Term 3 - 2016:
Issue 21 - 22nd July

JULY:
Mon 25th:
Future Options Expo and Subject Selection Information Evening PLUS
- Yr 7 – 10 SEAL Information Evening. EPAC. 6pm – 6.30pm.
- Year 9 Subject Selection Information Evening. EPAC. 6.30pm – 7pm.
- Year 10 Subject Selection Information Evening. EPAC. 7.30pm – 8.15pm.
- VCAL and VET Information Session Room S1 7pm - 7.15pm
Wed 27: Yr 11 Legal Excursion
Thu 28: Brass & Woodwind Soiree
Fri 29: Yr 10 SEAL & Yr. 11 Subject Selection Day

AUGUST:
Mon 1: Yr 12 VTAC Information Evening
Fri 12: Concert & Stage Band Performance Excursion
Mon 15 - Fri 19: Yr 9 Connect City Experience

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- Yr 12 Legal Studies Supreme Court Excursion
- Yr 10 Awards Photos
- Yr 11 Awards Photos

Principal’s Report

Stranger Danger:
This week I have some alarming news to share with the community. One of our female students was attacked on the way home from school. This occurred when the student got off the school bus at Belgrave South. The student was followed across the oval crossing onto Norton Road, and then attacked from behind. The student did manage to get away from her attacker, and police have been informed, and are acting on the situation.

I encourage all our students and families to be vigilant and observant when travelling to and from school, and report any incidents or concerns. The safety of all our students is paramount.

Building for teaching and learning:
As part of the new building program, I can now share the wonderful news that the architect has been given the all clear from the Department to plan and budget our new buildings. Supported by a number of staff, Tanya Ryder Barnes and I have developed the new Inclusion Hub model.

The building will house the teaching and learning specialist classes and supports for our students with additional learning needs. This includes our students with disabilities, and students with individual learning needs.

Individual learning needs includes all students who are either below the expected level, or above the expected level. Inclusion is about ensuring our education and support systems, cater for all our student’s individual learning needs. In the Centre there will also be our Wellbeing supports, specialist supports such as our psychologist and speech therapist, our doctor in residency program and our physiotherapist in residency program.

The old electronics room will now been redeveloped into a multipurpose technology room. This will enable the College to offer VET Building and Construction as well as many other new and emerging technology subjects including 3D printing.

Our current Library is the heart of the College and we have developed plans that have also been approved. The Library block includes C1 and C2, our old computer classrooms.

Within the new scope of works, the Library will be renovated to meet the needs of our learning community, with a new internal wall and removal of some internal walls, the back quarter of the library and C1 and C2 will be converted into an internal cafeteria. This will enable our students and community to sit indoors during recess and lunch if they wish, and enable us to offer VET Hospitality in the future as part of our learning program.

Plans will be made available to the whole community once they have been finalised. The timeline for completion of all these works is projected to be Easter next year.

Following on from these works, I am also working with our local politicians to secure funding to upgrade our Science and Maths buildings to enable us to develop a STEM center for our students. STEM is Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and encompasses areas such as
Proposed New Uniform:

As you are aware, we are reviewing our current uniform provider and school uniform. We have had ongoing problems with quality, supply and customer service with our current uniform stockist. We have also considered the financial cost to families in having so many items available, the difficulty in purchasing second hand uniform and a single campus with two different uniforms.

There have also been concerns raised regarding our College uniform having the identical sport uniform as other local private and state schools causing difficulty in tracking our students, and a lack of identity at sporting events.

It has also been brought to my attention that our winter skirt is in fact a copy of a nearby schools winter skirt. Some of our uniform elements are also part of the original Emerald Post Primary uniform, and we feel it is time we move to a more ‘secondary college’ style uniform adopted by the majority of state secondary schools.

The images of the proposed new uniform do not do it justice, so we have placed in our College entrance foyer, samples for our whole community to view. During the first two weeks of August we ask that you come into the school to view the samples and complete a survey to assist with our future planning and implementation of any changes.

Parent Opinions:

Thank you to all those parents who have contacted me and agreed to support the College. As a Principal, and as a College, it is important that we work with all our families, and listen to any concerns or feedback either positive or negative. The Attitude to Parent Survey has been sent out to families selected by the department. Can I please encourage all those families to complete and return them to me by the due date.

In week four and five this term we aim to hold information evenings and invite families in to be part of the discussions about the College to support our thinking and decision making.

I will also be inviting parents in to address specific questions that have arisen from the previous surveys and feedback I have received in order for me to lead Emerald Secondary College forward, and provide the best possible educational outcomes for all our students.

Jodie Doble  Principal

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL:

Semester Reports:

This year Semester Reports have changed and more information has been added for each subject report. To monitor your child’s progress throughout the year you can log onto Compass and see what learning tasks and CATs have been assigned, and the teacher’s assessment and feedback on these tasks. The semester report includes these assessment tasks, as well as feedback on your child’s Effort, Behaviour and Organisation, and their performance against the AusVELS learning standards.

A short survey will be sent to families via email to gather your feedback and thoughts to the changes in the semester reports.

Academic Review:

Students who have either not submitted or not passed a number of CATs are placed on Academic Review. Students on Academic Review may require a family meeting with the school, and be required to undertake additional learning activities to improve their performance. A follow-up progress report is held to monitor a student’s progress. Students who do not perform at the expected standard may have their subject selections limited. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact your child’s Home Group teacher, Year Level Co-ordinator or Sub-School Leader.

STEM and STEAM:

Science, Engineering, Maths and Technology /Science, Engineering, Maths, Arts, Technology

STEM and STEAM are the names of a new integrated discipline learning area. STEM recognises that in today’s world we often draw on skills and knowledge from a range of disciplines, rather than just one. Students take a hands-on approach to science, and incorporate the other disciplines to solve problems, much like we do in industry outside the classroom.

STEAM incorporates the design and aesthetic element into STEM. STEM and STEAM students use 21st Century skills, such as collaboration, problem solving, critical thinking and ICT tools. STEAM projects include designing prosthetic limbs, designing and building sustainably powered vehicles, or designing, printing, building and programming robots. The STEM initiative in schools also prioritises encouraging girls into STEM subjects and pathways such as engineering. In 2017 the College will offer two STEM subjects, in preparation for a full STEM Pathway in 2018. These subjects are STEM – Engineering in Year 10, and STEM – Design in Year 9. See the 2017 Handbooks for further details.

Estelle Alder Assistant Principal
Literacy News:
In Term 3 we see a focus on literacy at ESC, with students offered a wide range of activities.

Fun national challenge to boost students’ literacy skills - starts on August 1.

Australia’s biggest and most fun literacy competition for Years 1 to 9 starts on 1st August

LiteracyPlanet’s Word Mania 2016 is free, boosts literacy skills, and there is more than $100,000 in prizes for schools to win. To play students simply build as many words as they can in three minutes from 15 letters.
All students in years 7-9 have been registered for this competition – see your English teacher for details.

Melbourne Writers Festival
Students are invited to attend the MWF on August 30th.
Cost: $20 – Sign up at the Library desk.

Jan Allen Creative Writing Competition
Students are invited to submit a piece of prose – no longer than 1000 words. Prizes of $50 in Junior, Intermediate and Senior sections.

Visiting author and writing workshops
Students are invited to sign up for writing workshops that will occur with our visiting author on Aug 22nd.

Reading challenge
Year 7 students are invited to participate in the Homegroup reading challenge to win a Hot chip lunch for their Homegroup.
See the Library desk for details.

Tracey Ferguson Literacy Leader

Health & Wellbeing Information Night – Tuesday 9th August 2016 at ESC:
Have you ever wondered how to approach a conversation with your teenager about risk taking behaviours related to alcohol and drugs? Have you ever been concerned that potentially your son/daughter will experience peer group pressure that has them making poor choices?

These questions and others are all the norm for parents today and the answer to these questions is not a simple one fix answer. For this very reason Emerald Secondary College is hosting its first gala night around these very issues. Our special Guest on the night will be Steve Morris of the Richmond Football Club who will kick off the night with a focus on the theme of positive Mental Health and the importance of resilience.

The audience will then hear from a panel of local people who have key messages for both students and parents around the broader issues. For parents this is an opportunity for you to really have your teenage son/daughter connect with key harm minimisation messages, whilst at the same time pick up tips on what to look for if you suspect your teenage son/daughter could potentially be susceptible to peer influences – whether this be on weekends or at other times.

The Year 9 students who are currently looking at Health in Connect are all personally inviting their parents to come along on the night, but parents with teenagers of any age are welcome. An opportunity such as this does not come along very often and so we encourage parents along with the kids to come along on the night. Entry is free and the night goes from 7.30pm-9pm. See you there!
ESC Future options Expo and Subject Selection Information Evening:
A reminder to students and families that The Emerald Secondary College Future Options Expo will be held in S-Block from 6.00pm – 7.30pm on Monday 25th July.

Over 20 institution representatives will set up stalls where you can ask questions about their courses and facilities, collect course guides and gather information to help with your subject selections and future options. Each Domain of Emerald Secondary College will also have a stall for you to ask questions regarding subjects to study at ESC next year and beyond.

Additional Information Monday 25th July 2016:

- Yr 7 – 10 SEAL Information Evening. EPAC. 6pm – 6.30pm.
- Year 9 Subject Selection Information Evening. EPAC. 6.30pm – 7pm.
- Year 10 Subject Selection Information Evening. EPAC. 7.30pm – 8.15pm.
- VCAL and VET Information Session. Room S1. 7pm – 7.15pm.

Nick Smith Careers Coordinator

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HEALTH & WELLBEING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE INFORMATION NIGHT

WHEN
Tuesday August 9th 7.30-9pm

WHERE
Emerald Secondary College

FREE ENTRY

SPECIAL GUEST
Steve Morris
Richmond FC

TEENAGER & PARENT EVENT

EVENT COVERS
- Positive Mental Health - the importance of resilience & overcoming adversity
- Risk taking behaviors of young people - Impact of Drugs and Alcohol
- How to have the ‘drug’ talk & helping my young person

AGENCIES REPRESENTED ON THE NIGHT

Cardinia
YSAS
FADAA
headspace
HUMANITIES EXCURSION 14G:
On Monday 18th July, 14G travelled to 3 different places of worship- An Islamic Mosque, a Sikh temple, and a Buddhist temple. We were able to tour the places of worship, as well as learn about the different religions.

Firstly, we went to an Islamic Mosque in Hallam, where we were greeted by Muhammad, an Islamic architect who showed us around the building. We had to take off our shoes before entering, and once inside we headed to the prayer room, and learnt about the daily, weekly, and annual customs in the Islamic religion. We then headed upstairs to see the female prayer room and asked questions. After that, we headed to a Sikh temple in Keysborough.

Once at the Temple, we took off our shoes and socks, and put on small headscarves. We then walked inside whilst our host, Gagan, bowed to Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji, The Sikh holy text as we sat on the floor. She then showed us a PowerPoint explaining Sikh customs and the history of Sikhism. She explained that baptised Sikhs have certain customs and ‘rules’ that they must follow. After that, Gagan led us to a dining room. We sat on mats on the floor as we were presented with a delicious lentil curry with rice and homemade Chapatti. After the meal, we were offered delicious Chai Tea. After leaving the Sikh temple, we went to a Buddhist temple in Narre Warren, it was beautiful. We went on a tour through the gardens and the temple, saw live peacocks and kangaroos and then headed to the Meditation room and meditated while Andrew, our host, chanted in an ancient language. Everything had so much detail and was very pretty. The whole experience was amazing. It was so great to see these places of worship and learn about their customs. It was also very interesting and informative.

Emily Prout, Jazzlyn Fox, and Tommy Steckel
Year 12 Camp – Alexandra 13-15 July:

In the spirit of trying something new, this year we scheduled our Year 12 Camp mid-year in an attempt to re-boot the motivation and drive in students as they face the final months of their secondary schooling. The cold air did not dampen the will of students to participate. Sure, it may have been 3 degrees C in the mornings, but we were fortunate to have very pleasant weather for our outdoor activities on each of the three days we attended. Before activities commenced each day, students participated in workshops:

- For VCE students: Careers and Pathways, VCE English, Mindset and Stress Management and as well as Study Skills
- For VCAL students: Work Force Preparation activities, which included creating interview questions, designing quality responses to interview questions and giving each other constructive feedback on interview technique

The outdoor activities allowed students to develop greater connections with peers that may not be part of their own friendship circles. It was inspiring to witness students push their limits, to encourage each other and to coach each other on strategies for improvement. It was also amusing to see that their competitive spirit was never far from the surface at all.

Perhaps by far the most hilarious part of the camp happened on the final night – Bogan Trivia Night. Students and staff committed to the theme with flannelette as far as the eye could see. In the end, the trivia questions mattered very little, as students took great joy in participating in the games during the breaks. The special talents segment certainly had the crowd on their feet, with roars of laughter echoing through the valley.

We are very grateful to the staff who attended Camp, as organising lessons for classes back at school can be a chore, and foregoing time away from their families is a sacrifice as well. Thank you to Jason Nicholas, Nik Smith, Shane Closter, Jeff Edwards, Steve Barrett, Virginia Nugent and Maija Gusts for your time, support, dedication and professionalism.

The camp was fantastic. The venue staff frequently commented on how cooperative and supportive our students during the three days. This cohort are a brilliant bunch of young adults, who continue to show great consideration for each other and a have keen sense of fun. The Senior School Team now look forward to seeing them apply some of the skills, strategies and ideas that were presented at Camp and see you achieve the tremendous potential we see in each of them. Fly High! Tanya Moran Year 12 Coordinator
One of the Year 12 Legal Studies classes spent the first day of this term in the Supreme Court of Victoria in the city. This is always an amazing learning experience for VCE Legal Studies students as the theory that they learn in class comes to life and becomes an incredibly valuable reference point for the content yet to be covered.

Our day started with a Supreme Court Justice addressing the group about the hierarchy of the courts and the types of cases that she presides over. This gave students a very unique perspective of the court room as we sat behind the bar table – usually reserved for informants in the cases before the courts.

We were then taken up to the public gallery balcony, allowing us to witness court proceedings from an elevated vantage point. This first murder case was a plea hearing – the defendant had pleaded guilty, giving both parties the opportunity to present submissions to determine the sentence. However, in an interesting twist, the Justice disclosed that an associate of the co-offender to the defendant had sent her a threatening email that had been forwarded to the police. She disclosed that she knew the defendant and the author of the threat were in no way associated and that the email would not impact on her sentencing decision. Both parties accepted this disclosure.

Our second matter was also a plea hearing for a murder case. We walked in on the Crown prosecutor presenting precedents of the way in which a ‘violent act’ should be defined in ‘intentionally causing injury’, as the legislation did not appear to provide clarity in the matter as it related to this case. The judge offered many interesting hypothetical scenarios that challenged the argument of the Crown prosecutor, which lead to the defence barrister requesting a recess to reconsider whether a plea of guilty would be entered. This was particularly relevant to the work students did at the end of Unit 3 in relation to Statutory Interpretation.

Finally, our guide took us into the historical Law Library, which houses all the decisions made by the Supreme Court, bound in beautiful books known as Law Reports. Students showed great appreciation for the historical significance of the site which originally housed jurors when they were required to be sequestered. Our students conducted themselves in a manner befitting their environment and this experience has since sparked many interesting discussions about the matters we saw and how it relates to work we have done and will cover in Unit 4. Hopefully the opportunity has inspired some of the students to also consider a career in the legal profession.

Tanya Moran Year 12 Legal Studies Teacher
YEAR 10 AWARDS ASSEMBLY

VCAL Positive Engagement Award Bradley Diprose

13B - Ms. WILLIAMSON

13C - MR. SNOW

Curiosity Competition Winner Jess Keen

13E - MR. OGDEN

Emerald Lake Adventure Race Winners - Will Findlay Jess Jarman and Flynn Cocks
Monthly Green Chronicle winners: Mitchy Dasler, Camden Agius and Chelsea Ackerman (Sean Duguid absent)

Singing the Gospel - Monica Innes, Oscar Rice, Ally Reid and Rebecca Graham
YR 11 ASSEMBLY AWARDS

12A - MS. CROSS-GUNN

12B - MS. MIKIECIUK

12C - MS CRONIN

12D - MR. IGNACIO

12E: Ms.Hay, Mr. Edwards, & Mr. Crowley

12F - MR. REID (Not present for photo)

12G - MS. SOFI - Excellence and Endeavour Award Recipients
YR 11 ASSEMBLY AWARDS