

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 2 - 2018:

18th May 2018 Issue 8

Important Dates:

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

MAY

Mon 21st: Junior Girls Football

Wed 23rd - Fri 25th: Yr 10 Advance
Camp (Group 1 - Camp 2)

Tue 29th: Intermediate Sports

Wed 30th - Fri 1st Jun: Yr 7 Camp

JUNE

Tue 5th: Yr 12 TIS Excursion

Fri 8th - Fri 15th: Yr 10 & 11 Exams

Mon 11th: Queens Birthday Public
Holiday

Wed 13th: Yr 12 GAT Exam

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From the Principal:

Careers Week

Last week we held our annual Careers week for our students. Our Careers and Pathways Leader, Nik Smith organized a number of agencies, Universities and tertiary institutions to come into our College and speak with our students. These guests were also available at lunchtimes for all our students from Year 7 onwards.

It is important that all our students understand what options are available to them beyond school, and more essentially how they can access those pathways and options with the correct elective, VCE, VET and VCAL certificates and grades.

If any parents or families would like to know more about how to support their child in making decisions about electives and senior school pathways I would like to encourage you to contact Nik Smith at the College.

NAPLAN

The National Assessment Plan for Literacy and Numeracy tests have been conducted this week. To help our students achieve their personal best we have organised testing slightly differently this year, holding the tests in L Block and S Block under exam conditions.

Staff have reported that our students have all tried their best in all the tests. As a School, we should receive the results by the end of August when we will begin to analyse students learning and, in particular, student learning growth. The actual learning growth of each students learning give us clear indication to how a student has engaged with their learning as well as how effective our programs and classes are.

Over the past few years we have focused our attention to supporting students' achievement in Literacy and Numeracy with additional government funding being spent on resources, programs, staffing and professional development for staff to support our students.

Banned substances

I would like to remind our parents and families that ESC has a zero tolerance for students found with, found using or found sharing and selling illicit substances.

I am very conscious of my responsibility as Principal to look after the best interests of all students and the trust that parents place in me and the College to provide a safe and secure learning environment.

Emerald Secondary College treats the sale and use of marijuana or any other banned substance at school very seriously. The consequences for students who have used marijuana at school are a parent meeting, multiple day suspensions, compulsory drug and alcohol counselling and other counselling or support as appropriate. Students caught in possession of drugs, selling drugs or using drugs on school grounds may result in a student's enrolment at the College being terminated through the expulsion process.

Recreational drug use has a serious impact on the brain function and brain development. Marijuana use in teenagers can impair thinking, memory, ability to learn functions and affects how the brain builds connections between these important areas of the brain. There are also studies that show use of marijuana in teenagers can cause lifelong damage to the brain and brain function.

Our College will always act to try and ensure the safety of students and that we will provide a clear message that the use of drugs will not be tolerated and that the best interests of the student group and College community are of paramount importance.

If any parents or families have questions or concerns regarding marijuana can I ask that you please contact the College Office. We have a number of supports both internally and externally as well as information for students and families related to the use of drugs and alcohol in teenagers.

Dandenong Ranges VCE Meetings

This week our VCE staff have attended meetings with other VCE teachers from across the Dandenong Ranges. The aim of this meeting was for them to discuss how we can support our students to achieve their personal best in the VCE pathway.

Our teaching staff discussed the VCE curriculum, timelines SACs and assessment scales sharing expertise and knowledge to give our students the best opportunities to achieve their best in their chosen VCE subjects.

Fair Funding for schools

This week I was contacted by the Australian Education Union to discuss how the government funds State schools, and how we can make sure all our students receive the funding they need to support their learning. On Thursday 14th June at 7.00pm in EPAC our parents are invited to attend a forum to discuss fair funding in State Schools. I would like to encourage you to attend to bring your voice to the discussion about how we can make sure all our students are funded and supported to achieve their best.



Uniform

With the cold weather now upon us I would like to remind all our students and families that we are a uniform school. If any families have any issues with uniform supply please contact the College and we will assist where possible.

For students in Years 8-12, we hold the old uniform in stock here at the College. We have a number of stocked Beleza uniform items on sale from the College main office.

- School Polo shirts (size 10 only)
- Summer dresses
- Fleece jumpers
- Winter jacket
- Rugby jumper
- Sports tops and shorts
- We have some senior uniform items also but stock is limited.

Our Year 7 students must wear the new PSW uniform:

- Winter skirts
- Summer dress
- White logo short sleeved shirt
- White plain shirt
- Woollen jumper
- Navy school shorts
- Navy school pants
- School jacket
- Sport top and shorts

Girls are permitted to wear navy or black tights under their winter skirts.

Uniform including school shorts and school pants are available from the PSW shop in Officer or online.

PSW Officer – 407 Princess Highway, Officer. Phone 9768 0382. The shop is open Tuesday – Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm and Saturday 10.00am – 1.00pm

Alternatively order online at: online <http://www.psw.com.au/retail/schools/12200.aspx>

Please note, tracksuit pants, jeans and leggings are not uniform items and will not be accepted.

Compass

Recently we have found a few students absent from school without parent consent. These students are giving parental permission to be absent from school using their parents Compass logins without their parents knowledge.

Can I encourage all parents to make sure that you keep your login and password details confidential. It is important that we keep all our young people safe at all times.

Coles Vouchers

If any families still have Coles vouchers at home can you please bring them into the College office. We can accepting vouchers until 31st May.



Facebook Page

A reminder to our families that our College official Facebook page is now online. This is managed by College staff, and we will be using it to share with our community upcoming events, or any specific items we would like to celebrate. Please lookout for items on our FB page. <https://www.facebook.com/Emerald-Secondary-College-107941602572331/>

Jodie Doble - Principal

Assistant Principals' Report

A Fantastic Community

Since my arrival at Emerald Secondary College at the start of the 2018 school year I have been amazed by the community feeling in 'The Hills'. Schools have been seen, for a long time, as an integral part of society in preparing our young people for life in the 'real world'. Through formally learning the content of each subject to developing a sense of self and value, the learning process is different for every student and it is our job to foster this development. The great thing is that this journey is enhanced when parents and the wider community join in. Recently I have been lucky enough to engage with a number of people in Emerald regarding the future of ESC and how we, as a community, can move forwards with our improvements. I would especially like to recognise the support of Barry Plant Real Estate, Emerald Rotary, Emerald Co-op Mitre 10 and the Emerald RSL for valuable contributions to our students. It brings me back to my first point that Emerald is a wonderful community within which to belong.

Recognition of Excellence in Staff at ESC

In the last newsletter I mentioned the opportunity for parents to recognise the efforts of staff that are having an impact on your child at Emerald Secondary College. Reading this out at our thank you morning tea was greatly appreciated by all staff. I would like to encourage parents to continue with sending me an email if they wish to thank one of the staff at ESC. These can be sent directly to me at Rogers.Jonathon.l@edumail.vic.gov.au and I will continue to read these out.

Uniform

With the colder weather now upon us I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that we are a uniform school and would appreciate everyone's support to ensure it is followed correctly. As a College we will be looking at some specific areas over the coming weeks and communicate this as quickly as possible to parents and students. It seems as though a few variations of the uniform have snuck in and these will be addressed.

Compass Photos

Compass photos have finally arrived. They will be distributed on Monday 21st May during the students' PASE session. Any student who is absent will be followed up. If you have any questions about the photos, please contact Compass directly – Email: support@jdlf.com.au

Kalorama Chestnut Festival

On Sunday 6th May, 15 of our music students performed at the Kalorama Chestnut Festival. Whilst I was unable to attend this event the reports I received once again highlight how well our students represent both the College and themselves at events both during school hours and outside of them. Congratulations to all students and thank you to Melissa Knowles for accompanying the students on this day.

Jonathon Rogers - Assistant Principal



NAPLAN

This week students in Years 7 and 9 undertook the NAPLAN, which tests Literacy and Numeracy achievement. This data will be returned to the school in several months, and families will receive an achievement report from the VCAA. NAPLAN gives us, as a College, point-in-time information about student achievement, and helps us refine our teaching program to meet student needs. Students are to be congratulated for their excellent behaviour and engagement with their NAPLAN tests.

Practice GAT

Students studying a Unit 3 and 4 subject sequence will undertake a practice GAT (General Achievement Test) on Wednesday afternoon. The GAT is used as a statistical measure in Yr 12, and can be used as a way to give students a Derived Exam Score if they are unable to complete their Yr 12 exams at the end of the year. It is vital that students do their best in their GAT, and completing the practice GAT is an important part of this.

2019 Course Counselling

What?! I need to think about 2019 already?! Yes!

At the start of Term 3 students will be learning about courses and pathways to help their decision making for their subject choices next year. It's time to start thinking about what subjects students would like to do, and what pathway students would like to take once leaving school. Take advantage of every presentation, information evening and excursion to help you make your choices. Students should see Mr Smith, our Careers and Pathways Leader, or ask their teachers, for more information about subjects, pathways and careers.

Estelle Alder - Assistant Principal



Year 9 News

One of our key priorities at Year 9 is to prepare students for their senior school years. Soon it will be time when Year 9 students will begin thinking about their subject choices for next year. As a school we have a responsibility to prepare our students for their VCE years and their related senior school obligations.

School attendance has a major influence on the educational outcomes of students, and it is our expectation that the attendance rate of all students in Years 10, 11 and 12 is 90% or higher. This is essential if they are to attain successful VCE & VCAL outcomes.

In order to prepare our Year 9 students for Senior School, we are endeavoring to make our students aware of the importance of consistently high attendance. We will run assemblies, where we will be inviting our senior students and Senior VCE leaders to inform students of our expectations regarding attendance. To motivate our Year 9 students specifically this term, we are also organizing a weekly attendance competition.

Apart from this, parents can also support us by talking to the teenagers positively about attending school and learning. Parents can also help their child get into a routine for getting ready to go to school stress-free.

Students who attend school regularly experience continuity in their learning. They are more likely to engage more deeply with their studies, achieve higher results and complete their schooling.

Mentoring sessions

In Term 1, a group of nine students were selected to run a mentoring session for Year 7 students. We chose the issue of bullying as an area of discussion amongst Year 9 and Year 7 students. The rationale of choosing this topic was to provide an opportunity for Year 7 students to talk about the topic with others, to whom they may relate more closely, rather than a teacher or a speaker. We also endeavored to coach and empower our Year 9 students regarding their responsibility in developing their confidence and self-esteem.

After a discussion, our teams of mentors and mentees were provided with an opportunity to reflect on some questions to express their views on the bullying issue. We are proud of our students for the level of contemplation they have demonstrated in understanding this issue.

As a school, we endeavor to continue to teach our students to stand up against bullying. I would like to thank the teams of Home Group teachers of Years 7 & 9 and the Year 7 coordinator Ms. Holmes for their collaboration in the implementation of this project.

Following this survey, we gathered feedback from our students in seeking improvements and suggestions for future 7 and 9 Mentoring sessions. I was again proud to see the insightful suggestions provided by both the groups.

Ritu Arora - Year 9 Coordinator



Our school is now Road Smart!

Road Smart, a VicRoads road safety education and training program designed to build on the knowledge, skills and behaviours of students beginning their journey to drive, recently delivered an interactive in-class session to our Year 10 students.

The program provides students with a broader understanding of the causes of road trauma, how the safe system works, the Towards Zero vision, the Graduated Licensing System and importance of a staged approach to learning to drive.

As part of this program, students experienced the in-class interactive session which had great feedback from students and supervising teachers. However, the Victorian Government has also provided funding for a series of eLearning modules as well as a FREE (!) 45-minute driving lesson with a qualified instructor.

If you and your child would like to take up this great offer, please fill in the consent form that has been emailed out to you and return by COB Friday 25th May to Year 10 Coordinator Stephen Barrett in the Senior Office.

If you would like more information about the program, please get in touch or visit www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/roadsmart. Thanks for your support of our Road Smart initiatives at the College. If you could please keep having conversations with your child about responsible driving and road safety, this is a great step towards making our community safer.

Stephen Barrett - Year 10 Coordinator



Year 9 Experience

In Term One holidays, I got an opportunity to attend Camp Awakening. This was a 3-day camp where students of my age are encouraged to push yourself out of your comfort zone and try new things.

Amongst many engaging activities, we had sessions where we learnt about life long experiences and spoke about stereotyping people, future opportunities, family issues and much more. It was an emotional journey to hear about the stories of other people about their past. I somehow related to all of them. I learnt that you shouldn't stereotype people; means not to judge them for the way they look. At camp every morning at 7:00am our team leaders would come in and wake us up for a work out and that was difficult for me as I am not a fit person. It was fun to see our team leaders dressed up in wierd outfits early in the morning. We also got an opportunity to identify the things that hold us back from what we want to do. It was surprising that I was able to identify a page full of writing about things that I thought were holding me back.

Over all the camp was an amazing experience. In Year 9, I think it is important to remember that we should always give things a go. I have certainly come back with a smile on my face with all these good memories and life long friends.

Jasmine Knight – 9 B



Girls Volleyball

On Thursday 10th May, 11 keen volleyballers travelled to the State Volleyball Centre to compete at the One Day School Cup event in the Under 15's Division 2 grade. The girls played very well as a team and represented the school in an amazing fashion while playing on the court and also umpiring other games throughout the day. By beating Berwick, Upwey and Kew, the girls made it to the gold medal game, where they beat Eltham in a thriller.



Congratulations on winning the gold medal girls, keep up the hard work!

Thomas Watson - Sports Coordinator

AFL Pathway Program

Congratulations to the following players that have made the Under 15 A & B Squads to take part in the 2018 Metro Championships starting later this month.

This Program started back in March and it's exciting to see so many talented kids playing and representing Emerald Secondary College & the AFL Pathway Program for football.

We look forward to seeing them develop into great players in the future!

Well done boys!!!

Under 15 A:
Callum Bourne

Under 15 B:
Samuel Gerencser
Lachlan Whyte
Jack Madden
Connor Allcot
Brodie Walker
Mitchell Candy

Jarrad Donders - AFL Pathway Program Coordinator



Homework Club

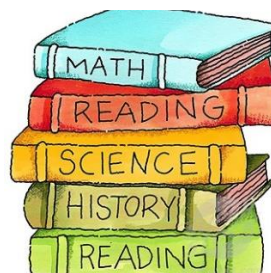
If you need a quiet place to get your homework done or require extra help from your teachers, the place to be is Homework Club.

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

EMERALD
SECONDARY COLLEGE

12TH
JUNE



WINTER

CONCERT

TICKETS
\$5
PURCHASE THROUGH
OFFICE

LOCATED AT
EPAC | 7 PM

FEATURING

Choir, Stage Band, Concert Band, Percussion
Ensemble, Guitar Jam, & Taiko.

Mr Crowley | Mr Wickremesooriya | Mrs McKenzie
Mrs Knowles | Mr Kawakami | Miss Wendt

Mount Burnett Observatory and
Emerald Secondary College present -

STARGAZING LIVE

World Record Attempt



Australian
National
University

Join us on Wednesday 23 May
at our Star Party



7.00pm Event registration / Telescope collection

8.00pm: Stargazing Live broadcast commences

(The World Record attempt will take place during the broadcast, sometime between 8pm and 9pm)

10.00pm: Event concludes

All bookings online via Eventbrite. Free event. Small telescopes available for Purchase via Eventbrite.



For more information contact:
info@mtburnettobservatory.org
Or Brad Gibbs at Emerald Secondary College 5968 5388

