Welcome back to school and to the last term of the year. As we complete the two weeks of term, it becomes very obvious that students and staff at Crofton Street campus are focusing on the important weeks leading up to examinations and final assessment tasks. Our VCE students only have a few weeks before examinations, so study time becomes crucial over the next month and a half. Year 12s finish formal classes on Thursday 22nd October and as I mentioned to Year 12 students last term, the College community expects that last day celebrations will be conducted sensibly and in good taste. On Friday 23rd October, Year 12 students will be invited to a breakfast with staff and College Councillors at the Echuca Hotel. At the completion of the breakfast students will be accompanied back to school to attend an assembly to wish them good luck with their examinations. All Crofton Street Campus students will attend the farewell assembly.

After the 23rd October, students studying Unit 4 VCE subjects have a week to prepare for the start of the examination period (English exam Friday 30th October). With this in mind, I believe that it would be inappropriate and dangerous for students to be involved in celebrations that will interfere with their preparation for examinations. As the College prepares our senior students for the final examination program, one aspect of this period concerns me because it is beyond our control; student parties. At this time every year, we talk to our senior students about preparing themselves for their examinations and ensuring that they give themselves every opportunity to succeed. We have spoken to them about our expectations in relation to their final days at college. The College does not believe that celebrations should take place before the completion of examinations and therefore does not sanction any functions other than the College’s Graduation Dinner in late November. The Graduation Dinner is a function where students attend with their family and are therefore under the supervision of their parents.

On Monday of this week we had 14 students compete in the annual Benalla Clay Target Championships. This is the biggest team we have had in this competition and congratulations must go to Ms Courtney Peters for organising a team from Echuca College. April Thompson came third in the girl’s section with a score of 16, a full report of the event will appear in the sporting section.

As summer gets closer, it seems ridiculous that we have to remind students about the perils of skin cancer and the need to wear hats while in the yard. So far this term, the majority of students have come prepared with a hat but there are still some students who don’t appreciate the risk they run by not having a hat. In Australia last year there were 38,000 new cases of skin cancer-related illnesses recorded and 1000 Australians died from skin cancer related illnesses. These are appalling figures considering the publicity given to skin cancer through the ‘Slip, Slop, Slap’ campaign and the work carried out in the Australian community by a range of agencies, including the education system.

Again I ask for parental support in encouraging our young people to ‘cover up’ and to wear their hats when in the yard.

Important Dates

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<th>October</th>
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<td>16th</td>
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<td>Round 1 Inter Cricket - Echuca</td>
<td>Yr 12 2010 Course Confirmation Day</td>
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<td>16th</td>
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<td>VDA Debating Workshops</td>
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<td>VSSSA Athletics Melbourne</td>
<td>Nth &amp; State Cricket Finals</td>
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<td>Year 10 Outdoor Ed Camp Mt Feathertop</td>
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<td>Year 12 Dance Performance - Melbourne</td>
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<td>VCE English Exam</td>
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Top Left : Shaun Spiers, Lucas McBain, Robert Nimmo, Dallas Anderson, Lindsay McLean
Middle : Patrick Hann, Jake Bullock, Luke Hams, Thomas McCluskey
Front : Zac McGrath, Sarah McCluskey, April Thompson, Chloe Shorland, Will Irish - Maysey
Term 4, like all terms has specific tasks and activities associated with it that make it very busy. We have our Year 12 students completing their 13 years of education, VCE examinations and internal examinations starting in November and the organisation for next year to complete. In preparation for next year, subject blocks are being developed for Years 9, 10, 11 and 12. Once these blocks are completed our Pathways Teachers and Year Level Team Leaders will be counselling students whose subject selections do not match the subject blocks. Where changes are made to students’ programs, parents will be informed and consulted about these changes.

On Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday of this week staff at the College have been interviewing families from our feeder schools as part of our Transition program. The interviews provide an opportunity for families to ask questions that are not always covered at information evenings or during open day visits, over 150 families have attended the interviews. Our figures for next year at Year 7 will be approximately 170/180 students, about the same numbers as we had at this time last year. If you have missed the interviews and would like to speak with our Year 7 Teachers please don’t hesitate to contact the College and make an appointment.

Our move from Crofton Street to College Drive will officially take place on the 19th and 20th November with all students being located at College Drive from the 23rd November. On the 19th and 20th, no formal classes will be conducted and it is not compulsory for students to attend school while we move from Crofton Street. If students do attend school on those days, they will be supervised. The 23rd November is a significant day because all students will be located on the College Drive Campus. Students in Years 10, 11 and 12 in 2010 will start their two week ‘Step Up’ program and students in this Year’s 7 and 8 classes will continue with their normal program. On Wednesday the 18th November, students at Crofton Street will leave the campus at 2.30 and walk to College as a symbolic gesture of moving forward into the new College. All buses will leave from College Drive for the first time. As our community would appreciate we have much to do before these dates. Many people have asked me what will happen to the Crofton Street Campus after we leave, that is a decision only DEECD can answer and to date College Council has not been informed and may not be informed. Echuca College Council has no authority in relation to the Crofton Street site.

At the end of last term our Rocka Eisteddfod Team competed in the final of the Premier Division in Melbourne. The College came 5th and this is the equal highest placing any Echuca Team has had in this competition. Along the way the Team picked up several awards including the ‘Student Leadership Award’, and was also judged by channel 9 as ‘The most entertaining Rock Eisteddfod School in all of Victoria’. Congratulations to the students on an outstanding job, to the dedication shown by Ms Kornmann, Ms Trinity Keath, Ms Pearson, Mr Collett and many other teachers, our great parents team, Eisteddfod Leaders, back stage team, dancers and our community.

Echuca College has five students in contention for Goulburn Murray VET Awards. These students, Mikael Lawford - Automotive Technology, Johanna Marks - Community Services, Callum Nichol - Furnishing, Mathew Brazier - Hospitality (Kitchen Operations) and Matt Ivancic - Music Industry. They will all be interviewed in coming weeks by representatives from VACC, Beacon Foundation and Apprentice Factory. The awards evening will be on the 16th November at the Rich River Golf Club and we wish all our students the very best in their endeavours.

Chris Eeles
College Principal

Examinations
Exam time is nearly upon us. Year 12 exams commence on Friday 30th October, Year 11 commence on the 9th November and Year 10 commence on the 12th November. Year level team leaders will be handing out timetables for exams to all students over the next week.

Relocation of Crofton Street Campus
The shifting of Crofton St to College Drive is approaching quickly. Removalists will be in on the weekends November 14th & 15th and November 21st & 22nd. Students will have pupil free days on November 19th & 20th to allow staff to move from Crofton St to College Drive.

Lockers
To assist in the relocation of lockers to College Drive, students will need to empty their lockers completely by the dates listed below. Any books left in lockers after these dates will be donated to Rotary for distribution to those in need.

Year 12 – 23rd October 2009.
Year 11 – 6th November 2009.
Year 10 – 13th November 2009.

Celebrate Crofton Street Campus
The weekend of the 14th and 15th November is set aside to celebrate the closing of our Crofton Street Campus. On Saturday 14th November a dinner is planned for all staff who attended Echuca College and Echuca High School over the years. The night will be held out on the front lawn at Crofton Street with catering provided by LG Catering. The cost for the evening is $30.00 per person to cover the cost of the meal. Please pass this information onto any previous staff member you may be aware of.

On Sunday 15th November we will be conducting the final roll call for Crofton Street. This will take place at 10am at Crofton Street. This is open to all students and staff that have attended Echuca College and Echuca High School.

2010 Step-Up Program
The 2010 Step-Up program commences on Monday 23rd November 2009 at College Drive for all students Years 10, 11 and 12 in 2010. Staff will be commencing work for 2010 during this program. The program finishes on Friday 4th December 2009.

Year 12 Graduation Dinner
Our Year 12 Graduation Dinner is on Sunday 22nd November 2009 commencing at 6.30pm at Rich River Golf Club. An invitation was sent out to all Year 12 parents last week. Tickets can be obtained from the General Office at Crofton St. Campus. All Year 12 students and parents are invited to this evening. A total of 3 tickets per Year 12 student will be allocated.

Karl Stenning & Chris Kelly
Campus Principals
**Year 7 News**

Interviews for 2010 year 7 students have been taking place over the last week. These provide opportunities for teachers, students and families to discuss special interests, strengths and needs of students to ensure a positive introduction to Echuca College. If you aware of any students not enrolled but intending to attend EC next year please contact us.

Students need pens, pencils and rulers etc so that they can get quickly down to work. Please ask your student what equipment they need as there are many nearly empty pencils cases around.

Tracey Burton
Team Leader.

**Year 8 News**

Welcome to the beginning of term 4! In the first week of every term students participate in ‘hook week’ where students learn what the terms topic is about and get a sneak preview of what they are going to be doing later on in the term. Year 8’s have started a new topic, life beyond school. Greg Callaway and Bree Bennett spoke to the students of year 8 north about their education, training, occupation, future goals and advice. Year 8 students were able to discuss and think about their futures and careers. Year 8 also planned a mission statement for their life and also took a personality test.

The Northern Zone Athletics was held in Bendigo last week; congratulations to all the year eight students who participated. Year 8’s have had a busy start to the term.

Brooke Thomson, Mitchell Spiers, Mia Childs and Jess O’Connell (year 8 reporters and editors)

**Year 9 News**

Students will very shortly be receiving camp notes for Rubicon (16/11/09 – 20/11/09), Bogong (9/11/09 – 13/9/09) and Oceans (9/11/09 – 13/11/09).

Harry Ennis represented Victoria in soccer at Coffs Harbour and played six matches. He now will wait to find out if he is to be involved at the next level. Daniel McDonald, Tim Pearce and Brayden Rudeforth spoke to our Year 9 assembly with some information about their Cadet competition at Puckapunyal in the school holidays. These boys were a part of a winning team that will now represent Victoria at a national level in Sydney in February. First aid, shooting, drill and team work were all a part of the competition and Brayden was the Warrant Officer in charge of the section. Daniel and Tim thought he did a good job leading them in the competition. Well done to all of these boys!

**Mark Dobson Motivates Year 9 Echuca College Students**

A unique coach, trainer and consultant, Mark ‘Dobbo’ Dobson, has partnered with a wide variety of sporting high-achievers in reaching their peak. His skill is such that he spent the year before the Beijing Olympics advising Australian Olympic Coach Ian Pope (coach of Grant Hackett, Matt Target and Patrick Murphy).

As a man of diverse talents, Dobbo’s coaching expertise is not restricted to one sport. In fact, he is the coach of USA Super Pipe Ski Champion and Winter Xgames medallist Colby West, International Trampolinist Christy Jenkins, Women’s world number 3 Clay shooter Leticia Scanlon, along with steeple chase Olympian Victoria Mitchell.

Dobbo’s best-selling books ‘Back Off Bully’ and ‘Rise Above’ have received wide acclaim. He is a founding member of New York’s first University for gifted teens, and he led America’s largest intercultural exchange program. During this time, he took 40 African Americans from the urban landscape to an American Indian Reservation for three weeks.

Adding to his unique coaching portfolio, his life has included notable and singular experiences, including being shot at during a tribal war and jumping from a sinking raft during a hurricane. Not only an experienced high performance trainer, he is also a witty comedian and an engaging speaker.

He captivated year 9 students with his storytelling and offered strategic insight, emphasising performance and personal development. Source www.saxton.com.au

**Year 12 News**

The year has nearly come to an end for Year 12 students, with exams almost upon us. The final day of classes for Year 12s will be on Thursday the 22nd of October. Friday the 23rd of October will begin with a breakfast at the Echuca Hotel for all Year 12 students and then students will walk to Crofton Street to present their farewell assembly at 9.15am. Parents and families are invited to attend this assembly.

The first exam is the English exam at 9 am on Friday the 30th of October. All students have been given personal exam timetables and we encourage parents and families to become familiar with these times to ensure that students are given the opportunity to do their best. We encourage all students to arrive 10-15mins prior to the beginning of their exams as late arrival may mean that entry into the exam room will not be allowed. If your student is for any reason unable to attend their examination please contact the College immediately and we will inform you of the procedures and documentation required.

Our Graduation dinner will be held at Rich River Golf Club, on the 22nd of November. Tickets are available at the Crofton Street Office for $30 each. A limit of three tickets per student has been put in place until Tuesday the 27th of October and then any remaining tickets will be available to those requiring additional tickets. This is a great evening for students to celebrate with parents and staff the completion of their 13 years of schooling.

Students need to ensure that they manage health and wellbeing in the coming weeks. Students needs to maintain a balance of study, good diet and exercise in order to maximise their potential in the upcoming exams.

The Year 12 team has thoroughly enjoyed getting to know and working with your students this year and we wish them all the best for whatever path they choose to take in the future.

The Year 12 Team
Turkey 2010

Earlier this year I was chosen to participate in a Rotary Exchange to Turkey. I had such a wonderful time, experiencing so many fantastic historical and cultural activities. As such Echuca College would like to give students the opportunity to share a similar experience. We will be taking a group of students to Turkey in September/October 2010. Some students have already registered their interest, although more are welcome. Marcus Falay, who organises school visits to Turkey, will be holding a parent information session on Tuesday 27th October, at 6pm in the Yr 7 Neighbourhood. Any parents who may be interested in having their child attend this trip of a life time are invited to attend.

If you require further information please contact Nicole Case.

Relay For Life

Our six students who attended the Snowy River campus of the ‘School for Student Leadership’ are participating in the ‘Relay For Life’ to raise funds for cancer research and cancer victims, as their community project. Sarah Head, Shaun Hon, Ashley Williams, Brandon Stacey, Jayde Ilsley and Aidan Milne are very committed to their community project and have organised a couple of events to raise money.

This Saturday morning they are running a sausage sizzle outside “Safeway”, so if you happen to be down that way doing a bit shopping buy a snag and support them

On Tuesday 24th November at 7:00 pm they have organised a fund raiser at the Paramount. The film being shown is “New Moon” (the sequel to “Twilight”). For $17 you can catch a great film followed by the opportunity to enjoy an excellent supper provided by our hard-working group. Tickets can be purchased from Ashley Williams and are now available.

Kevin Morgan.

Rocka on TV!

The 2009 Rock Eisteddfod Challenge National Final, brought to you by the Australian Government, will hit TV screens on the Nine Network on Saturday 31st October and Saturday 7th November at 1pm (Check local guides for confirmation).

SPORTING NEWS

Benalla Field and Game shoot.

A rather mild morning in Echuca on Monday the 12th of October turned into a cold and wet start in Benalla. Fourteen shooters made their way to the Benalla Field and Game Sporting Complex to undertake a 20 shot competition. With conditions ranging from heavy rain and sunshine, competitors were faced with a challenge. All shooters did their best in the conditions and should be very pleased with their results.

April Thompson came third in the girls section with a score of 16. This was April’s last shoot for Echuca College and she will be greatly missed. We wish her well with her year 12 exams and know that she will continue to be such a positive role-model to younger shooters and an enthusiastic ambassador for our sport.

Well done to all shooters and a huge thank you to the parents, friends, relatives and siblings who continually give up their time to accompany their students to shooting competitions. Without your support we could not have such a successful shooting team, which is growing every year.

Miss Courtney Peters

Rethreads Gala Awards

2pm Sunday Afternoon
Moama Bowling Club (The Venue)
Adults $15.00
Students $10.00
A Leadon project to promote recycling and fashion
where the senior entrant wins $1000 and the junior entrant wins an Ipod Touch

Tickets from Lead On office
54809825
Or Elaine White 0427822550

REMINDER
Tuesday 3rd November (Melbourne / Echuca Cup) is a holiday for Government Schools in the Shire of Campaspe.
NURSES NEWS

Important Asthma Information for Teenagers

Whilst parents and family are there to help, teenagers should be aware that they too can successfully and responsibly manage their own asthma. Here are some tips to help teenagers to manage their asthma:

1. Remind them to always carry a blue reliever puffer with them and use when asthma symptoms occur.
2. Encourage them to let their friends know about their asthma and what to do in an emergency.
3. Remind them that having asthma doesn’t make them different from others.
4. Understand what their asthma triggers are and avoid exposure where possible.
5. Use their doctor recommended medication before exercise, so they can participate in all sporting activities.
6. Avoid smoking and smoky areas.
7. Work with their doctor to prepare a written asthma action plan and have it reviewed at least annually or more often if they have severe asthma. Provide a copy of plan to the school.
8. Include them in all discussions and decision making about the management and monitoring of their asthma.
9. Remind them to continue to take their preventer medications.
10. If they are reluctant to take their medication encourage them to monitor their asthma with a peak flow meter.

To obtain a copy of the ‘Asthma: take control; great tips for teenagers’ brochure or for more information contact the Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 645 130 or visit www.asthma.org.au

Alternatively, please feel free to contact me at school.

Denise Leed

WELLBEING

The North Central Victorian Family Services Alliance and Child FIRST

A framework to promote children’s safety, wellbeing and development

The Victorian Government has undergone a period of significant reform, which has led to new policy and legislation in responding to vulnerable and at-risk children and their families. The intention of the reform is to provide services to the target group earlier to protect children and young people and improve family functioning.

The NCVFSA works together to improve the safety, wellbeing and health of children, young people and their families. The Alliance includes the following agencies:

- Bendigo Community Health Services
- Bendigo and District Aboriginal Cooperative
- Centacare – Diocese of Sandhurst
- Cobaw Community Health Services
- Department of Human Services, Community Based Child Protection
- Echuca Regional Health
- Kyabram Community and Learning Centre
- Mount Alexander Family Services
- Njernda Aboriginal Corporation
- St Luke’s Anglicare

What is Child FIRST?

Child FIRST is the Child and Family Information, Referral and Support Team operated by St Luke’s Anglicare on behalf of the Alliance to provide centralised intake into Integrated Family Services across the sub-catchment.

Who provides Child FIRST?

Child FIRST is staffed by Family Service practitioners with experience in assessing the needs of vulnerable children, young people and families. In addition, Community Based Child Protection staff facilitate collaboration between Child FIRST and Child Protection through providing advice about the engagement of families with complex needs, the identification of significant risk factors, and ensuring timely Child Protection involvement if a child is at risk of significant harm.

When should I refer to Child FIRST?

A referral to Child FIRST may be the best way of connecting vulnerable children, young people and their families to the services they need to protect and promote their healthy development.

The target group for Family Services is vulnerable, young people and their families who are:

- likely to experience greater challenges as the child or young person’s development has been affected by the experience of risk factors and/or cumulative harm; and/or
- at risk of concerns escalating and becoming involved with Child Protection if problems are not addressed.

This may include families that are experiencing:

- significant parenting problems that may be affecting the child’s development
- serious family conflict, including family breakdown
- pressure due to a family member’s physical or mental illness, substance abuse, disability or bereavement
- isolation and a lack of social support
- significant social or economic disadvantage that may adversely impact on a child’s care or development.

How do I make a referral to Child FIRST?

Families, service providers and community members can contact Child FIRST on: 1800 260 338 or 5440 1147 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

What happens when I make a referral to Child FIRST?

Child FIRST will discuss with you the initial needs of the child, young person and family that you have concerns for to determine the most appropriate response. Services will be prioritised to families on the basis of need. Child FIRST will arrange for a Family Services agency to support the family.

Will a referral to Child FIRST be confidential?

If you are making a referral to Child FIRST on behalf of a child, young person or family without their knowledge, you will be asked if you are willing to have your identity disclosed to the family. You may choose to have your identity remain confidential; however you should consider the impact of this on the ongoing engagement with the family by Child FIRST and Family Services.

Where can I get further information?

For more information, fact sheets and supporting documents see the Every Child Every Chance website: www.cyf.vic.gov.au/every-child-every-chance or contact Alison Carson (Acting Program Manager Child FIRST) on 5440 1100 or Marnie Jewell (EO, North Central Victorian Family Services Alliance) on 5434 4300.
SPORTING REGISTRATIONS

Echuca YMCA Sporting Complex is now taking registrations for the following programs:

- **Teen Indoor Soccer** ages 13 to 15 years Wednesday’s starting at 4pm.
- **Senior Indoor Cricket** Monday nights 6pm, 7pm & 8pm.
- **Senior Indoor Soccer** Wednesday nights 6pm, 7pm, 8pm, Thursdays 7pm, 8pm.

To register contact Jake on Ph: 5482 4260.

SUMMER BASKETBALL SEASON

All junior boys and girls competitions commence from Monday October 12th at the Echuca FONTERRA Centre.

Age Groups: Under 10s, 12, 14, 16 and 18s plus senior mens and womens A, B and C Grades. Registrations still being accepted for all junior players & senior teams. For more details please call the Echuca Basketball Association on 5480 6903.

TARRAGON LODGE EAST TIMOR FUNDRAISER GOLF CLASSIC

The Tarragon Lodge East Timor Fundraiser Golf Classic will be held at Tarragon Lodge Golf Course (go to Mathoura and follow signs – about 40 minutes from Echuca) on Sunday, October 18th. Starting time: 10 am. $25 entry fee – includes BBQ lunch, coffee and tea. BYO drinks and chairs.

All ages and non-golfers welcome! Bocce competition also to be held!

Proceeds towards a tertiary scholarship for an East Timorese student at Dili University, East Timor (Campaspe East Timorese Association in Friendship). Enquiries and Bookings: Ph Ross 54 823718, Pauline 5480 1984.

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A sharing of information carer’s lunch

If you are a parent, friend, partner or sibling of someone with a mental illness and live in the shires of Campaspe or Gannawarra you are invited to attend.

Guest speakers include:
- Damien Drum, Hon Member for Northern Victorian Region
- Carer Support Services, Bendigo Health
- St Luke’s, Anglicare
- Golden City Support Services

Music provided by Who Cares - St Luke’s, Anglicare

When: Saturday October 17th, 2009
Time: 11.00am - 2.00pm
Where: Radcliffe’s, 2 - 10 Radcliffe Street, Echuca
No cost

RSVP: By October 9th to Tennille on 5482 0808

If you are unable to attend but would like to register for future events or give us some feedback on what your needs are, please call: Julie Bright on 5482 0802 or Joy Tobin on 5480 1120.

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