‘Power of One - One College, One Team’

This is our final newsletter for the year and I would like to thank our students, parents and our community for a great year. In recent weeks the College has enjoyed a very successful ‘Step Up’ program as part of our preparation for 2010. We have also enjoyed being united on the one site, accessing our new facilities. Our ‘Step Up’ program saw Years 9, 10 and 11 students start their 2010 program (as Years 10, 11 and 12 students) on the 23rd November and work through to Friday last week. This is the second year that we have implemented this approach to prepare and support our students for the coming year. The response from our students was outstanding with great attendance at all year levels. Our 2010 students in Years 10, 11 and 12 can now look forward to next year with a greater insight into the year’s study ahead. This week our Years 7 and 8 students also completed their ‘Step Up’ programs where they were able to meet their teachers for next year and in the case of Year 8 students going into Year 9, check their elective subjects for 2010. Although not as intense as the senior program, students entering Years 8 and 9 still need to be familiar with their surroundings, teachers and subjects before starting the next year’s program. I would like to thank all our staff for the work that has gone into each of these very important programs, during a very demanding part of the year.

Last week the College held our annual VCE Arts Exhibition in the Arts Precinct. The exhibition was opened by Mr Paul Weller MLA for Rodney and was well attended by the College community. The exhibition is an opportunity for students to ‘show case’ their work and also provide students and the community with an insight to the Arts programs offered at our College. This year was a particularly exciting event because the College presented for the first time our ‘Acquisition Award’ to Kayla Lethlean. The ‘Acquisition Award’ is provided by the College Council and will be awarded each year to a student whose work is to be retained by the College for 12 months as an exhibit. Kayla’s ‘button buddy’ skeleton featured on the front page of the Riverine Herald this week and will also be entered into the VCE Top Arts competition. Congratulations to all the students and their Art teachers for a great exhibition.

Echuca College and Echuca Special School held their second annual Dance Concert on Tuesday evening which was an outstanding event. One of the elements of the co-production that really impressed me was the way our students worked and supported the Special School students. Not only did our students teach the younger students the dances, they clearly cared about these young students and enjoyed the experience of working with them. All involved in this project are to be congratulated. At the end of the concert the audience were treated to a performance by our 2010 VCE Dance class and again this was an outstanding performance. I would like to congratulate all involved from the Arts/Performing Arts area, in particular Mrs Kornmann and students. Once again, congratulations to all involved and thank you for a very special night.

The final part of our Transition Program for this year saw the Grade 6 students from across the district participate in our Orientation Day last Tuesday. It is always exciting to see the Grade 6 students on Orientation Day as they embark on their secondary education. The program on Tuesday allowed students to experience a variety of subjects and also prepared them for next year’s program. Orientation Day marks the completion of the first stage of our Transition Program and although the weather was unsettled it was great to see the 150 new Year 7 students attend their Orientation Day.
Our total number of Year 7s in 2010 will be approximately 200, with students from Echuca East Primary School away on camp last Tuesday. They will complete a separate program next week. Next year will see the introduction of our ‘Peer Support Program’ to help our new Year 7 students make the transition from primary to secondary school more comfortable. Over 70 Year 11 students will act as peer leaders to the Year 7 students and they will meet once a week during term one to review the new students’ progress at the College. We still have much to do as part of our transition program but I would like to thank Mrs Burton, Mr Trewella, Ms Ogden and their team on their organisation throughout the year in this area.

Next week will see our students in Years 7, 8 and 9 complete their formal classes on Tuesday 15th December. Non specific activities will be organised for students within their year levels after Tuesday. Reports will be issued to students in these year levels at the end of school (3.20 pm) on Tuesday. Senior Students will be able to collect their reports from the Small Gym at 2.30pm. Reports not collected will be available for students and parents to collect at our Celebration Evening in the Small Gym prior to and after the Celebration Evening. The College has scheduled rehearsal for our Celebration Evening on the Tuesday and only students receiving awards or participating in the Celebration Evening program will be required to attend rehearsal. Students involved in the rehearsal/gaining awards have been informed by mail. We will also be conducting interviews with students during the last week in regards to their performance this year and planning for 2010. Again students required for interviews have been contacted by the College and these interviews will be conducted across Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday with subject teachers, Year Level Team Leaders and Campus Principals.

Each year we have a changing of the guard with teachers and staff moving on, travelling, taking leave, retiring and entering a new phase in their lives. Mrs Sims and Mr Remilton are retiring in 2010 and on behalf of the College community and DEECD I would like to congratulate them on their years of service and wish them well in the next phase of their lives. We also have teachers taking up new positions or other careers at other locations so on behalf of the College I would like to wish Mr Macey, Mrs Denson and Mr Ferrier all the best at their new schools. Others leaving us to enjoy some leave or to pursue other activities are Ms Kelly, Ms Richardson, Mrs Kornmann, Ms Dannatt, Mrs Oliver, Mr Povey, Mrs Challis, Ms Stevens and Mrs Boal. Our band of ex-Year 12 trainees are also leaving to start further study and other careers and I would like to acknowledge the great contribution that Bri Bennett, Shannon O’Brien, Mitch Pearson and Corey Wanganeeen have made to the College over the last 12 months. Their transition from student to staff member in 2009 has been outstanding and their work at the College appreciated by our staff. In saying good bye to all these people, we can look forward to welcoming their replacements in 2010 and this will be done in our very first newsletter.

Congratulations to our Regional Sports Award recipients, Kieryn McKemmish (athletics), Luke Hubbard (diving) and Zara Pearson (basketball). The College will be celebrating all the achievements of our students next Tuesday evening at the College Drive gymnasium, starting at 7.30 pm. It is very important that those students who are receiving awards do attend the rehearsal on Tuesday. We would like all those who are attending to be at the College ready to start at 7.30 pm.

Finally, I would like to thank the dedicated staff of Teachers, Education Support personnel and College Council staff who do such a great job at our College to support young people and enhance their educational experience. This year has been a significant year in this new College’s short history and those involved with the teaching, planning for the future and hundreds of other activities that make up an academic year can be proud of their efforts. We are building a strong College that provides students with access to a comprehensive curriculum and extra curricula programs. We are now truly one College and we are rapidly moving towards establishing a great College that will be ready to meet the needs of our community.

Merry Christmas and have a safe and happy new year.

Chris Eeles

---

**2009 Rock Eisteddfod ‘GREED’ Movie!**

A copy of the 2009 performance of GREED is now available online at school.

Simply go to:
- Photostore - 2009 - Rocka -
- Final Video -

COPY IT TO YOUR USB AND TAKE IT HOME TO KEEP!
Energy Breakthrough

The Echuca College RACV Energy Breakthrough teams went to Maryborough from Thursday 19th – Sunday 22nd November. Thursday was 37 degrees, Friday 36 degrees, Saturday 25 degrees, and Sunday 19 degrees and 50mm of rain. The Junior team started from 71st position on the grid and finished in 49th position. The senior team started in 60th position on the grid and finished 46th. Overall the weather conditions were very trying but the students did their best and worked very hard and should all be congratulated on their effort and behaviour.

Scott Hore

SPORT

Loddon Mallee Regional Sports Awards

Congratulations to Keiryn McKemmish, Zara Pearson and Luke Hubbard in winning Loddon Malle Sporting Excellence awards last week. Keiryn was awarded the Sporting Excellence for Track Athletics, Zara for her Basketball and Luke for excelling in Diving.

Well Done Guys.!

State Tennis

Well Done to Regan Moore, Jake Wallace, Kade Saunders and Ben Abbott for their outstanding efforts in the Tennis State Final in Melbourne on Friday. With a very early start (5am) the boys were still able to show some tough competition to Bentley SC, Gladstone Park SC and Yarrawonga SC. Unfortunately the boys were unable to make the final on the day.

Also big thanks to Ms. Ogden for driving the boys to the final.

What the Food Technology Students are Cooking this Week!

Christmas Cookies

**Ingredients**

- 1 cup flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 egg
- 1/4 cup castor sugar
- 4 drops vanilla essence
- 60gm butter

**Method**

1. Heat oven to 180 degrees.
2. Grease oven trays.
3. Sift flour and baking powder together.
4. Beat egg and vanilla.
5. Rub butter into dry ingredients.
6. Add sugar.
7. Add enough egg to mix to a firm dough.
8. Knead until smooth on lightly floured board.
9. Roll out to 3mm thick.
10. Cut shapes and place on tray.
11. Brush biscuits with sweet glaze.
13. Remove from oven and cool on wire rack.
14. Decorate as desired

ECHUCA COLLEGE AND ECHUCA SPECIALIST SCHOOL’S PARTNERSHIP PERFORMANCE, 2009

A big thank you to all involved. It was once again a fantastic evening!
Cyber Safety for Parents

Golden Rules for Parents

* Keep the computer in a common area, such as the living room and not in your child’s bedroom.
* Set reasonable expectations about using the internet and teach your child important safety guidelines.
* Communicate with your child. Talk to your child about the way he / she is using the internet and mobile and ask him / her about what you don’t understand.
* Spend time online with your child. The internet can provide lots of family fun!
* Check your child’s computer internet history and ‘Google’ his / her name yourself. Let your child know that you are checking and why you’re doing it, and talk about potential online dangers.
* Keep current with technological issues.

Teach your Child

* To be an ethical cyber citizen. That codes of acceptable behaviour that are taught in the ‘real world’ also apply in the ‘virtual world’.
* About ‘digital footprints’. That whatever he / she send or posts online, could stay online forever.
* That the internet is a public forum and is NEVER truly private.
* To keep his / her personal information and password private. Never give out his / her real name, address, phone number, or a picture of themselves to anyone online.
* To ‘Google’ his / her name frequently to ensure that nothing inappropriate has been uploaded about them to the Net.
* That people online in popular social networking and gaming sites are not always who they say they are.
* To ‘Think B4 you click’, and not retaliate if he / she is being bullied on the mobile phone or internet.
* To keep evidence of offending text messages, online conversations or images.
* To report cyberbullying and not be a silent bystander.
* To remember there are times when it is appropriate to turn his / her mobile phone or computer OFF!

……..AND Remember that your child may be a cyber bully, as well as a target of cyberbullying. Sometimes the boundaries are very blurred.

You or your child can report abuse at our school on 03 5482 1133, or email safety@echucocollege.vic.edu.au

For further information on cyber safety, and a copy of the Cybersmart guide for families visit; http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY NOTICES

IMPORTANT! COLLECTION AND PAYMENTS FROM SECOND HAND BOOK SALE!

Parents need to collect all unsold books, and collect money for books that were sold by no later than 4.00pm Tuesday 15th December. Students are able to collect the books and payments on behalf of their parents but will require a signed note of permission to do so.

Any money that is not collected by 4.00pm on the 15th December will be credited to the students accounts for 2010.

ECHUCA MOAMA LITTLE ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Will be holding a twilight meeting on Friday 18th December at 5.15 pm for warm up 5.30pm start of program - 8pm finish. Family BBQ. A lolly bag and drink for the kids. Visit from Santa. Members free. $10.00 per non member child.

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 between 8 and 16, will head to Camp Wyuna-Queenscliff for an action packed 5 days. With the camp site located within metres of the beach!

Activities include:-

* Marine Discovery Centre Tours
* Point Lonsdale Light Hose Tour
* Beach Activities
* Mountain Bike Riding
* And much, much more

The camp focuses on unique experiences, new friendships, team work, personal growth and most to all FUN!

COUNTRY BASKETBALL LEAGUE

SATURDAY
Longs Echuca Moama Pirates v Shepparton Gators
Echuca FONTERRA Centre
Tip Off: 7pm
Pregame: Under 14 Boys Pirates Game at 5.30pm
SUNDAY
Longs Echuca Moama Pirates v Barwon Bullets
Echuca FONTERRA Centre
Tip Off: 2pm

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