This week the College commenced its new ‘Academic Year’ and once again it has been a great success. On Monday we had a ‘Whole School Assembly’ to celebrate the new academic year and the students were treated to a great performance from our Year 7 Rock Band. Our 2012 College Captains were formally introduced to the student body and they ran the assembly. Classes for the new academic year started during period two and for Years 11 and 12 (2012) the program will continue until the 9th December. Students in the remaining year levels will continue their program until the 16th December. Students can now look forward to 2012 with a greater insight into the year’s study ahead.

Once again it is with great pleasure that I am able to bring to your attention some outstanding student achievements. Last week the Campaspe Cohuna LLEN hosted the ‘VET in Schools Excellence Awards’ at the Moama Bowling Club. Echuca College had five students receive awards for excellence in their chosen areas. Nicole Mahncke for Animal Studies, Luke Hipwell for Automotive Studies, Stephanie Roelink for Community Services, Jake Hannasky for Elecrotechnology and Sarah Head for Equine Industry. The College also received notification last week from the University of Melbourne that two of our students had received scholarships into the prestigious ‘Kwong Lee Dow Program’. Amelia Down and Samuel Day will travel to Melbourne on the 8th December to be officially welcomed into the program with other participants, and to meet Professor Kwong Lee Dow. The scholarship Program allows students to participate in a range of activities and enhance their secondary school studies, inspires their career plans and provides an opportunity to interact with the University community. Congratulations to our Regional Loddon Mallee Sports Award recipients, Siobhan Thompson (athletics), Bradley Mellington (swimming), Erik Holt-Crossman (cross-country) and Isabella Reid Individual General Excellence Award. The Loddon Mallee Sports Awards will take place next Wednesday in Bendigo. Congratulations to all these students and we look forward to watching their progress in their various fields over the coming years.

This year’s Orientation Day for Grade 6 into Year 7 will be on the 13th December. The College always looks forward to meeting our new students and Orientation Day is always a day of mixed emotions for Grade 6 students; whilst excited about the thought of entering the College, most are uncertain on how this transition will take place. Over the last 12 months Echuca College and its partner primary schools have worked hard at reducing the concerns held by students moving from primary to secondary schooling. In 2012, I’m happy to announce that Echuca College will continue with our computer program where all Year 7 students have a new computer 24/7. In fact in 2012 all students at the College will have access to their own portable computer 24/7. Enrolments for 2012 are still open and if families have not enrolled as yet please contact the general office at Echuca College 54821133.

VCE results for our Year 12 students will not be known until Friday 16th December when the VCAA (Victorian Curriculum & Assessment Authority) forward scores to students. VCE certificates and formal documentation will be sent to the College for distribution at the end of the year at our celebration evening on the 19th December. To celebrate their 13 years of education and completion of examinations, the College held its Year 12 Graduation Dinner last Thursday 24th November at the Rich River Golf Club Resort. The evening provided students, parents, guests and teachers with an opportunity to celebrate the great year that we have experienced and a chance for the students to say their farewells to friends and teachers. The Class of 2011 was the first intake of Echuca College Year 7s back in 2006. I would like to thank the Year 12 organizing team, led by our College Captains, for an outstanding and entertaining evening.
As mentioned earlier in my report all students at the College will have access to portable computers in 2012. The program for students in Years 9-12 has been supported by the Federal Government’s ‘National Secondary Schools Computer Fund’, while students in Years 7 and 8 access their computers through a partnership between the College and families. New computers will be issued to students in the first couple of days of the new school year and it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the computer is well maintained. The College’s fleet of over 200 desktop computers will still be available to students in specific areas around the College where we believe their use will be maximized.

Last week six of our Year 9 students took it upon themselves to organise a fundraiser for the Hetherington appeal. Naomi’s son, Ryan, is the girls’ classmate. The girls initially were going to organise a casual day but expanded their idea to include a sausage sizzle. The students coordinated the ordering of food, money and equipment and even did the cooking themselves. The College is extremely proud of their generosity and efforts. In total the girls raised over $1200. I would also like to highlight that there were many generous students from other year levels who donated their month’s pocket money/wages or chose to pay $10 plus for a sausage. A great effort for a very worthy cause.

Chris Eeles
College Principal

Yr 7 Boys Volleyball

Our Year 7 Boys team of Jaidyn Kerr; Jonty Jeffreys; Jason Hanson; Ash Twigg; Lachlan Arkinistall; Kyle Scott; Ben Diery and Cody Spiers last week competed in the State Conference Finals in Bendigo. Whilst they were not victorious the boys played really well against excellent opposition and enjoyed another day of high quality volleyball.

The eventual winners were Eltham College who were State Champions last year and have entered teams at the National level. Their Year 7 team might have qualified also for the wood chopping championships...as trees! Our boys began in a subdued fashion and many serves were missed but as the match against Wangarratta progressed they started to accumulate more points finishing with a very respectable score line.

The game versus Eltham was looking ominous and some of our lads were hit on the head just during practice! We rapidly improved and managed double figures in every set with Jason even managing a ‘big block’! All the boys contributed on the day with Jonty, Jason and Lachie shining. The lads are already plotting their assault on the title for 2012. Coach: Stewart Cheal

Yr 8 Girls Volleyball

The girls took their winning tactics ‘laugh and have fun’ into the first match against Shepparton High and won in a long 5 set match. In the second game they came up against the 2010 State Champions Eltham and although they couldn’t steal a set they had some great point winning rally’s and should be proud of their efforts. MVP’s were Jess Grundy and Taylah Newman.

Loddon Mallee Sports Awards

Congratulations to the following four students who have received Sports Awards from the Region. A presentation ceremony is being held in Bendigo next Wednesday to present the awards.

Bradley Mellington— Swimming
Erik Holt - Crossman— Cross Country
Siobhan Thompson— Athletics, Field Events
Isabella Reid— General Excellence
Dental Health Services Victoria

This service is located at 229 Leichardt St, Echuca. Appointments can be made by phoning 54855820.
It is free for children (0-12yrs) and adolescents (13-17 yrs) if they or their parents hold a current health care or pensioner card.
Children aged 12 years and under whose parents don’t hold a concession card pay a fee of $29 per child (maximum $116 per family) per course of care.

Children and adolescents without a concession card may be eligible for free treatment in some circumstances. For more information, call 1300 360 054 or visit their website www.dhsv.org.au

DO YOU HAVE CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN 12 AND 17 YEARS?

They may be able to get free dental checks through the Medicare Teen Dental Plan. Telephone 132 011 (charges apply) or visit www.medicareaustralia.gov.au to find out more. On 1 July 2008, the Australian Government introduced the Medicare Teen Dental Plan to help with the cost of an annual preventative dental check. The program aims to make it more affordable for eligible families to keep their teenagers’ teeth in good health.

Who is eligible under the Medicare Teen Dental Plan?

To be eligible under the Medicare Teen Dental Plan a teenager must be:
- aged 12-17 years, and
- eligible for Medicare, and
  - receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A (FTB A), ABSTUDY, Carer Payment, Disability Support Pension, Parenting Payment, Special Benefit, Youth Allowance; or
  - their family/carer/guardian receives Family Tax Benefit Part A (FTB A), or Parenting Payment or the Double Orphan Pension for the teenager; or
  - their partner receives FTB A or Parenting Payment; or
  - 16-17 years and receiving financial assistance under the Veterans’ Children Education Scheme or the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act Education and Training Scheme from the Department of Veterans’ Affairs.

Important: a teenager may still be eligible if the above conditions are met for a minimum of one day in the calendar year.

If you would like to discuss this further, please free contact me at the college.

Cheers! Denise Leed, School Nurse

School Start Bonus

The School Start Bonus is provided by the Victorian Government to assist low income families with the costs associated with their child starting Prep or Year 7 at a government or non government school.

If you hold a valid Health Care Card, or are a foster parent, and you have a child starting Prep or Year 7, you may be eligible to receive this one-off $300 payment.

The School Start Bonus will be paid by Electronic Funds (EFT) into your nominated bank account in late January 2012.

The School Start Bonus is separate, and additional to the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA).

How to Apply: Contact the school office to complete an application form for the EMA/School Start Bonus.

Closing Date: Parents/guardians with prep or year 7 children commencing in 2012 need to lodge an EMA/School Start Bonus form before 15 December, 2011. For late enrolments, applicants will be accepted up until 29 February 2012.

For more information about the School Start Bonus and the EMA, visit www.education.vic.gov.au/aboutschool/financial/

CANTEEN ROSTER

Mon 5th Dec Sharon Flight
Tues 6th Janette Diery
Wed 7th Help Needed
Thurs 8th Kaye Hanson
Fri 9th Help Needed
Mon 12th Help Needed
Tues 13th Help Needed
Wed 14th Help Needed
Thurs 15th Help Needed
Fri 16th Help Needed

19th - 22nd, limited stock available. There will be no lunch orders.

If any parents are able to help at anytime please contact Jeanette on 03 54821133.

A Huge thankyou to those mums who regularly help us.

Yr 12 News

The change over for students has gone very smoothly. A huge thank you to all involved in allowing the transition for students to occur with very few hiccups.

Already the ‘new’ Year 12’s for 2012 have approached their first few days with enthusiasm and commitment, eager to make the most of the next few weeks.

If parents have any concerns with Year 12 please contact the year 12 coordination team, Brett Ayres, Lyn Costin and Karl Stenning.
## 2012 IMMUNISATION SCHEDULE

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**SESSION VENUES**
- Function Room, Campaspe Shire Office
- Rochester & Elmore District Health Service
- Colbinabbin Maternal & Child Health Centre
- Nanniepilla Shire Hall
- Lockington Bush Nursing Centre
- Gunbower Maternal, Child Health Centre
- Kyabram Senior Citizens Clubrooms Lake Road
- Stanhope Community Health Centre
- Tongala Community Hub Mangan Street
- Rushworth Maternal & Child Health Centre
- Cirgarrie Kindergarten

### SESSION TIMES
- **ECHUCA - EVENING SESSIONS**
  - 3rd Thursday of Each Month - Echuca Function Room
  - 6.00 PM to 7.00 PM

*Please note January immunisation sessions for Kyabram and Stanhope fall on the 2nd Monday of the Month due to New Year’s Day Public Holiday*

For further information contact Gillian Holding – Immunisation Program Coordinator on 1300 666 535