



Important Dates

October

22nd

VCE Drama Prac
Exam

23rd

State Aths

25th

YR12 Celebration
Day

26th

YR10 Polish Day

30th

LOTE VCE Prac
Exam

31st

Ag/Hort Excursion

November

1st

VCE Written Exam
begin

6th

Melbourne Cup

14th-16th

YR11 Exams

19th—20th

YR10 Exams

21st

Beacon Student
Ambassador EOY
Lunch
SSV Lawn Bowls

22nd

Graduation Dinner

23rd

Pupil Free Day

26th

Start of 2013
Academic Year

Principal's Report

I S S U E 1 7

'Diversity Our Strength'

Last Friday evening we saw something very special when students from Echuca College partnered students from the Echuca Special Development School at the School's Debutante Ball. Twenty-two students from Echuca College supported twenty students from the Special Development School during the nine weeks of practice leading up to the Debutante Ball. The event was held at the Paramount Theatre to a 'packed house'. Echuca College is extremely proud of all involved and the leadership and support shown by our young people was truly outstanding. I would like to thank Mrs Jones for her hard work and congratulate all the students involved from both schools.

Next week we have seven athletes travelling to Melbourne to complete in the State All School Finals. Boys Under 13 relay team of Oscar Reid, Max Ogilvie, Joseph Case, and Isaac Warren, Jayden Twigg 200 and 400 metres Siobhan Thompson in the Javelin, Shot Put and Discus events and Isaac Duffy in the Shot Put and Long Jump events. The College wishes all our competitors all the best.

As I mentioned last week, at the end of last term we had three student tours leave the College. Years 9 and 10 students went to Queensland's Gold Coast for an adventure tour, students studying Indonesian went to Malaysia and a group of students from various year levels visited Turkey and of course Gallipoli. All three tours were very successful and students involved had a good time and saw many new and interesting sights. Please read the accounts in today's newsletter from the students involved in these tours.

This week the College launched our summer hat policy. In last week's newsletter I provided our community with some shocking figures about skin cancer and the increasing statistics around this preventable health issue. Again I ask for parental support in encouraging our young people to 'cover up' and to wear their hats when in the yard at school.

Last night the College held its Talent Show at the Paramount Theatre with 22 performances and a special teacher/parent performance at the end of the night. The program was well supported with singers, bands, dancers and comedians. The talent quest is always well supported and I would like to thank the Paramount Theatre for their support and allowing us to hold the evening at their venue once again. This event doesn't just happen and I would also like to thank Mr Spizzica, Mr Jones, the Arts Domain, students and the teachers who helped to supervise and support students during rehearsals over the last month.

During the holidays Echuca College has added a fully equipped gymnasium to our amazing facilities. With the support of the Moama Sporties Club and Rich River Golf Club we have purchased 20 machines to add to our already comprehensive exercise equipment. The gymnasium will be used to support students identified through the Sports Specialisation Program to develop core strength and undertake personally designed programs to aid their development. Classes will also be able to access the gymnasium as they learn about anatomy and physical conditioning in specialist Physical Education classes. Senior Physical Education classes and VET Sports and Recreation will also be able to incorporate weight training sessions into their program designs. We would like to thank Moama Sporties Club and Rich River Golf Club for their great support in helping us to develop our Sports Specialist program.

Our Year 12 students are getting closer to the end of their secondary education and this week has seen students complete a series of practice exams before the 'main event' starts on the Thursday 1st November with the three hour English examination. Year 12s finish formal classes on Wednesday 24th October and as I mentioned to Year 12 students this week, the College community expects that last day celebrations will be conducted sensibly and in good taste, as has been the case in recent years.

On Thursday 25th October, Year 12 students will be invited to a breakfast with staff and College Councillors. At the completion of the breakfast students will be accompanied back to school to attend an assembly to wish them good luck with their examinations. After this date, students have a week to prepare for the start of the examination period. The College does not believe that celebrations should take place before the completion of examinations and therefore does not sanction any functions other than the College's Graduation Dinner held on Thursday 22nd November. The Graduation Dinner is a function where students attend with their family and are therefore under the supervision of their parents. As mentioned earlier, the majority of students start their exams on the 1st November but for some of our students the examination period started last week with Music exams hosted at Echuca College. Schools with students studying VCE or VET music, some as far away as Swan Hill College, completed their practical exams in our studio area. Next week our students studying VCE LOTE Indonesian will travel to Shepparton to complete their oral examinations and Drama students will go to Bendigo to do their performance. These practical, performance and oral examinations are very demanding on both student and teacher. The positive for our students, particularly our music students, is that we no longer have to travel to far off venues to undertake these examinations.

Chris Eeles
College Principal

Camps

Malaysia 2012

Rebecca Ashwell, Courtney Johnson, Maegan Johnson, Mikayla Radley, Jenny Free (aka Gran) and I travelled to Malaysia on the 14th of September for two weeks. For the students it was their first time in a foreign country, however from the mature and enthusiastic way they approached every experience you would not have known. We started our journey in a town called Kuching which is situated in Borneo. We enjoyed a couple of leisure days where we met our knowledgeable and charismatic guide Rose and explored the town, which was under British rule until the 1950s. A trip to Bako national park saw us trek 2.5 kilometres through dense rainforest to the Northern most point of Borneo. We were treated to the most incredible views, a pleasant swim at the beach and the rare sighting of the silver leaf monkey and the proboscis monkey, both of which are endemic to Borneo. We also encountered the wild pigs and naughty Macaque monkeys. An overnight stay with a local Iban family in their long house was the highlight, where students interacted with the Iban children, teaching them games and playing with them for hours. A visit to the Semenggoh orang utan centre certainly took our breath away as we observed these magnificent primates during their feeding time and were even treated to a mother and baby walking down the path.

Next we headed to Damai beach where we had a delightful river cruise, observing hundreds of fireflies and ate the most delicious seafood at a local restaurant. A Satong island visit saw us snorkelling in the beautiful reef and finding the Malaysian version of Marlin and Nemo! The fish varieties were incredible and the refreshing young coconut milk from the local coconut trees was welcomed. A trip to the cultural village saw us learn more about the indigenous cultures that exist in Borneo and gave the girls the opportunity to dress in traditional attire. We were so impressed by the place and eager to soak up every piece of knowledge that we were the first to arrive and the last to leave!

Our tour finished with a couple of days in Kuala Lumpur where the girls experienced the impressive 10 level shopping centre which included a theme park on the top level, complete with a rollercoaster. I was blown away by their energy after an early flight to KL that morning followed by a solid 6 hours of shopping in the evening which saw us leave the complex at 10pm! The following day we visited the elephant conservation and deer park. What an incredible day which saw the girls feed and ride the adult elephants, then bath in the river with the babies. Our trip wouldn't have been complete without a trip to a local chocolate factory where we were able to try durian chocolate...at least Gran and I did!

What an exhausted, but satisfied, content and sad to be leaving bunch we were when we boarded the plane to come home to Australia. I cannot speak more highly of the respectful, positive and exemplary behaviour and attitude I experienced with this group. From requesting additional Indonesian lessons, using their language every day, trying the most eclectic variety of foods, chatting to the local people and being involved 100% in every aspect of the trip. The laughter, fun and friendliness of this group was certainly something that made it all the more enjoyable. Thank you girls and thank you to Jenny, our nenek, who was certainly a highly respected and loved member of our group.



Gold Coast 2012

During the last week of Term 3, a group of Year 9 & 10 students plus four staff members went on the 2012 Gold Coast Camp. It was an eventful 20 hour drive up to Queensland. We visited "The Dish", enjoyed a lovely dinner at the Dubbo RSL and then endured a minor setback of being broken down for five hours. We finally arrived on Monday morning after driving all night and went straight to our first theme park, Wet and Wild. After spending the day there we headed to our accommodation at Runaway Bay Sports Super centre, which was equipped with a gym, swimming pool, volleyball courts and oval. We spent Tuesday at Movie World and then went exploring Surfers Paradise that night. On Wednesday morning we had a surfing lesson, followed by an afternoon at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary. We were able to enjoy the remainder of the day at Pacific Fair Shopping Centre. On Thursday, we spent our last day on the Gold Coast at Dream World before getting back on the bus and driving back to Echuca. It was a great trip and everyone had so much fun I would definitely go again and I recommend it for any students that have the opportunity in future years.



Beacon

Work with Wheels –Year 10 Beacon/Industry and Enterprise Event

Beacon Leaders – Greta Pearson, Bella Reid and Zosie Rosato with the 20 businesses who attended Work With Wheels. On Thursday, October 11th Echuca College held its first Work with Wheels (WWW) event. WWW is a joint initiative of Echuca College, Echuca Moama Beacon Foundation and Cohuna Campaspe Local Learning Network (CCLLEN). The event was set up to provide an exciting opportunity for Year 10 students, to experience the range of businesses in the local area that are mobile. Beacon Leaders (Greta Pearson, Zosie Rosato, Bella Reid, Kayla Arkinstall, Tessa Mellington, Jess Hardess and Jake Toll), Alison Dunstan (CCLLEN) and Rachel Collins (EM Beacon) began inviting mobile businesses of all shapes and sizes to bring their ute, van, truck, tractor, motorbike or trailer loaded with the equipment that is used on the daily basis. Students had the opportunity to walk around each mobile business and ask questions about the equipment /job and completing a WWW passport. The businesses that attended the day were offered coffee and muffins prepared by the VCAL Personal Development students. At the end of the session students attended an Apprenticeship Q&A panel. Past Echuca College students Mason Lord (Foodmach – Engineer), Sarah Hore (Earth Moama –Chef) and current student Jake Bullock (Hauselers – School Based Apprenticeship) were on the panel and were asked to discuss their workplaces, experiences as an apprentice and advice for people wanting to get into an apprenticeship. Thanks to Alison Dunstan for being the panel presenter. Thank you to all our presenters on the day. The businesses that attended and shared so much include; Toll Earthmoving, Botanic Mechanic, AFL Regional Manager – Trevor Mellington, Powercor, Echuca Locksmiths, Victoria Ambulance, Victoria Police, Phillips Building, Murphy's Landscaping, O'Neil's Panelbeating, Echuca Moama Search and Rescue, Hauselers Tractors, Shire of Campaspe Ranger and Road Crane, Luxton Plant, Dollar Curtains and Blinds.



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.

If no further interest is shown and numbers are not increased both camps will be cancelled.

Wellbeing

Walking Club

Walking Club has had its first participant, Karl Linahan reach the 100 kilometre milestone!!! Karl has attained this achievement through walking with the group on Wednesday and Thursday lunchtimes and receiving bonus points for bringing friends who haven't walked previously. Karl is photographed with the Walking Club when he received his pedometer.

Immunisations

The last of the immunisations for 2012 were held this week. Many thanks to the efficient Immunisation Team from the Campaspe Shire for making this as pain free as possible (Rebecca Kennedy puts on a smile when she has her jab!)



YMCA CLASSIC 2012

Skate & BMX

Sunday, 28th October

McKern Skate park, Canterbury Park

10.30am—3.00pm

Free BBQ & Music

Enquiries: Peter Krenz 5446 9222

ECHUCA PRIMARY SCHOOL FETE

Friday 16th November

3.30pm—7.00pm

WHIP INDUSTRIES will be performing the biggest tricks & stunts on minibikes.

FAMILY PICNIC DAY

RICHMOND PARK, McKindlay Road (15kms from Moama off Perricoota Road)

SUNDAY, 28TH OCTOBER, 2012

10AM—4.30PM

Admission: Adults \$5.00 Children Free

Caldwell Ladies Guild will host a trading table with delicious treats and handmade crafts available for purchase. You are welcome to donate homemade or home-grown goods to the table. Bring along a book to donate to the pre-loved book stall.

FOOD & BEVERAGES available for purchase:

Gourmet Pies & Salad / Homemade Cakes & Slices / Beer, Wine, Champagne & Soft Drinks

TO FIND US JUST FOLLOW THE PINK BRAS !

ALL PROCEEDS TO THE PINK RIBBON FOUNDATION

Organised by the Bunnaloo Breast Brunch Ladies