APRIL

8th  Last day of Term 1 - early dismissal 2.30pm

27th  WEDNESDAY - School resumes

MAY

4th  Primary Cross Country

6th  Newsletter home

6th  VCE & Careers Expo excursion for Yr 12 - Melbourne

9th  Secondary Cross Country

10th-12th  NAPLAN testing

13th  Primary Athletic Sports—Stanhope

STOP PRESS!!!

The College community welcomes Mr Andrew Whatley to the College for Term 2 as Acting Principal.

Inside this week...

Year 12’s Stereo-Types Dress Up day.

HIV Positive speakers bureau very informative.

Cooking competitions galore!

Wheels in Motion hits the brakes!
News from the Principal....

Last week a letter was posted to all Rushworth P-12 parents' homes to inform you that a selection process conducted by the School Council for the vacant Principal position resulted in no appointment being made.

The position is being advertised again and Council is hoping for someone to take this up 6 to 7 weeks into term. An “expression of interest” invitation has been put out to all Loddon Mallee schools late last week for an Acting Principal to take up the position from the beginning of Term Two.

We are all hopeful of knowing who that is by the end of this week. In this my last Newsletter, I am pleased to report progress on a number of fronts.

- The Student Behaviour Management Review has been completed with a number of new structures and processes determined and documented. I am keen to let you know that as a result of this review, our desire to communicate and work with parents on particular cases of misbehaviour has been reconfirmed. The roles of key staff members have been clarified and documented and we will be working as hard as possible to ensure there are consequences, both positive and negative for appropriate behaviour and inappropriate behaviour.

- The Focus Group program will remain and will have a student attendance, pastoral and community connection emphasis.

- The Modular Unit System at Years 7-10 has been replaced by a core curriculum at 7 and 8, and a core with electives at 9 and 10. This will enable teachers to know students better and focus on student improvement over a longer period of time.

- We have commenced planning for the creation of special assistance for some for some of our more disengaged students which will start at the beginning of Term Three this year. In Years 7 to 10 we plan to create a new class of about 10 students who will spend most of their time improving Literacy and Numeracy skills and on practical “hands on” activities. This class will have a small number of our best teachers.

In Term 2 we will be visiting other schools to see similar programs and will be carefully developing and documenting the program, as well as communicating with the parents of the students who we think will benefit most from this new initiative. We believe that other students will also benefit. It is not intended that students involved in this program will be there long term and that students to some extent will be moving in and out of this class.

In addition we plan to introduce some extra assistance in Literacy and Numeracy for some of our primary students in Terms Three and Four.

- A lunchtime activities program will commence in Term Two which will involve netball, dancing, primary fitness, basketball, Wii games and computer games. A large number of students have volunteered to lead these activities under the direction of Miss Cray and a number of other teachers. An organizing committee of students is planning a timetable, equipment and publicity.

- A group of teachers has been meeting to get the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden up and running again. This will commence in Term Two.

Finally I would like to say farewell to everyone. I have enjoyed my short involvement with Rushworth P-12 College a great deal and have developed a strong attachment to the school. I am hoping to keep in touch and assist in the transition period next Term before a new substantive principal comes in.

*John Blair, Acting Principal*
From the AP’s desk.

One school term is now over and it is timely to reflect on what has been achieved so far this year. Our Year 12 students are moving closer to the first exam period in June and teachers expect that the holidays will be put to good use in study and catching up on work. For our Prep students it is a timely break as beginning school can be exhausting for them!

It is with sadness that we say good bye to our Acting Principal, Mr John Blair who is returning to retirement. I speak on behalf of the staff in thanking John for his work throughout this term. He has worked tirelessly to bring about improvements in structure and organisation. John has brought a wealth of experience as a Principal to our College and set the school on the path forward. Staff and students alike have enjoyed his company and his sense of humour. We wish him well, but thankfully he will continue to work with the College throughout the next term in a supportive capacity.

It seems to be a familiar plea to parents that I make in each newsletter but do we do ask for your assistance in making sure that your children are supplied with correct school uniform. Several students are attending school in tops and jumpers that are NOT acceptable school uniform. Correct footwear also continues to be an issue. Now that the weather is cooler in the mornings, students need to organise their winter uniform items. The school holiday period is a good opportunity to sort out what is needed for winter so that students can begin term 2 in full school uniform. Hoodies and jackets other than the College jacket are not acceptable.

Interim reports will be given out at Parent/Teacher Night on Thursday 7th April between 4.00 and 7.00pm. Parents who are unable to attend on the evening are asked to ring the respective FOCUS Group teacher or subject teachers to discuss student progress.

I wish everyone a safe and relaxing holiday and a happy Easter and look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Wednesday 27th April.

Sharon Cresswell, Assistant Principal

WORTHY OF PRAISE:

A BIG well done this week to...

11-12
- Kate Aburrow, Belinda McIntosh and Darren Knobel - for attending school everyday in Term 1.
- Shelby Murnane - for being a great help with keeping the Year 12 room clean.

7-10
- Anthony Nolan - for welding and altering high jump equipment for Athletics Sports
- Grace McDonald, Carrigan Horsley, Rachel Rexhep - for assisting Mr Hogan with Athletics Sports organisation.

P-6
- Lillian Gelsi - for being very organised and completed her Home Reading Record every day of the week this term. Well done!
- Gemma Rushin - for going out of her way to help a grade 3 student that was upset.
- Toni Wright - for being the bravest Prep student in Term 1.
Book Review Competition

Is there a book that you really love? Or even one that you didn’t like so much? Why not tell the world about it through the Library’s “Recommended by…” competition? Win friends, influence people and see your name in print!

Details of the competition are on the Library blog, which you can access via the Rushworth P-12 College website (there is a Library link on the Students page).

We would like to congratulate Brianna Coughlan for being the first entrant in the competition, with not one but two book reviews! We are very impressed with Brianna’s effort, and as our first entrant she receives a $5 Book City voucher, courtesy of Book City Shepparton. Congratulations Brianna!

All “Recommended by…” entrants will receive a prize and have their recommendations displayed in the Library. At the end of each term Mrs Nurse and I will choose the best entry, and the writer will be handsomely rewarded for their efforts. The competition is open to all P-12 students and staff, so start sending in your entries!

2/3 Music class enjoy a surprise visit!

The Grade 2/3 had a special guest guitarist and singer come to visit their music class.

Mr Blair taught them to sing ‘I’m in love with a big blue frog and he’s in love with me, It’s not as bad as it appears; he wears glasses and he’s 6 foot 3.’ The students assumed ‘frog’ positions and thoroughly enjoyed the expertise of Mr Blair.
The Year 9/10 Food Technology class participated in a cooking competition. We were given two sessions to complete a three course meal to be served to the judges. The judges were Mr Blair, Mrs Cresswell and Mr Hutchison. Some of the meals that were served included Blackberry Fool (Kylie Phyllis and Nick Lineham), Caraway and Pumpkin Pasties (Chloe Fisher and Sky Egan), Corn fritters with Smoked Salmon and Avocado Salsa (Kaylee Andrews and Eliza McDonald) and Chicken Parmigana (Shane Austin).

The Year 7’s participated in a cooking competition with a Baked Potato theme. They were to create a potato topping of their choice and then present it to the Judges – Mr Baker, Ms Trease and Mrs Williams. Lots of varieties were seen from Nacho Potatoes to Pizza Potatoes.

The Winners of the year 7 Competition was Cain Wright and Blake Rosenberg.

The Winners of the year 9-10 Competition was Kaylee Andrews and Eliza McDonald.

The DISH of the DAY winner was Shane Austin and his Chocolate Fondant.
Tuesday the 5th of April Year 12’s had their second Dress Up Day themed Stereo-Types.

Everyone all participated in getting dressed up and looked really good.

There were Cheerleaders, Gangsters, Hippies, Bums, Bogans, Musicians, Nerds, Emo’s, Goths and Bimbos.

Tim, Matt and Alex performed a busk for the school at lunch. Playing guitar, drums, kazoo and even a bin. Beth and Belinda played their part as cheerleaders and cheered the boys on.

Everyone came together and made the day very enjoyable.

By Shelby Murnane
On Tuesday 29th March, Rushworth P-12 College were fortunate to have two speakers present to Year 9 -12 about HIV and living with HIV. Deanna Blegg and Darren Kane volunteer to the Positive Speakers Bureau and they travel around to schools to educate young people about HIV and what it is like living with HIV.

What is the Positive Speakers Bureau?
The Bureau is a highly committed and diverse group of HIV Positive people who seek to educate the wider community on the issues of living with HIV & AIDS.
Our speakers are the human face of HIV and help to reduce fear, myths and discrimination.
The People Living with HIV/AIDS Victoria Positive Speakers Bureau is run by and for HIV positive people who are highly trained public speakers.
Key messages are also delivered on prevention, education, harm reduction and the promotion of safer behavior for the people of Victoria.
Speakers develop their presentations in response to each request and are selected to speak in accordance with their subject matter knowledge and experience in particular areas.

- Deanna Blegg contracted HIV at the young age of 24 and was given 5 years to live. Deanna was a highly trained athlete representing Australia in the Commonwealth Games in triathlons. Deanna’s story can be viewed by going to www.plwhavictoria.org.au. Deanna story is truly inspirational and I urge you to check out the website. Deanna will also be on 60 Minutes in the not to distance future. Deanna has beaten the odds and is representing Australia in China at the end of May in the elite level of Adventure Racing. We certainly wish Deanna well.

- Darren Kane is a young man who was only 19 when he contracted HIV when he was traveling the world. Again, Darren was told he had a short time to live but Darren has shown that with a positive attitude he has beaten the odds. Darren’s story can also be viewed by going to www.plwavictoria.org.au.

The students certainly were enriched by these two speakers and I urge you to talk to your children about what they had learned about living with HIV. From all accounts, Deanna and Darren were very well received by the students and they have opened up the students mind to what is HIV and how easy it is to make assumptions about people who live with HIV.
Bike Education programs are in place to teach children to ride to school but are in recognition of the fact that the majority of children own bicycles and are riding them in their own community.

The Outdoor Education course - Wheels in Motion teaches children the practical skills they need to ride safely on the road, within a safe learning environment. The Yr 7 & 8 students were taken through a 10 week training program including: a) cycling and simulations, b) pathway cycling, c) on-road cycling.

The skills taught included - Cycling Skills: Wheeling, parking, bike size, helmets, safety check, braking, gear changing, starting positions, figure 8 riding, slow riding, slalom courses. Simulations in school grounds: Straight line riding, scanning ahead, scanning behind, passing parked cars, riding 1 metre from curve, positioning, riding single file and pairing up, group formation riding, car cues, hook turns, left and right turns, 4 way and T intersections driveway ride outs, road rules. Shared pathway or cycle path riding: Forming pairs and single file, keeping left, communicating with pedestrians, etiquette. On road riding: Conducted on quite streets around Rushworth with low traffic volume. The program was completed with an on-road half day ride to Stanhope and back. The class would like to personally thank Mrs Tanya Meulenmeesters and Mrs Natalie Coyle for assisting us with vehicle transport. And Mr Richardson for riding with us so we could go.

Suzanne Trease, Outdoor Education Teacher
ATTENTION LEARNER DRIVERS!

Rushworth & District Community Bank® Branch is offering learner drivers an opportunity to improve their driving skills with an

*Intensive Five Day Course.*

The program will help L-platers form safe driving habits, includes a defensive driving component and time spent behind the wheel will contribute to the hours required for supervised practice.

Rushworth & District Financial Services Ltd are proud to sponsor $400 per student towards the $760 cost of the program

Next course to be held during April school holidays commencing on **Saturday the 16th.**

For more Information and an application form call into the branch or phone 58562122

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**Auskick Training update**

Scott Lambden will again be our volunteer Auskick coach for 2011. We thank Scott for his ongoing support for this program, particularly as he now works in Shepparton and will have to juggle his shifts accordingly. Auskick will run for a 10 week program with the cost being $60 which includes a kit bag and the training. Can you please ring Kathy Barlow on 58567335 to register your child's name, all school children aged 5-10 years are eligible to participate. We will be starting the 1st or 2nd week back of term 2, and are working to confirm best time suitable with Scott's work commitments.

**DADS WE NEED YOUR HELP FOR THIS TO RUN;** David Baldwin was parent helper but his son has moved up to U12s. Therefore we need Dads to work on a roster basis so Scott has help with training drills, please give your time with 2 sessions. Kathy has an Auskick training DVD to pass around if interested.

**Netball Training**

Netball for 5-10 year olds is called ‘Netta’, ideally this is run in conjunction with the Auskick training times, so assume start is also 1st or 2nd week back of term 2. Apologies at time of print do not have cost, but please ring to confirm this and register your child’s name. Kathy Barlow 58567335. Help may also be needed with registration paperwork and some organisation of program thanks.

**IF YOUR CHILDS NAME IS REGISTERED, YOU WILL BE PERSONALLY CONTACTED BY PHONE REGARDING ALL DETAILS PRIOR.**
RUNNYMEDE JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

Training, Jumper Presentation & Pie Night

Wednesday 6th April

At Elmore Football Ground 5.30pm

For all Under 12 and Under 14 Players

Hoodies from the 1st round of orders will be available for pick up. Payment will be required for pick up for those who are yet to pay.

The next Austswim Course is being conducted in Echuca

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<td>Saturday 21 May</td>
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Venue: Echuca War Memorial Aquatic Centre, Cnr High & Service Street

Cost: $355.00

Austswim Re-Registration

If you gained your Austswim Certificate or re-registered in 2008 you need to re-register in 2011. You can do this by attending some theory and practical sessions during the full course. Ring to find out times when you will need to attend

Cost for upgrade: $77.00

If interested contact: Kate Nichols on 0427153591

Tatura Table Tennis Season free come and try/practice nights.

Monday May 2nd and 9th, 7.30 start, at the Tatura Stadium.

All past and new players welcome.

Table tennis is a fantastic family/social evening and a great way to work on your fitness and hand eye co-ordination!!

Registration available on these night - $100 for senior single and family membership, $35 junior membership.

Competition starts Monday May 16th.

To register text Phil Crowe on 0429941454.
Need to see a lawyer?

YOUTH LAW ONLINE

@ Uniting Care Cutting Edge – 136 Maude Street, Shepparton

EVERY THURSDAY: 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.

- Talk to lawyers via web-cam
- Free and confidential legal advice and info
- For young people up to the age 25
- Make an appointment or just drop-in.

For more information Please call Erin at UCCE on 5831 6157