Term 1 - 2016: Issue 2- 12th February

FEBRUARY:
Mon 15: School Photo Day
Mon 15: Yr 11 & 12 cricket
Mon 15: Yr 12 Student/Parent Information Evening
EPAC 7.30pm – 8.30pm
Tue 16: Yr 7 BBQ Welcome Evening. Meet at 6pm outside EPAC. Siblings welcome.
Wed 17: Intermediate Cricket
Mon 22- Wed 24: Yr 10 Advance Camp
Tue 23: Yr 11 & 12 Sport
Tue 23: Photo Catch up day - Yr 11 & 12
Wed 24: Yr 7 Softball & Baseball
Thu 25: All school Swimming Sports

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SOME WORDS FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

Hopefully you have all received your last Newsletter in the post. If not can I ask that you please contact the office to make sure we have your correct postal address. This is also important for any emergency concerns that may arise when we may need to make contact with you about your child’s health or safety.

It’s been an action packed week that started first thing Monday morning when we held our first whole school assembly. It was wonderful to see our young leaders showing their skills by leading this event.

This assembly also recognised and officially welcomed our 2016 student leadership team, and all our young leaders received recognition, their badges and certificates. We also recognised as a whole school, a number of our students who received awards at the end of 2015.

One message we hope all our students took away with them from the assembly, is the responsibility as learners, for them to set their own personal goals for achievement and to work with our staff and their families to achieve their aspirations and goals. These include specific academic goals, sports goals, arts and technologies and leadership.

We met the class of 2015 in EPAC, and it was wonderful to hear about their achievements not only with their VCE certificates and ATAR’s but more importantly the opportunities they now have to go on to the Universities of their choice, further study at TAFE and employment and apprenticeships.

We hope the class of 2015 stay in contact with the College so we can share their stories and news.

To assist our students with their Literacy skills, this week we launched our new whole school Literacy program with the staff.

As well as a targeted Literacy program at Yrs 7 and 8, we also aim to have a whole school reading program and writing genres program. This program is for the benefit of all our students to maximize their specific learning growth.

Can I remind all our students and families that on the 25th February we have our whole school Swim Carnival. This is a very exciting day for the whole College, and one that we encourage all our students and families to attend. It’s a day to remember and one where we see all our staff and students celebrate their houses by wearing house colours.

There are many fun events to participate in as well as the timed races. Students who participate in the timed races also have the chance of winning a place on the College swim squad and represent our community at the Regional and State events.

Jodie Doble
Principal
LITERACY NEWS:

We have welcomed the Yr 7 students to the Emerald Secondary College this week, with opportunities to borrow a library book, and to complete a readers survey.

Reading protocols at Emerald Secondary College insist that all students have a reading book in their locker for recreational reading when they have completed work early, or for literacy sessions in the library. Reading is the single one thing that students can do in their own time to improve their results, and maximize their potential at school. Recommended time for reading is 30 minutes, 3 times per week. If there is no set written homework, that is the ideal time for students to read.

Library Lovers Day – On Feb 19th, all students are invited to the Library at lunchtime to participate in the first of our many events. Come along to enjoy: chocolate, pink lemonade, meet other new students and participate in fun quizzes. There is no cost, simply sign up at the Library desk

Tracey Ferguson ESC Literacy Leader

Yr 7 Immunisation Cards:
If you have not returned your Immunisation Card would you please do so as soon as possible. Thank you

MATHS AT EMERALD!

Welcome back to 2016. The students have responded well to the new version of Maths Pathway and have started their rich learning classes.

For parents there is an opportunity now for you to be emailed directly with the maths results. If you get your student to log onto their maths pathway, then you will notice a ‘Parent’ button on the bottom right. Clicking on here you can complete your details and this will allow you to receive direct emails. Further instructions as well as some other changes will be emailed to you from your class teacher in the next week.

Jacqui Lee  Maths Domain Leader
2016 Start & First Day Conferences:
A belated thank you to all parents and students who attended the First day Conferences on 29th January to assist both the College and your child make the smooth transition into the 2016 school year.

The College teaching staff appreciate that over 80% of parents attended on the day despite the change in times this year with an earlier finish. A reminder to all parents that the first point of call should be your child’s Homegroup Teacher so that they can support you and your child. For parents who have not yet received, signed or returned the whole school permission forms please get those in for the office to process as soon as possible.

Emergency Management:
The College, as part of its emergency management, will again this year be holding mock drills to ensure that staff and students are aware of what to do in the event of an emergency. The events of recent weeks are a reminder to all of us of the part we play in ensuring our students are safe.

From a parents point of view this means ensuring that emergency contact information such as phone numbers and email addresses are accurate – this can be done by checking and updating via Compass or phoning the office. In the event of any emergency the College will update parents, after consulting with the Department and Emergency Services, through our various platforms – email, sms, website.

Profiling life as a student in the first few weeks of 2016:
We thought we would find out just how the start to school has gone for a student who is in their last year of High School with a student who has begun their six year adventure. I caught up earlier this week with two students – Ella and Stephen - let’s see what their thoughts are:

Ella Baker – Year 7:
Ella stated that now she also knows the teachers she has and they are very nice. The teachers she has have made learning really fun. The canteen’s also a lot different and there is a lot more stuff. Ella like’s having a locker – but it can test you on your organisation. Overall Ella has really been liking Year 7!

Stephen Prout – Year 12:
Stephen has been at ESC since Yr 7. He thought that going into Yr 12 would be a bit daunting with it being the last year of school to determine your future. He has high expectations of himself, from the school and from his parents. Stephen knows at times it will be stressful – but in a sense whatever result he achieves will not be the end of the world.

He is keen to try and do as well as he can. Stephen is still not really sure of what he wants to do past Year 12 but is looking for a study score in the high 70’s. He has set a goal to do up to 1.5 hours of homework each night at the moment – whilst also making sure he has one night in seven where he switches off. Stephen likes the fact that the Year 12’s over the summer seemed to have matured – they are taking the work in class far more seriously and the teachers seems to be different and it is more of a relationship with them.

Cyberbullying:
Last year the Federal Government launched its Cyberbullying Complaints Scheme as part of an overall initiative to work together with schools, parents and the broader community to combat cyberbullying. This is an issue that clearly impacts on young people across Australia. Much work is done in school at both a primary and secondary level on the online world, but importantly studies have found that it is the role of a parent in monitoring online behaviours that have the biggest impact. Parents who have implemented things such as docking stations for devices at a certain time each night and/or set time for technology are better equipped to monitor this online behaviour. Having students at high school who have access to laptops, and phones does present some challenges – however establishing some dialogue around these issues and discussing or even checking in with your children is being proactive in this technological age.

There are lots of websites out there with good tips on how to approach these issues with your kids and the website www.esafety.gov.au is also a great place to start.

Cardinia Shire Council 2016 Young Citizen of the Year Award:
Molly White was awarded Young Citizen of the Year for her work with Emerald CFA. Apart from her studies Molly is captain of the juniors at Emerald CFA. Molly joined the CFA over three years ago and has been a mentor at K-Motion After School Program for fours years and has aspirations of joining the Salvation Army and becoming a police officer.

Congratulations Molly on your achievement!!

Estelle Alder & Mike Jaremczuk
Assistant Principals
Emerald Secondary College is a State accredited SEAL school.
SEAL stands for Select Entry Accelerated Learning, and is a program which caters for high ability students through enrichment and acceleration providing opportunities beyond mainstream schooling.

Students who aspire to enter the SEAL program will be required to sit an entrance examination on either the 28th or 30th of April.

Applications for the 2017 intake of students open on 7th of March and close at 9am on the 25th of April.

For further information regarding this program and to request an application, please contact Mrs. Janine McMahon our SEAL Coordinator or Ms Estelle Alder our College Assistant Principal on (03) 59685388 or visit our school website www.emeraldsc.vic.gov.au

For a school tour please contact the College Principal, Mrs. Jodie Doble on (03) 59685388.