Echuca College is very excited to release our new Parent and Student Portal. The Portal will be released to parent and students on Monday 23rd of June.

During the transition to the new system the current Parent Dashboard will not be updated from the 16th of June and we request all parents login to the current dashboard and update any unexplained absences prior to this date.

End of semester reports will be released on the new Parent Portal in the week beginning the 23rd of June.

Details on how to access the new system will be emailed to all families please ensure your current email has been updated at the front office.

New features of the system will include direct communication with your students’ teachers, up to date news items and information, greater breakdown of attendance, access to the news feed, your student’s achievements and behavioural incidents and parent/teacher interview bookings will be made through the new portal.

We look forward to connecting parents, students and teachers through our new portal and believe it will enhance the communication and connectedness of families with Echuca College.

### Important Dates

**June**
- 6th: Report Writing Day – Pupil Free
- 9th: Queens Birthday Holiday
- 11th: GAT Exam
- 12th: SSV Soccer 7 & 8, Whole Cast Drama Performance Rehearsal
- 16th: Semester 2 Begins
- 17th: SSV Football (Inter) & Badminton 7 & 8
- 20th-21st: Deb Ball
- 23rd: Fit2Drive - Year 11
- 26th: SSV Basketball (Senior & 8’s)
- 27th: Last day of term

Please visit [www.echucacollege.vic.edu.au](http://www.echucacollege.vic.edu.au), or download our App from either the iTunes or Google Play store for current news and events.
“A sense of connectedness to families and schools is the most significant protective factor for young people”.
(Resnick et al. Protecting Adolescents From Harm 1997)

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) has partnered with headspace, the National Youth Mental Health Foundation to develop SAFEMinds: Schools And Families Enhancing Minds, a comprehensive learning and resource package that will enhance the capacity of school communities to effectively identify children and young people with early signs of mental health issues, offer school-based interventions and refer appropriately when needed. Echuca College has nominated to be a part of the SAFEMinds Program to support our students and families.

Schools play a critical role in the social and emotional learning of children and young people. SAFEMinds is an important resource for teachers as they are in the unique position of interacting with students daily, can build rapport and offer support, help with successful learning and development, and connect students and families to community services and resources when needed.

The relationship between children or young people and their family has a significant impact on their mental health. SAFEMinds can help parents and carers understand their role in supporting their child’s mental health and wellbeing; and connect them with their school and local community resources when needed.

Information will be on the Echuca College Website as it becomes available. If you have any questions please contact the College.

LMR Cross Country 2014

Congratulations to all 16 runners yesterday in St Arnaud. 12 runners collected medals on the day. 1st - 15 Years Boys team of Max Ogilvie, Liam Gundry, Oscar Reid, Isaac Warren and Amos Farrell. 2nd - 13 Years Boys team of Archie Reid, Cooper Arkinstall, James Whitehead, Brayden Nevett and Jack Steel. Individual placegetters - 1st - Max Ogilvie, 2nd Archie Reid, 3rd Erik Holt-Crossman, Jess Davidson and Liam Gundry.

Our 12 medal winners will now travel to the State Finals at the beginning of term 3.
Year 9 students were lucky enough to receive a presentation from local GP, Dr Adrian Waldron, on the dangers of drug use in teens - especially the dangers of ice. Dr Waldron spoke to the students about making smart choices to prevent damaging not only their brains but their futures. Mr Bessell and Mrs Jones would like to thank the students who organised the presentation as part of their Year 9 Community Project. Echuca College would like to thank Dr Waldron and Rich River Health Group for donating his time and professional advice.

Australian Brain Bee Challenge - State Finals

The Australia-New Zealand Brain Bee Challenge is a competition for high school students in year 10 to learn about the brain and its functions, learn about neuroscience research, find out about careers in neuroscience and to dispel misconceptions about neurological and mental illnesses. The Challenge provides current and accurate information on the latest advances in neuroscience research, its value to the community and promotes careers in science and technology.

Tim Denson, Neal Rivera, Natasha Wilson and Maegan Johnson are representing Echuca College at the state finals at the University of Melbourne.

Our team will be participating in two rounds of live questioning to determine who will become the state/region champion. Students will spend the day at the Melbourne Brain Centre completing activities to educate them about neuroscience and neuroscience researchers. The day will include lab tours, demonstrations, lectures, experiments and the opportunity to speak to researchers. There is also a team competition on the day where schools compete against each other to win Zeiss microscopes and other scientific products for their school laboratories. We wish our team all the best in the competition in Melbourne.

Community Projects

As part of the Year 9 Curriculum all students participate in a subject called Community and as part of their assessment they are to organise a Community Project. One group of Year 9 Echuca College students came to 208 and presented a talk on the importance of being active as well as obesity as part of their Community Project. The grade 5/6 students were posed a number of questions about health & the causes of obesity. The Echuca College students then ran three fun and active games on the oval – showing us that it doesn’t take much to be up and about and active. The session was very worthwhile for a number of reasons including making community links, facilitating the transition program as well as educating the students.
Reconciliation Week

Reconciliation is about building better relationships between the wider Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples for the benefit of all Australians.

To create positive change we need more people talking about the issues and coming up with innovative ideas and actions that make a difference.

Our staff and students attended the flag raising ceremony at the Campaspe Shire Offices. Njernda Aboriginal Corporation’s Pastor Joe Day then gave a heartfelt speech on the meaning of reconciliation and the day’s symbolism. “I’d like to think as we raise the flag today, we raise the standard in ourselves,” he said. Students are pictured with Pastor Joe Day.

Murray Business Network

Brad Smith, 2010 Tasmanian Young Australian of the Year, Runner Up International Young Entrepreneur of the Year and all round ‘nice bloke’ spoke to the Murray Business Network group at The Moama Bowling Club. Prior to the dinner, six Echuca College students were part of an invitational meet and greet session with Brad. Brad is the owner and founder of Braaap motorcycles. At 18 he designed and created his own motor cross styled bikes. He now sells his bikes and gear around the world and is based in Melbourne. The students were privy to the tips and ideas that have made Brad a multi-millionaire by the time he was 21. Brad spoke to the students about surrounding themselves with like-minded, driven individuals who will assist them in achieving their goals. Brad spoke about the importance of writing and publishing your goals - published goals are proved to be more likely achieved. Brad has encouraged teens to record their goals on his Facebook page and at the end of the year, one lucky teen will win a Braaap motorcycle - jump on line for your chance to win!

Message from the Principal

30 May, 2014

As part of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development’s Health and Safety Management Plan, government schools across Victoria are participating in an asbestos auditing program. As a result, new labelling will be installed at our school. Echuca Secondary College is one of 400 schools being audited in this round. Over time, asbestos labelling will be installed at every school with identified asbestos containing material.

As part of the College Occupational Health & Safety (OH&S) Compliance procedures, regular inspections by OH&S representatives are carried out to ensure that any areas containing asbestos do not present any health concerns to staff and students.

It is estimated that approximately 1,200 of Victoria’s 1,529 government schools contain some form of asbestos.

The labels remind people to contact school reception prior to undertaking any works at the school, to ensure they have up-to-date information from the school’s asbestos register.

Asbestos - which was used extensively in building materials in the past but is now banned - is considered safe unless damaged or in poor condition.
The new labels form part of a comprehensive program to ensure Victorian government schools remain safe.

Children’s safety is our number one priority. That is why we and the Department of Education are taking this extra step as a precaution.

Please don’t hesitate to contact the College or me if you have any queries or concerns.

Chris Eeles
Principal

Beacon Work with Wheels and Future Event

All Year 10 students will be participating in the Futures Workshop and Work with Wheels Careers Day at the Rich River Golf Club on Thursday the 5th of June from 9:30am to 12:30pm. It is great to see the concept developed by our Beacon Leaders evolve into an event to support all the local secondary schools.

There's no such thing as safe sexting

A new iPad app designed to inform and educate teenagers on the social and legal consequences of sexting is now available on iTunes.

‘There’s No Such Thing As Safe Sexting’ was produced by Canterbury Girls' Secondary College as part of the Bully Stoppers grants program.

‘Sexting’ involves sending sexually explicit photos or videos by mobile phone, app, chat, social networking or email. It is an issue that has arisen among teenagers in recent years with increased use of digital technology.

Young people are naturally curious and interested in exploring sexuality. They are also exposed to a wide range of sexual imagery; in songs, video clips, movies, advertising and online. This can promote the idea that sexual behaviour has no repercussions. The reality is more complicated and young people often only become aware of this after the event.

Sexting is a serious issue. It is a criminal offence to take, possess, or transmit an image of a naked person under the age of 18.

Bully Stoppers provides information and tips to help students and parents deal with sexting and other online issues such as cybersafety and cyberbullying.

For more information go to the following link
National Sorry Day 2014

National Sorry Day is an annual day of commemoration and remembrance of all those who have been impacted by the government policies of forcible removal that have resulted in the Stolen Generations.

The annual Sorry Day commemorations have helped to remind and raise awareness among politicians, policy makers, and the wider public about the significance of the forcible removal policies and the impact that they have had not just on the children that were taken, but also on their families and communities. The intergenerational impact of the forcible removal policies on young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander citizens in the 21st Century have been profound, and the commemoration of National Sorry Day each year helps contribute towards a broader ongoing effort toward healing and social and emotional wellbeing for individuals, families and communities across the country.

Echuca College held a ceremony to commemorate National Sorry Day - a number of students read poems, told stories and shared the stories of the Stolen Generation. Our students were supported by Aunty Melva, Aunty Vicki Walker and other members of the community. We lit a candle in memory of those who were affected during these times and held a moment of silence to remember and recognise the events of the past.

Zone Soccer 2014

It’s Monday and there is an air of optimism spreading through the bus en route to Bendigo for the Senior Girls and Boys Regional Soccer Finals. Could the girls go ‘back to back’?

Unfortunately the boys, whilst opening up with a confident line-up, were beaten 3 – 0 by favourites Bendigo Senior in the first match. HOWEVER that was the only match in which our boys were outclassed. The lads enjoyed a win, a draw and an unlucky loss for the rest of their campaign with Assistant Coach Mitch helping to orchestrate some superb match-winning moves in the final game against Mildura. The boys were especially well served by Shannon Daldy at the back, JT in defence and midfield whilst there were valued contributions from Luke, Sam, Alex, Jayden and Charles whose run down the left and winning goal in the last game was terrific! Many contributions came from all over the park, a genuine team effort. Even Rhys’s ‘ownie’ was a highlight, at least he was on the scoresheet!?

It was, however, the Senior Girls who again ‘stole the limelight’. They were a team ‘on a mission’, a mission to beat Bendigo Senior for the second time in two years and qualify for the State Finals again in September! After monstering Kyneton 5 – 0 and in so doing ensuring a more than healthy percentage, the girls fronted up to Bendigo needing a win to secure passage through to Darebin and the Finals. And what a win it was, coming from a goal down to win 2 - 1. The pitch was abuzz with team efforts, from goalie Kylie and ‘newbies’ Bethany and Sarah at the back, through Captain Kayla, Briony and Siobhan also in defence, tireless running and critical tackling from Jess’ on the right of mid, silky skills and combination play from Tegan, Rowie and Jess’ Pitts in the middle, right up to Jade down the left wing, Andrine and Drew striking, we clearly outclassed Bendigo, who mistakenly thought they sniffed a win.
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 very well done!

MVP Boys – Jayden Thompson    MVP Girls – Jess’ Pitts

P.A.R.T.Y Excursion

Some of our Year 11 students had the opportunity to attend the PARTY - Prevention of Alcohol Risk Related Trauma in Youth - seminar held at the Capital Theatre in Bendigo. The program was coordinated by The Alfred Hospital and Bendigo Health. The program aimed to make youth more aware of making the right or safe choices and owning the resulting consequences. The program was very emotional and often confronting but very worthwhile. Students were able to participate in a mock intensive care ward, practise giving CPR and experience life with prosthetic limbs and neck braces. The 11 Echuca College students took a considerable life lesson away from the program, whilst it also highlighted the amazing medical facilities that we are lucky enough to access if we are sick.

Cross Country 2014

Moira was the winning house on Friday in the Echuca College Cross Country, followed by Kanyapella, Perricoota and Wharparilla. The races were very competitive with some great times being posted and some students achieving their personal best times. The winners of each event were;


Well Done to all competitors and all the best to our team representing the College at Interschool Cross Country.
Echuca United Football Club

Echuca United Football Club are looking for players to join their Under 14s side. Training is Tuesday and Thursday nights from 5pm – 6pm. If you are interested please call Matt on 0459 166 492.

Deb Ball

Enrolment form & deposit are now due for the:

Echuca College

Debutante Ball to be held at the Rich River Golf Club “Tatalia Room” Friday 20th. & Saturday 21st. June 2014.

TRAINING COMMENCES Wednesday 7th. May 2014

Return enrolment form & deposit to: RivADance studio PO Box 2375 Echuca 3564