Welcome back to school and I hope everyone had a relaxing break at the end of June and in early July. The start to the term has been very positive and students have settled back into the routine of school and study. Uniform is very good with less than 1% of students experiencing difficulty in getting uniform organised for the return of school. Uniform is set by the College Council and is compulsory at Echuca College. The College community would also like to welcome Ms Chalmers to our teaching staff for the remainder of this term and Mr Whyte until the end of the year. Ms Chalmers will be teaching Science subjects and Mr Whyte will be teaching English and Humanities.

Term 3 is always a very busy term with our long list of information evenings starting in this week. Our information sessions are designed to allow students and their parents to ask questions about vocational options and to find out how individual subject and programs may assist students to achieve their career ambitions. It is important to note that Echuca College provides access to the broadest selection of programs/subjects in the Echuca area and in the six years since the College was established our graduates have been successful in gaining positions in universities and TAFE courses across Australia, gaining quality apprenticeships and successfully entering the labour market. The sessions this week have been well attended and are the starting point for discussions around subject selections for 2014. These sessions are then followed by ‘Course Counselling’ days where further research and questions can be addressed for students and parents.

Our VTAC information evening for Year 12 students applying to do further study next year is followed the next day by the ‘Tertiary Information Service’ provided by VTAC (Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre). Representatives from universities and TAFE Colleges will be available to speak to Year 12 students about courses for 2014 and also provide them with additional information such as ‘Open Days’ dates, accommodation and course entry requirements and important information around having a ‘gap’ year.

Vocational Education and Training (VET) certificates information sessions will be held next week at Moama Bowling Club on the 29th and 30th July. As mentioned above, once the information sessions are completed students in Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 will be required to attend course counselling days where their subject selections for 2014 will be discussed with Careers Counsellors. It is important that parents discuss subject selections with their students and all selection sheets must be signed by a parent/guardian before the student can undertake their chosen subjects in 2014. Course counselling for all 2014 Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 will start in early August with the aim to have our timetable for 2014 ready for students to start their academic year 2014 on the 25th November 2013.

This year our curriculum booklets are on our website and can be accessed now. Students have access to the curriculum books via their laptops and they need to take the time to read through each of the subjects/programs offered at their year level for 2014. It is critical that students and parents come to the course counselling sessions with some background knowledge of the subjects/programs available in 2014, so productive questions and discussions take place and as a result students make informed selections for 2014.

Information Sessions for 2013
29th & 30th July – VET Information Nights – Moama Bowling Club. 7pm start
31st July - VTAC Year 12 Information Night – Year 8 Neighbourhood 7pm start
1st August - Tertiary Information Session for Year 12s in Science area during school

Counselling Days
When parents/students go on line to make appointments, they will need to use the correct ‘counselling code’.

2nd August Friday – Year 10 into 11- 2014 – Year 10 pupil free day to attend counselling. MJWCW
5th August Monday – Year 11 into 12 -2014 – Year 11 pupil free day to attend counselling. ZWNBR
14th August Wednesday – Year 8 into 9-2014 - Year 8 pupil free day to attend counselling. Year 7 pupil free day for Grade 6 Transition LDENV
15th August Thursday – Year 9 into 10 2013 – Year 9 pupil free day to attend counselling 8TN28
Parent survey

As a part of the school accountability, each year approximately 85 families are randomly selected by the administration computer to complete a parent survey about Echuca College. The survey asks questions about a range of parameters such as Student Well Being (student motivation and school connectedness), School Climate (approachability, stimulating learning, learning focus, general satisfaction, extra curricula and homework) and Student Behaviour (student safety and classroom behaviour).

Surveys are kept anonymous and are sent unopened to the Department of Education and Early Child Development (DEECD) to be processed. The school will receive a report with the results later in the year. The information gathered by the survey helps the school to gain valuable feedback about what it does well and areas that can be improved. The feedback is analysed by Staff and School Council. The results are recorded in the School Annual Report.

The opinion of parents has been improving over the last few years. However I am concerned that some families who complete the Parent Opinion Survey with only one child may not be aware of the variety of different things that occur in other Levels. We encourage parents to tell us one way or another their opinion’s as a ‘sitting on the fence approach’ comes out as a negative in the final results. The results from the survey will benefit school planning and your child’s needs.

To assist parents in completing this survey, a letter will be included that outlines the varied approaches & activities that Echuca Primary School provides. I encourage you to read this document & thank you in advance for your participation.

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

Instalment Two
The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children. Parents and guardians may be eligible for the EMA if they have a valid Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card. The second instalment of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) payment is due to be paid from mid-August on-wards for parents/guardians who chose the ‘direct deposit’ or ‘pay direct to school’ payment option on their application form.

Parents/guardians who chose the cheque payment option will receive their payment from late August / early September. Parents and guardians who lodged an EMA application at the beginning of the year do not need to lodge another EMA application to receive the second instalment EMA payment. Parents/guardians whose children have transferred to this school since 28 February 2013 will need to submit a new EMA application form. Applications close on 2 August 2013.

Eligibility information can be obtained from: www.education.vic.gov.au/aboutschool/lifeatschool/ema/default.htm

Contact: School Office for an application form and further information.

Key Dates:
Eligibility day - 15 July 2013
Parent applications close - 2 August 2013
Camps

A reminder for the students attending the Yr. 8 Anglesea camp in December, the deposit is now overdue. If all remaining monies can be forwarded to the Office as soon as possible.

Student Achievements

Dry-land sledding is an adaptation of the snow-based sled dog racing that was developed in Alaska and Canada, using dogs like huskies. Here in Australia, sledding is rarely done on snow, more commonly on 4WD dirt trails, using wheeled scooters and rigs instead of sleds. Rather than long cross-country races, such as those commemorating the Nome Serum Run (everyone remember the movie Balto?), Australian races are usually around 2km per dog, with one, two and four dog teams being the most common.

Thomas Price (7T5) has been competing in sled dog racing for five years, starting in the Pee Wee (under 11yo) and now in Juniors (11-15yo). This year he has competed in races all over Victoria. In the school holidays, Thomas raced in the Gold seekers sled dog club’s Gold Rush, one of Australia’s top five races. Thomas competed with Siberian husky Summer “Tutumaiao ANordic Summer” and achieved first in the Junior class, against local and interstate competitors. This race was made of 2 heats, covering a distance of 2.4km in each heat, and Thomas achieved a total time of 7:09 in the first heat, and then 7:32 for the second heat, with a combined time of 14:41 over the 2 heats.

Congratulations Thomas!

Sport

YEAR 8 NETBALL

On Thursday 25 July, the victorious Year 8 girls netball team ventured to the chilly Echuca South courts hoping to leave as the Loddon Mallee Regional winners. Our first match saw us take on a short Maryborough team. Georgia McKellar was lightning quick in the midcourt, applying outstanding pressure over the ball. Lyndall Taylor was equally as impressive running the centre with ease. EC were eventual winners by 12 goals. Our second match saw us take on an extremely tall St Joe’s Mildura…they made us look like midgets!! Kelly Gould was impressive to watch in wing defence, her tight defence making her opponent think twice. Tyler Thompson’s movement in the goal circle was on song, converting the few opportunities we were given. alas, our efforts were not enough. Our bad luck continued against the other Mallee team, Swan Hill College. Sarah Hilet caused a headache in wing defence, whilst Rebecca McCluskey was clean in defence taking several rebounds. We were able to bounce back on the winners list with a come from behind win against Donald HS. In a physical encounter, Ashleigh Cartlidge was extremely accurate in the goal ring – sinking the long bombs and earning her the team’s MVP nomination. Steph Chong drove hard onto the ring in wing attack, feeding the goalers seamlessly. In a nail biter, we won by a solitary goal. Our last match for the day saw us take on Catholic College Bendigo (eventual section winners) – who looked as tall as the Vixens and like they had been training together that long too! Ireland Hayes, dual MVP nominee, tried relentlessly in defence contesting every ball possible. Alas, our efforts were not enough with us going down by 3 (or so??!). Thanks to Mr Pearson and Cam Prowse-Wilkins for organising the tournament. Special mention to Tyanah Case who was our team umpire. The girls were excellent sports and represented the College admirably, making Mrs Jones proud – “we might not have been the best team, but we are the best looking team!”

Year 7 and 8 Hockey Team

A number of students have been turning up for a hit of hockey on Thursday lunchtimes for a bit of fun. Reagan More has volunteered to coach a Year 7 and 8 hockey team to compete against other schools in October. Reagan is a Year 11 Echuca College student who is not only good at tennis, but also plays Hockey for the Echuca A men’s team and has represented the Goulburn Valley on a number of occasions. With the competition fast approaching we will be practising on Monday and Thursday lunchtimes. All year 7 and 8’s, experienced or not, are welcome to attend the sessions. If they find that hockey is for them they are welcome to join the team. It is preferable that a mouth guard be worn and that they wear football socks to help keep the shin guards in place. With the help of experienced players, such as Clayton Thompson and Ryan More, all new players will have the opportunity to pick up the skills fairly quickly. Please contact Katrina Shirley if you have any queries about playing hockey as a lunchtime activity or/and as a part of the Echuca College Hockey Team.
**Sport**

**State Cross Country**

Congratulations to the 14 Years Boys team of Oscar Reid, Max Ogilvie, Liam Gundry, Isaac Warren and Ben Hercott who came second at the State Final last Thursday. Max 28th, Oscar 37th, Liam 48th, Isaac 61st and Ben 74th combined for a great finish in cold and windy conditions. Congratulations also to Jess Davidson of Year 7 who finished 33rd in the Girls 13 years event.

**SSV Campaspe Football**

The Year 7 Boys travelled to Nathalia in the last week of Term 2 to play. Trent Campbell and Jamie Wilson were brilliant on ball players with Caleb Upton and Nick Witchell strong in defence. Asher Jones and Will Harry battled hard in the ruck and Tom Witchell and Marcus Kerr were dangerous up forward. After being level with Kyabram at half time the boys faded in the second half. Again the boys were competitive against St Josephs who won the overall day. In the last game against St Mary’s Nathalia the boys came from 3 goals down at half time to win by 3 goals with Tyson McCoomb, Riley Edwards and Connor Brown on fire.

Mvp – Trent Campbell.

David Pearson & Cam Prowse-Wilkins – coaches.

**SSS Campaspe Soccer**

Last Wednesday the Year 7 Boys, Year 8 Boys and Year 7&8 Girls played in Moama. The boys lost both games but were very competitive with Asher Jones, Connor Brown, Trent Campbell and Tom Witchell playing well. Tom Harris was good in the goals. MVP – Asher Jones.

The Year 8 Girls defeated St Josephs and then drew with St Augustines. Unfortunately they lost the day on goal difference. Kylie Thompson, Jess Davidson and Sam Mason were the best players. MVP – Kylie Thompson.

The Year 8 Boys were overall winners after twice beating St Josephs. James Brown, Isaac Warren, Clayton Thompson were the best players. Kyle Dixon was very good in the goals. MVP – James Brown.

**Youth expo coming soon.**

Friday September 13th @ Echuca College for all Yr. 7—10 students.
OPEN DAYS

Attending Open Days is an important part of student preparation for further study. Students and Parents are encouraged to start attending Open Days from Year 10 onwards.

The table (above/below) is a summary of the main Tertiary options available to students. A more detailed list can be found at [www.vtac.edu.au/opendays](http://www.vtac.edu.au/opendays).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Open Day(s)</th>
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| Australian Catholic University | Melbourne Campus - Sunday 11 August 2013 10:00am - 4:00pm  
Ballarat Campus - Sunday 25 August 2013 10:00am - 3:00pm |
| Bendigo TAFE | Bendigo Campus - Sunday 18 August 2013 10:00am - 3:00pm  
Castlemaine Campus - Wednesday 21 August 2013 4:00pm - 6:00pm  
Echuca Campus - Thursday 29 August 2013 4:00pm - 6:00pm |
| Deakin University | Warrnambool Campus – Sunday 4 August 2013 9:00am - 2:00pm  
Geelong Waurn Ponds Campus – Sunday 11 August 2013 9:00am - 3:00pm  
Geelong Waterfront Campus – Sunday 11 August 2013 9:00am - 3:00pm  
Melbourne Burwood Campus – Sunday 25 August 2013 9:00am - 4:00pm |
| Elly Lukas Beauty Therapy College | www.ellylukas.edu.au |
| Holmesglen | [www.holmesglen.edu.au](http://www.holmesglen.edu.au) |
| Kangan Institute | www.kangan.edu.au |
| La Trobe University | Albury-Wodonga: Friday 30 August 2013 4.00pm - 8:00pm  
Shepparton: Friday 9 August 2013 4:00pm - 7:00pm  
Mildura: Wednesday 14 August 2013 4:00pm - 7:00pm  
Bendigo: Sunday 18 August 2013 10:00am - 4:00pm  
Melbourne: Sunday 25 August 2013 10:00am - 4:00pm |
| Monash University | Berwick, Gippsland and Peninsula Campuses - Saturday 3 August 2013 10:00am - 4:00pm  
Caulfield, Clayton and Parkville Campuses - Sunday 4 August 2013 10:00am - 4:00pm |
| RMIT University | Sunday 11 August 2013 10:00am - 4:00pm |
| Swinburne University of Technology | Hawthorn  
Sunday 4 August 2013 10:00am - 4:00pm  
Ballarat Campuses (Mt Helen, Camp Street and SMB)  
Sunday 25 August 2013 10:00am - 3:00pm  
Sunday 18 August 2013 10.00am - 4.00pm |
| University of Ballarat | Footscray Park Sunday 25 August 10.00am - 4.00pm  
Sunday, 25 August 2013 10:00am - 4:00pm |
| University of Melbourne (The) | |
| William Angliss Inst of TAFE | |