



CELEBRATION

NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to our first celebration newsletter. This colourful and informative newsletter will highlight all the amazing achievements/ excursions/events that have occurred during the term so far.

ENJOY!

Mrs Boyall
 Principal



Coming Up

- Mon 14th Aug - Fri 18th Aug - National Science Week
- Wed 23rd Aug - BStreetsmart - Year 11
- Thur 31st Aug - Variety Night
- Tue 5th Sep Year 8 & 9 Geography Excursion
- Fri 8th Sep - WSU pathways to dreaming campus experience



Chinese Visit 2023



During Term 3 Week 3, Erskine Park High School had the opportunity to welcome 14 students from China to our school. Alongside some students in years 9 and 10 who got to be their buddies, they got to experience Australian high school life through activities held throughout the week. We started the week off together with a welcome ceremony in which we acknowledged the traditional custodians of our land. Following the welcome ceremony, the group attended many regular classes such as English, Math, Science, HSIE, Art and Cooking. During these classes, the Chinese students were able to partake in fun activities which were able to showcase what a normal lesson looks like and what we learn on a day-to-day basis. However, without a doubt, some of the most enjoyable moments were those which occurred on the excursions. On Tuesday, alongside our buddies, we had the amazing chance to go to Katoomba Scenic World. This trip was not only a great way to showcase lush Australian nature but for many also a great way to get over a fear of heights, right Miss Howell? We weren't only able to see the surrounding environment from the ground but also from far above. Aboard the Scenic Skyway cable car, we were able to look down upon the gorgeous scenery laid out beneath us. Miles and miles of trees, bushland and clear blue skies. We got to go on a calming walk through the bush, before hopping onto another thrilling ride. After all the adventure, we ended the day off with another stroll through the land in which we ended up with a beautiful view of The Three Sisters as well as many well-deserved naps on the bus ride home. On Thursday, everyone got the opportunity to go to the city. In the city, the students were able to enjoy a trip to Sydney Tower Eye, where we were able to take pictures and take in the astounding view of the entire city. There were selfies, group photos and shots of the whole area. The trip however did not stop there as we made our way to Wildlife World. On arrival, we were able to see animals of Australia including the Tasmanian Devil, kangaroos and a few freshwater crocodiles amongst so many others. Following our adventure in the city, Friday was met with a few more lessons, and to end, a closing ceremony. We shared a few more moments with one another, exploring and sharing the heritage of both our lands, creating braided ropes out of pieces of cloth to share with each other and spending quality time together. Despite it only being a week, not only were we able to create meaningful memories but also meaningful bonds. We enjoyed having them over and we hope that they enjoyed this experience as much as we did.

Article by Nadia Chandra and
Morgan Mansfield

Year 11 Excursion to Longneck Lagoon -

On the 14th of March, our Biology students ventured out to Longneck Lagoon to investigate reasons for the disappearance of the Green and Golden Bell Frog in the area. The students had a day of outdoor experimenting, testing and comparing the abiotic and biotic features of the environment.



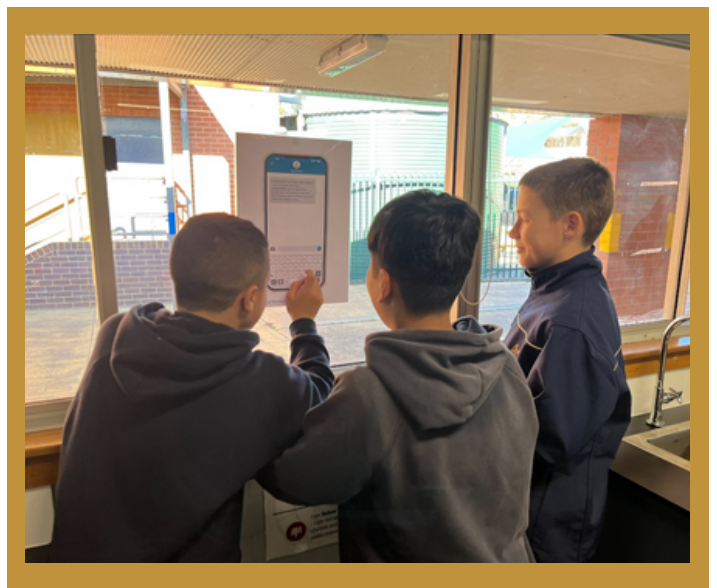
Year 11 Excursion to Warragamba Dam -

On the 26th of July, our Investigating Science and Earth and Environmental Science students were lucky enough to have a tour of the facilities at Warragamba Dam. The students tested water samples and learned about the impact of humans on water quality.



Year 7 Digital Thumbprint

Supporting young people to be safe, responsible and positive online is a key challenge for educators and parents alike. At the beginning of term 3, the team from the Optus Digital Thumbprint program was in the classroom with our Year 7 students taking them through an interactive workshop about protecting your personal information online. This workshop was in addition to digital workshops students have been completing during their IL periods. The digital workshops cover a range of issues such as cybersecurity, cyberbullying, digital discernment, digital balance, and digital identity.



Fast Forward Program: Year 9

Twenty students from Year 9 have recently been welcomed into the Western Sydney Fast Forward program for 2023. The students will be involved in onsite campus days over the next four years of their educational journey and be provided opportunities to learn about higher education and gain practical skills to prepare them for life beyond high school. This is a very exciting opportunity for all involved and I look forward to working with the students as they progress through the program.



Junior AECG

Aboriginal Education Consultative Group

Warami!

Early in Term 1, we elected our **Junior AECG representative team**: our President is Mercy Furner (right), our Vice-President is Liam Jackson (left), and our Secretarial Duo are Andrew Nipps (middle) and Kaylee Hayman-Allen (inserted).



They are responsible for representing the students at EPHS and providing a voice to their educational needs.

In Week 5, students and family members were invited to a **'PLP: Meet the Mob'** afternoon to develop goals and complete their individualised learning pathways. They got to enjoy a delicious afternoon tea with some newly purchased artefacts on display, as well as 2022 student artworks.



Week 6, saw our Junior AECG leaders invited to **support JEPS** and help their students create Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Harmony Day t-shirts. We were then surprised with a performance from JEPS of a traditional dance.

We held our **Harmony Day** in Week 10, where our girls performed a short rendition of last year's School Spectacular dance choreographed by Bangarra.

In the last week of Term 1, the Indigenous group visited **Cricket NSW**. The Indigenous cricket team kindly invited us to their Pathways Program and taught us how to play cricket. On the day we had so much fun learning about the different skills and getting to see a tour of all the different rooms.



Term 2 Staff Development Day was dedicated to integrating and creating greater awareness of First Nation cultures. Staff created an artwork to represent the reconciliation at EPHS.



Term 1 - Written by Bella Brown and Kaylee Hayman-Allen (Year 7)





Term 2 Week 2, **WSU Pathways to Dreaming** we learnt about the different bush foods and what they are used for and tasted different jams and butter. The fan favorite was the Rain Forest Plum Jam!

In week 6, we recognised Reconciliation Week.



On the Friday, all students participated in a great cultural activity experience from the Bimbi Du. Students took part in a traditional smoking ceremony, ochre painting and artefact knowledge, we learnt some sounds on the Didgeridoo and participated in the highly engaging dance experience.

"It was heartening to see our biggest recognition and celebration of Reconciliation Week this year at Erskine Park High School. Feedback from students indicated they really enjoyed the cultural immersion activities."

- Mrs C. McKenna (Deputy Principal)

In week 8, Years 7-8 enjoyed a day at the **WSU Pathways to Dreaming Excursion** to the Kingswood Campus. On the day we learnt about children's rights, wrote an advertisement for the program, and we played a "baseball" like game with a possum skin ball.

Students participated in painting the **Yarning Circle Mural** in Week 8. Thank you to Tay-la and Chloe from Bindi Bindi Art, and parents for their support, help and attendance. It is looking great!!



In week 9, some of our indigenous students watched the **Bangarra** Company perform at the Sydney Opera House. It was really interesting to watch the performances and they enjoyed it alot.



To start off Term 3, we celebrated **NAIDOC Week**. We had a cultural immersion day, with Peter Jensen (PJ) from Circles in The Sand. Engaging in story telling, fire making, ochre painting, weaving and spear and boomerang throwing. An excursion to Govetts Leap, Blackheath, to learn about medicinal and bush tucker plants. We finished the week with a friendly sports competition against St Clair High School.



Term 2 - Written by Lara Hattch and Alexis Jones (Year 7)



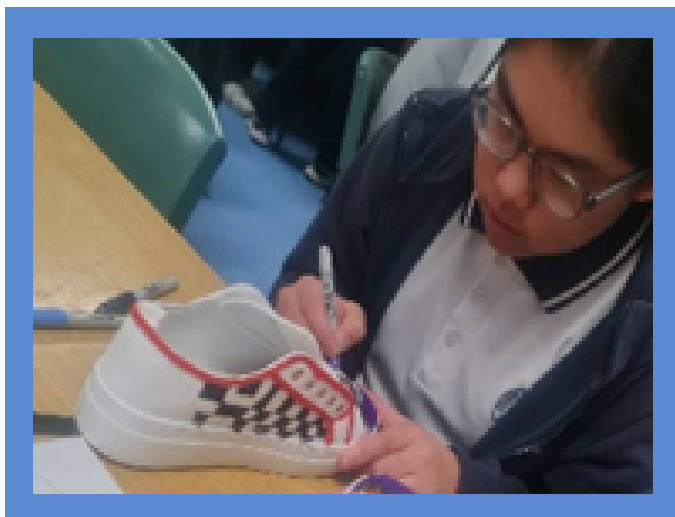
Step Into Art

Towards the end of Term 2, our "Step Into Art" project during year 8 innovation classes, was a burst of creativity and self-expression. Students were given white canvas shoes as their blank canvas and a range of artistic tools to work with.



The project not only honed their drawing and painting skills but also encouraged collaboration and inspiration-sharing among peers. The result of the project showcased a stunning array of custom-designed canvas shoes, each pair telling a unique story.

Pencils, sharpie fine point permanent markers, fabric paints, sharpie ultra fine point black permanent markers for outlining, and shoe protective spray were all at their disposal. Over the course of a few days, students transformed these simple canvas shoes into personalized works of art that reflected their individuality and artistic vision.



Coronation Crowns – Coombs Class



Students celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III by making their own crown. The class learned about the Royal Family and about Kings and Queens past and future.

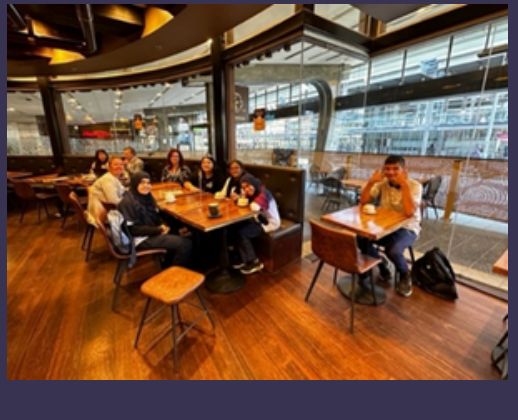
Hot Air Balloons

Coombs class have been looking at famous inventions. They learned hot air rises, making the balloons float. They read about the history of the invention of the hot air balloons, including the fact that the first passengers of man-made flight were a duck, a rooster and a sheep!



Community Access Excursion

During Semester 1, the Jackson Hearing Support class engaged in Community Access opportunities, which included travelling by bus, train, metro, and walking to a variety of venues to develop and master social and travel skills. Students attended Erskine Park Shopping Centre, Penrith Westfields, Parramatta Westfields, Blacktown Westpoint, Mount Drutt Bowling, and Castle Towers Holey Moley. The skills gained by students include planning the trips using bus and train timetables, sourcing the best prices of grocery items, improving their communication skills with members of the community, and even took part in a scavenger hunt!



Auslan Club

Our Hearing Support students have started up an Auslan club this term where they have invited staff and students to come and learn some Auslan so that they can have conversations with their peers across the school.

In the first session, we saw a huge level of interest. It was wonderful to see so many staff and students showing interest and support for our Hearing Support students.

Sessions are being run every Wednesday Lunch 2 in Room 9.



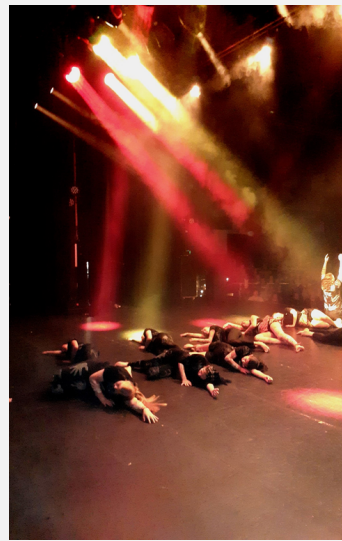
Thorndale Work Experience

Our Thorndale group, who complete Work Experience each fortnight, has enjoyed being able to return to Thorndale this term. Having our students access the community while experiencing the work environment that Thorndale provides is fantastic.



STEPS Concert 2023

The annual STEPS Concert was held at Penrith Panthers on Thursday the 10th of August. The concert showcased performances from schools within the St Clair and Erskine Park area. The audience appreciated the high standard of performances from the EPHS dance troupes and rock band. The dance troupes and band displayed our school's evolving art program. A big thank you to Ms Neubronner, Ms Tulloch, Mr Dallas and Mr Serra for all the preparation and countless rehearsals for this year's show.





Rugby Union

The Erskine Park High Open Rugby Union team competed in the Quarter Finals of the Rugby Union Public Schools State competition! Our team gave their all in two intense matches. We emerged victorious against Mitchell High School with a close score of 12-7. Although we led 5-nil at halftime against Camden High School, they came back strong, and we lost in a well-played game. Proud of our efforts.



Netball

In Term 2 our Erskine Park High girls netball team played their hearts out at the Sydney West Regional Carnival, battling injuries and narrowly missing out on advancing.

A big round of applause for our super coaches, Mrs. Tucker and Ms. Tulloch! They've been with these senior girls since year 7, guiding and shaping them into the amazing team they are today. Well done, coaches!

Athletics

Last Term, a group of our students had the opportunity to represent the school in both the zone and Sydney West athletics events. Additionally, some of these students will be participating in the upcoming CHS athletics carnival, scheduled to take place later this term at Olympic Park.



Wanderers Clinic

This past Friday marked an exciting milestone as we successfully launched our football clinic in collaboration with the Western Sydney Wanderers.

The event saw an impressive and diverse gathering of students from various cohorts, all eagerly participating and fully immersing themselves in the experience.

Their wholehearted engagement showcased the immense potential and spirit that our students embody.

As we reflect on this fantastic start, it's important to note that the journey is far from over. We have four more enriching clinics lined up, each presenting a valuable opportunity for everyone to join in and be a part of this incredible experience.

