AUGUST:

Mon 22: Book Week starts

Tue 23: Yr 11 Psychology Exc

Wed 24 – SEAL parent information session with Dr John Munro EPAC 6-7:30pm

Wed 24 – SEAL student stress management/Mindfulness Session L Block 6-7:30pm

Thu 25: Yr 12 VCAL Healesville Exc

Tue 30: Yr 12 Legal Excursion

Wed 31: Yr 7 Gardasil Vaccination -3rd dose and chicken pox - girls and boys

Wed 31: Yr 11 OES Camp

Wed 31: Melbourne Writers Festival Excursion

NAPLAN 2016

Earlier this year all our students in Year 7 and Year 9 took part in the National Assessment testing for Literacy and Numeracy. This week we received the College and student level results. Due to our priority focus on student learning, and Literacy and Numeracy, our College has shown a vast improvement in student growth and achievement in all areas pertaining to Literacy and Numeracy.

As a Principal it is always a pleasure to see students achieve, and our teaching community value add to each and every child’s learning.

At a recent educational network meeting, Emerald Secondary College was recognized as a high performing College due to the 2016 NAPLAN results. We will be continuing our work across the whole College in these two important areas of our students learning.

Parents and families can now collect their child’s individual results from the College main office.

Framework for Improving Student Outcomes - FISO:

Emerald Secondary College – a Part of the Education State – Framework for Improving Student Outcomes - FISO

FISO was introduced by our current Government to raise the standards of teaching and learning in our schools. At Emerald Secondary College we have selected Literacy and Numeracy as our key priority areas with a whole school approach to Literacy.

As part of the Victorian Government’s Education State Reform Agenda all Government schools are committing to a network focused on improving student learning outcomes. This Framework for Improving Student Outcomes (FISO) uses the latest research on student learning and global best-practice to assist schools to focus their efforts on key areas that are known to have the greatest impact on school improvement.

Our school has joined with a group of neighboring schools to focus on building excellence in teaching and learning, with particular emphasis on improving literacy outcomes in the secondary school setting. Strong skills in literacy, particularly reading and writing are preconditions for success at school and in the workplace. Our FISO group is committed to ensuring that research based literacy strategies are embedded in every school with every student.

The schools involved in this FISO group are:

• Bayswater Secondary College
• Emerald Secondary College
• Healesville High School
• Heathmont College
• Lilydale Heights College
• Lilydale High School
• Melba Secondary College
• Mooroolbark Secondary College
• Norwood Secondary College
• Upper Yarra Secondary College
• Yarra Hills Secondary College

New Building Program:

On Friday this week I attended a lengthy meeting at INDEC in town to discuss the next stages of our new building program.

It is with pleasure that I can announce we passed stage two successfully. Stage two was the schematic designs and budgets that are needed to be approved by the Department. The Architect can now develop and submit his final designs and plans. We hope to have the final plans to our community by October this year.

Jodie Doble Principal
As this week was National science week the Science department had several events running. Tuesday was a general knowledge quiz that was held in the library which tested student’s knowledge of physics, chemistry, biology and general science. The Game was won by Sean Duguid of year 11. All participants won a prize for giving up their time. On Thursday Lunch Mr Smith ran a science show. This showcased elements of Chemistry including exploding hydrogen balloons, exploding/projectile bottles, Dry ice experiments and elephants tooth paste. Finally the STEM robotics and electronics club met again on Friday where they continued work on their JUDOBOTS. These are hydraulic powered fighting robots that the students create from common materials and battle to see who holds the greatest robot in all the lands.

A big thanks to Kellee Ballard our Lab tech for leading the activities that ran over the week and for providing the Science themed food for staff at recess.

Mr Gibbs and the Science Domain.
Emerald Secondary College is taking part in a joint initiative with Deakin University and Cardina Shire Council around the issue of alcohol awareness. The project titled ‘The Smart Generation’ tackles the issues around teenage drinking. Teenage drinking is a serious problem that has harmful outcomes for the individual, the family, and the community. To address this issue, our school is taking part in a project to prevent adolescent alcohol use. Students in Year 10 and Year 8 will be undertaking some lessons through their homegroups in the coming weeks and this is also following on from the promotion of the ‘Drugs Alcohol & You’ community information night held at the College last week.

### Alcohol Guidelines and Legislation

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

In Victoria, [Secondary Supply Legislation](#) makes it illegal to supply alcohol to anyone under the age of 18 without written or verbal permission from their parents. This legislation is also referred to as the [Teen Drinking Law](#).

Parents of Year 8 and 10 parents can also expect to hear about the project through mail-outs and students’ homework activities. We encourage you to be as involved as possible, and to get started you can:

1. Talk to your child about alcohol use and discuss your expectation that they do not drink alcohol before age 18.
2. Consider setting a rule that your child does not drink alcohol at home or elsewhere, and discuss the consequences of breaking the rule.

For more information visit: [www.smartgeneration.org.au](http://www.smartgeneration.org.au).

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**Upcoming free dress day Friday Aug 26:**

Gold coin donation to support the “Wear it Purple” day, organised by the SAGA group and the SRC, many thanks Julie. Regarding the dress expectations we must comply with OH&S regulations and this means

1. No thongs or open toed shoes
2. No singlet tops
3. No short shorts/mini skirts
4. Any student who has a PE class must bring with them their ESC PE uniform to change into
5. Any student who has a technology class must ensure they have the appropriate footwear for technology.
Mt Burnett Observatory and Emerald Secondary College present a free event

AN EVENING OF INDIGENOUS ASTRONOMY

26th August, 2016 - 7pm
Emerald Secondary College - EPAC

Dr Duane Hamacher and Dr Matthew Whitehouse
Two talks, great munchies and, if the weather holds, telescope viewing.
Suitable for upper primary and beyond.

bookings

Dr. Duane Hamacher is an astronomer and Senior ARC Discovery Early Career Research Fellow at the Monash Indigenous Centre. He publishes extensively on Indigenous astronomical and geological knowledge and traditions, working closely with Aboriginal and Islander elders and knowledge custodians across Australia and the Pacific.

Duane leads the Indigenous Scientific Knowledge Research Focus Group in Monash University’s Faculty of Arts, is Secretary of the International Society for Archaeoastronomy and Astronomy in Culture, Chairs the IAU C1-C4 Working Group on Intangible Heritage, and serves as an Associate Editor of the Journal of Astronomical History and Heritage. He has presented at TEDx, National Geographic, the Australian Academy of Science, the BBC, ABC, SBS, and various other media outlets and art exhibitions. He is also a regular contributor to The Conversation.

Dr. Matthew Whitehouse is an organist, composer, and astronomy educator in the U.S. He completed undergraduate studies in organ performance at the University of South Carolina, followed by a Master of Music degree in organ performance and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Arizona. One of his major artistic interests is exploring connections between music and astronomy, an interest frequently reflected in his work as a composer and performer. For more information contact: info@mtburnettobservatory.org or Brad Gibbs at Emerald Secondary College.
2017 Debutante Ball

Applications are now being accepted

SATURDAY 1\textsuperscript{st} April 2017

For further information and to download an application form, go to www.emeraldrotary.org.au

Forms are also available at the School Office
Expression of Interest: Volunteer **Coaches** required
Summer 2016/17

One of the largest sporting clubs in the Hills district:

**200 members registered**

2016/17 Knox Basketball Association Competition on November 5th, with the season ending mid May 2017.

Under 8's through to Under 23's,
Training: EPS Mon, Tue, Wed for 1 hour between 4-9pm

All games are played on Saturday (Under 8's – 16's ) and Sundays (Under 18's – 23's) in the Knox region .

New season commences on the November 5th

If students are currently engaged in the Duke of Edinburgh program, the volunteered work to our club, may go towards a portion of the required curriculum.

Contact:

Shane Jordan-Hill
Mobile Phone: 0407 812 884