

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:

11th August 2017 **Issue 24**

Important Dates:

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

AUGUST:

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

Tues 15th: Community and Yr 8-10 Smart Gen Parent Night - 6.45pm

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

Wed 16th- Fri 18th: Yr 12 Outdoor Ed Ski Camp

Thur 17th: Yr 10 1018 Subject Selection Day - 12pm-8pm

Thur 17th: Brass & Woodwind Soiree - EPAC 6.30pm

Fri 18th: Yr 11 Psychology Excursion to Phillip Island

Tue 22nd-Thur 24th: Yr 9A, B & E Connect City Experience

Tue 22nd, Wed 23rd and Fri

25th: Yr 9C, D & G - Connect City Experience

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From the Principal:

Safe Schools

Following on from information given to me by the Department of Education, I would like to correct misinformation about the Safe Schools program that has been posted on social media, which has in turn been reported in the press and raised concerns in our school community.

Safe Schools is not part of the Victorian Curriculum – it's a commitment that schools make to be safe and inclusive places for all students, including LGBTI students. Safe Schools is not a sex education program, nor does it teach sexual practices. It is simply a program to help schools and students understand and respect that people should not be discriminated against for any reason – including gender and sexual diversity. It is a sad reality that LGBTI young people are more likely to be bullied at school than elsewhere and this has a major impact on their educational outcomes. The Department of Education and Training provides evidence-based information, resources and professional learning for school staff to use as we see fit to prevent discrimination against LGBTI students.

Resources provided by the Department of Education and Training to help deliver the program are carefully selected to ensure they are appropriate for the ages of students using them. Our school is free to decide how we implement the Safe Schools program, and we will take into account our local context and the needs of our school community when doing so.

If you wish to discuss the Safe Schools program further, please do not hesitate to contact me. Alternatively, further information about the program can be found on the Department of Education and Training's website: www.education.vic.gov.au/safeschools.

National Championships

I would like to share with our community, and formally congratulate Nathan Tidey who has been selected from across the State to represent the 17yrs and under Victorian State Softball team at the 2017 Australian National Championship, 2nd – 8th December.

This is a tremendous achievement for Nathan and we wish him all the best with his training in preparation for the National Championships.

Braving the Cold to Raise Funds for our Future

Last weekend I had the pleasure, albeit a cold pleasure, to accompany our Future Problem Solving team who hosted the Sausage Sizzle at the Emerald Lions Market.

Braving the elements, the team of high order thinkers not only cooked and served our wider community, but also entertained them with music.

I would like to thank all the students involved and their supportive parents for bringing them out on such a cold day. I would also like to send a special

thank you to the Emerald Lions Club for allowing our students to fund raise for our Sensory Garden at their market.

Emerald Lions were so impressed with our students' work, enthusiasm and energy that they have invited them to present to the Emerald Lions Club later this term.



Media Madness

I had the great honour of viewing our Year 11 VCE Media class in action this week.

As part of their study design they had a 'Film in a Day' incursion where they had to plan, film, edit and show their work. From stop animation to films with undertones of mystery and magic, it was wonderful to listen to them discuss their work and to view it. We certainly have a very talented and imaginative group of VCE Media Studies students.

We look forward to seeing their work evolve and their careers move from the classroom to industry.



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.

Illicit Substance 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



Junior School Student of the Week

Congratulations to our student of the week this week:

Cody Wilkes 7A

Cody has been nominated by her Japanese teacher Mrs Holmes who has stated:



'Cody is a conscientious student who always tries hard in Japanese lessons and produces high quality work. She always makes an effort to take part in the communicative activities in class and is always willing to help her class mates. Learning a new language requires persistence and motivation, which Cody displays consistently in class and outside by completing Quizlet activities at home on a regular basis. Well done Cody!'

Awesome job Cody and it's great to see that not only are you working hard during class time – but you are also applying yourself at home. Great work – keep it up!

Parent & Student Information for the 695 Public Bus

The College has been notified that over the next month Ventura will have a team of Authorised Officers travelling on these buses to check students for valid MYKI cards and also to check passenger numbers. Students should note that Ventura Authorised Officers have the power to report students for fare evasion & behavioural offences which would result in students having to pay a monetary penalty to the State Government.

The College, along with Ventura, are mindful of the role parents expect of us to carry students in a safe and legal manner. As a College we take the role of bus travel by our students, to and from school, seriously and support action taken on fare evasion and poor behaviour, at the same time promoting fare compliance. Students and parents are reminded that the Ventura 695 bus is licensed to carry a set number of passengers, and the College is not responsible for students not being allowed on due to capacity. If a driver indicates that the bus has reached capacity then students who are yet to get on must wait for the next bus. Clearly this is something that we don't want to happen – but this is out of the College's control.

The Smart Generation – Secondary Supply Legislation Explained

Did you know that three quarters of young people feel their parents could help them to reduce their drinking. One of the best ways for you to help your child is to not give them permission to drink, and don't give other people permission to give your child alcohol. This is called 'Secondary Supply Legislation', which makes it illegal for anyone to supply alcohol to minors in a private home without written or verbal permission from their parents.

The fine for breaking the law can be up to \$10,000! This legislation is designed to give parents more control over when, where or if their children drink alcohol.

Australian research has found that the majority of teenagers would be willing to discuss alcohol with their parents. So, for more information or tips about how to get the conversation started visit: www.teendrinkinglaw.vic.gov.au.

For information on the Smart Generation project, please check your emails where a parent brochure has been sent to all parents of students in Years 8-10.

Congratulations Jared Copey – An Amazing Achievement

Recently Jared, a Year 11 student here at the College successfully walked the Kokoda Track. Before I ask

Jared to share with us his recall of his trek I want to remind our readers of how courageous Jared has been in achieving this feat. You see, Jared was selected almost two years ago, to walk the track with 11 other students with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Like the other students he started training but unfortunately for him he was injured in a national hockey tournament – so much so that he had to listen to medical advice and was not able to make the trip.

This was quite a set back for Jared but he has showed tremendous courage in not only coming back from this injury and continuing to work hard at school – but he has also set out to give himself the chance to walk the track. I'll let Jared tell you about his trip and how it all came about.

Jared Copey trip to Kokoda- First ever re-enactment 75 years to the day.



Late last year, I applied to get a scholarship from the 39th Battalion Association who run an award for any year 10 student within the Cardinia shire. This award is in honour of a local man named Harold Bould, a farmer from the back of Gembrook. He then enlisted to go over to Kokoda to fight for our nation. Harold unfortunately didn't make it back and the 39th Battalion have created this award to honour not only Harold but everyone that has laid down their lives for our nation. This particular trek was especially special as 2017 is the 75th anniversary of the first crossing of Australian soldiers over the Owen Stanley Range.

On the 7th of July, myself and 13 other young men started crossing over the Owen Stanley Range from Owens Corner, the exact day, hour and minute the 39th Infantry Battalion stepped off to face the far more superior Japanese forces, 75 years later. We were in fact sleeping at the exact same camp spots as these men did, ate similar rations, wore the same uniform as well as our hobnailed 1942 boots. Across the track we carried all the period correct gear including Lee-Enfield 303 rifles.

Each man was given a soldier's identity to have for the duration of the trip as well as replica paybooks and dog tags of their soldier. Along the way we followed the diary of Jack Wilkinson who was a medic along the crossing. His diary detailed the arduous march B company had day by day.

Along the track we did three services at key battle sites where we did parades, this including having a guard of honour, reading of the ode, a minute silence, then the firing party to end the service. These three services at Brigade Hill, Isurava and Kokoda Plateau were so special they will be remembered by me forever. After walking the Kokoda Track, I have now just a little bit of an understanding of what our Aussie soldiers went through and the struggles they had, from the discomfort of sleeping on just a groundsheet with a blanket to eating just enough to get you over the track. We still had it easy compared to these boys that had to lug ammunition, not know when they'd come in contact with the Japanese and not knowing how long you'll last in the jungle.

Walking the Kokoda Track was definitely a life changing experience, and to be able to literally walk in the footsteps of our soldiers in the exact gear they did it in is something I'll never forget. We undertook the ultimate pilgrimage to remember those who fought and those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our nation in 1942.

Alana Loeschenkohl Year 7– Doing her part for Whale Conservation here in Victoria

Bass Strait is fast becoming known as a 'whale corridor' for some humpback whales on their winter migration along Australia's east coast. This understanding is critical to conservation and greater protection for humpback whales in southern Australia is now possible thanks to the work of the Two Bays Whale Project.

Project coordinator David Donnelly sates that "only recently have we started cataloguing humpback whale flukes as part of the national humpback whale fluke collective."

It can be quite difficult to get clear identification images of humpback whales but this is exactly what Alana did when she was out with the team.

Alana managed to snap an image of VIC_0050 as it lifted its fluke (tail) above the water off the coast of Kilcunda on July 8th. Alana was visiting Phillip Island with her family when a trip out on a Winter Whale Cruise with Wildlife Coast Cruises provided her with the opportunity to snap the unique fluke.

When Alana was asked about her experience she stated: "It was quite amazing seeing the whales so close to the boat, playing with dolphins and seals." "I didn't really know that my photo would be so important but I'm happy it is." Congratulations Alana on such a great contribution to marine preservation and we hope that you have many more opportunities to get up close with these great creatures!



Parents of Year 10-12 Students

A reminder that the meningococcal W vaccine forms are due into the front office prior to the day of immunisations Monday 21st August. This is a free vaccination that the Victorian Government is funding for Secondary School students. If students require a card because they have lost there's they should collect one from the front office.

Mike Jaremczuk & Estelle Alder - Assistant Principals



PARENT INFORMATION EVENING



ALCOHOL, TEENAGERS AND THE LAW

Emerald Secondary College is committed to addressing this issue by participating in the Deakin University Smart Generation Program

6.45pm

Alcohol is responsible for one third of deaths and acute injury in adolescents and young people

Tuesday August 15th

EPAC - Emerald Secondary College



Guest speaker -
Dr Bosco Rowland,
Deakin University
School of Psychology

The purpose of the night is to educate parents and members of the community about alcohol, the effect it has on teenagers and the laws associated with it

The night is being run by Year 9 students who have been working hard to make the night a success

For more information, please contact Mike Jaremczuk, Assistant Principal or Felicity Wooden, Wellbeing Leader at Emerald Secondary College



Homework Club

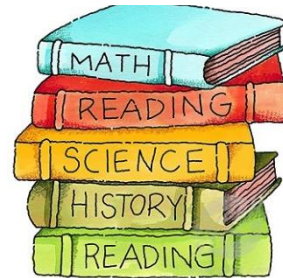
If you need a quiet place to get your homework done or require extra help from your teachers, the place to be is Homework Club.

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

SECONDHAND UNIFORM SHOP:

Will be open every Friday from 2.30pm - 3.15pm.
For out of hours secondhand uniform enquiries
please phone Sue Cambridge on 5968 4515

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



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



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


Cardinia