

Erina News

Welcome back to the final term of learning for the 2013 school year. I hope staff and students are well rested and enjoyed the spring vacation. What a great celebration on the last day of term to farewell our year 12 students and wish them every success in their upcoming HSC exams and for life after Erina High School. I sincerely acknowledge and thank year 12 for the very generous donation of \$500 that will go towards a flat screen TV in our new foyer to promote the great achievements of our staff and students at Erina High School. Thank you to Lizzy, Charlotte, Lara, Henry, Eamonn and Ethan, members of the newly appointed senior leadership team for 2014 who hosted the year 12 Graduation, looking very smart with their ties and jackets!



Our senior leadership team for 2014 consists of 12 students who have been successful in their application for this position. The quality of their applications were outstanding and I am very confident in their ability to lead the student body throughout next year and look forward to working with the team. Our Captains and Vice Captains have also been appointed - congratulations to Henry Chan and Charlotte Zorro, 2014 Captains and Eamonn Snow and Shelby Jacobs, our Vice Captains - they will be great ambassadors for our school.



Erina High

Issue 10

21 October 2013

School Events

21 October
HSC exams continue

23 October
Year 6
Transition Gala Day

24 October
Year 9
Scripture

28 October
Year 10 Food
Technology Exam

31 October
Year 8
Scripture

7 November
Year 10
Scripture

The rest of our team include Dylan Crawford, Casey Smith, Lara Coffey, Jacob Peterson, Riley Pike, Ethan Brown, Emma Forrest and Elizabeth Hergenrother. Congratulations to these fine students.

Congratulations also to Matt Cahill and Oliver Vanderslot who have been selected in the Australian Futsal under 12 team to tour Malaysia and Sarawak in November this year. What a fantastic achievement for these boys, we wish them well and hope the school community can get behind some serious fundraising to help them.



As reported recently, the Erina Learning Community hosted a wonderful NAIDOC celebration where students participated in a range of activities to learn more about Aboriginal culture and develop a greater understanding of Indigenous Australia. In one of the workshops students under the careful guidance of Mr Mottershead, Mr Byrnes and Ms Sullivan designed and painted beautiful Aboriginal totem poles that our Wednesday weeders have installed. Thank you to Mrs Ruming for organising such a great day.



I was delighted to see the finished product from year 7 technology students who designed and made such beautiful aprons - they look too nice to actually use!! Well done to Brooke Favetta, Norma-Rose Bell and Skylah Sargent.



Towards the end of the year all students will be required to complete a clearance procedure and return textbooks and any outstanding course fees. Thank you to the families that have already paid these charges. We also welcome any uniform donations that students have grown out of and no longer need. Particularly year 10 and 12 students that may no longer need their uniform, it is great for the school to have a pool of pre-loved uniforms that we can provide to other students. There will be boxes provided in the school administration foyer for this purpose. Thank you for considering this request.

We have now signed off on the plans for the upgrade of our toilet block and foyer upgrade that will both be completed ready for the 2014 school year. The toilets will now feature a senior and junior toilet block for both boys and girls that will be welcomed by everyone. The fix out consists of high quality materials and environmentally friendly features such as dual flush systems and waterless urinals. I am assured this will be a good thing!! Our foyer will look amazing with a separate and comfortable waiting area for parents, a new clinic for unwell students, and an interview room for staff and parent meetings. The reception office will be completely upgraded, new ceiling, front doors, carpet and double doors sectioning off the parent and student areas. Very exciting!!

Yours sincerely

Karen Nicol
Principal

IF YOUR CHILD HAS ANAPHYLAXIS SHOULD HE OR SHE CARRY THEIR OWN EPIPEN® OR ANAPEN® TO AND AT SCHOOL?

What is this article about?

If you have told the school that your child is diagnosed a risk of anaphylaxis you should have received a letter from the Principal.

This article provides more information about anaphylaxis.

What is an EpiPen® and an Anapen®?

EpiPen® and Anapens® are the emergency treatment for children who are having an anaphylactic reaction.

What is anaphylaxis?

Anaphylaxis is a severe and sometimes sudden allergic reaction. If your child has been diagnosed by a doctor as being at risk of anaphylaxis there are some important things to remember that will help the school to support your child's health care needs.

Why you need to keep us informed if your child is diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis or if his or her condition changes. This includes if they have an anaphylactic reaction while not at school.

The school can only respond to risks it knows about. Please keep the school informed so that we can plan to support your child at school.

Why you need to provide the school with your child's current ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis and an EpiPen® or Anapen® signed by their doctor

The plan sets out the steps the school needs to follow in an emergency. It is essential for us to have this to keep your child safe.

We will keep a copy of your child's ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis stored with your child's EpiPen® or Anapen®.

Why it is important to talk regularly with your child about some simple steps to help keep them safe

It is important to regularly talk with your child about when and where they are at risk of contact with the things they are allergic to and how to avoid this. If you have told them not to take part in sharing food at school, regularly remind them of this.

Reassure them that if they do come into contact with something they are allergic to or they feel unwell at school they won't get into trouble. **They need to tell a teacher immediately.**

Consider whether your child should carry their own EpiPen® or Anapen®

If your child has been diagnosed with anaphylaxis you can request that they carry their own EpiPen® or Anapen® to school and at school. A request form has been sent home and is also available from the school office.

If you request that your child carry an EpiPen® or Anapen® with them to school and at school you will still need to provide the school with at least one additional EpiPen® or Anapen® for storage in a central location within the school and for access by staff in an emergency.

The school will contact you about any request you make for your son or daughter to carry their own EpiPen® or Anapen®.

Why does the school need to know if your son or daughter is carrying their own EpiPen® or Anapen®?

Staff need to know your child carries an EpiPen® or Anapen® in an emergency. For this reason this information will be included in your child's individual health care plan.

They also need to be able to find it quickly so it is important that it be in an easily identifiable and accessible spot (eg. not a locker).

To find out more go to the Department's public schools website: <http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/studentsupport/studenthealth/conditions/anaphylaxis/index.php>

YEAR 12 2014

Facts you need to know-

Courses and Subjects and ATAR

To be eligible for an ATAR, you must complete at least 10 units of ATAR courses. These ATAR courses must include:

- eight units of Category A courses
- two units of English
- three Board Developed courses of two units or greater
- four subjects.

Some tertiary courses also require you to have studied certain HSC subjects, or equivalent, to have achieved a specific standard or to have assumed knowledge.

You need to consider these things when choosing your courses and subjects.

What are Category A courses?

Category A courses have academic rigor and depth of knowledge to provide background for tertiary studies. Examples include Mathematics, Geography, Community and Family Studies, Legal Studies, Biology and PDHPE.

What are Category B courses?

Category B courses are courses that don't provide an adequate background for tertiary studies, but they can contribute to the ATAR when combined with Category A courses. No more than two units of Category B courses can be included with the ATAR calculation. Examples include Human Services, Hospitality and Construction.

For a Category B course to be included in the ATAR calculation, you must be enrolled in the course with the Board of Studies and sit an exam.

Are TAFE-delivered courses Category B courses?

Some TAFE-delivered HSC VET (TVET) courses are Category B courses. Others are endorsed by the Board of Studies NSW and contribute to the HSC, but not the ATAR. ATAR courses (either Category A or Category B) must be Board Developed courses for which there are examinations conducted by the Board of Studies NSW that yield graded assessments.

Which courses count towards the ATAR?

Only ATAR courses can be used in the calculation of the ATAR. The ATAR is calculated from an aggregate of scaled marks of ATAR courses, including two units of English and the best eight units from the remaining courses (according to the ATAR rules).

The ATAR Advice Notice lists the courses included in the calculation of the ATAR. Just looking at HSC marks is not enough to determine which courses will be included in the ATAR. Sometimes the course with the lowest HSC mark will not count, but this is not always the case. Remember that scaled marks, not HSC marks, are used to calculate the ATAR.

Can English Studies count towards the ATAR?

No. This new course has no external HSC examination and students who complete this English course are not eligible for an ATAR.

What courses get a good ATAR?

Just about any combination of courses can lead to a good ATAR; it all depends on how well you have done in all your courses in comparison to other students.

Are certain courses always 'scaled up' or 'scaled down'?

No. Scaling is carried out afresh each year. If the quality of the candidature changes, the scaled mean will also change.

What happens if a course isn't satisfactorily completed?

If you don't satisfactorily complete a course, that course will not count towards meeting your ATAR requirements. If the course is a 2-unit course with an associated extension course in which you are enrolled, the extension course will not count either. Receiving a mark for a course on your Record of Achievement issued by the Board of Studies is an indication that you have satisfactorily completed that course.

Adapted from: <http://www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/faq/atar-courses.shtml>

NEW SPORTING AWARD

In 2013, Erina High School will introduce a new sporting award to be presented at the annual Sports Presentation. This award will be called the Erina High School Community Sport Award and eligible students will have demonstrated that they have competed at a high level of sport outside of school. This award aims to give students recognition for the outstanding achievements they have made in sports which may traditionally not be offered at school or for which there is no representative opportunity at school. For example Cycling, Surf Lifesaving, Oz-Tag, Martial Arts etc.

The criteria to be eligible for this award is:

- Represent/Selected in a NSW or higher sporting team
- Compete individually at a State carnival or competition

If you believe you fit this criteria, please collect and submit a nomination form from the PDHPE staffroom and submit it to Mr Keyes or Mr Jones.

SPORTS NEWS

Year 7/8 Oz-Tag

Well done to our Year 7/8 Oz-Tag teams who recently competed in the Central Coast All Schools Oz-Tag competition held at Morry Breen Oval last week. This year we had two inexperienced teams with over half the players competing for Erina High School for the first time.

Our Boys team had a slow start against Umina but improved with every game winning matches against Wadalba and Northlakes. Our girls team also had a slow start but really showed some excellent skills in also defeating Northlakes and Wadalba.

We are very proud of our two young sides who never gave up and showed great skills and sportsmanship throughout the day. Well done to both sides.



World BMX Championships

We are very proud to report that Caitlin Booker of Year 7 was recently selected to represent Australia at the World BMX Championships. Caitlin placed 8th in Australia in the 12 years Girls Dynamite division at the Australian titles which earned her a spot on the Australian Team. Caitlin and her family travelled to Auckland, New Zealand during July and competed in the World Championships. Caitlin performed very well but just missed out on progressing into the final series. With these outstanding results Caitlin is now ranked 2nd overall in NSW. Well done Caitlin and good luck in the state titles later this year.



Grant Keyes
Erina High School
Sports Organiser/ Year 9 Year Advisor

LITTLE DAY OUT

On Wednesday the 23rd of October 2013, Erina High School will host the inaugural "Little Day Out" sport gala day.

Development officers from the NRL, the AFL, Cricket NSW, The Central Coast Mariners and the NSW Department of Communities will be delivering a day jam packed full of fun and activity for the Year 6 students at Woodport, Brisbania, Gosford East, Holgate and Chertsey Public Schools.

The Little Day out starts at 9am and will wrap up at 2:30pm. The Year 10 PASS students at Erina High will be cooking and serving a BBQ lunch for the Year 6 students.

All enquiries about the Little Day Out can go to Mr B Jones (HT PDHPE) or Mr Lyons in the PE Staffroom.

We are looking forward to fair weather and a fantastic day of fun, friendship and physical activity. See you there, Year 6!



CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL AECG INVITATION

The Central Coast Regional Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG) would like to invite all Aboriginal community members, including Aboriginal support staff in schools to attend the re-established meeting of the Gosford Local AECG. The details of the meeting are:

Gosford Local AECG Training and Yarn up For Aboriginal Community

Date: Thursday 31st October 2013
Venue: Henry Kendall High School, Faunce Street (West) Gosford
Time: 5pm – 7pm

We would like to see as many people as possible at our info session, your support and attendance would be greatly appreciated.

For further information please contact Melinda Brown, Department of Education and Communities on 43 489 123 or email melinda.r.brown@det.nsw.edu.au

What is the AECG?

The Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG) is a community based voluntary organisation that has been operating from a grass roots level since the 1970's and is the peak advisory group for Aboriginal Education in NSW.

What can the AECG do for you?

The AECG is an avenue for parents and community members to have "a voice". It's your chance to have a say in what happens in your child's education in your local school and community.

How can I get involved?

Membership is open to Parents, Aunties, Uncles, community members, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, at a cost of \$2 per year.

What happens at a meeting?

Meetings are very informal, come along for a cuppa and a yarn, make friends and meet new people, families.

Everyone is welcome - hope to see you there.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS TERM 4 2013

Congratulations to all those students who received an award for excellent attendance in Semester One.

Once again a big thank you all the parents and students who:

- Provide notes, phone calls or drop in personally to explain why students are late to school
- Hand in notes on the day of return to school
- Phone in if a student is away from school for more than one day
- Enquire and inform Mrs Nicol if a family holiday is being arranged within the school semester
- Query an absence date on the reminders sent out by the school
- Tear off and fill in the reminder slips for absences immediately they arrive at home

All of the above makes the job of the attendance team a little easier.

85% Attendance concerns

Some parents will soon be receiving a letter concerning an attendance rate of 85% or below. The Board Of Studies states quite clearly that it will be difficult for any student who has such an attendance rate to attain the outcomes of the course that they are studying and that this **may result in a student not progressing with his or her cohort**. Therefore, it is important that all absences be explained so that any genuine reason for absence can be considered in the above decision making. It is so easy for the occasional parent condoned absence to quickly build up into this 85% or under number and then blow-out with an unexpected bout of illness, e.g. an attendance rate of 75% translates into a total of 50 days off school per year or six and a half weeks of absence from school!

Late Arrivals: All students are encouraged to have an explanation for their lateness – a note, an email, a phone call or a parent dropping them off is sufficient. If this is not provided then the student will be asked to complete some form of restitution. If this restitution time is not made up then the student will be invited, with parental consent, to attend an afternoon catch up time for all the materials missed through unexplained late arrival.

Early Leavers

- * No student may leave the school grounds without prior permission of the Principal or Deputy Principals.
- * Students who require to leave the school before normal completion MUST:
 - ♦ have written permission from their parent/guardian
 - ♦ **present a note to Deputy Principals/Principal before 9am**
 - ♦ Collect a leave pass stating time of departure (this note will be shown to the appropriate class teacher on duty)

Early leavers will be indicated on the daily absentee register (SENTRAL)

Thanking you,

Ms P Williams

Head Teacher Administration – Attendance

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 2014 cohort.

New English units of works are starting for 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 advertising, 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 web site and download English assessment dates as well as assessment task notifications.

Year 11 students have started 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 in week 6 where they will deliver a speech on a related text and will complete their second task in week 11 which will be an HSC style comprehension.

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 in to teachers in week 9.

Finally on the assessment front, English Extension will sit their first assessment in week 11 focused on the topic of 'Navigating the Global'. Students are reminded that if they require assistance for assessment tasks, they are welcome to visit their teachers before school and during 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.

The Drama department also has some exciting excursions planned soon. Students in years 9, 10 and 11 Drama are invited to attend the Sydney Theatre Company production of Waiting for Godot by Samuel Beckett on November 19. Students in 9ENE and 9ENI are invited to attend a Sydney Theatre Company production of William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet on November 30. Students can get additional information from Ms Kearney, Ms Johnson or their class teacher.

Finally, Erina High School will be sending a team of year 8 debaters to participate in the University of Newcastle Annual High School Debate Cup, which is held on November 28. Team selection and preliminary preparation will take place within the next fortnight.

FUNDRAISING FOR THE CANCER COUNCIL

On Thursday 24th October there will be a fundraising **Cake Stall at Break 1** on the **Canteen verandah** to raise funds for the **Cancer Council**. The cake stall will be operated by an enthusiastic group of year 9 Elective Art students and supervised by myself, Mrs Scott, from the Art Department.

The cake stall is part of my ongoing fundraising campaign for the Cancer Council that I launched in 2013 with the Biggest Morning Tea on May 23rd. The morning tea and Raffle was extremely well supported by EHS staff and raised a total of \$900 for the Cancer Council.

Another annual fundraising event that I am heavily committed to is Relay for Life. I am Team Captain of "Mick's Banana Peels" at the Newcastle/Lake Macquarie Relay for Life event, to be held on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd November at the Hunter Sportsground, Glendale. The team is named in memory of my brother whom I lost to cancer in 2006 and I have been an avid fundraiser for the Cancer Council ever since.

As part of my 2013 Relay for Life campaign, I hosted another big morning tea and Cake and Craft Raffle on Thursday 12th September. With the tremendous support of staff it raised over \$720. I am still enthusiastically fundraising both within the school and in my local area and hope to achieve a fundraising goal of \$1500 for the Cancer Council by the time Relay is over for another year.

If you or your children are keen to assist in my fundraising efforts for the Cancer Council, then donations of cakes, slices, cookies or toffees would all greatly be accepted on the morning of the cake stall. Please drop off to the Art staffroom at the bottom of F-Block so they can be refrigerated if necessary, until Break 1.

So remember to bring your money with you for this worthy cause. Prices will start from only \$1 and all must be sold on the day!



Karen Scott



HSC Art and Textiles Exhibition

4.30-6.30pm Thursday 7th November
 Erina High School Library
 Featuring:

HSC Visual Arts Bodies of Work and
 HSC Textiles and Design Projects

Light refreshments will be served

Family and friends of students cordially invited

PARENTING GROUPS

Living With Teens (for parents/grandparents/carers of teens)

A FREE course by UnitingCare Burnside's Reconnecting Adolescents and Parents Team (RAPT)

Parenting teens can create challenges that stretch our patience. Do you wonder "What will I do if my teen insists on going to parties; stays out late on school nights; wants to leave school; won't help me at home; and/or is always arguing/sulking/getting angry?" You're not alone! Discover tools and strategies, set boundaries and receive info on what to expect and how to communicate effectively.

Phone RAPT on 1800 067 967 for more information

Mental Health & Parenting Program (Triple P)

Child & Young People's Mental Health (CYPMH)

Suite 1, Floor 2, Gateway Building, 237 Mann St, Gosford

Phone: 4304 7878

A Positive Parenting Program for parents/carers who have experienced or are currently experiencing mental health problems and have children 2-10 years. In this FREE six week program we look at a range of practical skills to encourage desirable behaviour and manage misbehaviours. We also offer individual follow-up visits to help parents implement new strategies.

Phone Joanna 4304 7878 or Ruth 4304 7819. Bookings essential.

Toukley Community Health Centre, Hargraves Street, Toukley

Friday 18 October to 22 November 2013, 10.00am—1.00pm

INDIGENOUS ACTIVITY

On Thursday, 10th October 2013 Dominic Dates from the Wollotuka Institute of Newcastle University spoke to the Indigenous students at Erina High.

Year 7 and 8 spent the morning working on activities directed towards thinking of their future through talking circles, interactive lessons and traditional indigenous games. The students were interested and thoroughly enjoyed the program.

In the afternoon, Mr Dates spoke to the Year 11 students on their tertiary options and gave advice on the University Admissions Centre (UAC). The aim is to be informative and supportive of their university pathway.

R Miller, Co-ordinator



ADVERTISING/COMMUNITY NOTICES

The HSC

Realise your Potential

Designed for senior students starting their HSC journey this new 4 week program will equip students with the skills needed to confront the rigours of the HSC. Courses starting early in Term 4.

See www.axiomppsych.com.au
or call **02 4324 5400**







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Erina High School presents....

The Little Day Out

A social learning experience for our 2014 Year 7 students

With activities run by:



Where? ... Erina High School

When? ... October 23rd, 2013

What do I bring? ... A hat, a water bottle and a big smile...

The Little Day Out is a Gala day organised for Year 6 students from the Erina Learning Community attending Erina High School in 2014.



facebook.com/erinahighschool