Erina News

The term is well underway with our continued focus on teaching and learning. It is very pleasing to see students actively engaged in class work and striving towards their personal best. Well done students!!

Our recent swimming carnival was a huge success. The weather was perfect, students were terrific and a great day was had by everyone. My thanks to Mr Keyes who did a fantastic job at the organisation and to all staff for their support. I was delighted to see so many students participate in events and the Erina High School spirit of cheering and encouraging each other is alive and well. I learnt what a Halem Shake is and you too can see the Erina High School version on our facebook page. Go Erina!!

Congratulations to Ms Johnson on her hard work in getting our school facebook operational. This has been popular with present and past students as well as parents who have enjoyed the posts on life at Erina High School. It is not the forum for negative and inappropriate usage and to date all followers have followed our code of conduct and the values of Erina High School based on Care, Commitment, Cooperation and Courtesy.

Our senior leadership team are working hard at promoting our School and have been invited to speak at Erina Rotary Club on Tuesday March 5 as well as speaking at Brisbania and Chertsey Primary school parent meetings. This is a great opportunity for our Senior students to enhance their leadership skills and share the strong message of the great things that are happening at our school to support students’ academic and social wellbeing.

March 8 is International Women’s day where we recognise and celebrate exceptional achievement of women and the valuable contribution they have made across the economic, political and social arenas. Organisations, governments, charities, educational institutions, women’s groups, corporations and the media celebrate the day. The theme for 2013 International Women’s day is "The Gender Agenda: Gaining Momentum". In this newsletter is an article focusing on International Women’s day prepared by Alicia Johnson-Renwick, a year 10 student. Thank you Alicia for preparing such an interesting article.

Erina High School will celebrate this Internationally recognised day with a special assembly for our girls where we will have Mrs Shayne Player, Australian Principal of the Year, address the assembly and share her journey through the educational field. We will also have very successful past female Erina High School students Chantelle Dagasso and Ellen Patterson share their stories and inspire our girls to be the best they can be. We will also be entertained by some of
our very talented female musicians, Ebony Bender, Veronica Lawson, Claudia McNaught and Elise Boland. This will be a great opportunity for the young women of Erina High School to stand tall and proud together with our senior female leadership team hosting our assembly.

Congratulations to Isabella Payne, a year 12 HSC student from last year who has had her textiles major project selected for the 2013 Texstyle Exhibition that profiles excellence of Textiles and Design. This is an outstanding achievement well done Isabella!! It was also very pleasing to learn that 30 year 12 HSC students from last year received university placements in a number of courses ranging from Business, Engineering, Psychology, Teaching, Nursing and other alternative university programs. I acknowledge the hard work of these students and wish them every success as they embark on their tertiary education.

Throughout March we have been hosting curriculum meetings in stage groups that has been very beneficial for our families providing valuable information regarding their children's pattern of study and some initiatives that we have implemented to improve our communication. A parent survey was issued for year 7 parents to provide us with some feedback on our transition process and how we can better support this. These results are being collated and refinements made for the 2013/2014 transition phase. As part of this process I invite any interested parents to participate in a parent forum hosted by David Hartcher who works for the Department of Education and assists schools in improving their communication with the community. Please contact me at school on 43 677246 if you are interested in joining one of the parent forums.

There will be some changes to the current timetable that will affect one year 7 class and some senior classes as a result of reduced staffing that we have been allocated. This is due to our lower than expected student enrolments this year. I will communicate with those parents whose students will be affected by these timetable changes which will become effective towards the end of the term. I am confident we can make these changes with minimal impact on students and all students will be provided with every support.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Karen Nicol
Principal

GOOD NUMBER SENSE

Maths is a numbers game but for some students - and parents - the figures don't add up. Here are some strategies to help kids to work out sums in their heads in a way that makes sense to them.

Find out more:
ALL ABOUT YOUR ATAR

Tertiary Selection and the ATAR
Each year more than 45,000 current school leavers apply through UAC for admission to courses offered by UAC’s participating institutions. For the majority of courses there are more applicants than places. Applicants must be ranked to allow selection to take place.

The first step in the selection process is to check whether applicants have satisfied any and all prerequisites specified for the courses for which they have applied. For example, a Bachelor of Software Engineering (Honours) at the Australian National University specifies ACT Mathematical Methods major or NSW Mathematics as a prerequisite. If you have not met this prerequisite you will not be considered for the course, regardless of your ATAR.

The second step is to rank all applicants who satisfy the prerequisites for that course. For most courses, applicants who are current school leavers are ranked using the ATAR.

Some courses have additional selection criteria, such as a portfolio, interview, audition, questionnaire or test. You can find more details about additional selection criteria and the selection process in the UAC 2013 Guide or online at: www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/admission/selection.shtml

The ATAR—What is it?
The ATAR is a number between 0 and 99.95 with increments of 0.05. It provides a measure of your overall academic achievement in the NSW HSC in relation to that of other students, and it helps institutions rank applicants for selection. It is calculated on behalf of the institutions and released by UAC. The ATAR is a rank, not a mark.

Your ATAR indicates your position relative to the students who started Year 7 with you. An ATAR of 80.00 indicates that you have performed well enough in the HSC to place you in the top 20 per cent of your cohort.

It is important to note that your ranking depends solely on your performance in the HSC.

ATARs are calculated for all ATAR-eligible students, but not all students are notified. Only NSW HSC students who indicate on the HSC entry forms that they wish to be notified of their ATAR will receive an ATAR Advice Notice from UAC in the mail at about the same time they received their HSC results from the Board of Studies.

Are you eligible for an ATAR?
To be eligible for an ATAR in 2013 you must satisfactorily complete at least 10 units of ATAR courses. These ATAR courses must include at least:

- eight units from Category A courses
- two units of English
- three Board Developed courses of two units
- four subjects.
How is your ATAR calculated?

Your ATAR is based on an aggregate of *scaled marks* in 10 units of ATAR courses comprising:

- your best two units of English, and
- your best eight units from the remaining units.

No more than two units of Category B courses can be included.

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

**SCHOOL UNIFORM**

Can I please remind all parents and students that students need to be in full school uniform, this includes the correct school jumper. If girls are wearing tights or stockings they must be black with their school skirt worn on top. Jeans are not acceptable.

It is expected that all students who undertake practical courses wear closed in black leather school shoes. Students who fail to comply may be excluded from participating in the practical learning experiences of these courses and will be given alternate work.

White joggers (upper leather, closed) may be worn with the sport uniform. **Canvas shoes and black open fashion shoes do not comply with OH&S legislation.**

All staff members are asked to identify students out of uniform and parents will be contacted. School uniforms are available at Lowes Erina Fair and a small number of second hand uniforms are available from the school office. If any families are able to contribute second hand uniforms to our uniform pool this would be appreciated as we have a number of students in need of assistance. Families who are finding it difficult to afford correct uniform may contact Mrs Kruit in the school office to see if they are eligible for financial assistance.

Thank you for your support  
**Vicki Smith (Deputy Principal) and Benita Kearney (Wellbeing Co-ordinator)**
SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

School photographs will be taken on Friday, 15th March. All students will get their pictures taken. This allows picture ID cards to be made for each student – each student gets an ID card which is also their library card at no charge.

If you want to get photos, students MUST return the photo envelope with correct money enclosed ON THE DAY OF THE PHOTOS ONLY. Payments can be made online for a surcharge of $1. The school does not handle any of the money and will not collect it prior to or after the day of the photos. Students will be given these envelopes 2 weeks before the day.

Prices for the photos are ….. (more details will come with the envelopes)

- Option A - Ultimate Photobook Pack $40
- Option B - Regular Photobook Pack $35
- Option C - Basic Photobook Pack $31
- Option D - Photobook Only - $29 – Year group plus student portrait
- Option E - Group Presentation - $25 – Year group only

Mr B. Wellham
Head Teacher Maths

MEET THE CHAPLAIN

Hello all! I’m Nicole, the new chaplain here at Erina High – I thought I’d introduce myself and let you know a bit about what I’m doing here.

I’m employed as a chaplain to support the students – in any and every way that I can. As you are most likely well aware, navigating through high school can be quite a daunting experience. It is my hope that the students of Erina High will see me as a familiar face they can trust; someone in their community they can approach when things are a little overwhelming or just when they need to talk through what’s going on in their life. I’m already feeling more a part of the school community and I’m looking forward to getting to know the students and staff better, as well as meeting parents and carers.

I have a long history of youth work as well as being a part of other school communities in the form of lunchtime groups and Scripture teaching. I am currently studying a Certificate in youth work and mental health, as well as a Diploma in Theology. My role here is part of the government funded chaplaincy scheme which you can read about online. I’m happy to chat with you if you have any questions regarding chaplaincy – please call the school anytime on Monday or Tuesday morning.

Nicole
SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

During the course of this year, special Scripture Seminars will be conducted by some denominational groups. This is provided for in government legislation.

Seminars will be held on the dates listed below for those students who are listed on their enrolment documents as Catholic or Protestant (which includes Anglican, Baptist, Christian, Presbyterian, Salvation Army and Uniting Church).

All students who are listed on their enrolment documents as one of the above religions are required to attend unless an exemption note is submitted at the office.

The seminars will be conducted on Thursdays during Period 2 (10.20am to 11.20am) in the Library (Catholic) and X4 (Protestant). The roll will be marked at each seminar.

If you do not want your child to attend these seminars please advise the school in writing so that our rolls can be adjusted.

Dates for 2013 are:

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<th>Term</th>
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<td>2</td>
<td>16/05/2013</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>06/06/2013</td>
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<td></td>
<td>21/03/2013</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>14/11/2013</td>
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The World’s Greatest Shave is quickly approaching, and I will be shaving my head and getting my legs waxed in front of the whole school. The World’s Greatest Shave helps those, and the families of those, with blood cancer. They help fund treatment, accommodation, cure research, and many other things that may be needed. I plan to shave my head around the 17th or 18th of March, and I would really appreciate any donations that go towards this cause. Donations can be made online by going to The World’s Greatest Shave website, clicking “Sponsor a shaver” and searching “Leigh Hughes” or you can find me around school and donate through me.

Leigh Hughes
COMING UP IN SCIENCE - COMPETITION TIME.....

A number of competitions will be coming up in the next few terms. Students will have notes sent home soon. These competitions are open to all students from year 7-12.

The Chemistry competition will be held on July 25 but entries are due by the end of term 1 on April 12. Cost $5.00.

The Science competition will be held on June 4 and entries close on May 3. Cost is $8.00.

Our Year 12 Chemistry students will be involved in the prestigious Chemical Titration competition this year. Students will participate in the competition at Newcastle University with the chance to work in laboratory conditions to identify the strength of an acid. Winning teams will go on to compete at a state and national level. We wish our students well.

A poetry competition for Science is also being conducted this year. Information is included below. Any interested students should write a poem/rhyme by June 10 and hand to Mr Huntington to be submitted with other school entry forms.

2013 International Science Poetry Competition
(For school students, and sponsored by Science Time Educational Consultancy and The Science Education Review.)

Three age group divisions: 9-11 years, 12-14 years and 15+ years of age

✦ Entries must be original, in English, and in hard copy (printed) format only.
✦ Entrants need to be primary or high school students at the time of entry.
✦ Your poem must have something to do with science (e.g., a science experiment, a science idea, or a scientific issue that is important in our lives; even a science teacherl) and should have rhyme and rhythm.
✦ There is no limit to the length of your poem, but short poems can be great.
✦ A student may enter more than one poem.
✦ The judges’ decision is final.
✦ Permission is granted for Science Time to reproduce your entry.

Brian Huntington
Head Teacher, Science

DOES MULTI-TASKING REDUCE FOCUS?

Can your kids really study while updating their Facebook page, listening to their music players and messaging their friends? Research shows dedicated study time without distractions produces better learning and a greater ability to retrieve information.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL RESULTS

House Points

1st Henderson 378 points
2nd Bean 352 points
3rd Dunlop 230 points
4th Kendall 190 points

Well done Henderson!!!!!!

Age Champions

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>FEMALE</th>
<th>MALE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Sarah Janson</td>
<td>Jack Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 years</td>
<td>Jaida McKenzie</td>
<td>Kane Douch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 years</td>
<td>Emily Hughes</td>
<td>Nathan Boler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 years</td>
<td>Kirsten McIntosh</td>
<td>Lindsay Pike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 years</td>
<td>Katherine Stone</td>
<td>Lachlan Boler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opens</td>
<td>Louise Reid</td>
<td>Riley Pike</td>
</tr>
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Grant Keyes
Sports Organiser/ Year 9 Year Adviser

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY

The first national women’s day was declared in 1909. Over the last 25 years many great and powerful women have made big achievements and impacted society. They include in 1908 when 15,000 women marched through New York City demanding shorter hours, better pay and voting rights; or in February 1917 when Russian women began a strike for “break and peace” in response to over 2 million deaths of Russian soldiers in war.

For the last few years international women’s day has gone from being a reminder about the negatives to a celebration of the positives. Many global corporations have started to support international women’s day by hosting events. For example each year Google search engine changes their logo to support women internationally for the entire month of March and is known as “Women’s History Month”.

Our own country Australia has shown that we support our nation’s women in many ways even by electing a woman herself to take the role of “Prime Minister of Australia”. So do your part, think about the international women of the globe and act in your local area, whether it’s making a speech, writing an article or taking time out of your day to show the women in your life that you love and support them.

Alisha Johnson-Renwick, Year 10
ENGLISH NEWS

On behalf of the English/Drama Department we would like to commend all of the students from Years 7 to 12 for the great start to the year in relation to their efficient return to their studies.

Term 1 in English/Drama is shaping up to be a very busy and productive time for all of our students preparing for their Assessment Tasks which are due before the end of term. All students have been given their Course Booklets, outlining the English/Drama Department’s rules and expectations. These booklets show the students what they will be studying in 2013 and also provide a copy of the Assessment Tasks and the due dates. Separate notification for each Assessment Task will be given to each student closer to the dates.

In English, Years 7 to 10 are all preparing for their Speech Assessment Task which involves the close study of a novel. A range of novels are being studied. Some examples are: Harper Lee’s To Kill a Mockingbird; John Boyne’s The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas; James Moloney’s Touch Me; Nick Earl’s 48 Shades of Brown; Elizabeth Honey’s Remote Man; Jackie French’s Hitler’s Daughter; Roald Dahl’s Boy: Tales of Childhood; and, Markus Zusak’s Fighting Ruben Wolfe. Year 11 students have commenced their Area of Study – Freedom and Year 12 has started studying Module A – Distinctively Visual and is working towards their Assessment Tasks.

In Drama, Year 9 and Year 10 are preparing for their Playbuilding Performance Assessment Task at the end of the term. The theme for Year 9 is Fractured Fairy Tales and Year 10 is Embracing Difference. Year 11 students are embarking on the process of presenting Duologues for their first Assessment Task. Year 12 students are working on Australian Contemporary Theatre, one of the theoretical components of the HSC.

On another note, there are two competitions for Creative Writing, open for submission of entries. The details of these have been placed on the English/Drama noticeboard which is outside the Faculty Staffroom. So, for all of those budding bestseller writers, come and check this out to see what you need to do and get started on, perhaps, the award-winning story, or better still, stories. Good luck!

Mark Chapman
Head Teacher English

ESSAY PLANNING

Kids often rush headlong into essay writing tasks without thinking through what is required. Effective essay planning can involve brainstorming, mind-mapping, and organising notes depending on the question and type of response required. These factsheets explain everything.

ADVERTISING/COMMUNITY NOTICES

WORLD EDUCATION PROGRAM (WEP) is inviting you to experience another culture in your own home by becoming a volunteer host family to an international student arriving in July 2013. For more information visit www.wep.org.au, email info@wep.org.au or phone 1300 884 733
DRESS FOR SUCCESS

ET Australia will be hosting Dress for Success, Sydney on Wednesday 6th March 2013 at our premises at 123 Donnison Street Gosford.

Who are they?
Dress for Success Sydney is a not-for-profit organisation that supports economically disadvantaged women. We provide free professional attire and styling to help build their self esteem and economic independence. While our goal is to assist women into employment, we welcome women who may have to dress formally for court appearances, visits to a child’s school or to any event that requires professional clothing.

Please contact Vicki Smith at school on 4367 7353 if you would like more information.
PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF STUDENTS IN YEARS 9 - 11

We seek your views on the NSW one-to-one laptop program.

A formal evaluation of the program is being undertaken by the New South Wales Department of Education and Communities in collaboration with the University of Wollongong. It is an effort to determine how the DER-NSW program may impact on learning and teaching education across the state. The evaluation has taken place over 4 years.

Please go to the link below and complete the 2013 survey. It won’t take you too long. http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DER-NSW-Pr2013?c=8405

Alternatively, there is a link to the survey on our home page under 'Latest News and Features' and on our facebook page. Individuals cannot be identified in the data.

Evaluation reports to date can be viewed online:


Thank you
Tim Pickett, IT Co-Ordinator

WHEN KIDS ARE BULLIED

We send our kids off to school each day to learn. In between lessons they go outside to play – but the learning doesn't stop. The playground can help prepare them for some of the social challenges they will face throughout their lifetime.

Find out more:

facebook.com/erinahighschool