Principal’s Report

Our College Council Election process will start next week and this year we have four positions available for the election. Four Councillors have completed their two year terms. Our Council has eight parent representatives and four DEECD representatives (staff). There is an opportunity for parents interested in supporting their child’s education to join our Council team and if you are considering joining our College Council, please don’t hesitate to contact me for more information. Parents on College Council provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the College. Those parents who become active on a College Council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging. Nomination Forms will available for parent members at the College’s general office.

College Council Elections 2011 Timeline

- Notice of election and call for nominations: 25th February 2011
- Close of nominations: 10th March 2011
- Display list of candidates, nominator & seconder: 10th March 2011
- Prepare ballot papers and distribute on or before: 17th March 2011
- Close of ballot: 24th March 2011
- Count votes & declare ballot: 24th March 2011

Who is on the school council? There are three possible categories of membership:

- **A mandated elected Parent category.** More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school.

- **A mandated elected DEECD employee category.** Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

- **An optional Community member category.** Its members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

The first three weeks of the school year has been very busy with extra curricula programs taking place outside the College across all year levels. Last week our Year 12 students participated in the ‘Flying Start’ program held at Rich River Golf Club. The program includes goal setting, reviewing the academic year and the requirements of VCAA.
The College was able to engage the service of the REACH Foundation to work with students on team building, leadership and goal setting tasks. As was the case with our ‘Academic Program’ last year, the ‘Flying Start’ was well attended by Year 12 students.

Last Monday the College held its annual swimming carnival and congratulations to all competitors involved in the carnival. Once again Kanyapella was too strong and won the day. I would like to thank Mr. Ben Hall, Meghan Corby and their team for all the work that went into organising the carnival.

Our Year 7 students returned last Friday from their camp to Harrietville where they have had three days of structured activities. The camp is part of the College’s Orientation/Transition program and its key focus is to provide an opportunity for the students and staff to get to know each other and to establish the partnerships in learning that will be the key to success in Year 7 and beyond.

Last Wednesday night we held our Learning Chats for Years 7-10 and Parent conversations for VCE students. The chats are designed to assist Tutorial Teachers in learning more about the students in their tutorial group so they are in a better position to support them throughout the year. The parent conversations for VCE students are designed for parents to meet with specific subject teachers to find out how their son/daughter has settled in for the year. These were well attended by parents throughout the night.

Finally, I received two very well written reports from Year 12 students Joshua Jakobi and Andrew Koster, in relation to their experiences at National Youth Science Forum they attended over the last holidays. Both boys mentioned in their reports how exciting and educational the week was at the Australian National University in Canberra with other students from around the country. I would like to thank our Science Domain Leader Mrs. Glennys Main and Echuca- Moama Rotary for the support given to these boys for this fantastic week in Canberra.

Karl Stenning
Acting Principal

**Reminder to Families:**

Student Resource Structure payments are due by the end of Term One.

We would ask parent/guardians to please pay the $85 Excursion Levy to enable your student to participate in excursions during Term One.

Students that have not paid this levy will not be able to attend any excursions throughout the year.

For further enquiries please contact the administration at the College on 03 5482 1133

**EMA:**

A quick reminder to families that EMA application are due to the school by the 28th February, 2011. No late applications can be accepted.

**BPay:**

The College has recently activated B-Pay for all families to access. You will receive your B-Pay Details on the statement that will be sent to families in the coming weeks. This service is available for immediate use.

For further information please contact the College on 03 5482 1133
UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE REMINDERS FOR 2011

All students are expected to follow the guidelines set out in the student planner with regards to uniform and appearance.

Whenever you are in uniform it should be full and correct uniform. Here are some reminders of what that involves:

**Socks** – Black socks are NOT uniform. Please do not wear them. Socks should be white or grey.

**Shoes** – should be black lace up leather school shoes. T bar style for girls are acceptable - buckles must be done up. Slip on shoes such as ballet flats or canvas slip on style shoes (for boys or girls) are NOT acceptable.

**Shorts** – girls shorts must NOT be rolled up.

**Tops** – the college top should be worn. No other t shirts should be visible under this. Girls are NOT to pull in and tighten their tops/jumpers at the back.

**Make up** - if worn at all must be DISCREET. Our policy states: Obvious make-up such as coloured lip sticks, coloured lip glosses, eye make-up, skin glitters, blush, extreme or unnatural hair dyes or coloured hair gels are not approved whilst children attend school, or school excursions or camps, unless the activity requires make-up etc eg: theatrical performances or approved events such as footy day. Finger nails should have no polish or clear polish only

**Jewellery** – in general any jewellery worn should be discreet. The policy states: Jewellery linked to body piercing must be removed while at school, or covered. Where jewellery linked to body piercing constitutes an OHS issue in the school environment, to the individual, or to others, it must be removed.

Ear spacers are not permitted. Students with existing spacers must have spacers that are of a flat, solid nature to be compliant with occupational health and safety policies.

PLEASE WEAR YOUR UNIFORM CORRECTLY AND WITH PRIDE.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

The College has contracted Arthur Reed Photos to be our school photographers this year.

All students will have their photographs taken on Wednesday the 9th of March.

ALL students will be photographed even if they are not ordering photos.

Ordering envelopes will be sent home with students approximately one week before photo day.

Parents and guardians will receive a letter this week outlining ordering information and uniform requirements.

It is vital that all students are in full and CORRECT school SUMMER uniform.

Assuming it is a warm day, students will be photographed without their polar fleeces and jumpers. It is important then, that students wear correct summer uniform and footwear items and we would ask that you assist us in ensuring that the uniform is worn correctly and at required lengths. (No T shirts or coloured camisoles under polo tops or black tights/long sleeved tees under summer dress, no rolled or “short” shorts, striped or coloured socks, or sports shoes etc will be accepted).

Students who do not have correct uniform items will be asked to change into correct items/footwear supplied by the College.

Jewellery worn must be minimal and discrete as in line with College policy. Students will be asked to remove any inappropriate jewellery or accessories. These include headbands/ribbons around foreheads, wrist bands, piercings, coloured necklaces, beads, bracelets or earrings, leather neck ties, hoop and “dangling” earrings and oversized headbands, scarves, ties, waistbands or other “decorations”.

Similarly, make up, if worn is to be understated. A light foundation and neutral lip gloss is acceptable but students who wear eye shadow, bright lipstick or heavy eyeliner will be asked to remove it.
Members of the College Community are invited to attend the Echuca College Induction assembly on Monday 28 Feb at 9am in the gym. At this time we will induct those students who have taken on various leadership positions such as College Captains and Vice Captains; Community Captains; Rock Eisteddfod Leaders;

VPT Student Concession Card and/or Student Pass.

The 2011 VPT Student Concession Card and Student Pass application form can be obtained from:
- Metropolitan premium train stations
- The Met shop (corner of Swanston and Little Collins St, Melbourne)
- V/Line staffed stations or
- Online at metlinkmelbourne.com.au or myki.com.au

Student Absences

Student attendance is a high priority for all of us here at Echuca College and we know that students who attend regularly are more likely to be successful. To improve our attendance procedures parents/caregivers will be notified of any unexplained student absence by text messages through the mobile phone Short Message Service (SMS).

Mobile phone messaging represents a significant step forward for the College in terms of how we communicate to parents and caregivers to address absences and may be used to deliver important announcements/reminders. SMS text messages are automatically sent to your mobile phone explaining that our records show that your child is absent from school. The message will read as follows:

Echuca College records show “student name” is absent 17/11/11. Please reply by SMS or phone 03 5482 1133 with a reason for this absence.

You can then reply, preferably using SMS, by phoning the College Office or by sending a diary note with your child on their return. Alternatively, simply press the reply option on your mobile phone when you receive a message from the College and add your son or daughter’s name, year, date of absence and the reason they are absent or late.

As is our current policy we expect parents/caregivers to contact the College in advance if they know their child is to be absent. If your child is absent and a reason has been provided, then you will not receive an SMS.

To ensure that the mobile phone SMS system continues to provide timely communication between yourself and the College it is important that you keep the College informed of any changes to your contact details.

Senior Boys Cricket

Echuca College and St. Joes were greeted with perfect conditions for cricket at Victoria Park (it was a pity that Shaun Hon’s rolling didn’t reach the same standards). Captain Josh Preston won the toss and sent the St. Joes boys in with immediate results. Mitch McMullan was in devastating form with the ball and when he wasn’t bowling on the adjacent pitch he was taking vital wickets. Preston, Cam Hay and Michael “young” Young all bowled tight spells but it wasn’t until the inclusion of Luke “wheelie bin” Sanderson that Echuca College started spinning into the lower order of St. Joseph’s College. Sanderson quickly picked up two wickets which saw him on an unlikely hat trick. The tension and excitement was high which saw the bowler toss the ball up to the nervous St. Joes batsman who quite confidently dispatched the ball to the boundary for his first ever competitive 4.

More excitement was had when Curtis “stud” Slattery made himself known to the St. Joes third man crowd, much to the chagrin of his teammates. Echuca College soon after quickly wrapped up the St. Joes innings for 68 in the 25th over.

Echuca College started their innings full of confidence but with disciplined and sprightly bowling St. Joes soon had the Echuca boys on the back foot. Luke Sanderson and Shaun Hon opened the batting but Hon soon departed with a stroke reminiscent of something normally seen in a fishing competition. Mitch McMullan and Mitch Sanderson then met his Echuca South teammate in the middle where the two boys would make a combined total of 25. Sanderson would later be out for 25.

Some interesting and cavalier strokes from Hay, Young, Speight and Lewis would see the innings creep along towards the winning score and captain Preston nearly got them over the line. Rhys Behrens tried to blast his way past the St. Joes score but his formula one attack was quickly undone. Out of nowhere the Echuca College team was 9/68 with one run needed and Cam Valentine and Curtis Slattery at the crease. With nervous teammates watching on unsure whether the dreaded osteitis pubis would allow any of the batsman to run and with many balls drifting closely to the stumps, Valentine somehow spooned a full ball over cover. Pandemonium quickly set in and the victorious Echuca College boys were off to the next stage of the competition.
It has been fantastic to see so many students in full school uniform. Congratulations to both students and parents for making this happen.

Flying Start
The Flying Start program for year 12 students on Tuesday 15th February was a great success. The way in which the students conducted and interacted with the presenters and one another was exceptional. The aim of the program was to help students develop leadership skill which will assist them in coping with the demands of year 12. The presentation by the Reach Foundation encouraged students to step outside their comfort zone and that they all have skills and abilities to enable them to be leaders within the school community.

Parent Teacher Interviews and Year 12 Monthly Reports
Parent Teacher Interviews were held on Wednesday 23rd of February. It was a great opportunity for parents to meet with teachers to find out how their children are progressing. If you were unable to attend please feel free to contact teachers to discuss your child’s progress.

Swimming Sports
It was wonderful to see so many year 11 and 12 students wanting to be a part of the swimming carnival through their participation and enthusiastic support of fellow competitors. It is important that year 11 and 12 students take to the opportunity to be involved in extra school activities.

Year 12 Camp
There will be a year 12 Melbourne camp on the 5th & 6th of May that coincides with the Age Careers Expo. Please place this date on your calendar as all students should attend this camp. More information will be provided at a later date.

VCAL Camp
VCAL Camp has been organised once again for this year at Rubicon Outdoor Centre, 7th - 11th March. The students will focus on their personal development skills, such as leadership, resilience, teamwork, communication, problem solving and decision making, through a range of interesting tasks and activities. The overnight campout and hike are an exciting challenge for the students.

Horse riding, canoeing, initiative activities, mountain bike riding and high ropes are also a feature of the camp.

Year 12 Hoodies and shirts
Well done to the Year 12’s who have done a great job in designing and organising their jumpers and shirts for this year. The order is in and hopefully they will all be looking great in this new attire soon!

My first favourite activity was tubing and I was not at all good at it. I fell off once and because the water was freezing and I was sick, I didn’t go again. I stayed out of the water and kept myself warm, watching everyone else slowly turn blue from the cold. I made my hands warm so that if anyone was extremely cold, I could warm them up.

My second favourite activity was the disco. I loved watching the boys dress up as girls, but it also made me sad as the way they dressed was scary to the eye! Through the whole night I danced with four groups of girls, one being labelled the ‘disco divas’. When the disco ended and we went back to our rooms, my feet felt like crumbling rocks.

My third favourite activity was canoeing. I was in a canoe with Drew Walker. I was scared stiff because it was about 50 metres deep!! Drew didn’t help the matter much as she rocked the canoe and it felt like we were going to tip ourselves out. Whilst in the canoes we had a race to the water’s edge and nearly came last. We walked back to camp ready for our bus trip home.

I loved camp and can’t wait for more excursions to come. Bethany Young 7T3
Year 9 News

Welcome back for another hectic school year! With things so busy during the first week back, the Year 9 Team missed the deadline for the first newsletter and as a result this one is long!

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS – Congratulations to Bella Reid on her Campaspe Shire Sports Star of the Year award over the summer break! A highly prestigious award given to a very worthy recipient!!! Well done Bella!

SUBJECTS – Hopefully your son/daughter has settled into their semester one classes. Students are now six weeks into the coursework and subject changes will no longer be allowed. If your child is having difficulties please don’t hesitate to contact the subject teacher or one of the Year 9 Team.

INCENTIVE PROGRAM – at Year 9 we are lucky enough to run a reward program for students. Students who display personal best achievements, academic excellence or leadership skills are given a stamp/sticker in their College planners by the teachers. Once 10 stamps are obtained, students ‘cash’ them in for a canteen voucher. Upon obtaining their canteen voucher, the student also enters the end of term draw for a $30 shopping voucher. Has your son or daughter received any stickers yet?

PHONES/iPODS – Well done to all Year 9 students for the ease in which they have adopted the new phone and iPod policy. There have been very few incidents where phones have had to be taken due to being seen, used or heard within classes. Many thanks to parents for their support on this important College wide initiative.

SWIMMING SPORTS – Congratulations to our age group Champions from the recent Swimming Carnival. Special mention to Isabella Reid (U14), Daniel Burrill (U15), Tessa Mellington (U15) and Greta Pearson (U16) all of Year 9 who took out their respective age groups!!

CENTRAL AUSTRALIA CAMP – On Tuesday 14th March there will be a parent info evening about the upcoming trip. Finer details will be given out in coming days.

ABSENCES – Many thanks to those parents who have been contacting the College office should their son or daughter be absent from school. It is imperative that the College keep up to date rolls and records on every student’s attendance. Should your child be absent from school, a phone call to the front office (03 5482 1133) or an email to one of the Year 9 Team would be greatly appreciated.

TRIVIA – the first Year 9 student with the correct response to see Mrs Jones scores a prize and a free entry into the end of term voucher draw: Henry Hopwood is seen as the founder of Echuca. Who is viewed as Moama’s founder?

Should you have any questions or anything that needs clarifying, please don’t hesitate to contact the Year 9 Team – Carlie Jones jones.carlie.f@edumail.vic.gov.au , Dan Davidson davidson.daniel.j@edumail.vic.gov.au or Nicole Case case.nicole.m@edumail.vic.gov.au who will be more than willing to help out in any way we can. Have a great week!

The Year 9 Team

Yr 8 Camp Information

YR 8 camp (Shipwreck coast) and YR9 camp (Central Australia)

Please come along to an important information evening on Tuesday 15th March to find out about the camps.

TIME 6.30 Shipwreck coast information
TIME 7.00 Central Australia information
WHERE CAFE Learning Area Echuca College.

See you there!
Camp coordinator
Julie Smith

Year 10 News

It was nice to congratulate the students for their great start to the year at the Year Level Assembly on Monday. The behaviour in class, yard and locker sheds has been first class by 95% of the group. Keep up the great work. We welcomed a number of new students this year and it was great to see Jack McNamara make his mark by winning age group champion at the swimming sports. There will be a meeting shortly for the Central Australia trip in term 3 and outdoor ed students are encouraged to go on a trip in term 3 also.

Reminders: Locks on lockers. Phones and ipods are to be turned off before entering the classroom. No jumpers, hoodies or jackets unless you have a school jumper on underneath. White socks. Come and go home from school in full school uniform. Exams at the end of term 2.


It was great to see a number of Echuca College students and staff member Yvonne Stansfield recognised for the sporting prowess in 2010, at the Moama Bowling Club on Monday night. Congratulations.

Jessica Pitts Year 8 Soccer
Kieryn McKemmish Year 12 Athletics
Will Groves Year 10 Waterskiing
Ben Reid (Year 12 last year) Football
Zara Pearson (Year 12 last year) Basketball
Staff - Yvonne Stansfield Canoeing
Back to school Asthma Spike

Back to school time presents a phenomenon called the ‘February Epidemic’, which is a well-documented occurrence of an increase in asthma hospital admissions in children. This trend occurs two weeks after school goes back, with the spike generally occurring in mid to late February.

An increased exposure to colds and flu, the most common triggers for asthma, can explain the peak.

Parents ensure that their child with asthma has a written Asthma Action Plan that outlines their asthma management, including details of medication, emergency contact details, asthma triggers and what to do in an asthma emergency. A copy of this should be provided to the school.

Knowing the probability of an asthma attack is higher during this time of year, it is vital that parents ensure their children take their prescribed preventer medication and carry their blue reliever medication at all times. For further information, please call the Asthma Telephone HelpLine on 1800 645 130 or visit www.asthma.org.au or www.asthmafriendlyschools.com.au or contact me at school.

Malaysia 2011

A 12 day tour of Malaysia will be organised between the 17th and the 30th of September 2011. Students will be exposed to the unique culture of Malaysia and the national language, bahasa Malayu. This language is almost identical to bahasa Indonesia, therefore students will have numerous opportunities to converse with locals and use their language skills.

The tour has been designed to incorporate many aspects of Malaysia including being able to observe wildlife (such as orang utans, proboscis monkees, flying lemurs, mouse deer, bearded pigs, etc.) at Bako national park and spend time at the orangutan rehabilitation centre at Semenggok Nature Reserve. We will also spend three days at Damai beach in Lemanak, where we will stay the night in an Iban longhouse and share a traditional meal, music and dance with the villagers. A visit to Satang island will include a day of snorkeling, swimming and observing the marine wildlife.

Kuala Lumpur will be the focus of our last three days where we will visit the Royal Selangor Pewter factory (students will have a lesson and be able to make an item from pewter), take part in a Batik drawing class, visit a local school, climb the 272 steps into the Batu Caves and visit the Kuala Gandah Elephant Sanctuary, where we will be able to ride the elephants, feed them and bathe with them in the river.

For interested students please note the following:

While students studying year 9, 10, 11 and 12 Indonesian have first preference, other interested students may see Miss Peters to find out more.

You need to see Miss Peters in Year 8 South for an itinerary and to ask any questions.

An information evening will be held in early March and a $500 deposit will be required soon after in order to calculate numbers. Please watch the daily bulletin for more announcements.

Echuca College Swimming Carnival

On Monday the 14th of February our Echuca College Swimming Sports were held at the Echuca YMCA. It was a fantastic day for all students and staff who competed and took advantage of the BBQ the VCAL students had organised. Congratulations to all students who broke records and achieved their personal bests. It was great to see all our enthusiastic competitors who were willing to take part and represent their community.

A big thank you to all the staff and students who helped out on the day and also to parents who came to support the carnival.

The individual age group champions were awarded to:

U/13 Laine Cowley
Bethany Young
Keegan Hutchins
U/14 Isabella Reid
Corey McGrath
U/15 Tessa Mellington
Daniel Burrill

U/16 Greta Pearson
Jack McNamara
U/17 Rachel Whelan
Bryce Keech
U/21 Libby Pellegrino
Brad Mellington

Results about which community has won will be released at the next school assembly on Monday the 28th of Feb.

Regards

Ben Hall
Echuca College Sports Co-ordinator
Learn About Yourself

As Marcel Proust, a late 19th century novelist, wrote: “the real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes”. Host an international high school student in July through Southern Cross Cultural Exchange and prepare to be amazed at the way this unique opportunity helps your family to become closer, to understand themselves better and to see the world in a new light.

Carefully selected students will arrive in July for one or two semesters from Europe, Scandinavia and Japan. They will attend a local secondary school, are fully insured and have their own spending money.

Call S.C.C.E now on 1800 500 501, email scceaust@scce.com.au or visit our website (www.scce.com.au) to be part of this rewarding experience.

Saturday Netball

Echuca District Netball Association’s Winter Saturday netball competition commences April 2nd. Registrations with all information can be downloaded at our website edna.org.au or can be collected at the Netball Office.

All enquiries 54801725.

Registrations are due by Wednesday March 16th.

AUSTSWIM

Echuca Aquatic Centre are holding an Austswim course at the pool on the 21st and 22nd of May, 2011. The cost is $355 and enrolment forms are available at Echuca Aquatic Centre. For further information contact Tracey Pearson on 54802995 or via email, tracey.pearson@ymca.org.au

Are you, looking after me?

Do you have a nationally recognised Childcare qualification?
Was your training subsidised by the Victorian Government?
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For a no obligation chat, contact: Wendy Shorthouse, EDVET—Vocational Training Manager
T: 03 54821133 M: 0439 097 077 E: shorthouse.wendy@edtv.edu.au

Dr Richard Eisenmajer presenting in Echuca/Moama

Wednesday 16th March 2011

Autism Spectrum Disorders

at Moama Bowling Club

The day consists of FREE Presentations for

Disability, Medical & Health Sector 9.30am till 11.30am
Families, Carers & Interested Persons 12.30pm till 2.30pm
Teachers Aides, Teachers & Education Staff 6pm till 8pm

Invitation & further information is available at www.clrsasd.org.au on the “Events” page

RSVP Essential by Wed 9th March 2011

Community Living & Respite Services Reception
5480 2388 or email admin@clrs.org.au
26A Percy St Echuca

Light Refreshments provided

Sponsored by Strategem Community Foundation, CLRS and SPOCAAS