Congratulations to our Rock Eisteddfod Team on moving into the Premier category finals on the 18th September. This is the third year in a row that the College has made it through to the finals. Our team consists of 120 students, 10 staff and a small band of dedicated parents who accept any challenge of the day from sewing duties to moral support. Echuca College won 7 awards in the first round for excellence in, Stage use, Costuming character, Concept, Entertainment, Sound track and the prestigious Gemma Dale Award for being the friendliest school at the competition. Our students will be reviewing the video footage of the performance over the next few weeks and refining their performance in preparation for September’s final. I would like to thank all the staff involved with the Rock Eisteddfod and a special thanks to those dedicated parents.

Last Monday evening College Council reviewed the College’s Uniform and Cosmetics/Make-Up policy and reaffirmed the need to have all students in the stipulated uniform and that students must adhere to the requirements of the Cosmetics/Make-Up policy. School Council has always had the authority from DEECD to formulate uniform policy and to direct its implementation by the College’s administration and staff. In general the policies have not changed significantly (no change to items of uniform) but there is a re-affirming of requirements around cosmetics, jewellery, jewellery linked to body piercing and tattoos. Students will be issued with copies of the policies and parents can obtain copies from the General Office at either campus. The policies are also placed in the student diary each year.

Each year DEECD (Department of Education and Early Childhood Development) conduct a number of surveys on school performance. Students, teachers and parents are asked to complete surveys on a range of topics; performance, environment, attitudes to schooling, morale, training, academic rigor, attendance and student destination etc. The Parent Opinion data enables schools to understand how the parent community feel about the school, and helps to guide school improvement efforts. The 2009 Parent Opinion Survey will be distributed to our families on the 24th August. Families are selected randomly from our student records and I encourage all those who receive a survey to complete it and return it to the College. All surveys are confidential and are processed in Melbourne and not by the College. The surveys will be mailed out to families, and are to be returned by Friday 28th August. Again, it is very important that we get a 100% return on our surveys so we can improve our work in developing the skills of our young people.

The last two weeks have been very busy with our visitors from China, Rock Eisteddfod, Information Evenings, VET Information evenings, Athletics Carnival, Science Expo for primary schools in the new science precinct and our transition visits for primary schools students coming to the College in 2010. Our visitors from China have had an opportunity to participate in our classes and to interact with students on both campuses. During their visit they have also been able to visit local primary schools and BRIT’s Echuca Campus. Communication has not been a problem and although our Chinese language skills are extremely limited, the students from China have very good English language skills. Their two week visit has gone very quickly and has been very successful in establishing a strong relationship between Echuca College and Shangri-La # 5 secondary school. We hope to make a return visit in 2010 and we will be advertising this opportunity to our students before the end of this year. The exchange’s success can also be attributed to the support given to the College by the ‘host’ families. We hope that lasting friendships have been established as a result of the exchange program and that in the future families from both countries can meet and enjoy each other’s company.
This weekend will see Echuca College hold its annual Year 11 Debutante Ball at the Moama Bowling Club on Friday and Saturday nights. We have 36 debutantes being presented across the two evenings and the College would like to thank our parent organisers, Joy Mitchell, Helen Simpson, Tracey Abbott and Kaye Kennaugh. Also a special thanks to Kate Hatfield who has been our dance trainer for the last few months. We look forward to two great nights with our Year 11 students.

Chris Eeles
College Principal

Campus
Principals Report

Information Nights
Over the last few weeks we have had a number of information nights in preparation for 2010. Parents and students are reminded that selection sheets need to be returned to Tutorial teachers asap. If you have any further questions in regard to course selection then please contact us at the College.

Rock Eisteddfod
Last Friday I had the pleasure to accompany the Rocka team to Melbourne for the heats at Hisense Arena. Once again this was a very exciting day to see our students perform on the big stage. Premier division is such a big challenge and our team performed above and beyond all expectations. We received a number of awards for the night but I was so pleased to see our College receive the Gemma Dale Award which is voted on by all the other schools at the event. Well done to Jacqui and Trinity and a big thank you to all the parents that supported us on the day. Their support is what makes the Rocka so special. We are looking forward to the Grand Final on September 18th.

Year 10 Beacon Mock Interviews
Our Year 10 students have been involved in the “Beacon Mock Interviews” the last two days. This is a great opportunity for our students to experience the interview process for job applications later on. We are so lucky to have a lot of members of the business world in Echuca providing their time to run these interviews. Students are very lucky to have business people conducting these interviews. A big thank you to Mr. Webb and Ms. Roberts for organising these days for our Year 10 students.

Karl Stenning & Chris Kelly
Campus Principal’s

Would you like to receive the newsletter via e-mail?

VCAL Trivia Night

The Theme Is Hollywood

Cost $10

Date: 04/09/2009

Where - Echuca Workers Club

Money Raised Will Go To The Beacon Foundation

CONGRATULATIONS ROCK EISTEDDFOD TEAM!

Congratulations to the Rock Eisteddfod Team for winning a massive 7 Awards!

The Entertainment Award (awarded to only one school)

The Gemma Dale Award for the friendliest school (awarded to only one school)

Excellence for Drama

Excellence for Concept

Excellence for Costuming: Character

Excellence for stage use

Excellence for Soundtrack

And a place in the GRAND FINAL!!!
Congratulations to Chloe Shorland for coming second in the recent Echuca Clay Target Shooting. She will attend the regional finals in Bendigo, on September the 7th.
Ellie Denson, Felicity Prendergast, Georgia McMurdo and Alicia Priest for taking first place at the inter school debating.
Makayla O’Callaghan for coming first in the under 14 girls Javelin.
We have recently completed a check of students’ materials, many are missing needed items. Please can you check with your child if they need new books or pencil case items.

Don’t forget the upcoming Torrumbarry Weir excursion for North students. This will be on Wednesday the 27th, and South students will be on Thursday the 28th. Students must bring their lunch, snacks and a drink; there is no canteen to purchase food. It is also recommended that they bring a hat with them.

Bella McInnes

Northern Rivers Debating

On Wednesday 5th August Echuca College hosted the Northern Rivers debating competition. We competed against students from Rushworth Secondary College, Boorat Secondary College and St Josephs College. Students were required to present a prepared speech and also needed to write and deliver a speech on the day.
The Senior team (Yr 11/12), Shelby, Darcy and Nicole were unsuccessful in their prepared debate but were victorious in their secret topic debate and finished third for the day. The Intermediate team (Yr 9/10), Georgie, Saxon, Jake, Jackson and Bec had a very close prepared debate, losing by only three points. They argued well in the secret topic debate but were again unsuccessful, finishing fourth for the day.
The Junior team, Rowena, Felicity and Ellie were fantastic. This was the first debating the girls have participated in and their preparation was excellent. They convincingly won their prepared debate and went on to further annihilate the opposition in the secret debate.

During term 4 there will be further opportunities for students to participate in a debating workshop and interschool debates.

Bella McInnes

Year 8 Team

INTERSCHOOL THEATRESPORTS

This annual competition will be held on the College Drive campus of Echuca College, on Friday 11th September.
Selection of teams and training sessions will be held on Wednesday lunchtimes at 1.00pm.
The first meeting is on Wed 26th August at 1.00 in Room 27 at Croften St.

VCAL Trivia Night

VCAL is running a trivia night for the Beacon Foundation on Friday 4th September. Everyone is invited to this good and fun cause. Tickets are $10 each and there will be heaps of prizes on the night. The theme is Hollywood, so break out your best dress-ups. We hope to see you there.
For more details see Mr Abramovitch or Mr Cheal. Tickets are available at the office.

FREE BREAKFAST

Free Breakfast for students and staff in Café 8855, next to canteen from 8.15 to 8.35, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
See Denise Richardson for more information.
CAREERS NEWS

Work experience – Year 10

Students in Year 10 are encouraged to undertake work experience during the school holidays. A number of students took up work experience in the June holidays in a range of jobs. The feedback has been very positive and many students now know which career pathway they want to take.

If students are interested in work experience on a construction site (for example; building, brick laying, plumbing, cabinet making etc) they are required by law to have the Construction Induction Card training (old Red Card). The College will be holding a training day for students who wish to gain their Construction Induction Training card. See Mr Webb or Miss Roberts for further details.

Work Experience for September Holidays.

Please note, work experience forms for the September holidays must be handed in before the following dates

NSW – Week 6 Friday 21st August
VIC – Week 8 Friday 4th September

Sandra Roberts.

Culpable at the County Court

No, not the driving of Mr. Cheal on the way! The Unit 4 Legal Studies students awoke before the birds to head down to a ‘Day in Court’, literally, on Tuesday 4th August. Following some ‘Top Gear’ driving and maneuvering into a parking space we were treated to a fascinating morning in the County court before Judge White, involving a case of culpable driving in Mildura some time ago. The accused, whilst ‘innocent until proven guilty’, sported a mullet which was reminiscent of the early 80s and which had him condemned by the students immediately. We can only hope the jury were more objective! Our third witness was straight off the set of CSI, his credentials were so impressive they were printed on 3 pages. Nevertheless his summary of the accident scene would have had the Hollywood producers licking their lips at the forensic possibilities. But one should not be too flippant, as the case showed again how negligent driving combined with a cocktail of alcohol and drugs has the potential to impact disastrously on so many lives. In this case the accused lost his fiancée whilst he was driving! Totally tragic!

In the afternoon the students took part in a scripted mock court at the ‘Crime and Justice Experience’ at the Old Melbourne Gaol. Judge Connie Ruedin presided with Tipstaff Abbey Jenkins assisting. QC Aillie Sims prosecuted and QC Anthony Gambrell was defending culpable driver Kim Tran (Jess’ Vanzetta) with all students playing other legal roles (though Nicole, Jess Mc, Judd, Happy and Russo were late as they were unable to read the step by step google instructions??). The students not only showed the benefit of their legal experiences but took part in a compelling discussion about the possible sentence at the conclusion of the plea hearing, impressing the facilitator hugely.

Following a role play City Watchhouse experience we headed home, a tired group, but with plenty to contemplate, both legally and warily, as the spectre of the consequences of culpable driving hung over us all following our fascinating day. Hopefully we gained a little more insight into our legal system and the huge responsibility that comes with driving!!

We should be both proud and impressed with the intelligent input of our students, though their ‘power shopping’ over the lunch break was singularly disappointing!

Stewart Cheal

Rock Eisteddfod 2009 - Premier Grand Final Rehearsal Dates

Sunday 23rd August - 10am - 2pm
Wednesday 26th August - Rehearse until 6pm
Sunday 30th August - 10am - 2pm
Wednesday 2nd September - Rehearse until 6pm
Sunday 6th September - 10am - 2pm
Wednesday 16th September - Rehearse until 7pm
Friday 18th September - Rock Eisteddfod Premier GRAND FINAL
**SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**Echuca Basketball Association Junior Pirates Tryouts**

Under 12 Boys August 21st from 5.30pm - 6.30pm
Under 14 Boys August 21st from 4pm - 5pm
Under 16 Girls August 21st at 4.30pm
Under 16 Boys August 21st from 4pm - 5pm
Under 18 Boys August 20th from 5pm - 6pm

For more details please call Echuca Basketball Association on 54806903

**ECHUCA CC**

Echuca CC
Senior and U16 training commences at 10.00am on Sunday August 23rd at the Echuca College Indoor nets.
New players are welcome.

**INFORMATION EVENING ECHUCA UNITED EAGLES FC**

Information Evening
Under 14’s Football Team for 2010 Season
Thursday 20th August 5.30pm at High St Clubrooms
Enquiries: John Taylor 0428 815 502

**ROCHESTER NETBALL DAY**

All Welcome
Saturday 10th OCT
10 am start

Play your role in helping kids in Africa

WHAT: Play netball and help raise $12,000 to ship clothing and educational donations to disadvantaged kids at King George VI centre, Zimbabwe. All monies raised go to this project.
WHERE: @ the Rochy netball courts. BBQ lunch available. Fun competitions on through out the day with prizes to be won.
ANYONE CAN PLAY:
Ladies & mixed open; Junior mixed; Primary Mixed.
Rules: max. 3 males on court/team
Provided: Balls and bibs
Primary school $50 with lunch and drink included
Cost: $70 open and secondary team
You provide an umpire from your team

Register Now: In person, at the courts on Saturdays. By post, 19 Baynes St Rochester 3561 c/o Kate Foster. Phone: 54841199. Email: katefoster@7mail.com
Have ready contact details, Team name, Section, Payment.

Kindly supported by Rochester recreation reserve

For more info ring Kate: 0400909170
Ad: 54841199

**VCAL Trivia Night**

Cost $10

The Theme Is Hollywood

Money Raised Will Go To The Beacon Foundation

Where - Echuca Workers Club

Date: 04 / 09 / 2009

The Night includes finger food, prizes, raffles and drinks which are available at the bar!
Mel-O-Drama’s Presents

Disney’s Alice in Wonderland

Music and Lyrics by Sammy Fain and Bob Hilliard, Oliver Wallace and Cy Coban, Allie Wrubel and Roy Gilbert, Mack David, Al Hoffman and Jerry Livingston

Music Adapted and Arranged and Additional Music and Lyrics by Bryan Louise

Book Adapted and Additional Lyrics by David Simpatico

Based on the 1951 Disney film “Alice in Wonderland” and the novels “The Adventures of Alice in Wonderland” and “Through the Looking Glass” by Lewis Carroll

By arrangement with Hal Leonard Australia Pty Ltd, exclusive agent for Music Theatre International, NY

SHOW DATES:
FRIDAY 28TH AUGUST 2009 7.30PM
SATURDAY 29TH AUGUST 2009 7.30PM
SUNDAY 30TH AUGUST 2009 1.00PM
FRIDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2009 7.30PM
SATURDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER 2009 7.30PM
SUNDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2009 1.00PM

BOOKINGS FROM THE PARAMOUNT THEATRE ON: 03 5482 3399

Disney’s High School Musical

Book by David Simpatico

Based on a Disney Channel Original Movie Written by Peter Barsocchini

Original Songs by Matthew Gerrard and Robbie Nevil; Ray Cham, Greg Cham and Andrew Seeley; Randy Petersen and Kevin Quinn; Andy Dodd and Adam Watts; Bryan Louise; David N. Lawrence and Faye Greenberg; Jamie Houston

Music Adapted, Arranged and Produced by Bryan Louise

By arrangement with Hal Leonard Australia Pty Ltd, exclusive agent for Music Theatre International, NY

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