

Emerald Secondary College



The Bush Telegraph

Emerald Secondary College is a Learning Community

Principal- Jodie Doble

College Council President- Phillip Dwyer

Assistant Principal- Mike Jaremczuk

Assistant Principal- Estelle Alder

Business Manager- Jayne Thompson



Term 3 - 2017:

4th August 2017 **Issue 23**

Important Dates:

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

AUGUST:

Mon 7th: Yr 12 VTAC Information Evening

Tues 8th: Guitar Soiree - 6.30pm
EPAC

Wed 9th: Yr 8 Sports Day

Thur 10th-Fri 11th: Yr 10 Mt Buller overnight camp

Fri 11th: Yr 12 2018 Subject Selection Day -9am-3pm

Mon 14th: Yr 11 2018 Subject Selection Day - 12pm-8pm

Tues 15th: Community and Yr 9 Smart Gen Parent Night

Tues 15th: Yr 11 History - Vietnam Veterans Museum Visit

In this Issue:

- From the Principal
- Yr 7 Girls Volleyball News
- The Smart Generation - Preventing Teenage Drinking
- Japanese Student Teacher
- What Students are Saying About ESC
- Cardinia Shire Youth Services Term 3 Program
- Sow Grow Cook
- Outdoor Survival Skills
- Mayan Astronomy
- Preparing for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)
- Homework Club
- Casey Young Writers Festival
- Building Resilience in Children

From the Principal:

School Assembly

We began the week with our first Term Three Whole School Assembly. At Emerald Secondary College, these assemblies are planned and led by our SRC (Student Representative Council). The SRC is made up of young leaders from Years 7 to 12, led by Ms Julie Cross-Gunn. Students seek input from their peers as well as our staff to develop our assemblies. It is always a pleasure to both witness and recognise the leadership of our students.

Parents and families are encouraged and welcome to attend assemblies.

Please contact the College main office for the date of our next Whole School Assembly.

Writing Competition

To support our Literacy program at Emerald Secondary College, this week we launched the annual Jan Allen Writing Competition for 2017.

All students are encouraged to enter a piece of writing. There is a 1,000 word limit, and submissions can be either short stories or any form of narrative. Students' work is judged in three year level categories: Junior, Intermediate and Senior, with certificates and prizes awarded to the winners. I would like to encourage all our students to submit a piece of writing and participate in this excellent opportunity.

More information is available from Ms Nugent, our College English Domain Leader.

Capital Works Grant

This week I was notified by the Department of Education that we are eligible for a significant Capital Works Grant. This has been made possible by the hard work of our College School Council President Mr Phillip Dwyer. Mr Dwyer, along with members of our School Council, have reviewed our facilities and identified the need to improve our College for all our students and staff.

Mr Dwyer has met with Ministers James Merlino, Brad Battin and our Mayor Brett Owen on numerous occasions to discuss the funding of a maintenance program.

We hope to receive much needed funds to repair and improve our buildings and grounds including broken downpipes, drainage and sports facilities to support the health of our students and staff, as well as to enhance our programs.

Coaching for our Leadership Team

This week our whole Leadership Team has been involved in an important professional development program hosted by the Education Department through the Bastow Institute.

The focus of the program was to support our school leaders to develop the necessary knowledge and skills to enhance the cultural capacity of the school and provide a platform to improve student learning outcomes which, coupled with our Priority Review and its outcomes, will enable us as a College to continue to implement improved staff and student success.

This is the first stage in the continued development of our improvement cycle for the next four years and our teaching staff will have the opportunity for increased input in decisions which will shape the future of ESC to support all our students' learning programs and achievement.

Illicit Substance Usage in Youth

In our society today, it is a major issue that our children have increasingly easy access to both drugs and alcohol. It is illegal for teenagers to be in possession of, or take, drugs and alcohol. The rationale behind this is not only from a legal perspective but also to ensure healthy body and brain development. It has been medically proven that the side effects of teenagers taking drugs or drinking alcohol have severe implications for brain, physical and social development as well as affecting mental health.

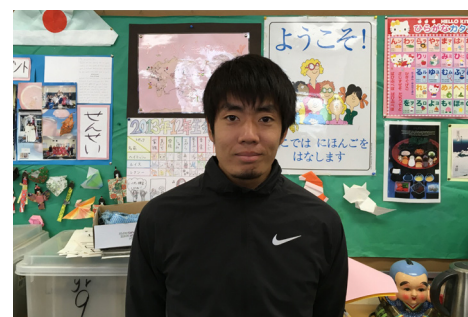
At Emerald Secondary College we take all reports related to drugs and alcohol extremely seriously. As College Principal I have a duty of care to ensure that all our students are kept safe at all times. In all cases where students are found with drugs or alcohol Police involvement and Expulsion are considered.

If you have any concerns about your child, or others you believe are involved with drugs or alcohol, can I please ask that you contact either the Emerald Police or the College to enable us to act. There are a number of support options available, including YSAS and Headspace.

Jodie Doble, Principal

Japanese Student Teacher

We'd like to welcome a Japanese student teacher, Mr Aiki Takatoo, who will be working with Mr Kawakami and teaching some of the Japanese classes for 3 weeks. He is from Nagoya, but is currently studying in Tokyo. He lived in America for 3 years and loves playing soccer. Say "Konnichiwa" to Mr Takatoo when you see him in the yard.



Daisuke Kawakami - Languages Coordinator

Year 7 Girls Volleyball News

On the weekend just past (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) the Emerald Year 7 Volleyball team headed down to the State Volleyball Centre to compete in the Victorian Schools Cup. The girls played 4 pool games, beating Upwey and Billanook to finish 4th in their pool. In the play off for 7th/8th place we managed to beat Maffra, finishing 7th. The girls played very well to win 3/5 games over the weekend and had a great time doing so. Great job girls!

**Thomas Watson
Volleyball Coach**



The Smart Generation – Preventing Teenage Drinking

Teenage drinking is a serious problem that causes harm for young people, families and the community. To address this issue, our school is taking part in a project to prevent adolescent alcohol use. The Smart Generation Program is aimed at **Year 8, 9 & 10** students and their parents. If you have a child in either of these year levels, you should receive a brochure and letter soon, telling you about the program.

The Smart Generation Program is coordinated by Deakin University and aims to raise awareness about Australia's national alcohol guidelines and legislation. The number one aim of the program is to reduce teenage drinking, so we can all help our young people to be healthier and happier. Cardinia Shire is the 2nd largest council municipality across the State of Victoria for alcohol related issues according to recent data.

What are the national alcohol guidelines and legislation?

The **National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) guidelines** recommend that children aged under 18 years do not drink alcohol.

Secondary Supply Legislation makes it illegal to supply alcohol to anyone under the age of 18 without written or verbal permission from their parents.

Over the coming weeks, look out for the Smart Generation newsletter articles for more information about teen drinking.

We encourage you to be as involved as possible, and to get started you can:

1. Talk to your child about alcohol use and the risks. Discuss your expectation that they do not drink alcohol before they turn 18.
2. Consider setting guidelines that your child does not drink alcohol at home or elsewhere, and discuss the possible consequences.

As part of the Smart Generation Program, Emerald Secondary College will be hosting a parent information evening on Tuesday 15th August in the Emerald Performing Arts Centre. The purpose of the night is to educate parents and members of the community about alcohol, effects it has on teenagers and the laws associated with it.

The night is being completely run by a small group of selected Year 9 students who have been working hard to make the night as informative, engaging and enjoyable as possible. We are pleased to announce that Dr Bosco Rowland from Deakin University will be our guest speaker for the parent information evening.



We look forward to seeing you there!

For more information visit www.smartgeneration.org.au or contact **Mike Jaremczuk, Assistant Principal**.

What Students Are Saying About ESC – Student Attitudes to School Survey

Recently the College has student feedback from the 'Student Attitude to School Survey' which students completed in Term 2. This annual survey provides an opportunity for all students across Year 7-12 to give their thoughts on a range of areas including their learning, experience with teachers, connection to their peers, and feelings about school. The College uses this data to measure our effectiveness of programs and initiatives we have implemented in response to previous student feedback.

This year's data has reflected some extremely positive results, some of which include:

- The transition from students from primary school to secondary school indicated that students felt they were very well supported
- The vast majority of students want to come to school every day, and try hard to catch up with any work they miss
- 81% of students stated that they experience no bullying and if they do it is dealt with effectively by the College

This year's data also recognised areas in which the College will continue to drive improvement. One of these areas was in 'student voice and agency' and we are currently considering how we can implement best practice in our classrooms. Student voice and agency is a critical part of learning as it looks to empower students to engage in their own learning and fosters self-motivation and engagement.

Mike Jaremczuk and Estelle Alder - Assistant Principals

Cardinia Shire Council

YOUTH SERVICES

TERM 3 PROGRAM

MY PLACE
YOUTH
FACILITY

MON

YOUNG MUMS

ARENA
10-12pm

SOS

MY PLACE
3.30-5pm

MEDIA IN THE HILLS

EMERALD
4-5.30pm

LGBTIQ SUPPORTERS

GROUP
PAKENHAM
6-8pm

OPEN
1-5.15pm

TUES

SPORTS PROGRAM

MY PLACE
4-5.30pm

SOW GROW COOK

MY PLACE
3.30-5pm

OPEN
1-5.15pm

WED

BE UR SELF

Contact Youth Services
for venue
4-5.30pm

**EP FREEZA
COMMITTEE**

MY PLACE
4-5.30pm

CATCH UP

MY PLACE
5.30-7pm

OPEN
1-5.15pm

THU

REFRACT

Contact Youth Services
for venue
4-5.30PM

OPEN
1-5.15pm

FRI

BRAINWAVES

MY PLACE
10-11.30am

OPEN
1-5pm

Youth Services programs are free, but some excursions and activities may incur a cost.
Bookings are essential

Cardinia Shire Council Youth Services

20 Siding Ave, Officer
PO Box 7, Pakenham 3810
Ph: 1300 787 624

Email: youth@cardinia.vic.gov.au
Web: cardinia.vic.gov.au/youth
Fb: facebook.com/cardiniayouthservices



SOW GROW COOK



These are just some of the awesome activities we have planned for our cooking program!

- Making pasta from scratch
- Food prep skills
- Cooking with fresh produce

Date: **Start:** Tuesday 25 July
Finish: Tuesday 19 Sep
Time: 3.30-5.00pm
Venue: My Place Youth Facility
Contact: Youth Services
1800 4 YOUTH (1800 496 884)
youth@cardinia.vic.gov.au

Are you interested in cooking and want to experience something new? Then this program is for you! Have fun and make friends whilst learning new cooking skills.

For young people aged 12-17

To register, complete our annual consent and booking form online.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/youth

03 5940 3100
cardinia.vic.gov.au/youth



OUTDOOR SURVIVAL SKILLS



These are just some of the awesome activities we have planned for SOS!

- Camp Cooking
- Orienteering
- Outdoor safety
- Hiking
- Exploring

Date: **Start:** Monday 14 August
Finish: Monday 18 September
Time: 3:30-5:30pm
Venue: My Place Youth Facility, 5-7 Main St. Pakenham, 3810
Contact: Youth Services
1800 4 YOUTH (1800 496 884)
youth@cardinia.vic.gov.au

If you are interested in the outdoors and want to experience something new, this program is for you! Have fun in the outdoors whilst learning basic survival skills.

For young people aged 12-17

To sign up, complete our annual consent and booking form found on our website.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/youth

1300 787 624
cardinia.vic.gov.au



Mayan Astronomy

💡 national science week 2017

Dr Javier Mejuto



Professor of Cultural Astronomy at the National Autonomous University in Honduras

"Astronomy in the Classic Maya Period: Copan Ruinas, Honduras"

What is Archaeoastronomy? What are Astromorphs?

**Come and join us on Friday August 18th from 6.30pm at EPAC,
Emerald Secondary College, as Culture, Astronomy, History, Maths
and Archaeology combine for this fascinating FREE talk.**

Talk begins at 7.30pm.

For more information contact: info@mounburnettobservatory.org or Brad Gibbs at
Emerald Secondary College



💡 national science week 2017



Preparing for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

A practical view

This information session is designed to assist people with disabilities, families and carers to get ready for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, which will commence in Cardinia Shire, the City of Casey and the City of Greater Dandenong on 1 September 2018.

The information session will provide:

- an overview of the NDIS;
- updates on the Scheme; and
- tips and ideas to assist in developing your NDIS plan.

Presenter — Christine Scott

Christine works at VALID (Victorian Advocacy League for Individuals with a Disability Inc.) and has experience in supporting individuals and their families through their transition to the NDIS. Christine is also a parent of a young adult with a disability who has been funded by the NDIS since 2013.

Wednesday 16 August

Cardinia Shire Council, Civic Offices

20 Siding Avenue, Officer

Morning session: 10.30am to 12.30pm

Evening session: 6.30pm to 8.30pm

For further information or to RSVP (requested, as it will assist catering arrangements), please contact Marcia on 1300 787 624 or email c.strengthening@cardinia.vic.gov.au, stating *which* session you will be attending.

RSVPs close 5pm, Friday, 11 August 2017



Homework Club

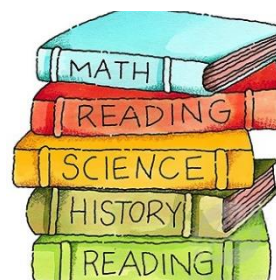
If you need a quiet place to get your homework done or require extra help from your teachers, the place to be is Homework Club.

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 Trounson – D Block staffroom



CASEY YOUNG WRITERS FESTIVAL

Creative Writing Workshops with author George Ivanoff

George Ivanoff is coming to Endeavour Hills Library armed with tips and tricks to help you write your own engaging, dynamic stories!

Book in for your chance to make your writing extraordinary with George, author of over 80 books for young people including the interactive 'You Choose' books and the 'Gamers' trilogy.

Endeavour Hills Library
10 Raymond McMahon Blvd

Saturday 12 August

For ages 9–12 years

> 11am to 12pm

For ages 13–18 years

> 2pm to 3pm

FREE. Bookings essential at
tinyurl.com/cclcevents
or phone 8782 3400



Casey
Cardinia
Libraries

Inspiring spaces
Where everyone is free
to discover possibilities



YOUTH
SERVICES

**Upper Ferntree Gully
Primary School**
**Talaskia Road, Upper
Ferntree Gully**

**Invites you to a
night with**

**CHRIS
DAICOS**



Building Resilience in Children



Parent Forum— Suitable for parents of all age children

Monday 28th August 2017 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Upper Ferntree Gully Primary School Library

As parents we can be overly concerned for our children, putting energy into places that aren't providing opportunities for Resilience! We hear terms like 'helicopter parents' in the media, referring to the anxiety we face as parents, of letting go and trusting our children. Sometimes we do too much for our children, carrying their bags to school, doing their homework, not wanting them to be disappointed, not succeed or miss out on things.

This interactive workshop will encourage parents to build your children's resilience and to help your children develop skills in social competence, problem solving, independence and optimism.

Visit www.chrisdaicos.com.au

As a trained social worker and teacher, Chris has extensive experience in working directly with children, adolescents and supporting parents and school staff. Chris has facilitated many successful learning sessions for teachers and parents within the private and public sectors on a range of issues from organisational health to welfare issues. Chris is actively involved in the tertiary sector, teaching students in Master of Social Work, Master of Teaching and the Master of Education (Student Wellbeing) Courses.

BUILDING RESILIENCE IN CHILDREN—RSVP via email or phone our school office

Yes, I would love to attend the 'Building Resilience in Children' Session

Please note this session is not suitable for children

Name No of Adults attending.....

RSVP email: upper.ferntree.gully.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au / 97581527