Term 1 - 2016:
Issue 3- 19th February

FEBRUARY:
Mon 22- Wed 24: Yr 10 Advance Camp

Tue 23: Yr 11 & 12 Sport

Tue 23: Photo Catch up day - Yr 11 & 12, Siblings and anyone who missed out last week

Wed 24: Yr 7 Softball & Baseball

Thu 25: All school Swimming Sports

MARCH
Wed 02: Yr 7 Vaccinations

Tue 08: District Swimming

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SOME WORDS FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

School Council Election 2016
Emerald Secondary College School Council Elections are now happening and we ask that you consider being involved. If you wish to be a Parent on our School Council please download the form and return it to me by March 1st

What is a school council and what does it do?
School councils play a key role in Victorian government schools. Participating as a school council member is a rewarding and challenging experience. The school council supports the Principal to provide the best possible educational outcomes for students. In term 1 each year, the Principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual time line has been varied by the Minister.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category. If you have any problems downloading the form please collect a copy from the general Office.

Who is on the school council?
For most school councils, there are three possible categories of membership:
• A mandated elected Parent category – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.

• An optional Community member category – members are coopted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?
Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to me by the 1st March 2016. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

Generally, if there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Open Night:
On Tuesday 15th March ESC is holding its annual Open Night. This
event is for all our students, families and friends. We encourage you all to come along to hear for yourself what we are aiming to achieve and join in our tours to see our exhibition classes.

If you are unavailable to attend the Open night itself, we are opening the College for tours during the day on Wednesday 18th, Thursday 19th and Friday 20th March. Tours must be booked in advance. Please contact the General Office to make a booking.

School Photographs:
Being new to the College, this was my first experience with the use of Compass photography for our annual school pictures.

I have been reassured that the quality of the ‘draft’ pictures the company decided to put up will not be the final photographs made available. I am unsure why they posted draft pictures, and I am aware this has caused some concern amongst our community.

Can I ask all our parents and families to contact the College directly if they have concerns regarding the quality of the photographs to enable us to work with Compass this year, and consider how we might improve this service in future years.

Camps Sport and Excursions Fund (CSEF) - Victorian Government Initiative
The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) commenced in 2015 for four years (2015 – 2018) and provides payments for eligible students to attend camps, sports and excursions. The amount payable is $225.00 for Secondary school students and will be paid to the College for all eligible families (Please see below for eligibility Criteria):
• a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of 18; and
• an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004 or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a foster parent
• the holder of a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card with eligibility date of 27 January 2016

Eligibility Date
For concession card holders CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian’s concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink on the first day of either term one (27 January 2016) or on the first day of term 2.

The payment will be applied against all compulsory camp, sport and excursion costs.
Please copy this to your browser:


Jodie Doble  Principal

MATHS NEWS:
A reminder to parents and students that there is Maths help available on Thursday lunchtimes and after school.
Thursday, lunchtime from 12.45 to 1.20 in B2
Thursday, in A7 from (3.15 to 4.00 for junior and to 4.30 for seniors)
If students want specific help or just want a space to do some extra work the maths staff are happy to help out.
Also on most Tuesdays Heather Maxwell is in the library and is willing to tutor or just to sit with students.

Jacqui Lee Maths Domain Leader

Host families for Japanese students:
We are still looking for families to host Japanese students from our sister school who will be visiting us from Sunday 13th to Friday 25th March. Please contact Daisuke Kawakami at the College if you can support our exchange program. Thank you to those who have offered to host so far. You will receive more information about the program next month.

Daisuke Kawakami
Languages Coordinator
LITERACY NEWS:
Students have been participating in Active Literacy sessions this week. This weekly initiative will allow all students from Yr 7 and 8 to work in small groups to focus on elements of reading and writing in support of Learning Activities. Students will be able to set ‘growth goals’ so that they are able to maximise these targeted literacy sessions.
It has been pleasing to see all Yr 7 and 8 students bringing their reading book into classes. I urge parents to engage in conversation about reading with their children – ask them some questions about their book, and have them explain the story line to you. These informal conversations are a great way to have students explain concepts in their books allowing students to further clarify their understanding of the text which will assist with the completion of written tasks in the classroom.
Tracey Ferguson Library Co-ordinator

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

YEAR 10 LEADERS:
Year 10 Leaders will be forming an Amnesty International School Action Group to support Amnesty International, an organisation striving to minimize the violations of Human Rights across the globe.
Each week students will be given a new challenge, whether it be gaining signatures for a petition, creating a short film or raising awareness in the community! Keep an eye out for more information in the bulletin!
Marley Gusts, Yr 10 leader
Helping Out with Sport:
This year we are giving parents the opportunity to help out at our three whole school sporting events (swimming, athletics and cross country, dates below). A mini bus will be on offer for any parents who would like to travel down to the venues and help out on the day. Help could involve timing, measuring or checkpoint duties. If you would simply just like to come along and watch that would be great too.

If you are interested please phone the school and leave your name and email details along with which event you are interested in, with our office staff and we will be in contact.

Looking forward to a successful sporting year.

Yvonne Mauger Sport Coordinator

- Swimming Thu 25th February
- Athletics Fri 11th March
- Cross Country Thu 24th March

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL:
Hello! My name is Estelle Alder and I am the new Assistant Principal at Emerald. I feel very lucky to be able to work with such great teachers and students, in such a beautiful environment. One of my roles is to oversee our teaching and learning program, and I have a few updates for you.

Ebooks:
This year our ebooks have a username and password which has been sent to the school. Students can ask their classroom teacher or Year Level Co-ordinator for their username & password.

Senior Science Log Book:
Students studying senior science subjects are required to purchase a compulsory Log Book from the Front Office for $10. In VCE the Log Book forms part of a SAC requirement. If you have any questions please contact our Science Domain Leader, Mr Brad Gibbs.

On Demand Testing:
This week students in Years 7-10 have been completing On Demand Testing in English and Maths. These tests give teachers an invaluable source of information about student progress, and aid in the personalisation of our teaching. These tests will be repeated throughout the year to measure student development.

Evacuation Drill:
As part of our ongoing Emergency Management plan at the College we completed an internal evacuation drill on Wednesday. We were extremely pleased with staff and student co-operation and the smooth running of the drill. This is a follow up to important Emergency Management information which was sent to families.

Estelle Alder
Assistant Principal