Important Dates

MAY
18th
SSV Badminton
Soccer/Hockey
22nd
Yr 12 Physics
Excursion
23rd
Cross Country
25th
Yr 12 Legal Excursion
28th
Beacon Big Futures
Day
30th
Immunisations Yr 7
Girls

JUNE
4th & 5th
Yr 10 Exams
6th—8th
Yr 11 Exams
12th & 13th
VCE Exams
14th
GAT
Pupil Free Day for
Yr 7—10
26th
Vet Dance Excursion
29th
Full Day Rocka
Rehearsal

DATE CHANGES
Rock Eisteddfod now
Thursday 9th August
Athletics 7th August

Principal’s Report

‘Diversity Our Strength’

This week is ‘National Volunteer’s Week’ and Echuca College has received support from the Advance Program to assist our students with their voluntary work in the Echuca Community. A feature of our Year 9 Community Program is the voluntary work component and project. All Year 9 students select a community project where through their work and support the project can be assisted or improved. In recent years many of our students have been involved in the ‘One and All’ program with students from the Special Development School. This year work in that area continues with students helping with the development and planning of a Deb Ball for students from the Special Development School. Our students, Jake Chandler, Mitch Cust, Rani Cartwright and Gemma Toll, have started working with the Echuca/Moama Rotary Club and helping with ‘Meals on Wheels’. Yesterday they completed their first Meals on Wheels run. They all handled the task with maturity and enjoyed the interaction with members of the community who receive the support given by ‘Meals on Wheels’. One lady asked the boys in for tea and clearly the recipients of the meals love to see the young people helping out. More importantly, the students returned to school with a spring in their step and feeling a strong sense of achievement. The College will continue working with ‘Meals On Wheels’ until August.

Each year a number of students from across the country (2300 applications in 2012) apply for the Defence Forces Technical Scholarship and it is with great pleasure that I announce that Thomas McCluskey has won one of these awards this year. Tom will be presented with a certificate and a scholarship in the coming weeks.

Next week is Education Week and all schools will be placing advertisements in local newspapers outlining their programs and highlighting the great work that is going into teaching and learning across the state. Echuca College has produced an article the gives a very brief summary of our College. We would like the community to come and see our College and to talk to us about our programs, our values, our approaches to teaching and learning and our vision for our students. I am continually amazed by the number of people in the broader Echuca community who are unaware of the great facilities that our students have access to and also unaware of the range of programs and comprehensive curriculum offered at our College. Please don’t hesitate to contact the College to make an appointment for a tour and see what Echuca College will do for your child’s education.

As part of Education Week DEECD likes to acknowledge teachers who have completed 35 years of service with the department. It is my pleasure to congratulate Mr Terry Muller and Ms Yvonne Stansfield on achieving this milestone in their careers. Not only have these two teachers completed 35 years teaching but both teachers have made significant contributions to the development of our young people while in education. On behalf of Echuca College and our community I would once again congratulate them on their achievement.

The NAPLAN tests for Year 7 and Year 9 students were held this week. I would like to congratulate all the students involved in the testing program. Three days of testing is not easy and it was great to see the very positive approach our students took when completing the tests.

Would you like to receive the newsletter via email?
The results of these tests provide diagnostic information for parents and teachers about a child’s performance in literacy and numeracy. This information can be used to support teaching and learning programs to improve student achievement. The report issued as a result of the tests will describe a child’s particular skills in reading, writing, language conventions and numeracy. Parents will have their student’s reports forwarded to them in June, while the data the College receives from the NAPLAN tests will be used to plan for the future learning needs of our students.

As we get closer to June, a very important reminder that examinations for Unit Three VCE subjects start on the 12th June with Biology, Physics and Accounting followed by Psychology and Chemistry. These are the only subjects examined by the VCAA at half year. The examinations are Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority set examinations. On Thursday 14th June, all students studying a Unit 3&4 subject or 2nd Year of a Scored Vet Certificate this year will be required to sit the General Achievement Test (GAT). The GAT is a very important general examination for students and while it doesn’t directly impact on students’ results it can be used to compare ‘course work’ results or be used as a reference to an indicative score if a student is taken ill before or during an examination. If parents or students require any further information about the examination period or individual exams, please don’t hesitate to contact Mrs Gould, Mr Ayres or Ms Costin at the College.

In addition to the VCE examinations at half year our Year 10 and Year 11 students will start their examinations on the 4th June. These are school based examinations, that help to confirm student learning from the semesters’ work and also the examination papers are designed to reflect the requirements of VCAA examinations, thus providing students with important practice in examination techniques.

Chris Eeles
College Principal

**Beacon Charter Signing**

On Tuesday May the 1st, all Year 10 students from Echuca College and St. Josephs attended the Beacon Charter signing event at Moama Bowling Club. Also in attendance was Rachel Collins, the Executive Officer of Beacon in Echuca/Moama, representatives from all major sponsors, teachers and parents, other influential members of our community, and our very special guest speaker Dr Dean Freestone.

Dr Dean Freestone told us his unique journey to his current career. He attended Echuca High School but didn’t finish year 11 or 12. Instead Dean completed an apprenticeship and travelled overseas for a few years. After discovering that the high status people he was working with in law firm in Canada were no smarter than he was, or anyone else he knew, Dean decided to give university a go. He recently graduated from Melbourne University with a doctor of philosophy. This just shows that you don’t have to take a direct path to university, and there are other ways to get into the career you want. He tried his hardest at university and was rewarded for his efforts with a scholarship to spend a semester of study overseas. He also received a scholarship to study his PhD. Currently Dr Freestone is one of the leading researchers in predicting the seizures of people with epilepsy. After being inspired by Dr Dean Freestone, we signed our pledge.

> “I will commit myself to participation in the Echuca Moama Beacon Foundation Project and its programs. I also pledge myself to exploring my career options and applying myself to my studies with the aim of moving on to further education, training or employment when I finish my time at this school.”

Of the beacon leaders the speakers were, Zosie Rosato, Tessa Mellington, Jess Hardess, Bella Reid and Kayla Arkinstall. Greta Pearson spoke to the Riverine Herald about the event and we quote “Mr Freestones talk was inspiring. It was good to know despite not completing year 11 or 12 he had still gone far in his career”. By Tessa Mellington & Zosie Rosato

**Kwong Lee Dow - Program (University of Melbourne)**

In the school holidays we attended Melbourne University as part of the Kwong Lee Dow Scholarship program. We were introduced to many things. First, before we even arrived at the university, we got to learn more about city life. It was great to be able to explore the uni site and become familiar with the facilities available. To cater for all our differing expertise, a variety of lectures were held.

I (Sam) was lucky enough to get a spot in engineering. The lecturer was actually a first year engineering professor, giving us a real insight into both life as an engineer and engineering at university. Now when I say engineering, most people think cars or bridges, but we had our understanding of the subject expanded. From software, to molecules, to telecommunications, even the sky is not a limit, we can literally aim for the stars.

I (Millie) attended a health science lecture and found the lecture provided valuable information about how the courses are run and what is expected of students. It was inspiring to hear from an academic professor who had been teaching for over 25 years. He explained how the university has a high expectation of transitioning students but there are a number of pathways to gain entry into specific areas of study. But studying hard is the best way to get there. The Kwong Lee Dow scholarship has provided an opportunity for us to discover more about future education prospects. I would recommend any younger students to aspire to receiving this scholarship, as it really provides a great opportunity get an insight into the areas of study offered by the university.

By Millie Down and Sam Day (Yr 11)
Canteen

With many students to serve, the Canteen Manager needs the help of several people each day to provide lunches and snacks, we are in urgent need of volunteers to help out on a daily basis. We would also appreciate donations of pumpkins, or vegetables suitable for soups.
If you are able to help out please contact our Canteen Manager on 54821133. Thanks-you Jeanette

Camp Reminders

Central Australia Camp for Yr 9 and Yr 10 students for 2013.
If interested they are to collect information from the year level coordinators and deposit money ASAP to confirm their seat on the bus.
For further information please contact the school on 54821133.
Shipwreck coast tour for Yr 8 students for 2013.
Just a reminder that we are taking deposits now for this trip.
For further information please contact the school on 54821133.

VCE News

On Thursday 3rd of May, a group of Year 12 students headed to Melbourne for a 2 day camp. It began with a guided tour of the Swinburne University followed by a presentation from two former Echuca College students who are currently studying at the university. That night we went to Southbank for dinner before enjoying the spectacular views from the Eureka Sky Deck. Friday was dedicated to The Age Careers Expo, where we could access information from many universities, TAFEs, college and institutes that could provide help for successfully completing Year 12, as well as information assisting us with our future career paths. We also had access to a variety of free lectures, which we could attend, with many seeking the English lecture. It was a very beneficial camp providing us with a greater understanding of the different options that are available to us.
Caitlyn Hanson
All students would like to thank Mr Webb, Miss Menz and Miss Costin for organising this camp and especially Mrs Gould for taking the time to go to Melbourne with Mr Webb and the students.

Upcoming Exams
Students have been given the Exam Navigator this week. It is a valuable resource in explaining the rules and regulations for the upcoming mid year and end of year exams. Students have also be given their exam timetables for the mid year exams.

Sport News

Echuca College Students on Target
The Year 9 PE for Boys class attended the Echuca Gun Club to try their hand at clay target shooting. Not wanting to make it too easy for the students, the coaches gave them some straight away shots, but also a mixture of angled targets as well. Jake Chandler lead all shooters to earn himself a High Gun Certificate, and a handshake, for shooting an excellent 15/20 score. Tyler Small and Campbell Ennis both recorded a 14/20 score and that listed them in 2nd place, with Erik Holt-Crossman shooting a 13/20 to post 3rd place. There was also numerous good scores just below those in the placing’s, and that pleased the Club members immensely, as it was proof that the boys listened to their advice.
Murray Roberts – Echuca Gun Club.

Echuca College Cross-Country.
May 23rd during periods 1 and 2.
All Year 7, 8 and 9 students will run.
Year 10, 11 and 12 students will nominate. Normal classes will operate for Year 10, 11 and 12 students not running.
16, 17 and 21 year old boys will run 5km. All other students will run 3km.
The top 7 runners in each age group will be in the Interschool Team.

EDNA Midweek Netball
Still has vacancies for any player new, old with or without experience. Come along and enjoy a game of netball.
Free supervised crèche available. Enquiries Netball Office. 54801725.
Wellbeing

Immunisations
The Shire of Campaspe Nurse Immunisation team will be at the college to provide students with the following vaccination: HPV for female students in year 7 on Wednesday, 30 May. This is the second of 3 doses required. The third dose will be given in October.

If parents/carers would like further information contact the Shire of Campaspe Nurse Immunisation team, 1300 666 535/ 5481 2200 or Echuca College nurse, Denise Leed or SWC Paul Robinson, 5482 1133.

The walking club has been going for a couple of weeks now. Over 40 enthusiastic students accompanied by several equally enthusiastic staff have been enjoying this opportunity to “stretch the legs” and have a chat as they complete a 35 minute course around the local area. Walking club runs (I hope you like that!) 2 lunchtimes a week – Wednesday and Thursday – depending on the weather.

From the Well Being Team.

Earn & Learn
Woolworths/Safeway are conducting the promotion where schools can obtain valuable resources by collecting stickers. These stickers are available at all Safeway stores from this week and shoppers will receive one sticker for every $10 spent. Our school has registered for the promotion and we ask all community members to please save your stickers for us. Sticker sheets are available at school for anyone who would like one or just hand the stickers in at the main administration office. We greatly appreciate the support.

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**Relay For Life**

STRIKE EVENTS / PERFECT PARTY HIRE TEAM

Invite you to

HIGH TEA

Gather with friends in your 'Sunday Best & Pearls'

Sunday May 20th 2012 2-4pm

At Coriander, Northern Highway Echuca

Enjoy arrival drink, delicious afternoon tea, raffles & be entertained by Echuca College Musicians whilst supporting cancer research

$25

Tickets from Glenda’s Candle Scents, High St
Or Ph Helen 0417542541

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**Melbourne Rock Eisteddfod Tickets On Sale Now**

DON’T MISS OUT

$49 each-pay at general office

Ends June 27th

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