Term 3 - 2016:
Issue 24 - 12th August

AUGUST:

Mon 15, Tue 16, & Thu 18:
Yr 9 Connect City Experience H/group 14A, 14E & 14G

Wed 17, Thu 18 & Fri 19:
Yr 9 Connect City Experience H/group 14B, 14C & 14D

Fri 19: Yr 7 Sport

Mon 22: Book Week starts

Tue 23: Yr 11 Psychology Exc

Thu 25: Yr 12 VCAL Healesville Exc

Fri 26: Yr 8 Sport

Tue 30: Yr 12 Legal Excursion

Wed 31: Yr 11 OES Camp

Wed 31: Melbourne Writers Festival Excursion

In this Issue:
- Principal’s Report
- Recognising our ES staff
- #PCT# Yeah
- Student of the week - Daniel Crosby
- Health & Wellbeing Community Information Night report
- Yr 7 - 10 S & N Semester results explained
- National School Aerobics Australia Team article
- Tuning into Teens

Principal’s Headlines:
Course Selections:
This week we have seen the end to the 2016-17 Course Counselling for our students. It has been a pleasure to hear our students take an active interest in their achievements, their future pathways and their ESC courses. Courses are planned to maximise student achievement and ensure that all our students are successful in their learning pathway.

For the few students from Year 9-11 who have yet to complete their course selections, I encourage you to do so. Some courses have capped places and it is important that students choose the subject they wish to study as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

State Champions:
Ashleigh Gasson and Ashlee Bowden both recently represented our College at the State Cross Country championships. Whilst we encourage all our students to participate in our sports program, it takes an incredible amount of personal effort, talent and commitment to be able to not only achieve personal best records, but also to be selected to represent the College at the State level. Congratulations to both the girls, and many thanks to the staff and parents for supporting the girls and College.

Mountain District Radio:
This week, a group of Year 7 and 8 students, Tyler, Alyssa, Noa, Jess and Nellie all joined Judy-Ann Steed on her 3MDR morning radio program. They spoke with passion and knowledge about their ‘Teens Against Drugs And Alcohol’ project. The students chose their project based on their own personal beliefs that as a community and school we need to educate our students to help them make better informed choices about drugs and alcohol.

The team has gained the support of the Hon James Merlino, Brad Battin MP, Wayne Collins and ECHO, YSAS and the Department of Education.

The students have researched into the area with the support of YSAS and the Police as well as conducting community surveys and student opinion surveys.

This week, based on the students thoughts and research, our teaching staff supported by our Regional Office, have begun to review and redesign our curriculum to be implemented next year.

Proposed New Uniform:
Thank you to all those families who have viewed the new uniform and completed the survey. A reminder that the uniform will only be compulsory for the new year 7 students, and will not be compulsory
The uniform samples are on display in the entrance foyer of the College, and we are seeking feedback in some of the decision making processes especially around the colour of the pants and shorts. There is a link below for families to access the survey, and paper copies are available at the office: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ESC_proposed_new_uniform

Health and Wellbeing evening:
On Tuesday this week, the College hosted a Health and Wellbeing evening. This was supported by YASA, Headspace, Ambulance Victoria, Cardinia Shire Council, Freeza, Cardinia Police and Steve Morris from the Richmond FC.

It was an informative evening for our parent and student community with the highlight being personal stories that were shared with the audience as well as a question and answer section.

Can I thank Mike Jaremczuk and our Wellbeing team for coordinating the evening, and our parents, families and students for attending. Health, wellbeing, resilience and harm minimization are such an important aspect of our young people lives, and as a College we are planning on conducting more events for our community.

Emerald Secondary College on the National Stage:
Last weekend I had the greatest pleasure of accompanying our Sports Aerobic squad, together with Ms Kanoa and parents, to see our school represented by a team of enthusiastic girls, competing at the Australian National Championships on the Gold Coast. Seeing our school being represented at a National event is nothing short of wonderful, and proved to our whole community what amazing and talented young people we have at our College.

The event manager announced that there were over 900 schools from across Australia and New Zealand competing for a place at the National Championships, and I know from Victoria alone, our school competed against 34 schools in both the private and State sector, to gain one of the highly valued places at the National Championship.

The girls were fantastic and an absolute credit to our College. It is with great pride that I can share with the community that the team and our school placed 4th overall at the Australian National Champions. I would like to thank and congratulate the girls and their families for the support and effort. From Year 9, Tallara Volk, Cheyenne Thomas-Grist, Natalie McLennan, Chloe Kolbeck. From Year 8, Alyssa Mack, Sophie Olgilvie, Year 7, Estella Gyarfas

Jodie Doble Principal
Recognising our Education Support Staff (ES Staff)

Our Educational Support Staff (ES staff) are a valuable and vital part of our school community. Our school simply could not function without the time, care and effort that all of our Education Support Staff give to ESC. In this newsletter edition we profile our ES staff and the wonderful job they do in making the school run, and making the school a better place. Thank you to all of you from all of the teaching staff, Principal Team, students, families and Emerald Community!

Our Front Office

Our Reception staff have the broadest job description in the whole school, and are often your first point of contact. Krys and Yvonne greet families and visitors, answer and direct calls, answer enquiries from parents, visitors, students and teachers, complete administration tasks, compile the Newsletter, administer First Aid, sign students in and out and the list goes on and on and on! Thank you Krys and Yvonne!

Senior School Support & Junior School Support

Our Junior and Senior Sub-Schools are supported by Sue and Meg. They monitor attendance, answer student enquiries, support teachers with administrative tasks, take care of whole school events and maintain the VCE data system VASS. Thank you Meg and Sue!

Daily Organisation

Is a teacher away sick? Are you organising an excursion? An incursion? Going on PD? Sue Semple organises our daily operations so that everybody is in the right place at the right time. It’s very difficult and stressful job to juggle teachers, emergency teachers, rooms and classes! Thank you Sue!

Finance

Our finance team keep the school afloat and manage every financial aspect of the school, from school fees, excursion payments, camp payments, bill payments, invoices, reimbursements, and organising budgets for Domains to purchase goods for the classroom. Thank you Deb, Chris and Jayne!

Buildings and Grounds

Phil carries out routine maintenance around the school, completes small building projects, and offers work opportunities to VCAL students. From unblocking a drain to building a kitchen, to cutting down a tree, Phil keeps the buildings standing! Michelle is our gardener and has been working tirelessly to maintain and improve the grounds of the school. Thank you Phil and Michelle!

IT Support:

Email not working? Compass going slow? Want to drop your printer off a roof? Call the IT guys! The IT gents manage and maintain the entire school network, assist with laptop maintenance and repairs, calm down frantic teachers and generally work miracles with anything IT. Thank you Brett, Matt and Shannon!
Library
Our wonderful librarians create a warm, engaging and welcoming space in the library where all students are welcome. Not just content with loaning books, Cassie and Tracey promote reading, literacy games, create amazing displays, produce recommended reading lists, lend laptops and ensure students are in the library to work and learn. They will line up on the weekend to get the latest Harry Potter release at a bargain price for the students, or drop into just the right shop at just the right time for something that will make the student’s time in the library more engaging. Thank you Cassie and Tracey!

Lab Technician
Kellee helps teachers set up, prepare and run experiments for all classes in all year levels. Every science subject, every experiment, Kellee has helped out. If you’ve touched a beaker, test tube or flask it’s because Kellie knew you needed it! Thank you Kellee!

Kitchen assistant
Kerrianne assists our Food Tech department in ordering, buying and storing food for classes. She also prepares ingredients and equipment for every Food Tech class, assists in the classroom and helps with packing up. Kerrianne was away for the photo due to the birth of her first grandchild. So here’s a sense of what she might be doing when you see her next...! Thank you Kerrianne!

1:1 with students in classrooms to assist in learning. The role of a TA is demanding and challenging, as they strive to keep students on track, engaged and achieving alongside the classroom teachers. A TA in the room is an extra pair of eyes, ears and hands, and is a huge help for both teachers and students every day. Thank you to our Teacher Assistants. Colleen (BAT Program), Suzanne, Jonathon, Lyn, Samantha, Janine, Manpreet, Maija, Tanya, Linda, Dianne, Kieran, Dory, Karly, Michelle, and Rachel!
The Year 7 home groups would like to invite the community to attend their #PCT3 Yeah production on **Friday 9 September at 1.30pm at the Emerald Performing Arts Centre.**

The Year 7s have been working together in their home groups to create an entertaining performance for the community. Throughout the experience the students have focused on teamwork, communication, collaboration and building resilience. The end result will be the development of a performance piece that can creatively engage an audience.

This cohort is the first to pioneer this program and we hope to continue this platform for future Year 7s. The cohort will continue this into Year 8 where a new challenge will be set: a ‘flash mob’ in the community. In Year 9 and 10 more challenges and more adventures will be explored.

It is a great initiative for Emerald Secondary as the students have the opportunity to show how they work as a team and build on their skills year after year.

**Friday Sept 9 – 1.30pm – EPAC**

#PCT3 YEAH

#Winning #Gold #Bethere

Michelle Galli and Claire Hanley
Student of the Week:
Congratulations to our Student of the week Daniel Crosby of Year 9.
Daniel has been nominated for his work in the Year 9 Connect program. He has been
nominated by several staff who have noticed that Daniel is dedicated to his work, staying
on task and really making a much improved effort to actively participate in all aspects of
study. In a recent class task, Daniel did a fabulous presentation on his research about an
obscure drug that impacts on people’s Health & Wellbeing. This research was part of the
curriculum being studied by Connect during this Term.

When speaking to Daniel about his progress and his nomination, he stated that he has
made extra effort with his studies and is really worked hard on being a better influence on others through his
group work. Daniel likes Connect ‘because it’s fun and we learn lots of things about stuff that impacts on us with
our future e.g. drugs etc.’ He stated that he liked discussions about how we mature as young people and how
decisions we make impact on others and ourselves. He likes the hands on aspect and the discussions in Connect.
Daniel is also very much looking forward to the City Experience days. Congratulations Daniel on your nomination.
Well done!

Health and Wellbeing Community Information Night:
As mentioned by the Principal, Jodie Doble in her Headlines article, Tuesday night saw the College welcome
special guests, parents and students to an information night that tackled key issues such as resilience, mental
illness and drugs. The headline speaker on the night was current Richmond Football Club player Steven Morris.

Steven spoke to the audience about overcoming adversity, the importance of practising gratitude and mindfulness
and he also touched on a personal story of one of his friends who was severely injured as a result of a head punch
by another young man.

This was followed by a presentation by students in Years 7 & 8 who have formed the group T.A.D.A.A (see photo
on front page) which stands for teenagers against drug and alcohol. These students touched on what their
research had uncovered and why they feel obligated to assist other young people in changing their attitudes to
the pressures involved in decision making around drugs and alcohol.

The event was planned partly due to a challenge from our parent community. Some parents rightly or wrongly
believed that the College had more of an obligation to educate young people and support parents in our
community around the key issues of drugs and alcohol.

The night was really about opening up the discourse around what is actually happening in our community and
how together we can address these issues/trends. As a College we recognize that drug and alcohol education is
important, because school is one of the few settings that provide sustained and direct contact with young people
that supports learning.

This is crucially important as this is also the age where potential use and experimentation is high. The National
Drug Research Institute figures suggest that 80% of young people have consumed some alcohol by the age of 18.
As a College staff we often discuss and have professional learning around the importance of teaching preventative
factors, of building resilience in students and providing them with strategies that they can use.
Alarming statistics indicate that 1 in 4 adolescents now have a mental illness and 65% of adolescents do not
seek help.

The night also allowed for dialogue through a panel segment where we had a number of other guests: Leading
Senior Constable Cathy Emmett Casey/Cardina Proactive Policing Unit, former student and now Local Ambulance
Victoria Paramedic – Hannah Drysdale, Youth Support and Advocacy Service Representative – Anthony Grace, Knox
Headspace Representative – Chris Morely and our own Emerald Secondary College Wellbeing Leading Teacher -
Kylie Wenzel.

Each of the panel members spoke about issues around drugs/alcohol in our community of which alcohol is the
biggest issue – 10% higher than any other suburb/country area in Victoria. There was also dialogue and support
around the issue of mental illness and how families can and should seek support if they notice or suspect that
their young person is not ‘travelling well’. The presenters left behind flyers and information on supports for
parents that can be accessed through the College Wellbeing Team. There is also a very useful guide titled ‘The
Drug Talk’ that supports parents in important dialogue around this often taboo or tricky issue.

Importantly Steven summed up the night when he challenged all of those in attendance to practise gratitude and
mindfulness. He asked people to think of the little things that went well in their day – things they need to be
grateful for. So what went well today for you?

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Mike Jaremczuk and Estelle Alder Assistant Principals
Written by Gems Mums - parents of the girls involved in the National School Aerobics Australia competition:

It humbles us to be sitting here on the Gold Coast writing this. It's been a journey to get here to the National Championships, a competition that we only imagined the team would get to.

A few hurdles along the way, torrential weather, injury, turbulence on the plane to name a few, but here we are representing Victoria after being only one of nine teams to get through to the National finals here on the Gold Coast. They are winners already in our eyes to have gotten this far.

The parents and the team fundraised to help make it possible to go to National Championships. The girls have trained so hard over the past six months to reach this point. Training sessions three times a week, early starts training before school.

Eight hundred schools entered nationally in the beginning. After numerous comps it was narrowed down to the nine in their section that went through to the National finals here on the Gold Coast. They are winners already in our eyes to have gotten this far.

The Gems were formed in February this year. They are part of School Aerobics Australia and the first team formed at Emerald Secondary College. They have competed three times this year getting them through to the National Championships here on the Gold Coast.

They have evolved since their first competition, each time getting better and better. They should be so proud of their achievements.

They have gained strength, discipline, self confidence, respect, responsibility, dedication, determination, togetherness and friendships. They may not see it themselves but we do, we see the change in them. We are in awe of the positive transformation in each of our daughters, they are an inspiration to all.

We are thankful for the dedication Mrs Doble and Mrs Kanoa have put in. They have been such positive role models for the girls, helping them to build their confidence and make them believe in themselves and believing in them, you have changed their lives for the better and for that we are grateful.

We would also like to thank Hollie for all her hard work training the girls getting them ready for finals.

We are honoured to be a part of something so positive, and can’t wait to see what’s in store for the ESC School Aerobics team in the future. Bring on 2017!! Gem's Mums
Tuning in to Teens

ARE YOU ON THE SAME WAVELENGTH WITH YOUR TEEN?

A parent/carer’s program in 6 sessions to help you tune in to the adolescent in your care.

Would you like to learn how to:

» Be better at talking with your teen?
» Be better at understanding your teen?
» Help your teen learn to manage their emotions?
» Teach your teen how to deal with conflict?
» Help your teen develop their emotional intelligence?

Who: Parents and carers of adolescents

When: Thursdays 9.30am - 12.00pm
August 25th - October 13th 2016
(No sessions held during school holidays)

Where: Narre Warren Mechanics Institute Hall
59 Webb St Narre Warren 3805

Cost: Gold coin donation

Contact: Megan Clarke 03 5990 8400 (Bookings essential)

connections.org.au