

Erina News

**BEST WISHES FOR A WONDERFUL
FESTIVE SEASON & A SAFE,
RELAXING and
RE-ENERGIZING SUMMER BREAK!**

Term four will conclude with a series of events celebrating all of the wonderful achievements of our students across our school community. Whilst we have farewelled our most senior school citizens we have also welcomed our youngest: Year 7, 2010.

This year has seen a remarkable evolution of teaching and learning at Erina both in terms of enhancements to our teaching facilities and the integration of technology into our classrooms! We are certainly in the midst of an exciting time in education and the partnership we build between students, their families and the school are vital to successful learning.

As we pack down for the Summer break I would like to take the opportunity to thank the many families who work with our teaching staff and other school personnel to make Erina High School the vibrant and successful learning community that it is. Your commitment and support are at the heart of our school.

Marj Kong

SCHOOL SECURITY

As the holiday season approaches I would like to ask for the support of local families with regard to the security of the school. The DET School Security contact number is **1300 880 021**

A REMINDER ABOUT OH&S and FOOTWEAR...

“It is mandatory that students carrying out practical activities using chemicals or equipment in schools wear fully enclosed leather footwear. Sandals, open footwear, thongs, or high healed shoes must not be worn in workshops or laboratory areas.”

At EHS Black leather enclosed shoes are required.



Erina High School

Issue 18

7 December 2009

School Happenings:

7-11 December
Year 10 Camp

9 December
Presentation night

16 December
Reports distributed
to Years 7,8, 9
Last day of student
attendance for 2009

17-18 December
Student free staff
development days

27 January 2010
Student free staff
development day

28 January 2010
Years 7, 11 and 12
return to school
New enrolments from
11.00am in the
Library

29 January 2010
ALL YEARS ARE
PRESENT at school

DANCE CONCERT CONGRATULATIONS

Over 2 weekends in November I held my rehearsal and concert in your Multi Purpose Building. On approaching Brendan Jones he acquired some students from your school to help me with my music. I would love for your school to know how great these boys were. Thanks to Matt, Tim and Nick as they are very pleasant, approachable and were willing to help in any way possible. It was great to deal with them and I hope they can help me again next time.

*Jennifer Dykes,
Jenny Dykes School of Dance.*

BOOK PACKS

Book Packs for 2010 are now available in the Administration office. The cost is **\$25.00**. We still have four Year 9 2009 packs and eight Year 10 2009 packs available at \$20.00 (the books are the same).

SENIOR GIRLS SKIRTS

We have a number of senior girls' skirts for sale. They are new skirts in the smaller sizes and can be purchased through the administration office. The price is \$25.00.

CASHIER - END OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS

The office cash register will close for the year at 2.30pm on Wednesday, 16 December (last day of school for students). The office will not be open for payments on the staff development days on Thursday, 17 December and Friday, 18 December. The office will re-open for payments on Thursday, 28 January 2010.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STUDENT ADVISORS OF YEAR 12, 2009

It has been a huge year for our Year 12 student advisors and it's not over yet. After cheerleading through the schedule of the HSC, composing references for every student, they worked with the 'Formal team' to plan that gala event, then Sally Shields and Peter Green hosted the formal evening which was beautiful conclusion to a great year for our most senior students.

Sally and Peter have been outstanding in their support of Year 12. They back up again on Wednesday December 16th to breakfast with Year 12 as they receive their results, celebrate, debrief and look at the opportunities opening up for them!

Students of the class of 2009 have been very fortunate to be nurtured by these wonderful people and as they turn off their assembly microphone for the last time we applaud them.

Congratulations Sally and Peter! You have been exemplary student advisors!

Totem Pole Garden Installation

As a result of the two GATS Ceramic Totem Pole Workshops in Term 3 the students have finally been able to install the finished artworks in a specially prepared garden near the administration block. The Totem Poles have added an artistic element to the school grounds and have already received glowing compliments from students and staff as they pass by the garden.

It is planned that more of these types of projects will be undertaken by students in 2010, to enable them to have a greater influence on the appearance of their school surrounds and to showcase the many talented students we have at Erina High School. An official Opening Ceremony and BBQ has been suggested by Mrs Kong for Term 1, 2010, as a fitting way to thank the students for their contribution to the school.

Mrs Scott (Ceramics GATS Co-ordinator)



Harmony Day Murals

A group of four Year 10 Visual Arts students recently completed a series of four large murals based on the theme of Harmony Day and local landmarks.

Originally the murals were designed as a Central Coast schools' project organised by the Terrigal Chamber of Commerce to decorate a pedestrian barrier along the main road at Terrigal descending to the Surf Club car park. This project has not eventuated and our school environment is the 'winner' as the murals will now be displayed within the school grounds.

Finally the murals are finished and ready to adorn a special wall within the school grounds (a final position has not yet been finalised) and as their supervising teacher I couldn't be happier with this result for the girls involved. Their clever work in designing the murals and their diligence in completing them will be rewarded by their permanent display at our school!

Mrs K. Scott (GATS Harmony Day murals Co-ordinator)



The four students involved were Felicia Clarke, Mikayla Kelso, Sarah Littlechild and Lisa Jones.

GATS Mosaic Mural Project

As reported in an earlier parent Newsletter, on Wednesday the 30th September a group of 30 Year 7 & 8 GATS students participated in a special ceramics workshop. The project took the form of a series of mosaic panelled boards that will eventually be mounted on the northern side of A-Block facing the oval. The theme for the 4 panels is The Four Natural Elements (Fire, Water, Wind and Air). This theme was chosen to echo the natural setting in which the school was built and to echo the tree area adjacent to the building where the panels will be mounted.

Progress has been labour intensive and is ongoing, with the due date predicted for sometime in semester 1, 2010. Each of the large panels has been cut into two halves with all the first halves having been finished in term 4. The second half of each panel is still underway, however all the tiles that have already been hand made are fired and ready for glazing. Further workshops will take place in Term 1 next year.

Mrs K. Scott (GATS Visual Arts Co-ordinator)



Mosaic Murals Team Members:

Year 7

Jamie Kabbout
Henry Chan
Mercy Agbeze
Madeline Sheppard
Katie Street
Dana Gaskell
Glenn Montgomery
Dale Robinson
Joshua Towler

Year 8

Molly Best
Shannon Barrett
Brianna Anthony
Beth Lowe
Aaron King
Eliza Nielsen
Dean Santi
Eva Worsman

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NORTHERN VALLEYS NETBALL CLUB

Registration days are to be held on Sunday, 31 January at Bunnings West Gosford during the Club's sausage sizzle and after school on Wednesday, 3 February at 130 Berry's Head Road, Wyoming. Further information can be obtained from Cheryl Leeson, the Club Registrar on 4328 2213 or from the club website <http://www.northernvalleysnetballclub.com/index.html>

ST JOHN AMBULANCE FIRST AID COURSES

Senior and Junior First Aid courses will be run in the January holidays. For bookings or more information contact Simone, Wendy or Libby on 4324 6047, email gosford@stjohnnsw.com.au or visit www.stjohnnsw.com.au

NSW SPORT AND RECREATION is running a variety of holiday activities for children in the upcoming holidays. For more information or to make a booking call 131302 or 4362 3184 or visit www.dsr.nsw.gov.au

Are you a woman looking for work?

Have you been out of the workforce for a while or want a career change? The CEEW (Certificate II Skills for Work & Training) course at TAFE is for you. It's FREE, it's FUN and it runs over 4 short days per week for 18 weeks (2 terms). We also have school holidays off! Get that foot in the door of the workplace! For more information phone Pauline at Gosford on 4348 2282 or Trish at Wyong on 4350 2208.

ERINA ON STAGE ROCKS THE SCHOOL!

Students and parents voted ERINA ON STAGE 2009 an unqualified success. The matinee brought the house down and we were all amazed at the wealth of talent which our teachers nurture in our junior students.

The evening performance was also outstanding and the quality of younger students bodes well for our future CAPA events. The hard work of our music, drama and dance teachers and the unfailing support of our families deserves applause! Thanks also to our sound and lighting team. A fantastic finale to a wonderful CAPA year!

YEAR 10 GRADUATION TO THE SENIOR SCHOOL

The graduation assembly welcoming Year 10 to the senior school or applauding them as they leave school to enter the workplace will be held on December 14th commencing at 10.30 am in the MPC.

Students will be presented with their Graduation Certificates, School Semester 2 Reports and School Certificate Credentials and will need to wear full school uniform to this formal assembly.

The assembly will be followed by light refreshments and at the conclusion morning tea students may leave the school with their families.

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Dear Parent,

Are you concerned about your child drinking alcohol? You have every right to be. Australian research shows that 96 percent of kids under the age of 17 have tried alcohol, with 21 percent drinking alcohol every week.

Why should you be concerned?

New research shows young people's brains can be seriously damaged from drinking alcohol. There is now evidence to suggest that binge drinking destroys the growing brain's ability to relay information between cells.

One third of 12-17yr old drinkers are consuming at harmful levels. It indicates kids have easy access to alcohol and are drinking too much.

What can you do?

As a parent, you are the most important role model for your child. Your attitude to alcohol and personal behaviour will have a big influence on your child and the decisions they make:

- *Talk to your child and be involved in their life* – if you know what is going on and can talk openly, you are more likely to be able to influence your child's attitude towards drinking.
- *Know where your teenager is* – check where the parties are going to be, whether they are supervised and if alcohol is being served.
- *Talk to other parents* – presenting a united front makes it easier for everyone.
- *Use alcohol responsibly yourself and be a responsible host*. Show your children that you can also have fun without alcohol too.
- *Encourage your child not to drink until they are at least 16 years old*.
- *Point out the risks* – don't be afraid to disapprove of unsafe drinking behaviour.
- *Inform yourself* – log onto www.adf.org.au for more information.

What are we doing?

In most Australian states and territories, it is still *legal* for anybody to provide your child with any amount of alcohol on private property, without your permission. Without the right laws in place, there is nothing to protect young people against drinking a damaging amount and drinking without parental consent.

In Queensland New South Wales and Tasmania, it is illegal to supply alcohol to kids under the age of 18 without a parent's permission. We believe the protection of young people in those cases should be extended to all young Australians regardless of where they live.

The Australian Drug Foundation is campaigning to strengthen Australia's laws to protect young people. Register your support for a national law by visiting www.adf.org.au

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Rogerson', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

John Rogerson
CEO
Australian Drug Foundation