Principal’s Report

‘Diversity Our Strength’

This is our final newsletter for the year and I would like to thank our students, parents and community for a great year. Over the last three weeks the College commenced its ‘Academic Year’ and once again it has been a great success. This is the second time that we have implemented this approach across the whole College to prepare and support our students for the coming year. The response from our students was outstanding with great attendance at all year levels. Students can now look forward to 2012 with a greater insight into the year’s study ahead.

The College would like to congratulate our students and teachers who participated in the ‘Cambodian Schoolies’ tour that has just concluded. Although the tour was only for 12 days, the experience will be with the students for the rest of their lives. The work to make the tour a success has taken all year and a considerable amount of time and effort from all involved. The College would like to acknowledge the outstanding support provided to us by the Echuca Moama Rotary Club, without their support and additional organisation the program would not have been as successful. Mrs Gould also needs to be acknowledged for her work in organising the tour and promoting the concept and for being prepared to take students overseas on such an adventure. Now the program is established we look forward to offering this opportunity to the next group of enthusiastic senior students for 2012. Well done to all involved.

As Christmas gets closer I’m often asked if we are ‘winding down’, as you can read above we are well into 2012 with our curriculum in Years 8 - 12. Earlier in the month we had our VCE Arts exhibition, opened by former Assistant Principal Ms Kelly. The three day exhibition provided students and teachers with an opportunity to ‘showcase’ creative pieces developed for assessment in the VCE. Echuca College Art Award was presented to Larni Williams for her Multimedia artwork titled “Caught in a Dream”. The most popular artwork acclaimed by people attending the exhibition in the Echuca Performing Arts Centre was the grey lead portrait by Stella Farrell titled “Friendship”. I would like to congratulate all exhibitors and their teachers for an outstanding exhibition and thank Ms Kelly for opening our Arts Exhibition for 2011.

VCE results for our Year 12 students will not be known until Friday the 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. All 2011 Year 12 students will have their certificates presented to them on stage on the 19th, we would like everyone who will be attending to be seated and ready to start at 7.30 pm. The Celebration Evening will commence at 7.30 pm and be concluded by 9.00pm.

Last Tuesday we held our Grade 6 into Year 7 Orientation Day. Orientation Day is always a day of mixed emotions for our 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. ‘Transition Program’ started in Term 2 with school visits, an Open Day at the College in Terms 2 and 3 and further visits from our Year 7 Transition Coordinator over the last few months. In addition to these activities, students and parents have had an opportunity to attend an interview at the College to ensure that all questions and concerns can be addressed before the start of the new school year. Last Tuesday the students experienced a complete day’s timetable at the College and also had a chance to experience our Performing Arts extension subjects. Enrolments for 2012 are still open and if parents are yet to enrol their student, please contact the College on 54821133. We look forward to meeting and working with all our new students and their families in 2012.

Important Dates

JANUARY
23RD
Book Collection Day - Little Gym

TERM 1 DATES 2012
2nd Feb - 30th March

Collection of Reports

Reports will be issued to students on Monday 19th December at 3pm.

All reports will be available at the General Office after 3.30pm - 5pm Monday 19th December.

Year 7 - 11 reports will be available in the small gym before celebration night.

Reports that are not collected Monday will be available from the General Office until the 21st December, close of business.

If you would like to receive the newsletter via email?

Would you like to receive the newsletter via email?
Each year we have a changing of the guard with teachers and staff moving on, travelling or taking leave or retiring and entering a new phase in their lives. This year is no exception. While it would take too long to cover all the stories, I would like to acknowledge the years of service and commitment to education that Ms Pat Schram has made. Ms Schram is retiring after a distinguished career in Primary and Secondary Education. Ms Schram was recognised by the DEECD for 35 years of service last year but it has been her commitment to improving the literacy of our young people that has been her real contribution to education over the years. On behalf of the College community and DEECD I would like to congratulate Ms Schram on a job well done and wish her well in the next phase of her life. I would also like to wish Mr Abramovitch all the best in his new teaching position in Gippsland and thank him for his contribution to the students of Echuca over the last six years. I would like to thank other members of staff who are leaving and moving on for their contribution to our College whether it be for a term or a number of years.

Merry Christmas and have a safe and happy new year.

Chris Eeles
College Principal

Yr 7 2012 Orientation Day - December 13th

Orientation day is designed for students to familiarise themselves with the College and to assist with the transition into secondary school. An extensive program was organised by the year seven team, which the students thoroughly enjoyed. Support was provided by the Peer Support Leaders and the Gnurad attendees who were a friendly face for some very nervous grade sixes. Activities included Science, Indonesian, Sport, Drama and Dance; all of which focused on introducing the grade six students to their subjects and teachers for 2012, in the Echuca College community.

James Brown, Jesse Anderson, Lucas Chesterfield, Chase Robertson

Jasmin Marshall and Brooke Morris

Canteen Roster 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Names</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 2nd Feb</td>
<td>Carensa Dean, Kim Moss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 3rd</td>
<td>Janine Spiers, Marina Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 6th</td>
<td>Sharon Edwards, Lisa Radley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 7th</td>
<td>Helen Williams, Kerry Tyler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 8th</td>
<td>Michelle HAW, Kaye Hanson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 9th</td>
<td>Lynda Reid, Kaye Davey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 10th</td>
<td>Anita Anderson, Barbro Holt-Crossman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 13th</td>
<td>Help Needed, Sue Cummins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 14th</td>
<td>Sandee Richardson, Julie Hogan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

19th - 22nd December, 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 8 News 2012

The year 8 students and their teachers have started to settle into their new environment (formally known as the ‘senior learning neighbourhood’). We have a lovely outdoor area and with some encouragement students are beginning to look after it. We are also lucky enough to have spacious classrooms with excellent facilities.

Now that step up is coming to an end we have identified some housekeeping issues that will need to be addressed before the start of next year.

Students must have a separate work book for each class so teachers can easily monitor progress.

Girls are not to wear black socks to school and hair ties on the back of their jumpers are certainly not acceptable.

Any facial piercings need to be covered by a band aid or removed.

We encourage all students to have a restful break and begin the New Year with a positive outlook on their learning.

Loddon Mallee Sports Awards

The Loddon Mallee Sports Awards were held last Wednesday in Bendigo. Ron Lake the Regional Director is in the photo with Siobhan Thompson, (athletics field), Bradley Mellington, (swimming), and Isabella Reid, (general excellence). Erik Holt-Crossman, (cross-country), was absent.

Erik was in Shepparton at the Shepparton Classic tennis tournament where he won the 14 and under singles and doubles titles. Well done Erik.

Dave Pearson.

Year 10 News

Wowzers!! Final newsletter of 2011 – already?!!

CASUAL DAY FUNDRAISER – Congratulations to Maddie Naismith, Courtney Scanlon-King, Rebekka Poidevin, Lee Hardie, Taylah Lowry and Ashlee Sellings on their recent efforts in coordinating the Naomi Hetherington Fundraiser BBQ and casual day. In total, the girls raised over $1200 for a very worthy cause. Many thanks to the College community for supporting the Hetherington family.

GNURAD – Welcome home to our six student leaders who have returned this week from their 9 week residential experience. The crew of Brenton Case, Shanon Daldy, Hayden Wentworth, Steph Pearse, Tessa Mellington and Jessie Hardess have been working (and having bucket loads of fun) on their CLP project focusing on promoting Echuca College in the wider community and assisting with the Year 6 into Year 7 transition process. Whilst the students haven’t returned to mainstream classes as yet, they have busily been visiting the local primary schools promoting the College. Congratulations to them on a sensational term of ‘work’!

BEACON LEADERS – As part of the Year 10 Beacon curriculum, a leader for each Beacon class is elected. These leaders will play a pivotal role in developing the 2012 Beacon Program. Nominations will be called for in February 2012. If you would like more information you can see your Beacon teacher or Mrs Morrison in the Pathways area of the Resource Centre.

GOLD COAST CAMP – Thank you to all families who have paid their deposit, attempting to secure their place on the 2012 camp. Currently there is an insufficient number of students who have paid their deposits and the camp is at risk of not continuing. Should you be eager to attend the camp and have submitted your expression of interest paperwork, please pay a deposit at the College office. Should you have any queries about the camp, please see the office staff or Mr Pearson.

2011 THANKS – I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms Case, Davo and Mr Strachan for their support in looking after the amazing 2011 Year 9 mob – we’ve had lots of laughs together, but I have been even luckier to work with 150 amazing students who reinforce everyday why I became a teacher! I wish them all the best for their Year 10 studies – even though they will see me around the yard and in class, I am no longer in a coordinator role instead taking on a curriculum coordination position.

On behalf of the Year 9 2011 and the 2012 Year 10 teams, I wish you all a very safe, merry and fun Christmas break! We all look forward to seeing you back and refreshed in February!

Mrs Jones—On behalf of the Year 10 Team
New Academic Year

Thank you to all the staff and students who have put in a wonderful effort over the last two weeks. Attendance was fantastic and the students approached their new subjects with enthusiasm and maturity. They have also settled in well to the new senior neighbourhood. We hope all students enjoy their summer break and use the time to rest, relax and recharge! All VCE teachers have set homework for students to complete over the break and it is important that students complete this work before they return so they start the year on a positive note.

Year 12 Jumpers and Polo Shirts

The designs for the Year 12 jumper and polo have been approved and are ready to order. Students must supply their nickname and make their payment to the office no later than Friday 10th of February, as this is when the order will be placed.

Year 11 Peer Support

Well done to the group of Year 11 students who participated in peer support training on Tuesday the 22nd of November. The students involved were very keen and participated in a range of activities throughout the day. The students will work with groups of Year 7 students, 1 period per week, throughout term 1 next year. Judging by the effort put into their training the group will make fantastic role models for our new Year 7’s.

Year 12 Flying Start

Flying start will be held for all Year 12 students on the 16th February at Rich River. Students will be transported to and from the venue. The Flying Start program will encompass many important activities including goal setting, time management, revision techniques etc. It will also be a great day to develop relationships. Compulsory payment of $30 needs to be made to the office by Friday 10th February.

Uniform is a requirement of attending Echuca College. All students are expected to be in full school uniform including shoes. The correct school shoes are shown above. Black canvas slip-on shoes are NOT ACCEPTABLE and are also not OH&S compliant. Please Note: Acceptable shoes are to be black leather lace ups with heel for boys and girls; girls are also allowed to wear the black leather t-bar shoes. Please Note: All students must wear white socks with the Echuca College Uniform.