Important Dates

March
11th
Labour Day Holiday
Pupil Free Day

13th
Yr. 7
Immunisations

14th
Yr. 9 Boys
Immunisation
Catch Up

15th
Yr. 10
Immunisations

18th
LMR Swimming

20th—22nd
One & All Camp

25th
SSV Volleyball & Tennis

26th
BUP Day for Volleyball

27th
State Swimming

28th
Last Day of Term 1

29th
Good Friday

Principal’s Report

‘Diversity Our Strength’

Nominations closed for College Council last week and I’m happy to announce that we have a good mix of new and returning Councillors for the new term. Our parent representatives are Robyn Hayes, Maree Loader, Mark Robertson, Simon Mason and Gavin Hore. Parent members into the second year of their term are College Council President Damien Warren, Jenni Candy and Lynda Reid. The DEECD representatives are Nicole Case, Rob Strachan and Courtney Peters. We will also have two student representatives on Council from our Student Representative Council. This month Council will hold its AGM at 7.00 pm on March 18th and confirm Council appointments and elect a Council President, Treasurer and members to Council committees.

Our successful ‘Peer Support’ program for Year 7 students has been running this term. The focus of the program is to support Year 7 students during the first few months of the year and also to provide a senior student as a friend to talk to if the need arises. Our Year 11 students completed training as ‘Peer Support’ leaders last year and while their main function is to support their younger peers, the training is valuable to them as leaders in the College. The leaders and their group meet once a week during the term and in this time complete activities that provide an opportunity for conversations about school, classes and how the transition from primary to secondary school is going. Students will meet at different times each week to avoid missing the same class and at the end of the term all Year 7s and their leaders will meet for a final celebration. The goal of the program is to help Year 7 students to feel comfortable in their new environment and to also make their secondary experience a great experience.

Congratulations to Teasha McInnes who represented the College in the Lions Youth of the Year competition held last week. Teasha completed an interview with Lions Club members and with other students from the district competed in the public speaking component of the competition at Rich River Golf Club. Teasha spoke on the topic of ‘Gay Marriage’. Although Teasha didn’t win the competition her speech was very engaging and her overall presentation excellent.

The College will be holding its Student Leadership Induction Ceremony on Tuesday 26th March at the College in our Piazza area at 9.00am. The induction ceremony provides an opportunity to formally acknowledge the College’s student leaders for 2013 and to also introduce them to the College community. While the ceremony will not exceed an hour, the role our young leaders play is year long. The College invites our community to attend this important occasion to see College Captains, House Captains, SRC representatives and Leadership School students inducted for 2013.

Early notification to parents and students about our mid semester Parent/Teacher interviews on Wednesday 27th March from 4.00 to 6.30 pm and on Thursday 28th from 8.30 am to 1.00pm. Interviews for all year levels will be conducted and Interim Reports will be emailed to families on the Monday and Tuesday before the interviews. Staff will be available in the Year 7 Neighbourhood on both days to generate reports for families who are unable to receive the reports via email. If your email address has changed, would you please contact the College with an updated address. Students are expected to attend the interview with parents and students in Years 7-11 will not have classes on the Thursday. I would ask parents to keep an eye on the College website for information about our interview booking process.

All year 12 classes will run on the Thursday from period 1-4. Year 11 students’ timetable for an accelerated Unit 3/4 subject on Thursday must attend that class. I would also encourage parents to attend our Parent/Teacher interviews because of the important information that can be gained through discussions about your child’s progress with their teachers. We appreciate that our Parent/Teacher interviews don’t always provide an opportunity for ‘in depth’ discussions but appointments can be made for further meetings if there is a need. Over the next fortnight students will be asked by their teachers to make appointments on behalf of their parents for the evening. Could parents please check that these arrangements are being made by their student. We look forward to seeing you at our Parent/Teacher interviews.
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.

This week our students competed in the ‘School Sports Victoria’ swimming sports at Echuca against the districts secondary schools both government and non-government. Echuca College won the day with some outstanding individual and team performances. As a consequence a team of 18 swimmers will head for Swan Hill next Thursday to compete in the Loddon Mallee Regional competition. The College had five aged group champions, 10 swimmers made individual events at the next level, five relay teams and we had six records broken by individuals and one relay team record.

Chris Eeles
College Principal

Yr 7 Camp

Year 7 students travelled to the Campaspe Downs Resort for our camp this year. The camp is an important component of our transition program and enables students to build relationships with staff and other students. We enjoyed lunch at Hanging Rock, students climbed the rock and enjoyed the view whilst taking notes on the environment and the impact of humans. The camp included a number of team building activities and many new friendships were made as a result. Students participated in raft building, canoeing, initiative activities, a ropes course, yabbying, archery and were able to experience the giant flying fox. Many talented students participated in the Echuca College Idol night with lots of great performances that ranged from singing and dancing to a very funny comedy act. Students also enjoyed the disco on the following night, a highlight was the making of many new dance moves.

"I made so many cool friends and had a fantastic time. I also made some new dance moves. The atmosphere of the camp was thrilling. Nothing could have prepared me for the unexpected colour and noise. But you have to not just enjoy your time there, but to thrive on the experience. Even though we were leaving the camp all of the great memories would come with us." Sam Mason

"I liked the initiatives course because you had to use your mind, body and strength. We had to build our own rafts from pallets and drums. We sank our raft and had to fish it out of the lake and get it back to the bank." Austen McMahon

"My legs ache I can hear my breath rushing in and out of my lungs. The eerie silence of it all scares me, the hot wind whistles through the trees and rocks. I quicken my pace, my heart rate jumps higher. I hear a scream, immediately I think of the girls forever lost in Hanging Rock. Before I knew it we are at the top, the view is indescribable." Annie Sampson

Central Australia Camp

Just a reminder to parents of students going on the Central Australia Camp the $200 payment is due for March.
Echuca College Mobile App This app is designed to allow parents access to all of the latest information about events and daily life at Echuca College. It will be updated daily, so you can be assured that the information contained is the most up to date available.

- Are you unsure about the venue and starting time for Presentation Night? The calendar in the app will tell you.
- Are you unsure whether sport has been cancelled due to weather? The notices section of the app will tell you.

Feedback & Support

We welcome your feedback and suggestions, as we envisage that the information available on the app will grow over time.

Please contact Echuca College by phone on 03 5482 1133 or email at app@echucacollege.vic.edu.au for troubleshooting or help.

Dear Parents and Students

RE: WORKING BEE AT THE COLLEGE: SATURDAY 24th MARCH, 2013 FROM 9.00AM

The College is seeking one morning of assistance from families to support our initiative to improve the school environment. We have much to do to tidy up in the yard, with pathways and garden beds a priority. Hopefully there will be sufficient helpers to stain or paint student seating.

We also wish to paint the Year 7 and 8 support posts.

At the Working Bee families can volunteer to paint, weed, prune or spread mulch. If possible, please bring personal gardening tools such as shovels, forks, rakes, secateurs, wheelbarrows and leaf blowers. None of the work will be difficult and no heavy lifting will be required.

It is hoped that families will be able to volunteer their time, even if only for an hour or two. We welcome students coming with their parents and hope to see all student leaders there.

Whilst this Working Bee will provide obvious benefits for the College and directly improve the environment for students. It will also provide an informal opportunity for families to get to know other families. A delicious BBQ lunch will be provided from noon onwards for our valued volunteers. We look forward to seeing you there. To assist with the catering for the BBQ, please return the attached slip by Friday 22nd March 2013. Alternatively you can call the General Office on 0354821133 or send an email to echuca.co@edumail.vic.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Chris Eeles
Principal

Melissa Gould
Assistant Principal

Rob Strachan
Assistant Principal

ECHUCA COLLEGE – WORKING BEE REPLY SLIP

The ..................................................... family is able to assist with the Working Bee on Saturday 22nd March, 2013.

Name (s): ........................................................................................................................................
.........................................................................................................................................................
.........................................................................................................................................................
.........................................................................................................................................................

I (we) are able to bring the following gardening tools: .................................................................
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Echuca College won the Interschool swimming carnival for the first time in six years this week. A great team performance got us over the line from Rochester and St Josephs. The following students have qualified for the Loddon Mallee event in Swan Hill next Thursday.

Tom Mason – 50m breaststroke, freestyle and backstroke.
Lyndall Taylor – 50m breaststroke.
Oscar Reid – 50m breaststroke, butterfly, freestyle, backstroke and 200m individual medley.
Corey McGrath – 50m breaststroke and backstroke.
Tessa Mellington – 50m breaststroke, butterfly, freestyle, backstroke and 100m backstroke.
Isabella Reid – 100m butterfly, 50m butterfly, freestyle and backstroke.
Greta Pearson – 50m freestyle.
Jack McNamara – 50m freestyle.
Isaac Duffy – 50m freestyle, breaststroke and backstroke.

Boys 16 Medley Relay – Charles Lowe, Jack Southern, Corey McGrath and Oscar Reid.
Girls 20 Medley Relay and Freestyle Relay – Indre Christy, Greta Pearson, Isabella Reid and Tessa Mellington.
Boys 13 Freestyle Relay – Trent Campbell, Asher Jones, Jamie Wilson and Tom Mason.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
<th>PLACE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECHUCA</td>
<td>492</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>ROCHESTER</td>
<td>461.5</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>ST JOSEPH’S</td>
<td>458</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>ST AUGUSTINE’S</td>
<td>206</td>
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<td>ST MARY’S</td>
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<tr>
<td>KYABRAM</td>
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<td>NATHALIA</td>
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AGE GROUP CHAMPIONS 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE GROUP</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13 Boys</td>
<td>Tom Mason</td>
<td>EC</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 Boys</td>
<td>Oscar Reid</td>
<td>EC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Girls</td>
<td>Isabella Reid</td>
<td>EC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Boys</td>
<td>Corey McGrath</td>
<td>EC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Girls</td>
<td>Tessa Mellington</td>
<td>EC</td>
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SSV CAMPASPE SWIMMING RECORDS 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M20 50m Freestyle</td>
<td>Jack McNamara</td>
<td>EC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M20 50m Breaststroke SWD</td>
<td>Isaac Duffy</td>
<td>EC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M20 50m Backstroke SWD</td>
<td>Isaac Duffy</td>
<td>EC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M15 4x50m Freestyle Relay</td>
<td>Oscar Reid, Kyle Scott, Keegan Hutchins &amp; Luke Judd</td>
<td>EC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F17 50m Freestyle</td>
<td>Tessa Mellington</td>
<td>EC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F17 50m Backstroke</td>
<td>Tessa Mellington</td>
<td>EC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F20 100m Butterfly</td>
<td>Isabella Reid</td>
<td>EC</td>
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</table>

David Pearson, (Sport Co-ordinator) & Cam Prowse-Wilkins, (Sport Trainee). Email: pearson.david.g@edumail.vic.gov.au
Cricket Report
On a fine Friday morning the Echuca College senior cricket team played host to St Joseph’s in their annual match. A special request from the St Joe’s team saw EC bat first. It did not start well with EC quickly falling to 3/14. A revival from Jake Toll, who belted a quick fire 79 and Brent McGrath (32) took the total above 100 before a late innings knock from Jayden Twigg, with a solid 60, which got the total to a respectable and defendable 232. The EC bowlers took some heat from the early St Joe’s batting but fought back well to regain control of the match. Some tight fielding ensured the pressure remained on the St Joe’s batters and they could not cope – with a stumping and run out creating chaos. In the end the St Joe’s team were all out for just over 200. It was a great win to the team and the first time they had beaten St Joe’s in a long time. Man of the match went to Jake Toll for his brilliant batting display.

Year 12 News
It has been a busy time for year 12 over the past few weeks! The swimming sports were a huge success, with a big turn out from the Year 12 cohort. Congratulations to all the participants, in particular the successful Kanyapella team, led by their captains Jaimi Elgar and Kiennan Jones.

On the 21st of February the students were involved in ‘Flying Start’, a program designed to assist students with the year ahead. The program began with information sessions run by Echuca College Staff, followed by an ‘Amazing Race’ around the college. A wonderful lunch provided by the canteen preceded 2 VCE help sessions run by motivational speaker, paralympian and double degree holder, Hannah MacDougall. Hannah focused on her achievements and struggles in life to assist students with issues of time management, goal setting and SAC and exam preparation. Following the sessions students were involved in some fun games before their parents arrived for dinner and another session with Hannah focussing on Generation Y parenting. The day was a huge success with students enjoying time together during some fun activities, but also learning a lot about how to maximise their time at Echuca College this year and in the future.

Students studying a unit 3 subject will have received their progress report recently. It is important to take on board the feedback given in these reports and see teachers if there are any concerns.

On Thursday 7th March students attended a performance of ‘Cosi’, one of the texts being studied this year in English. It assisted students in their comprehension of the text and led to many informative classroom discussions before the SAC next week.

With only a few weeks until the first break it is important for students to stay focused and up to date with all their work, but also remember to find time to relax and enjoy the experience.

Music
Instrumental Violin Enrolments
Last month, accomplished Violinist, Penny Somerville treated students to a presentation. Penny has performed with many renowned Australian artists and has toured extensively throughout the country. Students enjoyed listening to the different styles of music that Penny demonstrated, ranging form Country and Bluegrass to Classical and Irish. After the presentation, interested students met with Penny where they had an introductory lesson in violin and viola. Quite a number of students took an Instrumental Enrolment form home with them. Could interested students/parents return the signed forms to the front office as soon as possible? Tony Spizzica Music Teacher.

Term 1 Sport Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>SPORT</th>
<th>VENUE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WK. 7</td>
<td>LMR Swimming</td>
<td>Swan Hill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur. Mar. 14th</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>WK 9</td>
<td>SSV Volleyball &amp; Tennis</td>
<td>Echuca (Inter.&amp; Sen.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. Mar. 25th</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kyabram (Junior)</td>
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<tr>
<td>WK 9</td>
<td>State Swimming</td>
<td>Melbourne</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. Mar. 27th</td>
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Have you ever thought how good it would be to be able to:
Learn what it’s like to live in another country?
Learn a new language and experience a different culture.
If you are in years 9, 10 or 11 now
Rotary Youth Exchange can offer this and more.
Contact; Vanda Mullen, ph 0408 109 368
www.rotaryyouthexchangeaustralia.com.au
**Beacon**

**What’s happening in Beacon?**

**Beacon Ambassadors Student Induction Morning**

A four hour intensive induction program was held for our new Beacon Ambassadors on Monday, 25th February, at CVGT. Students had a chance to meet with other Beacon Ambassadors from local schools. Greta Pearson, a leader from last year’s cohort, spoke to the students about the benefits of leadership and what she gained from being an Ambassador. It was great to hear Greta’s inspiring story and have her participate as a mentor. The students came away feeling more empowered and ready to begin work on their first Beacon event for 2013.

**Beacon Business Breakfast**

Beacon Ambassadors, staff and business leaders from Echuca Moama, will be attending the Beacon Business Breakfast next week. The breakfast is being held on Thursday, 14th March at Radcliffe’s Restaurant. Kayla Arkinstall will be a key note speaker. Kayla was a Beacon Ambassador last year and will discuss her time as a leader.

**Work with Wheels, Tuesday 23rd April 9.30-12pm**

Beacon Ambassadors met last week with Rachel Collins (EMBeacon EO) and Alison Dunstan (CCLLEN) to begin planning for this year ‘Work with Wheels’ event. Today, the group will begin contacting businesses to participate on the day. If you own a mobile business and have a Ute, truck, trailer or van full of equipment that you could showcase to our Year 10 cohort, we would love to hear from you. Last year we had 17 businesses attend ranging from police, agricultural services, VET, panel beaters and Shire workers. If you can spend a few hours at Echuca College with your transport and discuss with our students you career, please contact me. Sandy Morrison – Beacon Coordinator

**Pathways**

On Friday the 1st of March Year 11 and 12 students studying Physics travelled to Avalon for the Airshow. The day started at 6 am when we boarded the bus for Avalon. On arrival at 9.30am students collected their tickets and moved to a large auditorium to hear a range of presentations from people who work in Aviation. The presentations included Pilots, Flight Attendants, Aircraft Technicians, Aeronautical Engineers and the Air Force. Students then had time to have a look at the large range of aircraft on display from all over the world. At 2.30pm a number of different aircraft took to the sky and the students were treated to an amazing aerobatics display by two visiting pilots from America. We departed at 4.00pm for the long trip home. All the student’s thoroughly enjoyed the day.

**Wellbeing**

**Premiers Active Families Challenge**

The Premiers Active Families Challenge commences on March 4th. Be More Active, More often. 30 minutes of physical activity for 30 days This is part of the Victorian Governments commitment to promote healthy & active lifestyles. All participants will receive 20 free YMCA passes, 15% off at rebel sports, free kids pass to Melbourne aquarium, national sports museum & MCG tour, 1 hour tennis court hire at Melbourne Park or Albert Reserve, weekly active & healthy eating tips plus more! There is also a chance to win some fantastic prizes Register at www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/ challenge

**Appropriate footwear for school**

Children spend around 30 hours per week in their school shoes (that’s 15,000 hours per year!) therefore it is really important that they are fitted properly. Each child has individual feet that require appropriate cushioning and support. Some tips to consider when buying school shoes:

- Spend a little more on quality shoes. It will save you money in the long run, avoid hand me downs. Wearing shoes with another child’s foot mould may cause problems. It is best to buy shoes in the afternoon as children’s feet may swell during the day. Have both feet measured as they can often differ in size. Children should be able to move their toes freely.

**Immunisations for Yr. 7, 9(boys only) & 10**

All immunisation cards must be completed and returned whether your child is having the immunisations or not. This is a requirement of the Department of Human Services. There are still some outstanding cards; could you please return these as soon as possible please?

**Does your child stutter?**

The Department of Human Communication Sciences at La Trobe University provides a world-renowned best-practice treatment for people who stutter. This treatment will be offered for the first time this year in Bendigo. It will be a collaboration between the La Trobe Rural Health School, the Catholic Education office and the Department of Education.

The Intensive Fluency program will be for adolescents (aged 10 years and older) from Bendigo and surrounding regions. This initiative has had significant success for over 20 years in Melbourne and now we are delighted to offer the opportunity to students in the Bendigo area to benefit from the treatment. The program is provided by final year speech pathology students and experienced clinical supervisors. The program will be conducted in July and we are currently inviting expressions of interest for young adolescent stutterers to be involved in this exciting initiative. Parents of interested students are invited to consider this opportunity. If you have any questions or would like your child to be involved in the program, please forward expressions of interest to Madeline Leyden, Speech Pathologist, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Ph.: 5438 1254. Further information from the College contact Mr. Paul Robinson, SWC, S4 821133.
Kyabram Junior Football Group would like to invite any interested players to participate in an U18 Women’s Competition to commence this year. Training will commence Wednesday March 6th at Kyabram Recreation Reserve at 4.30pm. A Registration session will also be conducted at the same time.

All enquiries to Mick Power (coach) on 0407 859077, or Greg Ross (President) on 0409 035 647.

ECHUCA & DISTRICT NETBALL ASSOCIATION INC

SATURDAY NETBALL REGISTRATIONS

Registrations for Saturday competitions Net Set Go, Primary & Senior can be downloaded at edna.org.au. Primary commences 10.30am/ Senior 1.30pm. Closing date April 2nd. All enquiries telephone Netball Office 54801725.

Betty McCoomb President

KYABRAM JUNIOR FOOTBALL GROUP

Kyabram Junior Football Group would like to invite any interested players to participate in an U18 Women’s Competition to commence this year. Training will commence Wednesday March 6th at Kyabram Recreation Reserve at 4.30pm.

A Registration session will also be conducted at the same time.

All enquiries to Mick Power (coach) on 0407 859077, or Greg Ross (President) on 0409 035 647
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