As I mentioned in our last newsletter, staff and students are working towards the completion of semester one’s work in preparation for midyear reports. As a consequence, the 14th June will be a ‘Pupil Free Day’ for report writing. It is important that students don’t leave assignments or tasks to the last minute and consequently have to rush their work to get it completed. Could I ask parents to check with their students on the progress of school work and if there are any concerns about the completion of work, for parents to please contact the College and speak to the relevant Year Level Coordinators. The introduction of the College dashboard will also provide parents with an insight as to the work due but please remember this communication tool is still in its development stage. An important date for parents to remember is the 17th June because this is when all semester two subjects start for this year. It goes without saying that attendance is important during this period (as it always is) and as a consequence of starting the semester early, students don’t experience any ‘break’s in their learning.

This week is ‘Reconciliation Week’ and the College has celebrated it by participating in the Campaspe Shire’s ceremony held at the Shire Offices today. The Reconciliation Week Celebration at the Shire Offices saw students from across the Echuca schools attend the flag raising ceremony and morning tea. Please take the time to read a more detailed account of what ‘Reconciliation Week’ means to Echuca College.

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 will start at 10am and it will finish at 1.15pm. All students sitting the GAT will be dismissed at 1.15pm and not required at school unless they wish to complete private study. 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.

Congratulations to our Senior Girls and Intermediate Boys on some great performances at the Regional Soccer Finals earlier this week. Although the boys’ didn’t make it through to the state finals they only lost one of six matches on the day. The girls however won all their matches and in doing so defeated Bendigo Senior Secondary College for the first time. The senior girls will now go onto the state finals in June. Thank you to Stewart Cheal, Lauren Menz and Cameron Prowse-Wilkins for coaching and umpiring at the carnival.

Leadership programs at Echuca College are an important part of our students’ development. Leadership experiences can take many forms at our College such as Tutorial Captain, SRC Representative, Beacon Leader and College Captains. One group of six Year 9 students set out last Sunday to Marlo in East Gippsland to complete five weeks of leadership camp. Our teams have a very busy five weeks ahead of them. This week they are becoming familiar with their new ‘home’, finding out how things like washing machines work and what pegs are for as well as learning about their own thinking and learning preferences. Reports suggest they have settled in very well and are wasting no time in getting to know each other.

Towards the end of the program the students present their Community Learning Project to staff, peers and school representatives. Our team of Maegan and Courtney Johnson, Tyanah Case, Ashley Twigg, Jason Hanson and Aron Pavone will return home on Saturday June 29th from 10.00am onwards. We look forward to their return and to see their ‘Community Project’.

A reminder to families that enrolments for Year 7 2014 are due to be registered with the College by the 17th June. Where families would like to make an appointment to tour the College with me, the principal, please contact the general office.

Chris Eeles
College Principal
Reconciliation Week

Echuca College participated in a Reconciliation Ceremony at the Campaspe Shire Offices on Friday 31/5/13. Nine Koorie students Mr Strachan and Mr Davidson attend this ceremony.

**What is National Reconciliation Week?**

Each year from 27th May to 3rd June, National Reconciliation Week celebrates and builds on the respectful relationships shared by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Australians. The week-long celebration is an ideal opportunity for all Australians to explore ways to join the national reconciliation effort.

**When did it begin?**

The Week of Prayer for Reconciliation began in 1993 and was supported by Australia’s major religious groups. Three years later it evolved into National Reconciliation Week under the guidance of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation (now Reconciliation Australia).

**What is the significance of 27th May and 3rd June?**

May 27th and June 3rd are important dates in Australia’s history. May 27th marks the anniversary of the 1967 referendum when Australians voted to remove clauses in the Australian Constitution that discriminated against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The day before National Reconciliation Week, 26th May, is National Sorry Day, which was first held in Sydney in 1998 and is now commemorated nationally to remember and honour the Stolen Generations.

June 3rd marks the historic 1992 Mabo decision in which the High Court of Australia recognized native title—the recognition that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ rights over their lands did survive British colonization. 2012 marked the 20th anniversary of the Mabo decision and the 45th anniversary of the 1967 referendum.

Beacon

**Echuca/Moama Beacon Foundation Pledge Day**

On Friday 3rd May all Year 10 students travelled to Moama Bowling club to sign a pledge to do everything in their power to not go “On the Dole” This is part of their Beacon/VCE Industry and Enterprise course. It is hoped that events like this will assist in inspiring students to plan productive and rewarding pathways for their futures.

James Reade who was the youngest ever elected counsellor in Victoria was the guest speaker. He explained his pathway from being involved in community projects form the age of 14 until today. He expressed the importance of students having confidence, taking opportunities as they arise and being prepared to have dreams. All Beacon leaders did a fantastic job of assisting in organising the day with Georgia Harris, Jess Grundy, Teasha McInnes and Marley Jones are to be congratulated for their roles on the day.

**Year 10 Echuca/ Moama Beacon Foundation GOTAFE Careers Day Out**

On Thursday 23rd May year 10 students had an opportunity to investigate future pathways at the GOTAFE Shepparton Careers Expo. The Careers Day Out is the largest education, training and employment expo in Northern Victoria, with sixty exhibitors and more than 1,500 students attending in 2012. It provided Year 10 students with the opportunity to explore future career options through interaction with exhibitors, participation in career orientated activities and attendance at employment related presentations. Thanks to the Echuca Moama/ Beacon Foundation for sponsoring this event for our students.

**Liz Ellis Presentation**

The Liz Ellis presentation at the Bowling Club on Wednesday 22nd of May was both extremely interesting and inspirational. She spoke about her past as a netballer and explained how you have to plan for success. She told us that for success to be achieved you have to want it to happen; you can’t just sit around and expect things to be handed to you. She spoke extensively on goal setting, the benefits and that once you’ve completed a goal, you don’t just stop; you set more and continue on the path to victory. I found her presentation very worthwhile as I am into sport, and strive to achieve the very best I can. I would recommend anyone who is either into sport or even into planning for a successful future to attend her presentations if they get the chance.

By Jesse Hardess
Sport

Community Cross Country

Last Friday during periods one and two the 3km and 5km events were held at College Drive. All Year 7 and 8 students ran and 120 Year 9-12 students. Congratulations to Moira House which won the event for the third year in a row. The result was determined by taking the placing’s for the 10 Age Groups, with 1 point allocated for first, 2 points for second, 3 points for third and 4 points for fourth. The lowest total score wins. Moira finished with 19, Kanyapella 22, Wharparilla 26 and Perricoota 33.

Cross Country Results
13 Boys: Moira 1st
14 Boys: Wharparilla 1st
15 Boys: Wharparilla 1st
16 Boys: Moira 1st
21 Boys: Wharparilla 1st
13 Girls: Kanyapella 1st
14 Girls: Kanyapella 1st
15 Girls: Moira 1st
16 Girls: Moira 1st
21 Girls: Wharparilla 1st
Overall Results: Moira 1st, Kanyapella 2nd, Wharparilla 3rd, Perricoota 4th.

14 Girls:
1st Ireland Hayes
2nd Stephanie Chong
3rd Kylie Thompson

15 Boys:
1st Lachy Arkinall
2nd Cody Spiers
3rd Fletcher Kelly

16 Boys:
1st Erik Holt-Crossman
2nd Charles Lowe
3rd Luke Popovic

20 Girls:
1st Tessa Melling
2nd Greta Pearson
3rd Alana Long

Soccer

It’s Monday and there is an air of optimism spreading through the bus en route to Bendigo for the Senior Girls and Intermediate Boys Regional Soccer Finals. Could this be our year for the State Finals? Unfortunately the boys, whilst opening up with a confident line-up, were beaten 2 – 0 by eventual winners Bendigo South East in the first match. HOWEVER that was the only match Echuca College lost in the 6 matches played for the day, a fantastic effort! The lads enjoyed two wins and a draw for the rest of their campaign with Assistant Coach Cam Prowse-Wilkins helping to orchestrate some superb match-winning and match-saving moves. The boys were especially well served by James Vevers at the back, Campbell Ennis in the midfield and skipper Luke Popovic ‘up front’. Many contributions came from all over the park, a genuine effort. Even JT’s ‘ownie’ was a highlight, at least he was on the score sheet. It was, however, the Senior Girls who ‘stole the limelight’. They were a team ‘on a mission’, a mission to beat Bendigo Senior for the first time ever and qualify for the State Finals in September! After thrashing Castlemaine 13 – 0 and in so doing ensuring a more than healthy percentage, the girls fronted up to Bendigo needing only a draw to secure passage through to Darebin and the Finals. Well, clearly, that was not their way, only a win would suffice! And what a win it was, dominating play from the outset. The pitch was abuzz with team efforts, from Kylie and Briony in goals, through Captain Kayla, Jade and Siobhan at the back, tireless running from Jess’ on the right of mid, silky skills and combination play from Tegan, Rowe and Jess’ Pitts in the middle, right up to Ellie and Andrine striking, we clearly outclassed a downhearted Bendigo 2 – 0, the margin not really an indication of our dominance. Thrilled by the performances of all players on the day, a tired but satisfied bunch of sportsmen and women and their coaches headed back to Echuca – a job
Wellbeing

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 Danielle Paterson, Health Promotion Manager, Echuca Regional Health. Ph 03 5485 5826, F 03 5485 5833.

Helping Everyone To Be And Stay Healthy

VLine Life Training Presentation
All parents are invited to attend this presentation on positive self-esteem and body image at the College. See notice in this edition of the newsletter and contact Paul Robinson if you wish to attend.

You’re invited.
The VLine Life Training workshop is all about sharing tips to help you rise to the challenges thrown at you.
We’ll also talk about positive self-esteem and body image.
So come along:
11.10am, Thursday 20 June
at Echuca College Gym, College Drive, Echuca.
Please RSVP to Paul Robinson 5482 1133