

# Emerald Secondary College



## *The Bush Telegraph*

**Principal-** Mr Wayne Burgess  
**College Council President-** Mr Doug Cordell  
**Assistant Principals-** Mr Aaron Smith & Tanja Korsten  
**Business Manager-** Mr Chris Woodhouse

### **Term 3: Issue 1 17 July 2009**

Term 3: 13 July 18 Sept  
Term 4: 5 Oct - 18 Dec

#### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

##### **JULY 2009**

Fri 17: Yr 12 Formal  
Mon 20: Yr 11 Reports distributed  
Tue 21: Yr 10 Reports distributed  
Fri 24: State Cross Country  
Mon 27: Rock Eisteddfod  
Community Performance  
Fri 31: Yr 9 & 10 Ski Day

##### **AUGUST 2009**

Mon 3: Yr 7 Semester Two Sports  
Futures Options Expo Yr 10  
Thur 6: Aust. Maths Competition  
Fri 7: Principal's Morning Tea  
Tue 11: Rock Eisteddfod Heat  
Mon 17: Yr 7 Ski Day 1  
Wed 19: Yr 7 Ski Day 2

##### **SEPTEMBER**

Wed 9: Mid Semester Reports  
posted  
Tue 15: Parent/Teacher Interviews  
Fri 18: Last Day of Term 3 early finish  
2.30pm

#### **IN THIS ISSUE:**

- Principal's Comments
- EMA Second Instalment

**ABSENCE HOTLINE:  
5954-1108**

#### **PRINCIPAL'S COMMENTS:**

##### **Endeavour**

We held a School Assembly on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June to welcome students and staff to the new term. There were a large number of Sports Awards including Age Champions and Placegetters for the School Cross Country, District Cross Country and Golf.

The focus of my talk to students was the importance of Endeavour. "Encouraging Endeavour" is one of the five key objectives that were agreed upon by students, parents and staff earlier this year. My message was that your level of endeavour determines your degree of success in whatever you do. The only way to achieve your potential is to make a determined effort.

One of the things that I find most disappointing, is those students who have great ability, whether it be academic, sporting or artistic, who do not put in sufficient endeavour to achieve their potential.

I highlighted a few recent examples of how a concerted effort had resulted in success. I mentioned the example of Mark Webber, an Australian Formula One driver who won the German Grand Prix on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June. He is the first Australian to win

a Formula One Grand Prix event since 1981. What was most interesting to me is that this victory came at his 128<sup>th</sup> Grand Prix start with a high proportion of those being recorded as Did Not Finish. It highlights the importance of resilience, persistence and endeavour. I also talked about Lance Armstrong who was diagnosed with testicular cancer in 1996. The cancer then spread to his brain and it was so severe that he was not expected to live. He had been a very talented cyclist to this point in time and had won a World Road Race Championship. However, he recovered and returned to cycling far more determined and trained to the point where he won a record seven Tour de France events in a row from 1999 to 2005. The Tour de France is the ultimate test of endurance involving 21 stages and over 3,000 kilometres and involves time trials, 200+ kilometre stages and many mountain stages. Lance Armstrong returned to professional cycling this year mainly to promote his Live Strong Foundation which raises awareness of and funds for cancer research. This is a remarkable achievement as the effort of preparing for another Tour de France is immense. Lance Armstrong is currently third and in my mind is a winner, as a result of his commitment and

endeavour, regardless of where he finishes.

I enjoy watching “So You Think You Can Dance” and found the background of some of the 20 finalists interesting. Not only had some come from deprived backgrounds including one dancer who was sent to an orphanage and one who suffered paralysis, but several had auditioned a number of times previously. At the School Assembly I mentioned my admiration for those performers who had overcome adversity and as a result of their passion, and their willingness to make the necessary endeavour had improved to the stage where they made the final twenty.

This term I am looking forward to a number of events such as the Principal’s Morning Tea, the annual EDEC Dinner and the Rock Eisteddfod Performance. All students who have achieved consistently excellent results, and been invited to the Principal’s Morning Tea, have done so by combining ability with effort. I am confident that the EDEC Dinner will be a real success because I know that the staff and students will carefully plan the menu, practice each of the dishes and work to further improve them. Our Rock Eisteddfod team will also do a great performance which will be the result of enormous effort – two nights per week rehearsal, plus Sundays as well as their own practice.

Real success only arises as a

result of passion, dedication and endeavour.

I have asked staff to focus on recognising and encouraging endeavour in their students. This will be a whole school focus throughout this term.

Encouraging Endeavour is one of our College Objectives and is essential in us attaining another objective “Achieving Your Potential”.

I would urge parents to discuss the importance of effort with their children. It is my belief that our endeavour rather than our innate level of ability determines our success in life. The more effort we put into something the better we will be at it. Increasing our effort will naturally lead to better results.

### **2008 Australian Vocational Student Prize**

I was thrilled to learn that Euan Thoms, one of our 2008 Year 12 VCAL students, was nominated by Melbourne East Group Training for his outstanding work as part of his TAFE course. The Australian Vocational Student Prize (ASVP) recognises Year 12 students who demonstrate exceptional skills, commitment and achievement while undertaking a vocational education and training program.

Congratulations to Euan. He will receive a Certificate and a cheque for \$2,000. I will invite Euan to a future School Assembly where we

can acknowledge his achievement and he can talk about the value of vocational education.

### **Attendance Olympics**

We are continuing the Attendance Olympics which encourages students to attend school regularly. The next round of the Attendance Olympics will see Year 11 and Year 12 Home Groups competing to see which can have the best attendance record.

I want to commend Aaron Smith, Assistant Principal, for this initiative. Students who miss school have gaps in their learning which make it more difficult to keep up to date with the topics being taught and with their class work.

***“It is NOT OK to be Away!”***

***Wayne Burgess - Principal***

### **EMA SECOND INSTALMENT:**

*If you were paid the EMA for the first instalment and your child is enrolled at the same school for the second instalment, you will not be required to complete a new application for the second instalment.*

***IF YOU DID NOT APPLY FOR THE EMA IN THE FIRST INSTALMENT, you must submit the second instalment application to the school by 7th August, 2009. The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of Term 3 (13th July, 2009) for the second instalment.***

***Sue Richmond - Assistant Business Manager***

