

# Erina News

Term 4 continues to be busy as we work through the semester 2 assessment and reporting process with students expected to be actively engaged and prepared for learning. I am concerned with many of our girls who have started to bring handbags to school with no books, pens or equipment for learning - this is unsatisfactory and difficult for effective learning to happen. I seek support from parents in ensuring their children are well prepared each day with the necessary equipment in a suitable school bag.

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new Head Teacher Home Economics Miss Melinda Howell. Melinda joins us from Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College Tumbi Umbi Campus and is delighted by her new appointment. I know she will be a great asset to Erina High School.

Congratulations to Alex Konemann who recently completed the Future Sport Youth Inspired program. As one of 6 inaugural scholarship holders Alex was a key member of the group displaying exceptional leadership qualities with the ability to manage a range of tasks. Alex is a credit to himself, his family and Erina High School. Well done Alex!!

It is my great pleasure to acknowledge the great achievement of Stevie Pounder being selected as a feature Artist in the 2012 Schools Spectacular scheduled for later this term. What a fantastic honour to have Stevie showcased at this prestigious NSW public school event - we are very proud of you Stevie!!

With the HSC well and truly over our year 12 students can now begin the next phase of their journey. Our presiding officer had nothing but praise for our students as they worked their way through the gruelling schedule of exams. Proving Erina High School students are indeed courteous, committed, cooperative and caring, congratulations year 12 we wish you every success in life after school.

Year 11 have now commenced the HSC course and need to remain focused on the main game, it is critical they are utilising their time effectively during study periods by going to the library or working in the senior study areas provided. With just under 35 weeks of school left until the 2013 HSC there is no time to waste.

Congratulations to the many students who continue to wear their school uniform with pride, parent support is greatly appreciated. I remind students with the warmer weather upon us that short shorts are NOT school uniform and most inappropriate. Schools are often judged by the way students wear their uniform and is a strong



**Erina High**

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## **School Events**

**13 and 14 November  
ESSA tests -  
Year 8**

**16 November  
Year 8 Luna  
Park Excursion**

**21 November  
P&C Meeting  
6.30pm**

**Year 7  
Fundraising  
Day**

**23 November  
Immunisations  
Year 7 and  
some Year 10**

**28 November  
Erina on Stage**

**3-7 December  
Year 10 Gold  
Coast  
excursion**

indicator of a great school. Collectively we will continue to showcase Erina High School as a great school with strong community support and encourage all students to wear full school uniform.

Many families may be aware that a decision has been made to close the toilets during lesson time and open before school and during breaks. This is an extreme measure that has been made necessary due to the continued significant vandalism in the toilets. It is disappointing that such a few students have caused this decision to be made. Students who need to use the bathroom during lesson time will need to seek permission from the Teacher who will provide a note to the Deputy Principals Mr Sweeney or Mrs Smith. Students will then be able to access the staff toilets in the administration office. It is hoped that this arrangement will be temporary until the offenders causing the damage demonstrate care and respect to school property.

Just an early reminder about our fabulous Erina in Stage performance on Wednesday night November 28 in the MPC where students showcase their incredible musical talent, a night not to be missed!!

Enjoy the rest of the term where *“Effort Crowns Success”* at Erina High School.

Yours Sincerely,

**Mrs Karen Nicol**  
**Principal**

## **RECORD OF SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT (RoSA) LITERACY AND NUMERACY TESTING**

As part of the suite of RoSA initiatives, students will be able to take voluntary, online literacy and numeracy tests. In 2012, the Board of Studies will conduct a pilot of these tests. Only Year 10 students who advise their school that they intend to leave and wish to sit for the tests will be eligible to participate.

### **Who should take the tests?**

- ◆ These tests are only for students indicating that they intend to leave school.
- ◆ The tests will be designed to show an overview of a student’s level of achievement in these areas.
- ◆ The tests will be voluntary and offered through schools during nominated ‘windows’ throughout the year. This is an extension of similar arrangements previously used for the Year 10 Computing Skills test.

### **Content of the tests**

- ◆ The tests are focused on the literacy and numeracy skills for employment and/or further education and training.
- ◆ There will be one test for literacy and one test for numeracy.

**Vicki Smith**  
**Deputy Principal, Development**

## NSW K-10 SYLLABUSES

### What is the Australian Curriculum?

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA), in collaboration with states and territories, has developed agreed Australian curriculum for English, Mathematics, Science and History. Each of these learning areas includes content statements that represent essential learning for all Australian students.

### When will the new syllabuses incorporating Australian Curriculum be taught in NSW?

Year	K-6	Years 7-10
2013	All schools in NSW will continue to teach the current syllabuses.	
2014	All schools will teach the new English syllabus.  The teaching of the new Mathematics, and Science and Technology syllabuses is optional.	For Years 7 and 9, all schools will teach the new English, Mathematics, Science and History syllabuses.
2015	All schools will teach the new Mathematics, and Science and Technology syllabuses.  The teaching of the new History syllabus is optional.	For Years 8 and 10, all schools will teach the new English, Mathematics, Science and History syllabuses.
2016	All schools will teach the new History syllabus.	

The Board of Studies has launched a website for teachers and school communities to access the new NSW K-10 syllabuses, which include Australian curriculum content. The Board's NSW syllabuses for the Australian curriculum website provides an interactive online presentation of the syllabuses. Designed to give you quicker and easier access, the website allows you to navigate the syllabuses in a variety of ways.

To access the NSW syllabuses for the Australian curriculum website, visit:

<http://syllabus.bos.nsw.edu.au>

Or click on the link on the homepage of the Board's main website at:

[www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au](http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au)

**Vicki Smith**  
Deputy Principal, Development

## SCIENCE NEWS

### ESSA

ESSA Testing will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday November 13 and 14.

All year 8 students will be involved in the Essential Science Skills Assessment online Test. Students are required to bring their own earphone for use on the day. Emergency earphones will be available for those who forget.

### SOLAR ECLIPSE

November 14 will see a spectacular start to the day when at 8.05am a partial solar eclipse will be able to be seen. Erina High school will be having a viewing for students in year 7 and 8 and their parents using specially approved solar viewing glasses. It should be remembered that the sun should never be looked at directly and certainly not during a solar eclipse without approved safety glasses.

A BBQ will be held with a cost of \$2 for a sausage sandwich and 50c for a fruit box drink for all us busy people. So come and have a relaxing start to a busy Wednesday morning. You are of course most welcome to come along and enjoy the spectacle without having a BBQ.

A note went home to students last week and if it could be returned to help us with catering the BBQ and ensuring we have enough safety glasses.

### FORENSIC SCIENCE WORKSHOP

A fantastic, amazing and exciting Forensic Science workshop is to be held on November 29. This is a real life presentation of the facts and allows you the opportunity to solve the case with keen detective skills.

One workshop will be held for Year 10 students and a separate workshop will be held for other interested students from years 7-11.

The cost is \$10 and places are very limited to be a part of this fantastic opportunity. If you didn't get a note see your friendly Science teacher for a note.

**Brian Huntington**  
**Head Teacher Science**

## ENGLISH NEWS

The English faculty would like to congratulate Year 12 on finishing their HSC examinations. As we say our goodbyes Year 12 are reminded that they must return English text books as soon as possible as we are beginning to use these texts with the 2013 cohort.

2013 is bringing with it big changes in the English faculty. Sadly we say our goodbyes to Ms Sandra Barker who has decided to take a position outside of public education. Her position will be filled by Ms Sara-Jane Bissett who we warmly welcome to the English / Drama department. We are also glad to welcome Ms Lisa Richie who will be joining us as a permanent member of staff. We are also very pleased to announce that Miss Benita Kearney has now been appointed permanently to the English / Drama faculty. Congratulations to all three.

English units of works are coming to an end from 7-10 which will mean a busy end to the term with assessment tasks for all years in week 10. Year 7 will be completing a visual representation task based on the play script The Honey Spot by Jack Davis. Year 8 and 9 are also completing Drama units and completing visual representation tasks for the play script Two weeks with the Queen (Year 8) and either Romeo and Juliet or The Terrible Fate of Humpty Dumpty (Year 9). Year 10 will finish the year by completing a unit of work on creative writing, a skill essential to their senior study in English.

Years 7 - 9 are reminded that marks carry over from the final assessment this year to their results for Semester One next year. If students or parents are ever unsure of the assessment tasks scheduled they can visit our school website and download English assessment dates as well as assessment task notifications.

Year 11 students have now begun their Year 12 course of study in English. They are currently studying 'Belonging' as an area of study looking at the verse novel The Simple Gift by Steven Herrick. Students will sit their first assessment task for this course Monday of week 11 where they will complete an in class essay on the theme of belonging making close reference to their core text with supporting evidence.

Year 11 English Studies students are currently studying the topic 'We are Australians' where they will look at the values and traditions of texts that depicts Australian identity. They will complete a letter and Bill of Rights task which will be due into teachers in week 9.

Finally on the assessment front, English Extension will sit their first assessment in week 10 focused on topic of 'Navigating the Global'. Students are reminded that if they seek assistance for assessment they are welcome to visit their teachers before school and breaks but must do so well before assessment due dates.

Drama students are finishing the year with a unit of work on physical theatre which will culminate in students creating and performing a physical theatre piece for 'Erina on Stage' matinee and evening performances on November 28. While junior classes work through the practical and theoretical aspects of physical theatre Year 11 will begin by studying the theatre of Berthold Brecht. They will complete a performance task based on this style of theatre for their first assessment in week 9 of this term.

It has been a busy year in the English faculty and we would like to sincerely thank students for their hard work this year.

We look forward to furthering students skills and knowledge in English and Drama in 2013.

**Mark Chapman**  
**Head Teacher, English**

## YEAR 7 NEWS

Year 7 are embarking on an exciting new fund raising venture. The charity which we have chosen is Mahboba's Promise. This organisation has been established with a vision to provide a sustainable future within a secure environment for the disadvantaged and vulnerable people of Afghanistan and in particular for women, children and orphans. The founder of the organisation Mahboba Rawi was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in 2010 for her contribution to humanitarian relief in Afghanistan. The organisation's patron is the Governor General Quentin Bryce.

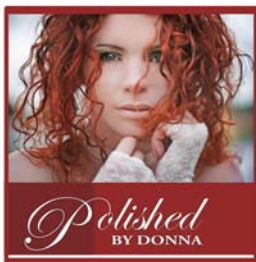
We are very excited to be involved with this organisation, there are enormous benefits for the students of Erina High including generating awareness and understanding about global issues relating to social justice, human rights and development. We will be establishing an ongoing relationship with a school in Afghanistan, with whom we will be able to communicate with regularly.

Year 7 are launching their fund raising program with a sausage sizzle and jelly bean count on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November in break two. Sausage sandwiches will be selling for \$2.50 each. Please make sure students bring money and an appetite on the day in order to make this extremely worthwhile fund raising venture as successful as possible. Please contact Ms Whitfield or Mr Darnley if you are able to offer any further support to this cause. Further information will be placed on the school web page in the Year 7 section.

**Jeanine Whitfield**  
Year 7 Co-advisor

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## SPORTS NEWS

### Sports Presentation

This years Sports Presentation will be held on Friday the 14th of December from 9:30am in the MPC. Over the next few weeks students will start to receive invites to this presentation. Parents, please keep your calendars free as we would love to see as many parents/guardians as possible attending this event.

A special thank you to Forresters Beach Florist for donating the flower decorations.

### Coke Memorial Surfing Competition

Congratulations to Jack Symington of Year 7. Jack recently competed in an under 14's surfing competition held at Forresters Beach. Jack competed extremely well and finished the competition in first place. For his efforts he received a trophy and a surfing prize pack donated by Slimes.

Well done Jack, an outstanding achievement!

**Grant Keyes**  
Sports Organiser/ Year 8 Year Advisor



## P&C MEETINGS - ALL WELCOME !

P&C Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month. The meetings are held in the Staff Common Room starting at 6.30pm. A warm welcome is extended to all families within the school community to attend the meetings. The next P&C Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, 21 November 2012.**



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