‘Power of One - One College, One Team’

An important reminder, that on Wednesday the 18th November, students at Crofton Street will leave the campus at 2.30 and walk to College Drive as a symbolic gesture of moving forward into the new College. All buses will leave from College Drive. On the 19th and 20th, formal classes will not be conducted and it is not compulsory for students to attend school whilst staff 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. 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 as what will happen with the Crofton Street site.

This weekend, teachers and staff who have taught and worked at Echuca High School will return to the Crofton Street site to say farewell. As you will have noted from the previous paragraph, Crofton Street Campus will see its final classes next Wednesday and the site will be closed officially on the 27th November. While both the previous secondary schools have been crucial providers of education in this community for many years and both schools have contributed to the establishment of Echuca College, it will be hard for some members of our community to leave a location where they have many fond memories. There has been a school on the Crofton Street site since 1914, although the Echuca High School was established in 1912 and in those days shared the Town Hall building with Echuca Technical Arts School. The celebration on the Saturday night and ‘roll call’ on the Sunday will provide past and present staff with an opportunity to catch up with each other and to say farewell to the Echuca High School/Crofton Street site.

At the end of the first two weeks of examinations, senior students and teachers have been happy with examination papers so far. On Friday 30th October the examination period started with the 3 hour English examination. It was great to see all our Year 12 students sit the exam and from all reports (teachers and students) the exam held few surprises and most felt comfortable with their efforts. In some subject areas the examinations are conducted over two days with two separate papers. This Thursday has been very busy with Chemistry, History, Outdoor Education, and VET Music and Furnishing exams all being held. We also started Year 11 exams last Monday and Year 10 students will complete their exams this Thursday and Friday. Our examination period concludes on the 20th November with the final examination being in the LOTE/Indonesian subject. Our Year 12 Graduation Dinner will be held on Sunday the 22nd November and end of year results will be available to students online on the 14th December.

Last week I had the privilege of interviewing 13 candidates for next year’s College Captain positions. The 13 candidates had a series of questions that they had to respond to during their interview. All responded in a confident manner and had clearly thought about how they would conduct themselves if elected to the position. This week candidates delivered their campaign speeches to the Year 11 students and this was followed by an election last Wednesday. We will be announcing the successful candidates as the Newsletter goes to press.
Next year we will introduce a ‘Peer Support’ program for Year 7 students that will run during first term. The focus of the program is to support Year 7 students during the first few months of the year and also to provide a senior student as a friend to talk to if the need arises. Next week, 75 Year 10 students will be trained as ‘Peer Support’ leaders and while their main function is to support their younger peers, the training is valuable to them as leaders in the College. The Leaders and their group meet once a week and during this time complete activities that provide an opportunity for conversations about school, classes and how the transition from primary to secondary school is going. Students will meet at different times each week to avoid missing the same class and at the end of the term all Year 7s and their leaders will meet for a final celebration. The goal of the program is to help Year 7 students to feel comfortable in their new environment and to also make their secondary experience as positive as possible.

Our preparation for the 2010 RACV 24 Hour Energy Breakthrough at Maryborough on the 19th-22nd November has been well underway during this term. This year the College has entered two bikes/teams in the race and each week over the last few months our riding teams have been practising at College Drive after school in preparation for the race. While the track around the College Drive Campus is far flatter than the Maryborough track, time spent in the bike is most important. This year our combined team will see over 30 students and 5 teachers/parents attend the Energy Breakthrough. We wish them all the best in what is usually a very exciting weekend.

Chris Eeles
College Principal

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Alpine School Program

At College Drive last week a panel consisting of Mr McMurdo, Ms McInnes and Ms Kelly interviewed 11 students for six positions, for the Alpine School Program for Year 9 in 2010. The Alpine School is conducted in Term one of next year and the selection process was rigorous and challenging, attracting a pleasing variety of enthusiastic students, excellent written applications and students of an outstanding calibre who were able to express interesting and informed viewpoints. Special mention needs also to be made re the unsuccessful candidates and the enthusiastic way they too participated in the process, pleasing standards that they also achieved and the mature manner in which they conducted themselves at the announcement of the results. We would certainly have no hesitation in encouraging them to pursue other leadership opportunities in the future. Congratulations to our successful candidates, Eleanor Denson, Amelia Down, Madeleine Steel, Tyler Lethlean, Brent McGrath and Jayden Twigg.

Karl Stenning & Chris Kelly
Campus Principals

Turkey 2010

There has been considerable interest shown by students wishing to participate in the trip to Turkey next year. If you have not yet indicated your interest or you would like more information please see Ms Case, in Yr 7, ASAP.

Further information will be sent home shortly.
Year 8 News

What a very productive time the Year 8 students have had this fortnight. Students have been busy on Monday, before the Melbourne cup, learning about the Cup’s history and making hats and fascinators. In Science, students have furthered their understanding of the human body by dissecting a sheep’s kidney and looking at the cortex, medulla and renal pelvis. Students have also been learning about how blood is oxygenated through the lungs, and what we breathe in and out with each breath. In Humanities, students have started planning a holiday that they can take at the end of the year when they have their annual holiday leave.

Students worked out how much they could spend by multiplying their monthly savings by 12. Students are also planning how much they have left to spend after they have calculated their accommodation prices, travel prices etc. In English, Students have been creating argumentative texts about a selected topic.

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

ECHUCA COLLEGE TOP DANCE CLASS

On Wednesday evening over 50 students and many audience members enjoyed the talents of the dance students of the school. Congratulations and thank you to all that participated. It was wonderful to share the remarkable talents of our students!


PATHWAYS

Year 12 Support

On Tuesday the 15th of December, Shioban Downing from La Trobe University Bendigo, will be available from 10 am to 12 noon to assist students with any changes in their tertiary course selections. This service is offered to support students who may want to change their preferences once they have received their results. Echuca College Pathway’s Coordinators will be available to assist students from Monday the 14th to the 16th of December.

Traineeships

In recent years Echuca College has employed a number of Trainees Next year the College is offering Traineeships in the following areas.

- Sports –Assistant
- Education Support
- Office Administration
- Horticulture

These positions are ideally suited to a Year 12 leaver who may be looking for work as part of a Gap Year. For more information about the vacancies please contact Mr Stenning or Mr Webb at the College.

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

Tonny Together Community Group is hosting a night of Spring Racing to be held at The Tongala Public Hall on Saturday The 21st of November.

Doors open at 6pm. Meals start at 6.30 pm. Cost is $30.00 per person and includes 2 course meal, nibbles and the Melissa Duo Band.

Lots of fun to be had, auctions, best dressed competition, prizes galore.

So come along for an enjoyable evening of horse racing madness, and support this groups initiative of getting behind 4 groups within Tongalas small community.

For more information regarding tickets or the night contact Rachael Booth on 0400940441.