Term 1 - 2016:
Issue 4- 26th Feb

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MARCH
Wed 02: Yr 7 Vaccinations
Mon 7-Thu 10 Senior school study week
Tue 08: District Swimming
Fri 11: Athletics Sports
Mon 14: Labour Day Holiday
Tue 15: Mimasaka Sister school students arrive
Tue 15: Open Night at ESC
Wed 16-18: College Tours

SOME WORDS FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

School Council Election 2016
A reminder to all our parents and families that School Council Elections are now open, and we ask that you consider being involved. If you wish to be a Parent on our School Council please contact the College main office before 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.

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.
- A mandated elected DET employee category – members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- An optional Community member category – members are co-opted 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. Forms are available from the General Office.

Open Night
Another reminder to our Learning Community that we have our Open Night on Tuesday 15th March ESC. This event is for all our students, families and friends and it would be wonderful to see you all there.

If you are unavailable to attend the Open night itself, we are opening the College for tours during the day on Wednesday 16th, Thursday 17th and Friday 18th March. Tours must be booked in advance. Please contact the General Office to make a booking.

School Swim Sports
On Thursday this week we held our annual Swim Carnival. It was fabulous to see all our students attend this event, and even though the morning was over cast and grey, our budding athletes took to the pool and raced with skill and passion. The house spirit was very evident with students wearing their house colours with pride. We look forwards to the winners of the swim carnival going on to represent the College and community at the regional events.

Can I please remind all parents and families that consent to attend our carnivals must be returned to the college before the day of the carnivals. In future students who have not returned their permission slips will remain at the college.

Jodie Doble Principal
PARENT PICK-UP & PARKING 2016:
Recently the College has received numerous complaints from parents who are picking up students and from local residents regarding the blocking of the main road and the pick-up lane at school pick-up time in the afternoon.

The College has clearly identified parent pick-up bays, pick-up/drop off lane plus a ‘no standing’ drive through lane. Some parents continue to park and wait in the ‘no standing’ drive through lane, thereby blocking the flow of cars and buses into the College from the main road.

This is not only causing gridlock but frustration from parents who are doing the right thing. We are sometimes asked by parents what we can do. The following solutions could help solve the problem:

• Fill up the assigned parent car parking spaces first
• Time your pick-up after the rush if you are not needing to pick-up your child immediately following school break-up

The College requests that these parents abide by the clearly signed no standing areas. We do not wish to ask for council by-laws officers to assist us in rectifying this situation but ask for the good will of our parents. Thank you for your support and understanding in advance.

STRANGER DANGER DISCUSSION:
Could we request all parents of students who walk either to/from school or walk to/from buses:

• To talk to their son/daughter about stranger danger and that they should not get into any car if offered a lift by anyone that they do not know?
• If a student is approached/followed by a slow moving car - move away from the side of the road and continue to keep walking.

Employing tactics like:
• getting out your mobile phone and calling home
• going into someones driveway or
• pretending that it is your house, are all good strategies if approached.

Most importantly students should report any suspicious behaviour to parents/teacher so this can be followed up with the Police.

NO MORE TEMPORARY BUS PASSES:
Changes to PTV regulations and also further requirements by the Department around Emergency Management in 2016 have resulted in the College no longer offering or allowing students to be provided with a temporary bus pass. If a student wants to go to a friends house for the night or a parent wishes for their child to go to a location on a bus that is not their normal bus then they will not be allowed. Parents and students will be required to make alternate arrangements

ROAD SAFETY FOCUS:
Parents of students in Years 10-12 will have received an email from the College outlining the launch of our focus on Road Safety in Term 2. Students will be provided with numerous opportunities to continue education on this important issue.

COMPASS PARENT LESSON - TEACHER EMAILS
A reminder that parents can send emails to any teacher who teaches their son/daughter. If you go to your landing page on Compass and you select email teacher it will bring up a box where you can type your message. On the right hand side you will see your son/daughters teachers listed (simply clicking on the red x next to each teachers name will eliminate the ones you don’t wish to send the email to). Referring to your son/daughters timetable (also on Compass) will list the teachers she/he/has for the various subjects.
HISTORY OF HOUSE NAMES AT ESC:

With Term 1 hosting the three whole school sporting events we felt that this would be a good time to provide the College Community with the historical background of each of our Sports houses:

Hawley (pink) – Named after Nan Hawley former Principal at Emerald Primary School from 1980-1984. She was instrumental in lobbying politicians and the community for the need to build a high school in Emerald. She got the ball rolling for ESC!

Jeffreys (green) - Named after Pat Jeffreys. She was very instrumental as part of the school's Steering Committee which was established in 1982. Pat continued to be on School Council for a number of years. Our annual Pat Jeffreys’ Cup is named in her honour.

O’Neil (blue) – Phil O’Neil was also on the Steering Committee and was also School Council President in 1987. He had 3 of his children at our College and now his grandchildren are here.

Greetham (white) – Phillip Greetham was part of the Steering Committee also. In fact he was the Chairman of the Steering Committee in 1984. He also had two children at our school and was on School Council for a number of years.

Geysen (black) – Joost Geysen was School Council President in 1986 and was on School Council for a number of years. He had 2 children at ESC and was instrumental in computerizing the College in the early years – and back in the mid 1980’s Emerald Secondary was seen as a pilot school for many Statewide initiatives in education.

Hobbs (yellow) – Robert Hobbs was part of the Steering Committee. In fact he was chairman in 1982 and 1983. He had 3 children at the school also.

Mike Jaremczuk Assistant Principal
On 9th February four Yr 9 SEAL students joined other SEAL students from around Victoria at Melbourne University for an Exploration day. Students engaged in different sessions with a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematical focus (STEM) throughout the day. Sessions included Climate change, Psychology, Psychiatry, Neuroscience and Art Therapy (courtesy of the Dax Gallery in the Melbourne Brain Centre), Engineers Without Borders practical workshop, a guided tour around the university campus and pizza lunch.

“I really enjoyed the tour around the Uni as it gave me an opportunity to see some things I would not normally have seen. The climate change talk at the start was also very interesting and informative. Overall, I think the day was very good and I learnt a lot about STEM.” Magnus.

“The Psych lecture was definitely the best part of the day. Mental health has always been an interest of mine and the lecture advanced my knowledge of it, making it very interesting and enjoyable to me. The experience left me with no interesting questions and answered the ones I had.” Ritchie.

“It was a great experience, all of us really enjoyed it. I particularly enjoyed the DAX art exhibition. It was inspiring to see the art that came from those with mental problems, although it may have been disturbing slightly. I found it moving. The lectures and what they told us inspired me to get into University.” Emily.

The exploration day was open to Yr 9 SEAL students who were invited to write an expression of interest in order to be selected to attend the day.

We look forward to providing further opportunities to attend other SEAL program adventures throughout the year.

Janine McMahon SEAL Coordinator
Humanities Year 8 Civics – Brad Battin MP Visits ESC.

The focus in Junior Humanities classes this term is Civics. Classes are focusing on topics such as democracy, voting and political representation. To bring the role of Parliament to life Brad Battin the local MP for the seat of Gembrook addressed Year 8 students on Friday 19th February.

Brad Battin has been the member for Gembrook (which includes Emerald, Cockatoo, Gembrook, Beaconsfield and some parts of Berwick and Pakenham within it boundaries) since 2010.

We discovered that Brad Battin was formally a police officer and was a small business owner operating a bakery. He is also a keen Geelong supporter, follows a range of sports and runs to keep fit. Brad loves representing the area in which he also lives. He spoke to us about the importance of being involved in our community and how much of a difference individuals can make to the quality of services provided.

Brad Battin answered a range of questions presented to him by students in 15D and then answered questions from students across Year 8. It was great to be able to ask a politician questions and get honest answers!

Mitchell Sears, Bianca Moody, Natalie McLennan and Ms Mosca.