Karinda Shoots at the Stars

To have a dream is easy. To work hard to achieve a dream is more difficult. To have the opportunity to fulfil a dream is marvellous. A member of our school community, Karinda Farrant, is in the very fortunate position of being accepted into a school in North Carolina in the United States with the hope of pursuing a career in college basketball and perhaps the National Basketball Association. This is a dream come true for Karinda. It takes a lot of commitment and effort to reach this level of mastery in any activity. We offer our congratulations to Karinda for her past hard work and the opportunities that lie ahead.

I’m sure the future will not be all smooth sailing – living away from home, adjusting to a new culture will all be challenging. However, I’m sure that with focus on the final goal she will be able to overcome these obstacles.
I feel privileged and honored to be returning to Epping Secondary College as principal. The term away was restful and enjoyable, however I look forward to working again with the excellent staff in providing the best educational opportunities for our growing numbers of students. I would like to thank Andree Poulter for competently leading the school over the term along with Snezana Veljanovski, who stepped into Andree’s Assistant Principal role and Ray Stevens in his ongoing role as Assistant Principal. Les Mitchell, the Literacy coordinator, also took on the leading teacher role responsible for supporting teachers in monitoring the progress of students. The term was a very busy term and from all reports ran smoothly and was successful in setting a positive tone for the year.

One of the most important qualities of any excellent school is providing a safe and caring environment. When students feel good about themselves and their school, they are able to learn and grow. For this reason, having a positive culture based on respectful and caring relationships is very much a priority at Epping Secondary College and we are very proud of our strong sense of community. Last year the school underwent a review and the reviewer from the Department of Education commended us on the great progress we were making and the excellent outcomes we were achieving for our students. He was particularly impressed with the warm, positive and friendly culture that he experienced when we walked around the school grounds and through classrooms. The students who he spoke to said that they believed there was minimal bullying and that the school responded to their reporting of incidents when they occurred. We need parents to ensure that their children report any bullying immediately and to continue following up if it persists. If students don’t inform us of name calling, teasing etc then it won’t be addressed. Everyone has a responsibility to contribute to ensuring that our school continues to be a safe and caring place.

The school conducted its annual Open Night on Tuesday 30th and once again this entire event is led by our student leaders. A large number of student ambassadors from years 7 to 12 were actively involved as presenters, tour guides and assistants across the various stations. The senior school captains did an outstanding job in presenting the school power point and informing prospective parents about our school values, policies and curriculum programs. Amber Baddeley-Kelly of year 7 spoke to the crowd of visitors which exceeded 250 people and did so confidently and competently. This experience helps build our students leadership skills and public speaking skills as well as build strong bonds with and pride in their school.

Grant Trewella, an ex-student who is now in his second year at RMIT studying architecture, also addressed the audience sharing his Epping SC story.

The feedback from our visitors was extremely positive and we should be very proud of our students, our teachers and our school.

Helene Alamidis
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.
What is NAPLAN?
The National Assessment Program—Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7, and 9. All students in these year levels are expected to participate in tests in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy. All government and non-government education authorities have contributed to the development of NAPLAN materials.

Why do students do NAPLAN tests?
NAPLAN is the measure through which governments, education authorities, schools, teachers and parents can determine whether or not young Australians are meeting important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy. The tests provide parents and schools with an understanding of how education programs are working and which areas need to be prioritised for improvement.
NAPLAN tests are one aspect of the school’s assessment and reporting process, and do not replace the extensive, ongoing assessments made by teachers about each student’s performance.

How can I help my child prepare for the tests?
NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are already learning through the school curriculum. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the test formats and will provide appropriate support and guidance. If you have any questions about your child’s preparation for NAPLAN, you should make time to speak with their teacher.
The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to reassure your child that NAPLAN tests are just one part of their school program, and to urge them to simply do the best they can on the day. The use of services by coaching providers is not recommended.

Where can I get more information?
For more information about NAPLAN:
• Visit www.nap.edu.au
• Contact your child’s school
• Contact your state or territory’s education authority (details available on the NAP website)

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• Language Conventions includes spelling, grammar and punctuation.
• Numeracy includes number; space; algebra, function and pattern; measurement, chance and data.
• Calculators are NOT permitted in the Numeracy test in Years 3 and 5. In Years 7 and 9, there is one Numeracy test where calculator use is permitted and one where it is not.
Year 8's

WEAPONS AND ARMOUR

THE TOURNAMENT

Epping Secondary College
May 2013

Medieval Day

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

ARCHERY

Epping Secondary College
The Humanities’ extension excursion to the State Library and Old Treasury Building was an amazing experience which was enjoyed by everyone who went. We arrived first at the State Library which is free to join and has thousands of books and documents. We were taken on a tour by a librarian who showed us through the library and told us the benefits of using documents such as newspapers, books and other resources. We also undertook a research class where we learnt to efficiently research using the internet. It was such a great library that some of us even joined.

Chelzia Paulson 9E

The year 9 extension Humanities class participated in the excursion to The State Library and also attended The Treasury Building to gain more knowledge on next terms’ assignments on the Gold Rush. All students that attended the Treasury Building went on a tour and were taught about the past and present experiences the building has had. The Treasury Building contains many documents from the gold rush times and also has replicas of the nuggets that were once found and gold plates that were minted. We also learnt that the Governor and members of Parliament attend the very same building once every week. Everyone that participated on the day had a very educational experience.

Monique Dennett, 9F.

On the 1st May, the year 9 Humanities extension class went on an excursion to the State Library and Old Treasury Building. We first went to the State Library where we were met by our tour guide Emma, who took us around the building. On our hour walk we learnt that the library stores over 2 million books both above and below ground, how you can read a paper from the 1860’s and even where to play console games. We also learnt about the founder (Sir Redmond Barry) and Governor Charles La Trobe. After a quick lunch at Melbourne Central we went on our way to the Old Treasury Building, but being the time efficient class we are, we were early, so we waited at the fountain near the Old Treasury Building. We all saw this as a great photo opportunity. When we first walked into the Old Treasury building it felt like a stone jail. We divided into two groups. The group I was in went to three of the old vaults, some with heaps of gold, replicas, others turned into display rooms. After seeing the vaults we went to the keeper’s room where he and his wife and eight children all live. After this our tour guide, Maria, took us upstairs to the meeting room where Maryem became Victoria’s first female Governor. We also learnt more about Charles La Trobe and Sir Redmond Barry. Finally, after a long day we were on our way home. On behalf of the year 9 humanities extension class thank you Miss Caton for a great day.

James Winchcombe 9E
On 24th of April, the day before ANZAC Day, years 7, 8 and 9 gathered for an ANZAC Assembly to remember and honour the ANZACs and everyone who has sacrificed their lives or served in war. It was a wonderful occasion in which everyone had the opportunity to look back and reflect on the struggles of the ANZACs and how we have to thank them for the free country we have today. First we listened silently to the ‘Last Post’, a bugle call used at Commonwealth military funerals and ceremonies commemorating those who have fallen in war. Students from years 9 and 10 presented poems, the ode and a speech which helped us learn more about the lives and spirit of the ANZACs. There were two poems, ‘Flanders Fields’ written by Lieutenant Colonel John Macray and ‘For the Fallen’ written by Laurence Binyon, presented by Chelzia Paulson and Nathan Hill. There was also a speech by Sachdave Singh which told us about how the spirit of the ANZACs is still relevant to us today. There was no applause since it was a solemn ceremony.

Chelzia Paulson 9E
On the 19th March, the Year 9 Community Dance class travelled by train and tram to experience an amazing day of dance workshops at the Ministry of Dance in North Melbourne. The students took part in a hip-hop and contemporary dance class lead by talented and motivating professional choreographers. The students were lucky enough to see Jason Coleman from ‘So You Think You Can Dance’ choreograph a production piece that will be performed on stage in Melbourne. The students then showcased their dance skills in a surprise ‘Flashmob’ performance at the whole-school term 1 assembly.

“Going to Ministry of Dance was an amazing experience. The teachers were great and had a lot of energy!”

“The challenge is something I will look back on and appreciate”

“It was a great experience to dance at a professional dance school”
On Tuesday, April 30, 10E and 10F were fortunate enough to be the first of the Year 10 classes to go bowling at the Oz Ten Pin in Miller Street Epping. It took us an arduous 20 minutes to reach the centre before we could enjoy ourselves with a sturdy game of bowling. The bowling excursion was intended as part of our study area in statistics. To make learning fun and interesting our teachers decided to take us bowling and collect the scores as data for our upcoming assessment task; instead of the traditional tasks set by the teachers with random data.

Each class was divided into groups of 4-6 and bowled one game. The scores were collected at the conclusion of the games. The bowling excursion was a fun activity and was enjoyed by many. As part of this task, we had to compete for the best score out of the 12 teams. The best bowler was Jamie Rees from 10E with a score of 153! Although the bowling excursion was intended for our CAT task, we did enjoy the activity.

We would like to thank the Year 10 Math Teachers for taking us bowling instead of staying in class to do the traditional coursework from the board and text books.

Belvinder Singh and Daniel Pietrobuono of 10E.
It has been a very busy start to the term. The SRC has been meeting regularly every fortnight and we have been using the House as our new base. This term our aims are to get some House Team events off the ground and try to involve the entire school community. We have been working on organising a House v House debating competition in the latter half of the term.

Open Night was held on Tuesday, 30th of April, at the school. Many SRC students were involved as Ambassadors and taking the tour groups through the school on the night. Overall, it was a very successful night and we had record numbers of parents attend the night!

Another big event this term will be the conclusion of the Peer Support Program and the organisation of the Buddy and Peer Luncheon. We will be organising lunch for over 300 students. We will be helping to organise the assembly for the conclusion of the Peer Support Program in which all the year 7 students will be involved and 35 year 10 Peer Support Leaders. It was a hugely successful program and we will use the assembly as a celebration of everyone’s work and growth within the program. Then the rest of the year 10 students will meet us in the Gym and everyone will pair up with their Buddies and will be participating in the luncheon.

Finally, we will be busy helping to run and organise the Recognition Assemblies for each year level this term. As SRC members we help to organise the agenda and also we will be there on the day, facilitating the running of the assembly.

We have taken an active role in helping the leadership team monitor the facilities within the school and we have been reporting directly to Ms Alamidis about issues. We actively encourage any student in the school to see one of the SRC members if they have an agenda item they would like addressed in our meetings.

Epping Secondary College SRC

WOW! What a night. How can we explain it? There are no words, well let’s just get to it.......

On Tuesday, 30th April, approximately 50 Students from year 7 to year 12 took part in Open Night as either an ambassador, usher or subject area helper and it was a really spectacular experience. Instead of teachers giving the tours we were given the wonderful opportunity to show off our school! There were ten tour groups in total and two ambassadors were assigned to each group. We had the largest attendance Open Night, we have ever experienced in the school’s history. It was wonderful to see parents and members of the community so interested in Epping Secondary College. We showed the parents and their families around our wonderful school. We had 10 stops and around 5 minutes at each station. We represented the school by telling the parents on our tour about the amazing programs and features of our school.

It was such a great experience for us, as year 7’s, because we were given the opportunity to become leaders and to build confidence in speaking in front of others, with the help of great mentors. We had lots of fabulous feedback from the parents in our tour groups and they were impressed that the students of Epping Secondary College showed off the school! It was definitely an experience we will remember forever and we can’t wait to do it all over again next year!

“I was really nervous at the start and felt like I was going to throw up! As the night went on, I felt more comfortable and my Ambassador partner Daniel Pietrobuono was experienced at running the tours and really helped me out.”

Tayla Westgarth

“My Ambassador partner for the tours was Ivona Petkovska, our School Vice-Captain. We had many practices of the script and tour before the Open Night and I felt very prepared for the event. I very was nervous waiting outside the Library to meet the parents but as the night went on I felt very confident.”

Emily Multari

“I was very grateful to have our school captain Ebony Brown to help me overcome my fear of talking in front of others and during the night she helped me gain confidence and leadership skills to run the tours. By participating as an Ambassador of the school, I believe I have gained very valuable leadership and public speaking skills!”

Amber Coade
Hello my name is Tabitha and I am a part of Girls Group this year. I thought it would be a good idea to write this so everyone in the school community can see what we do in Girls Group.

Girls Group 2013 started in the last few weeks of term one. We meet every Thursday at lunchtime and talk about issues that face girls of our age group today and how to deal with them. We also spend our time building up our confidence and making us into better leaders within the school.

The main issue we are focusing on at the moment is self harming. We found out that this is more of an issue than we think and decided it would benefit us girls if we spent a few weeks covering this topic. In our first meeting covering this topic Ms Halsall came in and talked to us about what self harming is, the dangers of self harming and why most people do it. I learnt that most people do it because it makes them feel something instead of feeling so numb all the time.

This year we have a lot planned for Girls Group, including a movie night later this term. Movie night is basically where all the girls come together to watch a movie and do lots of girly stuff like make up and nails. All the girls in Girls Group are welcome to come to the movie night.

Girls Group 2013 is open to any girls from year 7 to year 12. At the moment we have a mixture of girls from all year levels. Girls Group is a great opportunity for girls of any age in the school to come and make new friends and talk to people they would have never talked to outside in the yard.

By Tabitha Anderson 8B

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Dear 2013 Year 8 Parents,

We are offering a 5 day camp in 2013 for Year 8 students to Nayook Outdoor Centre in Term 3. Nayook is a residential outdoor school operated by the Department of Education. It is located 100km east of Melbourne at the bottom of Mt Baw Baw. The outdoor environment is used as a medium for personal development, leadership, team building and exploration.

It will depart from Epping Secondary College, 9.30am Monday 12th August and return to Epping Secondary College by 3.30pm Friday 16th August 2013.

The selection of students will be made on a priority basis from the order of payments we receive, gender balance, the students past commitment to school activities and behaviour, up to a maximum of 24 students.

Activities that may be offered include, canoeing, ropes high and low course, mountain bike riding, rock climbing, rogaining, white water rafting, caving and cross country and downhill skiing.

The cost of the camp is $250. This includes group accommodation, bus travel, food, hire of equipment for activities and hire of water proof clothing.

Students wishing to attend the camp in August are reminded to return consent forms asap and that a deposit of $100 must be paid by Friday 24th May, the balance($150) must be fully paid for by the end of term 2 Friday 28th June.

Any concerns see Mr Biscaro in Junior Unit
Boys Group 2013

Movie “MARATHON”

Date: All Night on Friday 31st of May 2013
Time: 6:30 pm to 7:00 am
Place: Drama Room ESC

Coordinator: Mr Rifo

Epping Secondary College Learning for life
Interschool Sport Update

Term 1 was a busy start to the year for sport at Epping Secondary College with a large number of teams being represented across all year levels. The sports included volleyball, tennis, cricket, softball and baseball. All students who participated in these sports represented Epping Secondary College at a very high level with not only great sportsmanship but also with respect and fair play. A specific highlight included the year 7 girls’ softball team which made it through to the A State Championships by defeating Viewbank Secondary College in the final 18 runs to 2! Congratulations girls.

On the 30th April, the Regional Athletics Competition was held and Epping took 55 students on the day. Congratulations to all students who competed on the day as well as those who will be progressing to the next round after winning individual events!

(Year 7 Girls Softball Team going to the State Finals)

Rohan Hose
Sport Co-ordinator
Congratulations to the students that participated in the National Ride To School Day at Epping SC on Friday 22nd March.

Students arrived to school in an assortment of active transport modes; bicycles, scooters, skateboards and for their efforts received a canteen voucher.

The bike shed will continue to be available for students to secure their bikes, so continue to use active transport to travel to and from school.

Remember that riding or walking to school
- is good for children’s health and fitness, assists in the fight against obesity and type-two diabetes among youth
- assists in reducing traffic congestion around schools
- is good for the environment
- is a great way to engage school communities

Yours in health,
Mr. S. Biscaro
BOOT CAMP
GUARANTEED RESULTS!
Catering for ALL Fitness Levels and Age Groups
ONLY $11* a Session
Strictly Limited Spots Available
0413 158 915
NOW RUNNING EVERY:
   Morning - 6am
   Day - 9.30am
   Night - 6:30PM + 7:30pm
   Weekends - 8am + 9am + 10am

FREE TRIAL SESSION
BRING A FRIEND, GET A DISCOUNT

FUN FIT KIDZ
BOOT CAMP
FIT KIDS 4 THE FUTURE

ONLY $12* a Session
Kids Fitness Boot Camp
Exercise and Games
Expert Kids Trainers
Specialised Kids Equipment
No Class is Ever the Same
Kids of All Ages and Abilities
A Cool Place for Kids to Train
0411 136 803
NOW RUNNING @ 4.15PM WEEK DAYS IN EPPING

MILL PARK - EPPING - SOUTH MORANG - MERNDA 0413 158 915
There have been a number of Wellbeing programs so far this term including: Year 8 Values 4 Life – Community Matters workshop, Year 7 HELPP (Helping, Encouraging, Listening and Protecting Peers), Year 10 Keys Please and a performance titled: Who Stole the Sole? The HELPP initiative will run at the Year 7 level for the rest of the term. The students have worked with outside agencies and gained valuable skills and knowledge in relation to; responsible use of technology, relationships, importance of connectedness and the community, body image and the graded licensing system for learner and probationary drivers. The aim of the Wellbeing Programs is to enable students to improve their emotional health, make informed choices and promote safe behaviours.

Samples of student’s reports
Values 4 Life – Community Matters

On Monday, 22nd April, the Year 8 students had an incursion called ‘Community Matters’. It focused on cyber-bullying and how the community affects how you see yourself. The presenters Tim and Cam put forward an idea that everyone has a little black blemish, which is the negative aspect of every person. For example; if you ask for help in mathematics and another person says, “Oh that question is so easy. You are so dumb.” It makes the blemish bigger. If you are excluded from a group it gets bigger again and if you are told that you are nothing, the black blemish is so big you can’t see anything else. Naturally you start to think that what they say is true. If people help you with your mathematics, don’t exclude you and don’t say you are nothing then the black blemish gets smaller and smaller. Then you hardly notice the negative aspect of yourself.

Tim spoke about survival skills and mentioned a man called Bear Grylls. He then asked students to rank from highest to lowest what is important for survival. Bear Grylls said that it would be, to first find water and then to worry about other things such as staying calm and finding food.

The presenters also spoke about cyber-safety and mentioned the impact of sending an inappropriate image to another person. It could be sent to others without your knowledge and you could get teased causing you to feel upset and hurt.

Josh Thomson 8C

On Monday, 22nd April, the Year 8 students attended a talk from Concern Australia. The talk included information on cyber-bullying, what to do and not to do online and how to improve your and other’s self-esteem. The main thing that I realised was that even saying the littlest things to a person can make a big difference to how he/she feel about his or herself. For example if one of your mates needed help with something that you found quite easy, and you said no, and made a joke about them not knowing the answer, even though you say this in sarcasm, it can still hurt the person badly on the inside.

Tabitha Anderson 8B
Who Stole the Sole?

Year 10 students watched the performance on 24th April and it really hit the mark in relation to Cyber-bullying, Sexting, responsible use of technology and relationships. The following comments were made by students:

‘Think before you act.’
‘Revenge is not always the answer.’
‘Friendship is made by love, trust and honesty, not hatred and grudge.’
‘Very informative, the actors were really engaged with the audience and there were a lot of great questions and discussion.’
‘The Performance showed students how inappropriate use of technology can impact negatively on people. I am really glad they came to our school.’
‘The message from the performance was not to ask for inappropriate photos. It could hurt you now and in the future.’
‘You should talk to someone if you feel insecure or alone.’
‘I recommend the performance for Year 10’s in 2014.’

Leanne Halsall
Student Wellbeing Co-ordinator
FAMILY LAW NETWORK AUSTRALIA

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:

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<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>
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We thank you in anticipation of your assistance and look forward to hearing from you. If you have any queries I can be contacted on 044 814 8145.

Best regards
Julie Dye

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

LEARN ABOUT YOURSELF!

As Marcel Proust, a late 19th century novelist wrote: “the real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes”. Volunteer to host an international high school student in July 2013 through Southern Cross Cultural Exchange and prepare to be amazed at the way this unique and rewarding opportunity helps your family to become closer, to understand themselves better and to see the world in a new light.

Carefully selected students will arrive in July for one or two semesters from France, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Japan, and Spain. They will attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at our website www.scce.com.au, email scceaustralasia@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship.
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

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.

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
A big thank you to all those who participated in last years’ Woolworths’ Earn & Learn Campaign. We received a great range of free resources for the science and sport departments. Woolworths have launched their campaign again. Simply shop at Woolworths and you will receive a sticker for every $10 you spend, then drop them in to the school at the main office. Epping Secondary College thanks you for your ongoing support.