**Principal’s Report**

‘Diversity Our Strength’

Congratulations to the Beacon Foundation and our Careers and Pathways Team for yet another successful ‘Mock Interviews’ program last week at Echuca College. Mock interviews give our young people a chance to discuss their career options with members of the business community, while experiencing a job interview. There was an impressive range of interviewers and their feedback has been very positive, reflecting the importance placed on this program by students, teachers and local employers. Our Beacon Co-ordinator, Mrs Morrison, is now preparing for a more formal interview program for some of our Year 10 Beacon Leaders. They will participate in interviews conducted at local businesses and as a consequence will experience a more realistic set of requirements linked to their interviews. The core components of the Mock Interview program are: confidence, employer expectations, personal presentation, manners and etiquette and communication. Students in Year 10 will now have a template for writing a job application and preparing a resume that they will be able to use in the future.

It was great to see the continuation of the prestigious Murray River Culinary Challenge held last week at BRIT, which is proudly sponsored by the Moama Bowling Club. Five teams of two students battled it out at BRIT’s Echuca Campus kitchen to earn a place in the Grand Final in September. Teams from Echuca College (Whitney White and Kaitlyn Wills), Kyabram P-12 College, Rochester Secondary College, Rushworth P-12 College and St Joseph’s College had 2 1/2 hours to present two serves of three dishes from a challenging menu. The dishes presented were all of industry standard and those parents, teachers, industry representatives and community members who attended the final were most impressed with students’ culinary skills. The team from Rochester Secondary College was the winner of the Regional Final and will compete against students from Shepparton, Swan Hill, Wangaratta and Wodonga at the Grand Final on Tuesday 18th September 2012, at Bendigo TAFE, Echuca Campus. Congratulations to Whitney and Kaitlyn on an outstanding performance.

Early notification for parents that our mid semester Parent/Teaching interviews will be conducted on **Wednesday the 12th September from 4.30 pm to 7.00pm**. Interim Reports can be collected upon arrival from the Year 7 Neighbourhood. Parents can make appointment times for Parent/Teacher interviews via our website www.echucacollege.vic.edu.au and follow the link, the event code is 5EW7Q. Please refer to the information sheet regarding our online system in the newsletter.

During the holiday period our VCE teachers will be running classes for students studying Unit 4 VCE subjects. Most of the classes will be revision sessions for the students and most of the students attending will be Year 12 students. The holiday period is the last opportunity for our senior students to get ‘some all-important’ extra time to study before the demanding last term begins. Year 12 students only have 3 weeks of formal classes in term 4 and a week of revision and exam preparation before the Unit 3 & 4 VCE exams start on 1st November. I would encourage all senior students to take advantage of the support given to them by their teachers and to utilise this time because the last few weeks of school will disappear in no time.

Last Monday our Years 9 and 10 Girls Football Team travelled to Rochester to compete in the SSV Campaspe Girls Football competition against Rochester, Kyabram, St Josephs and St Augustine’s Colleges. Our girls had been training hard leading up to the competition with several skills sessions conducted on the bottom oval under the watchful eyes of the specialist coaches, the Year 10 boys. Our girls were victorious winning all four of their matches and brought home the shield. Well done to all involved and please refer to Mr Pearson’s report in the Newsletter.

As of next term, we will only be printing a limited number of newsletters for distribution to families that do not have internet access. Our community will be able to access our newsletter via our website or by providing the College with your email address so we can forward the newsletter to you on the day of publication.

This week Echuca College in partnership with Clubs NSW launched the ‘Bully Check’ program at the College. The program focuses on the issue of ‘Bullying’ and it reinforces to students that ‘Bullying’ is not acceptable in any environment or under any circumstances; at school or in the workplace. The launch was supported by entertainer Lorin Nicholson, who reinforced the message through his experiences as a disabled person growing up in Australia and how he overcame the negative effects of bullying. I would like to thank Clubs’ NSW for their program and support in launching this important initiative.

Chris Eeles
College Principal
**Interschool Basketball**

On the 22nd August the year 7 and 8 basketball teams competed against schools from the region in a basketball tournament. This year was the biggest yet with 6 schools competing on the day. All four teams from Echuca College were very competitive and had an enjoyable day. The results for the day were:

**Year 7 boys** had 2 wins out of 4 games. Played really strong all day winning the 1st 2 games and losing a very close fought out match to Rochester by only 3 points. Best on for the day: Jake Martin and James Brown.

**Year 7 girls** had 2 wins out of 4 games. They were strong competitors all day and all improved their game as the day went on. Best on for the day: Georgia McKellar and Lyndall Taylor.

**Year 8 boys** had 1 win out of 3 games. They were all in high spirits and eager to get on the court although they had a tough 1st match against St Josephs. They played strong as a team the rest of the day. Best on for the day: Calum Lindberg and Bryce Bish.

**Year 8 girls** had 1 win out of 4 games. This team did an awesome job combining together and always having a positive attitude and willingness to improve throughout the day winning their final game. Best on for the day: Courtney Johnson and Emily Day.

We would just like to thank Jaidyn Eagle for volunteering his time and coaching the year 7 boys for the day. He did a really great job and all the year 7 boys listened and looked up to him.

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**Girls Football**

In great football conditions the Year 9 & 10 girls contested the Campaspe competition in Rochester on Monday. The boys coaching panel of Jake, Bryce, Brenton, Zac, Sam and Zac had the girls fired up against the Rochester girls, with Jess Pitts damaging up forward and Jess Hardess splitting the packs. Tegan Milne dominated the wing all day and Alana Long was racking up the possessions on ball. Rowie Illsley was a livewire at half-forward. The girls went on to win all four games on the day to win the shield. Congratulations girls on a terrific performance.

**Results:**
EC 4.3.27 defeated Rochester 0.2.2
EC 3.7.25 defeated St. Josephs 0.0.0
EC 3.8.26 defeated Kyabram 1.0.6
EC 1.1.7 defeated St. Augustines 0.3.3

Best Players: Jess Pitts, Jess Hardess, Rowie Illsley, Alana Long, Tegan Milne, Greta Pearson, Kayla Arkinson, Grace Day and Sarah Ogden.
VET News

VCE VET Hospitality - Murray River Culinary Challenge
On Wednesday 22nd August, Whitney White and Kaitlyn Wills put their culinary skills to work representing Echuca College at the Regional Final of the Murray River Culinary Challenge. The event is run each year to showcase the culinary talents of VCE VET Hospitality Students from Secondary Colleges throughout the Murray River Region. This years Regional Final was held at BRIT and judged by Dean Oberin from Oscar W’s and Judy Gilson from Coriander Reception Centre.
While Kaitlyn and Whitney did not take out the Regional Final, their culinary skills were highly commended by the judges and they were great ambassadors for Echuca College. **Well done Whitney and Kaitlyn!**

2012 Echuca College Talent Show
Echuca College will hold its 2012 Talent Show at the Echuca Paramount on Thursday 18th October 2012 at 7.30pm. This performance allows Echuca College to showcase its talented students and perform to a live audience. An audition process has been held in recent weeks were all acts have performed in front of a panel of experts from within the College. We plan to have twenty acts that display the diversity of student talents within Echuca College. A highly entertaining program consisting of twenty acts, ranging form singers, instrumentalists, circus acts, dancers and rock bands. A staff / parent performance will also show their talents singing some well known songs. Prizes will be awarded to winning acts by a panel of talented judges, including top placing acts, most entertaining and encouragement awards on the night. Tickets will be available from the Echuca Paramount from 1st October 2012. Ticket prices are Adults $15 and Student concession $12.50. Enquires about the Talent Show can be made through the Echuca College General Office by contacting Tony Spizzica or Rob Strachan on 5482 1133.

Year 12

Dhurringile Prison Visit
It’s early one cool August Friday and the Year 12 Legal Studies students head for yet another jail experience. No, it’s not what you think, they have not been on a crime spree, as they say in Monopoly, “Just Visiting”! The session began with a few well chosen words from both the Dhurringile Officer and the Corrections Victoria Education Officer, both with the same message... “no matter how short your sentence, just a few days in here, even in minimum security, will ruin your life... Make the right choices...!” The group then spent the best part of an hour in discussions with ‘Simon’, who had been in and out of jail seven times since he was 15 for the whole range of crimes from petty theft through to major drug trafficking, assault and conspiracy. After all these experiences, ‘Simon’ was sure after this sentence he would not return, he did not want to attend another family funeral ‘cuffed’ to a prison officer or bury another family member whilst he was ‘doing time’. The insight gained into our prison system was invaluable and our Legal studies class has now nearly completed the criminal law process ‘first hand’ from visits to the Magistrates Court, County Court and Supreme Court, the MAP(Melbourne Assessment Prison), Loddon Medium Security Prison and now, the end of the judicial trail, minimum security Dhurringile where many prisoners do their last stretch of time before returning to society. Hopefully our students are both wiser and more perceptive and knowledgeable for the experience.

Wellbeing

Everybody Shake, Everybody Milk “Shake”
For strong healthy bones!!! Echuca College students enthusiastically participated in the National Healthy Bones Week celebration which was held in the Café Learning Area last Thursday during lunchtime. Yummy milkshakes were made by the Wellbeing Team with the capable assistance of Daniel Bell, Caleb Heggie, Donna Hore and Mrs Shirley.
Many thanks to Murray Goulburn Co-op Co Rochester, Echuca McDonalds Family Restaurant and Foodbank Victoria, for supplying milk, topping and containers and a special thank you to all students and staff who supported this fun, health promotion activity. $115 was raised and this will be donated to the State Schools Relief Program.
Deb Ball Dresses Wanted

The One & All: Special Needs Debutant Ball is happening on Friday October 12th 2012.

All borrowed dresses will be dry cleaned by the borrower prior to being returned to its owner.

If you would like further information about this, please contact Jacqui Davies from the One & All: Inclusion Project on 0431 160 381.

Echuca—Moama
Little Athletics Centre
Season 2012 /2013

Registration Day
Saturday, Sep 15th 2012
at McDonalds Echuca
9.00am—11.30am

"The Big Weekend" - A camp for Siblings of someone with an ASD

The Big Weekend is for 11-18 year olds with one or more siblings with an Autism Spectrum Disorder. It will be held at The Portsea Camp, just over an hour from Melbourne. The Big Weekend will be held from Friday 19th October through till Sunday 21st October. Click on the link to Amaze to find out more.


For more information about siblings of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder please see www.siblingsaustralia.org.au
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Dear Parents

Parent/Teacher/Student interviews will be held at **4.30pm to 7:00pm** on **Wednesday 12th of September**
You can now book interviews at times that suit **YOUR FAMILY BEST**.
Go to [www.echucacollege.vic.edu.au](http://www.echucacollege.vic.edu.au) and follow these simple instructions.

**BOOKINGS CLOSE** Wednesday the 12th of September at 9am

Go to [www.echucacollege.vic.edu.au](http://www.echucacollege.vic.edu.au) and follow the link
Enter THIS school event code.
Then follow the 3 simple steps.

If you have any questions or queries please contact Echuca College on 03 54821133 or visit the website [www.echucacollege.vic.edu.au](http://www.echucacollege.vic.edu.au)

When you click **finish**, your interview timetable will be emailed to you automatically - check your junk mail folder if you do not receive your email immediately.
You can return to [www.echucacollege.vic.edu.au](http://www.echucacollege.vic.edu.au) at any time, and change your interviews - until bookings close.