

Erina News

Congratulations to Mr Jones, Mr Lyons and Mr. Keyes for delivering such a fantastic "Little day out" for our year 5 and 6 students recently. It was a great opportunity for our incoming students to meet new friends and experience a range of team sports while getting to know staff and students at Erina High School. I hope our year 5 and 6 children enjoyed the day as much as we did. Thank you to the many representatives from NRL, Cricket Australia, AFL, Central Coast Mariners and Sport and Recreation, we really appreciated their support.



Year 6 orientation day will be held on Wednesday December 3. Our year advisers, Mr Joyce and Ms Scully, have a well-planned transition program to provide our new students with a good overview of life at Erina High School, the subjects we deliver and the many co-curricular programs on offer as well as a tour of the school and an opportunity to meet staff and form new friendships. A parent evening will also be held on the same day to provide families with as much information about Erina High school to ensure a smooth transition into secondary schooling.

I am pleased to advise the school community that we are working hard to upgrade our classrooms with new carpet and a fresh coat of paint. We will re-carpet upstairs A block classrooms and repaint and carpet F block maths room, computer room and the F block art room will also have a much needed re paint. Thank you to the staff and students for their cooperation in relocating rooms to allow the work to happen. It will make a huge difference to the quality of our learning environment. I am hopeful that we will continue to upgrade all classrooms over the next few years. As always there is an expectation that students will respect their environment and look after the facilities.

As the year is coming to an end I would encourage families to please pay any outstanding course fees to ensure accounts can be paid for material used throughout the year. Thank you to the many families who have already paid these charges, it is greatly appreciated. Our P&C request a family levy of \$30 which is used to purchase much needed equipment or resources for the school. Thank you to the P&C and to the many families that kindly paid this levy.



Erina High

Issue 11

10th November 2014

School Events

**10-14 November
Year 8 ESSA tests**

**20 November
Immunisations**

**26 November
Erina On Stage Performance**

**YR10
Careers/Maths
Ncle Uni Day**

**3 December
Year 6 into Yr 7
Orientation Day and Night**

**4 December
Presentation Night**

**5 December
Sports Presentation**

Huge congratulations to Max Stuart, Tom Ellem, Will Northcote, John Gibson and Olivia Andrews who recently won the semi-final at Erina hub in Battle of the Bands, they will compete in the grand final on November 14 from 6.30. I am sure they would appreciate a strong Erina High School audience, all the very best of luck.



Every three years schools are required to prepare a school plan that helps to drive and direct the main strategic business of the school. As this is the final year of our last school plan, a great deal of work is being done to evaluate our achievements and identify new strategic directions that will help to ensure a high level focus that will drive the ongoing growth and development of the school over the next three years. I have appreciated the input from the P&C, parent forums, staff and student feedback that has been provided to help us shape our strategic directions. To date we have drafted these directions which are as follows:

Strategic Direction 1: Teaching and Learning to drive student engagement to maximise potential through explicit development of subject specific knowledge and skills.

Purpose: To create a quality learning environment where student academic success is acknowledged, celebrated and delivered through an innovative and engaging curriculum that is strongly focused on preparing young people for the world of work and life in the 21st century.

Strategic Direction 2: A safe and supportive quality teaching and learning environment strongly focused on the wellbeing of staff, students and the community.

Purpose: To provide a safe and strongly supported school learning environment where the health and wellbeing of staff and students is paramount, enhancing a sense of value and worth, providing a foundation of confidence and resiliency to achieve personal goals.

Strategic Direction 3: Genuine school, business and community partnerships, focusing on competitive and innovative learning practices for all students.

Purpose: To develop a positive school culture where Erina is the local school of choice, building strong school networks with all key stakeholders, instilling confidence and commitment that the school will deliver quality learning opportunities and experiences for all students to achieve personal success.

I welcome any further feedback from parents as we prepare to develop our next school plan focusing on these three key areas. We are aiming to issue the semester 2 reports by Monday week 11 and our annual presentation night will be held on Thursday December 4, hope you can join in this celebration of excellent student achievement. Enjoy the rest of term,

Karen Nicol
Principal

SPORT

Yr 10 Basketball



Congratulations to the Year 10 Boys Basketball team who competed in the Graham Brown Memorial Basketball Challenge on Friday 24th October. Coached by Mr Saisell, the boys competed in 4 games against some tough competition and recorded arguably the biggest upset of the day when they defeated Central Coast Adventist by a single point. Point differential lead to a third place playoff against Lisarow which resulted in a draw after neither team was able to grab an advantage. The Most Valuable Player (MVP) award went to Nick Kirby for his outstanding play and the coaches award to Sean Barnett for his display of leadership throughout the day.

Yr 9/10 Oztag



Yr 9/10 Oztag

The girls pulled a very tough draw that saw them playing four games being split into two consecutive games in a row. They found themselves in the largest pool with 3 other teams that all contained Australian and NSW representative players. The girls put up a valiant effort fighting to the finish but eventually going down in their four games. They were unlucky not to come away with a win or draw against Kincumber, with the score of 3-2 being finalised on the buzzer with a try to Kincumber. Outstanding effort on the day from all girls but honourable mentions must go to try scoring machine Janai Edwards with three tries on the day. Also to 'Superboot' Kim Meyer, who kicked the ball dead to gain a restart off every kick off and who also stepped around the entire Gosford High team to score a brilliant solo effort try. Honourable mentions also to the most relaxed player on the field, that never missed a tag, Isabel Peterson and also to Ainslea White, who despite flying in from America the night before, still got to Woongarah by 8am to play the entire day.

The boys team were very unlucky not to make the finals with their efforts for the day— finishing with a win, a draw and a loss. They started the day with a convincing lead of 4-2 over Kariang Mountains HS only to get chased in at the last minute to end with a 4-4 draw. A gutsy win against a spirited Lake Munmorah team saw the boys sitting in first place in their pool with just one game to go. Their last game of the day saw their lead get chased down to suffer defeat at the hands of Narara Valley, with a 3-2 loss to end our day 1 point out of the finals. Great efforts on the day from all but special mention must go to Harry Wilson who scored three tries and was a very strong runner on the day. Also Will Lowe, scoring two tries in one game and for his gritty display around the middle, including a fantastic kick and chase try with Goanna style celebration. Also to Josh McRohan for his strong running weaving and stepping his way to scoring two tries. Anthony Barber and Sean Barnett also scored on the day and were looking strong up the middle and Blake King for his gridiron pass out to Brad Robinson to score a spectacular try.

Mr Dodd
PDHPE



Yr 7/8 Oztag

A huge congratulations to both the boys and girls Yr 7/8 Oz-Tag sides who recently completed in the annual Central Coast Oz-Tag Championships held at Woongarah Oval. Both teams performed extremely well all day and represented the school with great pride. The girls side won their pool with wins over Kincumber, North Lakes, Lake Munmorah and Berkeley Vale. They also made it all the way through their pool without conceding ONE try! Unfortunately their good run ended in the quarter finals with a hard fought loss to Green Point. The girls team finished in the top 8 out of 26 teams. Well done girls!

The boys team also performed extremely well, coming second in their pool and making the final series. The boys defeated Berkeley Vale, St Edwards and Mackillop in their pool and then went on to defeat another St Edwards side in the quarter finals. Their grand finals hopes were dashed when they went up against a red hot Narara Valley side who eventually won the whole day. The boys finished in the top 4 out of 30 teams. Well done boys!

Grant Keyes
Erina High School
Sports Organiser/ Year 10 Year Advisor



2014 Sports Presentation and Community Sport Award Nominations

The 2014 Erina High School Sports Presentation will be conducted on Friday 5th of December in the MPC from 9:30am. Students who are receiving awards will receive invitations as we draw closer to the end of the term.

In 2013, Erina High School introduced a new sporting award (The Community Sport Award) which was presented at the annual Sports Presentation. The award will return this year. 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.

Grant Keyes
Erina High School
Sports Organiser/ Year 10 Year Advisor

MUSIC

Variety Night Concert is on again this year in Week 8 on Wednesday 26th November .
(Matinee/Day & Evening performances) . More auditions will be held in Week 6.

English/Drama Faculty Report

The staff of the English / Drama Faculty wish to congratulate our Year 12 students who have now completed their external examinations. We look forward to sharing their results with them and hearing about the direction their lives will now take. It is also important to us that we congratulate the Year 11 students on their completion of The Preliminary Certificate and wish them well as they progress into their HSC courses. Families are reminded that staff are happy to resolve any queries that may arise during this important year and encourage you to give class teachers a call if you have any questions.

Year 12 2015 Advanced and Standard students are participating in the Area of Study—Discovery module with a focus on the Ang Lee film Life of Pi. They are preparing for assessment of their comprehension skills in Week 6 and will also submit and present a speech in Week 10. English Studies classes are learning about texts relating to Australian identity and will complete a writing task for assessment in Week 10. Students have been issued with Course Booklets which detail all significant aspects of their HSC English courses, including their assessment schedules and assessment task notifications.

Junior English classes in Years 7-9 are currently studying drama texts in preparation for their final assessment task which will be due in Week 10. They will need to construct a visual representation of the themes in their text and explain the ways in which they have chosen to depict ideas. Families are reminded that the marks allocated for this particular assessment task will contribute to their assessment grades for 2015. Year 10 students are currently working through their final unit of work in the junior school.

Ms Slocombe is currently assisting students with coursework and in preparing for assessment. Individual students and small groups are withdrawn and offered intensive tutoring in order to improve their skills and confidence in all aspects of their literacy. Ms Slocombe has been extremely impressed with their efforts and appreciation shown by these students as they have demonstrated true commitment to developing their skills.

Our Year 9 Drama students are currently studying Commedia dell' Arte which is an Italian form of comedy of the 16th Century while our Year 10 Drama students are working on Personal Interest Projects. Our senior students have begun their HSC courses for 2015 which involves them starting their individual projects and performances. They will then move to a study of Verbatim Theatre as part of the Studies in Drama and Theatre module in which they will study two plays and will also develop their own Verbatim performance.

A Debating Day for the Year 6 students of the Erina Learning Community will take place at our school on Monday November 10. In preparing for their debates, these students will be assisted by the Year 9 debaters and our Year 10 debaters will act as adjudicators. This is a wonderful opportunity for all students in developing their leadership skills and strengthening their relationship with our debaters of the future. Our Year 7 debaters, coached by Miss Bissett, will participate in a debate in the 10th Annual Debate Cup at the Ourimbah Campus of the University of Newcastle in the coming weeks and we wish them well.

Parents are reminded that all English and Drama texts will need to be returned to class teachers or the staff room as soon as possible. Each year a number of texts are not returned, which is a very costly issue. It means that we have to find money to replace these as full class sets are required for classes. We welcome all Erina High texts, regardless how old they are, with no questions asked! We are always thrilled to see students who have found a book hidden in their room, or texts that belonged to siblings, and return them to us.

Similarly, if you have novels in your home that may be suited to class libraries, these too will be appreciated, as junior classes begin each lesson with silent reading and new texts are always refreshing.

Please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher if you have any concern regarding their progress in English or Drama.

Mark Chapman
Head Teacher English

Year 9 Food Technology

This term in Year 9 Food Technology we are focusing on Food Trends. We have explored trends including fast foods and multicultural cuisine so far, and have made a Breakfast Wrap, Thai Red Chicken Curry and Burritos with Guacamole.

Last term we focused on Food for Special Occasions. Below are some pictures of our practical lesson where we made the perfect Potato Bake to go with a social BBQ for a gathering of friends and family.



Regular Attendance = Better Learning

Often students and parents do not see that regular and punctual attendance at school is important. Attendance patterns affect students learning. Students miss out on valuable information, discussion and skills development that are the pathway to success and the development of high self-esteem. The following chart highlights the impact of non-attendance and partial attendance over time. Viewed in this context, the implications of regular absenteeism is startling.

THE CHART SHOWS THE CUMULATIVE EFFECT OF PERSISTENT NON-ATTENDANCE OVER THE PERIOD OF COMPULSORY SCHOOLING FROM KINDERGARTEN TO THE END OF YEAR 10.

<u>DAYS ABSENT</u>	<u>TOTAL DAYS</u>	<u>NUMBER OF TERMS</u>	<u>NUMBER OF YEARS MISSED</u>
1 day per week	451	9	2 years 1 term
1.5 days per week	676.5	13.5	3 years 1.5 terms
2 days per week	902	18	4 years 2 terms
3 days per week	1353	27	6 years 3 terms
5 weeks per term	1127.5	22	5 years 2 terms
Average 5 days per term	220	5.5	1 year 1.5 terms
Average 10 days per term	440	8.8	2 years 1 term

<u>PARTIAL ABSENCES</u>			
1 hour late per week	75 days	1.5 terms	
½ hour late per day	188 days	3.75 terms	Almost a year
1 hour late per day	376 days	7.5 terms	1 year 3 terms

ADVERTISING/COMMUNITY NOTICES



“Mastering the HSC” is an important event designed to provide students with the skills and information needed to succeed in the HSC. Featuring a unique collection of guest speakers and HSC experts, this exclusive event offers students the opportunity to learn proven systems that will markedly improve results and help them to avoid the detrimental mistakes made by past HSC



students. Students will also discover the most powerful, effective and time-saving learning techniques that will not only greatly improve marks – but also boost confidence, reduce procrastination and motivate students to excel in the HSC. This lecture is being delivered by one of Australia’s leading education/learning specialists, providing students with a rare opportunity to obtain specialised exam/study focused advice that is not available elsewhere.

Valued at over \$250, “Mastering the HSC” is **FREE OF CHARGE***! We do, however, require that students participating in “Mastering the HSC” make a *minimum \$10 donation to the charity representatives that will be in attendance on each day. 100% of the proceeds collected will be donated to the Fred Hollows Foundation.

Timetable & Venue : Saturday 15/11/14—Uni of Sydney (Camperdown) - Sunday 23/11/14—Uni of NSW (Kensington)
Enrol online at www.tsfx.com.au or call 1300364173—Bookings are essential



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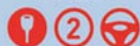
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Erina High School

A caring community committed to excellence in education

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