Principal’s Headlines: Learning and Teaching
This week all our staff sat together to discuss and review the recent College NAPLAN results. It is important that as a school we celebrate the students’ achievement and successes in our NAPLAN results as well as our practices that have led to these wonderful results.

The staff then discussed how we can build on these practices to further support our student’s achievement in Literacy and Numeracy.

On Tuesday this week our teaching staff all worked collaboratively with enthusiasm and expertise continuing their work on the development of our new 2017 Victorian Curriculum for Years 7-10 as well as developing the new curriculum for the VCE study designs.

As you can appreciate this takes a great deal of time and consideration to ensure our programs meet and extend the learning needs of all our students.

Student Reflection
Recently the College received the feedback from the Department of Education on the Student Attitude to School Survey.

Ms Alder, Ms Cross Gunn and Ms Wenzel have all been working with our students to review the data and results, seeking student input into how we can further support our student’s confidence in their learning, sense of belonging and general sense of pride in our College. This reflective work will assist in developing our new Annual Implementation plan, putting the students at the heart of all our work.

Staff and Parent feedback
Continuing with the work on the review of our current Annual Implementation Plan, and to assist in the development of our new plan for 2017, our College Leadership Team have now received the staff and parents feedback from the Attitudes to School Data.

It is important that we look at our whole communities thoughts and perceptions in order to continue to develop the College, and this data alongside the recent parent survey in our newsletter, will also contribute to how we develop next year’s key priorities within our plans.

Hon James Merlino Visits ESC
On Friday this week, the Hon James Merlino the Deputy Prime Minister and State Education Minister came to our College with Daniel Mulino the Parliamentary Secretary for Treasury and Finance to continue the discussions surrounding our Teaching and Learning spaces for our students and staff.

With the development of the STEM (Science, Technologies, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects it is important that we can provide 21st century learning spaces for all our students. Both Ministers toured our classrooms along with Denise Kotsikas from the Department of Education to
hear our vision for the new STEM curriculum as well as a bid for funding to support the upgrade of our Science and Maths rooms. I would like to thank Brad Gibbs our College Science leader and Estelle Alder, Assistant Principal, in assisting with this discussion and presentation. No promises were made at this stage, but we are hopeful that this is now on the Parliamentary table.

The Hon James Merlino also viewed the plans for the new Inclusion hub and upgrade of College facilities, and was very excited to see that Emerald Secondary College will have the State’s first Inclusion Hub, meeting the needs of our students social, emotional, physical and intellectual learning needs.

Jodie Doble Principal
2017 Student Bus Travel Information
Public Transport Victoria (PTV) and the Department of Education and Training (DET) have reviewed the administrative system of the School Bus Program in order to streamline and improve the process for parents and students.

A new online School Bus Management System for school bus applications, centralised and undertaken by PTV.

All parents should have received an email from the College outlining the changes to bus travel for 2017 plus an invitation to attend a ‘2017 Bus Information Session’ for all parents/students on Monday 14th November from 6.30-7.15pm at the College.

At this information night we will take you through what you, as a parent, need to do from now on, how to accept or decline a bus route offer plus an explanation of the new process with regard to student travel cards; how this will impact on bus travel for students of split families etc.

You will also have an opportunity to ask us about any email/offer that you have received. We will have a representative from PTV at the information session for you to ask questions.

Existing Bus Travellers
Once the new School Bus Management System has been introduced, all existing school bus travellers who had already applied through their school prior to the commencement in November 2016, will be automatically transferred to the new system and will not need to do anything to access their school bus in Term 4.

Each family will receive notification from PTV informing them of their School Bus Management System user account details and next steps, including a reminder to ‘renew applications’ for travel for the next school year.

New Bus Travellers
For any parent who does not provide us with details regarding their son/daughter via the following link https://goo.gl/forms/xBurCXfqlYaq1J0o1 by 28th October you will need to apply online directly to PTV, rather than through your school.

Young Endeavour 2017 Ballot Applications Now Open
We have seen in previous issues of the Newsletter some amazing opportunities that students from Emerald Secondary college have had. We would like to encourage students over 16 years of age to seriously consider applying for the ‘Young Endeavour Youth Scheme.’

The Young Endeavour Youth Scheme is a not-for-profit organisation which provides young Australians with a unique, challenging and inspirational experience at sea. A voyage on the sail training ship Young Endeavour empowers young Australians, increasing self-awareness, developing teamwork and leadership skills, and creating a strong sense of community responsibility. The experiential learning program uses sail training to help young people learn about themselves and others, realise their potential and discover the value of working in a team.

Since 1988 the Scheme has offered outstanding training opportunities for over 11,000 young people. Voyages are usually of eleven days duration, and the majority are conducted along the Eastern Australian seaboard, departing from ports in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania. The majority of participants are selected through a biannual ballot. The Young Endeavour Youth Scheme also partners with a number of community groups and companies, which fund scholarships for young people to take part in the program.

So if you are wanting to challenge yourself – why not give this opportunity a look at. Visit https://www.youngendeavour.gov.au to find out more.
What Students at Yr 9 Have Been Saying About Screen Time

Recently the College did some work with Year 9 students looking at the amount of time students spend on ‘screen time’ or to put it more simply – time on devices such as phones, laptop/desktop or PS2 etc. that is happening out of school time.

It has to be said that whether it is a sign of the times or not the results were a little bit of a shock. Results like those in the following graphs clearly illustrate what our Year 9’s told us.

For example 63% of Year 9 students said that their parents had no restrictions on them about screen time. Whilst we would acknowledge that some screen time is being used for completing school work - clearly this is only a small part of its use.

The Wellbeing team at the College feel that it is important to share this information with parents so that they can have a discussion with their children around screen time use.

We acknowledge that in today’s world technology has many benefits in supporting education – but it is about a balance.

Screen time is an important health and wellbeing issue as a high level of screen time can impact a child’s studies, mental capacity, eating and sleep habits and also it can impact a student’s overall health. Clearly it is important that parents play an active role in monitoring the use of screen time in the household.

This can be difficult in establishing boundaries especially because it can cause tension in the home – but surely this is better than the outcomes of not having boundaries established.

The College would like to encourage all parents to hold these important conversations with their child and involve them in setting up some clear guidelines.

There is plenty of support out there for parents and again we would like to refer parents to the website Office of the Childrens eSafety Commissioner – which can be accessed by clicking on the link below.

Here you will find useful tips to establish safe and supportive technology use in the home.

https://www.esafety.gov.au/education-resources/iparent/7-ways-infographic

Mike Jaremczuk & Estelle Elder
Off to Canberra in the Holidays: Two of our year 11 students have been accepted into the National Mathematics Summer School, held in Canberra in January 2017. Miani Mischon and George Thomas sat a very challenging test to apply for their position and wrote a short piece explaining why they believe they would benefit from going. Only 70 students from the whole of Australia have the opportunity to attend, so it is a great honour.

Students live in a residential college at the Australian National University, attend lectures and tutorials and have social activities and excursions organised as well. It is a great opportunity for Miani and George to experience a little of university life and to make friends from all over Australia. We wish them a great trip. Jacqui Lee Maths Domain Leader

BOOKLIST 2017:

Booklist Update 2017 - New supplier:
This year our booklist supplier is Lamont booksellers. There are a number of changes to our Booklist in response to parent feedback, and changes to curriculum. Booklists will be published shortly.

Obook or hardcopy text book?
In 2017 families will be able to choose between a hardcopy textbook or an obook (digital version).

Which is best?
Many, many students and teachers prefer working from a hardcopy textbook. It allows students to quickly reference information and have their laptop, text book and workbook open at the same time. A hardcopy text book comes with the obook version included, and can be sold second-hand or passed on to family members.

Obooks make a school bag lighter, are always with you, and are usually about $20 cheaper than the hardcopy text book. Different publishers have rules about the life of the access codes; some access lasts for a year, others last for the life of the edition. Some students prefer to work from an obook, and those with organisational challenges may find this option better, as they will almost always remember to bring their laptop to class!

Each family will make the choice which fits best for their student and their circumstances. We are making both choices available for you, but we do recommend, where possible, that the hardcopy text is purchased. No student will be disadvantaged by purchasing the digital textbook.

New VCE Study Designs and the Victorian Curriculum
There are many new VCE Study designs in 2017, and the Victorian Curriculum will be taught in Yrs 7-10 from 2017. This means that many text books from 2016 cannot be used anymore. We understand that this may cause some families some additional financial pressure. We are offering students in Yrs 7-10 the option of purchasing a cheaper digital version, and we will also not be changing text books again for several years, so families will be able to sell or pass on texts.

Planners – in 2017 families will be able to purchase a planner through the booklist. Traditionally the College has supplied a planner, but this will no longer be the case in 2017. Students can choose NOT to purchase a planner if they prefer to organise themselves this way, or use their laptop. The planner is estimated to cost around $6.

Digital Bundles – there have been MANY negative experiences from families trying to access their digital bundle successfully. There are NO digital bundles in 2017. Instead, families have the option to purchase the hardcopy book OR the digital book. The hardcopy book comes with the obook, and is recommended by the College. The obook is available to families to offset the cost if needed.

Estelle Alder - Assistant Principal
7 WAYS parents can manage web connected devices in the home

1. 39% of teens use a tablet to go online
   - Parental controls for tablets >

2. 47% of teens play games online
   - Games & parental controls >

3. 64% of teens stream video on YouTube & TV
   - Streaming services settings >

4. 74% of teens use a computer to go online
   - Use safety settings >

5. 78% of teens research and browse on the internet
   - Tips on searching safely >

6. 80% use a smartphone
   - Smart phone parental controls >

7. 86% have home broadband access
   - See parental controls >

**Parental controls can keep kids safe on many screens**

**They can**
- Block sexually explicit sites
- Set screen time limits
- Block in-app purchases
- Block numbers and SMS
- Allow or block websites
- Restrict chat features
- Allow parental monitoring

**Remember**
No parental control is 100% fail safe. Keep children's trust by using those tools openly at home.

**More safeguards for parents** >
Emerald STOPS to Remember

At 11.00am on Friday the 11th day of November Emerald will stop as a sign of respect for all those who fought and died for Australia.

The Emerald CFA will sound the siren at 10.59am for one minutes silence. The RSL has requested for all shopkeepers and businesses in Emerald and district to remind their customers of the silent period when the siren sounds.

Those unable to attend the Town Service are welcome to join us for a short memorial at the Emerald RSL on Thursday 10 November at 6.45pm.

History

On 11th November 1918, in the French village of Compiegne, the Allies and Germany signed an Armistice to end the terrible war of 1914-1918 (First World War). The guns fell silent on the battle fields where an estimated 20 million young men, of all nationalities had lost their lives. In the muddy fields of Flanders the lacerated soil was sending up the red poppies so common in that area. These delicate flowers became the symbol of peace and remembrance. It is sometimes referred to as Remembrance Day, Poppy Day or Armistice Day.

Sale of Badges in Emerald

Emerald RSL will be selling poppies outside Emerald Village Newsagency in Kilvington Drive and inside Woolworths near the escalators. The money raised will be divided between our local Emerald RSL Club and the Victorian State Branch, and is used to support our Returned Service Personnel and their dependents.
EMERALD PRIMARY SCHOOL FAIR 2016
5 NOVEMBER 10am-3pm

FAIR RIDES • PHOTO BOOTH
LEGO COMPETITION • ART SHOW
CHOCOLATE THROW
SPINNING WHEEL • RAFFLE
MYSTERY BAGS • LUCKY STICKS
FACE PAINTING • HAIRSPRAY
KID’S CRAFT & LOTS MORE FUN!

CAKE STALL • HOME PRODUCE
PLANTS • MARKET STALLS
SECONDHAND BOOK STALL
CAR BOOT SALE

COOKING DEMO WITH MAURO
FROM THE INDEPENDENT, GEMBROOK

BBQ • EGG & BACON ROLLS
BAKED SPUDS • COLD DRINKS
COFFEE VAN • ICE CREAMS
FRESH STRAWBERRIES & CREAM
HOT DOGS • FAIRY FLOSS
Come down for a fun trivia night at Emerald Secondary College for a good cause, help ESC raise money for the Emerald SES that they can put towards their new rescue truck. The work they do is amazing! Whenever a storm hits or even a windy night, they are out to make this community a safer place.

425 Belgrave
Gembrook Road
Emerald

We will be running the trivia night from 7 PM in L block, you can use the school’s parking and there will be signs telling people where to go.

**PRICES**

Per person

- Adults- 10$
- ESC student-5$
- Under 10’s- 2$
Astronomy Club News:
This weekend saw the opening of the Seeing Stars Astrophotography exhibition at the Yarra Ranges Regional Museum. Staff and students from Emerald Secondary College have work on a display and we’d like to thank Mount Burnett Observatory for the opportunity to participate.

The exhibition runs through until the end of January so take some time to travel up to the Museum at Lilydale and be amazed at what can be achieved with a camera and a telescope!