I S S U E 2

Important Dates

FEBRUARY

27TH
EMA Applications Close

Ballot for College council Elections if necessary

28TH
Beacon Ambassadors Leaders Day

Official Opening of Hockey/Tennis Facility

Rnd 2 Snr Cricket

29TH - 2ND
Unit 1, Outdoor Education Surf Trip

MARCH

1ST
Yr 7 Welcome BBQ 6.30pm

5TH - 8TH
VCAL CAMP

7TH - 9TH
One & All Camp

9TH
LMR Lawn Bowls

Would you like to receive the newsletter via email?

Principal’s Report

‘Diversity Our Strength’

Nominations closed for College Council last Monday and as there were no new nominations, I’m happy to announce that all previous Councillors have been keen to take another term on College Council. Our parent representatives are Helen Williams, Damien Warren, Ross Whelan, Linda Reid, Jenny Candy, Jill Prowse, Gavin Hore and Mark Robertson. The DEECD representatives are Nicole Case, Karl Stenning, Rob Strachan and Dan Davidson. We will also have two student representatives on Council from our Student Leadership Team. Next month Council will hold its AGM and confirm Council appointments and elect a Council President, Treasurer and members to other key positions.

On Sunday the 25th March, College Council will be holding a ‘working bee’ at the College. We are notifying parents well ahead of time to encourage as many participants as possible. In coming weeks we will be placing a list of tasks in the newsletter that we would like to tackle at the working bee so parents can determine how best to help us on the day.

Last week the College held interviews to select our Year 10 Beacon Leaders for 2012. Mrs Morrison from Echuca College and Ms Collins from the Echuca Moama Beacon Foundation interviewed 18 students who nominated for the six positions. I would like to congratulate Tessa Mellington, Greta Pearson, Isabella Reid, Kayla Arkinstall, Zosie Rosato and Jessie Hardess on being selected to be Beacon Leaders. I would also like to congratulate all the students who nominated.

The College will be holding a Year 7 welcome BBQ for all Year 7 students and their parents on Thursday the 1st March. The evening follows the orientation camp that was held at Harrietville last week. The evening will start at 6.30 pm at the College and it will provide an opportunity for students, parents and teachers to discuss the start to the new school year. Parents who have not yet visited the College will be able to have a tour of our facilities. We look forward to seeing all our students and parents at the Welcome BBQ.

As parents of our Year 9 students would know, our new laptop computers have started to be distributed to students. The College received another shipment of computers again this week and we are only waiting for a small number of computers to arrive before our order is complete. This will mean that all students at the College will have their own computer but computers will not be issued to students until the ‘Computer Agreement’ has been signed by parents and returned. Students in Years 9-12 will receive a computer for free as part of the National Secondary Schools Computer Fund from the Federal Government. Students in Years 7 and Year 8 must also return their signed ‘Computer Agreement’ before accessing a computer as part of their computer hire program at Years 7 and 8. Parents can make their payment for the computer hire program at the College through BPay and CentrePay.
Congratulations to Rachel Whelan who represented the College in the Lions Youth of the Year competition held this week. Rachel completed an interview with Lions Club members last Sunday and with other students from the district competed in the public speaking component of the competition on Tuesday evening. Rachel spoke about the impact of ‘social media’ on our society. Although Rachel didn’t win the competition her speech was very engaging and her overall presentation excellent.

Our mobile phone policy has been very successful over the last 12 month and I would thank all staff, students and parents for their continued support. For our new families’ information, the College introduced this policy last year to avoid unnecessary disruption to students study from phones being used in class. The policy is if the phone is heard see or used, it is confiscated by the teacher until the end of the day. Continued misuse will result in parent interviews and other disciplinary action. Our slogan is – ‘Heard, seen, used ....gone!’

I would like to make special mention of a camp our Year 9 and 10 students will be involved in on the 7th, 8th and 9th March with students from the Echuca Specialist School. We have 16 Year 9 and 10 students who will mentor 14 students from the Echuca Specialist School at a camp in Queenscliff. Mrs Carlie Jones organised the camp with representatives from the ‘One and All’ program and as part of the program students involved from both schools had a lunch together at Echuca College this week. The Specialist School students had a chance to meet their peer mentors and interact during a few games and a tour around the College. A big thank you to Mrs Jones for all the work in planning the camp and I would also like to congratulate our Year 9 and 10 students for their work with the Echuca Specialist school students.

Each year the College is asked about insurance in relation to student injury. Parents need to be aware that the Department Education and Early Childhood Development does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents and guardians are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. These costs may be recoverable where an injury is caused by the negligence (carelessness) of the Department, a school council or their employees or volunteers. Of course parents are free to investigate private insurance if they wish to do so.

Chris Eeles
College Principal

YEAR 7 WELCOME BBQ
All parents, guardians and families are invited to a BBQ in the year 7 neighbourhood on March 1st at 6.30pm. This is a great opportunity for parents and staff to introduce themselves and for parents to view the College’s facilities. We hope to see you there!

Year 7 Orientation Camp
February 15th to 17th was a joyous time for over 130 year 7 students. The camp is arranged this early in the students’ start to secondary school to ensure plenty of new relationships are formed which finalises the transition period. The camp was located at Harrietville and was jam-packed with new and exciting activities for the students. The activities included tubing in the creek, driving up Mount Buffalo, completing a challenging low ropes course, archery, tennis, mountain bike riding and fishing at the trout farm. All students had an exhilarating time as the buzz on the Friday afternoon was witnessed by parents and friends.

Pictured left to right - Lily Wallace, Tyler Thompson, Georgia McKellar, Jasmine Tindal, Rebecca Toll, and Yvonne Southern.
Senior Cricket

On February 14th the Echuca College Senior Boys Cricket team played St Joseph’s on the Echuca College Oval. On perfect Valentine’s Day conditions our boys were sent in to bat. Openers Michael Young and Jesse Hill got the scoreboard ticking over before they were both dismissed early in the game. Co Captains David Warner (Shaun Hon) and Peter Siddle (Luke Sanderson) were the team highlights both managing scores over 20 with Hon outscoring Sanderson by 2. The lower order managed a few boundaries and finished the 20 overs at 7/119. St Joseph’s were set a tough run chase and hearts were in mouths in the second last over when Daniel Hegarty was hit for two fours before capturing an all important wicket. At the end of the 20 overs they could only manage 8/107. Bowling highlights included 4 wickets from Jason Heywood and 3 wickets from Michael Young. Honourable mention also to Daniel Hegarty for his superb wicket. The team of S. Hon, L. Sanderson, M. Young, J. Hill, B. McGrath, J. Heywood, J. Twigg, D. Hegarty, A. Lewis, J. Deighton and T. Lethlean will travel to Cooma on the 21st of Feb for the next stage of the competition.

Man Of The Match: Jason Heywood

Malaysia Trip September 2012

The Echuca College LOTE department is very excited to offer a study and cultural trip to Malaysia. This trip will be a 12 day tour of Malaysia visiting places of historical and cultural importance. This trip is now open to any interested students from year 8-12 studying Indonesian. Senior students will be given first preference. The tour will take place in September this year.

You will have the opportunity to visit an elephant conservation centre where you can watch the elephants play, bathe and be fed. You may even be able to have an elephant ride! We will visit an orang utan sanctuary where we can observe the orang utans in their natural environment. These are only a few of the wonderful places we visit.

For an itinerary, including the deposit amount and price please see Miss Peters in the year 8 neighbourhood, or you can collect one from the general office if you are interested in this exciting opportunity. ONLY genuinely interested students please. Parents are also welcome to attend this trip for the same price.

Contact Miss Courtney Peters for more information.

Please note deposits MUST be paid to the general office NO LATER than the 21st of March to secure your place.

GOLD COAST TRIP — Year 9 & 10

This trip will go ahead in the last week of Term 3. Towards the end of last year students were required to pay a $400 deposit. Of the students who expressed an interest in the trip 44 students paid the deposit and have secured their place, subject to meeting academic and behaviour standards throughout the year. Some students paid part of the $400 deposit and have been placed on the emergency list should a student pull out or not be allowed to go. Students in years 9 & 10 who would also like to be on the emergency list can pay the $400 deposit by the end of Term 1. This will be refunded if students do not go on the trip.

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.
Immunisations

Immunisations will be held on Wednesday 14th March for students in Year 7 & 10. The completed Immunisation Consent Cards are required to be returned by Wednesday 29th February whether your child is having the immunisation or not. These are required for Department of Human Services’ records, but it will also save us from having to ring you to see if you require your child to have the immunisation. Most parents have returned their cards and I thank you all very much for this, if you haven’t already done so, please send it back ASAP. Thanks.

Year 7 Vaccinations are: Chicken Pox and Hepatitis B for both boys and girls, HPV (Human Papilloma Virus) for girls only. Year 10 Vaccinations are: Adult Boostrix (Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis) for both boys and girls. Year 12 students are offered the opportunity to have the Flu Vaccination. The cost is $23 per vaccination. Students must have payment to the school prior to that day. If you have any queries please feel free to speak to your students teacher or contact Gillian Holding — Immunisation Program Coordinator, Shire of Campaspe Ph. 1300 666 535

Main Points

- In 2012 this will be a web-based resource for download only.
- The new resource assists parents to be aware of the school-based immunisation program for Year 7 and Year 10 students, what they need to do, and how they can access free vaccine for their child if the vaccine is missed at school.
- It is important for adolescents to complete their childhood immunisation schedule with these vaccines for protection against vaccine-preventable diseases.

For information and fact sheets on vaccine-preventable diseases, vaccine types and side effects, see the Department of Health’s immunisation page: http://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation

For information about the routine schedule of vaccines provided free under the National Immunisation Program in Victoria, see: http://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/factsheets/schedule-victoria.htm. If Parents would like to discuss this further please contact Ms. Denise Leed – School Nurse or Mr. Paul Robinson – SWC on 54 821133

Sport News

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<tr>
<td>Monday March 5th</td>
<td>Campaspe Swimming - Rochester</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday March 15th</td>
<td>Northern Zone Swimming – Swan Hill</td>
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The Loddon Mallee Region Golf has changed dates from the 23rd March and is now being played on the 19th March. If you have a handicap and are interested in representing the college please see Mr. Sanders ASAP.

David Pearson

Rock Eisteddfod Leadership

Congratulations to the following students who were successful at becoming 2012 Rock Eisteddfod Leaders:

**LEADERS:**
- Millie Down
- Holly Kornmann
- Sarah Toll
- Bridgitte Griffiths

**ASSISTANT LEADERS:**
- Gabby Moar
- Emma Howarth
- Kiennan Jones
- Tori Candy

Echuca College 2012 Cambodia Experience

Echuca College is again offering the opportunity for VCE students to travel to Cambodia at the end of their VCE studies for 2012. The trip will provide an humanitarian experience with students volunteering in orphanages and schools.

Expressions of interest are required by the 1st of March.

Please contact Melissa Gould at the College if you require any further information.