



Erskine Park High School Newsletter

Pride in Achievement

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Issue 8

31 August 2018

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT 2019 School Captains

Congratulations to our newly elected Captains and Vice Captains for 2019. These students will officially commence their duties at our induction ceremony on 10th September.

Captains

Rhys Graham, Hannah Marchant

Vice Captains

Diana Ebirim, Tahli Baker, Damon Myburgh-Sisam, Bradley Fraser

Arts in the Park

Congratulations to the Creative and Performing Arts faculty, led by Mr Genarro Serra, on another outstanding Arts in the Park exhibition. This showcase of student work is a testament to the creative and artistic talent of both students at staff at our school. The winner of this year's Bald Archie is Lily Martinez for her portrait of Mr Serra.



Certificate of Recognition

Congratulation to our School Administration Manager, Mrs Rita Coman, for being recognised by the Executive Director for her outstanding contribution to public education and the support provided to students and families who have attended our school over the years. The presentation was made by Director of Educational Leadership, Mrs Karen McSpeerin at a recent staff morning tea.



Dates to remember - Term 3 2018

Term 3 Week 7 - Term 3 Week 9

3 Sep	Vaccinations Colin Shepherd scholarship entries due
4 Sep	Aboriginal leadership Blue Mountains bushwalk HSC music night
	Blue Mountains festival

7 Sep	Blue Datto - Year 11
10 Sep	Senior leadership team induction
12 Sep	Year 6 into 7 BYOD information evening
13 Sep	SRC - Primary leadership day
17-21 Sep	PAT testing

War on Waste

At a recent P&C meeting HSIE teacher, Mr Marco Bisoglio, spoke to the parents about his passion to work with students on sustainably managing the waste materials produced by the school each day. The idea came from a recent episode of the ABC's War on Waste. Parents, Mr Kelly and visiting Principal from the Penrith Environmental Education Centre, Branimir Lazendic, had many ideas how this program could be implemented in our school.

SALSA

Also attending the same meeting was Dr Shah to share the benefits and future directions of the SALSA (Students as Lifestyle Activists) program. Students

in years 10 and 8 have participated in this program for many years. It involves year 10 students learning about healthy lifestyle habits, then developing their leadership skills by sharing these skills and knowledge with year 8 students. This year's group of students launched the Breakfast on the Go program involving students recognising the importance of breakfast then making quick, simple and nutritious breakfasts.

Spica Reserve Opening

I'm sure many of you have noticed the beautiful landscaping works recently completed by Penrith Council at SPICA reserve, directly across the road from the school. In 2015 students from the school worked with council employees to develop some concept designs for recreational spaces in the local area. Some of these ideas have now been realised and are available for the community to enjoy at Spica Reserve. Student representatives were present at the official opening and helped Penrith Mayor, John Thain, cut the ribbon to symbolise the official opening of the new park.





Ms Leiza Lewis
Principal

DEPUTY PRINCIPALS REPORT Year 12

Year 12 are coming to an end of their time at Erskine Park High school. Students are completing their last assessment tasks, units of work and are beginning to gear up their revision activities in preparation for the HSC examinations. Students are encouraged to maximise their time with their teachers over the coming weeks, clarifying their understanding and seeking feedback.

There are many important activities on the calendar for our Year 12 students in the coming few weeks including their graduation assembly on 27th September. Students will be provided with specific information about these upcoming events from their Deputy Principal and year advisers.

Year 11 preliminary examinations

Year 11 students will soon come to the end of the preliminary courses of study in the coming weeks. Preliminary examinations will commence in week 9 of this term for the duration of weeks 9 and 10. Students have already been issued with their examination timetables and should know exactly when each of their examinations are taking place. Students should contact their Deputy Principal or Year Advisers if they do not yet have their timetable

It is important in the lead up to the end of term that students seek any necessary assistance, feedback and clarification from their teachers, implement study plans at home and work towards preparing for the examinations.

Students should also acquaint themselves with the expectations for formal examinations and be aware of

the appeals/misadventure procedures.

Science week

In week 4 we celebrated science week at our school with a special assembly. Staff demonstrated some fun experiment demonstrates and other activities to celebrate science. The science faculty ran a modified curriculum throughout the week and also ran demonstrations and activities during breaks across the week. Congratulations to those staff and students involved who did an excellent job celebrating Science.

Tell them from me

This term we will again seek feedback from our community using the Tell Them From Me survey framework. Feedback is a crucial mechanism for us to evaluate existing programs and identify any areas where school planning and policy development needs to be improved.

Staff, students and parents will be invited to have their say on a range of issues and areas of the school's performance. We encourage all participants to have their say through this anonymous platform. Students in the coming weeks will complete the surveys in class on a set schedule using their device.

Parents wishing to complete the online survey can do so by accessing the link: <https://nsw.tellthemfromme.com/z6wkk>

This link is also available on our website and Facebook page.

Parents collecting children from school

In recent times we have had an increasing number of parents collecting their children in the staff car park and along the main driveway to the school. In some cases parents have been parking along the driveway, causing congestion and preventing two way traffic flow.

This has caused considerable safety concerns as this is a shared space which is used by pedestrians and cars, and there have been near misses due to the impaired visibility caused by the cars parked on the driveway.

We have installed signs to remind drivers not to park on the driveway and are asking that all parents collect students from outside the school where possible. Parents are requested to park in marked parking bays when using the car park is required.

Bike safety

Many of our students ride their bikes to school and this is to be encouraged. It is a great form of exercise and minimises the impact on the environment as many would otherwise be using motorised transport. It is, however, important that students wear a helmet

at all times whilst riding their bikes due to safety concerns as a primary reason, but also it is a legal requirement in NSW.

Students are also reminded to be aware of other pedestrians when riding through shared spaces, and to be especially careful when riding on the road. Cyclists must keep left in lanes and where possible use cycling lanes.

Parents are encouraged to reinforce these expectations.

Uniform

Student uniform has been maintained at an excellent standard throughout the colder months. I would like to thank parents and students for helping us ensure the high standards of our school. We will soon start to move into the warmer months of the year where jumpers, jackets and long trousers will feature less, and summer uniform will take effect.

Parents are reminded that our uniform shop is open all day on Tuesdays and from 12pm to 4 pm on Friday for uniform purchases.

Mr Nathaniel Doidge
Deputy Principal

WELFARE REPORT

Vaccinations will be held on Monday 3rd September for Year 7's second dose of the HPV and catching up some Year 11 and 12 students who missed their meningococcal vaccination earlier in the year. Thank you to NSW health for providing such wonderful nurses to our school, who care about and look after our students beautifully.

Drumbeat

Is running every Thursday with Mrs Doyle. This group of students from Year 9 and 10 are enjoying fusions support through a therapeutic music program.

Drumbeat combines the benefits of music therapy using drums, with cognitive behavioural therapy so that young people can learn social skills that promote healthier relationships. Topics being covered in the program are bullying, peer pressure, dealing with emotions and feelings, identity, social responsibility and teamwork. The group will perform at the end of the term to a small audience to show what they have learnt.

Boys shed

Is continuing well, with the boys working towards their major project. The boys chose to work on woodwork projects and also do cooking. The boys will build some stools and storage shelves for a games room at

the St Clair youth space, and food being cooked will be burgers, chicken schnitzels and tacos (over the 3 weeks). The boys leading up to a bush walk excursion to the Blue Mountains in week 10. This excursion will highlight the journey they have been on and will allow for discussion and reflection of the program.



Blue Datto parent session

Was held on the evening of Monday 27th August with a great attendance by our families and community. Parents were presented the Keeping Safe™ award-winning program that helps keep young drivers safe by preparing them with information and strategies to make the safest decisions possible as both drivers and passengers.

The Learner and provisional phase can be a challenging and sometimes scary period for any family, with more young people being injured on our roads. Parents and guardians have an important role to play in keeping their young driver safe and help is now available to give you the practical knowledge, skills and resources to do so.

In partnership with Transport for NSW, the Blue Datto foundation will present a free interactive program, for parents and guardians of current and future young road users.

If you missed this session, you can contact Blue Datto on 02 8999 8005 or email at info@bluedatto.org.au. Thank you to those who attended and made it a great success.

Year 11 Students will also attend Blue Datto workshops on Friday 7th September.

STYMIE

Is continuing to support our students combat the bystander effect by enabling students to report incidents of bullying and harm, safely and anonymously.




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**RYAN FAMILY
SCHOLARSHIP**



Looking forward to many more exciting programs ahead.

Mrs Misdom
HT Wellbeing

ENGLISH FACULTY

“Be the kind of people that have enough passion to change the world. If we let ourselves be fire, thunder, or lightning, we could alter everything.” - Erin Gruwell, *The Freedom Writers Diary*

What are we studying?

Year 7: Shakespeare, his world and his works are the focus of Year 7’s studies for the first seven weeks of this term. The classes are completing a variety of activities, including performances as the witches from *Macbeth* and creating board games. In week 8 students will be having library lessons to select their novel for fiction frenzy. Students will be reading their chosen novel in class over the rest of the term and are expected to have it completed ready for class activities Term 4.

Year 8: A variety of novels are being studied in Year 8, from *Chinese Cinderella* to *Helicopter Man* to *Lockie Leonard – Human Torpedo*. The focus of the unit is on the techniques used to create imagery, the use of point of view and theme development in a text.

Year 9: students in Year 9 are also studying novels this term by authors such as John Marsden, Patrick Ness and Markus Zusak. The focus of the studies include character and the codes and conventions linked to narrative.

Year 10: conflict is the concept being examined this term through a variety of texts, with most students recently loving the focus text, *Freedom Writers*. Students are working towards writing an essay

analysing the different ways conflict is portrayed in texts.

Year 11: students are busy with final units of their Year 11 course and preparing for the yearly examination will commence shortly. Standard English students are deep into a close study of the poetry of Peter Skrzynecki. Advanced English are critically analysing *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. English Studies are completing a film studies unit. Year 11 Extension are looking at the portrayal of evil in episodes of *The House of Cards*.

Year 12: Standard and Advanced English students have completed their trials and are busy revising for their HSC. There will be tutorials run during the holidays to further help students prepare - ask your English teacher for dates! English Studies are studying documentary Film and are working on producing their own short documentary.

Debating and public speaking

The Premier’s Debating Challenge is coming to a close and our stage 4 and 5 teams have been working hard! Our stage 4A team had two wins in the zone, and the stage 4B team are preparing for their final debate against Chifley Dunheved.



Book week

Our junior classes helped English create a fabulous display for Book Week’s 2018 theme ‘Find Your Treasure’, by decorating gold coins with details of their favourite book.



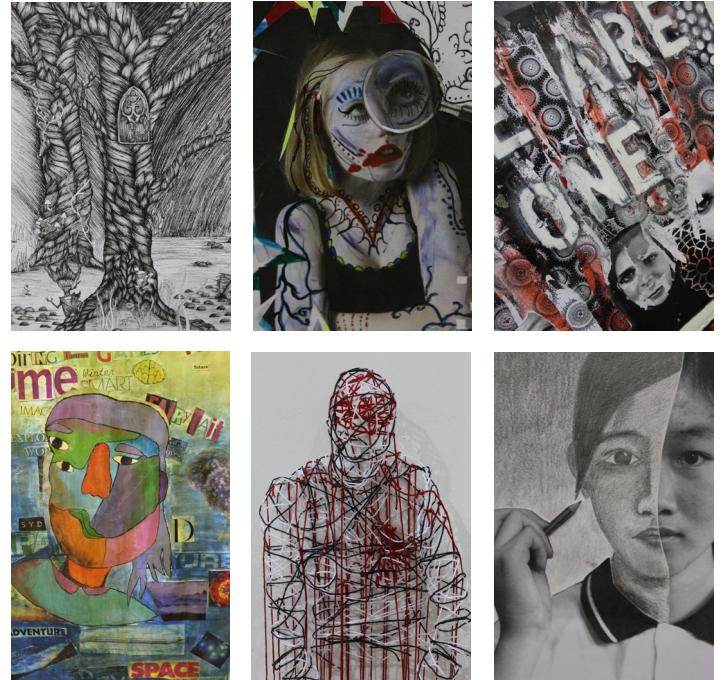
The English teachers joined in on the fun, getting their photos taken with their favourite books for the library display.



All students, please remember to come to class prepared with a fully charged laptop, your exercise book, pen, and highlighter.

Mrs Kelly Hodkinson
English Faculty

There have been many hours put into finishing works and polishing performances by both students and classroom teachers during lunchtimes, free periods, after school and school holidays to ensure that students have enough time to complete their work. Without staff members generously giving up their personal time, many students would have limited opportunities to complete their work.



CAPA FACULTY
Arts in the Park



It is time once again for Arts in the Park 2018. The exhibition showcases Erskine Park's talented art, photography, ceramics, design and music students. Displayed are the HSC visual arts major works and musical performances and a variety of junior and senior work ranging from paintings, drawings, sculptures, photographs, prints,

designed objects and textured works. There will also be displays of work from our local primary schools. The Bald Archie's, the school's annual student portrait competition of the Erskine Park high school staff, is also very popular amongst visitors and staff alike.

HSC Visual Arts and Music

Term 3 signifies the encroaching deadlines for the submission of work by both visual arts and music students. This deadline is the conclusion of two years of work by many students and is the final component of the school-based assessment for the courses.

Operation Art 2018



Congratulations to Michelle Wen whose artwork has been selected for Operation Art 2018 and will be on exhibition at the Armory Gallery, Sydney Olympic Park. Her work will join the collection of artwork displayed at the hospital to help cheer up and brighten the day of sick children.

Music News
STEPS Concert

The development dance squad, senior and junior dance troupes performed at the annual STEPS concert held at Penrith Panthers. This concert showcased performances from schools within the St Clair and Erskine Park area. The audience appreciated the high standard of choreography and dancing by our students. The dance troupes displayed our schools evolving dance program. A big thankyou to Ms Neubronner, Ms Tulloch, Mr Mayes, Mr Dallas and Mr Serra for all the preparation and stage management of this year's show.

Education Week Performance

The Erskine Park high school concert band, development and junior dance troupes performed at this year's Education Week celebrations at Mt Druitt Westfields shopping centre. The band performed to a very high standard performing a wide selection of musical styles and the dance troupes performed high-energy items. This made an excellent impression on the public about the great things going on both in music and dance at Erskine Park high school. The band and dance troupes are professional in the way that they set up, perform and pack away after each concert.

Variety Night

After a tough audition process, variety night was held in Term 3 and was greatly received by an enthusiastic audience. There was a wonderful display of talent from both students and staff that ranged from singing, dancing and playing ensembles. Once again, the staff band treated the crowd to renditions of classic rock anthems by Silverchair and Nirvana.

PULSE concert 2018



Once again Erskine Park high school was represented at the annual concert in the Opera House featuring the best performances that Western Sydney state schools can offer. A number of our students played with the Regional concert band and big band ensembles. They were Sinead Rofe, Jasmine Tiatia, Victoria

Harry and Nadeem Granzooy.

HSC Performance Night

HSC Performance Night will be on the 4th of September and this is an excellent opportunity to see the Year 12 music class perform their HSC works before their final examination. Make sure you listen out for announcements for this event.

Please feel free to contact the CAPA Department at any time to discuss any issues or concerns you may have about your son or daughter or about any of our courses.

Mr Gennaro Serra
Creative and Performing Arts Faculty

SUPPORT FACULTY

Welcome back to Term 3

Staff Changes

We welcome Mr James Harris to our support unit for the rest of the year. He is very excited to be part of the team!

Pride in achievement

We are very proud of our dance group who competed at the Penrith Eisteddfod in the high school special needs category and came first. They danced to a mixture of songs and their routine included elements of cheer, jazz and hip hop.

The development dance group has also recently performed at the STEPS concert as well as education Week.

Seven of our students also successfully auditioned for the school spectacular, and they will begin our combined rehearsals with the other schools in October.

Zone cross country and zone athletics

The following students represented our school at zone for cross country and athletics with great enthusiasm and sportsmanship:

Annalise Woods, Rodney Carlin, Abdul Saboor, Daniella Fragomeli, and Keana Dizon for competing at zone for cross country.

Congratulations to all these students.

Work experience

It gives us great pleasure to say that our students are out and about in the community participating in various work experience programs. Thank you to Bunnings, Coles, Thorndale Industries, Woolworths, Target and Catholic Care Cut and Colour Studio, James Erskine Primary School, Penrith City Council, and Mick T's Menswear for providing these opportunities for our students.



Online learning

This term we continue with our online learning programs Literacy Planet and Maths Online. Students access the programs in on-line learning lessons as well as through one-on-one withdrawal with SLSOs. These programs are proving to be a great success with many students progressing well through the program.

Our Year 9 students competed in Word Mania and came third in Sydney West.

These programs are also accessible to students at home and we encourage all students to take advantage of this.

Rewards day

In Term 2 some students were chosen to participate in our rewards day excursion. This day is designed to acknowledge students' hard work and their application of our schools CLUES. The students attended Hoyts, Mount Druitt to watch "Despicable Me 3" and thoroughly enjoyed their day.

We will again be having a rewards day in Term 3. Students have been informed of the standard that they need to maintain to attend this day. We again expect to have a large attendance.



Mr A Blom
Head Teacher Support

GIFTED AND TALENTED

The gifted and talented students have been busy Term 2 and 3 participating in a variety of challenges and projects.

In term 2, Year 7 completed the "Ersko Block" project. Students in two large groups, chose their roles and designed ideas a team. Students nominated to renovate the demountables and library, constructing new and creative designs for each area.



New library design created on Planner 5D

In Term 3, Year 7 and 8 students will be participating in a cross curriculum project "Giants of the Past". In Week 3 and 4, students learnt in various subjects about different "Giants" and how they have inspired the world today. Each student will now produce a product in the withdrawal program on a chosen influential person.

Also happening in the gifted and talented program, our tournament of the minds team have been working hard completing their long term STEM challenge. Students have been creating their working model and will present their project at Western Sydney University (Kingswood) on Sunday 26th of August.



Tournament of Minds Team

It is safe to say that 2018 has been an exciting and busy year so far!

Miss Angelita Wijoyo
Gifted and talented coordinator

YEAR 9 REPORT

Welcome to Term 3, we hope you have all had a great start to the term. Year 9 have been busy with subject selection for their 100 hour courses for next year and preparing for upcoming assessment tasks.

CLUES Lessons

This term the focus of CLUES lessons for Year 9 is 'Drugs and Alcohol'. The program covers the following topics:

- Identifying and using your strengths
- Emotional Intelligence
- Managing situations
- Drugs and alcohol introduction
- Reasons why young people use drugs and alcohol
- Effects of drugs and alcohol on the teenage brain
- Drugs use affects more than the user
- Managing potential harms from drug/alcohol use
- Drugs and the media

Semester one recognition assembly

Congratulations to the following Year 9 students for receiving silver and/or gold awards for academic excellence and achievement. This was a record number of Year 9's being recognised at an assembly and we are extremely proud of these students for their ongoing commitment towards their studies and it was great to see so many students being recognised. A special mention goes to Michelle Wen and Georgia Zamagias for receiving a Diamond award during this assembly.

Fast Forward Program

A group of Year 9 students have been selected to participate in the Fast Forward Program coordinated by Western Sydney University. This program encourages high school students to see tertiary education as a realistic and viable post school option and raises participants' aspirations for the future. On 31st July our students were inducted to the program at a ceremony held at Western Sydney University Parramatta campus. Thank you to Mrs Romero for coordinating this program for our students.



Megan Tucker and Kristen Tulloch
Year 7 Year Adviser and Assistant Year Adviser.

YEAR 10 REPORT

Welcome to the term 3 newsletter.

St Mary's Veterans day visit

On Saturday the 18th of August two year ten students, Claire Tua and Linae Williams, represented Erskine Park high school at Vietnam Veterans day. The function was held at the St. Marys RSL club, present were Veterans of the Australian and South Vietnamese armies. The girls did the school proud as they laid a wreath in remembrance of the Veterans who gave their lives in the war effort.



Scholarships

There are a number of scholarships which are available to year 10 students. The Colin Shepard OAM memorial school scholarship program is available to all students (returning to EPHS or not in 2019). This scholarship requires students to address a range of topics available relating to Australian war history. There are three scholarships available ranging from \$1000-\$2500. Due date for applicants to this program is the 3rd September.

Students returning to EPHS in 2019 are also eligible to apply for the EPHS scholarship program. Each year scholarships are offered from a number of businesses in the local area for our students to apply for. Scholarships are \$250 in value and require a 300 word max application form. Due date is Friday 14th September. For more information on the scholarship programs please see Mr Kelly in HSIE.

Subject selection forms

2019 senior subject selection forms were due week 4. If you have not submitted your forms or have any questions please see Mr Parkhill in the HSIE Staffroom.

Teacher awards

Continue to bring in any teacher awards you may have sitting in backpacks or pencils cases to Miss Neubronner in the HSIE staffroom. Recognition assembly is in term 4 and it would be lovely to see as many Year 10 students being recognised for their hard work as possible.

Mr Brent Parkhill and Miss Chelsea Neubronner
Year 10 Adviser and Assistant Year Adviser



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WEAR YOUR PRETTIEST PINK AND JOIN US FOR
SAINTS INAUGURAL

Pink Afternoon Tea

Sunday 14th October | 1pm - 4pm
Boronia Showroom, St Marys Rugby League Club
\$28 per person

BE INSPIRED BY Tracy Bevan, McGrath Foundation Ambassador & Director
BE ENTERTAINED BY Megan Macguire, well known PINK tribute performer

JOIN IN *All the fun, raffles, prizes*
and silent auction items including -
A \$2,000 DecoGlaze™ glass splashback voucher, a \$500 BP
fuel voucher, a double pass to see Bon Jovi, Vellux Velour
blankets, a tandem skydive, a Singer sewing machine,
Holiday Inn vouchers, a professional "Family Park"
photography session, a Singer Professional stand mixer
and so much more!

Please note the Pink Afternoon Tea is not recommended for children under 14.

McGrath
foundation
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*And help us raise funds for the McGrath Foundation;
to help place specialist McGrath Breast Care Nurses
wherever they're needed across Australia.*



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ST CLAIR Junior Rugby League Club

COACHING APPLICATIONS FOR 2019 SEASON

Applications are open for the Coaching Positions at
St Clair Junior Rugby League for the 2019 Season.

Under 6's to A Grade

**Multiple coaches for all age groups from Under 6's
through to Under 19's.**

Applications close Sunday 2nd September

Applications forms can be downloaded from
stclaircomets.com.au

Please address all applications to
Club Secretary - Bill Borg,
PO Box 38 St Clair N.S.W. 2759.
Or email to bill@stclairjrlc.org.au
For more details please ring on
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