Issue 4

Premier’s VCE Awards 2013

This month I proudly represented Epping Secondary College at the Premier’s VCE Awards 2013 which was held at the Melbourne Convention Centre.

Our student Ivona Petkovska, who achieved a study score of 48 out of 50 in Macedonian in 2012, celebrated together with the highest academic achievers in Victoria.

The Governor of Victoria, The Premier, The Minister for Higher Education, John Marsden and Giaan Rooney handed out awards to 230 students from some of the most prestigious schools in Victoria who achieved a study score of 46 or above.

I was thrilled to hear Epping Secondary College mentioned at such a formal ceremony. All the students, parents, teachers and principals were so proud.

I congratulate Ivona and hope that in the future we will have other students and teachers representing our school at such an important event.

Mrs Gordana Janinska

June 2013

Important Dates

JUNE
Friday 28
LAST DAY TERM 2
Students will be dismissed at 1000pm

JULY
Monday 15
TERM 3 COMMENCES

Tuesday 23
School Council
Annual General Meeting 7.00pm

Tuesday 23
Year 7 Immunisations

Wednesday 31
Year 10 Subject Selection

AUGUST
Monday 1
Australian Mathematics Competition

Monday 12
Year 8 Nayook Camp
(5 day camp)

Friday 16
Careers Expo

Friday 23
CURRICULUM DAY
Students not required at school

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The end of term has arrived and it’s hard to believe 11 weeks have passed. Many special programs and activities have taken place over the semester providing students with opportunities to extend themselves as well as enjoy their life at school. Leadership programs, performing arts and cultural events, sporting events, academic enhancement activities, tutorial groups, excursions and incursions have added to the richness of learning that takes place at Epping SC. A very special thank you to all the staff that have spent time and energy in planning and organizing these activities as well as all the great work that takes place in classes every day.

The Year 12 VCE Camp provided students with academic workshops to build their English exam skills as well as other important skills to help them succeed throughout the year. They also worked on activities in teams, bonded with each other and their teachers and have hopefully returned motivated and ready to take on the challenges ahead. Upon returning Year 12 (and some year 11) students sat the GAT (General Achievement Test) on Wednesday, 12th June and impressed the chief supervisor with their excellent behaviour and efforts. All Year 10 and 11 students have sat exams and are certainly developing a clear idea of exam expectations and revision requirements.

Market Day is one of the many annual events that take place in Term 2. All the Year 11 Business Management students run their small business ventures, (which is a course requirement), in the school courtyard and all 880 students and 90 staff get to enjoy a fun afternoon. Even though it was wet and some of the activities had to be cancelled it still provided a sense of community and I congratulate all our students on their excellent behaviour.

Furthermore, on Thursday, 6th June, the Year 9 GOALS Mentoring Program was officially launched. Twenty five mentors from across a number of national companies met with the students they will mentor for the rest of the year. These mentors including lawyers, marketing managers and financial advisers give their time to share their own journeys, skills and experiences with our young people so as to inspire them and support them through the middle years when they are making decisions about their futures. Parents were invited along to the morning tea and they also had the opportunity to meet the mentors and be part of this terrific program. We know from last years students that there is a lot to be gained from this program and wish them all the best.

Biggest Morning Tea was organised by the VCAL students and teachers and was a great success, raising significant funds for cancer research as well as providing an authentic task for students to exercise their work related skills. It was held in the main staff room and looks like it will become an annual event.

Our debating teams have performed extremely well in the last round of competitions with 2 out of 4 teams winning and one of our students, Alexander McNeil being awarded best speaker. We are also extremely proud of Jazmin Brookes who has been selected by the Australian Debating Association and invited to attend a special training camp for students with outstanding debating potential. As a school we have only recently entered the regional debating competitions however, we have made a significant impact. Our students develop and present sophisticated points of view and arguments in an articulate and impressive way. Well done to all students involved.

The Boys’ and Girls’ groups continue to meet and offer interesting and engaging activities to their members. It is truly remarkable that students and teachers are giving up their time to support each other and respond to the social needs of our students. I do not believe that this program exists in any other school and is directly related to our sense of community, our sincere concern for our students, the leadership qualities of our students and the generosity of our teachers. The boy’s movie night was a great success despite the torrential downpour. They remained safe and warm overnight in the drama room and enjoyed pizza, trust building activities and movies.

Reports have been written and will be distributed on the last day of term. It is an important time for students to reflect on the progress they have made over the semester. They need to acknowledge and celebrate their achievements and identify the areas they know they need to improve on.

The holiday period is a good time to enjoy the benefits of bonding with family and friends without the pressure of school and to recharge the batteries in preparation for a productive term 3. However, VCE students and in particular Year 12 need to make good use of the two weeks to revise and study the semester’s work, now that it is still fresh in their minds. Leaving all the revision to the last few weeks before the end of year exams does not work.

I hope everyone has a safe and restful break and look forward to seeing everyone refreshed and energized next term.
Epping Secondary College has been selected to take part in the ABCN GOALS Program once again this year.

PROGRAM BACKGROUND
The development of ABCN mentoring program provides opportunities for students to learn about different industries in Melbourne’s Central Business District (CBD). Selected students are offered ongoing mentoring by business people working in a range of roles and businesses. The program raises awareness of the wider range of personal, educational and vocational choices.

This year we were very impressed with the number of Year 9 students who expressed interest in participating. The program has a great reputation and this year we received applications from over forty students! Unfortunately we could only offer spots to 12 girls and 11 boys. Students went through a rigorous selection process including applications and interviews.

We are pleased to report that the GOALS Program Launch on Thursday, 6th June, hosted by Epping Secondary College was a complete success.

During the launch students were given the opportunity to meet with their mentors. Initial fears and nerves were quickly dissolved as mentors and students took part in a number of ice breaker activities.

The mentors were particularly impressed when they were treated to a guided tour of the school grounds by the GOALS students.

A BIG THANK YOU to the parents and guardians who were able to attend on the day. Both students and mentors appreciated your support and enjoyed celebrating with you.

SPECIAL THANKS to Ms Scane, Rita (Food Technology Assistant), Trent Barker 9F, Tobias Brown 9E, Harmanvir Kaur 9F and Joanna Liatsas 9G who helped with the catering for the spectacular morning tea (pictured bottom right).

Ms Erin Basinski
Year 9 Coordinator
10P’s excursion to The Circus Spot in Coburg was challenging, fun and took a lot of us out of our comfort zone. No one in the Pathways class knew what to expect of the venue or the activities we were going to be involved in, but we were all definitely surprised with what we saw. I think everyone expected it to be either outdoors or a gigantic room filled with trapezes, ropes hanging off the roofs and foam pits around the room.

When we got to ‘Circus Spot’ it was nothing like we expected. It was a small room with two trapezes hanging off the roof, two ropes hanging beside them and on the other side and there were mats everywhere with large cushioned tumbling blocks and a mini trampoline. The girls in the class excelled the most. They blew everyone away with how well they joined in and how they had a go at all the difficult activities such as the trapeze and the ropes. Everyone in the class found the trapeze and the ropes the most challenging. What made them difficult was the technic you needed to get yourself up onto the trapeze and the foot work involved with the ropes.

I found the ropes incredibly challenging. It was really difficult to hold yourself up and climb up the ropes using only your feet to stop you from falling off. It was actually pretty nerve racking because we were quite high up and it was hard to understand how our feet were supposed to keep us attached to a piece of rope.

Many of the students were really impressive in the way they conquered their fears. A few students who were really afraid of heights challenged themselves to try both the trapeze and the ropes which were really, pretty impressive.

Overall, the circus training has been a fun experience. We’ve learnt a lot about overcoming our fears and how good it can feel to achieve something that you never thought you would be able to. We’ve also all learnt a lot about the importance of doing things that are outside your comfort zone and how empowering it can be to gain control over your fears. I think I can speak for all of 10P when I say we are continuing to look forward to the rest of our circus training and further improving our skills and confidence.

Kortney Rhook 10P
Kicking into full gear after the term break, the Year 12 Biology class attended an excursion to GTAC (Gene Technology Access Centre) on Wednesday, 1st May.

GTAC is a cutting edge facility that offers world class education programs in cell and molecular biology that advocate excellence and innovation in learning through collaborative activities and work practices.

The Year 12 students participated in various activities including: an information lecture discussing the ‘stimulus-response model’, a hands on group exercise involving signal transduction at the cellular level, an experiment comprising of diabetes diagnosis and understanding and finally an experiment on plant growth regulators that was imperative for an upcoming school assessed coursework (SAC).

Through the participation of the following activities and experiments, along with the fantastic guidance and instruction of the GTAC facilitators and scientist mentors, the students were able to build upon their knowledge and understanding of molecular biology whilst having the opportunity to practice and enhance their use of sophisticated and advanced scientific technology.

Overall, the excursion was enlightening, fun and informative and we look forward to re-visiting GTAC during our Unit 4 studies!

Zeinab Al-Jelali
Super Awesome Biology Student

It has been a busy term for SRC members and we have been working hard to hear the voices of our fellow students and to put them into action. The SRC has held many fundraisers and events and the whole school has joined together to lend a helping hand to the improvement of our school environment. We kicked off the start of term with a very successful Open Night, where the students toured parents around our wonderful school.

The SRC is now working on a project for raising money for the 40 Hour Famine and supporting those less fortunate than us. SRC has been suggesting and working on new ideas to further the development of our school and the students in it. The entire student body, with the help of SRC, has united and helped make this term a very productive yet fun period of time for everyone!

Our end of term assembly is fast approaching and our theme will be a ‘Celebration of our Multiculturalism’ at Epping Secondary. Students will come in casual dress and wear something that represents their culture. We have bands, performances, singing and much more. All proceeds will go to the Kids Heart Foundation.

We are hoping that next term will be as successful as this one has been!

Josie Podesta
SRC Member
On Thursday, 13th June, the VCE Business Management students held their annual ‘MARKET DAY’ during period 3 and lunchtime. This is the sixth year that Market Day has been running at Epping Secondary College and it has become a very successful event and business concept.

It is a concept where students studying Business Management (Units 1 and 2 – small business studies) are given the opportunity to simulate the planning, running and management of a small business. This “Market Day” concept was developed for a number of reasons. Firstly, to minimise disruptions to the school, as all businesses run at the same time. Secondly, to provide for a more competitive environment for students and their businesses and thirdly, to provide for the creation of a “fete” type atmosphere where the whole school community can come together to celebrate in a carnival atmosphere.

Some of the products on offer on the day included fairy floss, cup cakes, sausage sizzle, pizza, iphone cases, cakes and lollies and subway cookies. But it was not just sugary foods and treats to be enjoyed. We also had handball competitions and hair braiding.

Overall students made a profit and used their business management skills to record, analyse and balance their financial data. The students or “College Entrepreneurs” as a combined group will be donating fifty per cent of their profits to a charitable cause, thereby also demonstrating social responsibility.

All students in the VCE Business Management subject enjoyed this valuable experience as did the entire college! It has become embedded in our college culture and keeps getting bigger and better each year. We look forward to next year’s V.C.E. students’ efforts - they have a big act to follow.

The wonderful business management teachers, Ms Sue Kanidiadis and Mr Rohan Hose are to be commended on the work they do with the students. They put in extra hours and support the students with their various ventures. It would not be surprising if some of them became very successful business people in the future – Mark Bouris and Bruno Grollo watch out!
Students in Sport for All this semester have had many opportunities to become more involved in the local community, participating in a variety of activities and taking students into Epping and neighbouring suburbs.

Students have participated in Fitness classes at TRAC, lawn bowls at Lalor Bowling Club, ten pin bowling, tennis at Epping Tennis Courts, go karting, urban trail walk along the Maribyrnong River, rock climbing in the CBD and ice skating at Melbourne Ice House.

A similar program of events awaits semester 2 students...

Mr Sandro Biscaro
Sport For All Teacher
Friday, 31st May, was the first event for the boys’ group. We hosted a Movie Marathon which was a huge success with a total of 30 boys attending.

We were super blessed to have Mr Williams, Mr Vogdanis, Mr Gonzales, Mr Hill and an ex-year 12 Student Ethan Holmes to help us out. All these people were extremely helpful so a massive thanks to you. Also thanks to Mr Grieves who lent us his pool table for the night. During the night we had pizza, lollies, ice cream, garlic bread and many more goodies. We had an Xbox and table tennis games, which was a great way to keep the boys occupied. Even though we didn’t get much sleep, we enjoyed this fun night.

We’d also like to thank everybody for the support and the great ideas that people are constantly giving us. We love your interest in the group which will help with further improvements for the group.

If anyone would like to help out with the next activities we would love to have you come along and help out. You will see posters around the school advertising our next activities.

Thanks heaps!

Mr Cesar Rifo
Boys’ Group Coordinator
On Wednesday, 12\textsuperscript{th} June, 5 members of SRC went to the Global Leaders Convention opposite Crown Casino. As soon as we entered Melbourne Convention Centre we saw hundreds of children that were also there for the Global Leaders Convention.

We entered an enormous room and met Tim and Matt, our facilitators for the day. We were given a brief explanation of what we were going to do and were then divided up into 10 groups. We were given cardboard land, crops and animals. The aim of the activity was to see if we could survive as groups with minimal land and food. The game had 6 rounds and in each round we had to get a specific amount of points. It was very competitive game.

After the game we heard about the 40 Hour Famine. The 40 Hour Famine is about giving up electronics or food and water for 40 hours to experience how some people live in third world countries. After the presentation we watched some clips which took us to Malawi and allowed us to see how some people survive every day.

We met the World Vision Team who were lucky enough to go to Malawi to meet two children named Dorothy and James. Their story was very inspiring and it made everyone feel appreciative of what they have and we were given the opportunity to ask questions. The day was very inspiring, upsetting and informative. It got us thinking that we should do more to help people in third world countries.

We recommend that all students should get involved in the 40 Hour Famine and give up something for 40 hours. Each House Team will also sponsor a child and students will be given the opportunity to earn house points through money raised and participation. Stay tuned for more information about this event!

Tayla Westgarth and Amber Coade
SRC Members
The 40 Hour Famine Photo Booth raised $130 for the charity during this year’s Market Day.

Students had a ball posing for the Photo Booth!

The adjacent students have been awarded 50 points each towards their House Teams for the most creative photo!

Ms Sarah Dempster
Leading Teacher
On 4th June, our year 12 students were given the privilege to leave the reality of school life behind for 3 days and attend a Study /Motivational Camp at the YMCA Lake Dewar.

The camp was an insightful and an enjoyable experience for all students and staff. The 3 day program gave students the opportunity to participate in various study skill workshops, listen to guest speakers and participate in a variety of outdoor activities.

This camp gave students the opportunity to relax, yet at the same time focus on their goals and gain knowledge on how to prepare for the final exams. Overall the camp was a success!

Reagan Garland and Amy Curzi
Year 12 Students
Junior Girls Football

On Tuesday, 18th June, 22 junior girls from Years 7-9 enthusiastically ventured to Epping Football Club to compete in the Interschool Girls Football. The girls put in many hard training sessions in rain, hail or shine conditions to refine their skills ready to take on 4 other schools in the region and challenge for the trophy.

The girls did the school tremendously proud by demonstrating great displays of teamwork, sportsmanship and resilience to win 3 of their 4 games. The team exhibited excellent football skills and tactics including impressive tackles, defensive pressures and an extraordinary goal from the boundary line! Unfortunately the girls were only just defeated by ‘The Lakes’ in a nail biting close contest. All of the girls should be extremely proud of the way they performed on the big day and thank-you to their fantastic assistant senior coaches Jackson Freebairn and Jaedyn Kearney.


Ms Tiffany Greenhill
Sport Teacher
OTHER DESERT CITIES

Date: Wednesday 17th & Thursday 18th of July

Time: 7:30

Place: Epping Secondary College - Drama Room

$10 Student $15 Adult
MULTICULTURAL DAY

Friday, 28th June
Epping Secondary College

Music, food at recess to represent our different cultures, dance, band and drama performances and much, much more!

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