

Emerald Secondary College



Fortnightly Newsletter

Emerald Secondary College is a Learning Community

Principal - Jodie Doble

College Council President - Phillip Dwyer

Assistant Principal - Jonathon Rogers

Assistant Principal - Estelle Alder

Business Manager - Jayne Thompson



Term 1 - 2018:

2nd February 2018

Issue 1

Important Dates:

Every Thursday: Homework Club
3.20pm - 4.30pm in A7

FEBRUARY:

Mon 12th: School photo day

Mon 12th: 2017 Yr 12 Reunion
4:30-6:00 pm

Tue 13th: Yrs 9 & 10 Cricket

Mon 19th: Yrs 11 & 12 Cricket

Tue 20th: Whole School
Swimming Sports Day

Tue 20th: Yr 12 Student/Parent
Information Evening -
7.00 pm

Thu 22nd: School Photo Day 2 -
Sibling Photos

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- Don't get triggered, Get Lit!
- Humanities Domain
- Homework Club
- Cardinia Shire Council Free Music
Concerts at Emerald Lake Park

From the Principal:

Welcome

Welcome to the start of the academic year, we hope that all our students, staff and families have a happy and successful year ahead in their studies and pursuits. Last year as a College we had a number of successes for our students, staff and school, and with all the planning that has taken place over the last few weeks, 2018 looks to be even more successful.

Our class of 2017 achieved a great deal with an increase in the successful completion of students in the Senior VCAL/VET pathway, and our VCE students achieving wonderful study scores and ATARs supporting their choice of University or Tertiary study. Our Median study score has maintained its high score from last year with an increase in the percentage of students achieving subject study scores over 40. We are also celebrating a massive decrease in the number of students who scored an overall ATAR below 50 proving that Emerald Secondary College really is providing pathways for success and access to personal excellence.

Over the break the College was successful in a grant for our STEM program. The College received \$10,000 towards our STEM robotics program, and Mr Gibbs and Mr Vear are developing the programs for our students to use these resources in our new STEM Engineering room in B block.

At the end of 2017 we saw the completion of our stage one building program making our Inclusion Centre, Cafeteria, STEM Engineering room and EPAC change facilities available for all our students and staff.

Over the summer break the Library refurbishment has begun due to unforeseen damage. Using school based funding, we hope to be able to use these facilities towards the end of February. The quad playground space has been redeveloped to provide a new synthetic athletics track and play space for all our students for PE classes and for recess and lunchtime. In February we will also see the new fitness sports and play equipment installed at the end of B block. A gate has also been installed at the end of B block to keep our students safe and away from traffic as they learn and play outdoors.

At Emerald we pride ourselves on our high expectations and standards in all curriculum areas including Maths and Science. Our Science program has extremely strong partnerships supporting our students learning with Mt Burnett Observatory and our Telescope in School Program, Melbourne University and the University of New Mexico. Our Maths program is also seeing excellence in practice with new resources and teacher practices in the classroom to support all our students learning.

Some of you may have seen recent information in the media regarding our Science buildings. The College has been aware of the need to improve these facilities over a number of years. I would like to reassure all our parents and

families that our Science buildings are currently being maintained with any damage repaired to ensure that all our students learn the sciences in a safe environment. I will also be working with School Council, staff and the Education Department to look at future planning and finances to see the redevelopment of these areas for all our students.

At the end of 2017 a number of staff have chosen to pursue new career pathways in other schools leaving space for new staff to our college. I would like to welcome the following staff to our ESC teaching team:- Ms Stanton, Mr Lawrence and Ms Choo to our Maths/Science department, Mr McManus, to our English department, Mr Darley-Collis to our Arts department, Mr Donders to PE, Mr Selemovski to our Technology department and Mr Tate to our IT support team. I would also like to welcome Mr Rogers our new Assistant Principal to our College. All our new staff have been warmly welcomed and are being supported in their transition into our school expectations and Emerald community family.

Our Annual Implementation Plan has been developed to ensure the continued success of our students in their learning and all our staff have their own professional development plans to support the AIP. Our 2018 overarching goals are as follows:

- ◇ To continue to improve the learning growth of every student in every subject.
- ◇ To maximise student engagement and aspiration in their learning.
- ◇ To strengthen the partnerships between students, families and staff.

These core goals will underpin all our work this year, and we all believe that this will support our students learning and aspirations, staff professional development and partnerships with the school, home and wider community.

In February this year we will see the last of the 2017 School Council closing, and there will be a number of openings for our parents to join School Council. This is an excellent way to support the continued development of our College joining the overall council as well as one of the many sub committees responsible for Buildings and Grounds, raising funds and promoting the College within the community. At the end of February nominations forms for parents wishing to join School Council will be available from the College main office. I would like to encourage you all to consider being part of School Council to support our continued development and growth.

Finally, we have a very exciting year ahead of us all. There will be times when there may be challenges for us to face as well as opportunities, but it is vitally important that we continue to work together. If at any time you feel the need to contact the College, ask a question no matter how small or just pop in for a chat then please do so. Whilst we may be busy, our excellent office staff will try to help you and if not they will take your contact details so we can contact you ASAP. Our bi-weekly newsletter will be available via email, on our website and on our Facebook page and I would encourage all our families to read all our news as the year progresses.

Jodie Doble - Principal

Assistant Principal's Report

As a new staff member to Emerald Secondary College I am very impressed by the friendly nature of both staff and students during my first week. Watching our new Year 7 students arrive on their first day in the new uniform looked great and I enjoyed helping them with their first day activities including locating key areas of the school. With the return of the entire College on Wednesday I have been fortunate to meet a number of the older students and am looking forward to working with them over the course of the year.

Buildings and Grounds update

Each newsletter I will endeavour to provide a small update on the buildings and grounds including some aspects of the maintenance program. Towards the end of last year the College was informed that we were to receive some money to contribute towards improving our facilities. This amount was increased due to the nature of some of the issues. We are working with the Department to prioritise areas that need urgent attention. The roofing and storm water issues in the Science wing was seen as the most urgent need and we have already begun work to improve this area through the Department's representatives. It is our hope that, whilst the improvements may not be immediately visible, the buildings and grounds will continue to be updated and improved. Like all schools, improving and maintaining the College grounds can become expensive and funds can become tight. School Council relies on the generosity of parents to maintain the momentum in funding continual improvements to our buildings, grounds and facilities development. I would like to thank those parents who have been able to support us through these donations and would welcome any further assistance in this way or with attendance at upcoming working bees.

Jonathon Rogers - Assistant Principal



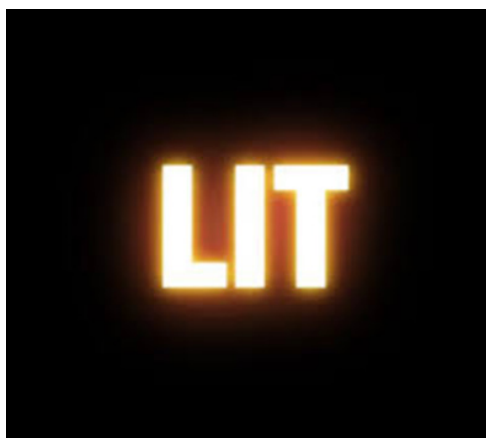
Welcome and welcome back to Emerald for 2018.

This year we have many exciting things planned in our teaching and learning, and new ways to celebrate and recognise the work of our teachers and students. As we had a Whole School Kickstart at the end of last year we have had a very smooth start to the year. Congratulations to the students and teachers for our fantastic VCE results last year, and for those who have been offered apprenticeships through VCAL. Your hard work has paid off! We wish all of our students every success with their chosen pathway.

We will continue to keep families and students informed of achievement and progress through Compass, and through regular Progress reports (every 6 weeks) and Semester Reports. We encourage you to check your child's progress through the Compass portal, where Learning Tasks are set and assessed.

We are looking forward to another great year learning together.

Estelle Alder - Assistant Principal



Don't get triggered, Get Lit!

Hello everyone, and welcome to a new column in our newsletter. I'm Claire Hanley and I have a different role this year, running Whole School Literacy. As part of my role, I want to use this column to explore the most important and confusing element within our schools these days.

I want to try and work it all out for everyone.

I want to be the one to pass on my findings and say 'Here, this is what's going on'.

I want to open our eyes and reassure all of us, that we can work this one out.

And what is this . . . thing?

Well, it's kids. What are they on about??? They say things and do things that don't make any sense to us and I just want to know, what is going on?

The most beautiful and confusing thing about English is that it is a social language. Which means, it's ever changing. It has and will always be that way. Nothing will stop it from evolving. It goes back centuries, where we started with sounds and then from sounds, characters were created. If you fast forward slightly, the Vikings invaded Britain, introduced their sounds, followed by another invasion and the passing of more sounds and characters.

Then an animal made a noise down the back paddock but Dot thought it was Terry calling out to her and so she passed on this new sound and character to her neighbours. And it just goes on and on.*

Our students have sayings that seem to make sense to them, but to us, it's gibberish. In the back of our minds, there is a slight hope that the student has delivered a line that our Japanese teachers have taught them at school, but deep down we know.

We just don't understand. There is a language barrier. We are lost in translation.

This must stop.

In this column I am going to be translating all the lit** language the students are saying. We don't have to be triggered** at something the students say anymore because we will finally understand. I am going to meet them at their level.

Come with me on this journey. I will be interviewing students and hopefully putting together some lit** podcasts as well, so you can listen to the translations.

Next week I want to explore Man's Not Hot by Big Shaq, because I REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND IT AT ALL.

*Some of this may be factually inaccurate.

**Words kids are saying. I'm totally nailing it.

Claire Hanley - Whole School Literacy Leader

HUMANITIES DOMAIN

"Humanities deepest desire for knowledge is justification enough for continuing our quest and our goal is nothing less than a complete description of the universe we live in." Stephen Hawking

Welcome back everyone to a new year of teaching and learning in Humanities! Our junior school students, Years 7 to 9, are enjoying Civics and Citizenship this term whilst the senior school are now focused on a particular subject area of Humanities – namely: Legal studies; Economics; Business; Geography; and History.

Welcome back Ms. Moran, Mr. Edwards, Ms. Mosca, Ms. Rees, Ms. Phillips, Ms. McMahon, Mr. Reid, Ms. Holmes and Ms. Clayworth. I would like to formally welcome to the team: Mr. Vear, Mr. Nelson, Ms. Deer and Ms. Nugent, as well as welcome back Mr. Barrett!

I would also like to take this opportunity to invite any student that is curious and/or has a passion for one of our Humanities subject to join the Humanities Student Forum on Tuesday 6th February at lunchtime in A5. It is the aim of this forum to identify and plan towards maximizing the teaching and learning in Humanities. See you there!

Ms. Bonaccorso - Humanities Domain Leader.



HUMANITIES CONNECTION

Opening Eyes, Opening Ears,
Opening Minds



Homework Club

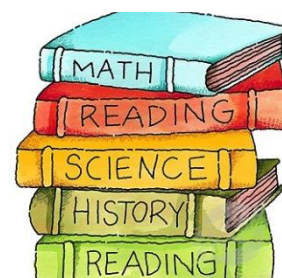
If you need a quiet place to get your homework done or require extra help from your teachers, the place to be is Homework Club.

Details

When: Every Thursday from 3.20-4.30pm

Where: Room A7 with teacher assistance

Who: All students from Years 7 - 12



Any questions, please contact Ms. Sarah Tounson – D Block staffroom

Free
concerts

Summer music Series 2018

Dates

Each Sunday throughout February

Venue

The bandstand at Emerald Lake Park

Time

12.30 – 3pm

The hills come alive with the sound of music this February. With acts catering for a range of musical tastes, lazing on a Sunday afternoon has never been so enticing!

Hosted by Cardinia Shire Council, the Summer Music Series concerts are family-friendly events held at Emerald Lake Park.

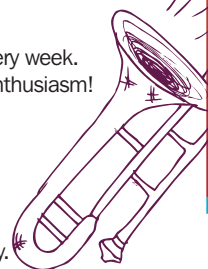
Make your own summer music!

Positive Music will run drumming circles every week. No experience necessary – just bring your enthusiasm!

Come along and enjoy a picnic in beautiful local parkland with a variety of summertime musical entertainment.

Again in 2018, a bonus show will be held at the Cardinia Cultural Centre on 4 February. Entertainment starts at 4pm.

cardinia.vic.gov.au/summermusic



2018 concert dates

4 Feb

Whiskey Dram

11 Feb

Blak Roots

18 Feb

Cardinia Civic Concert Band

25 Feb

The Skylarks

A rock folk band with influences ranging from traditional folk, punk, blues and bluegrass, a penchant for sea shanties and Australian folk songs. They will have you dancing up a sweat in no time!

Entwining African cultural forms with world music to produce an all-original, energetic repertoire of songs that defies conventional categories of music genre.

This show will feature a live broadcast from 3MDR.

Thirty-piece ensemble of local artists performing a variety of music from the roaring '20s through to the contemporary popular music of today.

A high-energy jazz, blues, soul and roots cover band, playing everything from rock to reggae, Winehouse to Wonder. Best-known for their big sound and party grooves.

3MDR
97.1 fm
mountain district radio


Cardinia

In the event of a CFA declared Code Red or Extreme fire weather alert, or other extreme weather conditions, Emerald Lake Park will be closed and the concerts will be cancelled.

**Free
concerts**

Again in 2018
Bonus show at the
Cardinia Cultural Centre!

Summer music Series 2018

Date
Sunday 4 February

Venue
Cardinia Cultural Centre amphitheatre

Time
4–6pm

For one evening only, Summer Music Series will float down from the hills to Lakeside Pakenham.

Featuring the talented Whiskey Dram, and Cardinia Civic Concert Band, this family-friendly event will help kick off a month filled with live music.

Come along and enjoy the Centre from a different perspective, with a variety of summertime musical entertainment. Vista Cafe will be open for the event.

In case of inclement weather, the event will be moved indoors

cardinia.vic.gov.au/summermusic



Cardinia Cultural Centre
PAKENHAM • VICTORIA

3MDR
97.1fm
mountain district radio

Cardinia

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