

Students will learn about issues surrounding road safety, enjoy workshops on topics like make-up, how to produce a Community Service Announcement for TV, as well as meet Channel 7 TV personalities.

Students travel to Melbourne via train on Tuesday, May 27th.

Conservation Volunteers Australia and VCAL

Students are spending a day at a site near Echuca helping Parks Victoria and Conservation Volunteers Australia regenerate a local area. Huge thanks to Michelle Toll, Josh Garbutt and Melinda Ashwell for helping provide lunch for 17 students and 2 staff. Thanks also, to Alex Geier who organised drink containers from McDonalds, Echuca.

Miss Sandy Roberts.

You can also see how this article looks in PDF.
SPORT NEWS

NORTHERN ZONE VOLLEYBALL
Tuesday 22nd April was a big day for our College Volleyballers, especially the Intermediate Boys and Girls and the Senior Girls who all went with high expectations. Rightly so too, for all the teams were extremely competitive on the day winning matches, sets and plenty of points. Perhaps the most pleasing aspects were not only the terrific spirit in which all the matches were played but teamwork displayed and the improvement which was evident across the day in all the College Teams. They all just seemed to have a really good time!

The Senior Girls played all their matches with no ‘subs’ yet you would have had to drag them off the court anyway, such was their enthusiasm. Ably lead by Aleisha Turner, all the girls (Mel, Alice, Amber and Laura) enjoyed moments where they made valuable contributions, but as Mr. Pearson demands an MVP it goes to Jessie Cantwell who served consistently, used her fingers intelligently and talked positively.

The Intermediate Girls had a great day, despite losing a couple of matches, they only lost 3 of their sets by 2 points and this was against opposition who had State Representatives! Their improvement curve was very steep and it matched their obvious enjoyment. By the end of the day even Brittany was getting noisy (not) and gaining in confidence, perhaps the volume of Molly was infectious? Bec Larcombe, Libby Pellegrino and Tayla Maloney all became very involved whilst Kyra Naismith ‘landed’ a few serves (at last) and skipper Zara Pearson, who was MVP on the day, nearly had her wrist shattered such was her courage.

Our Intermediate Boys were a little ‘shell shocked’ after their first couple of rallies when Golden Square smashed some top spikes, though when the lads settled down they quickly became very competitive, and this after losing skipper Ryan Hon to illness before a ball was hit. Dylan Sargent stepped into the breach admirably supported by David Monaghan, Kyle Forge and Josh ‘Boof’ Nathan. Josh, Callum and Cameron Valentine of Year 9 started showing they will be a force to be reckoned with a few serves (at last) and skipper Zara Pearson, who was MVP on the day, nearly had her wrist shattered such was her courage.

We thank Mr. Pearson for his organization on the day (as the designated guy was not too useful!)

Stewart Cheal

INTERSCHOOL BADMINTON
Intermediate girls - Megan Thomas, Sarah Key, Bec Larcombe, Zara Pearson*
Intermediate Boys - Dylan Sargent*, Josh Anderson-Scott, Daniel Scott, Mitch Bastin
Senior Girls - Pernelle Vo Dinh*, Georgie Chandler, Aillie Sims, Kayla Hancock
Senior Boys - Hayden Holt, Ross Picone, Toby Osborne, Daniel Kavanagh*
* MVP

Results:
• I G - W 6-0 Kyabram, L 2-4 Rochester, W 4-2 Nathalia - Finished 2nd place
• I B - W 6-0 Kyabram, L 1-5 Rochester, W 5-1 Nathalia - Finished 2nd place
• S G - W 5-1 Kyabram, W 4-2 Rochester - Finished 1st place - go to northern Zone final
• S B - L 0-6 Kyabram, L 2-4 Rochester, L 0-6 Nathalia - finished 4th place

Peta Ogden

STATE 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 which was held this week in Melbourne. A report will be in the next newsletter.

STATE GOLF
Congratulations to Jack Wilson and Kacey Heywood who won medals in the State Golf at Medway Golf Club in Melbourne last week. Jack came fourth in the boy’s stroke event having a one under par 71. This won Jack the gold medal in the handicap event. A great effort. Kacey won a bronze medal in the girls handicap event, losing the gold on a recount. Joel Norwood’s 88 off the stick was also a very good round, being only 2 shots over his handicap.

INTERSCHOOL CROSS-COUNTRY
Echuca college runners dominated the Campaspe event against Rochester, Kyabram and Nathalia winning 9 out of the 10 age groups. Mitchell Oliver, Riley Fitzpatrick and Ashley Vesty in the U13 boys have qualified for the Northern Zone event along with the first 5 runners in every other age group.

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<td>5th</td>
<td>Kyle Forge</td>
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<td>6th</td>
<td>Charles Vagg</td>
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Seniors

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<td>3rd</td>
<td>Jordan Gianville</td>
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<td>4th</td>
<td>Keaton Male</td>
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TERM 2 SPORT

May 26th CSSSA Netball - Kyabram
May 29th Northern Zone Senior & Inter. Soccer & Badminton - Bendigo
June 5th CSSSA Winter Sport Year 7 & 8 Badminton, Football and Soccer
June 19th Northern Zone Cross-Country - Bendigo
STUDENT WELLBEING TEAM

The Year 7 and Year 9 College students recently had a presentation from the Values 4 Life Team which raised awareness and outlined strategies to deal with bullying and harassment. Thanks to our Chaplain, Malcolm Moore for organising this valuable presentation.

The College Campus Student Welfare Counsellor Paul Robinson, has organised the purchase of College Uniforms with funding from the State School’s Relief Committee and has assisted over a dozen of our students and their families in this regard. Please do not hesitate to contact him for assistance with uniform, similar assistance is available at our Crofton Street Campus.

At Crofton Street, Mick Maher and Francis Lias continue to provide support, encouragement and counselling for our senior students as well as supporting the programs initiated by our Senior Team Leaders. The breakfast program has also started at Crofton Street to complement our Breakfast program at College Drive.

The Wellbeing focus on attendance continues with the trialling of a comprehensive computer recording system called ID attend.

Under the stewardship of our Principal Mr Chris. Eeles, Koori Education support continues at both Crofton Street and College Drive, and an increase in Chaplaincy support is pending. Finally I am pleased to announce that our application for funding to present Save-A-Mate (Red Cross) to our Year 9 students has been approved by the School’s Focussed Youth Service.

Paul Leach
Student Wellbeing Team Leader

EMA CHEQUES

There are still some EMA cheques to be collected from College Drive. Please call in to collect them as soon as possible.

CAR BOOT SALE

Echuca Primary School will be hosting a Car Boot Sale on Sunday 1st of June at the school oval from 9am – 2pm.

If you would like to sell some of your treasures and be part of this fun day then you will need to register your vehicle. Sausage sizzle & drinks will also be available.

Contact Belinda 0409 409522 or Andrea 0407 486355 to register or for more information.

Registration is $20 per vehicle (Payable on the day).

BRING HOME A BROTHER OR SISTER- STUDENT EXCHANGE AUSTRALIA

In June/July 2008 a new group of exchange students, aged 15-18 years from 15 countries will arrive in Australia to study for 2, 3, 5, or 10 months. Hosting can be temporary, short term or long term.

Host families help provide students with the chance to study and experience life in Australia. It is a great way to learn about another country and culture, establish a life long link to a family in another country and contribute to international goodwill. If your family can offer a friendly, supportive and caring home environment, contact us today.

To learn more about this opportunity call Student Exchange Australia on 1300 135 331 or visit our website: www.studentexchange.org.au.

GIRL GUIDES

To all girls aged 10 to 15 years are you looking for something to do? Are you interested in being a part of an all girl’s organisation? Have you heard of the Girl Guides? We are the girl side of Scouting and we do lots of fun things like they do, including indoor (and outdoor) camps outdoor days and camp cooking, arts and crafts, games, learning leadership skills and enhancing many other skills and having good friends around in a group environment.

If you are interested or would like more information please contact Cecilia on 5482 5961 or Fiona on 54801597.

ECHUCA HOLIDAY AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE PROGRAM FUNDRAISER

When: Thursday, June 5th
Time: 6pm finger food 6.45pm movie
Cost: Children $12.00
       Adults $15.00
Where: Echuca Paramount
Call Jenny on 0432857905 or 54824503 for more information

SECOND-HAND UNIFORM

Do you have items of uniform you no longer require and would like to sell?

There may be another parent out there who is looking for just that item.

The college is offering to publish a list of secondhand uniform items, the price being asked and the seller’s phone number.

This way the buyer and the seller can communicate directly. Forward details to the Crofton Street office or email them directly to the College.