‘Diversity Our Strength’

Each year in early May the College provides an opportunity for our community to visit us as part of our ‘Discovery Night’ program. While the evening is designed to provide prospective students and their parents with a chance to talk to teachers, view programs and facilities; it also gives us an opportunity to demonstrate what is happening at our College. It was great to see so many attend the evening given the cooler weather. This year’s Discovery Night was the first time parents and student have had an opportunity to see the new College in its entity and thus our ability to ‘show case’ new Maths, Science, Food Technology and Resource Centre areas. There were many questions around our ICT Netbook program at Year 7 and the introduction of the Ultranet at Echuca College. Echuca College is part of the Education Departments first cycle of schools in the state with access to the Ultranet. More information will be provided in the next newsletter about this initiative. Extra curricula areas in the Performing and visual Arts, Technology (Energy Breakthrough) and Physical Education/Health and Outdoor Education also attracted a lot of interest. The introduction of the National Curriculum in 2011 has highlighted the importance of History, Geography and Commerce subjects in our students’ development and at Discovery Night our Humanities Domain provided students and parents with a great insight as to how these subjects are taught across years 7-12. Echuca College has a strong LOTE (Indonesian) program with students studying LOTE through to Year 12. Our LOTE teachers and students studying LOTE demonstrated lessons and activities used in the teaching of LOTE as part of their provision of information to our community on the evening. While the study of English is a given and literacy development the responsibility of all areas of study at Echuca College, students and parents were also provided with an outline of the study of English across years 7-12. Importantly our Discovery Evening was supported by our students, many of whom have worked over the last few weeks to prepare displays and activities that helped perspective students to have better understanding of what Echuca College has to offer.

Those who couldn’t attend our Discovery Evening can contact the College at any time to arrange an appointment to visit our College or we can arrange to have an information package sent out to you. Our main orientation program will start in June/July, providing prospective students and their parents with another opportunity to visit our school. Echuca College takes pride in the fact that we are Echuca’s College and that we allow families the time to make one of the most important decisions in their child’s life. At this stage of the year, we would like families to consider Echuca College as a possible option for the future but we also appreciate and respect that this decision needs due consideration. We would however, like parents to know that at Echuca College we are preparing our students for the future, today.
The CSIRO Scientists in Schools Program

Year 11 Biology this semester focuses on the environment and the species that live in the environment. As part of this course students develop an understanding of changes in species numbers and the various ways scientists study species for conservation and control purposes. On Monday 19th April, the students were addressed by Micaela Main from the Department of Sustainability and the Environment as part of her involvement in the CSIRO ‘Scientists in Schools’ program.

Micaela is a research scientist and is involved in programs involving fauna such as species surveys, tracking species ranges and researching habitats. Her experience in these areas meant she was able to provide the students with a clear understanding of how the theory they learn in class is used in the workplace. During the session students had the opportunity to use various types of equipment during mock surveys in bushland near the school. As part of the field work, students had to address the ethical and OH&S concerns involved with this type of research. The session was a great success with students gaining some insight into employment options in the scientific field as well as having hands on experience learning about species surveys.

As we approach midterm, staff and students are working towards the completion of semester one’s work in preparation for midyear reports. It is important that students don’t leave assignments or tasks to the last minute and consequently have to rush their work to get it completed. Leaving assignments and set tasks to the last minute will result in students not working to their full potential and thus producing work below their standard. When reports are distributed, it is important to remember that they are collated to provide feedback to students on their development and progress within a subject and for parents to monitor their child’s development and support them where necessary.

Next week our Junior Debating Team will compete in the final of the Echuca-Moama Apex Club Debating Competition. Our Junior Team consists of Whitney White, Teasha McInnes, Teagan Milne, Kayla Arkinstall (researcher) and Taylor Hamilton (researcher). Their topic for the debate is ‘The internet should be censored so that young people can be safer online.’ We will argue the affirmative and our opposition in final, St. Joseph’s Secondary College, will argue the negative. Our Team defeated Moama Anglican Grammar in the first round and the final will be held next Wednesday 12th May at 6.30 for a 7pm start at the Echuca Worker’s and Services Club. All friends, family, staff and interested parties are welcome.
Echuca College Cross Country 2010

Echuca College Cross Country took place last week on Wednesday the 28th during the first two periods of the day. All year 7-9 students competed, along with any eager year 10-12 students who were willing to take on the challenge. The first race of the day began at 9:25 with our U16, U17 & U21 boys heading off to complete the 5km course. The rest of the races followed suit, and luckily, all remaining students only had to complete a 3km version of the course.

After a short wait (and moment of peace) the masses began to arrive and cross the finish line. We had many fantastic efforts and the following students managed to win their individual age groups. Congratulations to these students:

U13 – Isabella Reid and Erik Holt-Crossman
U14 – Tessa Mellington and Shaun Atkins
U15 – Greta Pearson and Harrison Ennis
U16 – Ellie Ralph and Dominic Dean
U17 – Libby Pellegrino and Brock Norwood
U21 – Zara Pearson and Joshua Roberts

The top 7 placegetters will go on to the CSSSA Cross Country to be held here in Echuca on Wednesday the 19th of May. Again, congratulations to these students. To represent your school at the next level is a fantastic achievement and is something that you should be very proud of!

These students are:


In summary, all students gave it their best and should be commended on the way they conducted themselves during competition. Feedback from staff on checkpoints was really positive and the day was enjoyed by all involved. It doesn’t matter if you ran, jogged or walked; the main thing is that you joined in and gained valuable points for your community.

The overall winner of the Community Cross Country will be announced at the next school assembly, along with presentations for placegetters and age group champions.

Kind Regards,
Miss Foy and Miss McGurk J

Canteen News

The School Canteen would appreciate any families donating excess vegetables suitable for Soup to be made for the students at school. Also we would appreciate herbs such as chives, parsley, basil, and mint, spring onions for cooking. A big thank-you to Julie Hogan and family who regularly supply fresh farm eggs.

Canteen Helpers wanted: As the cooler months approach, we are becoming very busy in the canteen preparing food and serving students at both recess and lunch. If anyone is able to help out working in the canteen, be it mothers, father, grandma’s, grandpa’s we’d love your help. Lunch is supplied for those working. If you can offer your help in any way could you please contact the school administration on: 54821133 and ask for Jeanette Fabry or the canteen. Thanks for your help.
‘Fabulous’ Volleyballers

On Wednesday 21st April our Volleyballers headed to Bendigo for the Zone Finals. The senior boys began with confidence against the favoured Bendigo Senior outfit and despite being without some of our ‘stars’ the lads performed admirably only losing by a couple of points in each set. Nathan ‘stepped up’ to put away some fine spikes whilst Forgy lead from the front, Robbo worked hard as setter and Kale served with great consistency. The same combination made light work of Kerang, resplendent in their coloured tops and white shorts...not! Callum, Josh’ and Gus all made solid contributions.

The Inter boys only had the one match against a Bendigo side which boasted some State Reps. The guys surprised the opposition with their ability to return even some of the most powerful shots. At times Shaun had to protect his nose but managed to scramble many a ball back. Marcus and Adam performed well in a game with which they are not especially familiar but will be ‘better for the run’ and should be more game hardened in 2011. A great day though a pity there was just the one game!

Special ‘congrats’ to the Year 7 Girls and Ms Butler for their fine effort in qualifying for the State Finals!

Stewart Cheal

Year 9 News

Reach Foundation Workshops

Almost two weeks ago the Year 9 cohort were involved in a Shire funded program conducted by the Reach Foundation. The sessions centred on developing both self and mutual respect. The sessions were very powerful for some students. On a whole, a terrific personal development opportunity. Listed below are some of the feedback comments from the students:

“It was a great way to express the way I feel”
“Now I have the confidence to stand up and help a person in need”
“It surprised me which people apologised and who to”
“After it ended, I felt a bit down because I didn’t go up to someone and say sorry”

Uniform

A reminder to all families to encourage your student to attend school in full College uniform. We appreciate that the cooler mornings followed with gloriously warm days can make it difficult. Students should under no circumstances be wearing non College approved jumpers/hoodies or tracksuit pants or jeans. Any families encountering difficulties or those who have questions can feel free to contact the College office.

The Year 9 Team

School Nurse’s Report and Announcements

IMMUNISATIONS FOR STUDENTS IN YEAR 7.

The 2010 School Based Immunisation Program will be offered by the Shire of Campaspe to students in Year 7. Nurse Immunisation Team on:

Day: Wednesday

Date: 19 May, 2010

Administering the following vaccines:

Second Dose HPV for female students in Year 7.
Umpiring – A Challenging Career.

The Goulburn Valley Football Umpires Association cordially invites everyone to have a go at umpiring this football season. You may be a student who wants to earn a few extra dollars whilst trying to keep healthy and fit; you will be surprised how enjoyable umpiring can be. Umpiring is for everyone. Age and gender are no barrier; we currently have almost a dozen girls on our panel, who really enjoy themselves.

The sport of umpiring will raise your fitness and raise your personal prestige in the community; because despite all the hype about “umpire abuse”, football people in Clubs, really do respect the efforts of Umpires. You don’t have to come to Shepparton every week for training either, the Association now has training tracks in a number of towns to save expensive travelling and time; and you can even train by yourself, if you live remote from a venue. You will be coached and supported whilst you are learning in the early matches and then receive written feedback sheets from the coaching panel to help you improve and enjoy your games. You will be registered with the AFL, who supply your outfit and provide ongoing support which culminates in a Certificate presentation at the MCG at the end of the season.

It is not necessary to be available every week either; an ‘availability book’ allows you to comfortably plan umpiring around your personal life. Your studies are very important to the GVFUA and we encourage you to make them your top priority; consequently availability and appointments can be altered to meet your needs. Many of our Umpires go on to universities in Melbourne and find the money they earn, very handy.

If you would like to have a go at Boundary, Goal or Field umpiring, please call the GVFUA Recruitment Officer, Greg Sidebottom on 5832 9353 (w), 5831 5121 (h) or 0419 154097, who will send out some information to help get you going and determine the nearest training venue to your home.

Pathways

YEAR 12

Physics gets structural.

On Thursday April 29th, 7 Year 12 Physics students escaped school for the day to attend a ‘Structures and Materials’ Workshop at the University of Ballarat. We arrived at the university at about 11:30 after an early start - taking the ‘scenic’ route, courtesy of Ms Anderson’s GPS. There was time for lunch at the student cafe before we went to work in the Civil Engineering labs. It was interesting to see all of the equipment used by the civil engineering students at the University. After a quick overview from Terry, one of the university lecturers, and Stephanie - his capable lab assistant, we went to work in the lab. We went to the materials lab and used the Instron machine to find the Young’s Modulus of steel. A steel sample was slowly stretched until it snapped, while we took measurements of force and extension. It was fascinating to see that steel is in fact a stretchy material! Roman performed his job as data collector very well. We then went back to the Structures lab where we were able to take measurements on a simple cantilever model, to investigate the forces involved in such structures. It was good to see that our calculations actually agreed with the measured values (well mostly!). We were then treated to a demonstration by one of the university professors on the strength and brittleness of a solid concrete beam. Be warned! – when concrete fails, it fails very suddenly. With the addition of steel mesh, the reinforced concrete performed much better in the strength test. We took in a lot of information and gathered our results, ready to be analysed back at school. Overall, it was a very worthwhile day, being able to perform experiments not possible at school, and getting a look at the University Engineering laboratories. Congratulations to James and Brandon on their performance back at Maccas on the way home. Sharon Anderson.
Moama-Echuca Soccer Association Inc.

Get Set Day – Saturday 24th April  At Jack Eddy Oval (off Perricoota Road)
- At 9:00am we have activities for U6 and U8.
- At 10:00am, we have training and practice matches for U10 and U12.
- At 11:00am, it is time for our Open players to come and get ready for their season.

Go Day – Saturday 1st May  All games this year will be conducted at Jack Eddy Oval (off Perricoota Road)

FEES: Please ensure all registration fees are paid by week one.

COACHING: We will endeavour to contact all Coaches and Team Managers prior to the commencement of the season. For those coaches, we encourage their participation in our Grass Roots Coaching sessions. The first of which will be held on Friday 30th April at Brick Alley from 6pm.

TEAMS: All teams will be available on the website www.borderraiders.com.au from Wednesday 28th April as well as the Riv Herald. For any further registration details please call Brendan 0437 941 620 or Anita 0417 593 229.

AUSTSWIM ECHUCA

The next Austswim Course is being conducted in Echuca on the following dates:

Friday 4 June 4.30 – 8.00pm  Saturday 5 June  9.30 – 5.00pm  Sunday 6 June 9.30 – 3.30pm

VENUE: Echuca War Memorial Aquatic Centre Cnr Service & High Sts Echuca  COST: $345.00

AUSTSWIM RE-REGISTRATION
If you gained your Austswim Certificate or re-registered in 2007 you need to re-register in 2010. You can do this by attending some theory and practical sessions during the full course. Ring to find out times when you will need to attend. Cost for update: $77.00

If interested contact: Kate Nichols Fax. 58312597, Mobile. 0427 153 591 or Email. kate@valleysport.net.au

MACPHERSON SMITH RURAL FOUNDATION
YOUTH LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM—2010 YEAR 12
Applications are presently being sought for these tertiary study scholarships. Each is worth $15000 per year, for three years, commencing 2011.

They are being offered to young Victorians from rural and regional areas
- Who are keen to further their studies
- Are interested in pursuing and growing their leadership interests
- And plan to eventually return to a rural or regional community.

For further details, contact David Hatherell on 0419 560753, visit our website at msrf.org.au or email us on dhatherell.msrf.org.au. Applications close on May 31 2010