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### **Erskine Park High School Newsletter**

Pride in Achievement

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**1ssue 6 28 June 2019** 

### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



It is with great pleasure to be able to announce our new Principal is Mrs Brenda Quayle. She is currently the Deputy Principal at Rooty Hill High School. Mrs Quayle is a highly experienced educator who has spent the majority of her career working in and around Western Sydney. She is highly respected within our community and amongst the teaching profession, and her

expert leadership will see our school continue to improve and excel. Over the next few weeks she will spend some time meeting with our students and staff, and learning about our local systems and operations. She will begin her role as Principal on the first day of next term. It is an exciting time as we move into the next chapter at Erskine Park High School. Please join with me in making Mrs Quayle feel welcome to our school.

### **Recognition assemblies**

In week 9 and 10 of this term we have our Senior and Junior recognition assemblies respectively. It is an excellent opportunity for our school community to acknowledge the hard work, leadership and community service of our students. 94 of our senior students and 188 of our junior students are being recognised with awards in front of their peers and parents. Congratulations for those students and their families for their successes, and for taking pride in their achievement.

### Variety Night

Our annual variety night once again proved to be a showcase of the talent of both our students and staff. It is a wonderful community event, where many parents, students and their friends come together to celebrate the amazing abilities within our community. The encouragement and support that our community affords each other is truly inspiring and makes this school a great place to learn and work. It was nice for

me to get a mention in the slam poetry recital from our English staff, which also went down well with our students also. Thank you to Mr Dallas and Mr Mayes for their organisation of this event and congratulations to everyone involved in the success of the night.



Dates to remember - Term 2 and Term 3 2019 Term 2 Week 10 - Term 3 Week 1-3

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1 Jul	Junior recognition assembly
2 Jul	Business Studies QANTAS lecture incursion
4 Jul	Year 8, 9, 10 Parent teacher night
	Darren Dunn Aboriginal art workshop
22 Jul	Staff development day
29 Jul	P&C Meeting
30 Jul	Subject selection evening - Year 8 to 9
	Subject selection evening - Year 10 to 11
1 Aug	STEPS rehearsal and concert performance - Panthers
2 Aug	Year 10 options day
5 Aug - 16 Aug	Year 12 Trial examinations

#### **Waste Audit**

We recently conducted a waste audit at our school to review what makes its way into land fill, and to review what we can do to minimise this waste. The Planet Protectors, our student led environmental group as well as Mr Bisoglio, supported by a consulting company called APC and Schools Infrastructure NSW sorted 2400 litres of waste, which equated to 1 day of waste for the school. The waste was sorted into a number of categories which are able to be recycled or reused. It was interesting to see the kinds of waste that are produced by the school. In the end, it was found that less than 180 litres of waste needed to be sent to landfill, which is truly amazing. The organisations who we have been working with were impressed with the work that the school has already done at school to address our waste. The passion and dedication of our students was also noted and I was congratulated by one of the staff from APC for the wonderful students at our school.





Schools Infrastructure NSW photographed and video recorded the event with the intent of producing a promotional video of the process which will be available on YouTube and possibly hosted on the Department's website. The photographs will be used to help develop a support document which other schools will be able to use to minimise their waste. 21 million tonnes of land fill is produced each year across Department of Education sites. We have a moral obligation to do everything we can to minimise our impact. Congratulations to our students for their leadership and the improvements to our school and to the impact of culture in our community.

### **Healthy Canteen**



The school has been working with Fresh Bites, our canteen contractor, to have our canteen certified against the Department of Education's healthy canteen policy. The process is rigorous and requires the submission of details about every item sold in

the canteen. It is a pleasure to announce that our school meets the NSW Healthy School Canteen Strategy and that we are operating a Great Choice Healthy Canteen.

Mr Nathaniel Doidge Acting Principal

### **DEPUTY PRINCIPALS REPORT**

The end of term is fast approaching and Term 3 is only moments away. Term 3 is an important time, particularly for our senior students with the HSC courses of study reaching their final phase of school based assessment. Year 10 will soon begin the process of selecting their subjects for the senior school and there is a range of important activities planned in the coming weeks to support this process. This is an exciting time of term where we acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our students through the recognition assemblies and Semester one course reports.

### **Student Recognition Assemblies**

These assemblies acknowledge and celebrate the hard work and dedication of our students throughout the term. Student achievement, as well as participation in whole school activities and events, and school citizenship. Students are encouraged to continue earning teacher awards and work towards obtaining bronze, silver and gold awards. If students have questions about the merit system or specific awards they should contact their year adviser for more information.

### **HSC Trial Examinations**

Year 12 students will begin their trial examinations at the beginning of next term. It is a good opportunity now to remind all students of the assessment and examination processes. Details of the assessment policies and misadventure processes are available on the school's website. Students are reminded that if they are absent on the day of an assessment or examination that they will need a doctor's certificate and complete a misadventure form on the day they return to school. If you have any questions, please see the teacher or head teacher in that faculty or contact the Deputy Principal. Students are encouraged to ask for feedback in preparing their assessment tasks, and ask for help when they are facing difficulty in understanding or completing tasks. There are many support structures available within the school and through the Teaching and Learning Centre.

#### **Subject Selection**

Subject selection processes will start to happen over the next few weeks for 2020. There is a range of activities planned to support Year 10 students through the subject selection process. In this term, students will meet with the careers adviser to look at options for study or transition into the work force. In week 2 of next term students and parents will attend an information session about the subject selection process and requirements of the Higher School

Certificate. Students will be issued with a booklet with important information about each subject and the selection process. Representatives from each faculty area will be present on the evening to answer any questions about subject requirements and choices on the night. On Friday of that week students will attend information sessions to get additional information about subjects. This is a good opportunity to ask questions and clarify what is learned in these subjects. Other faculty areas will be speaking with students in class time over the next few weeks about subject options in those faculty areas. It is important that students and parents are informed about the process and requirements and are encouraged to ask questions and seek advice throughout the process. If you have any specific questions, please contact the Year Adviser, Head Teachers, Careers Adviser or Deputy Principals.

#### **N** Awards

If your son or daughter receives an N Award for a subject/course, he or she must clear it as soon as possible. Students are regularly reminded to clear their subject N Awards by either completing the outstanding task or submitting the work. Parents/guardians please fill and detach the bottom of the warning letter and have your son or daughter return it. This is extremely important as the non-completion of tasks has a dramatic effect on the overall assessment marks and placement within courses. It is important that students follow the assessment schedules of task dates and submit work on time. Details of the school's assessment policy regarding the late submission and non-attempt of work can be accessed via the schools website.

### **Contact Details**

It is important that our records are kept up to date to ensure open communication between the school and parents about educational matters and to ensure prompt communication in the case of an emergency. If you have changed details, please alert the school to ensure the most up to date details for your son or daughter are recorded. This is especially important for Year 12 students as NESA sends information to students via phone, email and in the mail. If contact details are not up to date, it can make this communication difficult. Should a student's contact details change, including mobile number, email address or home address, it is important that the Deputy Principal or Head Teacher Administration be informed of these changes so the NESA database can be updated. If you have any questions please see the Deputy Principal or Head Teacher Administration.

Mr Gennaro Serra Relieving Deputy Principal

### **TAS 1 REPORT**

Mrs Dunworth's Year 11 Food Technology looked at the topics Food Styling and Plating Food for visual appeal. As part of this they prepared garnishes – swan apples, tomato roses, celery bugs.







Ms Lawson's Year 9 Food Tech did a test drive of the new combi oven when they baked homemade Pretzels with great results!





Some very excited students from Sunny Patch day care centre spent half a day at this school where they had a hands on experience with Ms Lidgard and the Year 10 Early Childhood Class. They were able to feed the chickens, pat the sheep and see the vegetable patches growing.

### Term 2 Agriculture News - Ms Lidgard

This term has been very busy for agriculture. On the 10th to the 12th of May we entered poultry in Hawkesbury show. I had 4 students wash and dry the poultry and attend Hawkesbury show to find out the results. It was a very successful show with the results of 3rd and highly commended in the "Poultry 'R' Us" Inter-schools duck challenge. In the schools poultry category we got champion, 1st and 3rd in secondary school chook - female and reserve champion and 1st in the secondary school chook - male.











We also have received two Holstein Friesian steers from Leppington Pastoral Company. Their names are Quinton (white) and Quest (black). We are going to show them at Penrith show on the 24th and 25th of August with a number of students who have come to be a part of the Agricultural show team. The Agricultural show team runs during lunch 2 on Mondays and Thursdays. All who are interested in animals and agriculture are welcome to come and join us at the school farm on those days.





Finally, we have a visitor for approximately 8 weeks. His name is Monty and he is a White Suffolk ram. That means that in November we should be hearing the pitter patter of lambs hooves. Miss Lidgard



Mr Greg Tilley Head Teacher TAS 1

### **TAS 2 REPORT**

A lot of exciting things happening in TAS2 faculty this semester. We have just completed a wall partition to enclose the welding bays. A big thank you to Ms Vardon and her team of trusted helpers for painting the wall for us.





### Stage 4 Technology

Students have completed their introduction to digital technologies unit, where they have learnt general purpose programming language of JavaScript. They then produce a text-based coded app using Bitsbox. They are now working on their engineering topic, where they are designing a mousetrap powered vehicle. We have also invested in "The Fast and Curious" program. This will be used for stage 4 Digital Technologies.





### Stage 5 Timber

This year the students made a mobile phone charger station. Students were happy to make something that





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## RYAN FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP





was functional yet still requiring tradition timber joint construction.







**VET Construction** 

The year 12 VET Construction students are building a new Timber storeroom









This will be assessed as their Cluster F unit where they are learning how to prepare for offsite manufacturing process and assemble components

Our current HSC Industrial Technology students are busy working on their Major Work Projects.





Mr Inben Pather Head Teacher TAS 2

### **HSIE REPORT**

Students have been busy across all HSIE classes from Years 7 to 12. Senior students have been particularly challenged or "burdened" by assessment. This is a harsh reality of being in Years 11 and 12. Year 12 have but one term left of their schooling. Beyond that lay the HSC exam and their own pathways in life. It seems stressful and daunting now, but for many it will be some of the best years of their lives

### Aboriginal education

Darren Dunn has returned to conduct workshops with our indigenous students. They are presently exploring the themes of this year's NAIDOC through art. Works will be completed by the end of the term.

Some indigenous students from EPHS attended the Commemoration Service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Veterans in Hyde Park in Sydney. Over two thousand people, ranging from school students and staff, to Military Service men and women, and dignitaries like the State Governor and Parliamentarians, attended this. It was an outstanding day, and our students placed artwork from the Darren Dunn workshops along with the floral tributes from hundreds of over schools.





Other Indigenous students have been involved in a



dance workshop with Ms Neubronner and Aboriginal dancer, Jesse Galea. These students have qualified to perform in the Schools Spectacular later on this year. If you wish to see this, get tickets early when they go on sale because they sell out fast.







### Planet Protectors the way for NSW schools

A group of Year 8 students have formed an environmental group that is focussing on making the school more sustainable. These are the Planet Protectors. The Department of Education is using their methods and techniques to form a statewide program. A DET film crew came to EPHS to film how the Planet Protectors conduct their business. The Planet Protectors collected 2200 litres of rubbish from the school and recycled the vast majority of it. In the end, only 180 litres was sent to landfill. If all schools can achieve this, it will have a significant impact on the environment. Well done Planet Protectors!





Mr Grant Kelly Head Teacher HSIE

### 2019 COLIN SHEPHERD OAM MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Frequently asked questions

- What is a scholarship? A payment awarded to a student that is to be used for learning and education.
- Who can get the 'Colin Shepherd scholarship'?
   Any 2019 Year 10 student who is going on to Years 11 and 12 or TAFE.
- What can I spend my scholarship money on?
   The scholarship money can only be spent on things that are education and school related. Past scholarship winners have used the scholarship for buying a laptop. Some students have used it for paying a PDHPE excursion to the ski fields. Other school expenses (fees, uniform, textbooks, software) have been paid for with the scholarship fund.
- What do I have to do to apply for this scholarship? Attempt ONE of the tasks listed on the back of this page, submit it by the due date, and you are in the contest for winning the scholarship.
- Am I competing with students from around NSW? No. There are THREE 'Colin Shepherd' scholarships on offer for three EPHS Year 10 students in 2019.
- Is this a thing that only smart kids can win? No. Not all Year 10 students will enter. If only three students enter, then they will get the scholarship.
- How much value is in the scholarship? The maximum amount is \$2500, the minimum is \$500.

Scholarship recipients must be available to receive the scholarship at an awards presentation held at St Marys RSL 14th November of 2019.

Due date: Monday, September 2, 2019

### St Marys RSL Sub-Branch

### Colin Shepherd OAM Memorial School Scholarship Program

### **2019 Topics**

- Discuss with your parents/family to identify a family link to an Australian Defence Serviceman or woman then research that person's life. Your research should cover his/her pre-service life, service training, overseas service, post-service life and issues (good and bad). Present your research and your views about his/her involvement, in a way that best illustrates his/her commitment to Australia's part in the war effort.
- Two Australians were awarded the Victoria Cross (VC) in 1919 in circumstances that could be regarded as unusual. Describe your understanding of circumstances under which a Victoria Cross might be awarded. Discuss the circumstances surrounding the two Australians participating in a post-Armistice conflict and of the actions that led to the award of their VC. Why might Australians today regard the award of a VC to these two Australians as unusual.
- The Battle of Binh Ba occurred 50 years ago in June. It was a most unusual battle and a significant Australian victory - discuss why this is so. What were the longer-term outcomes of the battle. Include your views about the Australian forces' capabilities displayed through that action.
- Conduct research into the broad range of animals that have been used by Australian in any conflict since the Boer War. What uses were they put to? How effective were they? Detail at least two such instances. What are your feelings about the ethical use of animals in warfare?
- In recent years Australia has been involved in a number of conflicts including Iraq and Afghanistan. Choose one, then research to determine if Australia's involvement was valued by our Coalition forces. Was our military involvement accepted and supported by Australians generally? Why do you support (or NOT support) your research outcomes.
- Author a poem, design a visual display, or conduct research that best reflects your thoughts/feelings about the experiences of Australian P.O.W.'s. The work should focus on the WWII era. Present your research and your views about such experiences in a way that best illustrates the experiences of Australians.

#### LOTE REPORT

The Year 7 students have been engaging with their Chinese learning via quizlet live activities.

Students have been working as groups in the online live Chinese activities. Engaging in interesting learning resources has been the focus when planning the lessons for students.

Interestingly, 90% of the feedback from students indicated that they really enjoyed these interactive activities within different groups. Students can learn new skills while they receive challenges in accomplishing their activities. Students have demonstrated their cooperation and respect in the whole process of learning Chinese. Thank you Year 7 students.





Mr Dianzhi Li LOTE

### ABORIGINAL EDUCATION REPORT

2019 brings us a whole new cohort of Year 7
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, as well
as a whole new cohort of Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander senior students and mentors. And, as usual,
all students have been busy burning the candle at
both ends.

Just last week, this year's local junior Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG) leaders and members - at the second JAECG meeting of the year - received their badges and were sworn in by Aboriginal elder and local AECG president Kerry Burns and Department of Education Director Karen McSpeerin. Jali Nipps of Year 9 was sworn in as a senior member, Liam Ross of Year 7 as senior Vice-President, and Roshaun Hundal of Year 10 as Senior President. The Junior AECG is made up of representatives from a handful of local primary schools and high schools. Liam and Roshaun led the meeting. Each school shared what they had done for Reconciliation Week and Sorry Day; plans for NAIDOC Week; examples of Welcome to Countries and Acknowledgement of Countries; among other things. (Our own Liam Ross was asked by Training Services NSW to do the Acknowledgement of Country for the Western Sydney Region 2019 NSW Training

Awards at Bankwest Stadium on Friday the 21st of June. No doubt Liam will do the Erskine Park High School community, as well as the indigenous community, proud).



Variety Night was held on the 20th of June. Among the amazing talent displayed during the evening was the EPHS Aboriginal Dance group. Jali Nipps, Andrew Nipps, Rodney Carlin, Rebecca Carlin, Tarliah Crawley, Jayden Dinclik and Aaron Day, dressed in traditional Aboriginal dress and paint, put on a show of traditional Aboriginal dance, led by Aboriginal dance instructor Jesse. The audience were blown away by the demonstration of pride and spirit. (A shout out also goes to Ms Neubronner for her time and dedication in getting this up and running!)



Students from Years 7 to 12 attended our first Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME) program day of the year on the 10th of May. Twenty Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students trekked to Penrith Panthers to meet up with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from local high schools. AIME leader Tre welcomed all students and along with other AIME mentors led them through workshops in leadership, goal setting and art, and students talked about power, pride and voice. AIME

Yarn Circles will continue in Term 3 and the next AIME day excursion will be on the 30th of August.

We ended last year with the news that a record number of senior Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students had applied for the \$500 KARI scholarship for 2019. I am extremely proud to say that a record number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students have now been successful! The following students were all winners; Lachlan Newton, Tremayne Yule, Linae Williams, Brianna Spooner, Mia Silk, Alexander Hundal, Jake Galea, Hayden Day, Maddison Davis, Rodney Carlin and Hailee Collins-Bath. Applications for any students currently in Years 10 or 11 will open again nearer the end of this year.

At the end of last year we left off with another cliff hanger. Four Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, now in Year 8, applied for The Aspiration Initiative (TAI) Scholarship. They each put in lengthy applications and jumped through various high hoops. Again, I am extremely proud to say that all four of our students impressed the judges enough and were all successful. Each student has won access to a fantastic package that consists of access to mentoring, tutoring, some incredible camps, as well as funds to be used towards their education. Well done Treadie Morgan-Thomas, Cody Feil, Bella McEachern and Kassidy Beerens.

Rodney Carlin, in Year 12, has recently been selected to participate in the 2019 University of New South Wales Indigenous winter school program. Rodney will see what it's like to be a student at UNSW. Congratulations Rodney!

On Friday the 31st of May a group of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, along with HSIE head teacher Mr Kelly and myself, took the 9:10 from St Marys into the city to Hyde Park for a memorial service for Indigenous service men and women. Various officials from the armed forces and various politicians, as well as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from schools all over Sydney, attended to honour and pay respect to these men and women. As you may already know, historically, Australia did not always treat Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service men and women with the respect and rights they deserved. Some Aboriginal men, for example, returned from fighting overseas and were not allowed into RSL clubs with their fellow non-Aboriginal returned soldiers. Many parts of Australia treated them, still, as second class citizens and they were victim to a great deal of racism. Our students laid an artwork that they had created, as a sign of respect, and they represented their school and

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their people well at this solemn occasion.



World renowned Aboriginal artist Darren Dunn has continued to work with us this year. Term 1 saw him work closely with our Year 7 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Recently he has been working with students from Years 7 to 12 on a big piece for NAIDOC week, this year's theme being Voice, treaty, truth. Watch this space!



All in all it's been another busy term for EPHS' Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. They all deserve a good rest over the two week break. So many of them have been active in studies, sports, scholarships, dance, art and mentoring as well as all kinds of other things - it's literally impossible to mention everything and everyone here. They all deserve congratulations, though, nonetheless, for their achievements and hard work. Well done everyone!

Mr Mark Giaquinto EPHS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Coordinator

#### **CAREERS**

Year 12 students visited Sydney University in May for a tour and information session. We looked at course options, university application and entry process, the ATAR, university costs, scholarships, student life, the transition from school to university, and alternative entry. This day was much appreciated by Year 12 as they gather information about further education options, and gain inspiration for higher achievement.

Year 10 and Year 12 students attended the Nepean Careers Market on 23 May. This was a great opportunity to talk to employers, Group Training Companies (apprenticeships), TAFE, Universities, UAC, private colleges, and government agencies about career plans, opportunities, and even subject choices for Year 10 going on to Year 11.

Some Year 10 students are going out on Work Experience during Term 2. If they bring completed Employers assessments, work experience diary and attendance card back to me after completing work experience I will issue students with a work experience certificate. This certificate and the employers assessment are useful documents to include in a portfolio when looking for part time or full time work.

Senior students may also do work experience at any time that fits with their schedule. They just have to see me to get the paperwork and information booklets.

The UAC (University Admission Centre) guides for 2020 have arrived in the school and have been issued to Year 12 students. They have also been provided with information on using the guides and applying for university. If any Year 12 student needs a UAC Guide, see Mr Griffiths for your copy. In Term 3 an adviser from Western Sydney University will come to the school to talk to students about their courses, bonus scheme, scholarships and entry requirements.

Also, in the first half of Term 3 Year 10 students will be given lots of information on choosing subjects for the Senior years. I have started this process in Term 2 by looking at Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses during careers classes, including some of the TAFE choices that are available in Year 11. During the second last week of Term 2 Year 10 students have individual careers interviews to help them clarify their ideas.

In Term 3, Year 10 students will attend "Options Day", and there will be a Year 10 into Year 11 information night on 30 July.

Students and parents are invited to contact me with any queries about things such as career choices and prospects, subject choices, VET courses, TAFE and University applications and information, school to work, finding employment, or any other related issues.

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

Mr Jeff Griffiths Careers Adviser

### SUBJECT SELECTION INFORMATION 2020 Year 10 into Year 11

The Year 10 subject selection evening is being held on Tuesday 30 July 2019 at 7pm in the school hall. Students will be taking part in a number of events that will guide them through making wise course choices for their Preliminary and HSC studies. These include careers interviews, Nepean Careers Market, Options Day information sessions, and the subject selection evening. It is important that students choose subjects that they are interested in, are good at, and may link to a career or further study after the HSC.

Miss Rebecca Christensen

### **YEAR 11 REPORT**

### Year 11 Camp

Week two of this term saw 80 Year 11 students attend camp at the Douglas Park Adventure Centre. The main themes of this camp were based on the Crossroads program and allowed the students to gain knowledge and understanding whilst challenging themselves against various activities.







Continue to bring in any Teacher's Awards to gain Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards at the senior recognition assembly.

# Holiday Trading Hours

Erskine Park High School Uniform Shop will close for the school holidays on Friday 5th July at 3.00pm.

The uniform shop will return to normal hours on Tuesday 23rd July.

Throughout the school term our opening hours are:

**Tuesday** 8.00 am - 4.00 pm **Friday** 12.00 pm - 3.00 pm

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