Last week the College held interviews to select our Year 10 Beacon Leaders for 2013. Mrs Morrison from Echuca College and Ms Collins from the Echuca Moama Beacon Foundation interviewed 17 students who nominated for the six positions. I would like to congratulate; Jessica Grundy, Amy Wright, Marley Jones, Daniel Gretgrix, Teasha McInnes, Mardie-Lee Hutchins and Georgia Harris. I would also like to congratulate all the students who nominated.

Four weeks into the school year and I’m happy to report that students across all year levels have settled into the College’s program and their studies. Our Year 7 students are making a successful transition from primary to secondary school and their participation in the Camp this week has already had a significant impact on the Year 7 students and their transition into College life. At the other end of the student spectrum, our Year 12 students will receive their first Progress Report this week. The Year 12 Progress Report was first introduced as an additional source of information to both students and parents/guardians. The report aims to inform students and parents as early as possible about student’s performance, attitude and work ethic. It is important that the student and their parents/guardians read this report together and discuss the information provided about their performance. If appointments with specific subject teachers are required as a result of the information contained in the report then please contact Ms Menz, or Mrs Kervin.

Year 12 students participated in their ‘Flying Start’ program yesterday at the College. The topics covered during the day were; ‘Time Master’ – how to be balanced and productive in the VCE, SAC and exam preparation and ‘Generation Y’ parenting and the 5 ingredients for VCE success. The last session was a great session for first time parents of VCE students. This session was informative and entertaining it provided practical strategies and guidelines for parents and Generation Y students as they step into their VCE. Our guest speaker and leader in a number of the sessions was Ms Hannah MacDougall, dual Paralympian. Hannah was a previous World Record Holder, has captained the Australian Swimming Team at both a World Championships and Paralympic Games, completed a double degree in Sport Science and Sport Management with Honours and is undertaking her PhD. The day also involved some ‘fun’ activities lunch and a BBQ tea. I would like to thank Mrs Kervin, Mrs Jones, Ms Menz and Mrs Gould for their organization of the day and all the teachers who contributed to the various activities.

Our mobile phone policy has been very successful over the last 12 month and I would thank all staff, students and parents for their continued support. For our new families’ information, the College introduced this policy to avoid unnecessary disruption to students study from phones being used in class. The policy outlines the processes to follow if, the phone is heard, seen or used, it is confiscated by the teacher until the end of the day. Continued misuse will result in parent interviews and other disciplinary action. Our slogan is – ‘Heard, seen, used ...gone!’

I would like to make mention of a camp our Year 9 and 10 students will be involved in on the 20th, 21st and 22nd March with students from the Echuca Specialist School. We have 16 Year 9 and 10 students who will mentor 14 students from the Echuca Specialist School at a camp in Queenscliff. Mrs Carlie Jones organised the camp with representatives from the ‘One and All’ program and as part of the program students involved from both schools had a lunch together at Echuca College this week. The Specialist School students had a chance to meet their peer mentors and interact during a few games and a tour around the College. A big thank you to Mrs Jones for all the work in planning the camp and I would also like to congratulate our Year 9 and 10 students for their work with the Echuca Specialist school students.

Each year the College is asked about insurance in relation to student injury. Parents need to be aware that the Department Education and Early Childhood Development does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents and guardians are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. These costs may be recoverable where an injury is caused by the negligence (carelessness) of the Department, a school council or their employees or volunteers. Of course parents are free to investigate private insurance if they wish to do so. If needed, the College has information available at the General Office regarding private school health insurance.
Beacon Ambassador Chosen
On Monday 11th February, Rachel Collins (Echuca Moama Beacon EO) and Sandy Morrison (Beacon Coordinator) interviewed a large number of Year 10’s who had put in applications for the Beacon Ambassador 2013 positions. Interviews went for approximately 10 minutes and the quality of applicants was extremely high. The task to narrow the field to 7 Beacon Ambassadors was very difficult. We would like to congratulate all the candidates for putting their hands up and attending the interview. We are pleased to announce our Beacon Ambassadors for 2013 will be; Jessica Grundy, Amy Wright, Marley Jones, Daniel Gretgrix, Teasha McInnes, Mardie-Lee Hutchins and Georgia Harris. Congratulations to you all and we look forward to a wonderful year of your leadership.

Beacon Ambassador Student Leader Induction
Now that the student leaders have been announced, they will be put straight to work with an induction morning. Beacon Ambassadors will attend a 4 hour intensive induction program held at CVGT on Monday, 25th February 9-1pm. Not only will they meet other Beacon Ambassadors from St Joes and Moama Grammar, but they will also be mentored by past Beacon Leader, Greta Pearson.

Work with Wheels
Our Work with Wheels event will be held early this year. Please mark the event in your calendar: Term 2, Week 2 Tuesday April 23rd. More details about the event will follow soon.

One and All Camp Queensland
This week the Echuca College buddies were able to meet their camp buddies from the Echuca Specialist School. We all had a great time eating lunch together and playing lots of Minute to Win it type games. We were really excited to see our friends from the Murray Meander/Horizon committee pop in and say hi too! Without their hard work fundraising, our camp wouldn’t be able to continue. This weekend we look forward to meeting at the East Boat Ramp to wave our Murray Meander friends off as they begin their annual fundraising adventures along the Murray - we hope they have lots of fun and travel safe!!

During this week students in years 7-10 will be On Demand tested in both English and Mathematics. These tests are important as it gives a very good guide as to what level our students are functioning and allows us to design work at their level. Students will be rewarded for displaying personal best through the schools new rewards system. Encouragement from home would also be appreciated. For more information about On Demand testing, or to check results please contact your students English or Mathematics teacher.

Echuca College Chaplaincy Program
Echuca College is fortunate to have a school chaplain as a part of our wellbeing team. The Chaplain at our school is funded through the Australian Governments National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program and has been supported by the Echuca Chaplaincy Committee for over 25 years.

Chaplaincy is a unique service that is of great value to our students, staff and parents, offering care, building the social skills of students, and encouraging responsible behaviour amongst our young people. Our Chaplain works as part of our Wellbeing Team along with our Student Welfare Coordinator and school Nurse. Together they offer individual support and they participate in a broad range of school coordinated activities such as school excursions, camps, sporting events and assemblies.

Each year our College Council seeks feedback from our College community in order to enable us to review and confirm support for the Chaplaincy Program. We also maintain a risk management plan which is reviewed annually and College procedures are followed for parents and students to seek referral and to manage complaints in regards to the program.

Sport
Girls Football
The Echuca Junior Football Club are entering a Girls Youth Football team in the Shepparton Junior Football League. Girls 13 to 18 years of age are able to play. Training will be on a Wednesday night and games on a Sunday during the year. A come and try day is to be held at Vic. Park, Echuca on Tuesday February 26th. For more information see the advertisements in the Riv. Herald or see Mr Pearson in the Gym Office, as he is the Coach.
Swimming Sports 2013
Kanyapella led by House Captains Kiennan Jones and Jaimi Elgar and Mr Cheal and Miss King-Jones have regained the House Swimming Shield, after Wharparilla upstaged them last year. High participation along with five of the 12 Age Group Champions meant that Kanyapella were going to be hard to beat. Six individual records and a relay record were broken with Oscar Reid having a big day. The Interschool team will compete in Echuca in early March.

Age Group Champions 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>School</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U13 BOYS</td>
<td></td>
<td>Thomas Mason</td>
<td>K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U14 BOYS</td>
<td></td>
<td>Luke Judd</td>
<td>W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U15 BOYS</td>
<td></td>
<td>Oscar Reid</td>
<td>W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U16 BOYS</td>
<td></td>
<td>Corey McGrath</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U17 BOYS</td>
<td></td>
<td>Luke Polomka</td>
<td>K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U21 BOYS</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jack McNamara</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U13 GIRLS</td>
<td></td>
<td>Annie Sampson</td>
<td>K</td>
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<tr>
<td>U14 GIRLS</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lyndall Taylor</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U15 GIRLS</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bethany Young</td>
<td>P</td>
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<tr>
<td>U16 GIRLS</td>
<td></td>
<td>Isabella Reid</td>
<td>W</td>
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<tr>
<td>U17 GIRLS</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tessa Mellington</td>
<td>K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U21 GIRLS</td>
<td></td>
<td>Greta Pearson</td>
<td>K</td>
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</tbody>
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Records 2013
Male 14 years 50m butterfly – Luke Judd  W  33.01
Male 15 years 50m freestyle – Oscar Reid  W  27.40
Male 15 years 50m butterfly – Oscar Reid  W  32.20
Male 15 years 50m breaststroke – Oscar Reid  W  39.23
Female 17 years 50m backstroke – Tessa Mellington  K  37.80
Male 20 years 50m freestyle – Jack McNamara  P  27.50
Male 15 years 4x50m freestyle - Wharparilla Oscar Reid, Keegan Hutchins, Aron Pavone & Zac Keele. 2.24.31

Cricket
The Senior Boys will play against St Josephs College on Friday at the College. Mr Bessell has the boys ready to post a big score after they win the toss and bat.

Summer Sport
Tennis and Volleyball players will start training shortly for the SSV competition later in the term.
Wellbeing

Immunisations
A reminder that Immunisations will be held on Wednesday 13th March for students in Year 7, 9 (boys only) & 10. The completed Immunisation Consent Card is required to be returned whether your child is having the immunisation or not. This is a requirement of the Department of Human Services; it will also save us from having to ring you to see if you require your child to have the immunisation. Most parents have returned their cards and thank you all very much for this, if you haven't already done so, please send it back ASAP.

BACK TO SCHOOL ASTHMA CHECKLIST FOR PARENTS & CARERS
With term one commencing, it has been a busy time to getting your children ready for their return to school. While their asthma is just one of the many things to get ready, this checklist will hopefully make the process easier.
Throughout the year there are significant increases, or ‘spikes’, in asthma presentations to hospitals and emergency departments. Approximately 1 in 10 children and adolescents in Australia have asthma, and for children and adolescents with asthma these ‘spikes’ usually occur towards the end of holiday periods as they return to school. A significant ‘spike’ in asthma presentations and admissions to hospital, of children and adolescents experiencing severe asthma exacerbations, occurs throughout the first few weeks of February. For this reason, below is a quick checklist for parents and carers to go through to prepare their child for the school year.

Is your child ready for new school year?
- My child has had an annual asthma management review with their doctor and has had their Asthma Action Plan reviewed.
- My child has up to date ambulance membership.
- My child knows how to recognise early symptoms of asthma and knows when to seek help from staff if they experience asthma symptoms.
- My child understands the importance of taking reliever medication when necessary and knows how to use their puffer and spacer, either independently or with assistance.
- An updated Asthma Action Plan has been provided to my child’s school. Even if their Asthma Action Plan has not changed from last year it is important that a letter is provided to the school informing staff of this. It is vital that staff know what to do for your child in an asthma emergency.
- A reliever puffer and spacer has been provided to the school for my child. With the change in infection control guidelines, spacers can no longer be shared between children and it is vital that each child has their own equipment.
- I have read and understood the school asthma policy.

For more information, resources or assistance completing this checklist please contact The Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 ASTHMA (278 462) or visit www.asthma.org.au or contact the College Nurse Denise Leed.

Student Exchange – Memories and Skills for a Lifetime!
Give your child the opportunity to gain international experiences and language skills to kick-start a future career. Along with distinct language benefits, exchange students mature, gain confidence and develop a much more worldly approach upon their return to Australia. World Education Program Australia (WEP), a not-for-profit student exchange organisation registered with the education departments, is now accepting applications for students to live overseas in 2013/14 as exchange students for a summer, semester or year. WEP is offering two $3000 scholarships towards semester-long student exchange programs to Argentina and China commencing in 2014.
Find out more! Visit www.wep.org.au Attend one of WEP’s information evenings and open days Call 1300 884733

Upcoming Information Sessions
Melbourne
12 February 2013 / 7:30-9pm
Northcote Town Hall
189 High Street
Northcote

19 February 2013 / 7:30-9pm
Kingston Arts Centre
979 Nepean H’way
Moorabbin

13 March 2013 / 7:30-9pm
Kew Court House
188 High Street
Kew