Echuca College News

Remembrance Day 2014

Echuca College was very well represented at the Remembrance Ceremonies across Echuca and Moama.

Students at school were read the Pledge of Temperance and reflected on the sacrifices of our soldiers during a minutes silence.

The Pledge of Remembrance

The Australian soldier grows not old, the flame still lights his eyes
Although his body lays to rest, his flag forever flies
On the green and gold horizon where the wattles sweep and sway
It flies amongst the gardens and the classrooms of today

Over ocean streams and backyard dreams, above the sunburnt plain
Through harvest yields, on sporting fields, in rainbows after rain
It defines a life worth living and a day that must be won
For every father’s daughter and for every mother’s son

But more than that, the honour claimed in fighting for the free
The pride of the Australian soldier burns in you and me
When the night is dark and dangerous with the rumble of the storm
His courage calls the sunrise and his spirit makes it warm

We will not forget their sacrifice – the strength of their endeavour
For the choices we are gifted with, that flame will burn forever

Important Dates

November
10th – 14th
• Year 10 and 11 Exams
18th – 21st
• Year 8 Anglesea Camp
19th
• VET Awards Dinner
20th
• Year 12 Graduation Dinner
21st
• Final VCE Written Exam
24th
• New Academic Year Begins

December
9th
• Orientation Day - Year 7’s 2015
11th
• School Council
16th
• Echuca College Celebrates - Awards Night
19th
• Last Day of School

Connect to Echuca College

Please visit www.echucacollege.vic.edu.au, or download our App from either the iTunes or Google Play store for current news and events
With a smile that lights the future shining brightly in our scope
We will stand as one, together – we will carry on with hope

But as we go, we take the words that rightfully belong

“I am young and I am worthy, I am brave and I am strong
In the face of any challenge, I will strive to rise above
I deserve this opportunity to live, to learn, to love
I can truly make a difference; my path is up to me
And this is my commitment – be the best that I can be.”

**Year 7 2015 Information**

It was great to meet so many of our new and returning families at the information night on Monday. We encourage all families to make an appointment at the office to discuss the transition of your student into Year 7 in 2015. Interviews are being held on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th of December from 8:30 to 4:30 please contact the office to make a time, alternative times can be arranged if these times do not suit.

Booklists have been sent out, please contact the College if you require any further information.

Orientation day will be held on Tuesday the 9th of December. Students are reminded to bring a hat, pencil case, drink bottle and to wear appropriate clothing for physical activity.

Parents, families and friends are encouraged to visit our website [www.echucacollege.vic.edu.au](http://www.echucacollege.vic.edu.au) to keep up to date with all the activities and student achievements at the College. Please contact the school if you have any questions or concerns.

**Important Dates;**

- Friday 21st November – Book Collection Day
- 2nd, 3rd and 4th December – Parent and student interviews
- Tuesday 9th December - Orientation Day
Three big changes to the vaccine program

In 2015 three major changes to the vaccine program will impact on parents of secondary school students:

1) The Campaspe Council’s immunisation service may contact you about the secondary school vaccine program. Schools have been authorised to provide parent contact details to local councils for this purpose. Contact the school on 5482 1133 by 28 February 2015 if you do not want your contact details given to the Campaspe Council.

2) In 2015 only, the vaccine that protects against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough will be offered to all students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. From 2016, this vaccine will be offered to Year 7 students only. This will provide earlier protection from these diseases.

3) The time-limited human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine program for Year 9 boys was completed in December 2014. HPV vaccine will continue to be offered to all students (both male and female) in Year 7 from 2015.

Look out for the vaccine consent form/s coming home from school with your child. You need to read, complete and return the form/s regardless of whether your child is being immunised at school.

To learn more about the changes, the diseases, the vaccines, or how you can prepare your child for vaccination go to immunehero.health.vic.gov.au

Year 7 Fun

Year 7 students have had lots of fun this week. During the tutorial session on Monday Miss Butler organised an amazing race which saw students racing all over the school with lots of laughter.

Mr Cheal has coordinated a down ball competition with our Year 7’s after a year of very strong competition. We are looking forward to the finals at the end of the week. Our Year 7 students are excited about starting Year 8 on the 24th of November as the whole school participates in our Step Up program.
Year 10 and 11 Semester 2 Exams 2014

Year 10 and 11 Semester 2 exams begin this morning with the English exam. All Year 10 and 11 students will sit the English exam this morning. Students will then follow a timetable of exams and will sit exams during their scheduled class times.

All Year 10 and 11 students are expected to attend school each day and are to attend normal classes when they do not have an exam.

The exams are excellent preparation for students as they move towards Year 12 and are an excellent tool for staff to assess the progression of student improvement.

Indonesian Day - Saman Dance Group

As part of a cultural immersion program for regional Victoria, the Saman Melbourne Indonesian dancers visited Echuca College to share with our students a cultural and language experience.

The students from Year 7-12 who study Indonesian were given the opportunity to watch a traditional Sumatran dance, learning not only where it came from, but also the meaning it holds for those from that area. After watching the captivating performance the students were able to try on and wear the Indonesian dance costumes while participating in a workshop to learn some of the dance they had just seen.

Students’ Indonesian language skills were also utilized during the workshops, giving them a chance to use their developing knowledge and skills.

Everyone had a great time with many becoming quite proficient with their new dancing skills.

208 Fete

Our Echuca College music students will be performing at the 208 Fete on Friday the 14th of November starting at 4pm.

Students will be performing from 4pm and sharing the time slots with other acts and activities over a two hour period.

Activities will include Whip Industries, petting zoo, laser tag, sumo suits, orb ball, giant slide and a food court.

We encourage all students and families to support the fete and join in the fun.
Dear all,

'Ni Hao'

Since leaving Australia exactly one week ago and arriving in the Guangzhou Province of China, to then travel to be based at the Utahloy International School, our students have done so much. We quickly have had to adjust to jetlag, the cultural norms of living in China and the expectations of Utahloy International School. Everyone has bonded very well and has risen to the daily challenges of the Utahloy program, which has been and will continue to be very busy.

Students have been involved in numerous initiative activities, as well as participated in kayaking, bike riding to a local village, being immersed in the day school with the Utahloy boarders as buddies. They have played various sports, basketball, soccer and volleyball with and against the Utahloy boarders in the evenings, not to mention been involved in touch rugby helping teach and play with the local students. Some of our students and staff have even played in a social ‘friendly’ soccer match where staff versed students. The Utahloy students won that match 2-1, denting the pride of the Utahloy staff. Let’s face it, the youth of today are too fast!

Moving on though, our students recently took part in an orienteering course around the Utahloy campus. The campus is extremely large. For example the cross country course that navigates the school grounds is over 5km long. It was a great way to get to know more of the people in their core group and to see the entirety of the campus. ‘Fun Fact’ - The Utahloy International School was once a botanical gardens and it has definitely maintained the same feel. The students also took part in some rescue activities, raft building and trust activities this past week and it was pleasing to see that they all have some trust in each other.

One of our more recent highlights has been the visit to the Zengcheng No.1 High School. It is called No.1 because it is the best public high school in the area which makes it extremely competitive to get in to. It caters for Year 10 to Year 12 students and there are three thousand students who attend the school, the majority of whom are boarders. It was an amazing experience to be a part of, and our students were treated like rock stars. Everybody wanted to talk with them and take their photo, which they all graciously obliged. What was most impressive was a Year 11 local girl Krystal, the president of the English club, organised a whole 3 hour program for our visit. The VYLC students were exceptional, making local friends which made us all proud and ensured an invitation for a return visit. Hopefully we can fit this into the program!

They have been working on goal setting for establishing their projects looking at the many differences between China and Australia. They have reflected daily in their journals under the sub-headings of personal, local and global. Some of the project topic areas include: Economic growth, Air quality and pollution, Chinese schools and Australian rural schools, Chinese factories and infrastructure, The treatment of animals, How religion is expressed through architecture and Food availability and production.

We have had a workshop painting Chinese calligraphy and have all learnt some basics phrases in Chinese Mandarin with the aim to help us communicate and to be able to barter at one of the local markets. We visited a place called the Gwalu Market which was a multi-storey market selling anything from clothes to electrical goods. We were treated to a traditional Chinese banquet meal with numerous dishes including duck, pork, fish, tofu, vegetables and rice. It was delicious! Following dinner, all students put their newly learnt Mandarin to practice along with their bartering skills and had a budget to buy certain gifts for their buddies or teachers. The experience helped develop their language skills.
Today, our students have been involved in a community service project, whereby they helped paint numerous doors at a local Primary School to help maintain and beautify it. They approached the task with a positive attitude and worked collectively with focus. The end result was greatly appreciated by the local Primary School Principal. Again they have represented the VYLC, the Alpine School and their own schools with pride.

As a large group of Australians we are a community within ourselves, yet moving around the grounds of the Utahloy campus we have an obvious presence but still we are made to feel extremely welcome by all staff and boarders alike. This notion of being a part of an extended community has been extremely welcoming in itself.

Please keep remembering to follow the Alpine School website http://www.alpineschool.vic.edu.au/ and the Alpine School Facebook page. These are getting updated as often as we can access the internet.

We have certainly become more comfortable with being in China as we are safe, well fed and kept busy with positive outcomes every day. Tomorrow we are off to an area in Hong Kong called Pak Lap Wan and will be staying there for 3 nights returning mid week.

The busy and active schedule continues. Great I say!

'Zaijian'

Kind regards,

Russell Shem - Campus Principal

**Term 4 - Hats!**

As summer is just around the corner, at the start of this term all students were required to wear a hat during recess and lunch time. To date students have not complied with this request. If the good weather we have experienced in recent weeks is an example of what is to come, then all aspects of being ‘sun smart’ need to be observed by our students and staff during terms four and of course at the start of next year. We need our parents to reinforce this request with their student and help us to help them.
Year 7 Students have been investigating how scientists classify Earth’s organisms. On Monday we visited the Melbourne Zoo to find out how the Zoo uses classification to organise the Zoo. In the zoo class rooms the students were given the opportunity to handle reptiles and amphibians and investigate the skulls of herbivores, carnivores and omnivores. Having a Golden Lion Tamarin and an Iguana in the classroom with us certainly made for a real life science experience!

After the classes we said good bye to our educators and tried to avoid the rain while seeing as many animals as we could before it was time for the long trip home.

Echuca College News

Keep up to date with the latest Echuca College news and photos by liking our Facebook page. Information about upcoming events, success stories from our students and important information about the College will be frequently posted to the page. Links and reminders will also be posted on the page as will a link to our newsletter. We look forward to any feedback you would like to share with the College on our communication with our community. https://www.facebook.com/echucacollege
Large number of Lockers for sale.

Price $30 - $50 each

Contact Echuca College Office 03 5482 1133 for more information.