

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:

29th March 2018 **Issue 5**

Important Dates:

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

APRIL:

Mon 16th: Student Free Professional Development Day

Tue 17th: First day of Term 2

Wed 18th: Open Night

Fri 20th: Yr 7 Immunisations

Mon 23rd: Yr 12 Retreat Day #2

Tue 24th: Whole School Cross Country Run

Wed 25th: ANZAC Day (no school)

Mon 30th: Yr 10 METEC Driver Education Day

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- Parenting Teens
- Blanket & Coat Drive
- Together with Me @ the Library Summit
- South Belgrave Junior Football Club

From the Principal:

ESC Successes

This has been a tremendous term for all our staff and students, and the last two weeks have followed in the same trend.

Our Year 8 girls Volleyball team headed to the State Volleyball Stadium for competition at the district Volleyball competition. Although our team is still new to the game, after hard work and training it was wonderful to see them place 3rd overall. Congratulations to the girls, Mr Watson and all our families.

Our Arts faculty were also in competition last weekend at the Pakenham show, it was with great pride to see our students not only recognised, but achieving winning places at the show. Congratulations to Phoenix for winning 1st Prize in the Youth Art Category, and Alana for winning 2nd Prize in the Drawing in any Medium.

Our HPV team competed in their first ever competition at Wonthaggi. We had a strong parent and staff support for our student team and it was with great pride to hear the team won 4th place overall.



Student Reports and Parent, Teacher, Student Conferences

All our student's progress reports are now available on Compass. There is a PDF option on the Compass page for those families wishing to print the progress reports.

Please discuss your child's progress over the term and their goals for success for term two.

Many of our families took up the option to discuss their child's achievements in Term 1 and goals for Term 2 at our parent, student teacher conferences. It is extremely important that we work together to discuss strategies to see all our students achieve their personal best.

For those families who did not make appointments with classroom teachers, I encourage you to contact the college to arrange a time at the start of Term 2. Your child's progress and goals for the next term, and future, is extremely important as well as how we can work together to ensure your child reaches their potential to learn.

School Athletics

Last Friday we held our annual Athletics Carnival at Knox Athletics ground. It was a wonderful day full of energy and high spirits. Students rose to the challenges and wore their house colours with pride.

A highlight of the day was the number of school records broken. We have an amazing cohort of students who are all extremely talented. Students will be contacted to organise the next level of competition where they will represent our College at the District Athletics event.

Year 9 Connect Program

With the end of Term 1 upon us, it was time for our Year 9 students to present their 'Passion Projects'. Our students researched and created displays and presentations based on their personal interests. All our junior students and staff had the opportunity to see and hear about our Year 9's work ranging from trains, animals and music to aerial silks, virtual reality and dark matter theories within the universe. I had the pleasure of seeing the displays, speaking to all our students and hearing about their hobbies and passions, and the diversity in students' interests always amaze me.



Mimasaka

This week we farewell the students and staff from our Sister School in Mimasaka.

It has been wonderful to hear all about their life, language and culture as well as share our way of life and culture with them. I would like to thank all the staff and students for welcoming them with a special thank you to all our Host families who, without their support, this program would not be able to run. As an extension to this program, Brad Battin invited our visitors to State Parliament and I was also very fortunate to escort our visitors to Healesville Sanctuary to meet our native Australian animals.

I would like to thank all our families, students and staff for making our visitors welcome and encourage all our students to take up the option to home stay a student from Mimasaka next year, or visit Mimasaka in September this year.



Term Two

A reminder to all our families that Term 2 begins on Tuesday 17th April.

On behalf of the Emerald Secondary College staff and learning community, I would like to wish you all a safe and well rested break.

Jodie Doble - Principal

Assistant Principals' Report

A Well Earned Break

Term 1 has now drawn to a close. The holidays are a fantastic opportunity for students, teachers and parents/carers to refresh and recharge from what has been a very busy start to the year. Whilst a break is definitely on the cards this is also a time to reflect on what we have achieved so far and how we can improve our learning outcomes. I encourage all parents/carers to talk openly with their children about classwork and assessment items and to reflect on the comments from our Student Learning Conferences as this will help guide them through Term 2 and beyond.

Respectful Parent/Teacher interactions at ESC:\

Students at Emerald Secondary College are very lucky to have committed staff to support them in their developmental growth throughout their secondary schooling, both academically, socially and in a welfare paradigm. We see the journey as everyone working as team – school leaders, teachers, students and of course, you, our parents/carers. Thus, as a school community we all need to work together as a team to ensure the best possible outcomes for all. To that end, Co-ordinators are available to answer any query you might have that relates to the learning or welfare of your son/daughter. These conversations must always be respectful, timely and cover off on three aspects – decision, action and accountability. To expand on this idea, decision pertains to an outcome, action reflects putting structures and agreements into place and accountability points to all parties keeping up their end of any negotiated action. The importance of being solution focussed must be at the forefront of every interaction, in a positive environment.



Year 9 Passion Projects

It was a pleasure to walk around the Year 9 Passion Project displays this week. Being given the opportunity to complete an assessment on a topic of their own choice is a great way for students to showcase their work. Speaking with the students about their project also allowed them to show their understanding. From genetics, physiology and zoology to sporting presentations, history of trains and army tanks to makeup and music, all manner of topics were covered. Thank you to all of those students who put in a lot of effort to complete their projects, hopefully other students have seen what they can achieve if they continue to work with their teachers and other students to further develop their own skills. Thank you also to Franca Mosca and the staff who have taught the Year 9 students during this unit.

Compass Photos

Verification of Compass photos is almost complete – that means, the ordering that has taken place, will be processed in due course. Photos that are on order will be delivered to the College early next term. If you have any questions about the photos, please contact Compass directly – Email: support@jdlf.com.au

Buildings Grounds and OHS

The holidays give us a great opportunity to complete some much needed works around the College grounds. It has been great to speak to students about some of the areas they would like to see improved. The outdoor gym has been used every day by our students during their breaks from classes which is great to see. Small improvements to unusable spaces like this are key to making our College safe. The bike shed has been decommissioned due to safety concerns.

A new storage area will be built after the maintenance shed is completed. Provisions have been made for a temporary solution to storing our bikes safely and securely until the new area is finished.

Jonathon Rogers - Assistant Principal



Eastern Ranges 2018 TAC Cup Squad

It is with much pride that we announce that one of our Yr 12 students, Stephen Kapahnke, has been selected to play in the Eastern Ranges 2018 TAC Cup Squad. The squad is made up from all football teams in the Yarra Ranges league and Eastern league.

The TAC Cup is the major source of AFL Draftees.

Congratulations Stephen and good luck with your AFL ambitions!!



Connect Term One

Throughout this term students have been working on their Passion projects that are displayed to the wider school community during the last week of term. Students have researched their project and produced a display that has enabled them to explore their passion, encouraged them to strive for excellence and empowered students in their learning.

To encourage team building skills, Year 9 Connect students ventured out to Lysterfield Park on Tuesday 20th March for an afternoon of activities led by Shane Closter and the Year 12 VCAL students.

Year 9 students completed various activities including a scavenger hunt and various trail activities designed to build team skills and resilience. Students worked in groups to complete activities within a time frame and then settled to share lunch. As I wandered around to all groups it was fantastic to see the effort many students had put into preparing food to share with members of their group. Students worked co-operatively and enjoyed themselves despite the cooler weather on the day.

Well done to all Year 9 students for their efforts this term and special thanks to the Connect staff, Ms Barstow, Ms Padukkage, Mr Donders and Ms Hay in leading their groups and encouraging their students to step up and aim for excellence in their work and attitude.

Next term in Connect we will be focusing on Careers. We have many activities planned for the term which will culminate in Mock Interviews where students will have the opportunity to practice their job interview skills with members of the local community.

The Connect team is looking forward to another exciting term!

Franca Mosca - Connect Leader



PI Day Fun At ESC

On Wednesday March 14th (3-14 American Date system), the ESC Maths Team ran a day of fun and activities for students at ESC.

The symbol π , is the 16th letter of the Greek alphabet. Pi (π) is significant in Maths as it represents a constant found by dividing the circumference (distance around the outside edge of a circle) by the diameter (distance across the centre of the circle passing through the origin). This is true for any circle. Pi has been calculated to over one trillion digits beyond its decimal point.

Pi Day is also shared with Einstein's Birthday!

ACTIVITIES IN CLASSES

Students in Years 7 to 10 completed an activity on this day (or close to this day) investigating pi.

One of these activities was a hands on activity measuring the circumference and diameter of circles to prove the value is always pi!

Another activity was listening to the story of Sir Cumference and the Dragon of Pi. You can check out this story here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2v0MPMe1bkU>

QUIZ WINNERS

There was a quiz run at lunchtime with lots of circular food....hot pies, chicken balls, cheese balls, lots of cupcakes and lots more circular food and drinks.

The students were in teams and worked together to answer 20 quiz questions. The winning team was:

Students pictured from left to right are: Hakea Dreaming, Kayla Menere, Gabriel Penketh and Noa Silversten.



PI DIGITS

The student that could recite the most digits in the value of π was Noa Silversten, who was able to write 74 digits of pi from memory:

3.14159265358979323846264338327950288419716939937510582097494459230781640826.....

PIZZA

The canteen staff were fantastic and got on board with International Pi Day and sold Pizza slices at a special price of \$3.14. Over 50 slices of pizza were sold on this day!

Michelle Galli - Maths Domain Leader



Wonthaggi HPV 2018

Last weekend saw our HPV (Human Powered Vehicles) team, the Emerald Secondary College Marvels, compete at our school's first ever HPV Event at Wonthaggi, the 21st Wonthaggi Grand Prix. Everybody had mixed feelings going into the event - some good, some bad - but thanks to the assistance of some of the local Primary schools the show was on the road (literally). We were a contender in the 16hr Junior Open. We clocked up the 61st fastest practise lap, giving us our grid position. We were racing on the same track as some of the fastest riders in the country in many different categories. The weather wasn't that great as the first day it reached temperatures of 35 °c plus, the second day it bucketed down with gale force winds so it was called off 2 hours early. All in all, everyone had a great time and we finished 4th in our category and picked up the 'Trisled Encouragement Award' - not bad for a first time team.

Jaicob



This weekend a group of people from Year 7 travelled to Wonthaggi to attend the 21st Wonthaggi Human Powered Vehicle grand prix. The race was 24 hours long but the Year 7's only had to race 16 tough hours. So, what exactly is HPV? HPV (not the virus) or human powered vehicles, also known as recumbent bikes, are tricycles where the rider lies down in the seat. The race we went to was one of the biggest in the country. The first day was extremely hot and was hard to ride in, but that night a cool change was due to come in. By sunset the wind was starting to pick up and the temperature dropped making it nice and cool to ride in but by the morning there were gale force winds and it was rainy and cold. There was a massive tailwind along the main straight making it easier to go very fast. But then, problems started to come up, when some of the enclosed karts were fogging up and they couldn't see because the rain was pelting down and the race was called off. I (Alex Barbour) was the last rider in the team and when I got out I was saturated I had to change my top and it was dripping wet.

Our team the Emerald Marvels came 4th in our race division (Junior Open), picked up the 'Trisled Encouragement Award' and made the 61st fastest practice lap overall.

Alex B



Don't get triggered, life's LIT!



Punctuation and Grammar for our Target Audience

My sister is older and smarter than me.

I know. How is that possible?

But it is pretty simple. She worked her butt off at school. Day and night, she diligently studied to achieve Dux of our secondary school. Now she works in a professional world that is foreign to me. She has Bachelor Degrees in Commerce and Economics, became a Chartered Accountant and has just recently received her MBA (Masters of Business Administration).

Despite this esteemed pedigree, when she writes to me via text message and social media she is incredibly slack with language, humour and occasional inappropriate comments. She adapts her language for her target audience.

In our messages, we are able to flaunt traditional conventions of punctuation and grammar, as we know each other well and can read our tone of voice in our laid-back vernacular. We also limit the use of punctuation and grammar to maintain the pace of the messaging, we can communicate quickly before returning to the 'real' world.

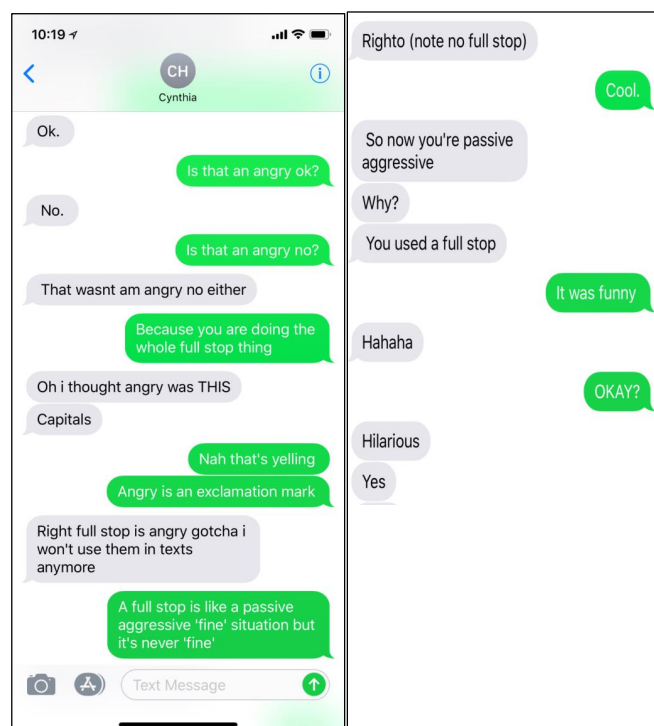
This sounds familiar because we all do this. This is common behaviour.

This week I had this little situation with my sister via text message and it got me thinking. To be honest, I'm still nutting this idea out. I haven't got it all sorted yet, but this theory may change my approach to student writing.

I don't want you to get too excited, but it is AMAZING.

However, I don't want you to think that I'm going to receive a Nobel Prize for this realisation. Because I think you need to be old to receive that anyway and I'm only 21 to 36-ish years of age. True story.

Anyway, back to the situation with my sister. I was messaging her about hosting her baby shower as she is expecting her first baby in June. As we were nearing the end of our message we stumbled across a miscommunication. Here is the chat below. Be aware of grammar and punctuation errors.



Okay. There are obviously a few errors in that discussion, but this is where my mind-blowing discovery comes from.

My sister begins the exchange with 'OK.' Simple, innocent and straight to the point. However, this has accidentally changed her tone because she overlooked her target audience (me). She has gone back into professional mode and suddenly utilised

punctuation in what was a free and loose chat. To me, her target audience, I now view this full stop in a different light.

It has a different context to what should have been a simple sign off. I fear I may have upset her. So, the messaging continues with this as the driver. She responds with another full stop in her reply and this is where the discussion extends to explore what full stops, capital letters and exclamation marks can actually mean in simple text messaging.

Okay, it's getting boring now. I hear you ANGRILY YELL (or Angrily Yell.) - WHAT WAS MY EPIPHANY?

My epiphany was this:

Our students bring informal messaging (limited focus on grammar and punctuation) to high stakes writing tasks at school.

They consistently use informal language and forget to consider their target audience.

Everything written has a target audience and no, it's not just the teacher. In English when students write a Text Response their target audience is not the teacher. It is someone who has shown interest in the text, someone who has read or viewed the text before and now wants to hear different opinions and ideas on the themes and conventions. They want enlightenment from the text.

A Community Design Brief has a target audience. The brief must be accurate to reflect what is appropriate for the community, families, children and Local Council. A School Policy must be worded correctly for School Council. Homework tasks must be worded so students and parents understand what is required. Women's Day must carefully word their blatantly dishonest celebrity gossip columns. The power of the written word cannot be underestimated. We MUST get the details clear for our target audience.

I know you're thinking this is not new information. This is pretty basic.

And you're right, it is.

However, the epiphany helped me develop a stronger appreciation for our students.

They are bilingual x 10. They have the ability to write to multiple target audiences via social media.

They make concerted efforts and may focus a little bit on punctuation and grammar in messages to Mum and Dad.

They may even step it up a bit more for Grandma and Grandpa.

But for their friends they use language and grammar that suits their usual tone and pace. For their siblings their tone might completely change again; punctuation and grammar may be relied on more or less. It depends. Our students are aware of their target audience even though the term may have not entered their vernacular yet.

As a teacher, I am going to focus on this a little more in class. I should ask students to write their thoughts about this issue as if they were writing it to their BFF, then write it again to Grandma, then write it again but this time it's to Mum's Boss!

You can do this at home and challenge word choices thrown around the kitchen while making dinner. While writing the note to the PE teacher about the missing school uniform. You may ask your child to do it and consider their language and grammar for their target audience.

Informal social media language is perfectly acceptable, but students need guidance to understand target audience in low stakes and high stakes writing tasks. We all play a role in this contemporary obstacle our students face.

Claire Hanley - Whole School Literacy Leader

Top Screen 2018 Season of Excellence

Congratulations to Caitlin Liston, one of our 2017 graduates who was a finalist for the 2018 Season of Excellence for VCE. Caitlin was shortlisted from hundreds of applicants to the final 14 short movies. These were screened at ACMI at a prestigious event this month.

Caitlin's beautiful animation 'The Escapist' explores the idea of positive escapism and how this can encourage creativity and imagination. Her film seeks to celebrate and reassure those already engaged in escapism, as well as help others appreciate the idea of escapism and its potential benefits.

If you get a chance I recommend you catch a screening of her movie at ACMI at Federation Square.

Cindy Mikieciuk - Visual Arts Domain Leader





Homework Club

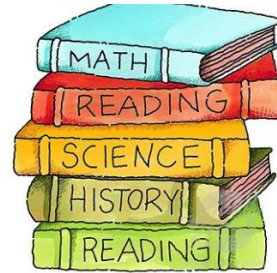
If you need a quiet place to get your homework done or require extra help from your teachers, the place to be is Homework Club.

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

Learn about the crucifixion



You are invited to attend the
Good Friday celebration
at Menzies Creek

Hope
you can
come

Children's story

Bright singing

Good Friday

SCRUMPTIOUS MORNING TEA



CONDUCTED BY
THE
BELGRAVE
HEIGHTS
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



Starts at 10.00 at
St Cuthberts,
Menzies Creek

More information:
Mark 9755 2821
0437 592 411



PARENTING TEENS

PARENTS BUILDING SOLUTIONS

A program for parents, grandparents, step parents & carers.

UNDERSTAND THE TEEN'S BRAIN

Know about Ages and Stages of teenage learning

ARE YOU TIRED OF YELLING?

How to get your teenager to listen, without having to yell

DEALING WITH ANGER

Recognising the causes and triggers for anger

REALTIONSHPIS

How can parents build a better relationship with their teens?

STRATEGIES

Discuss and share strategies that work

DATES:

Wednesdays for 6 weeks

9, 16, 23, 30 May & 6, 13 June 2018

TIME:

6.00pm - 8.30pm

WHERE:

Emerald Secondary College
425 Belgrave-Gembrook Rd,
Emerald Vic 3782

COST:

FREE: Bookings essential

BOOKINGS:

For bookings and enquiries contact:

Felicity Wooden - Well Being Leader - 5968 5388

Email: wooden.felicity@edumail.vic.org.au &

Jasbir Singh at Parentzone on 0431 203 177 or

Email: jasbir.suopada@anglicarevic.org.au



anglicarevic.org.au

BETTER
TOMORROWS



Blanket and Goat Drive

THE COLLECTION POINTS FOR GENTLY USED, CLEAN BLANKETS AND COATS ARE THE UPWEY, BELGRAVE AND COCKATOO COMMUNITY BANK® BRANCHES

COLLECTION PERIOD:
1 MARCH 2018 - 31 MAY 2018

Dandenong Ranges
Community Bank® Group

 **Bendigo Bank**

Celebrating Community

Performing And Visual arts in Emerald



**8-15
April
2018**

OVER
40
EVENTS

*Rejuvenate...
Rediscover...
Rethink...*

WWW.PAVE.ORG.AU

- Huge variety of events for all ages and interests
- Many FREE activities
- Celebrating local artistic talents

Emerald FunFest

Sunday 8th April



**10am
- 4pm**

- Cool Rides & Great Stalls
- Live Music & Performances
- Yummy Food & Family Fun

Free Entry



WWW.FUNFEST.ORG.AU

Enquiries: 5968 3881



TOGETHER WITH ME @ THE LIBRARY SUMMIT

Be part of the Together With Me Summit hosted by Casey Cardinia Libraries and Cardinia Shire Council as we work together to stop, prevent, and educate people about family violence in our community.

The summit will bring together a range of community and support services, including Anglicare and Cardinia Youth Services who can provide free information and assistance, followed by a talk from keynote speaker, Dr Michael Carr-Gregg.

3pm-6pm

Stalls from community and support services with information for youth, adults and professionals working in this area.

6.30pm-8pm

Hear from psychologist, Dr Michael Carr-Gregg about "Building Respectful Relationships".

Pakenham Library

Cnr. John & Henry streets

Monday 16 April

> 3pm to 8pm

Free event but bookings are essential at:

tinyurl.com/y8ssvx9



TOGETHER we CAN
Act now to end Family Violence in Cardinia Shire





Footy training has started, round 1 is 15th April.

Here are the training times for South Belgrave Junior Football Club, the SAINTS.

- Auskick (4 to 8 year olds) and Under 8s & 9s (DOB 1/1/2009 to 30/4/2011): Train Fridays from 5 to 6:15pm at Belgrave South Recreation Reserve from 16th March.
- Under 10s (DOB 2008) & Under 11s (DOB 2007): Train Wednesdays at Narre Warren East Reserve from 5 to 6:30pm. Already started.
- Under 10 Girls (DOB 2008 & 2009), Under 12 Girls (DOB 2006 & 2007) & Under 14 girls (2004 & 2005) train on Tuesday and Thursday contact Simon Mehegan 0428 866 681 for time & location.
- Under 17s (DoB 2001, 02 & 03) train from 6pm at Belgrave South Recreation Reserve

**For more information contact: Rick Ryan (SAINTS President) 0410 187 948 or
SAINTS coaches here <https://goo.gl/GJdsk5>**
