Emerald Secondary College

The Bush Telegraph

Emerald Secondary College is a Learning Community

Principal- Jodie Doble
College Council President- Paul Woods
Assistant Principal- Mike Jaremczuk
Assistant Principal- Estelle Alder
Business Manager- Chris Woodhouse

Term 2 - 2016:
Issue 13  13th May

MAY:
Tue 17: Responsible Serving of Alcohol 3.30pm -7.30pm (2nd session)
Wed 18- Fri 20: Yr 7 Camp
Mon 23: VCAL METEC driving day
Wed 25-Sat 28: School Production Legally Blonde

FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

Legally Blonde - The Musical
Students and staff have been rehearsing for the upcoming productions of Legally Blonde the musical. This is a wonderful opportunity for our whole community to see this productions, and I encourage you all to purchase your tickets to this event. Performance dates are Wednesday 25th May until Saturday 28th May. Tickets are now on sale, and I encourage you all to book early to avoid disappointment. Tickets can be purchased through 'Trybookings' https://www.trybooking.com/Booking/BookingEventSummary.aspx?eid=197116 or by contacting Franca Mosca on; Franca Mosca 0359685388 mosca.f@edumail.vic.gov.au

NAPLAN
The NAPLAN testing for years 7 and 9 was conducted this week. All our students in the selected year levels sat the National tests in reading, writing and mathematics. As well as informing the government of our student achievement levels, the tests results are also used by our staff to assist with curriculum planning and assessment. I would like to thank all the students for trying their personal best, and Miss Alder for leading the testing schedule.

Cross Country
On Friday this week, representing our College and community, 55 of our students set off to the District Cross Country Championships. To be selected for the team, students had raced and performed extremely well in their age group at our school cross country last term. It is wonderful to hear that so many of our students have shown a great deal of sportsmanship, athleticism and pride in our college, and joined our cross country team. It is a great honour to be able to represent our College, and we can proudly announce that we placed 3rd overall! Congratulations. Jodie Doble Principal
Maths Information Night:
On Tuesday 10th May the College held its Maths Information Night for parents and students. The purpose of the night was to cover the way Math is taught at ESC (Years 7-10) whilst also providing an opportunity for parents to ask staff 1:1 any questions they had about their child’s maths including questions regarding Math Pathways. The night was very successful and provided a further opportunity for parents to be readily available to assist and monitor their child’s progress in Maths in conjunction with the teacher.

In terms of Maths Pathways the quickest way for a parent to check on their child’s progress is for them to have their child log into their Maths Pathways and on their home screen / landing page click on the button ‘view my test history.’

This screen (below) will then appear and indicate to the parent – how many modules in each fortnight they have completed. Note that students should be aiming for six modules. Parents can then also check the mastery of these modules (in other words their test result) and their growth rate. At the bottom of each column you will see an overall average for each of these. Students have been told that they are expected to have a growth rate of 100% or more which translates to one year of growth within a year. If they are not getting this then it is worth discussing with them why not and perhaps then asking them to complete some maths Pathway Modules at home.

A reminder to parents that there is Maths support available for all students at school on:
- Tuesday lunchtime – upon request (they just need to see Ms Lee or ask their maths teacher)
- Thursday lunchtime in B2
- Thursday afterschool in A7 till about 4.40pm
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On behalf of the College I would like to thank the students for their positive mindset they had with all activities and I would also like to thank the parents for allowing the students to undertake such experience by funding some of them.

The College Staff and College School Captains would also like to thank on behalf of Year 10-12 Students the Emerald Rotary Club for their $500 sponsorship that went towards funding students whose families could otherwise not afford such opportunities for their son/daughter. Thank you Emerald Rotary club for such a gesture.

ROAD WHYZ DAY:
“Having a member of our local police explain what it’s like to be one of the first responders after an accident and tell us all the impact he sees in the community. It was a valuable experience, despite the difference between us and him, his stories and advice felt very relatable”. Cooper Bass 11C

“It was really good to be reminded of the dangers of topics that we consider common or normal in today’s society; drinking, driving and drugs. It was interesting to see the differences in a standard drink and how easy it can be to over estimate. It was also eye opening once again to think about how risky it is to drive on the roads, especially when under the influence and the effects you can have on not just your life but on the lives of those around you.” Tamzin McLean 11G

“I think the road wise program was very good. I think it gave the students real insight into road safety and the repercussions if we don’t follow the rules. I think the best part of the program was the man who got up at the end and spoke to us about his accident and how he dealt with and worked through it. I know that with my mates and I all thought it would be terrible to have that happen to you and even worse if you were the driver and that happened to one of your mates. More speakers who have actually experienced road trauma themselves and can talk about it is the best way to get the message through.” Nick Jackson 12F

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SUCCESSFUL ROAD SAFETY FOCUS—TERM 2
For the first four weeks of this Term students from Years 10-12 have been undertaking a focus on driver safety and education and this has been a very successful component of our aim to address this aspect of education within the College. Whilst the focus has been over a designated period I would encourage parents whenever possible to continue dialogue around all aspects of driver education as they themselves have students transition from L plates to P plates as they begin to drive.

Simple things like booking them a driving lesson and then asking the driving instructor what they should focus on when allowing their chid to drive can be enormously helpful. Whilst the last four weeks have contained information that was presented by many different organisations it is clear that students need to hear from a range of people around them to re-enforce key messages.

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METEC DAY
“Driving at the Metec place was great fun. We got to drive around and learn about road safety. In attending this I learnt new skills and techniques for driving a car and rules about the roads. I really enjoyed myself and love driving” Hollie Burton 13E

“On 3rd May the whole of Year 10 got to go to the Metec driving day. During the day we spent an hour doing theory and learning about road laws then the second part of the day we got to drive around and practice our driving and our skills. I found that it will have made us all better drivers because we have had proper lessons now. I think that it was a great day. The way that our school is enforcing road laws and safety this term has been great and I think everyone would be getting something out of it.” Phoebe Proudmore 13E

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK:
This week’s students of the Week are both Year 7 students and with the focus being on Maths we have had two students below recognised by their teachers for their efforts in Maths. Alicia Purdham 16B

Alicia has been nominated by her Maths teacher Ms Sofi who states “Alicia is an enthusiastic learner with positive attitude towards her learning. She is committed to getting work complete to the best of her ability and seeks new challenges. She is a fine example of a committed student who always is cooperative in class and demonstrates great maturity through her excellent behaviour in class”

When asked about Maths Alicia stated that she has always liked maths and enjoyed the challenge of trying to work things out. Congratulations for all your hard work Alicia and for being student of the week!

Jade Whitley 16C

Jade has been nominated by her Maths teacher Ms Galli who makes the following observations regrading Jade - “Jade has been outstanding in Year 7 Maths. Jade has continually ensured she has completed the required number of modules in Math Pathways each fortnight. She always studies before her test, revising over her work and making sure she is familiar with all the content she covered. Jade then takes her time completing the test, trying to ensure she achieves the highest accuracy. Jade has averaged 147% growth rate so far this year. Jade is a great role model in 16C and is always striving for her best”

When we spoke to Jade about her maths she said that she has not always found it easy, but she has made a conscious decision to really try her best and make an effort and this has resulted in her, due to hard work, finding maths more enjoyable.

Well done Jade for having such a positive mindset to your studies and for being recognised as student of the week!

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CAREERS WEEK AND EXPO 2016:
From the 2nd – 6th May we held another successful ESC Careers Week here at the College. Extended HG activities, lunchtime presentations, subject specific activities throughout the week and on Friday the Year 11 cohort travelled to Caulfield Racecourse for the VCE and Careers Expo.

I would like to thank all staff for their support and willingness to provide our students with extra opportunities and knowledge of options and life outside of ESC. I would also like to commend all students for attending presentations and participating in careers based activities in the classroom. The Year 11 cohort behaved exceptionally well and made the most of their excursion being actively involved, asking questions and collecting information. Well done to all!
15G learn to Unlock Secrets: Jackie Lee and Sarah Trounson

On Wednesday the class of 15G went to Quantum Victoria to learn about the history of Coding and how information is kept secret. They had previously watched the Imitation Game, so had some prior knowledge. During the day, they learnt codes that were used in the time of Caesar, and codes that were used in the 16th Century, up to the Enigma Machine in the Second World War and all the way to how our data is kept secure over the internet in modern times. The class used some very sophisticated software where they were solving their own puzzle and finding U-Boats on a map. While at Quantum the students were focussed and engaged.

‘I managed to learn a lot about the history of technology. I found it was just the right amount of challenge’. Daniel Oudyk

‘Quantum Victoria had the perfect balance between fun and education’. Tyler Denboer

‘It was a great learning experience. It was interesting to learn about the different type of cyphers’. Ruby