**Echuca College News**

### New Parent Portal

Echuca College is very excited to release our new Parent and Student Portal. The Portal is now live and ready for parents and families to access. Many of our students are already using it and submitting work through it.

For families who have previously accessed our Parent Dashboard - your username is your family code with an ‘F’ on the end e.g. ABC0001F. All users will need to follow the instructions below and reset your password.

A user manual is also available on our website under publications or can be accessed through the following link; [http://www.echucacollege.vic.edu.au/images/publications/Parent_Portal_Introduction.pdf](http://www.echucacollege.vic.edu.au/images/publications/Parent_Portal_Introduction.pdf)

Please contact the college if you need any support or help.

We would appreciate any feedback on the new system.

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**Important Dates**

**June**

- 20th-21st
  - Deb Ball
- 23rd
  - Fit2Drive - Year 11
- 26th
  - SSV Basketball (Senior & 8’s)
- 27th
  - Last day of term

**July**

- 16th – 18th
  - Year 11 Camp
- 17th
  - State Cross Country
- 21st
  - Year 10 2015 Information Night
- 22nd
  - Year 11 2015 Information Night
- 23rd
  - Year 12 2015 Course Counselling Day
- 24th
  - LMR Netball (All)
  - Basketball (Snr)
  - Soccer
  - Badminton (Jnr)
- 28th
  - VET Information Night
- 29th
  - GTAC Excursion
  - VET Information Night
- 30th
  - Year 7 & 8 Football
- 31st
  - TIS Event

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.
I have forgotten or need to reset my password

If you have forgotten your password, or if this is the first time you are accessing XUNO and don’t have a password, you can use the Family Password Tool to reset it. An active email address will need to be registered with the office to be able to do this.

2. Click on the “Reset/Forgotten your password?” link
3. Enter your username (Family Code), and a registered email address.
4. Click Reset.

If successful, a new password will be emailed to ALL email addresses registered to this Family Code (eg: Parent A, Parent B).

I have forgotten my username

If you do not know your username or have forgotten it, you can try going through the automated Family Password Tool to retrieve it. An active email address will need to be registered with the office to be able to do this.

2. Click on the “Forgotten your User Name?” link
3. In the Registered Email Address field enter the email address that is registered with the school. You may use either Contact A or B if you have two registered.
4. Click continue.

If the email address is found in the system, your username will be emailed to the address you entered.
Debaters

The senior debating team consisting of Tegan Milne, Kalya Arkinstall and Georgia Harris defeated Moama Grammar in the first round of the Apex Debating competition. The topic for this debate was “Politicians pays are justified” and we were the affirmative. They then competed against Kyabram the following week where they were narrowly defeated. The topic was “Raising the retirement age to 70 is needed” and our team argued the negative.

The junior debating team consisting of Tom Harris, Jessica Muir and Steph Warren they were narrowly defeated by St Josephs in the first round. The debaters performed very well considering it was their first debate. The topic was “Social networking is destroying people’s ability to communicate”, our team was the affirmative.

Well done to all our competitors and they hope they to compete in the Northern Rivers competition later in the year.

Uniform

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. A uniform list is available from the general office and those students who come to school out of uniform will be placed in uniform or parents contacted to collect student from school. Where families need assistance in acquiring school uniform the College can help through a number of facilities, including access to second hand uniforms. I would also encourage parents and students to label the various parts of their uniform; in particular jumpers and College tops. Many of the items are very expensive and jumpers are the items most frequently left behind in the yard or in classrooms. We have a great uniform and it should be worn proudly.

Peer Support

Our successful ‘Peer Support’ program for Year 7 students has been running this term. The focus of the program is to support Year 7 students during the first few months of the year and also to provide a senior student as a friend to talk to if the need arises. Our Year 11 students completed training as ‘Peer Support’ leaders last year and while their main function is to support their younger peers, the training is valuable to them as leaders in the College. The leaders and their group meet once a week during the term and in this time complete activities that provide an opportunity for conversations about school, classes and how the transition from primary to secondary school is going. Students will meet at different times each week to avoid missing the same class and at the end of the term all Year 7s and their leaders will meet for a final celebration. The goal of the program is to help Year 7 students to feel comfortable in their new environment and to also make their secondary experience a great experience. The program concludes next week with a celebration BBQ.

Debutante Ball

Good Luck to all our Debutante’s and their partners who will be participating in the Debutante Ball’s tonight and tomorrow night. We look forward to seeing our students be presented tonight to the College Principal, Mrs Eeles and our School Captains.
Each Wednesday 170 students from surrounding schools including St Joseph's College, Rochester Secondary College, Cohuna Secondary College and St Augustines College travel to Echuca College to participate in our VET in Schools Program. 160 Echuca College students also participate in the program.

The VETis programs offer 17 VET certificates including; Automotive Studies, Beauty, Building and Construction, Business, Children's Services, Dance, Disability Services, Engineering, Equine Industry, Events, Integrated Technology, Furniture Making, Hospitality, Hairdressing, Plumbing, Music and Sport and Recreation.

The program is an excellent opportunity for students to obtain an additional Certificate whilst studying other more traditional subjects. The program also enables students to gain more practical experience in fields that interest them.

Our VET Information nights for 2015 will be held on the 28th and 29th of July at Moama Bowling Club - all interested students and families are invited to attend.

**Exams**

All our Year 10 and 11 students have sat their final exams for Semester 1. Students demonstrated excellent study techniques and showed sustained concentration to complete all exams, most of which ran for 100 minutes.

Overall teachers were very impressed with the efforts of students. This was the first time for some of our Year 10 students to experience an exam period and we believe it prepares them well for their VCE and future studies.

All students completing a Unit 3 & 4 subject were required to sit the GAT (General Achievement Test) on Wednesday the 11th. 167 students sat the GAT, a 3 hour exam. The GAT is used to assess students if they become unwell at the end of the year and is used in the moderation process for assessment.
We wish Mrs Julie Smith all the best as she embarks on the next part of her journey. Mrs Smith will be taking Long Service Leave during Term 3 and retiring at the beginning of Term 4. Mrs Smith and her husband plan to travel through Asia, Thailand and Cambodia. They then plan to visit their daughter in Canada the following year.

Mrs Smith has worked in the Food Technology and Health department and has taught many thousands of students during her time in Echuca. In recent years she has played a critical role in planning and organising our larger camps for the College for example Gold Coast, Central Australia and Anglesea.

Mrs Smith has seen lots of changes in her time in Echuca and has truly enjoyed her time teaching at Echuca College. We wish Julie and her husband safe travels and we are sure she will keep us up to date with her adventures.

A Group of Year 9 students had the opportunity to listen to some guest presenters from the Beacon Foundation talk and provide tips on making positive first impressions, improving their interview skills, networking and setting meaningful goals. The student were also lucky enough to have former AFL player Heath Black speak to them about Mental Health and the importance of speaking up and making sure that they have support networks around them. All students found the day very interesting and took many positives out of it.

We have also had some very positive parent comments about the program, students have shared their experiences with families when they went home. Parents reported seeing much growth in their students as a consequence of the program.
**Community Billboard**

**Little Black Dress**

_**the little black dress**_  
_a red carpet affair_

Presented by The Edmon School  
Sponsored by M & S Insurance  
& The Moama Bowling Club

Tickets are $25.00 and include:  
A three course meal & drinks  
Music by Nelliee  
Book by popular demand!

Friday from 5pm  
29th August 2014  
The Venue  
Moama Bowling Club  
Shore Street, Moama

**Holiday Dance Program**

_School Holiday Fun_  
_**for:**_  
_Little Kids & Big Kids_  
_PREP - YEAR 6_  
YEAR 7 - 12  
_at Suzanne's School of Ballet_

_TELL YOUR FRIENDS!_  
*Turn over to view program & prices*

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL  
info@27designstreet.com.au  
0400 134 157  
*minimum numbers required for program to run*

Qualified Teachers: Dance Teacher / A.D.P.A - CEB Ciccotti Ballet Australia,  
Masters of Teaching, Level 2 First Aid, Working with Children Check