

Erina News

WELCOME BACK TO TERM 4

I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful spring break and that students have returned ready to meet the challenges of term 4. The big calendar events of term four involve many 'rights of passage' and they have already started!

Year 12 have commenced their HSC exams and were regular visitors to the school during the school holidays and STU-VAC. **Year 11** are receiving feedback on their yearly exams and finalising Preliminary course study before commencing their Year 12 HSC courses in week 3 of this term!

Students in **Years 7-9** are currently working towards end of year assessments and **Year 10** are involved in the last weeks of preparation prior to their compulsory School Certificate tests set down for the week of November 9-12.

Year 10 students will receive specific information about the SC test organi-

sation in a separate information sheet. Written papers will held on Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th November. On-line computing tests will be scheduled across Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th. On Friday 13th normal lessons will recommence for all Year 10 students.

The Year 10 school year concludes with their Graduation to the Senior School assembly which will be held on Monday 14th December. A separate letter will detail these arrangements. Exemptions from school to commence holiday work are only available from Monday December 7th when the Year 10 Gold Coast excursion is taking place.

Term 4 is an extremely eventful term for students and their families in all years. Each fortnight this newsletter will outline coming events so that families can update their calendar and so not miss out on the action!



Erina High
School

Issue 15

26 October 2009

School Happenings:

4-6 November
*Year 9 Laptop
rollout*

4 November
*Visual Arts GATS
Day*

5 November
*Year 7 Scripture
Year 10 Science
GATS Day
Year 11 Engineering
Studies Excursion*

9-12 November
**School Certificate
Exams**

12 November
Year 8 Scripture

Year 9 Textiles Knitting Challenge

During the textiles arts unit planning discussion the girls decided that they would like to learn how to knit and donate their knitted item to a charity. With the help of a couple of community minded grandmothers all the students learnt how to knit and they produced



enough knitted squares for three knee rugs.

On 30 September the girls visited Woodport Nursing home and chatted with patients and donated the rugs. Great work girls!

S Adamski,
Co-Ordinator

Year 8 Textiles GATS Day

A very busy day was undertaken by twenty Year 8 Textiles students on Thursday, 3rd September for the annual Gifted and Talented students day.

The day started with designing the colour and fabric scheme for a luggage tag. Students were then introduced to hand embroidery and surface decoration skills.

The actual assembly of the tag proved quite challenging for the students but they all produced their own useful luggage tag with digitally printed 'details' feature on the back.

S Adamski



“ERINA ON STAGE” (Variety Night)

There will be two performances on the 2nd of December:

- The Matinee will be held Periods 3 and 4 and the Night Concert will start at 7.00pm.
- Rehearsals will be held in the hall on Monday, 30th November, Tuesday, 1st December and Wednesday, 2nd December, Periods 1 and 2.
- Tickets will be on sale on 1st November and are only available from the Front Office.

Please see your Music, Drama or Dance Teacher for more information on AUDITIONS which will be held during Weeks 4 & 5 of this term!!

PARENT NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL!



Don't forget if you would like to receive the Parent Newsletter by email, send your email address to erina-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au with the subject line "PNL list". The newsletter and any other information relevant to your child's year will be emailed in a manner which does not disclose your email address to anyone else.

SMITH FAMILY LEARNING FOR LIFE

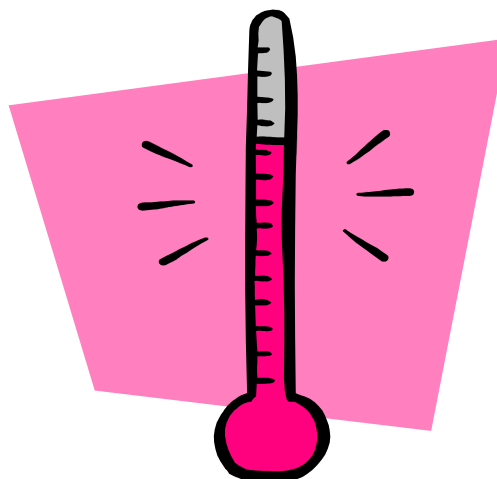
Congratulations to Maeghan Downes, Lauren Smith, Madeline Lalor, Teigan Kelly, Laura Haywood and Lana Fisher of Year 9 for their community spirit exhibited by their involvement in the Smith Family's 'Student to Student' mentor reading support program.

Twice each week during terms 2 and 3 the girls phoned primary students from across the Central Coast. Whilst on the phone the girls listened to the reading of the younger students and assisted them with word attack and language skills as part of a unique community reading support program. Well done and thankyou girls!

SINGLETON'S MEATS REWARDS

Thanks to the many families who are taking advantage of the "SINGO'S MEATS" fundraising promotion using the cards distributed in term 1. This week your efforts saw the school presented with an additional **cheque for \$930** which will be used to improve student amenities and resources.

A huge thanks must also go to SINGO'S for supporting local schools in this way.



PARENTS AND CITIZENS NEWS

At our October meeting highlights of the discussion included:

- Information on **DER Laptops** which are coming to Erina this term for Year 9 students;
- **Study Plus workshops** which teachers and student mentors are running for Years 5 and 6 students from our partner primary schools;
- **Police liaison visits** to provide workshops on bullying, harassment, cyber crime and responsible citizenship;
- **Progress on school refurbishments** to learning and playground spaces; and
- **Where P&C funds will be spent** to support teaching and learning and student wellbeing in the coming months!

All parents are cordially invited to our **next P&C meeting** which will be held in the school library on **Wednesday November 18th commencing at 7.30**. We would love to see more parents and caregivers involved in the P&C as we plan for 2010.

Education Tax Refund Has Begun... Keep Your Receipts!!

The Education Tax Refund will provide parents with much-needed help for education expenses, with refunds of up to:

- \$375 per primary school student; and
- \$750 per secondary school student.

How much can you claim?

By keeping your receipts, eligible families will be able to claim a 50 per cent refund every year for key education expenses up to:

- \$750 for each child undertaking primary studies (maximum refund of \$375 per child, per year); and
- \$1,500 for each child undertaking secondary studies (maximum refund of \$750 per child, per year).

Where a family has educational costs in excess of the refund limit, these costs can be carried over to the next financial year.

What items are covered?

Eligible expenses for the Education Tax Refund include:

- laptops;
- home computers and associated costs;
- home internet connections;
- printers;
- education software;
- trade tools for use at school;
- school text books; and stationery.

Who is eligible?

Parents entitled to Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part A for children in primary or secondary school for the relevant financial year are eligible for the Education Tax Refund. Parents are also eligible if they have children in primary or secondary school who would be eligible children for FTB Part A purposes, but for the fact that the child receives certain payments or allowances, for example:

- Youth Allowance;
- Disability Support Pension; and
- ABSTUDY Living Allowance.

How do you claim the Education Tax Refund?

Parents will then be able to claim 50 per cent of these expenses through their tax return at the end of the financial year. For those who are not required to complete an income tax return, a separate form will be available from the Australian Taxation Office.

ADVERTISING/COMMUNITY NOTICES

**LEARN
TAE KWON DO**

- Confidence
- Fitness
- Self Defence

Tuesday and Thursday
nights 6 -7pm.
Erina Community Hall
Corner Karalta Road
and Ilya Lane near the
Platinum Building.
Families welcome.
Call Steve 43693600
www.shimjang.com

The Salvation Army is organising for local Solicitors to prepare or change your (simple) Will on Thursday, 5 November 2009 at The Salvation Army, 120 Central Coast Highway, Erina from 8am to 6pm.

The cost is \$40 per Will and all money raised will go to the Salvos STREET MISSION. For an appointment phone 4325 5614.

World Education Program (WEP) is currently accepting applications from students who wish to participate in an exchange program during their second semester in 2010. To receive a free information pack and find out more visit www.wep.org.au or call 1300 884 733 or email tessallaway@wep.org.au

Southern Cross Cultural Exchange is seeking volunteer host families to host international exchange students arriving in February 2010 for a stay of five months. For more information phone 1800 500 501 or email Robert.l@scce.com.au or visit www.scce.com.au

FREE GRADUATED LICENSING SCHEME WORKSHOPS FOR LEARNER DRIVER PARENTS

Young drivers are three times more likely to be involved in casualty crashes. That's why the RTA has introduced a new licensing scheme, with more supervised driving practice for learner drivers. To help parents in supervising learner drivers, the RTA has set up a FREE 2 hour workshop for parents offering practical advice on how to help learner drivers become safer drivers.

The FREE workshop will be conducted by David Riches on Wednesday, 2 December at Gosford Golf Club from 6.00pm–8.00pm. Early bookings are essential, so phone David on 0438 215 323 now to reserve your place, or email parentworkshop@optusnet.com.au

THANK YOU LOWES AUSTRALIA

**All Australian Owned
Family Company**

**Our school receives
a 5% rebate on all
uniform sales.**

**MENTION OUR SCHOOL
WHEN MAKING YOUR
UNIFORM PURCHASES AT**



Our uniform supplier Lowes at Erina Fair have donated \$2500 to the school as a result of uniform purchases during 2009!

In addition they have provided \$25 vouchers to be used as rewards for students receiving excellence awards on Presentation Night.

2009 SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMS

Monday 9th November: English Literacy 9.20am—11.30am
Science 12.50pm—3.00pm

Tuesday 10th November: Mathematics 9.25am—11.30am
Australian History, 12.50pm –3.00pm
Geography, Civics
& Citizenship

Wednesday 11th November &

Thursday 12th November: On-line Computer Skills exam

Students are required to be at school for the following 1.5 hour sessions according to surname:

GROUP	SURNAME (INCLUSIVE)	DAY	DATE	TIME
1	Akamarmoi - Cheater	Wednesday	11th November	9.30am
2	Clark - Dollar	Wednesday	11th November	11.00am
3	Douglass - Gosbee	Wednesday	11th November	12.30pm
4	Grattan-Holloway - Johnson	Wednesday	11th November	2.00pm
5	Jolliffe - Mason	Thursday	12th November	9.30am
6	Matherson - Numan	Thursday	12th November	11.00am
7	Nyathi - Slocombe	Thursday	12th November	12.30pm
8	Small - Yee	Thursday	12th November	2.00pm

Friday 13th November: **Normal classes operating.**

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Our Year 9 laptops have arrived!

Families of our year 9 students met at the school on Tuesday evening to hear news about the allocation of laptops under the Federal Digital Education Revolution package.

Our students will receive their laptops in week 3 of this term after they have considered and signed the Parent and Student Laptop Charter and Erina High School user agreement.

This is a very exciting time in education at our school as the laptops open the door to “learning anytime, anywhere” opportunities for both students and teachers. They will be a wonderful learning tool, promoting an engaging and interactive style of learning and taking students in new directions!

Wireless connectivity will allow the laptops to be used in classrooms, during breaks and at home within the protected learning environment of the DET portal. The new devices will provide opportunities for our students to pursue many new learning options guided by teachers who have already completed hundreds of hours of technology training utilising the laptops.

Each laptop uses the new Microsoft Windows 7 platform and students will have access to some of the best learning software on the market including the Adobe digital imaging suite of programs.

Text books, however still exist and handwriting will still be an essential part of the classroom. Each student will still have to write for their exams and the computers will complement learning programs rather than replace them.

Students are expected bring their laptops to school with batteries charged so that they are able to work throughout the day. Laptop charging is not available during school hours.

