Epping’s debating season has begun with a flying start. Both our Year 9 teams were victorious debating, ‘We should legalise all performance enhancing drugs in sport’. It was the more difficult side of the argument to debate but our students proved to be stronger than the students from East Preston Islamic College. A special congratulations goes to Chelzia Paulson and Jazmin Brooks who were both awarded ‘Best Speaker’ for their respective debates. The Year 9 team members are Nathan Hill, Chelzia Paulson, Trent Barker, Josephine Podesta, Jazmin Brooks, Tash Jackson, Kailey Mark, Nicole Pietrobouno, Kaitlin Judd, Briannan Walker and Monique Dennett.

Our Year 10 team competing in C Grade debated, ‘The government should fund controversial art’. I commend them for their efforts in what was their first interschool debate. In the next round of debates they will be taking on Isik College Eastmeadows tackling the subject of academic streaming in schools. The Year 10 team members are Daniel Pietrobouno, Belvinder Singh, Samantha Kep and Jake Cracknell.

We have also been able to enter a senior team into B Grade of the regional competition. I am impressed that such a large number of Year 11 students were willing to juggle VCE studies, SRC commitments and part time jobs to represent Epping in this competition. Their first debate is coming up on 27th March and will see Sanya Joveska, Alisha Ippolito and Sachdave Singh argue, ‘Feminism is still relevant to young women today’.

The Debating Club will be running a chocolate drive in Term 2 to help fund upcoming state wide events such as the Debating Association of Victoria Camp, Victorian Youth Parliament and further public speaking opportunities.

It looks like it is going to be an exciting year for the Debating Club and we look forward to sharing our students future success!

Courtney van Blerk
Debating Coordinator Extraordinaire
It is with great pleasure that I announce to the school community that Helene Alamidis was re-appointed as principal of Epping Secondary College. We are all looking forward to her return in Term 2. I would like to extend my gratitude to all the staff who worked in ‘acting’ capacities. Snezana Veljanovski worked extremely hard in her role as Assistant Principal responsible for Curriculum and Years 7-9. I thank her for all the students, families and teachers she supported. Les Mitchell acted as a Leading Teacher and helped staff examine data about student achievement.

The term has been very busy with many educational, debating, musical and sporting events occurring. The Year 7 students have been very well assisted with their transition to secondary school and continue to progress at a good pace. The Peer Support Leaders and Year 10 buddies have excelled in their roles.

The highlight of the term for many students would have been the Athletics Day where for the very first time students competed in House Groups. The House Captains excelled as young leaders – writing chants, preparing banners and organising their Houses. The House System is continuing to become an integral part of life at Epping Secondary College and we must thank Sarah Dempster and the SRC for that.

The 30th April is Open Night for Epping Secondary College. If you have friends or neighbours who are considering a secondary school for their children, please encourage them to attend. The evening commences at 7pm with a short address in the library followed by tours conducted by our students.

Enjoy the Easter break and we all look forward to seeing your children again in Term 2.

Andrée Poulter
Acting Principal

At Epping Secondary College we are delighted with the growing number of students at the college. As the numbers have increased substantially this year we have implemented some new procedures.

**Next term if you wish to see a staff member please make an appointment first.** This will ensure that staff can be prepared and a suitable time can be arranged for both parties.

**If students are leaving early throughout the day a parent note must be written in their diary.** This will be approved in the morning by the coordinator and then students must sign out via the student attendance office.

This will ensure that your child/ren will be ready for collection without delay.

We thank you for your cooperation with helping our college run more efficiently.
Reports and Parent-Teacher Interviews

Dear Parents,

Parent-teacher interviews will be held on Tuesday 16th April from 11:00 am–7:45 pm. Students will not have timetabled classes that day, but are expected to attend interviews with their parents and teachers. In support of the industrial action by the Australian Education Union, Staff will not be providing written reports. However staff will be available for verbal reports and feedback on student progress during the Parent Teacher night on Tuesday 16th April 2013. AEU Staff members are regretfully participating in these bans, however, this does not mean you as parents will not be left in the dark. Please be assured that detailed and comprehensive information on your child’s progress is and will be available to you in the parent/teacher interviews and discussions. This face-to-face reporting is the most valuable way to receive feedback on student development and we urge you to use this opportunity to meet with teachers.

Teachers will be available from 11.00 am to 7.50 pm. Parents are encouraged to make an online booking with the relevant teachers. Information was provided last week regarding booking procedures. If you did not receive the information letter, please feel free to ask your child to pick up another letter from the General Office or go to the school website for more information.

The college uses an on-line booking system. You will need access to a computer and the internet. If you don’t have access to these, see instructions below. You will also need to refer to the table of classes and subject teachers included with this letter.

Bookings close Monday 15 April at 9:00 am
(After this date you will need to contact the school by telephone-see below)
To book, go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and follow these simple instructions.

For families with an internet connection follow these instructions.
Check the enclosed lists of classes and teachers and then make appointments as follows:

Go to:
www.schoolinterviews.com.au
Enter the school event code.
Then follow the 3 simple steps.

When you click finish, your interview timetable will be emailed to you automatically - check your junk mail folder if you do not receive your email immediately.
You can return to www.schoolinterviews.com.au at any time, and change your interviews - until bookings close.
Please print a copy of your interview times and bring it to your interviews.

For families who don't have internet access, please check the enclosed lists of classes and teachers and complete the enclosed Booking Sheet. Your son/daughter brings back the form and returns the form to Liz Paras for the first 15 minutes of lunchtime on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday to enter the details at school. Liz will be at the money collecting window.
Alternatively, you can phone Liz for assistance on 9401 2599.

Parents can change their interview times any time prior to the closing date, by re-visitng the www.schoolinterviews.com.au website, and using the code.

If you have any concerns with the new process, please contact Andree Poulter on 9401 2599.

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If you have any concerns with the new process, please contact Andree Poulter on 9401 2599.
On Wednesday, 27th February, the Year 12 VCE Biology class attended an excursion to Ecolinc which is situated in Bacchus Marsh. Ecolinc is a Science and Technology Innovations Centre which provides specific programs aimed at sustainable environmental development practices. The Year 12 students had the opportunity to complete school assessed coursework which involved conducting experiments related to photosynthesis in plants. The excursion was very rewarding for our students who developed an appreciation of working in highly developed and sophisticated laboratories with the latest in scientific technologies.

Mr. Elefterios Vogdanis
Year 12 Biology Teacher
Year 11 Biology - Geelong, Rocky Shore Excursion.

On Tuesday 19th February, students from the Year 11 Biology classes travelled to Barwon Heads to investigate the organisms found on the rocky shore. Students were able to survey the organisms found at different tide levels using different sampling techniques, such as a transect line and a quad-rat.

Students had to work quickly at the low tide as the tide was coming in! They were able to see a range of different plants and animals found along the rocky shore, including a variety of algae, herbivore and carnivore snails, crabs and star fish.

After a brief picnic lunch the students then travelled to Queenscliff to the Marine Discovery Centre, where they were able to view and touch different animals found in Port Phillip Bay and learn about how the aquatic ecosystem functions at different levels. The students had a great day out and have been working on their SAC for this topic based on their results.

Mr Rifo
Year 11 Biology Teacher
On Friday, 8th March, three different Year 10 classes went to a place called Craigieburn Global Learning Centre, to listen to a Holocaust survivor named Herbet. It was a very moving experience and one that I will never forget. It was very inspiring listening to Herbet telling us about the atrocities he and his family went through and the hardships they endured. It also made me realise how lucky I am to live in Australia in this generation. Although he explained to us exactly what happened through this harsh time, I still cannot even begin to imagine the feeling of waking up every day, not knowing if you were going to make it to the next. This experience showed not just me, but everyone else that had the privilege to listen to a Holocaust survivor, that if you have the courage to stand up one person can make a difference. I see Herbet and any other Holocaust survivors as very brave and courageous people, especially the survivors that are willing to stand up in front of hundreds of people and talk about what they went through.

Whilst there, we were also shown a short film on the Holocaust and how the people were treated and had to live in this time. We also read different stories about different families that had also been through the torture of the Holocaust. It showed me that even though the families going through such a hard time like that would have been so depressed, angry and upset, they still had the heart to help and assist anyone that needed it and went out of their way to put others before themselves.

Overall, I’m glad I had an experience like this and I’d like to thank the Courage to Care program for giving us the opportunity to listen and talk to a Holocaust survivor.

Ellie Johnson 10C
A short walk down from the Immigration Museum and we found ourselves at THE ACTION CENTRE in Elizabeth Street. Here we listened to a presentation about what to do to prevent STI’s and STD’s. The Action Centre provides free information, education and counselling to young people with concerns about contraception, sexuality and same sex attraction, unplanned pregnancy, STI testing, safer sex, sexual abuse and relationships.

Despite the heatwave in Melbourne, we all found the energy to enjoy ourselves and have a relaxing lunch, while we took shelter in the cool confines of McDonalds. It was overall a successful outing one of which we all enjoyed.

Thank you to our teachers for taking time out of their busy schedules to take us to the city. Special thanks to our coordinators Ms Basinski and Ms Petersen for organising the day and Mary Burns, the school nurse, who attended EVERY excursion.

Written by students from 9B
As we seniors are just beginning to find out, Year 12 is quite a challenge. We have come to realize that this is one of the most important years of our lives. It is the one that will have the most impact on our future and the one that has the power to fulfill our dreams for a better future. Naturally, we all feel the imminent pressure that it brings but the goal in front of our eyes keeps pushing us.

However, along the journey, we are starting to feel dispirited, the stress, the pressure, the SAC’s, they are all starting to get to us. They are making us doubt if this goal we have is actually possible. So to lift our spirits on 7th March, we had a motivational speaker, Mr. Arthur Bolkas. The majority of the Year 12’s were expecting the classic clichés - Someone successful is coming to tell us that we should study more, try harder and do more hours of homework, but we were pleasantly surprised.

Mr. Bolkas took a fresh, new approach to this task. He began by telling us a little about himself; a graduate of Melbourne University (MA Criminology) and married with two sons. We are thinking this guy is pretty successful, so we expect him to tell us that he achieved this by studying hard, with no distractions whatsoever and completely devoted to Year 12 and school. Well I am glad to say we had another thing coming. Mr. Bolkas revealed his life story bit by bit. He was raised on welfare in a Greek migrant family and that despite being poor he excelled at school, working part time so that he could support himself. A popular student, successful athlete, school captain and dux of his school, his future looked promising. However, as he spanned his life story, we had more surprises.

A few years into his Arts/Law degree his life was a mess. Seeking fulfillment in a ‘jet-set’ lifestyle, Arthur had many negative experiences, including drug addiction and imprisonment, but ultimately managed to overcome them. We were startled and unbelieving that this man could go through so much and still rise above it. Despite failing and changing his course several times, he finally graduated with a degree after 8 years. Mr. Bolkas revealed to us a different path to success, a rocky and at times seemingly impossible path. Through his life experience he made us realize that the formula for success is not just about studying or doing homework. It’s about learning how to overcome the challenges that life has in store for you. No matter how many times you get it wrong, there is always hope of getting it right. It’s not about how smart you, it’s ultimately about how strong willed you are. On the ladder of success you may trip and fall many times but it’s how you get up and start climbing again that really counts.

Mr. Bolkas had started as a taxi driver and a men’s group facilitator to becoming a youth worker, university tutor and lecturer, restorative justice practitioner, international speaker, consultant criminologist, juvenile/adult correctional worker and has featured in the general media on prison reform and youth issues. We were in complete awe of this man who showed us the bigger picture of life and that our limits expanded far beyond Year 12.

We left the room thinking that our greatest mistake is not failing but giving up and that you can always try one more time. We thought if this man can go through hell and still keep fighting then so can we. His life experiences have helped him be so successful in different areas because he has experienced the many sides of life and what that brings. We learned that people’s best successes come after their disappointments. I personally can say I was never as inspired as I was at that moment. We would like to thank Mr. Arthur Bolkas for restoring our hope and faith in our dreams and our capabilities.

Written by Ivona Petkovska -Year 12 Student
YEAR 9 COMMUNITY MUSIC HITS OFF ON A HIGH NOTE!

This year we have been fortunate enough to have a Community Music Elective class which consists of so many truly talented musicians in the making. The Community Elective takes place on Tuesdays and students have been working hard to develop a repertoire of songs to exhibit in both the school and local community.

A group of students have committed themselves working at Epping Kindergarten once a fortnight in order to help kindergarten students foster a greater appreciation of music. These students will be working with the children organising different music activities to help develop their appreciation for music and help them become more musically literate.

Amongst the group we also have other bands that have established. This edition’s photos show four exceptionally talented students who gave their first performance to the school community. Jake Draper, drummer extraordinaire, Sean Ross on shredding guitar, Luke Amores on bass and Andrew Hewitson on guitar. These students have composed their own material and their lunchtime performance in the college was outstanding.

We look forward to showcasing our students’ talents to other schools and venues throughout the semester.

Mr Talarico
Music Coordinator
This is the second year the Boys’ Group has run. Last year we had around 50 students attend each meeting and this year we had 96 students at our first meeting. It’s wonderful to see the group growing so fast.

The teachers involved in Boys Group 2013 are: Mr Vogdanis, Mr Hose, Mr Williams, Mr Gonzales, Mr Rifo.

This is a group of awesome boys from years 8 to 12. Our theme for the group is ‘To Be a Somebody in Society’. Our goals are to help anyone who comes to the group and to make a difference in someone’s life; in terms of helping him to expand his friendship group, improve his self-esteem and to have a great time in the group.

Some topics that we will be discussing within the group are finding your identity, self-esteem and even peer pressure. These topics will build the main foundation of the group. Boys who join the group will also discover a great group of friends.

We would also like to run fundraising activities to build character and confidence. These fundraisers will be vital as they will fund all the events that we do as a group. We also have a Youth Worker Ian Tambo, who will be a great guest speaker and together with Steven Kalava will work actively with the group.

We will have many activities throughout the year and to be able to participle in them, boys will be required to wear the Boys’ Group T-Shirts.

We are extremely happy to see that the boys are really enjoying being a part of this group.

Mr Rifo
Boys Group Coordinator.
On Wednesday, 13th March, Epping Secondary College held their annual Athletics Day. This year saw the introduction of the House System which made the day quite different. For our first year trying out this new system, it was a huge success as all houses were willing to participate in events to earn points for their team. All the houses showed great team spirit by dressing up in their colours, having their hair sprayed and nails and face painted at a stall at the start of the day.

Each house yelled their chants and cheered for the people in their house to encourage them and it was a great atmosphere throughout the whole day. Everyone enjoyed themselves and they had a chance to mix with people from other year levels that they may not have spoken to before.

Being a House Captain on the day, alongside Jahmali Durso, allowed me to interact with younger year levels, lead my house team in chants and encourage students to participate in events. Before the day I had the opportunity to create a banner and chants which was a lot of fun. I encourage others who want to be leaders in the school who have leadership skills, to apply for a House Captain role as it is a perfect opportunity to utilise these skills.

I would like to thank Mr Hose the Sports Coordinator, for organising such a great day and Ms Dempster and Miss Foresio for helping the House Captains prepare for the day. Jahmali and I would also like to thank the students in Scarborough House for being involved and leading us to our first victory! Congratulations on your hard work and amazing team spirit!

Brittany Collis
(Scarborough House Captain)
Athletics Day

Findon House  Tatlow House  Dalton House
Hello, my name is Tabitha Anderson and this year I am a part of the SRC here at Epping Secondary College. The SRC thought it would be a great idea to let the rest of the school know what we are planning and what we are organising.

So far we have been organising Shave for a Cure (fundraising for our end of term assembly), Recognition Assemblies for year 7 and 8, SRC cluster and positions within the SRC.

Shave for a Cure will be held on the last day of Term 1. It will involve students rallying together and raising money for the leukaemia foundation. A few teachers will shave their hair off because they are passionate about the cause. The day will be an out of school uniform day, so students are asked to bring a two dollar coin donation. Students will be able to choose which teacher they want to put the money towards, so we can see who gets their hair shaved off first.

The Year 7 Recognition Assembly will be held late in Term 1 and the Year 8 Recognition Assembly will be held early in Term 2. The whole idea of the Recognition Assemblies is to recognise students in Year 7 and 8 that have excelled in a particular subject or have put in extra effort towards their school work. The assemblies are run by members of the SRC who are in those year levels. It is not only a time to recognise but a time to celebrate and come together as a year level.

Trent Barker, Jake Cracknell, Tasha Jackson and Josie Podesta from SRC, were chosen by the other SRC members to represent our school at the SRC Cluster Meetings. The SRC cluster is where SCR students from schools all over the northern region come together and talk about what they have been doing, organise activities within the local community and also organise bigger whole community events. This year the SRC have created a facilities team which is made up of 4 or 5 SRC students that observe the facilities in the school and see what needs to be fixed or looked at. They then report directly to Mr Stevens about what is of concern to students.

As well as the facilities team there are also many roles and other teams in the SRC such as: President, Vice president, Chairperson, Treasurer, Promotions and many more. Each position and each team meet outside of our regular SRC meetings to discuss the job to do with their role. Each SRC member has 2 or 3 jobs allocated to them and they are expected to fulfil their role.

Just remember the SRC are the voice of the students so if you want to bring up anything speak to one of the SRC’s in your year level.

Let’s look forward to a great year ahead of us.

Tabitha Anderson 8B
On Thursday, 21st February, I was selected on behalf of the Whittlesea SRC cluster to present a speech to all the Principals within the Northern Region. This was a great honour to be picked as the one student to present and talk about the Whittlesea Cluster which helps facilitate and run many events within our local community. The main reason for this speech was to hopefully encourage and help guide other schools to join the cluster.

Trent Barker

On 20th March, a few students from the SRC volunteered to attend the SRC Cluster. These students included Trent Barker, Tasha Jackson and Josephine Podesta. The students represented Epping Secondary College in a meeting involving three other schools and organised activities that will benefit our community and enrich leadership qualities. They did an amazing job speaking confidently in front of others and offering ideas for upcoming events in which they will take part.

Josie Podesta
During the past few weeks, each Year 7 home group have been working with a small group of Year 10 students in a Peer Support Program. This has been a very rewarding time for the Year 7 students. Year 10 Peer Support means we have an opportunity to get to know one another, discuss different topics and do to different activities and games. It has given the Year 7 students an opportunity to feel connected to the school and other students from different year levels. The activities have given us the opportunity to build confidence and make new friends. The Peer Support Program will finish at the end of this term. As a celebration to the conclusion of the program we will be having a pizza lunch and will be inviting all the Year 10 buddies. This will give us the opportunity to socialise with our buddies again.
This has been a fantastic program and we have had a lot of fun interacting with the Year 10 Peer Support leaders who were brilliant!

“Peer Support was so good! The Year 10 students were good leaders and made the activities so much fun. I wish we could do this every week!” - Aaron

“I really enjoyed the Peer Support Program because the leaders were fantastic! They made us feel included and made the activities fun. I wish we could do it more often!” - Hussain Al-Assadi

“I like the fact that we got to make new friends and we did activities that made us feel included and were fun!” - Jordan
This year each Year 7 student was matched with a Year 10 buddy. The buddies were paired according to which house they were in. The Year 10’s role was to support the Year 7’s at the start of their secondary schooling. The buddies introduced themselves at a ‘Buddy Meet and Greet afternoon. The afternoon’s activities allowed the buddies to meet in their house teams and to get to know one and other. The Year 10 buddies also set goals with their Year 7 buddy which will be followed up with them next term. Finally, the buddies arranged times to meet on a regular basis at either recess or lunchtimes. It was a great success and both the Year 10 and Year 7 students felt very positive about their contribution to the program.

Courtney Hedger 7F & Julia Samoun 10F
Year 7 students participated in the Values 4 Life Workshop on February 20th and were entertained by Cal and Tim from Concern Australia. It involved music, multi-media, personal songs, interactive activities and discussions.

It is important for students to have new faces presenting information and reinforcing important messages. The presentation was informative, engaging and definitely hit the mark. It will certainly make students question what is important and some may reassess their values – especially the way they treat others.

I liked the common threads that were woven throughout the workshop: Values, Everyone Has the Right to be Valued, You Have a Choice, Everyone Has the Power and the Ability to Stop Bullying, Seek Help and DO NOT FIGHT IT BY YOURSELF!

Leanne Halsall
Student Wellbeing Coordinator
Have you ever thought how good it would be to be able to:
- Learn what it’s like to live in another country?
- Learn a new language and experience a different culture.
If you are in years 9, 10 or 11 now
Rotary Youth Exchange can offer this and more.

Contact; Stuart McDonald, ph 5962 4694
www.rotaryyouthexchange.org.au
We have recently launched the website Family Law Network Australia. The website is a free information resource and referral service for family law matters. The information provided on our website could be very useful and of great benefit to the families who attend your school. We would be most obliged if you could advise the parents and carers about our free service in your school newsletter and include a link to our website on the links page of your website.

We invite you to visit Family Law Network Australia at www.familylawmattersaustralia.com.au to assess the suitability of including our website on your links page. If you are happy to include a link to our website we would be most grateful if you do so by arranging for your webmaster to post the following code:

```html
<a href="http://familylawmattersaustralia.com.au" title="Family Law Network Australia - Where you find information on separation and divorce, parenting arrangements, property settlement and child support">Family Law Network Australia</a>
```

We thank you in anticipation of your assistance and look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards

Julie Dye

FAMILY LAW NETWORK AUSTRALIA
T: 1300 664 968
PO Box 10, Claremont WA 6910
www.familylawmattersaustralia.com.au

The Victorian School of Languages teaches more than 40 different languages in school settings across Victoria. They use 30 different locations across the state. Recently our School Council approved Epping Secondary College hosting a new Centre for the Victorian School of Languages. Classes will begin on Saturday 20th April.

The following Languages will be offered:
- Chinese Year 1 - 12 (both 1st and 2nd Languages)
- Greek Year 1 – 12
- Hindi Year 1 -12
- Sinhala Year 1 - 12

If you are interested in your child studying any of these languages for further details please contact the Area Manager Khalaf Greis on 9464 0848.
DO YOU RUN A BUSINESS?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP OUR VCAL STUDENTS WITH A WORK PLACEMENT?

Part of a students’ VCAL education is that they engage in Structured Workplace Learning one day per week across the school year.

We would like to hear from business owners that would be willing to take on a student and have them engage in meaningful work in their workplace to help with students’ studies.

Areas include but are not limited to: carpentry, plumbing, electrical, hairdressing, business administration, multimedia, automotive, engineering, building and interior design.

If you think you can help please contact the VCAL Coordinators Silvia Mitrevski or Kate Kenney on 9401 2599 to discuss further.

Participants needed: FREE study for overweight young people looking for help.
Murdoch Childrens Research Institute at The Royal Children’s Hospital is running a randomised clinical trial of an online weight management program for overweight adolescents. Participation involves completing height, weight, blood pressure and waist circumference measurements and an online questionnaire at baseline, 3, 6 and 12 months. Parents are also invited to participate. Every 3 months there will be a draw for a $100 gift voucher for those participants who have kept their appointments. The results will demonstrate the feasibility and effectiveness of using the personalised, targeted Staying Fit program for addressing weight-related behaviours during adolescence. Recruitment has commenced and we are looking for 550 overweight young people aged 12-17 living in metropolitan Melbourne.
Enquiries Karly Cini 9345 6954 stayingfit@mcri.edu.au
For more info: www.rch.org.au/cah/stayingfit

Epping Football Club wants you
Epping Football Club is looking for players for their U/19’s team for the 2013 season.

The EFC is on the rise!

We’re back in Division One for 2013 after winning the 2012 Division Two Premiership.

Come along to a fantastic club, meet great people, get fit & enjoy your footy!

For more info contact U/19’s Coach, Sean Bradford on 0412 829 120

Check out our Facebook: www.facebook.com/EppingFootballClubVic

GO PINGERS!!!
Immunisation
All Year 7 Students and Year 9 Boys only

This is a reminder to parents of Year 7 Students and Year 9 boys, that all Immunisation cards have been sent home with students. All consent cards, whether your child is being vaccinated or not must be competed and returned to school by 28th March. **All Year 7 students** will be offered Chickenpox and HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccine. **All Year 9 Boys** will be offered HPV Vaccine.

If you have any immunisation enquiries please contact the school or the City of Whittlesea’s Immunisation Department on 9217 2044. Parents need to be aware that these vaccines are only free whilst your child is in year 7 and 9. If they miss being vaccinated you will need to purchase the vaccine/s at a later date. (A course or HPV vaccine is $450).

For further information relating to this course of immunisation or the HPV vaccine visit [www.hpvvaccine.org.au](http://www.hpvvaccine.org.au)

**Year 7 School Based Vaccination Program 2013**

**Information for Parents**

- All Victorian local councils run school based vaccination programs for Year 7 students.
- In 2013, your child will be offered protection against Chickenpox and the Human Papillomavirus (HPV).
- If your child has had chickenpox disease, they will not need the vaccine, however if your child has received one dose of the vaccine as a child, they will need their Year 7 second dose for lifelong protection.
- HPV has been offered to Year 7 girls since 2007, however in a world first Year 7 boys will also be offered the vaccine.
- The HPV vaccine protects against two HPV types which cause 70% of cervical cancer in women and 90% of HPV-related cancers in men.
- The HPV vaccine consists of three injections given into the upper arm over a six month period.
- Your school will distribute your child’s consent cards in February 2013.
- If you have any questions regarding the school based vaccination program please contact the City of Whittlesea’s Immunisation Department on 9217 2044 or visit [www.hpvvaccine.org.au](http://www.hpvvaccine.org.au)