Echuca College News

Principal’s Report

Welcome back to the College Council and the new school year. We look forward to 2014 as we prepare for an interesting year in education, teaching and learning at Echuca College. Our VCE results were solid and our Dux Eleanor Denson the best in the area achieving 98.46. Our Year 7 students have settled in quite well with 120 students enrolled this year. The rest of the College continued on from where we finished in December last year with VCE students very pleased with the progress they have made so early in the year. Year 12s completed a great ‘Flying Start’ program last week, as did the Year 11 students with their Peer Support program. Attendance at both programs was over 97%.

This year we started with only our Year 7 and Year 12 students at school. This provided an opportunity for the two groups to participate in a BBQ lunch and a number of fun activities in the afternoon. Our Year 12s play a major role in the College as ‘role models’ for the younger groups and our Year 7s were very excited about having the Year 12s interact with them on their first day of school. In other Year 7 news, our Year 7 students went to Campaspe Downs, near Kyneton for their three day orientation camp. The camp also takes in ‘Hanging Rock’ as part of the program.

Our College Captains (Regan More, Kayla Arkinstall, Grace Day and Adam Scott) are in place of course and last week the Beacon Ambassadors were selected by the Beacon Co-ordinator for Echuca Moama, Lauren Menz and Rob Strachan. We had a field of 15 candidates, of which seven were selected. I’m pleased to announce that this year’s Beacon Ambassadors are; Tenaya Williams, Emma Favaloro, Sarah Hercott, Courtney Johnson, Rylee Dixon, Meagan Johnson and Lachlan Arkinstall. They will

Important Dates

February
19th-21st
• Year 7 Camp
25th-28th
• VCE Outdoor Ed Camp

March
3rd
• SSV Swimming Sports
7th
• LMR Lawn Bowls
10th
• Labour Day Holiday
12th
• Yr 7, 9 & 10 Vaccinations
18th
• LMR Swimming
21st
• Year 9 Health Careers
24th
• SSV Volleyball and Tennis
26th
• Parent Teacher Interviews

Please visit www.echucacollege.vic.edu.au, or download our App from either the iTunes or Google Play store for current news and events

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participate in a Leadership Training day next week with other leaders from the Grammar and St Joseph’s.

Echuca College students were well represented at the recent Australian Day Awards in the district. In Echuca at the Rotary Club Australia Day ceremony Young Citizen of the Year went to Tyler Lethlean. At Rochester Jess Hardess was awarded the Young Sportsperson of the Year. Congratulations to these students on these outstanding achievements.

In mid-January, the ‘Class of 2013’ received their University and TAFE offers. Forty-eight students received offers and 36 Students received first round offers (75%). Thirty-nine students received their First or Second preference (81.25%). Over one third of student’s had received ‘Early Offers’ prior to round one (20 students) late last year. The courses offered ranged from; Science at University of Melbourne, Law / Science at Deakin Melbourne for our top two students. Some of the other courses, included Bioscience, Engineering, Criminology, Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy, Para medicine and Journalism. The main universities our students have gone to are the University of Melbourne, Deakin, La Trobe, Charles Sturt, Australian Catholic University, Federation University, RMIT and Swinburne.

I would like to welcome and introduce our new staff to our College community.

New staff

Meryn Chalmers – Maths Science

Geoff Beer- Technology and VET Auto

Sharee Sinclair – General Office

Trudy Cooke – General Office

Trainee

Mitchell Hore (Sport/PE)

Matt Bell (ICT).

College Council Elections 2014

Our College Council Election process will start next week and this year we have three positions available for the election. Three Councillors have completed their two year terms and one has the option to stand again and two councillors are retiring. Our Council has eight parent representatives and four DEECD representatives (staff). There is an opportunity for parents interested in supporting their child’s education to join our Council team and if you are considering joining our College Council, please don’t hesitate to contact me for more information. Parents on College Council provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the College. Those parents who become active on a College Council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging. Nominations Forms will available for parent members at the College’s general office as of Monday 25th February.

College Council Elections 2014 Timeline

Notice of election and call for nominations 25th February 2014

Close of nominations 11th March 2014

Display list of candidates, nominator & seconder 11th March 2014
Prepare ballot papers and distribute on or before (if necessary) 17\textsuperscript{th} March 2014

Close of ballot 24\textsuperscript{th} March 2014

Count votes & declare ballot 24\textsuperscript{th} March 2014

**Who is on the school council?**

There are three possible categories of membership:

- **A mandated elected Parent category.** More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school.

- **A mandated elected DEECD employee category.** Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

- **An optional Community member category.** Its members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

We have 3 vacancies for DEECD employees and 3 vacancies for Parent Members.

**Echuca College Breakfast Club**

The YMCA Foundation was established to help enrich our community. It assists the local community by providing resources for families and individuals to participate in activities that help them become stronger, healthier and happier people.

Echuca College was lucky enough to receive money to support our Breakfast Club. Students are able to enjoy a breakfast three mornings at school. This supports students and families and is organised and supported by Mr Paul Robinson and our Chaplains, Mr Alan Corby and Ms Hannah Johnson.

**Year 7 Camp 2014**

By all reports our Year 7 students are having a fantastic time on camp. Students travelled to Hanging Rock for lunch yesterday and will continue to enjoy a number of camp activities today and tomorrow. We look forward to a full report on camp upon return.
Year 12 Flying Start Day

Year 12 students celebrated the Flying Start Day this week, Year 12 students were treated to an array of activities to help them achieve their personal best as they embark on their final year of studies. Jo Webb upskilled the students with some yoga and meditation skills to assist with stress management whilst Mr Jennings and Mr Bubb ensured that the students were up to date with the latest ICT tools to bolster their studies. In amongst some team building ‘Amazing Race’ type giggles, we were treated to two sessions with our Melbourne based guest speaker who completed his Year 12 last year at Ringwood SC. ‘Ben’ was able to provide all students with strategies and tips to ensure they give their best and aren’t left wondering, “what if?”. Ben emphasised the balance between work, school and social life and continually reinforced his motto on year 12, “you’re here, why not try?” Students were able to walk away with strategies that will best assist their learning style and reinvigorated self-belief on their studies and goals. The Year 12 cohort would like to thank Kaye Davies and the canteen crew for the deliciously decadent lunch that was provided. They would also like to pass on thanks to all staff who assisted with the coordination of a wonderful day.

Year 11 Peer Support Training

All Year 11 students participated in Peer Support Training. The training is designed to support students and skill them in the art of mentoring our Year 7 students. The program supports the transition of our new Year 7 students and extends the leadership opportunities for our Year 11 students.

The program runs weekly sessions that encourages the Year 7 students to build trust and friendships amongst their peers.

Mr Corby, Ms Menz, Mr Duffy, Ms Johnson and Mr Robinson coordinated the activities for the day and all students and staff enjoyed the sausage sizzle at lunchtime.

Immunisations 2014

Immunisations – **If you are in year 7, year 10 or a year 9 boy** you must return your immunisation card/s to the college. You can give the card/s to the general office, your tute teacher or year level coordinator. ALL cards must be returned by Thursday, February 20 – even if you are not having the immunisation/s.

Immunisations will be taking place at the college on **Wednesday, March 12**.

If there are any concerns please contact the Shire of Campaspe immunisation team, 1300 666 535, 54 812 200 or Mr. Paul Robinson, SWC Echuca College, 54 821 133.
Swimming Sports 2014

Echuca College swimming sports were conducted this week. It was great to see so many students competing and participating. Congratulations to Kanyapella for winning the day. Congratulations to all their swimmers, house captains Tessa Mellington and Brenton Case and teacher representatives Ms Dannatt and Mr Cheal.

Kanyapella finished on 498 points, Wharparilla 436, Moira 323 and Perricoota 286.


Luke Judd broke three records on the day, with Tessa Mellington, Oscar Reid and Kyle Scott also breaking records.

Australia Day Awards 2014

Echuca College students were awarded for their contribution to the community through the Australia Day Awards. Jesse Hardess won the Shire of Campaspe (Rochester District) Australia Day Junior Sports Star 2014. Jesse is a member of many representative teams, from soccer to netball and basketball. She is an excellent role model to junior members of the community.

Tyler Lethlean won the Young Citizen of the Year 2014, Tyler has donated a substantial amount of his time out of school to assist others including One & All Inclusion Project initiatives such as the debutante ball and Rockets Football Team, and working with young adults with a disability through Murray Human Services.

Tyler has been a leader amongst his school peers, assisting with the creation of Year 12 team building evenings and organisation of the "alternative schoolies" trip to Cambodia where students volunteered in several orphanages. Tyler has been awarded with several leadership opportunities, most notably a Rotary Young Leaders Conference at Mount Eliza in 2013.

VCE Chemistry Excursion

Our VCE Chemistry students attended an analytical Instrument workshop at Melbourne University on the 3rd of February. They were able to experiment first hand methods of analysis as studied in Unit 3 Chemistry.

Students attended an information session with other schools and ably answered a variety of questions. They conducted analysis of alcohol content of wine experiment using Gas Chromatography. Students also studied calcium ion concentration in seawater using Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy, caffeine content of Coca Cola using High Performance Liquid Chromatography and they analysed the iron content of an iron supplement.
Using U-V Visible Spectroscopy).

School Returns

Year 12 students welcomed the Year 7’s to the College, running a variety of activities. Year 7 students designed aliens and newspaper wedding gowns! Dodge ball and the dance off were a huge hit with all students. A yummy BBQ lunch and icy poles to end the day had everyone smiling. Thank you to Mrs Jones for running "Minute to Win It". Great fun had by all. What a great start to the year.

Term 1 Sports

CRICKET

The Senior Boys will play against St Josephs College on Thursday February 6th in the first round of the School Sport Victoria competition. Dan Grgrix and Jayden Dixon by all reports, are the new Mitch Johnson and Brad Haddin of Echuca College.

TRIATHALON

Congratulations to Jakob Ayres, Max Ogilvie and Oscar Reid on winning the Junior section of the 2014 Morley Auto Group Echuca Moama Triathlon. A great effort by all.

SUMMER SPORT

Tennis and Volleyball players will start training shortly for the SSV competition later in the term. Check the App for sports dates.
Commnity Billboard

Autism Awareness Event

is pleased to be able to advertise our annual

FREE AUTISM AWARENESS EVENT

THURSDAY the 29th of MAY 2014, 9.30am - 12.30pm

Bendigo Baptist Church Auditorium, 757 McIvor Road, Junortoun

This event is open to ANYONE with an interest in or affected by Autism Spectrum Disorders including Asperger’s Syndrome. Parents, carers, teachers, students, professionals, teenagers and adults on the Autism Spectrum are all most welcome to attend.

Guest Speaker: Dr Wendy Lawson
MAPSSs(Hons), Gdip(Psychstud), PhD(Psych)

Wendy is an adult on the autism spectrum, psychologist, social worker, writer, adult educator, mother and grandmother! Wendy is well known both in the Northern and Southern hemispheres where she has been sharing her knowledge, understanding and experience of the autistic spectrum for over 15 years.

PROGRAM:
9.30am - Welcome and Introductions
9.45am - 10.45am Session 1
‘Autism Spectrum Condition and appropriate support at schools, home and within the community’
10.45am - Morning tea (with gluten & dairy free options), hot & cold drinks
11.15am - 12.15pm Session 2
‘Elongated QUESTION and ANSWER session with opportunity for questions from those in attendance on the day’
12.15pm - 12.30pm – Wrap Up and finish

Any questions? Please email: BAAG at info@baagorganisation.org.au or PAC at safefamilies.org.au

It is not necessary to book for this event – please just come along on the day and invite anyone else that you think would benefit from coming along too!

ALL WELCOME! DELUXE MORNING TEA PROVIDED!

Although this event is free, a gold coin donation at the entrance door would be appreciated.

Bendigo Autism Asperger Group (BAAG) is an Auspice Group of PAC, Regional Information and Advisory Council Inc.

National Youth Week 2014 Photography Competition

Saturday Netball Registrations

ECHUCA & DISTRICT NETBALL ASSOCIATION INC
A0000568P

SATURDAY NETBALL REGISTRATIONS

Net Set Go, Primary & Senior Registrations info
Download at edna.org.au
Enquiries can be made to Netball Office 54801725.

No guarantees for late entry, so ensure you register & pay by the due date
WEDNESDAY 12th MARCH

Betty McCoomb
President

Community 'ICE' Forum

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ICE?

Community Forum

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2014
6.30PM – 8.30PM
Rich River Golf Club Resort
24 Lane Moama.

TO REGISTER:
Email: info@communityagainstdrugs.com.au
Phone: 0409 355 370