As we complete term one, I would like to congratulate students, staff and the Echuca College community on a wonderful start to the year. During the term, we have seen our students achieve in a number of areas within the College, the local community and across the state. Students have taken up leadership roles at the College as College Captains, Community Leaders and in the Beacon Foundation. I would like to acknowledge the great work of our Year 11 students and Ms Brill for the success of our ‘Peer Support’ program (Year 11 mentors for Year 7 students). I would also like to make special mention in today’s newsletter of a camp our Year 9 students were involved in last week with students from the Echuca Specialist School. We had 17 Year 9 students who mentored 15 students from the Specialist School at a camp in Queenscliff. Our Level 6 Leading Teacher, Mrs Carlie Jones, organised the camp with staff from the Echuca Special Schools and the One and All Project. Feedback is always important and today I have included a letter from Jacqui Davies who attended the camp.

I would like to thank Echuca College for being such wonderful support to the One & All Inclusion Project and congratulate your school for the outstanding behaviour of the 17 students who joined with the Echuca Specialist School on the 2012 Murray Meander Queenscliff Camp.

Each of the students from Echuca College conducted themselves beautifully. I felt very blessed to have shared 3 days with all of these students, observing firsthand the value of inclusion. It was very moving to see the strength of the friendships created within such a short amount of time – not only between the students from either school but also within each of the school groups themselves through sharing a common interest – “Inclusion”.

The positive attitude that the students from Echuca College took with them to camp appears to have been something that has been filtered down from their mentors. I thank you for acknowledging and endorsing inclusion; without the support of schools such as yours, the One & All project would not have the opportunities that it does to promote inclusion. I was so very impressed with how open your students were to new challenges however I was even more impressed with how well they encouraged and supported one another to overcome challenges together.

You have an amazing mentor in Carlie Jones – she has a great rapport with the students and sets a brilliant example for your students to follow.

I look forward to sharing the One & All journey with more students from Echuca College in the future.

Jacqui Davies (One and All)

Last Friday I attended the Beacon Foundation Business Breakfast at Radcliffe’s. I was very proud of our six ambassadors Tessa Mellington, Greta Pearson, Isabella Reid, Kayla Arkinstall, Zosie Rosato
and Jessie Hardess. They represented the College in a very professional manner and with the leaders from the other two Colleges,’ helped to present the morning’s events. Unfortunately local coverage of the event didn’t clearly acknowledge the participation of our students in this important event and as Principal of the College I find this very disappointing. The founding members of the oldest Beacon Foundation on mainland Australia were the two previous state secondary schools in Echuca (Echuca Secondary College and Echuca High School-now Echuca College) and St Josephs’ College. While it may seem a minor issue that our students’ role and consequently the College’s role in this Beacon event is not clearly represented; there is a need to send a single united message about Beacon and its work in our community that is representative of all the Colleges. Coverage that does not ensure that this message is conveyed to the Echuca community is counterproductive to Echuca College and EM Beacon.

Echuca College will be holding its ‘Students Information and Discovery Evening’ for prospective students on the Tuesday 24th April at 6.30 pm at the College gym (just next to the VCE Neighbourhood). The evening will begin with a brief introductory session, followed by an opportunity for students and their parents to tour our College. The tour allows students and their parents to experience various components of the Year 7 program and to view our new facilities. An information brochure is being delivered to our partner primary schools for circulation as part of our school visits leading up to the evening. Later in the year, students in Grade 6 who have elected to come to Echuca College will be involved in a familiarisation program during term three with our main orientation day still to be held in December. If prospective students and their families need any additional information about our College, please don’t hesitate to phone the College or make an appointment with our Assistant Principals Mr Strachan, Mr Stenning or Mrs Gould. We will also be conducting additional information nights in April and May that are open to the public.

Last Monday we held our AGM meeting for school council and I am pleased to announce our executive for the year. Our school council President is Mr Damien Warren, Vice-President is Mr Ross Whelan, Treasurer is Mr Gavin Hore and Secretary is Mr Karl Stenning. I wish the executive all the best in their roles for 2012 in guidance and direction of our school council.

Last night the College distributed Interim reports and held our first Parent/Teacher interviews for 2012. If families were unable to attend the interviews and would like to speak to teachers about their student’s progress, please don’t hesitate to contact the College for an appointment.

I wish all families a safe and happy holidays and enjoy Easter at the end of the holidays.

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.

REPORTS
Parents can collect Student Reports from the General Office as of today. Any reports not collected will be sent home with the students on the last day of Term 1.

(Date change for Eisteddfod— now Thursday 9th August)

Rock Eisteddfod 2012 - Your Time Is Now
Easter Fundraiser
$1 per ticket for the Rocka Raffle (Available from the Office)

Drawn on Wednesday, March 28th

There are 5 scrumptious Easter packs to win
(just in time for the school holidays !)
Year 10 Beacon News

Beacon Leadership Interviews
Term 1 has been a very busy time for Beacon 2012. Early in the term nominations were called for students interested in Beacon leadership. An overwhelming response from students made it very difficult to choose the final six! Each student was interviewed by Mrs Morrison (Beacon Coordinator) and Rachel Collins (Echuca Moama Beacon Foundation Executive Officer). Mr Eeles interviewed the short listed candidates before a final decision was made. Congratulations to all candidates and we are pleased to announce the following students are this year’s Beacon leaders; Kayla Arkinstall, Jessie Hardess, Tessa Mellington, Greta Pearson, Isabella Reid and Zosie Rosato.

Beacon Leaders – Student Leadership Day
On Tuesday 28th February 2012 at CVGT Building, 216 Darling St. Echuca, the six Beacon leaders attended a Student Leadership Day. Facilitator for the event was Rachel Collins (EO EM Beacon). During the day students were treated to guest speaker – James Walshe, Fairley Leadership group & Fonterra group. James was very insightful about what qualities make a great leader and students were taken through a number of small activities to develop some of the skills Beacon Leaders necessary for the year ahead. The event was very well received by the students.

Beacon Business Breakfast – 16th March 2012
The first major event for Beacon 2012 was held last Friday. The Beacon Business breakfast is an annual event that is held to coincide St Patricks day. Over 100 people attended the morning with many businesses hearing for the first time the benefits of the Beacon program in Echuca Moama. Guest speakers from Kyabram spoke to the audience about the role of a business champion (a person who works with the school to support Beacon programs). Many of our Beacon leaders were asked to speak at the event and they did a fantastic job, well done to Greta Pearson, Zosie Rosato, Kayla Arkinstall. Jessie Hardess was a wonderful Leprechaun, very energetic and added to the St Patricks day theme.

Sandy Morrison – Beacon Coordinator

WELLBEING

BREAKFAST CLUB
Breakfast Club has been going for four weeks now with a very regular turnout on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. It’s a great opportunity for students to drop into the Café Learning Area for a cuppa and a chat with friends and staff. Anyone is welcome to Breakfast Club to participate in the social atmosphere. Breakfast Club starts at 8.15am. Just a reminder that breakfast is an important part of a good start to every day. It helps concentration and improves behaviour.

BEAT THE BITE
We love getting outdoors while the weather is warm. The problem is - so do the mosquitoes. They’re not just annoying; some mozzies can transmit serious diseases. There are simple things you can do to Beat the bite!

Protect yourself and your family from mosquito-borne disease:
- Wear light-coloured, loose-fitting clothing when outdoors.
- Use mosquito repellents containing DEET or picaridin on exposed skin.
- Try to limit outdoor activity if lots of mosquitoes are about (usually dusk and dawn).
- Make sure there is no stagnant water where mosquitoes can breed around your home.
- On holidays make sure your accommodation is properly fitted with mosquito netting or screens.
- Don’t forget the kids – it’s safer to spray or rub insect repellents on their clothes rather than directly onto their skin.
- More information is available on the Better Health Channel www.better health.vic.gov.au
- If you have any concerns about your health, see your doctor.
- Department of Health, Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Unit Tel. 1300 651 160
- Your local council

FUNDRAISER
There is a BBQ this Sunday 25th March to raise funds for the Oxfam 100km walk and Echuca College. Please come along and support this fundraiser.
SHOOTING NEWS

BARROOK FIELD AND GAME SHOOT 19TH MARCH 2012

What a beautiful day it was when the Echuca College Shooting team arrived in Barham on Monday morning. Eleven students attended the shoot, all of them eager to hit some clays. Even though the sun was shining, the wind played havoc all day seeing varied scores for all 93 shooters. Our shooters, as always, did not disappoint seeing Echuca College come away with five awards. Places were as follows:

Luke Hams secured 2nd place in the senior boys non-member after an exciting shoot off with three others. He remained calm and focused despite the crowd watching and cheering.

Whitney White and Emily McCluskey were in a shoot off against one another for 1st and 2nd place in the senior girls section and showed true team work and support throughout. After an intense shoot off, which saw the temperamental nature of the clay thrower in action, Whitney secured 1st place and Emily 2nd.

Caitlyn Carrington won outright 2nd in the junior girls.

Whitney and Emily also won 2nd place in the senior girls team event.

I would like to say a special thank you to Glenn Carrington and Geoff Hogan who took a squad each and passed on their expertise to the shooters under their care. Thank you to all parents who brought their students to the shoot, we really can’t do any of this without our you. Of course a HUGE congratulations to the shooters of Echuca College. What a mature group of young adults you are and what a privilege it is to accompany you to the school shoots.

Stay tuned for the Victorian junior shooters permit safety course in April followed by the Echuca down the line shoot in August.

Miss Courtney Peters

VICTORIAN JUNIOR SHOOTERS PERMIT SAFETY COURSE 2012

Echuca College is pleased to offer students the opportunity to sit the safety course needed to apply for their Victorian Junior Shooters Permit. The course will be held at Echuca College on Saturday the 28th of April 2012 (commencement and duration times to be confirmed) by a qualified instructor from the Firearms Registry. There is no cost to sit the course, however there will be a fee for the junior permit itself after the application is lodged and processed by the Firearms Registry.

All students wishing to undertake their firearms safety course are to see Miss Peters to register and to collect an information sheet with regards to what they need to bring on the day.

Any parents wishing to obtain their full Victorian shooters license are most welcome to attend the safety course too, as it is the same course for junior and adult permits, and are also asked to get in touch with Miss Peters to register.

Forms for junior and adult licences can be collected from Miss Peters or the Echuca Police Station.

If you have any questions please don’t hesitate to call Echuca College on (03) 5482 1133 and ask to speak to Courtney Peters.

ATTENTION - Calling all girls

To the Echuca College Debutante Ball to be held at the Rich River Golf Club - Tatilia Room.
Friday 10th & Saturday 11th August, 2012.

TRAINING COMMENCES Wednesday 30th May, 2012

** NO TRAINING DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAY PERIODS **

To register and receive an information package. Please text your name and address to:

Collette May 0428 303 075 or Robyn Hayes 0407 511 537

Proudly sponsored by:

RivADance studio
Seventeen Echuca College students were lucky enough to take part in the annual Murray Meander Camp Queenscliff earlier this month. The students had completed an interview process to become involved and acted as mentors to their Echuca Specialist School buddies.

We all stayed at The Lodge which is accommodation affiliated with YMCA Queenscliff. Here, we shared a room with our buddy and got straight into some fun stuff. We got to know each other playing team games on the beach, with Big Jack (Hawkett) and Little Jack (Lees) becoming near impossible to beat in the shoe toss! Meanwhile Dylan and his buddies, Alyssa and Tegan, were champions at the Cheer Squad Rock, Paper and Scissors. In the ‘Dig to China’ challenge, Jessie, Erik and Jake chose to bury Jessie – leaving her stuck in the sand as the tide came in!

Our first night saw us create team flags. Our flags represented each of our teams – Mrs Jones’ group proved that as an art teacher, Jonesy makes a terrific PE teacher! Our accommodation was covered in feathers, glitter and paint! On day two, we got to experience the Marine Discovery Centre. Bec, Maddie and Jaiden all handled crabs and starfish whilst we were all fascinated to learn that toothpaste is made from seaweed! Ewww!! Kyle and Ziek were good at spotting the savage blue ringed octopus, whilst Mikayla and Skye knew all the stats on Port Phillip Bay.

We then moved back to camp and played some team challenge games. Kayla and Hayden proved that they were fashion savvy in the garbage bag fashion parade, whilst Isaac and Nathan were hard to beat in the egg and spoon races. Jonesy was terrible at the elephant nose challenge – showing that perhaps she wasn’t such a coordinated PE teacher...Hayley and Rannon showed they were quiet achievers in the game.

Some free time for shopping, ice cream and milkshakes down the street proved to be a highlight. Everyone overdosed on sugar, whilst some of us deserved a sugar hit hey Kayla?! The teachers were last back to the bus after being ‘held up’ in the shoe shop...

We then spent the afternoon exploring ‘The Heads’ at Point Lonsdale – the most dangerous stretch of water in the world. No one went missing like old Harold Holt but Jordy and Corey loved taking pics of rocks and making sand angels! Katie and Teasha froze in the sea gales but loved exploring the rock pools and finding all sorts of random creatures!

Our final night at camp saw us with a concert. Alyssa and Isaac wowed us with their musical talents, whilst the teachers scared us for life with their performance of ABBA’s Dancing Queen...we finished off the evening with a candle ceremony where we all shared our favourite moments of camp – Mrs Jones was extremely proud of her leaders here (and even shed a tear!).

The final morning was hectic – trying to pack up in time to catch our boat! Whilst on the Moonraker Cruise, we saw a large pod of dolphins that chased the boat for ages and showed off terribly! Amazing animals! We also saw a huge group of fur seals that smelt absolutely horrible...we soon found out why – they are a colony of male seals...a smelly bachelor pad.

Exhausted but excited to make our way home – we began the long journey back to Echuca. Alas, all didn’t go smoothly with the bus breaking down in Heathcote...yuck! For 90 minutes we waited to be rescued and saved – but the bonus was we got to enjoy another milkshake together! Finally, we made it back to Echuca at 6pm – leaving bus driver Wayne REALLY late for his shift at the Police station! Oops!

The EC mentors would like to publicly thank the Murray Meander committee for financing the camp, the One & All Project – especially Jacqui Davies – for facilitating the camp, the Echuca Specialist School for being such willing and fun participants and the Echuca College community for their support. The mentors can’t recommend the camp more highly for anyone willing to be involved in 2013 – SO MUCH FUN!!

Meanwhile, Mrs Jones (and all the staff at EC) are so super dooper proud of the 17 leaders! An amazing job where they represented the College and themselves to the highest degree – simply awesome!!