Principal’s Report

‘Diversity Our Strength’

This week is Education Week and all schools will be placing advertisements in local newspapers outlining their programs and highlighting the great work that is going into teaching and learning across the state. Echuca College has produced an article that gives a very brief summary of our College. What we would like the community to do is to come and see our College and to talk to us about our programs, our values, our approaches to teaching and learning and our vision for our students. I am continually amazed at the number of people in our College community and the broader Echuca College who visit our College and are very impressed and surprised by what they see and learn. I have unfortunately taken what we have achieved since the establishment of this College for granted. Being away from the teaching and learning that takes place every day at Echuca College while on Long Service Leave, has made these achievements more obvious upon my return. While on leave I did visit other schools in Victoria and in other states. Echuca College’s facilities were second to none. In actual fact I felt so proud of what our students can access, clearly enhancing their educational experience far above what I was seeing elsewhere. This year we have continued our 1-1 computer program at Year 7 with our laptop program. The ACER machines also second to none and the Year 8 students have their DEECD notebooks as part of the pilot launched across states schools in 2009. Next year all students in Years 9-12 will be supported in their learning by the 1-1 computer program launched by the Federal Government. Yesterday I attended a DEECD briefing around the implementation of that program and its impact on our students’ learning. Again Echuca College is well ahead in our planning and the infrastructure put in place when the new College was built will allow us to implement the 1-1 computer with ease. I would encourage members of our community, whether you have students here, may enrol a student in the future or you are just an interested community member, to make an appointment to come and visit our College and see what is being achieved here. We are flying under the radar but maybe it’s time for you to see for yourself.

Each year DEECD (Department of Education and Early Childhood Development) conducts a number of surveys on school performance. Students, teachers and parents are asked to complete surveys on a range of topics; performance, environment, attitudes to schooling, morale, training, academic rigor, attendance and student destination etc. The Parent Opinion data enables schools to understand how the parent community feel about the school, and helps to guide school improvement efforts. The 2011 Parent Opinion Survey will be distributed to our families in coming weeks. Families are selected randomly from our student records and I encourage all those who receive a survey to complete it and return it to the College. All surveys are confidential and are processed in Melbourne and not by the College. The surveys will be mailed out to families. Last year we only received 27% return which makes the information gained almost negligible. I will continue to raise the survey and its importance in our newsletter over the coming weeks. This year after the survey is issued, the College will be running an information night before the survey is to be completed, so parents can ask questions about the survey and hopefully we can get more surveys completed and more information to work with to improve our College.

As part of Education Week DEECD likes to acknowledges teachers who have completed 35 years of service with the department. It was my pleasure to attend the Loddon Mallee Region dinner to see Mr David Holmes and Mr Stewart Cheal receive their awards and thanks from Regional Director Mr Ron Lake. Not only have these two teachers completed 35 years teaching but both teachers have made significant contributions to this community during their time in Echuca. On behalf of our College community I would like to congratulate Mr. Homes and Mr. Cheal on their work at our previous two schools and Echuca College.

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Important Dates

**MAY:**
- **25TH:** Yr 7 Girls Immunisation
- **26TH:** SSV Campaspe Cross Country
- **30TH:** SSV Campaspe Netball
- **31ST:** LMR Badminton/Table Tennis

**JUNE:**
- **2ND:** Pro Arts Public Performance and rehearsal
- **3RD:** Yr 8 Performance (Drama/English)

Would you like to receive the newsletter via email?

The NAPLAN tests for Year 7 and Year 9 students were held last week. I would like to congratulate all the students involved in the testing program. Three days of testing is not easy and it was great to see the very positive approach our students took when completing the tests. The results of these tests provide diagnostic information for parents and teachers about a child’s performance in literacy and numeracy. This information can be used to support teaching and learning programs to improve student achievement. The report issued as a result of the tests will describe a child’s particular skills in reading, writing, language conventions and numeracy. Parents will be have their student’s reports forwarded to them in August, while the data the College receives from the NAPLAN tests will be used to plan for the future learning needs of our students.

Just a reminder again that examinations for Unit Three VCE subjects start on the 14th June with Biology, Physics and Accounting followed by Psychology and Chemistry. These are the only subjects examined at our College at half year. The examinations are Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority set examinations. On Thursday 16th June, all students studying a Unit 3&4 subject or 2nd Year of a Scored Vet Certificate this year will be required to sit the General Achievement Test (GAT). If parents or students require any further information about the examination period or individual exams, please don’t hesitate to contact either Mr Stenning or Ms Costin at the College.

Chris Eeles
College Principal

REMAINDER TO FAMILIES:
Student Resource Structure payments are due NOW.
We would ask parent/guardians to please pay the $85 Excursion Levy ASAP to enable your student to participate in excursions.
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.

CENTREPAY:
Centrepay is now available for use at the College. It enables anyone who has a valid Centrelink card who currently receives payments to allocate a portion of their payment to fees/camps(excursions). When set up, the deduction comes out of your fortnightly payment before it gets to your bank. For more information or for a form to set up Centrepay deductions, please contact the office on 03 5482 1133.

CANTEEN ROSTER
Mon 23rd May  Sharon Edwards, Cheryl Frampton  
            Tues 24th  Dianne Hann  
            Wed 25th  Sandra Dawes  
            Thurs 26th  Lynda Reid  
            Fri 27th  Debbie Hamilton  
Mon 30th  Tammy Robinson, Mandy Flett  
            Tues 31st  Volunteer Needed  
            Wed 1st  June Lisa Radley  
            Thurs 2nd  Nadine Ilsley  
            Fri 3rd  Volunteer Needed

If any parents are able to help at anytime please contact Jeanette on 03 54821133.
Where Are They Now?

Darcy Muller and Brayden Cocks :
From Year 8 Drama class to a career in film and TV.

After completing VCE at Echuca College in 2007, both Darcy and Brayden completed a gap year, to raise money for the move to Melbourne and to fund their Tertiary education.

Both boys had been accepted into a Film and Television course at RMIT in the city, and after deferring their courses for their gap year, they graduated with an Advanced Diploma of Film and Television, at the end of 2010.

Although they studied in different classes at RMIT, Brayden and Darcy’s film-making work was always a team effort, from the day they were first handed a video camera, in Year 8 Drama. They went on to produce a 20 minute movie in Year 10 Drama, which was screened at the Canberra Film Festival in 2005 and they worked with the 2007 In The Bin Film Festival, where they created the first student film to travel Australia with the film festival. The skills obtained in their Year 12 Media and Drama classes were of great benefit in their work.

Since completing his course at RMIT, Darcy has been accepted into a degree year of a Film and Media course at Swinburne Institute of Technology. He has deferred that further study because he was offered a position with Channel 10 as a news editor, from the beginning of 2011 and is currently receiving and editing all the major news stories that come into Channel 10 from other Australian and international news sources.

Brayden has begun a career, this year, with the AFL, as part of their Film Unit – interviewing and filming footballers, travelling with them on their community camps and creating footage that goes to air on TV football shows and the news.

Both boys are stoked to end up working in the industry that they wanted to be employed in, but they’re quick to remind other students that they got there through hard work which began early in their secondary schooling career.

Zara Pearson - Student Athlete

Was accepted into Charles Sturt University in Albury to study Occupational Therapy, but deferred and is working at Cool Change Gelati and Juice Bar in Echuca.

Zara has been successful in gaining a scholarship to Newberry College in South Carolina, USA as a student athlete, starting in August 2011. Zara will study in the Health Science field and play basketball for the “Newberry Wolves”.

The scholarship covers tuition fees, accommodation, meals and basketball related costs for 1 year, which may be continued based on her academic and playing record. Zara is hoping to stay and complete a 4 year degree.

Zara would like to thank Echuca College staff as her school results over her last 4 years were used to calculate her “grade point average” – a significant reason she has been admitted. The opportunity to play many sports including basketball has also been important.

Zara is very excited and looking forward to representing Echuca College.

The ‘IT’S NOT OK TO BE AWAY’ program was introduced to principals in the Loddon Mallee Region in late 2007. It is a state wide initiative that tackles the issue of ‘unnecessary’ absenteeism in our schools and promotes a shared responsibility for school attendance. The program works on a common sense premise, that in order for student learning outcomes to improve, students must achieve a high level of attendance. In 2009, the state average for absenteeism was 18 days per student; this is equivalent to three and a half weeks missed schooling over the year. There are many reasons why students miss school, some as a result of genuine illness or exceptional circumstances. What we need to avoid are frivolous excuses such as: going shopping, slept in or preparing for the weekend’s party.

The ‘IT’S NOT OK TO BE AWAY’ program will support schools, parents and local communities to work together to improve student attendance by reducing absenteeism and enhancing the capacity of schools to support students who are at risk of disengagement from school. Absenteeism has a significant impact on a student’s ability to achieve his/her educational potential and we believe that with the introduction of this program we can better support our young people. Echuca College has implemented our new ‘Day Map’ electronic attendance program and already this has made all of us more accountable. Each week in the newsletter we will be keeping parents/guardians informed of issues surrounding attendance and as always we need your help to ensure our young people have every opportunity to improve their educational experience.
Year 7 News

In Science we have been learning about solids, liquids and gases. We made slime using corn flour and water and have also watched a movie. We have learnt popcorn pops because there is a small bit of liquid inside the seed and the heat turns the liquid into a gas and that’s what forces it to POP!

Reporter: Rochelle Lovejoy 7T2

Year 8 News

On Tuesday May 10th, year 8 went to Kryal Castle to learn about medieval times. It took us three hours to get to the castle, but it was a fun trip.

8T8 had a battlefield experience, we split into 2 groups and had a duel. We used noodles for spears, foam swords, foam rockets for bows and arrows and shields. My team was the Reds, we won against the Blues in the first round and lost the second.

We learnt about the Magna Carta, it is a document that set out legal rights for people and was signed by King John in 1215. This document gave people rights so that they could not be accused and punished for things they didn’t do or weren’t fair.

I also learnt other things on this trip about the Black death and the battle of 1066. The day was great fun and I was glad I went.

Reporter: Campbell Telford 8T8

Year 9 News

NAPLAN – Congratulations to all staff and students on a sensational effort last week during the testing. Students were impeccably behaved and gave 110% on all tests. The Year 9 Team is now working closely with the Principals to create a treat for the entire cohort. Well done to all!

SCHOOL FOR LEADERSHIP – Good luck to those students who have applied for the Term 4 School for Leadership experience. Interviews with Mrs Jones and the Principals will be conducted shortly.

COURAGE TO CARE EXCURSION – This week the Year 9 cohort viewed a seminar on the Holocaust which was presented by Holocaust survivors. The aims of the program were to highlight that one person can make a difference and to stand up for what you believe in. Hopefully students came away with an appreciation of this tragedy and can now apply their learning’s in their own lives. More info and reflections are to come in later editions of the newsletter.

CROSS COUNTRY – Congratulations to our running champs of Year 9! It was very pleasing to see so many Year 9 students brave the miserable conditions and run the cross country. Congratulations to winning students and all the best for the next stage.

V/LINE HEALTH INFORMATION EVENING – There will be a public work shop on Wednesday 25th May at 7pm in the Performing Arts area focusing on Binge Drinking. The work shop is being supported by the VCFL, Netball Victoria and many health promoting foundations. Members of sporting clubs and the College community are invited to attend. Should you need any further information please contact the Year 9 Team.

STUDENT EXCHANGE – Recently the students had the opportunity to listen to a guest speaker who spoke on the benefits of the Youth Exchange program. Any students wishing to find out more information on travelling overseas to study are encouraged to speak to Ms Case.

Have a great fortnight! The Year 9 Team
Year 10 News

* Awards for Interim Reports – Congratulations.

ACHIEVEMENT; Sam Day, Tim Day, Ellie Denson, Jaimi Elgar, Emily Gretgrix, Holly Kornmann, Gemma Lodi, Tom McCluskey, Brent McGrath, Makayla O’Callaghan, Maddie Steel, Cloe Watson.

PERSONAL BEST; Tim Day, Ellie Denson, Casey Dobson, Milly Down, Jaimi Elgar, Molly Haydon, Holly Kornmann, Brent McGrath, Kassidy Sellings, Ashlee Shead, Chloe Shorland, Jayden Twigg.

ZERO ABSENCES; Taylah Chandler, Kiennan Jones, Simone Larcombe, Dillian Warby

*Beacon – Next Monday all students will go to the Fonterra Centre as part of their Industry and Enterprise studies for periods 1 to 4. Workshops will be held in various careers.

*Year 10 Exams – On Monday June 6th and Tuesday June 7th exams will be held in the Cafe Learning Area for all students in every Year 10 subject. Students studying Year 11 exams will sit them from Wednesday to Friday of that week. An exam timetable will be out shortly.

*Keys Please - On Wednesday June 22nd a “Keys Please” presentation will be held in the Cafe Learning Area for all Year 10 students and any parents who wish to attend. This program will give students and Parents information about getting your “L’s” and all matters about learning to drive.

David Pearson – Year 10 Team Leader.

VCE/VCAL News

Year 12 Melbourne Camp 2011

On Thursday the 5th of May roughly 50 very fortunate year 12 students headed out on an expedition to Melbourne, for an enjoyable adventure which would enhance their year 12 experience. The bus trip there was fast-paced and enjoyable, courtesy of our skillful bus driver Bob (Who was notably a legend). The trip was a celebration, as for it was Bridie Crowe’s 18th birthday, Happy Birthday to Bridie. Once we arrived in Melbourne, we went straight to the University of Swinburne. On our way there we were fortunate enough to spot everybody’s favourite citizen, Sammy Mehanni. This made the trip golden. Brad Mellington. Upon arriving in the University of Swinburne, we had a small “lecture”, being given information on the University and life around courses. We were fortunate enough to have 4 past students of the college who are currently studying there (Jacob Campbell, Josh Strachan, Trent Castles and Sarah Scott) sit in and give us information about their experiences at Swinburne. Proceeding this all the students were taken on a small tour of the university, which was quite impressive. Later that night students had the option to travel to the Eureka Skydeck or the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic centre (MSAC), following a delicious meal on Lygon Street. Personally, the two of us went to the Skydeck, and seeing all of Melbourne alight at night from such a view was simply amazing. There was also good wraps on MSAC, but it was definitely not as cool as the Skydeck. Back at the Hostel where everyone resided, Paris Hilton’s Dubai was thoroughly enjoyed by all the male students and Mr. Stenning in the “TV Lounge”. Unfortunately the “real and fake spectrum” was interrupted by Sammy Mehanni’s epic, and tear-jerking, message to Karl Miller, reporting on his travels to, from, and around Melbourne; hence our spotting of him. The next day it was an unfortunately early start, as we were heading out to the Vic Market and then to The Age Careers Expo. At the Vic Market an intense $3 purchase challenge was held, where Karl came away in first place with his $3 Cloud Fish, “Hutchy”. Poor Hutchy didn’t quite make it home alive. Rest in peace Hutchy you will be dearly missed and never forgotten. He was good to us, unfortunately we weren’t the same to him. From the Vic Market we headed straight to the Career Expo, where there were many valuable seminars held, and very good information at University and career stalls around Caulfield Race Course. It would be fair to say that all students read, saw, or heard something valuable and walked away from the day with greater knowledge and a valued experience. The bus trip home was longer than the one there, due to the exhaustion of all, but a stop off at Hungry Jacks made the journey all the more worthwhile. Bob’s incredible talents behind the wheel were also an eye opener, but unfortunately poor Callum Taylor couldn’t handle it and was looking in struggle-town up the front of the Bus. Eventually we made it back to Echuca, and everybody headed their separate ways. All in all, it was a brilliant trip to Melbourne. A huge thank you goes out to our awesome teachers Mr. Stenning, Mr. Webb and Mr. Costin who were wonderful to have around, keeping us under control. All the students were very well behaved.

Kale Wilson & Gus Fraser.

VCAL Royal Children’s Hospital Visit

On the 13th May 2011 Nicole Mahncke, Andrew McManus, Jaime Shields, Demii Charlesworth, Tayla Maloney, Miss Menz and I travelled down to Melbourne on the train. The group and I had been fundraising for the ‘Good Friday Appeal’ and we planned to hand deliver the $880 cheque.

When we arrived at the Education Institute we met with Ross and Tara, two of the head teachers. Tara then took us into a room where we viewed a brief DVD outlining the role of the institute. After about an hour we broke off to have lunch. After lunch we then met back at the Ronald McDonald statue (Andrew and Tayla’s new friend). We then went on a tour with Ross, who showed us his teaching area and the adolescence ward. To conclude our tour we watched a movie on the new hospital and then we were taken to the front to see it for ourselves. It was a very interesting day, filled with loads of new information and a different perspective on just how lucky we are.

A big thank you to the amazing Miss Menz for coming on our fun field trip, you will find out one day soon why the whole train carriage was laughing at you. Teagan Dean
Senior Boys Soccer

Local Champs!!
The Senior Boys Soccer Team enjoyed a very successful day at Moama on the 3rd May, inspired by the efforts of Arsenal beating the mighty Manchester United the previous night. Our lads crushed all opposition. They beat St. Augustans’ 7 – 0; Kyabram 8 – 0 and St. Josephs’ 4 – 1. All team members contributed though Josh lasted only about 5 minutes before being hacked in a tackle. The side was superbly lead by Matt Fullard and well served by ‘Kizza’ and Alister up front with Harry Ennis and ‘Squirter’ in the centre of mid. Noodles attempted to dazzle with his foot skills though he only really succeeded in dizzying himself.
MVP for the day was Kieryn McKemmish.

Cross Country

Last Friday morning, Echuca College held our Cross Country for all Year 7 + 8s and any Year 9 to 12s who wanted to take up the challenge of running in the cold. Our U/16 and U/21 Boys started off the day with enthusiasm and the others followed soon after, though it was freezing everyone put in allot of effort to make the morning a great success.

Congratulations to these age group champions:

U/13 Girls: Jade Jones
U/13 Boys: Ben Diery
U/14 Girls: Isabella Reid
U/14 Boys: Charles Lowe
U/15 Girls: Tessa Mellington
U/15 Boys: Shaun Atkins
U/16 Girls: Eleanor Denson
U/16 Boys: Darcy Russell
U/21 Girls: Libby Pellegrino
U/21 Boys: Josh Preston

The top 7 placegetters will go on to the SSV Campaspe Cross Country to be held on Thursday the 26th 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:

GIRLS
Jade Jones, Chelsea Atkins, Maia Hall, Holly Williams, Andrine Holt-Crossman, Jade Allen, Amellia Lowe, Isabella Reid, Jessie Hardess, Kayla Arkinstall, Courtney O’Mara, Jessica Pitts, Taylor Hamilton, Jessica Grundy, Tessa Mellington, Tracy Ogden, Roweena Ilsley, Jesse Munzel, Tegan Milne, Emma Davey, Brianna Lovejoy, Eleanor Denson, Greta Person, Makayla O’Callaghan, Ashley Shead, Brittany Turner, Alyssa Stephens, Libby Pellegrino, Ellie Ralf, Renee George, Sarah McClusky, Larni Williams, Taylah Fitzmaurice, Sarah Head.

BOYS

In summary, all students gave it their best and should be commended on the way they conducted themselves during competition. 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 was Moira with 1454 points.

A big thanks to all the staff and students that helped with preparation and on the day.

Meghan Corby and Ben Hall
Work Experience

Students in years 10 to 12 have the opportunity to participate in work experience this year. Students are expected to complete work experience during the school holidays so their school program is not disrupted.

Students therefore can complete work experience during the term two (mid year) break and term three (spring) break. Work Experience documentation must be completed two weeks before the end of term.

The NSW Education Department doesn’t allow students to complete work experience during NSW holidays. In 2011 NSW schools have the same term holidays as Victoria.

Unfortunately students will not be able to undertake work experience during the term holidays in 2011 in NSW.

Students who want to do work experience in a trade (eg Plumber, Builder, Bricklayer, Electrician, Tiler, Plasterer) that involves working on a building site must have a Construction Induction Card. (OH&S) To get a Construction Induction Card students must complete a one day course which costs the student approximately $90. Echuca College Pathways Coordinators will organise for the training to be delivered to interested students during term two.

Students are expected to organise their own work experience and need to pick up, complete and return the relevant documentation to the Pathways Office. Pathways staff can assist students who may have difficulty finding a placement.

Defence Technical Scholarships

Two Year 12 students Jake Hannasky and Mac Miller have been awarded $3000 Defence Technical Scholarships. The money is to assist students with their studies in their pursuit of a Technical career. Both students completed a stringent application process and were thrilled with the positive outcome.

Careers in Sports Medicine and Science Seminar

Sports Medicine Australia will be conducting the Careers in Sports Medicine and Science Seminar (CISM) for senior secondary students. The Seminar is being held at the Melbourne Sports & Aquatic Centre (MSAC) – Champions Room, Albert Park on Sunday 29 May 2011 from 9:30am – 1:30pm.

The seminar aims to inform prospective students of Sports Medicine and Sports Science career paths, through presentations given by prominent Sports Medicine and Science professionals.

A number of universities will be in attendance to provide information on course entry requirements/prerequisites and insight into life at their educational institution.

Seven sports medicine professionals will also provide presentations on the following professions:

- Podiatry
- Exercise Science/Human Movement
- Physiotherapy
- Medicine
- Psychology
- Dietetics
- Osteopathy

Sports Medicine Australia is providing this seminar (including light refreshments) at a cost of $40 per student and $25 per parent. Bookings are available via online registration at vic.sma.org.au

G. Webb - Pathways

Broadway Pie Drive

Echuca College’s Rock Eisteddfod team—Broadway is having a pie drive. Pie drive orders will be distributed to classes on Monday 23rd May and will need to be returned to the College Administration with payment by Friday 2nd June. Delivery will be on Thursday 30th June between 3pm and 4pm (second last day of term).

Please help our Rock Eisteddfod team out by supporting the pie drive. Spare forms will be available at the office for anyone who may not receive one.
Community Notices

ROCK EISTEDDFOD UPDATE

Congratulations to our awesome Rock Eisteddfod team....we were sold out for our Movie Night “Water for Elephants”!!! You did very well....a huge step toward getting the team down to Melbourne...

We would particularly like to thank our major sponsors of the evening - Sutton’s Bakery, BYL Espresso, Forever Fresh, Echuca Authorised News (O’Neill’s Newsagency), Echuca Moama Transit and McDonald’s Echuca. Without your support, the night would not have been a huge success.

Thank You

RAFFLE
The lucky winners of our ‘Mothers Pamper Pack’ Raffle were:
1st place- Belinda Chong
2nd Place- Barry Broadhead
3rd place- Kayla Hore
They will all smell very nice with all of those lovely body products!
Thank you to all students once again for your donations of hamper items.

REHEARSALS
Rehearsals are coming along beautifully, with all students ‘on track’ with the choreography. Students are working so very hard, we have such a great team....well done!