Principal’s Report

‘Diversity Our Strength’

Welcome to semester 2 and I hope everyone had a relaxing break at the end of June and in early July. Term 3 is always a very busy term with our long list of information evenings starting in the next two weeks. Our information sessions are designed to allow students and their parents to ask questions about career options and to find out how individual subject and programs may assist students to achieve their career ambitions. Of course many students are not sure about what vocational pathway they want to travel at this stage in their lives, so again it is very important that they attend their particular information session to talk to our teachers about the programs and subjects being offered in 2012. It is important to note that Echuca College provides access to the broadest selection of programs/subjects in the Echuca area and in the five years since the College was established our graduates have been successful in gaining positions in universities and TAFE courses across Australia, gaining quality apprenticeships and successfully entering the labour market. The College is very proud of the role it plays in supporting students in their career selection and pathway planning.

Our first sessions will start next with a VTAC information evening for our Year 12 students applying to do further study next year. This evening is followed by the ‘Tertiary Information Service’ provided by VTAC (Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre). Representatives from universities and TAFE Colleges will be available to speak to Year 12 students about courses for 2012 and also provide them with additional information such as ‘Open Days’ dates, accommodation and course entry requirements.

Information sessions for Echuca College programs will start on 8th August at the College and Vocational Education and Training certificates information sessions will be held at Rich River Golf Club. Once the information sessions are completed students in Years 9, 10 and 11 will be required to attend course counselling days where their subject selections for 2012 will be discussed with Team Leaders and Careers Counsellors. It is important that parents discuss subject selections with their students and all selection sheets must be signed by a parent/guardian before the student can undertake their chosen subjects in 2012. Course counselling for all 2012 Years 9, 10 and 11 will start in late August with the aim to have our timetable for 2012 ready for students to start their academic year 2012 on the 21st November 2011.

Information Sessions for 2012

- 3rd August - VTAC Year 12 Information Night – Senior Learning - 7.30pm
- 4th August – Year 12 TIS Event – Science Neighbourhood - 7.30pm
- 8th August – Year 12 2012 Information Night – Cafe Learning & Library - 7.30pm
- 9th August – Year 10 2012 Information Night – Cafe Learning & Library - 7.30pm
- 10th August – Year 11 2012 Information Night – Cafe Learning & Library - 7.30pm
- 15th & 16th August – VET Information Nights – Rich River Golf Club - 7pm

Counselling Days

- 22nd August – Year 10 2012 – All Year 9 students
- 23rd August – Year 11 2012 – All Year 10 students
- 24th August – Year 12 2012 – Year 11 students

Congratulations to Kelsea Chapman on her involvement in the recent UBS Finance Academy program in Sydney. The College would like to acknowledge the support received from UBS and the secondary schools principals’ association in providing access to quality programs for our students. Kelsea’s experience has provided her with a greater insight to the range of careers within banking including finance, investment and marketing.
This week our Year 10 Beacon students will have participated in ‘Pledge Day’ at Rich River Golf Club. The concept behind ‘Pledge Day’ is that students, schools and the community agree to work together to ensure that our young people have a pathway for the future. Echuca College has been involved with Beacon for over 10 years and the ‘No Dole’ concept promoted by the Beacon Foundation has helped many of our students achieve their goals after leaving school. Our student Beacon Ambassadors helped to run the program on the day and Sarah Toll, Millie Down and Kassidy Sellings did a fantastic job as MC’s. The half time entertainment from Rebecca Hore and Brodie Ward was excellent and thoughtful as they sang “Sitting on the dock” and “Come together”. Both students are very talented and are to be congratulated on their performances. I would like to also thank Mr. Spizzica for setting up and organising the music for the day. Another fantastic event where the College was able to shine!

The cold weather has seen a few variations of the College uniform appear in recent weeks. For example, track suit pants and hoodies under school shirts; are not part of the College’s uniform. Items of clothing that make up our uniform have been very clearly defined in our uniform policy since the establishment of Echuca College. A uniform list is available from the general office and those students who come to school out of uniform will need to report to the administration area. Where families need assistance in acquiring school uniform the College can help through a number of facilities, including access to second hand uniforms. I would also encourage parents and students to label the various parts of their uniform; in particular jumpers and College tops. Many of the items are very expensive and jumpers are the items most frequently left behind in the yard or in classrooms.

Chris Eeles
College Principal

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**EMA APPLICATIONS**

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children. Parents and guardians may be eligible for the EMA if they have a valid Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card.

The second instalment of the EMA payment is due to be paid into bank accounts from mid August onwards for those parents/guardians who chose the EFT payment option on their application form. Parents/guardians who chose the cheque payment option will receive their payment from late August/early September.

Parents/guardians who lodged an EMA application at the beginning of the year do not need to lodge another EMA application to receive the second instalment EMA payment. If your circumstances have changed (eg received a new card or are no longer eligible) please contact the office.


Any other queries please contact the office on 5482 1133

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**CANTEEN ROSTER**

Mon 1st Aug Simone Hore
Tues 2nd Helen Williams
Wed 3rd Sandra Dawes
Thurs 4th Leanne Treacy
Fri 5th Kaye Davey
Mon 8th Sue Cummins
Tues 9th Sandee Richardson
Wed 10th Kelly Robbins
Thurs 11th Genevieve Ham
Fri 12th Anita Anderson

If any parents are able to help at anytime please contact Jeanette on 03 54821133.
Pathways News - Tertiary Open Days

Open days allow students and parents the opportunity to see what each educational institution offers in courses, accommodation, and other programs. Students and parents are encouraged to start attending open days from Year 10 as Year 12 is a very busy year and time to attend open days is very limited. Further information on the University Open Days can be obtained by visiting vtac.edu.au/open days, or contacting Mr. Glenn Webb, Pathways Coordinator at Echuca College.

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<tr>
<th>Institution :</th>
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<td>Australian Catholic University</td>
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<td>Ballarat</td>
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<td>Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE</td>
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<td>Swinburne University of Technology</td>
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<td>University of Ballarat</td>
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<td>University of Melbourne</td>
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<td>Parkville</td>
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<td>Victoria University</td>
<td>Footscray Park</td>
<td>26th June</td>
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<td>William Angliss Institute of TAFE</td>
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<td>Wodonga Institute of TAFE</td>
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Welcome back for what is going to be an insanely busy Term 3!

REPORTS – Thanks to those parents who have returned the pink feedback slip from their student’s report. It is not too late to return the completed slips in order to provide the College with feedback on the new report formats. Parents who have any concerns about their child’s end of semester report should contact a member of the Year 9 Team.

YEAR 9 INTO 10 INFO EVENING – Is rapidly approaching and will be held in the Cafe Learning Area on Wednesday 10 August. Here, parents and their students will be required to ‘sign up’ for a subject counselling interview and a considerable amount of information will be given on the requirements of Year 10, 2012. There have been some substantial changes to the Year 10 curriculum requirements for 2012 and I encourage all students and parents to attend. Should you have any questions in the lead up to the evening, please feel free to contact the College.

TERM 2 INCENTIVE PROGRAM – Congratulations to Navarre Boseley-Humphris of 9T1 who was the lucky recipient of the $30 shopping voucher on the last day of term. Did your student earn a ticket in the end of term draw?

BODY IMAGE PRESENTATIONS – Recently the entire cohorts of Year 9 and 10 participated in gender specific workshops on Body Image. By all accounts the sessions were engaging and created lots of discussion amongst students. Should parents have any queries about the sessions, please feel free to contact the Year 9 Team or Paul Robinson the Student Welfare Coord.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS – A reminder that all students should be in full uniform regardless of the weather. ‘Hoodies’ are not to be worn to, from or at school under any circumstances. The College has OH&S requirements in terms of footwear, thus leather shoes must be worn. ‘Grandpa looking’ canvas slip-on-shoes are not allowed. Any students out of uniform will be taken to the College office and be placed into the correct uniform. Parents with any concerns should contact one of the team.

STATE CROSS COUNTRY – Congratulations to Bella Reid who recently competed at the State Cross Country. Bella finished a commendable 27th in the state! Well done!

Have a great fortnight! The Year 9 Team

Year 7 News

Year 8 News

Year 9 News

Would you like to receive the newsletter via email? Simply go to www.echucacollege.vic.edu.au/newsletter/ and subscribe.
**Year 10 News**

*Body Image* – On Monday of this week the Year 10’s attended a program organised by Paul Robinson our student welfare counsellor. The Year 9 &10 girls program was based on “body image” and the boys on “life learning”. (See student reports in this newsletter).

*Beacon Pledge Day* – On Wednesday all Year 10’s went to Rich River Golf Club to make a commitment to seek further study or to enter the workforce on completion of school. Thanks to Beacon Co-ordinator Rachael Collins, Mrs Sandy Morrison and the Year 10 Student Leaders for their contribution.

*Student Awards* – Congratulations to the following students who received certificates at the Year Level Assembly on Monday for their first semester reports. Achievement Awards: Stephanie Appleby, Brody Cust, Sam Day, Tim Day, Ellie Denson, Millie Down, Jaimi Elgar, Leon Froom, Megan Fusti, Lani Graham, Brigitte Griffiths, Lydia Hartwig, Molly Haydon, Holly Kornmann, Gemma Lodi, Tom McCluskey, Brent McGrath, Ross Miller, Gabby Moar, Makayla O’Callaghan, Gemma Rowley, Jayden Twigg, Cloe Watson and Bianca Williams.

Personal Best Awards:
GOLD – Molly Haydon, Ashlee Shead, Casey Dobson, Gemma Lodi, Alex Cantwell, Makayla O’Callaghan, Sam Day, Holly Kornmann, Aaron Henery, Ellie Denson, Brent McGrath, Leon Froom, Emily Gretgrix, Cloe Watson. SILVER – Chloe Shorland, Lani Graham, Kassidy Sellings, Jaimi Elgar, Tim Day, Kayla Hore, Ryan Rudoforth, Jake Bullock, Tyler Lethlean, Georgia McMurdo, Rebecca Ashwell, Brody Cust. BRONZE – James Deighton, Nicole Watson, Bianca Williams, Sarah Toll, Gabby Avis, Justin Tyler, Stephanie Appleby, Gemma Rowley, Simone Larcombe, Jacinda Williams, Millie Down, Brigitte Griffiths, Katrina Wagner and Rachael Conlan.

David Pearson - Year 10 Team Leader.
Andrew Hewitt & Debbie Dunn – Year 10 Assistants.

**VCE/VCAL NEWS**

**Information Evenings**
Planning for 2012 is already underway with information evenings being held in the coming weeks. An information session for Year 12 students regarding their VTAC application will be held on the 3rd of August at 7.30pm. To assist the current year 11 students with their course selection for 2012, an information session will be held on the 8th August at 7.30pm. These are important nights for both parents and students and we look forward to seeing you at the relevant occasions.

**Year 11 Camp**
54 lucky year 11 students had the opportunity to experience a taste of Uni life on our Melbourne camp. We were given the privilege of staying in real university accommodation at Newman College, at the University of Melbourne. We were given a tour of Melbourne University, Kangan Batman TAFE and LaTrobe University in Bendigo. These tours provided us with heaps of information that will help us with our decisions about our futures. It wasn’t all educational though, we went to movies, ice skating, eating out and shopping. This camp was very beneficial and everyone learnt valuable information and had heaps of fun! Molly Flett.

Equestrian Federation of Australia’s Interschool Championship
Congratulations to Javais Ham and Eleisha Catalano, who both competed at the interschool championship over the holidays. They competed in dressage, showmanship, led and jumping. Javais, riding ‘Wild Show’, placed 2nd in her division, which qualified her for a ride off where she placed 7th. Eleisha, riding ‘Nawarrah Park Cupid’, had a consistent day placing mid-field overall.

**VTAC Information Night**
A VTAC information evening for Year 12 students and parents will be held on Wednesday the 3rd of August at 7.30pm in the Echuca College Senior Learning Building. Information will be provided to parents and students about the Tertiary Education Application process, for entry into university and a range of TAFE courses. (VTAC)
Information will also be provided on the Special Entry Access Scheme(SEAS), scholarships, deferment and a range of other topics relevant to school leavers, looking to study at a tertiary level, next year or the following year. Parents and students are encouraged to attend this very important information session to ensure students give themselves the best opportunity to gain entry in their chosen course.
VSSSA Cross Country

Last week Mrs Jones was lucky enough to chaperone three Echuca College students to the State Cross Country Championships in Bundoora, Melbourne. In wet, muddy and miserable conditions our three representatives, Erik Holt-Crossman, Isabella Reid and Darcy Russell, did the College proud.

Bella kick started our day in the Under 14 girls’ 3km event. Starting in the front row due to her excellent performance in the Regional event gave her an ideal start. On the wet and heavy track, Bella completed a personal best time and finished a very impressive 27th in the State.

Erik competed in the boys’ Under 14 event immediately after. The 3km race was completed in a record time (a teeny bit over 9 minutes!) with Erik finishing a thoroughly impressive 46th in the state. Erik also completed a personal best time!

Our last competitor for the day was Darcy who had left the Year 11 Camp to compete. Darcy started his Under 16 boys’ 5km event strongly but suffered a fall in the wet and slippery conditions. He was also suffering from a tummy bug, resulting in him vomiting on the course (and on another competitor). Unfortunately for Darc, this resulted in him slipping from the top 15 to a commendable 60th in the state. Well done!

Tour of Turkey 2012

After the success of the 2010 Tour of Turkey, Echuca College will again visit in 2012. Highlights of the trip include: a visit to Gallipoli, Troy and Efeso and Istanbul; swimming in the Mediterranean Sea, Pamukkale, and pristine waters of Saklikent Gorge; experiencing the geographical wonders of Cappadocia and Olympos; plus a visit to a school, cooking lesson and meal at a family home. We will be submerged into the culture and history of a truly spectacular country.

There are two places available for the 2012 trip. If you are interested see Ms Case ASAP (Yr9 Team Leaders Office).

Echuca Colleges
Rock Eisteddfod Public Performance will be held on the 5th August showing at 4pm, 6pm & 7pm in the Gym.
All are welcome to attend the show case. Gold Coin Donation upon arrival please.
Yr 9 & 10 Body Image Presentation

On the 25th of July, all year nine and ten girls attended a body image presentation. A lady by the name of Kelly told us about body shape and size, first she started off being an old lady, she told us a lot about her life and what she went through when she was our age. Half way through, Kelly turned into a young woman. She also told us about how magazines are so unrealistic and they make people’s self esteem very low, making them feel that they aren’t good enough. She also said, we need to be ourselves and be happy with what we have and what we look like because no one else is the same.

Later on she sang the songs, Beautiful by Christina Aguilera and ‘Not pretty enough’ by Kasey Chambers but made her own words to them. A past student of Echuca College spoke to us about her body image troubles last year and what she went through. She told us how it isn’t good and no one needs to go through it. Her story was very inspiring and it took alot of courage for her to stand up there and tell us about herself. It was really good for the people that have got low self esteem whilst we learned lots of strategies to assist our friends too.

By Lauran Ring, Emma Binnie and Emma Hall – Year 9

Bullying, body image, peer pressure, culture, alcohol, popularity, future and media. Just a few things boys and men face in the world we live in. Period 3 and 4 on Monday boys from year 9 and 10 were asked some questions by CJ Fortuna a stand up comedian and youth work - why do boys act so dumb when we are so smart? Why don’t we stand up for our beliefs? Why do we put up with all those words and not do what we as individuals know and understand is right? CJ Fortuna presented a powerful, funny and interesting performance to get the audience to understand these issues, how to cope with issues and along the way sharing some interesting stories about his childhood and some interesting stories and some interesting friends of his father and their stories like Dave Hughes. Personally I thought the performance was really funny and I enjoyed the hilarious stories and learnt a lot about my own image. By Brent McGrath - Year 10

Careers & Pathways

August is a very important time for students and parents as we begin subject selections for 2012. Ensuring that students select the right mix of subjects to enhance future career aspirations can be a rewarding experience but also somewhat overwhelming. It is vital that students do their homework and research career options that best suit them. At Year 10, all students are doing this during their Beacon/Industry and Enterprise classes. Students and parents are also encouraged to make a time to speak to the Pathways Team; Mr Webb and Mrs Morrison if they require extra assistance.

Getting the mix right?
We encourage students to consider the following when selecting subjects for 2012. Make sure you have subjects that you are good at and that you enjoy. Check to see if your chosen career requires prerequisite subjects and make sure you include these prerequisite subjects in your program.

As a parent, what can you do to help your student make the right choices?

Have a discussion with your student about their ideas for the future
Read some information about the careers your student is interested in e.g. check out websites, Job Guide
Attend the information night/s
Attend the subject selection interview with your student
If you need extra help, make a time to see Mr Webb or Mrs Morrison

We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming information nights and take the opportunity to extend our help should you require it. The Pathways Team – Sandy Morrison and Glenn Webb

Janet Clarke Hall “College Experience”

Last term Hanna Deighton and I were approached by Mr Webb with an opportunity to attend a ‘College Experience’ at Janet Clarke Hall, residential College of the University of Melbourne. Both being keen on studying at University, Hanna and I leapt at the chance to spend a night at JCH and to find out more about what University and College have to offer. So, at the start of the holidays on the 4th of July we travelled to Janet Clarke Hall. From the moment we arrived we were impressed. Hanna in particular loved the old buildings that make up most of the University. After a short mishap involving a faulty room key we ditched our bags and took off on a tour of the college, encompassing it’s junior and senior common rooms, library, dining hall and basketball court. We then went to the junior common room for an introductory presentation from Mrs Donna Davies, the Vice-Principal of the College. Hanna and I then met the other students participating in the experience, where I was happy to find out that there were only 4 boys out of the 30 students. We were then treated to a fancy lunch before heading off on a tour of the University. From there we walked along Lygon Street for a gelati-crawl, where I was shattered to run out of money after the first shop, and so I failed to satisfy my tastebuds. They were compensated later at the tea however, which was another amazing meal. We were then treated to a fantastic presentation by guest speaker Alice Pung, author and inspiration. The night ended with a trivia competition in which we were cheated of victory by another, less knowledgeable team. After a busy day it was bedtime. Sadly, after a magnificent cooked breakfast on Tuesday morning it was time to leave JCH and our new friends behind. All in all it was a fantastic experience that has provided us with some food for thought when the time comes to apply to Universities and Colleges.

Andrew Koster
Community Notices

i-Dance
At Echuca College
Jacqueline Kornmann - B.Ed, Assoc(Dip) Cecchetti, (First Aid Training & Assessment Cert).
Beginners to Advanced Students ages 3+
Jazz/Commercial/ Hip Hop
Contemporary
Classical/ (Cecchetti) Ballet
Registration on Thursday, May 5th, 2011 from 4pm - 5pm at Echuca College Administration.
For all enquiries please contact - Echuca College on 03 54821133
Or echuca.co@edumail.vic.gov.au

Women’s Strength Building Group
For women aged 16-35 experiencing
Anxiety and Depression
This program will run for 10 weeks in Echuca, starting -
August 5th 2011
Venue: Campaspe College
Time: 1:00pm – 4:00pm
NO COST
THE GROUP WILL COVER SUCH TOPICS AS:
Talking about your own personal experiences with Depression and Anxiety
Guest speakers
Self Esteem & Assertiveness
Therapeutic Journal Writing & Blogging
Yoga
For bookings please contact Mariah at St. Lukes on 54801120 or
EMMA AT CENTRELINK ON 0429 568 591