

Emerald Secondary College

Fortnightly Newsletter



Emerald Secondary College is a Learning Community

Principal - Jodie Doble

College Council President - Phillip Dwyer

Assistant Principal - Jonathon Rogers

Assistant Principal - Estelle Alder

Business Manager - Jayne Thompson



Term 1 - 2018:

16th February 2018

Issue 2

Important Dates:

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

FEBRUARY:

Mon 19th: Yrs 11 & 12 Cricket

Tue 20th: Whole School
Swimming Sports Day

Tue 20th: Yr 12 Student/Parent
Information Evening -
7.00 pm

Thu 22nd: School Photo Day 2 -
Sibling Photos

Fri 23rd: Yr 10 Advance Beach
Day

Fri 23rd: Yr 11 & 12 Interschool
Sports

Tue 27th: Yr 12 Retreat Day #1

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- Rotary Debutante Ball 2018
- Cockatoo Tennis Club

From the Principal:

It has been a really busy start to the academic year but one that has been very positive for all our staff and students.

Last week we held the first of our Whole School Assemblies. It was wonderful to see the amazing talents of our students with Anya Hynninen singing the National Anthem accompanied by Mr Crowley. Justin Barrot from Barry Plant Real Estate came and spoke to the school as an ex student and community member. He spoke very highly about all our students and the positive improvements he has seen in our College over the recent years. Justin then presented our 2018 College Captains and Vice captains with their certificates and official blazers. Our Captains play a vital role in organising our assemblies and will also lead our student leadership team this year.

Due to the incredible success our students leaders have had at the Vic SRC awards over the last two years, this year the Vic SRC training will be held here at ESC next week. This is an amazing opportunity for our student leaders to develop their leadership skills, meet other students leaders and develop action plans to continue to see our college grow and develop for our students.

Towards the end of this term we have our visitors from our sister school in Japan coming to stay with us. This is a fabulous opportunity to learn about a different culture first hand as well as an opportunity for our students to develop their Japanese language skills. There are still some spaces for families to host a student from Japan. If any families are willing to host a student and support our program can you please contact either the College front office or Mr Kawakami our head of Japanese here at the College.

Next week we have our College Whole School Swimming Carnival. This is a chance for our students to represent their Houses and gain points towards the annual House Cup. For every event students participate in they will gain points. There will be a range of events available including some fun activities for those who are less confident in the pool. Students who do participate and compete also have the chance to ride the water slides. At this stage the weather is forecast to be warm and whilst we will have sunscreen with us, can I ask all parents and families to make sure their child comes to school with sunscreen, a hat and plenty to drink. There is a canteen available and we will also have a sausage sizzle for our students with \$2.50 sausages and \$2.00 cans available

I would like to remind all our families that if their child is sick or ill at school they should report to the front office where our First Aid staff can then support them. Due to legal changes we can no longer supply Panadol or oral medication, but students can bring Panadol and medication to the main office with a note from home should they need it.

In February this year we will see the last of the 2017 School Council closing, and there will be a number of openings for our parents to join School Council. This is an excellent way to support the continued development of our College, joining the overall council as well as one of the many sub committees responsible for Buildings and Grounds, raising funds and promoting the College

within the community. Any parents wishing to join our 2018 School Council can collect self-nomination forms from the front office. I would like to encourage you all to consider being part of School Council to support our continued development and growth.

As mentioned in our last newsletter, we have a very exciting year ahead of us all. There will be times when there may be challenges for us to face as well as opportunities, but it is vitally important that we continue to work together. If at any time you feel the need to contact the College, ask a question no matter how small or just pop in for a chat then please do so. Whilst we may be busy, our excellent office staff will try to help you and if not they will take your contact details so we can contact you ASAP. Our bi-weekly newsletter will be available via email, on our website and on our Facebook page and I would encourage all our families to read all our news as the year progresses.

A reminder to all our families that our Annual Implementation Plan has been developed to ensure the continued success of our students in their learning and all our staff have their own professional development plans to support the AIP. Our 2018 overarching goals are as follows:

- ◇ To continue to improve the learning growth of every student in every subject.
- ◇ To maximise student engagement and aspiration in their learning.
- ◇ To strengthen the partnerships between students, families and staff.

These core goals will underpin all our work this year, and we all believe that this will support our students learning and aspirations, staff professional development and partnerships with the school, home and wider community.

Jodie Doble - Principal

Assistant Principals' Report

We have been pleased with the approach of staff and students towards our 'Ready to Learn' expectations and our new Student Management Plan. This has allowed students to understand how to solve issues from classes and reflect on best practices. Classes have been much more settled to start this year and while there is still some areas for us to work through it appears that this has been a positive step in continuing to create an orderly learning environment.

Photo day was held on Monday 12th February. The day ran quite smoothly with the photographers commenting on how great our students were during the course of the day. Photos have started filtering onto Compass and staff will check these in the coming days. Our catch up session is to be run on Thursday 22nd February. On this day the sibling photos will also be taken with a roster for both to be sent out to staff and students in the coming days.

The whole school assembly was held on Friday 9th February. This was a really positive event with a former student, Justin Barrot from Barry Plant, speaking about his positive experiences at Emerald Secondary College. Anya Hynninen's rendition of the national anthem was also very good. It was another great opportunity for me to see our College in its entirety and it continues to build on our culture.

Buildings and Grounds update

Since our last newsletter I have continued to meet with the Education Department regarding specific improvements around the College grounds. Students will have seen a number of contractors on site as work begins in these areas. Building audits are under way with reports to be tabled at School Council during our next meeting. Students have been very helpful with their opinions when asked and I appreciate their level of honesty as we continue to improve all aspects of the College.

Jonathon Rogers - Assistant Principal



New Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy

Last year at the College we reviewed our Student engagement and wellbeing processes, and developed a new Engagement and Wellbeing Policy. The policy includes expectations for student behaviour, how teachers will manage this, and the staged response to continued student behaviour. Central to the Policy is restoring the relationship between teachers and students if things go wrong. Students were briefed about the new processes during Kickstart last year, and also at assemblies at the start of this year. A copy of the full policy can be found on the website.

Part of the Policy include changes to detentions which are outlined below as part of our staged response to manage behaviour:

Lunch detentions – issued and run by classroom teachers (25 mins)

Ready to Learn detentions – issued by classroom teachers and held at Lunchtime by Year Level Coordinators or Sub School Leaders (25 mins)

After School Detention – issued by Year Level Co-ordinators and run by classroom teachers, Mondays (50 mins)

Before School Detention - issued by Year Level Co-ordinators and run by Year level Coordinators, Sub School Leaders, Thursdays (50 mins)

Principal's After School Detention - issued by Year Level Co-ordinators, Sub School Leaders or Assistant Principals. Run by Assistant Principals. (3.10 – 5pm)

Student of the Cycle - Tom Mclean



Tom has made an excellent transition into Senior School, carrying on the focus and hard work that he put in last year. Tom has built positive and respectful relationships with his teachers, acting on the knowledge that teachers are here to help and support him. Tom shows a willingness to continually improve in his work, a trait that will no doubt see him succeed. Great work Tom, keep it up!



Estelle Alder - Assistant Principal

Congratulations Class of 2017

Emerald Secondary College's broad offering of more than 30 VCE subjects was reflected in the impressive 2017 results that this cohort achieved. In 2017, 96 students successfully completed their VCE and VCAL certificate. The College was very proud of these results and would like to commend and congratulate the students, their families and the teaching and support staff of Emerald Secondary College for their hard work and dedication. These students were not only successful in their academic subjects, but also in their contributions to the College's various programs throughout their six years of secondary schooling.

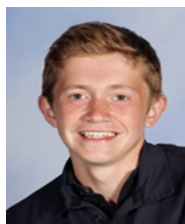
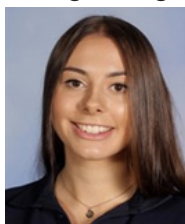
The 2017 results showed an increase in the median study score across all studies, with many individual studies achieving a median above 30. In addition, there was an increase in the total number of 40+ study scores achieved by students. The College continues to work to develop student's academic skills and provide necessary support for parents and families. We have a clear objective of raising the expectations and standards of our students to continue to achieve further growth in our VCE and VCAL outcomes. As a school we want to provide an environment where all students strive to reach their true potential.

The College would like to congratulate Leah Hawkins on achieving our most prestigious award: Dux of Emerald Secondary College 2017. Leah was a diligent student who studied a mix of creative, mathematical and science subjects. Leah was especially talented at writing and media, and will continue to develop these skills when she commences a Bachelor of Professional Communication at RMIT University later this month.



Other top performers at the College included:

- Rachel Skipsey – Bachelor of Science - Monash University
- George Thomas – Bachelor of Games Design - RMIT University
- Nicholas Cookson – Bachelor of Commerce - Monash University
- Jack Waller – Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science – Monash University
- Ingrid Kogtev-Russell – Bachelor of Science – Monash University



The class of 2017 have now receive their tertiary study offers and/or confirmed their chosen pathway for 2018 and beyond. At Emerald Secondary College we are proud to offer a broad program that caters for our students, successfully preparing them for a diverse range of destinations post-secondary school. Students have/are about to commence Apprenticeships and Traineeships, Certificate and Diploma level courses at TAFE and University degrees. The elevated level of achievement of our students has increased the options they have available to them at the conclusion of their time here. We are extremely pleased and proud that our students transition into such a wide range of career pathways and know they will continue to develop skills and improve on their education from Emerald Secondary College.

Of the 96 students who completed Year 12 in 2017, 71 applied through the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) for tertiary study. Of these 71 students, 98.46% received an offer to undertake further study. 79% will be undertaking University study whilst 21% will enter the TAFE system. You can see in the pie graph that of these tertiary offers the Sciences, Management and Commerce, Health and Society and Culture, are the most popular broad areas of study for our students.



The College wishes the Class of 2017 all the best for your future, confident that they will be positively influenced by your time at Emerald Secondary College.

Jason Nicholas – Senior School Leader and Nik Smith – Pathways Leader

Welcome Year 7s

Our new Year 7 students have spent the first week of school becoming familiar with their new school, completing high school boot camp and meeting new friends.

It has been a big change from primary school life for most students and they should all be commended on the way they have embraced the change. It has been great to see high levels of co-operation and a willingness to take on new challenges such as using combination locks and navigating their way around the school.

Many families attended our Welcome Barbecue, which was an enjoyable evening where families had the opportunity to meet the Year 7 teaching staff for 2018. Teachers have been appreciating the lovely disposition of the students and are looking forward to strengthening their relationships with our newest cohort of students.

Rebecca Holmes - Yr 7 Coordinator



Class of 2017 Catch Up

On Monday 12th February we invited our Class of 2017 back for an afternoon tea catch up. It was great to chat with our past students about their pursuits over summer and their plans moving forward. The year ahead will be a different one, but an exciting time to study and explore the world away from ESC. I wish all of the Class of 2017 all the best this year and beyond.

Nik Smith - Pathways Leader



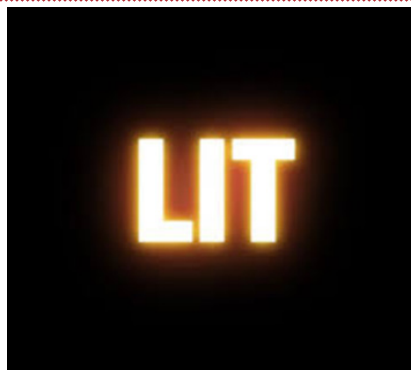
Host Families for Japanese Students

We will be hosting students from our sister school in Japan, Mimasaka Senior High School next month from Thursday 15th until Friday 30th March and we are in need of more families who can host a student during their stay. Please contact Mr Kawakami or send your child to his office in G Block to get more information if you can support our exchange program.

Daisuke Kawakami - Languages Coordinator

Don't get triggered, get LIT!

I did it.
I made it happen.
I listened.
Watched.
Interviewed.
And gave it my best shot!



Man's Not Hot by Big Shaq. It's the song that had gone viral, and I was determined to find out why it was so successful. I hunted down two musically talented students, Mitchell Sears and Ella Carrigan, as I knew they could enlighten me on the ditty.

(Don't say ditty, it's not cool)

First of all, *Man's Not Hot*? Why is he claiming he is not hot? What 'hot' is he referring to? Attractive 'hot' or burning 'hot'?

The answer is, they don't know. The video clip shows Big Shaq wearing a really cool puffer jacket. One must assume, he is therefore cold and has never experienced hot before and would like us to know.

There were not many lyrics I could confidently recite to Ella and Mitchell, but the one line I did was the first semi-coherent phrase:

Two plus two is four, minus one that's three, quick maths.

We all agreed that this was an unusual way to start a song. Mitchell and Ella explained that it was 'freestyle' and you can say whatever you want, whenever you want. I proposed that because the song begins with this then perhaps it replaces a handshake or a greeting with a maths equation.

(I quietly think Mitchell loved this idea and I wouldn't be surprised if he has started to do this with his mates)

We discussed other areas of the song. However, from my analysis, I realised that this song is not unusual. It's happened before. Every generation has experienced a Big Shaq.

Big Shaq's inaudible and incoherent noises are similar to sounds from James Brown, Skatman, Freddy Mercury and George W. Bush. We have all heard and maybe even liked singers who have created a song that makes ZERO sense.

But inexplicably, we just 'dig it'. We have made a connection to it somehow.

While talking to Ella and Mitchell, I realised I didn't need to understand *Man's Not Hot*. But I did need to appreciate how students have connected to the song. Because as an English teacher that's exactly what we get our students to do.

When reading, listening or watching anything, we want students to make connections to self, text and world. We want them to activate their prior knowledge and find something to connect with the piece. We want them to go beyond the written word and extend their understanding. From there, great ideas develop, and students can become critical and deep thinkers.

So, what to do now?

As adults we should model this behaviour and connect with the texts our children are exposed to. We should engage in conversation and make links to what it means to us and what it means to them. This conversation eliminates judgement and encourages new thinking.

To see the interview, go to Emerald Secondary College Website; Learning Programs, Literacy: <https://www.emeraldsc.vic.edu.au/curriculum/literacy/>

Claire Hanley - Whole School Literacy Leader



Camps, Sports & Excursions Funding (CSEF)

Parents who hold a current Health Care Card may be entitled to receive the Camps, Sports & Excursions funding (CSEF). If you have not made an application, please contact the Finance Office.

What's been happening in the HUMANITIES DOMAIN classes?

Mr Reid's Year 11 History class:

What activity have you enjoyed so far and why?

Our favorite activity so far would be learning about the Russian Revolution because it is a very interesting topic to learn and we are provided with heaps of good information, that's why it has been our favorite so far. **Tegan Kennedy and Jemma Lynch**

What have you been learning about today?

We have been looking at the Russian Revolution over the past few days. I like it because I'm learning about things I haven't learnt before and it's interesting. **Josh Adams**

Why did you choose this subject?

We are deeply passionate in history and love learning about the past. Yes, the way we are learning is enjoyable and it's a great environment to be in. **Maddison Hall and Jill Doughty**

Mr Barrett's Year 12 Geography class:

What have you been learning about today?

We have been studying the effects of how changes in land use influence other aspects of regions, specifically at Fisherman's Bend in Melbourne. **Riley Harlow**

Why did you choose this subject?

Mr Barrett is as great as we expected and he makes geography exciting and brings cool facts and his experiences to class. **Steph Pauw**

What are you looking forward to in this class?

I'm looking forward to our fieldwork reports and trips as they are a great way to learn more about the world. **Monica Innes**

Mr Nelson's Year 9 Humanities class:

What activity have you enjoyed so far?

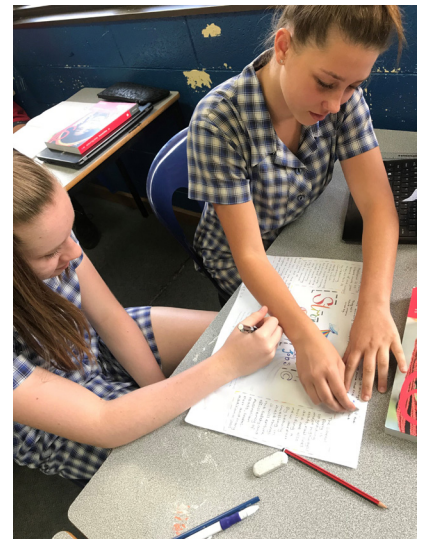
I like the class discussions that we have because they are really interesting and involved all of us. **Harper Jones**

What make learning good in this class?

Having a teacher that can have a joke and then switch into learning mode, makes teaching fun! **Taran Seamer**

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank those students that attended the Humanities Student Forum last week. The feedback given will allow us teachers to better prepare you for the exams! Watch this space closer to the examination period for more information!

Rebeca Bonaccorso - Humanities Domain Leader



SEAL Discovery Day – Melbourne University

On Monday 12th February I had the pleasure of taking four Year 9 SEAL students to a Discovery Day run by The Academy of SEAL Schools. Our students were able to join with four SEAL students from 39 other SEAL schools in Victoria and undertook a program organized by the University of Melbourne. The students were able to get a snap shot of University life, by attending short lectures, activities and a campus tour.

I extremely enjoyed the trip to Melbourne University and the activities. The pizza lunch was awesome. **Gabe 9G**

I enjoyed going to Melbourne University, in that I got to walk around and see what the place is like. Also the workshop was quite fun. **Hakea 9G**

I enjoyed getting an insight on what University life is like. **Kailan 9G**

It was a great experience and lots of fun. The tour was great and gave you a great idea of what University is like. **Dom 9G**

Janine McMahon – SEAL Coordinator



ESC Swimming Carnival - Tuesday 20th February

The swimming carnival is fast approaching on Tuesday 20th February at Doveton Outdoor Swimming Pool. Students are encouraged to dress up in house colours to support their house and take part in the many activities that will be happening throughout the day. There will be sunscreen provided at the pool and students are encouraged to bring a hat and drink plenty of water. A BBQ will be running so students can bring money for a sausage.

Please return the Whole School Permission Form to ensure attendance on the day.

Any questions, please contact Mr Watson on 5968 5388

Tom Watson - Sports Coordinator.



Parent Teacher Interviews

This year our Parent Teacher Interviews will occur across 2 days to assist families in booking in appointments with their children's teachers. Interviews are 7 minutes long, and we ask that you are prompt to your appointment to make the most of the allocated time with your child's teacher.

Bookings are made through Compass, and you will be sent a notification when bookings are open.

Wednesday 28th March 4pm – 7pm

Thursday 29th March 9.30am – 2pm

There are no scheduled classes on Thursday 29th March as students are required at any booked interviews.

ELEVATE EDUCATION - STUDY SKILLS FOR PARENTS EVENING (Yrs 10-12)

Emerald Secondary College is working hard to raise the expectations for our students and provide them with the necessary tools to achieve their academic personal best. To complement the work the school has/will be doing with students in this area, research clearly shows the importance that support from home plays in students achieving their potential. To support parents, we are holding a Study Skills for Parents Evening facilitated by Elevate Education. The session will focus on:

- How parents can help their children effectively manage their time
- How parents can help their children become motivated and stay motivated
- The different types of work that students should prioritise across the year in order to improve their results
- How parents can help their children work effectively with technology whilst minimising distractions like Facebook and Instagram.

This evening is aimed at parents/guardians, not students. It would be great to see as many Senior School parents as possible attend this event.

DATE: Tuesday 27th February

TIME: 6:30-7:30pm

VENUE: EPAC



Homework Club

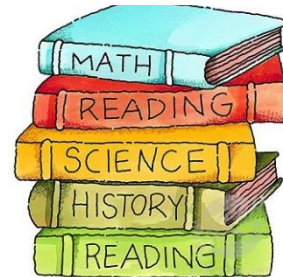
If you need a quiet place to get your homework done or require extra help from your teachers, the place to be is Homework Club.

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



Rotary
Debutante Ball



A Project of The Rotary Club
of Emerald & District Inc

2018 Debutante Ball

SATURDAY 16th June 2018

**Applications are now
being accepted**

For further information and to
download an application form, go to

www.emeraldrotary.org.au



Free Tennis Day

Saturday
3rd March

3 - 8pm



- **3pm - 5pm**
- Free Mini Lessons, Cardio workouts and fun activities
- Test your ball speed on court with our radar gun
- Join in the fun for a chance to win prizes
4 x Junior racquets to be won



- **Round Robin competitions**
in an exciting fast 4 format
For **Teens to Adults**,
All Welcome - Teams/Doubles/Singles
Ring Deb on 0433 820 088
or email dctennis@hotmail.com to register

- **Free court use from 5 - 8pm**
(Racquets available for use on the day)
- **Come and check us out**

Cockatoo Tennis Courts
McBride St -behind the Bowls Club



TICKETS ONLY \$50

HOFFY'S INTENSITY

HEALTH & FITNESS

Presents

CRAIG HARPER

A HIGH-PERFORMANCE LIFE

2 HR WORKSHOP

Sunday Feb 25th, 2018

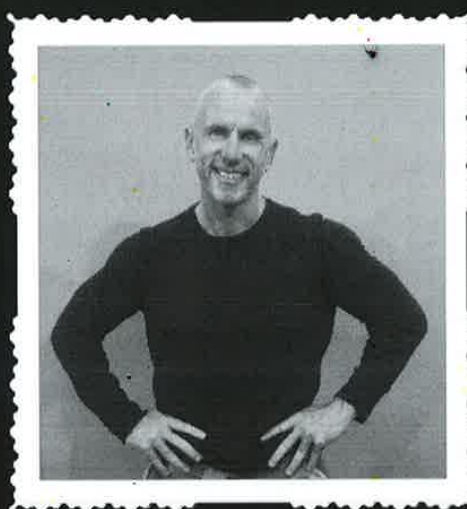
Kicks off 6pm Sharp

Doors open @ 5.30pm

Emerald Secondary College

Performing Arts Centre

425 Belgrave - Gembrook Road. Emerald



BOOK YOUR TICKET NOW!

Payments: Julie Hoffmann

BSB: 083 638 Acc: 823629109

Reference: CHSurname Eg: CHHoffmann

For more info contact Hoffs on 0488 191 119