Principal’s Report

‘Diversity Our Strength’

Monday the 5th November is a compulsory school day for all students in Years 7-11 at Echuca College. Melbourne Cup Day is a holiday.

Over the last 12 months schools across Australia have been working on the introduction of the National Curriculum for 2013 as a result of State and Federal Government policy. The aim of a truly national curriculum is to promote a world-class curriculum and assessment structure which has a solid foundation in skills and knowledge on which further learning and adult life can be built. Next year, all states will introduce the new curriculum for English, Mathematics, Science and History, from Foundation (prep) to Year 10. Other subject areas are in a transitional process at the moment and the full implementation of the National Curriculum will be completed by 2015. At this, stage senior certificates within individual states, such as the VCE, VET and VCAL in Victoria, remain unchanged and don’t look like being changed for some time. The introduction of the new curriculum has impacted on booklists for Years 7-10 for 2013. Books for the VCE subjects only change where subjects have been re-accredited by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority. If parents/guardians have any questions about the new curriculum or our booklists for next year please contact the College.

Considerable effort has gone into ensuring that our End of Year activities for our Year 12s were safe and coordinated. Our Year 12s celebrated the completion of formal classes last week at a breakfast held at the Echuca Hotel, followed by a farewell assembly at the College gym. The assembly was great fun and the highlight was hearing the students’ journey as read by the College Captains. The Year 12 last day ‘dress ups’ have become a tradition now as part of their farewell ceremony and this provided some great entertainment for fellow students and parents as each Year 12 student entered the gym for their last 30 seconds of fame. The assembly provided our students with an opportunity to say farewell to the College, teachers and fellow students. It was great to see so many parents attend and this added to a positive atmosphere and the celebratory nature of the assembly.

Although formal classes are over for the Year 12 cohort, the hard work is not. VCE examinations started yesterday with the three hour English exam starting at 9 am. The College staff would like to wish our Year 12 students all the best with their exams and all the very best for the future. Just a reminder to Year 12 students and their families that the graduation Dinner will be held at the Moama Bowling Club Thursday 22nd November 6.30pm for dinner at 7pm. Tickets are $35 per person and are available at our front office. Any queries please contact Ms. Costin.

Although the examination period has started for our senior students, the rest of the College still has a considerable way to go before the end of the year. The calendar is full of important events and last week saw 25 of our Year 10 students participate in the Beacon Polish program. The program takes students through a series of activities based around personal grooming and good etiquette. The training is put into practice when students participate in a formal luncheon at the end of the program. The Beacon presenters were full of praise for our polite students who really stepped up and embraced the program. Students received a certificate at the end of the day and we will more formally hand these to students at an assembly in the next week or two. I would like to thank the Beacon Foundation and Mrs Morrison from Echuca College for organising this program for our students.

Early notice to parents and students about the start of our academic year, the examination period for Year 10 and 11 students towards the middle of this month and the end of year program. Our new Academic year will start on Monday the 26th November and for 2013 VCE students will finish on the Friday 7th December. Students in Years 8, 9 and 10 in 2013 will continue their program until the 17th December. Our Celebration Evening is on Tuesday 18th December and this is when reports will be issued for all students. Senior students usually collect reports at the Celebration Evening. The last day of school is Friday the 21st December.

Last week we had seven students travel to Melbourne to compete in the Finals of the All School Athletes Carnival. Isaac Duffy won a silver medal in Shot Put and came 4th in Long Jump in the F43 classification for disabled athletes. Siobhan Thompson won silver in Javelin and Bronze in Shot Put. Jayden Twigg came 5th in 200m and 8th in 400m and Oscar Reid, Max Ogilvie, Joseph Case and Isaac Warren won a Bronze medal in 4x100m relay. Congratulations to all our competitors and thank you to Mr Sanders and parents who accompanied the team to Melbourne.
The Australian Education Union and the Department of Education (DEECD) have been involved in negotiations over conditions and awards for Principals, Teachers and Educational Support staff for much of this year with no agreement reached to date. As a consequence the AEU has placed a number of ‘bans’ on various aspects of work completed by AEU members in schools. One ‘ban’ that I need to inform parents of is focused on the writing of reports for students at the end of the year. VELS progression points will be completed and VCE/VET and VCAL satisfactory and not satisfactory assessment will be completed. Teachers will still assess student work. Teachers will still be able to write references for students leaving school or seeking courses at university. If parents/guardians need further explanation as to the impact of the bans please don’t hesitate to contact the College.

Chris Eeles
College Principal

One & All Deb Ball
On Friday 12th October, nine weeks of hard work (and a lot of fun) came to fruition in the first ever One & All Project Special Needs Debutante Ball. On the evening, 22 couples were presented to a crowd of over 500 people at the Paramount Theatre, celebrating the ideal of ‘together we can do anything’. Twenty one Echuca College students were involved in the celebrations either as a partner or as a ninja-mentor to students from Echuca Specialist School or Murray Human Services clients. Lead up trainings were held in the Murray Human Services hall where there was lots of giggles, a few tears but some seriously awesome dancing! Jacqui Davies (One & All Project Coordinator) did an amazing job bringing the evening together – sourcing sponsorship, stylists, dresses and venues to name a few roles. Robyn Hayes was our expert choreographer/instructor whose vision created an elegant dance off. The couples completed three dances on the big stage before sneaking off to Radcliffe’s restaurant where the ‘after party’ fun kicked off. Everyone danced the night away to the awesome tunes provided by DJ Devoe.

The students involved would like to thank the One & All Project, Robyn, their partners, The Mill, Nu Manz, anyone who donated dresses, Radcliffe’s and all of the amazing hair and make up artists who donated their time for making the night simply spectacular.

Echuca College is extremely proud of their students who volunteered their time and efforts to this initiative. All students displayed considerable maturity, leadership, compassion and enthusiasm towards every aspect of the program – Mrs Jones is still ‘the proudest teacher on the planet’ to be involved with such wonderful students.

The Debutantes were: Emily Bennett (MHS) & David Turnbull (MHS); Shannon Bramley (MHS) & Ash Twigg (EC Year 8); Christian Lerus (MHS) & Indre Christy (EC Year 11); Zane Perri (ESS) & Jess Grundy (EC Year 9); Hayley Lincoln (ESS) & Jake Toll (EC Year 10); Terri Smith (MHS) & Tyler Lethlean (EC Year 11); Kellie McIntosh (ESS) & Josh Cheep (MHS); Sara Reeves (ESS) & Hayden Coyle (ESS); Skye Sipala (ESS) & Damian Hanson (EC Year 10); Penny Williams (ESS) & Brenton Case (EC Year 10); Jaiden Poole (ESS) & Jayden Twigg (EC Year 11); Dylan McGregor (ESS) & Tegan Milne (EC Year 8); Zeik Berriman-Murphy (ESS) & Chloe Irwin (RSC); Zac Irwin (ESS) & Kasey Grey (RSC); Brent Thomas (ESS) & Rebecca Cheep (EC Year 10); Jack Hawkett (ESS) & Emma Andrews (EC Year 11); Emma Breen (MHS) & Brent McGrath (EC Year 10); Katie Johnson (ESS) & Shane Bernaldo (ESS) & Nick Evans.

Our dancing mentors who were also our on stage/back stage ninjas were: Tyanah Case (Year 8), Courtney O’Mara, Rhiannon Rowley, Abbey Pell, Hannah Mills, Maddie Pettigrove (Year 9) and Ashlee Sellings (Year 10). Well done to all involved – it really was a breathtakingly, spectacular night! 2014’s Deb Ball will take a lot to top it!

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.

Cherry Blossom Café and Patisserie is looking for an apprentice chef and an apprentice pastry chef to start at the end of the year.
Please drop in resume or call Megan on 0418304289
**State Athletics**
On Tuesday 23rd of October we had 7 students compete in the State Athletics Finals held at Lakeside Stadium at Albert Park. Of the seven students competing we had six come home with medals after some great performances, including Isaac Duffy in one of the first events of the day finishing 2nd in the AWD 12-15 Boys shot put. Siobhan Thompson who is no stranger to the state finals had a fantastic throw in the 15 Boys javelin to take out second place and backed up in the shot put for a 3rd place to come away with two medals on the day which was a super effort. Jayden Twigg ran strongly in the 17 boys 200m event and finished 5th overall against some very strong opposition and a gallant 8th in the 400m. In one of the last events of the day we had the 12-13 boys relay team consisting of Joseph Case, Max Ogilvie, Isaac Warren and Oscar Reid, the boys ran brilliantly and set themselves a new personal best time and won the heat. This result was enough to get the boys a 3rd position overall and take home a bronze medal from their first senior state finals. Hopefully they can stick together and come back a few more times in the next few years. Well done to all of our athletes on representing the school and doing Echuca College proud.

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**Basketball Report**

**Inter Boys Cricket**
On Tuesday 16th October our Intermediate boys took on St. Joseph’s at the Echuca College oval. St. Joseph’s won the toss and sent our openers Jayden Dixon and Rhys Dawes into bat. The boys got us off to a good start seeing off the opening bowlers. Jayden was the first to go and our first drop Liam McDonald went the very next ball. Jake Toll was our best batsmen top scoring with 24 and went out to a great catch after an unorthodox shot over the keepers head. Regan More was another highlight as he hit his first delivery of the day straight over the bowlers head for six but unfortunately didn’t stick around, the total set was a modest 101. Some good bowling from Jack Thompson, Jake Toll and Daniel Gretchik was not enough to stop the runs ticking over for St. Joseph’s and after Brenton Case was hit for four 6’s in a row the game was over. Well done to our boys who battled hard and never gave up and played with great sportsmanship. Better luck next year.

**Casual Dress and Crazy Hair Day**
Casual Dress and Crazy Hair Day was held to celebrate Mental Health Week. This was also an opportunity to raise funds for the State Schools Relief Program with a grand sum of $566.50 collected and to be forwarded to this worthy cause. Staff and students had great fun letting their hair down for the day with some going to some extra effort to look sensational! Many thanks to everyone that participated.

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**Sports**

**Year 7 and 8 Cricket Report**
On Monday October 15th the Year 7 and 8 cricket teams played in a Super 8s round robin in Kyabram. The Year 7 boys started the day extremely well, beating Rochester by plenty of runs. Unfortunately they lost their next two games to some strong competition and ended up playing St Augustine’s in a play off for 5th spot. The boys got their act together and played their best game for the day smashing boundaries all around the ground and winning the game to take 5th spot.

The Year 8 boys played extremely well all day with some excellent pressure from their opposition. Starting the day on fire the boys continued their form all through the day to end up in the play off for first spot against Rochester. The boys took the form they had played with all day into the game and ended up with a fantastic win to make it through to the following stage which is going to be a 20/20 match. Great work boys!

*Year 7 MVP: Clayton Thompson*  
*Year 8 MVP: Jack McAuliffe*
Wellbeing

The Sun Smart Walking Club

Walking Club is now promoting the importance of being Sun Smart in Term 4 with walkers putting on their hats to walk during lunchtimes on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Walkers who have reached 100kms are Kurt Linahan, Mr Armstrong and School Nurse Denise Leed. Tellekah McDonald and Josh Phyland are hot on their heels with tallies in the 90s with Harriet Nilon not far behind. New walkers are most welcome to come and join the walk. Walking Club meets at the start of lunchtime at the Technology Office.

A Free Safe Partying Information Evening
for parents of teens

Sonya Karras works with our local schools delivering her safe partying, drugs and alcohol seminars to students. Now parents and the wider community can attend one of Sonya’s presentations. Sonya will give you ways to communicate with your children about a range of issues around safe partying.

This eye opening parent seminar will have you laughing and learning and leave you feeling like you have an inside view into the partying lives of teenagers.

Sonya talks about:
- Alcohol
- Drugs
- The Law
- After Parties
- Schoolies
- Hosting parties at home
- Drink spiking
- Talking to your teens about drugs
- Teenage Secret Language and more

Date: Monday November 12th
Time: 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm
Venue: Student lounge, Bendigo TAFE Echuca Campus
(Corner Hare and Darling Streets Echuca)

This event is proudly supported by Echuca Police

For further information or to register your attendance contact Bev Werner at the CCLLEN on 5482 6055 or bewerner@ccllen.com.au

Echuca Musical Theatre Company Presents

Peter Pan

Book, Music and Lyrics By Pierre Chaton-Rabinon
Adapted from the play by J.M. Barrie

By arrangement with Origin Theatre on behalf of Samuel French, Ltd.

Saturday 3rd November at 1:30 pm & 7:00 pm
Sunday 4th November at 1:30 pm
Saturday 10th November at 1:30 pm

Tickets are available from
Paramount Performing Arts Theatre from 1st October
ADULT: $20 CONCESSION: $18 CHILDREN: $15