The College is today contacting all our families by mail about our new ‘Parent Dashboard’. This initiative will enable parents to log into and have immediate access to student information. The information available to you will include your student’s timetable, attendance in classes, reports, learning tasks and due dates and unexplained absence. This development, along with our website, SMS capacity and new ‘App’ will see the need for future hard copy communication reduced, if not totally eliminated. Please contact the College if you don’t receive a letter or if you need support in accessing our “dashboard.

Last Monday our senior debating team of Tegan Milne, Jess Hardess and Kayla Arkinstall competed against students from Kyabram P-12 for the Apex Club’s, ‘Cootes Family Perpetual Trophy’. Our team had to defend the affirmative position that ‘Performance for teacher would enhance student outcomes’. I’m proud to say our team was successful in defending the affirmative position. I would like to thank our support researchers and Mr Duffy for his help with our team.

The NAPLAN tests for Year 7 and Year 9 students were held this week. I would like to congratulate all the students involved in the testing program. Three days of testing is not easy and it was great to see the very positive approach our students took when completing the tests. The results of these tests provide diagnostic information for parents and teachers about a child’s performance in literacy and numeracy. This information can be used to support teaching and learning programs to improve student achievement. The report issued as a result of the tests will describe a child’s particular skills in reading, writing, language conventions and numeracy. Parents will have their student’s reports forwarded to them in August, while the data the College receives from the NAPLAN tests will be used to plan for the future learning needs of our students.

As we get closer to June, I need to give a very important reminder that our second semester starts with a new timetable for all Year Levels on the 17th June. On Wednesday 12th June, all students studying a Unit 3 and 4 subject or 2nd Year of a Scored VETis Certificate this year will be required to sit the General Achievement Test (GAT). The GAT is a very important general examination for students and while it doesn’t directly impact on students’ results it can be used to compare ‘course work’ results or be used as a reference to an indicative score if a student is taken ill before or during an examination. If parents or students require any further information about the GAT please don’t hesitate to contact Mrs Gould or Mrs Kervin at the College.

Next week is Education Week and all government schools will be placing advertisements in local newspapers outlining their programs and highlighting the great work that is going into teaching and learning across the state. Echuca College would like the community to come and see our College and to talk to us about our programs, our values, our approaches to teaching and learning and our vision for our students. I am continually amazed by the number of people in the broader Echuca community who are unaware of the great facilities that our students have access to and also unaware of the range of programs and comprehensive curriculum offered at our College. Enrolments for Year 7 2014 are now open but will close on the 17th June so please don’t hesitate to contact the College to make an appointment for a tour and to see what Echuca College will do for your child’s education. Appointments with the principal can be made by accessing the College’s website.

The cold weather has seen a few variations of the College uniform appear in recent weeks. For example, track suit pants and ‘ugg’ boots (the winter’s version of thongs) are not part of the College’s uniform. Items of clothing that make up our uniform have been very clearly defined in our uniform policy since the establishment of Echuca College.
Sport

**Why the ‘Sink or Swim Meet a Lifeguard’ program?**

Life Saving Victoria’s (LSV) Sink or Swim program comes in direct response to the need for education. The 1 hour interactive session aims to enhance the student’s knowledge and understanding of aquatic environments, in particular inland waterways, such as rivers, lakes, dams and creeks, and to reinforce key water safety messages.

**Sink or Swim Meet a Lifeguard**

Year 7, 8 and Outdoor Education students of Year 9 and 10 were lucky enough to meet a Surf Lifeguard, Trudy, from the Portsea back beach last week as a part of Lifesaving Victoria’s ‘Sink or Swim Meet a Lifeguard’ program. The program was set up in response to the issue of drowning incidents in 5-14 year olds and the need for inland waterway safety education. The students enjoyed a 1 hour interactive session that involved students acting out water safety scenarios and listening to Trudy’s real life lifesaving experiences.

**Badminton**

The Echuca College Intermediate and Senior teams played with good sportsmanship and determination to be narrowly defeated in their final matches at the Campaspe Competition on Thursday the 2nd of May. The Senior boys team; Regan Moore (MVP), Damien Hanson, Ryan Rudeforth and Sam Cummins, started off impressively with a very energetic and business like win over Rochester. They easily won the next two games but narrowly went down to a stronger Kyabram in the final match. The Intermediate girls; Jess Grundy (MVP), Allison Shorland, Chloe Carr, Abbey Dobson and Sarah Kaddissi, fought back in the first match to defeat St Augustine’s. Despite their patience and determination, they were narrowly defeated against Nathalia and the eventual winners Rochester. The Senior girls; Jaimi Elgar(MVP), Maddy Steel, Ashleigh Vasic, Bella Reid and Georgia Nilon, were keen to enjoy the day with excellent team work, sportsmanship and energetic playing. The Intermediate boys: Dylan Robinson (MVP), Lachlan Thompson, Leighton Flight and Isaac Duffy, were unable to get a win in, however their persistence and good humour did not make it easy for their opponents.

**Marvellous in Moama – Intermediate and Senior Soccer**

Our Intermediate Boys and Senior Girls Teams completed successful campaigns in Moama on the 2nd June. Both were tested but played determined and, at times, very attractive football. The Boys opened with a tight 1 – 0 win over St. Josephs, went on to record the same result against St. Marys in another close tussle and, finally recorded a more than comfortable whitewash of St. Augs 6 – 0. Some of the lads who had not kicked the round ball for a while took a little time to find their ‘dribbling skills’ but they soon returned and the passing game was admirable.
Captain Luke Popovic led very capably from the front and bagged a few goals whilst always proving a headache for opposition defences. The ‘back 4’ along with Keeper Charles Lowe were tremendous all day as the scoreline suggests with NO goals conceded and our midfield duo of Lachie Arkinstall and Campbell Ennis worked tirelessly to provide opportunities for the forwards. MVP for the day – Jason Hanson. The girls were impressive in both wins, particularly as they had to prise open a defensive formation of 9 players at the back against St. Marys which took time and patience. They did this and went onto to win a game they dominated 2 – 0 but will need to strategize their way through other such challenges if they are to proceed to ‘the big dance’ later in the year. The girls then broke the shackles and thrashed St. Josephs 9 – 1 with a kindly gifted goal to the opposition, evidence of their sportsmanship. Co-Captain(along with Rowie Illsley), Kayla Arkinstall, when moved briefly to attack kicked 4 goals in 5 minutes so we substituted her ...? MVP for the day – Jess’ Pitts

Senior Boys Soccer
In the first game against St Mary’s the boys dominated possession with Hayden Wentworth having a number of shots on goal. Alex Pearson and Scott Kane were dominating the defensive end as well. Despite this St Mary’s won the game after taking two of their few chances to score. In game two Jed Polomka and goal-keeper Jake Toll worked tirelessly against St Josephs who were on target and scored a three goal win. In the last game against St Augustine’s the boys were down by a goal early in the second half, but rallied after brilliant goals by Kiennan Jones and Jake Toll to take the victory. Well done boys.

Community Cross-Country
The results from today’s Cross-Country and the Interschool event to be held next Tuesday at the “Scenic Drive” will be in the next Newsletter.

Winter Sport
Training and selection of the Netball, Football, Soccer and Badminton teams for the upcoming SSV Campaspe District Winter Sports is underway at present.

Legal Studies
Off to Court!
Friday 10th May and it’s only 5.40! What is Chealy doing? This is what echoed from the Year 12 Legal Studies class and Mr. Pearson as we all headed off for our ‘day in court’ – County Court in Melbourne that is... The busmobile duly arrived in town and we were soon frisked (much to the annoyance of some and enjoyment of others) before being introduced by our Tipstaff to a presentation from a County Court Judge – what a privilege! Then into our assigned Case :: Driver vs. Veridian Ltd. where the plaintiff was suing for many hundreds of thousands of dollars due to a severe back injury supposedly sustained at work. We observed keenly the ‘expert’ witness being ‘grilled’ (cross examined) by the defence ‘silk’ (barrister) on issues ranging from the plaintiff’s back through to his sleeping habits when fishing and camping on, of all places, Gunbower Creek!? Quite enthralling stuff and no need for TV drama, this case had all the theatre needed to entertain! Mr. Pearson thought the whole ‘back injury thing’ was a little dodgy! Hard to tell what the jury of 6 thought?

Following some ‘power Anime shopping’ from Tim and Brody we all headed for the Melbourne Justice Museum for our Mock Court Case of ‘I’ve killed my best mate!’ – a culpable driving plea hearing where the students played all the roles from Judge through barristers, witnesses, police, offender, even the public gallery had some lines from the script. The students were superb in their roles with Judge Brigitte Griffiths, Tipstaff Kayla Hore, and Barristers Nicole Calleja and Millie Down magnificent in their substantial parts.

At the conclusion of the case and some animated and thoughtful discussion we took part in the ‘Watchouse Experience’ where we again simulated being admitted to the ‘City Watchhouse’ for various summary offences, even placed in the cells for a time following a thorough search! Fascinating ‘stuff’!

The huge day concluded at 7.00pm when, despite the pessimism of the passengers, Mr. Piz drove us safely home, totally exhausted, but far wiser for the experience! A full day where we were totally immersed into our legal system!
**Toy Drive**

On behalf of the following Echuca College students that attended the School for Student Leadership in Marlo, Shannon Elgar, Georgia Harris, Mardie-Lee Hutchins, Marley Jones, Corey McGrath and myself, Dan Ottrey, I would like to thank the parents, students and teachers from the following schools in the Echuca and Marlo communities.

Echuca West Primary School, Echuca East Primary School, Echuca South Primary School, Echuca Specialist School, Echuca Scout Group, The School for Student Leadership in Marlo

These schools and organisations generously donated toys and money for our Toy Drive that we held just in time for Christmas. Thanks to their generosity we were able to bring a happy Christmas to over 50 families in our community.

Thank You once again.

Daniel Ottrey
Echuca College

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**IMMUNISATIONS FOR STUDENTS IN YEAR 7**

The 2013 School Based Immunisation Program will be offered at your school by the Shire of Campaspe Nurse Immunisation Team on:

**Date:** 29 May 2013

Administering the following vaccines:

Second Dose HPV for Year 7 students
Second Dose HPV for Year 9 Boys

1. Please ensure your student eats breakfast on Immunisation Day
2. Vaccinations are given in the upper arm – Please ensure students wear suitable clothing
3. A record / reaction sheet will be given to each student on completion of vaccination.
Please ask your students for this form

Please feel free to contact the Immunisation Program Co-ordinator on 1300 666 535 with any questions

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**PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH TYPE 1 DIABETES**

We are seeking interest for the development of a support & information group for parents of children with type 1 diabetes in the Echuca/Moama & surrounding areas. An initial get together to determine interest, brainstorm ideas & develop a plan of action will be held:

**Monday 3rd June**
**Time:** 10.00 am
**Where:** Refresh’d on the Murray
102 Chanter St, Moama

Come along & meet others who are experiencing similar things to you & your family. To register your interest or for more information, please contact:
Donna Robertson or Norma Oliver
Diabetes Education at Echuca Regional Health
Monday - Wednesday
Phone: 5485 5801