

# 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:**

1st September 2017

**Issue 27**

### **Important Dates:**

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

### **SEPTEMBER:**

**Fri 1st:** Yr 7 Sports Day

Yr 11 Geography Excursion

**Tue 5th:** Spring Music Concert -  
EPAC - 7.00 pm

**Wed 6th - Fri 8th:** Yr 11 Outdoor  
Ed. Camp

**Fri 8th:** Intermediate Sport

**Mon 11th-Fri 15th:** Yr 8 Tasmanian  
Tour

**Tue 12th:** Yr 12 Maths Methods  
Exam Revision Lecture

**Wed 13th-Mon 2nd October:**  
Japan Trip

**Wed 13th:** Yr 12 English Exam  
Revision Lecture

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- **NDIS Expo**

### **From the Principal:**

#### **NAPLAN**

Over the last few weeks our students in Years 7 and 9 have received their NAPLAN results for Literacy and Numeracy. Our teaching staff have been working hard to ensure all our students achievement continues to improve in these areas.

It is wonderful to report to the community that Emerald Secondary College has again seen significant learning growth for our students at and above the State averages. Congratulations to the students and staff.

Our staff are now working on unpacking the diagnostic data to continue to build on our curriculum and teaching practices.

If any student has not received their NAPLAN results, can I ask families to please contact the General Office.

#### **Book Week**

This week we celebrated our annual College Book Week. It is important that students continue to read as part of their life-long learning practices to ensure the ongoing development of their literacy skills.

Our Library and English staff dressed for the occasion on Wednesday and our students were invited into the Library to participate in a range of fun and engaging activities.

#### **STEM at Emerald Secondary College**

Our students experience a wide range of achievements in Science, Maths and Digital Technologies with opportunities and programs that go beyond many other Secondary Colleges. Our partnership with Mt Burnett Observatory and our Telescopes in Schools program, as well as our partnerships with Universities including New Mexico, ensure our students have opportunities beyond the College to engage in Science.

Last year I wrote to and spoke with a number of politicians, inviting them to view our College. These included James Merlino, our Minister for Education, Daniel Mulino, the Shadow Minister for Education, Simon Birmingham, the Federal Minister for Education, Jason Woods, the Federal Member for Latrobe, and Brad Battin, our local MP and Member for Gembrook. During our discussions I sought funding for a new STEM centre at ESC to replace E block and G block, two buildings in desperate need of attention. Disappointingly, in the latest round of grants to schools for buildings, ESC did not receive any financial support.

This week Franca Mosca, our Union representative, and I toured these facilities with our OH&S union reps and representatives from the Australian Education Union. During this tour we all agreed that our students have access to amazing teaching and learning programs, and achieve great success in the area of Science, Maths and Engineering, including

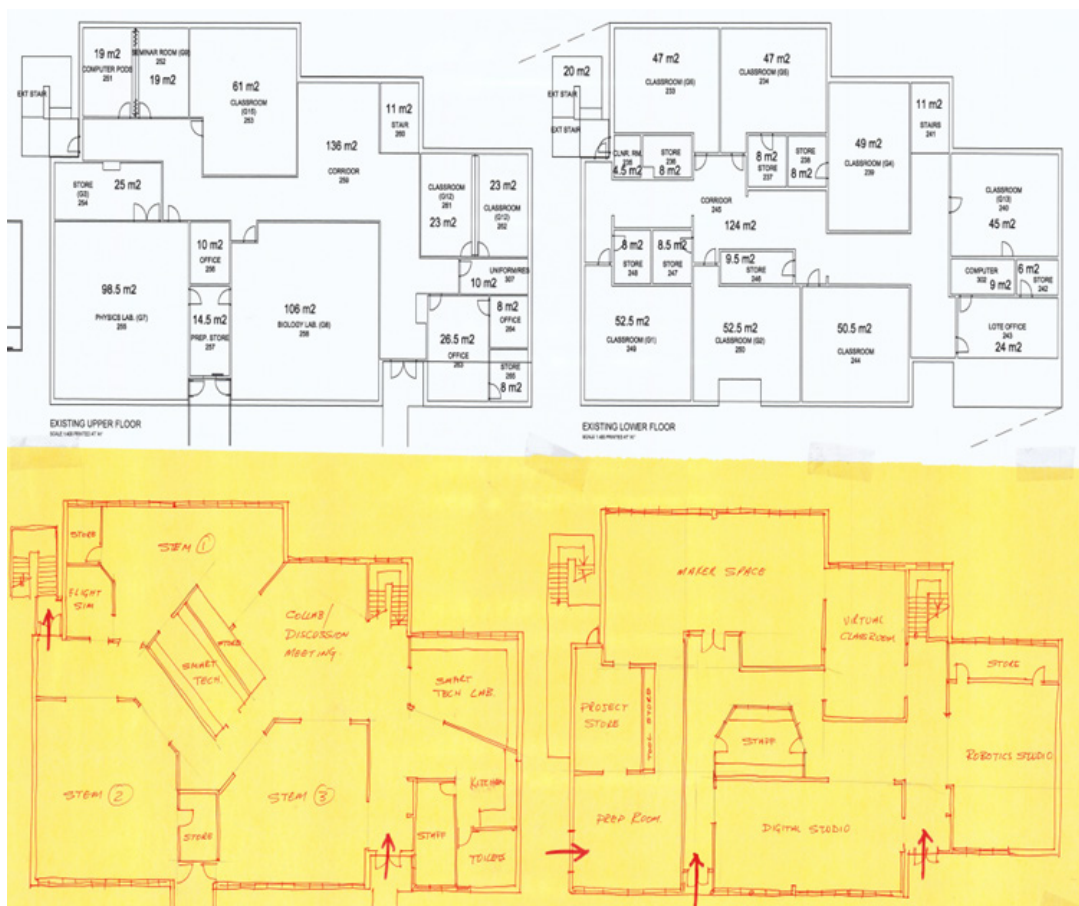
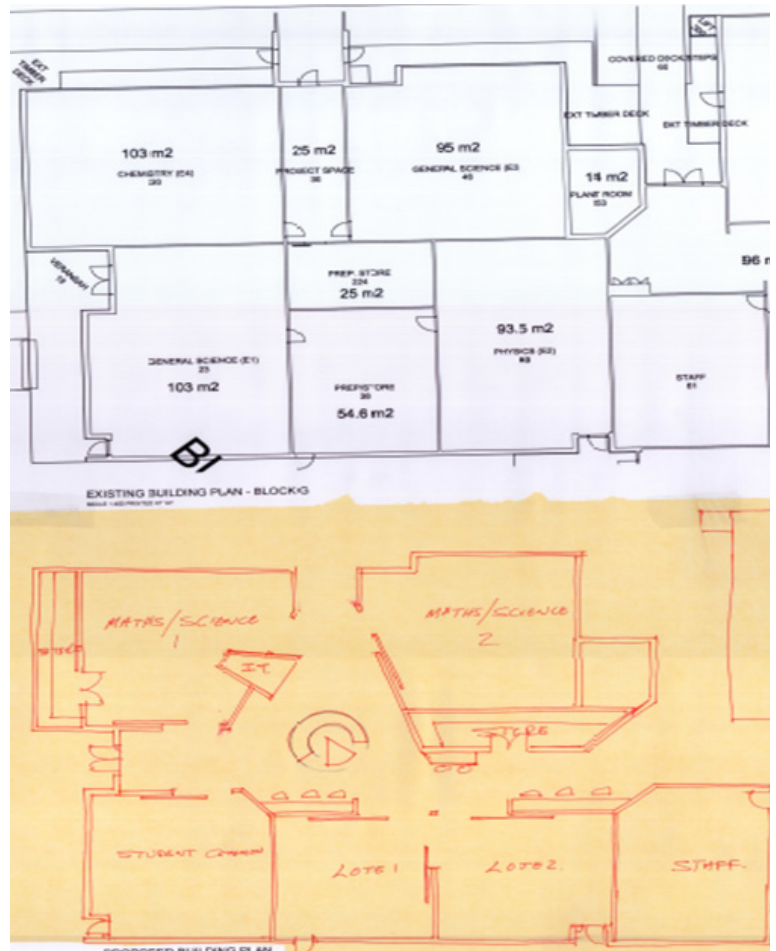
scholarships for Engineers to UNSW, but our buildings are in complete disrepair. It has been reported to me that the Maths and Science buildings have been documented for a number of years as an area in need of upgrading and attention, but until now reports have fallen on deaf ears.

I have been working with an architect to try and show our politicians what an amazing space this could be for our students, as well as local primary students who could access the facilities, and our partnering schools in the Dandenong Ranges.

Our School Council is working on writing letters to all our politicians to seek financial support for five million dollars, and I encourage all parents in our community, who would like to see our Maths and Science facilities not only improved but developed into a real 21st Century Learning and Teaching space for our students, to also write to all our local MPs. If you require any assistance with this, or have any questions, please contact me, Mr Phillip Dwyer our School Council President, or the Leadership Team at the school.

G block is currently used for the Learning and Teaching of LOTE, Maths and Science, and E block is a purpose built block for sciences only. These concept designs replace what is currently G block and our E block science rooms. The STEM rooms will be purpose built Physics, Biology and Chemistry rooms and labs as well as rooms for our STEM subjects.

**Jodie Doble, Principal**





## **Year 12 Retreat Day #3 – Ready to Launch**

This week, our Year 12s took a little time out from classes to focus on the remaining few weeks and start making plans for their transition to life after Emerald Secondary College.

### **VCAL – Tuesday 29th August**

The first session of the day provided students with the opportunity to engage with a representative from Sarina Russo Recruitment Agency, focusing on what employers are looking for and how to separate themselves from the crowd, with the underlying message that you need to follow up and be persistent in pursuing the job they want. This session was followed by ex-student, Dylan Harris, who has now established his own business - DELTAR Motivation. Dylan shared his elite athlete experience of achieving international championship status in taekwondo in his teens while at ESC, then refocusing his attention to his VCE. He spoke to students about having a big dream, figuring out what stops them from achieving the dream, then setting about neutralizing the barriers to achieving the dream. He reiterated how important it is to say aloud exactly what you want and to do something every day to help you make progress on getting what you want.

After a shared lunch, the VCAL class were joined by some returning VCAL students – Jessie Gilbert-Hunt and Dylan Sweeney. Both shared their experiences transitioning to life beyond school. Jessie completed her Certificate III and Diploma in Childcare through a traineeship. These qualifications later helped her enrol at Monash to complete her Bachelor of Early Childhood Studies and is now a kindergarten teacher. Dylan left ESC at the end of Year 11 to accept a full time apprenticeship in Building and Construction. At the end of his apprenticeship, he started his own business, but found he needed to return to work for others in the industry to give him greater exposure on running a business. He then restarted his business (EveryDay Construction), which he still successfully runs. His underlying message for students was that you have to set goals and you have to make sacrifices in order to keep things moving forward.

The final session was then devoted to completing a Career Action Plan online in readiness for the transition to apprenticeships, traineeships and full time employment opportunities.

### **VCE – Wednesday 30th August**

Students participated in “The Final Sprint” workshop run by May George from Elevate Education. Her energetic and engaging workshop focused on having students ensure they maximise the time remaining before their exams, offering valuable approaches to studying, advice about the importance of sleep in retaining knowledge and how to manage stress by being proactive and minimizing the triggers of stress. Along the way, she shared research findings about the difference between high achieving students and those that underperform, with the consistent message that it is not intelligence or IQ that the high achieving students have in common, it is their effort, efficiency and effectiveness in studying consistently, especially on the subjects that challenge them.

After a shared lunch, Dylan from DELTAR Motivation returned, sharing his experience with VCE after his highly successful junior taekwondo career. He spoke of stress being a part of the Year 12 experience, but that those who can harness it and make a plan for managing it are those that thrive through doing something to reduce the stress, rather than just throwing their arms up and doing nothing. DELTAR speaker, Lisa, shared the adverse situation she found herself in during her VCE – homeless, broken family relationships and completing two of her five Year 12 subjects without teachers. Through the support of another family, she stayed focused and is now completing her PhD in Chemistry and Diabetes. Students were challenged to write down what they want to make it real and to walk past that goal every day in the Common Room to remind them that what they do today can bring them closer to what they want.

Finally, we invited two past students back to ESC to give students advice about approaching these final weeks, how to overcome the struggles and what they wish they had been told when they did Year 12. Tessa Butler (2016) spoke honestly about managing the stress that her own expectations had caused her. She felt she became so meticulous about every single class task and practice question that she lost a bit of perspective of the bigger picture. She encouraged students to be proactive in asking teachers for help, using all available resources at school, online and study lectures run externally. She highlighted the importance of finding like-minded people to study with and keeping at a distance those people who stress you out.



Mark Howard (2010) was the Dux of his year level. He was clear about making study the priority beyond just the minimal requirements that the teachers set in class. Mark spoke about the need for study of each subject to be scheduled into the week, just as for sport training, part-time work and other commitments. He suggested that sacrificing a little freedom and relaxation now is not much to ask in the big scheme of life, that performing better over the next three months will give more choices about opportunities available beyond school. Mark also warmly shared how our very own Mr Reid inspired him to pursue a career as a History and English teacher.



We thank students for their participation in the sessions across both days, and hope that they can draw on some of the messages in weeks to come. The potential for success is within each and every one of our students, but only they can decide how much effort and sacrifice they are willing to give to get what they want.

**Tanya Moran - Yr 12 Coordinator & Jason Nicholas - Senior School Leader**

### **UPCOMING WORKING BEES for SEMESTER TWO**

Following the huge success last term of our college working bee we are holding two for this Semester. Please make note of the following dates below and come along and help your school community create the best environment it can for our students.

#### **TERM 3 - SATURDAY 9th SEPTEMBER 9am-12.30pm**

All parents and students are invited to attend this event which will see work on areas that need re-invigorating to improve our College grounds. Parents are asked to bring with them any of the equipment items listed below on the day to assist with the work being carried out.

- Gloves
- Rakes
- Garden fork/shovel
- Wheelbarrows
- Pruning implements

Upon arrival parents/students will be required to sign in and then they can select work from a board that will be set up. The Meeting point will be just outside the General Office. We are hoping that students and parents can get behind this initiative. Morning tea will be provided to the hard workers. Please contact the College if you have any questions.

#### **LOOKING AHEAD - TERM 4 – SUNDAY 29th OCTOBER 9am-12.30pm**



## Kickstart 2018 - 29th November – 12th December

This year Emerald Secondary College will have a Whole School Kickstart program for two weeks from the 29th November to 12th December. Kickstart gives students extra class time for the best possible start for their 2018 course, gives students an opportunity to make early subject changes, and allows for a smooth start to the 2018 year.

2017 subjects will finish on Tuesday November 28th and students will then move up to their next year level for 2018. The 2018 timetable will begin on 29th November, and students will be taking their 2018 subjects with their 2018 teachers (where possible).

### Kickstart Attendance

In Kickstart the 2018 academic year begins, and attendance is mandatory. College expectations for attendance and academic performance are the same as for the usual school year. Senior School students should note that Kickstart attendance is mandatory and counts towards Unit 1&3 attendance. Classwork tasks must be completed as part of satisfactory completion coursework for a satisfactory Unit pass. Subject changes will be completed after Kickstart.

### Kickstart textbooks and stationery

English novels will be available for use during Kickstart with early purchase through the College book seller, Lamonts. Students are expected to have their new 2018 exercise books with them during Kickstart. Teachers will provide copies of textbook information for students during the Kickstart period.

If you have any questions regarding Kickstart please contact:  
Junior School – Minna Kanoa, Senior School – Jason Nicholas,  
Assistant Principal – Estelle Alder

# Kick Start!

## Second Hand Uniform News

Opening Hours 2.30-3.15pm Fridays or by appointment out of hours - Phone Sue: 5968 4515

Anyone wishing to sell items of uniform, please contact Sue or leave them at the General Office in a bag labelled Second Hand Uniform.

We currently require sports shorts, winter skirts and Seniors uniform.

We do have some Music tops for sale at present. Anyone requiring Music tops please call into the Uniform Shop. Assorted sizes available.



## Homework Club

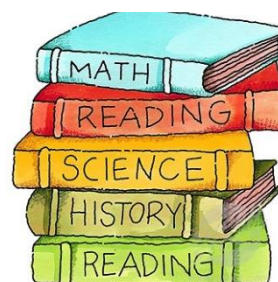
If you need a quiet place to get your homework done or require extra help from your teachers, the place to be is Homework Club.

### Details

**When:** Every Thursday from 3.20-4.30pm

**Where:** Room A7 with teacher assistance

**Who:** All students from Years 7 - 12

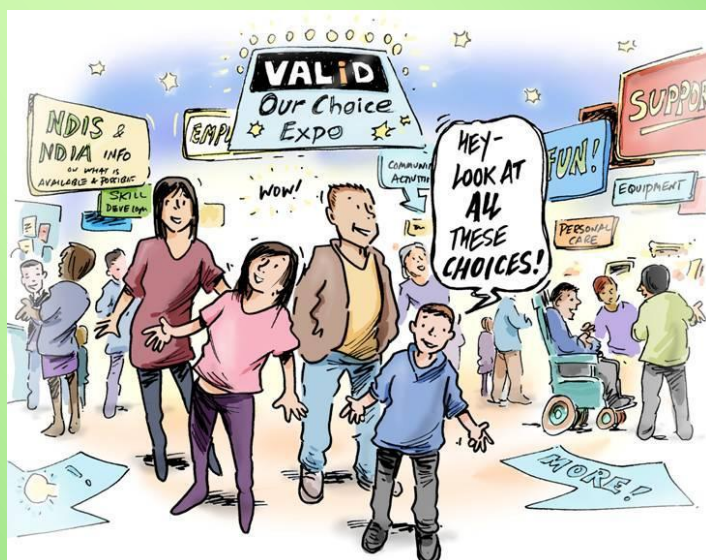


*Any questions, please contact Ms. Sarah Tounson – D Block staffroom*



# 'OUR CHOICE EXPO'

**Information & exhibits about the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) for people with disability & their supporters.**



**Are you getting ready for the NDIS?**

**Do you need to find out what is out there?**

**We expect over 120 exhibits.**

**Information Sessions on NDIS related topics.**

National  
**disabilityinsurance**  
Scheme

**10.00am - 4pm, Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2017**

**Caulfield Racecourse  
pedestrian entrance via Gate 23 / carpark via Gate 2  
Station St, Caulfield East**

VALID invites you to visit the Our Choice Expo featuring a wide range of services - day activity, leisure, travel, personal care, equipment, training, early intervention, housing, technology and other supports available for participants of the NDIS (National Disability Insurance Scheme) and their families.

Especially of interest to Southern Metro residents looking to be informed and prepared for the transition to the NDIS during 2018.

**Free visitor entry**

For more information on becoming an exhibitor at the Expo contact  
VALID, 235 Napier Street, Fitzroy Vic 3065

Phone: 03 9416 4003 Website: [www.valid.org.au](http://www.valid.org.au)

Exhibitor Registrations email: [brenda@valid.org.au](mailto:brenda@valid.org.au) Inquiries: [christine@valid.org.au](mailto:christine@valid.org.au)