Principal’s Report

‘Power of One - One College, One Team’

Monday the 23rd November was an historic day for Echuca College with everyone being located at College Drive for the first time. The College started its ‘Step Up’ program with a whole school assembly in the gym, and the sight of 800 students (2010 Year 7 not present) all in uniform was very impressive. The 2010 Years 10, 11 and 12 students must be commended on their attendance at the Step Up Program, with only a few students absent in the first three days. The two week program will allow these students to prepare for the 2010 curriculum and to organise work that can be completed over the Christmas break in preparation for what will be a busy year in 2010. Our College will not be complete until our 195, Year 7’s join us at the beginning of 2010.

In our last newsletter I mentioned that I had the pleasure of interviewing Year 11 students who were standing as candidates for our College Captain’s positions. I was impressed by their vision and ideas. The candidates then addressed an assembly of their peers. All candidates accepted the challenge of presenting an election speech and, pleasingly, all spoke well. The next step in the process saw Year 11 students and all staff casting their votes. As a result of this process, I am pleased to announce our College Captains for 2010 are Molly Edgar and Nick Castles and Vice Captains are Ricky Tinetti and Sarah Key. Well done to all the candidates who stood in this election and if these students are representative of the class of 2010, then we can look forward to another year of growth at our College.

The final Year 12 examination was held at Crofton Street last Thursday and now our Year 12 students must wait until Monday the 14th December for their Tertiary Entrance Rank and a breakdown of all the elements of their formal assessment. The VCAA (Victorian Curriculum & Assessment Authority) will forward certificates and formal documentation to the College for distribution at the end of the year. To celebrate their 13 years of education and completion of examinations, the College held it’s Year 12 Graduation Dinner last Sunday Night at the Rich River Golf Resort. It was great to see all the students dressed in formal attire and the evening was well attended by parents and friends.

As mentioned Yr 12 must now wait until 14th December for their VCE results, and while offers for University don’t come out until 20th January, it is pleasing to see that some of our Year 12’s have already gained entry to university courses in 2010 under early entry programs offered by Charles Sturt and Ballarat Universities. It is also great to see the number of our Year 12 students gaining traineeships and apprenticeships in the local community. The College would like to thank this years cohort of students in Year 12 for the way they have conducted themselves throughout the year and the way they celebrated the completion of their classes in late October. The staff and students of Echuca College would like to wish the class of 2009 all the best for their future.

Equally impressive has been the positive approach our Years 10 and 11 students have taken into their examinations. All examinations finished last week and we will started our ‘Step Up’ program this week for all students in Years 10, 11 and 12 in 2010. This program goes for two weeks and is compulsory and teachers have started the 2010 curriculum. Students who don’t attend will be disadvantaged and will be behind their peers at the start of next year.

Tuesday 8th December is our Grade 6 into Year 7 Orientation Day and we look forward to the 195 new students coming into our College. Orientation Day is always a day of mixed emotions for our Grade 6 students; whilst excited about the thought of entering the College, most are uncertain on how this transition will take place. Over the last 12 months Echuca College and its partner primary schools have worked hard at reducing the concerns held by students moving from primary to secondary schooling.
Our ‘Transition Program’ started in Term 2 with school visits, an Open Day at the College in Terms 2 and 3 and further visits from our Year 7 Transition Coordinator over the last few months. In addition to these activities, students and parents have had an opportunity to attend an interview at the College to ensure that all questions and concerns can be addressed before the start of the new school year. On Tuesday 8th December the students will experience a complete day’s timetable at the College. If parents have any concerns about the procedures for ‘Orientation Day’, please contact the College and ask for Mr. Trewella. We look forward to meeting and working with all our new students and their families.

Last Monday the EDVET in Schools Excellence Awards were held at the Rich River Golf Club Resort. Students from all Schools across the Goulburn Murray Region were involved. Echuca College had 5 students go through to the finals, three of whom actually won their category. Winners were Mikael Lawford for Automotive, Johanna Marks for Community Services, and Callum Nichol for Furnishings. Finalists were Mathew Brazier for Hospitality and Matt Ivancic for Music. The achievements of our students in the EDVET program reinforce the importance of this program not only to students but businesses and industry in our local community.

A reminder to our College community that our clearing sale for items at Crofton St will be held this Saturday 28th November, please see the Riverine Herald for further details.

Chris Eeles
College Principal

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Assistant Principals’ Report

Year 12 Graduation
Last Sunday I had the privilege of attending the Year 12 Graduation at Rich River Golf Club. It was fantastic to see over 300 students, parents and friends share this special evening with our Year 12 students. Students were presented with their VCE certificate during the course of the evening. James Scott presented a great thank you for our Year 12 team leader and assistants. I would personally like to thank Mrs. Gould, Mr. Ridge and Mrs. Jones for their planning and organisation of the evening.

2010 Step – Up Program
It was very exciting to see all of our Year 11 & 12 students for 2010 turn up on Monday for our Step – up program for next year. The attendance so far has been outstanding and it is great to see the students working hard in all of their classes. The two weeks start this year is a great asset for next year’s classes. Step – up finishes on Friday 4th December.

Consolidation
Last Thursday and Friday our staff worked very hard in the physical shift of Crofton St to College Drive. It was so pleasing to see all of our staff working together to get the College operational for last Monday. The assembly on Monday was very exciting to see our College all on the one campus and ready to move into a very comprehensive step – up program. I would like to thank and congratulate all staff members on their fine efforts over last week in relocating Crofton St to College Drive. A huge job in 40 degree heat.

Karl Stenning, Chris Kelly and Rob Strachan
Assistant Principals

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EMA CHEQUES ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION AT THE COLLEGE DRIVE ADMINISTRATION OFFICE.

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Year 9 dance students and Echuca Specialist School Students

Tuesday December 8th at 7pm
Echuca college performing arts area
...all welcome...
Year 7 News

The students have been finishing off units of work and assessment tasks. It is wonderful to see the growth both academically and socially. On December 7th and 8th the students will be ‘stepping up’ into year 8. This will be an opportunity for them to get to know their 2010 teachers and new class mates.

On the 8th we will also be welcoming the 2010, year 7 students. If you know any potential students who have not enrolled, please asked them to contact the school as soon as possible.

Tracey Burton

Year 8 News

This fortnight year 8 students have been finishing their holiday projects in Humanities. In English students have been reading a chosen book in groups and completing chapter summaries. In Science students have shown their learning by making a mind map showing different parts of the digestive and circulatory system. We are all looking forward to finding out our subjects for next year, which we will hopefully receive this week. We will then have our year 9 ‘step up’ on the 7th and 8th of December. We are also leading up to our year 8 careers expo project.

Just a reminder to return all Melbourne Science excursion notes.

Brooke Thomson, Mia Childs, Jess O’Connell, Mitchell Spiers

Writing Immersion 26th to 28th October 2009

By Jessica Thompson

After an early start Carlie (Leach) and I left the Echuca Station bound for Kyneton. The train stopped at Bendigo Station where we were able to refuel on coffee potato cakes and toasted sandwiches. Another 45 minutes and we reached our first stop where the lovely Chris Sertori (my visiting teacher) was waiting.

We were meeting with teacher/author Bernie Monagle at Sacred Heart College at 10am where he generously shared his time and knowledge. With the sweaty palm syndrome and butterflies in the pit of my stomach we were ushered into a room at the school and it was at that moment we realised the man was Bernie himself. Bernie was a great guy to talk to in the way that he joked and shared with us the method he used in planning and writing his novels. He taught me about the 8 box system’ where you can visually plan your story and how the climax happens in the 6th box. To our surprise, he actually starts his writing in the 6th box…because in that’s where the story peaks. He also talked about his learning difficulty and how it has effected the way he writes. Bernie is a visual learner and his teaching and writing techniques work around this. Of course photos were taken, not just with Bernie but out the front of the College at recess where all the kids were looking at me like I was some kind of lunatic!

Our next meeting took place at Candlebark School in Romsey where we were lucky enough to meet with the world famous Australian author/teacher John Marsden. The drive into the school was a completely surreal experience for me, because to me a school…looks like a school…but this school was an amazing open place with 1200 acres of the most picturesque landscape you could ever imagine and I was really excited over the fact that the school had trampolines! It was hidden away amongst the beautiful Aussie bush. Books in hand we were directed down a very steep and windy path to meet the man. John showed us into his office which was lined wall to wall with not just his book but also his favourites. Meeting him was one of the coolest things I have ever done. He was a quietly spoken gentlemen who was generous not only in his time but also how he signed not just my 7 books but 7 that Carlie brought with her and additional 7 for me and 2 for my sister who is a fan of his books. I was also given some of his books as a special pressi for visiting!! To say I was overwhelmed would be an understatement! Before leaving our meeting with John I ‘warned’ him that I would be back after I finished my university degree in teaching and I ‘hoped’ he wouldn’t mind giving me a job. Again photos were taken not just with John but also of the (dry) water feature near the front gate. Then, reluctantly, we left the school!

The next part of our exciting trip (including getting temporarily lost) on our way to Melbourne was playing car games and finding where we would be staying the night. The Quest Apartments were directly across from the Regent Theatre, Chanel and Ralph Lauren. On arrival at the apartment we noticed a Japanese Teppanyaki restaurant. We swiftly made a reservation and freshened up before heading down stairs to what would turn out to be a fantastic meal and cultural experience. We shared our table with New Caledonian French speaking couple who spoke very little English. So for the first…and probably the last time in my life I was able to stretch my knowledge of the French language by asking ‘Do you speak English?’ Of course before leaving we had to take even more photos of Chris, Carlie and myself standing in front of the small garden that was just inside the door, before retiring to our apartment where we watched a DVD before heading to bed so we would be bright eyed and bouncy tailed for our second day.

The morning of the 27th we let ourselves have a later start before eating delicious croissants and jam for breakfast. We checked out at 10 and headed to a coffee shop by the name of Brunnetti’s where we indulged in coffees (or in my case hot chocolate) and a little pastry treat before our meeting at 11am with career and pathways consultant Joan Peronne, but before that, girls being girls, we decided to do some window shopping in Chanel where I found a dress worth $8,500. There wasn’t much time left before our meeting so we decided to head to where we would be meeting Joan and just chillax until she arrived. My meeting with Joan lasted a little over 2 hours where we discussed everything from my personality and what attracts me to careers and also what tertiary courses I could take. I was very surprised at the number of pathways I could take in the writing and education fields. Joan was amazing. Helpful and insightful! Also, really nice! Feeling a little pressed for time we went back and collected our bags from the reception at Quest before heading to the Royal Children’s Hospital for lunch and our meeting with Marcia Grey who is the Public Relations Manager for the hospital. Marcia sat with us at one of the cafes in the hospital and talked to me about the different careers (in writing) she’d had and what courses she’d done at university in order to get to where she was. She also told me about her medical history and how she had suffered from some brain aneurisms and how she tried to not let her history with the hospital show through in her work, and yet again more photos were taken and after being introduced to the other PR girls.
We picked up our bags…again, before catching a taxi to the museum (where we’d left Chris’ car over night) before heading to Castlemaine where we would be staying the night in the old 1860’s Bed and breakfast that Chris and her husband renovated and used to run. By this stage I was about ready to lie down on a bed and not wake up for 100 years because I was just exhausted, but of course we had things to do such as eat and watch more DVD’s. I was falling asleep on the couch while watching ‘Juno’ (awesome movie)…so straight after it finished we all decided it was time to sleep but of course…when the lights go out and you say good-night in 9 out of 10 cases girls start to talk and don’t stop until the early hours of the morning which is of course exactly what Carlie and I did!

The final day of the immersion was upon us, but none the less it would be just as exciting as the 2 previous days. We started the day with French toast topped with berries and tropical fruit (delicious Chris!) before packing our bags into Chris’s boot and heading to Bendigo to meet Jonathan Riddnel (ABC Broadcaster Bendigo) Jonathan was just really nice. He showed us around the studio and also gave me some names of other young writers who he believed would be good for me to talk to and not only that… guess who now thinks they would be a good radio personal!??!! The last meeting on the itinerary was a man by the name of Damien Griffin who is the sub-editor of the Bendigo Advertiser and the editor of the Sandpiper (a catholic school based paper). Again, I was given wonderful advice about the journalistic aspect of writing. He told me of how he got to where he was. Damien was firstly an apprentice baker and then became involved in the military before deciding to do a ‘writing/journalistic’ degree whilst still in the services. It was just amazing to hear how he’d gotten to where he was! From a pastry cook to a writer/journalist???

The immersion was coming to a close as Chris dropped Carlie and I off at the bus/station. We thanked her immensely for her wonderful organisation and fantastic hospitality before she departed and left us to wait for our bus. We boarded not long after that and began to head home. I tried to read on the bus but fatigue won out in the end and I ended up sleeping the entire way home.

It has been 3 weeks and this is the first time I have really had a chance to sit down and write about the 6 amazing people who took the time from their busy schedules to talk to me about their experiences and how they got their but also what pathways I could take in order to get to where I want to be. I will forever be grateful for the experiences I was given.

By Jessica Thompson.

Headlice

News on the head lice front…

According to Nitpickers (an education and advisory service for families and schools started by 2 mothers in Queensland) ‘When a person goes to the dentist and has no cavities, it doesn’t mean tooth brushing stops…same when a person is deemed clear of head lice, it doesn’t mean the screening should stop. Regular combing should become part of everyone’s weekly routine.’

Head lice have been reported to the school - please check, and if necessary treat, your family for head lice. There is no need to treat everyone if no head lice are found but you need to look for the head lice.

If you find head lice in your family please tell anyone who has had head to head contact with the family member.

Accurate information on treatment and control of head lice can be found at the school office.

Remember keep a balanced view and don’t put your child’s health at risk.

For further information adn resources on treating and managing head lice visit http://www.health.vic.gov.au/headlice/ or contact the College for further information.

What the Food Technology Students are Cooking this Week!

Gnocchi

Ingredients - gnocchi

- 1 1/4 cups mashed potato
- 1 egg yolk
- 1/4 cup flour

Ingredients - sauce

- 1 tsp olive oil
- 3/4 brown onion finely chopped
- 1 clove garlic crushed
- 200g tinned tomatoes
- 2 tsp chilli sauce
- 2tbs chopped parsley
- Pinch black pepper
- 1 tbs parmesan cheese
- Grated crusty bread

Method - gnocchi

1. Mix all of the gnocchi ingredients together to form a firm consistency.
2. Roll into a sausage shape and cut into 3cm lengths.
3. Cook in boiling water until gnocchi floats to the top.
4. Drain immediately and serve with sauce.

Method - sauce

1. Heat oil in frying pan and saute onion and garlic for minutes
2. Add tomatoes and chilli and cook for a further 2 minutes.
3. Stir in parsley and black pepper.
4. Add gnocchi and sprinkle with cheese
5. Serve wth crusty bread
YMCA Summer Camp

The YMCA in conjunction with the Campaspe Shire is running its annual summer camp this January 11-15th, 2010.

50 participants from around the Shire aged 8-16, will head to Camp Wyuna- Queenscliff for an action packed five days. With the camp site located within metres of the beach!

Activities include-
- Marine Discovery Centre Tours,
- Point Lonsdale Light House tour
- Beach Activities
- Mountain Bike Riding
- And much, much more.

The camp focuses on unique experiences, new friendships, team work, personal growth and most of all FUN!
### Canteen Price List Term 4, 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Product</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mixed Sandwiches</td>
<td>$ 3.50</td>
<td>Chicken, lettuce &amp; mayo sandwich</td>
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<td>Mini Salad Roll</td>
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<td>Fruit ‘n’ Jelly (summer only)</td>
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<td>Tuna and Salad Wrap</td>
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<td>1/2 salad wrap with meat</td>
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<td>Dim Sim x 3 (Thursday only)</td>
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<td>Cakes / Muffins</td>
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<td>Pies (Tuesday lunch order only)</td>
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*** SEASONAL FRESH FRUIT AVAILABLE!!! ***

**SPECIALS (changing each week please watch board & bulletin):**

Casseroles, Pastas — Cabonara & Spag Bol, Lasagne, Quiche, Pastie Slice, Sweet Chilli Chicken Tender Wraps, Baked Potatoes with coleslaw, cheese & sour cream, Risotto, Stir Fries with Hokkien Noodles, Fried Rice, Scalloped Potatoes, Fish Burger with coleslaw, Chicken Schnitzel Burger, Hamburger with salad, Pizza Pasta Bake, Tuna Bake, Macaroni Cheese, Butter Chicken with Rice, Thai Red Curry with Rice, Chicken Curry with Rice, Vegie Frittata, Crunchy Tuna Rolls, Lamb Souvlaki, Hot Dogs with Sauce, Wedges, Nachos, Toasted Foccacias, Pizza Slices, Chilli Chicken Rolls, Cheese & Spinach Rolls and heaps more!!