**Principal’s Report**

**‘Diversity Our Strength’**

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everybody back to school and to the start of the 2012 school year. We look forward to 2012 as we prepare for the official opening of the new Hockey and Tennis facility later in the month, this will be a great asset to the College and the Echuca community.

It was also great to see all the students back last Thursday ready to continue with their studies. Of course students in Years 8-12 started the 2012 academic year in late November 2011, so little time was lost on Thursday as students and teachers were able to resume lessons where they left off in December. This gives our VCE students a flying start to what is always a very busy year.

The arrival of our new group of Year 7 students at our first assembly last Thursday was very exciting. With an increase in numbers over the holidays we added another Tute Group to Year 7 leaving us with class sizes of 22 students per class. All students in Year 7 will be issued with a Dell netbook computer over the next couple of weeks. Unfortunately the 570 computers ordered in November last year by the College were due to be here in mid-January but will arrive this week, thus delaying the issuing of the computers to students across all year levels. Our Year 7 students will be going to Harrietville next week on their orientation camp. I wish them all the best for next week as they enjoy the delights of the Victorian Alps.

In mid-January, the ‘Class of 2011’ received their University and TAFE offers. We had students apply through VTAC with 63% receiving their first preference and 76% receiving either their first or second preference. In December 2011, 21 students received “Early Offers” to universities in Victoria and NSW. A number of students have received scholarships. One student has received an accommodation scholarship at Deakin University for the life of their course valued at approximately $36,000. Students are still receiving offers as universities work their way through their selection process well into February. As an example of the opportunities offered to the ‘Class of 2011’, Echuca College students are now studying Arts- University of Melbourne, Science - University of Melbourne, Physiotherapy - Charles Sturt University, Journalism – Monash, Engineering- Monash, Geospatial Science- RMIT, Paramedic- La Trobe and Interior Design- Swinburne University. We also have a number of students involved in Education, Nursing and the Health Sciences. It is fair to say that the College is very happy with the achievements of our Year 12s and the various vocations and courses they are now accessing. I would like to thank Mr Webb, Mrs Morrison and the VCE team that worked with students to successfully put these opportunities in place for our students.

As was mentioned last year, we have a number of new staff, returning staff and Trainees working across the College this year. I would like to welcome and introduce our new staff to our College community.

**New staff** -

- Ms King-Jones (Maths-Humanities)
- Mr Bessell (Health-PE)
- Mrs Gilbert (Maths)
- Mrs Edayath (Maths)

**Return** -

- Mrs Alana Rix (Music)

**Trainees** -

- Brad Mellington (Sport/PE)
- Matt Iavic (Music)
- Cameron Oldham (ICT).

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 be available for parent members at the College’s general office as of Monday 13th February.

Would you like to receive the newsletter via email?

College Council Elections 2012 Timeline

Notice of election and call for nominations................................................................. 13th February 2012
Close of nominations.................................................................................................... 20th February 2012
Display list of candidates, nominator & seconder ....................................................... 22nd February 2012
Prepare ballot papers and distribute on or before (if necessary)................................. 27th February 2012
Close of ballot................................................................................................................. 6th March 2012
Count votes & declare ballot....................................................................................... 13th March 2012

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.

Chris Eeles
College Principal

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VCE/VCAL News

Welcome Back!

Students are well into their VCE and VCAL studies after successfully completing the first two weeks of the academic year at the end of last year and having made a smooth start to their studies for 2012.

It was wonderful to see so many returning to continue with their studies and the display of school uniform looked fantastic on Thursday morning. It is important that all students are on time to school, in correct uniform and provide notes if they have reasons to be absent or late to school. VCE and VCAL have a minimum attendance requirement of 80%, however students and parents should aim for 100% attendance.

The year will pass very quickly and we encourage students to participate in as many school and extra curricula activities that they possibly can to gain the full benefit of their final years of schooling.

Team Leaders, Assistants and Tutorial Teachers 2012

Tutorial Teachers play a big role in supporting your child through their schooling.

Tutorial Teachers for 2011 are:

1T1 Laurie Sutton  2T1 Brendan Finn
1T2 Rhonda Clarke  2T2 Leigh Carroll
1T3 Warren Duffy  2T3 Chris Jennings
1T4 Phillipa Brill  2T4 Glenn Webb
1T5 Brett McMurdo
1T6 David Holmes / Jacqueline Kornmann

Please contact Brett Ayres, Year 12 Leader or Lyn Costin, Assistant Leader if you have any queries relating to Year 12 students, and Debbie Dunn, Year 11 Leader or Brett McMurdo, Assistant Leader if you have any queries relating to Year 11 students.

Forthcoming Events:

Thursday 16th February  Year 12 Flying Start Day
A compulsory day for all year 12 students to be held at Rich River Golf Club. Students need to return their permission slips and $30 asap.

Thursday 23rd February  College Swimming Sports
A great opportunity for competitors to support their individual Community

School Assessed Coursework and Tasks

All students should have received a letter regarding the process for School Assessed Coursework in 2012, along with a list of SAC dates for all subjects for semester 1. It is essential that parents and students have a thorough understanding of this process. Any queries should be directed to Lauren Menz, VCE coordinator.
Term One - Sport

Swimming Carnival.
On Thursday February 23rd at the Echuca YMCA Pool Kanyapella, Moira, Perricoota and Wharparilla will contest the 2012 Swimming Carnival.
All year 7 & 8 students will attend and competitors from Year’s 9 to 12. All other students will have a normal school day.
Events will include freestyle, breaststroke, backstroke and butterfly, as well as relays and novelty events for the Year 7 & 8 students.
Students are encouraged to wear Community colours on the day. A note will be given to all students attending the carnival outlining arrangements for the day. If parents would like to spectate or help as officials they are more than welcome.

Cricket.
The Senior Boys will play against St Josephs College next week in the first round of the School Sport Victoria competition. Shaun Hon and Luke Sanderson, by all reports, are the new David Warner and Peter Siddle of Echuca College.

Lawn Bowls.
Mr Armstrong is taking a strong team including Ash Vesty and Sam Dinan to Bendigo in early March to the Loddon Mallee competition.

Golf.
Jonty Jeffreys and Hayden Favaloro will head up the team playing at Rich River in March.

Summer Sport.
Tennis and Volleyball players will start training shortly for the SSV competition later in the term.

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<td>Week. 3</td>
<td>Senior Cricket vs St Josephs</td>
<td>Echuca College</td>
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<td>Thurs. Feb 23rd</td>
<td>Echuca College Swim Carnival</td>
<td>YMCA Pool - Echuca</td>
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<td>Mon. Mar. 5th</td>
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<td>Fri. Mar. 23rd</td>
<td>LMR Golf</td>
<td>Rich River</td>
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<td>Mon. Mar. 26th</td>
<td>SSV Volleyball &amp; Tennis</td>
<td>Echuca (Inter. &amp; Sen.)</td>
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<td>Kyabram (Junior)</td>
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<td>Thur. Mar. 29th</td>
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David Pearson & Chris Sanders (sport co-ordinators) & Bradley Mellington, (sport trainee).

EMA -
A quick reminder to families that EMA applications are due to the school by the 27th February. You must be a current healthcare card holder to be eligible.

COLLEGE CONTRIBUTIONS -
All College contributions are due to the general office ASAP. If you have not already paid these fees you need to do so in order for your student to collect their laptop. Students will not have access to their laptop until the levy is paid in full.
SCHOOL PHOTOS
The College has contracted Advanced Life Photography to be our school photographers this year.

All students will have their photographs taken on

Wednesday the 22nd February.

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

Parents and guardians will receive a letter and an ordering envelope 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 ed 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.

Nurse’s News - Back to School 2012 – Tips for Parents and Carers
A significant ‘spike’ in asthma symptoms and subsequent hospital admissions of children occurs during the first few weeks of Term 1. While there have not been direct links established, the February ‘asthma spike’ is believed to be largely due to children coming into contact with triggers that they have had time away from now that they have returned to school.

What can parents and carers do to help their children avoid asthma exacerbations at school?
Ensure that your child is always carrying their reliever medication (eg. Ventolin, Asmol, Airomir or Bricanyl) as well as a spacer. Also ensure that you provide medication to the school if required.

Ensure that you have provided the school with an updated Asthma Action Plan that has been signed by a medical practitioner. Ensure that your child knows how to recognise early asthma symptoms, and can self-administer their reliever medication properly. Encourage your child to seek assistance from school if they experience asthma symptoms.

For further information, please feel free to contact me at school or the Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 645 130 or email schools@asthma.org.au. Cheers! Denise Leed, School Nurse.

IMMUNISATIONS
The Shire of Campaspe Nurse Immunisation Team will be attending a Year 7 assembly prior to our school vaccination day on the 14th March, 2012 to present an educational package to students. Included in this package will be information on Hepatitis B, Chickenpox and the HPV vaccine for female students. You can view a video presentation on HPV on www.immunizebc.ca
If you have any queries re this program please feel free to speak to your students teacher or contact Gillian Holding— Immunisation Program Coordinator, Shire of Campaspe Ph. 1300 666 535

AWARDS CHEQUES FROM 2011
Any student that has not banked their award cheque from 2011, please do so as soon as possible as there are still several cheques that have not been banked.

Thank you.