

## **Erskine Park High School Newsletter**

Príde in Achievement

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8 March 2019

#### Issue 2

#### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT 2018 Erskine Park High School DUX



Congratulations to Matthew Kucinic who was announced as the 2019 DUX at the recent High Achievers assembly. With an ATAR of 95, Matthew was awarded the Western Sydney University Scholarship, to the value of \$20,000, and has now commenced his studies in Advanced Medical Science. We congratulate Matthew and look forward to following, what

promises to be, a successful career. Twenty four other students, who achieved results in the highest bands, were also invited to the ceremony. It is always a highlight of the year for teachers when our students return to share their post-school journeys.

#### STEM

I am extremely excited about the teaching and learning happening in the area of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). Last week I observed some very engaged and excited students design, build then battle robots. It highlighted to me how quickly the educational landscape is changing and how well we are preparing our students for the future.



#### Dates to remember - Term 1 2019 Term 1 Week 7 - 9

13 - 15 Mar	CHS Girls Cricket
14 Mar	Pi Day
	Year 6 into 7 Information Evening
15 Mar	Cross country carnival
	Aboriginal dance workshop - Robyn Webster sports centre Tempe
20 - 22 Mar	Year 7 Aquatic week
25 Mar	P&C Meeting
25 - 29 Mar	Year 11 Hospitality students on work placement
26 Mar	Year 9 Smashed
27 Mar	HSIE Katoomba buskwalk
28 Mar	Year 12 Advanced English Giant Dwarf theatre

#### Student Representative Council

It was my pleasure to have breakfast with our newly elected SRC last week. I spoke with them about our school plan and my intention to include student opinion in more decision making around the school. A few days later many of the students attended the executive meeting, where both the students and teachers discussed ideas on how to improve the playground environment. Lots of ideas were explored with valued input from all students. As a result, a smaller team was formed to develop one of the ideas, which looks like being implemented in term 2.

#### **Minchinbury Band Program**

A new initiative this year has seen Erskine Park High School hosting the Minchinbury Public School band every Tuesday afternoon. I would like to welcome students and staff from Minchinbury PS and look forward to future performances with both the high school and primary school playing together.

#### Year 7 Welcome Barbecue

Thank you to the many Year 7 parents and students who attended our annual barbecue to meet some of

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the teachers in an informal setting. This event is a great opportunity to get to know the teachers and find out a little bit about what goes on in the classroom. We like to promote open communication, so please don't hesitate to contact teachers, via the front office, if you have any concerns.

#### 2018 HSC High Achievers

The following students achieved a band 5 and above in their HSC last year:







Jennifer Davis

Ashleigh Foley



Anthony Halteh





Hanley Hanlon



Matthew Kucinic



Jaanvi Kumar



Amelia

Lees



Naomi Lolohea



Rachae Melaniuk



Mitchell Nesovic



Rose Nguyen

Samuel

Plews



Ali Rabeay











Jasmine

Tiatia

Sinead Rofe

Rofe



Smee



on Aydin ma Urludag

Ms Leiza Lewis Principal Kiara Van der Meulen

Madison Williams

**DEPUTY PRINCIPALS REPORT** We have already had a busy start to the term and in what seems like a blink of an eye we are heading towards week 7. This term we have already completed the Swimming carnival and several our high performing students are off to zone carnivals to compete in a range of events. We have celebrated the achievements of our outgoing year 12 students from 2018 at our high achievers' assembly. Our new year 7 students and their parents have had the opportunity to meet with teachers at the annual year 7 parents' barbeque. We have complete school photos for the year and it was wonderful to see our students and staff dressed up looking their best for the event. As we progress further into the term a few messages are important to communicate to parents and the community

#### STEM

As part of our ongoing Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) initiative, we have engaged with the STEM Share program with the Department of Education. Through this program, we have been able to access a PC Robotics kit which includes a range of robotics equipment such as EV3 Lego robotics kits, Microbits and Ozobots for a period of one term. Staff have also accessed professional development through the program to build their skills and understanding of how to integrate robotics and coding into their teaching practice.

Students in Science, TAS, Mathematics and Support



classes have been using these kits in class to support the work they are doing in these curriculum areas. In addition, we have run three enrichment days where students have had the opportunity to learn how to build robots and program them.

There have been challenges where students need to program their robots to perform functions, complete a complex track and complete the sumo challenge. The sumo challenge was to design and program a robot to "wrestle" the opposition's robot out of an arena like sumo wrestling. Teams competed against each other with our final victor being Bots.

Students learned a great deal about engineering design for the robots, block coding and teamwork. It has been a wonderful opportunity for our students and we will be continuing to review how we can embed robotics and coding into our school into the future.

#### **Opal Cards**

We are currently working with Busways to ensure all students catching the bus are tapping on and off using their school Opal Cards. School Opal cards have replaced bus passes in recent years and it is a requirement that students present their card in order to access free travel to and from school.

Busways are allocated bus routes by Transport NSW based on the numbers of students accessing the buses. The data from the Opal system is used to inform Transport NSW how many children from each school need to access the buses. If students are not tapping on and off we could potentially be allocated fewer buses for our school, resulting in increased pressure on the other routes to get out students home safely.

To apply for a School Opal card or to report a lost or stolen card, go online to <u>Opal website</u>.

#### Vehicles on school grounds

Recently we have had some concerns about student safety as children walk through the staff car park to be picked up by parents or caregivers. There have also been issues where parents are parking along the driveway causing congestion and additional safety concerns for pedestrians walking through this area to collect students from our school and accessing James Erskine Public school through this thoroughfare.

I would ask that parents pick up their students from outside the school gates to minimise traffic in this area. I would also ask that any parents who must access the staff carpark park in the marked bays only and not along the driveway. There are no parking signs along the driveway for this purpose. In this case, we must all work together in the interest of student, staff and pedestrian safety.

### Bike and pedestrian safety

Students commute to school in several different ways including catching the bus, dropped off by parents and by walking or riding bikes to school. It is important that no matter what mode of transport is used to get to and from school that we are ensuring students are always safe.

Students who ride their bicycles to school are encouraged to wear their helmets and follow the appropriate road and safety laws. These students need to be aware of other vehicles on the road and ride as close to the gutter as is possible. Students are also reminded that riding their bicycles through the school is a hazard and they are required to walk their bikes through the school.

Students walking to school are encouraged to be aware of their surroundings and avoid distractions such as mobile phones and discussions with friends, especially when crossing the road or walking through shared traffic areas such as carparks and laneways.

Wishing you all a productive and successful term

Mr Nathaniel Doidge Deputy Principal

#### SRC INDUCTION ASSEMBLY

On Monday the 4th of March, Erskine Park High School held its annual SRC Induction ceremony. Elected students are very excited to be a part of the committee and are looking forward to the year ahead. The support from parents, staff and students was very heart-warming and we would like to wish both long term and new members a very productive year.

#### Student Representative Council 2019 Captains

Hannah Marchant and Rhys Graham

#### Vice Captains

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



#### Student Representatives 2019 Year 7

Morteza Hazara, Jiya Raniga, Brodie Walker, Summer Waters, Vasiliye Zec.

#### Year 8

Bailey Anderson, Jodie Borg, Alexander Camua, Joshua Cinco, Gabe Fernandez, Treadie Morgan-Thomas, Dean Sicat.

#### Year 9

Erin Galang, Aamya Khosla, Hurairrah Masood, Sukhesh Patro, Heidi Yopp.

#### Year 10

Claudine De Paz, Crystal Halteh, Jasmine Halteh, Tyla Herd, Delta McAnulty.

#### Year 11

Angela Byun, Georgia Fraser, Riley Jarnet, Peter Levin, Teegan Ryan, Alessandra Timoteo, Alice Swan.

#### Year 12 Ijlal Khan.



Mrs Laura Giaquinto and Mrs Julie Walker SRC Coordinators

#### WELLBEING REPORT Welcome

Welcome to 2018 to both our returning and new students and their families. Our wellbeing team works together to support your child's schooling and wellbeing. It is important that the school is informed with any relevant issues or concerns that may impact on your child. There are many programs and strategies we can provide for students to support them and ensure that they have positive learning experiences and interactions at school. If you have any queries regarding your child's welfare at school please make contact with your child's relevant Year adviser or myself.

#### Medication

Should your child have any specific medical needs, it

is important that the school is informed. All students with specific medical needs have an individual health care plan and any medication is issued through the front office. If your child is listed on our system as an asthmatic or anaphylactic we require a plan filled out by your doctor, and a copy to be kept on site. This process is still being finalised and you will receive all relevant forms in the next few weeks if we require more information.

#### Vaccinations

The first round of vaccinations began on Friday 22nd February. Students are only able to receive the HPV vaccination for free in Year 7, so if you missed the first round, it's not too late to bring in your form and catch up when the nurses return in July.

#### **Merit Awards**

Our merit system awards students for their positive contributions to school life. Teachers are always on the lookout to reward students with teacher's awards for working to the best of their ability within the classroom, in CLUES, or outside the classroom. Teacher's awards are just the beginning! When students earn 5 teacher's awards they take these awards to their assistant year adviser to begin the process of earning bronze, silver, gold and diamond awards.

#### Year 9 'Smashed' Performance

On Tuesday 26th March all Year 9 students will attend the free performance of 'smashed' run by performance group Gibber. It informs young people about alcohol awareness and the company have a commitment to reduce underage drinking and alcoholrelated harm through the use of theatre.

#### Anti-Bullying

At Erskine Park High School we do not tolerate bullying or harassment. In any bullying situation there is usually a person being bullied, the person bullying and bystanders (people watching or nearby when the bullying takes place). Bullying behaviour can be reinforced where people watch but do nothing. Take a stand against bullying!

All members of our school community (staff, students, parents and community members) can all be part of the solution by modelling and promoting appropriate behaviours and respectful relationships. It is important that if you are being bullied or witness someone being bullied that it is reported to someone: a parent, teacher, Deputy or Principal. All reports and incidents are taken very seriously and dealt with swiftly. On Monday 18th March, Erskine Park High School will be supporting the national day of action against bullying.

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#### **CLUES** poster

The CLUES poster is the basis for our wellbeing initiatives in the school and supports our CLUES program, which students attend once a week on a Monday.



#### 2019 Wellbeing team Year 10 Year 6 Rebecca Hayley to 7 Crowshaw and Christensen and Andrew Sheen Alice Yates Year 7 Darwin Mendoza **Brent Parkhill** Year 11 and TBA and Chelsea Neubronner Kristen Tulloch Year 8 Year 12 Nikeisha Mills and Rebecca and Mark Lawson Giaquinto Kaitlin Humphrey Year 9 Head Tegan Misdom and Joshua Teacher Banks

Ms Tegan Misdom

Head Teacher Wellbeing

#### ENGLISH REPORT

'Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.' - Joseph Addison

We welcome new staff member Mr Grave to the English Faculty this year. He has years of teaching experience and is keen to assist Ms Crowshaw with this year's debating teams. We will again be involved in interschool debating and public speaking competitions throughout the year.

In junior English classes this year, we are dedicating the first 15 minutes of each lesson to wide reading. Studies show students who read improve their knowledge, vocabulary, writing skills, comprehension and even increase their empathy. Students have visited the library to borrow books or are bringing books from home. Please help us by ensuring your child brings a novel to class each day. The Premier's Reading Challenge is also on again this year and we encourage all students to get involved.

#### What are we studying Term 2? Year 7

Students are well into their first unit of work which focuses on the use of imagery in poetry and short stories. Students will be studying a range of texts and using these as models to create their own texts. This is also great preparation for NAPLAN next term.

#### Year 8

The Horror genre is the focus of work this term and students will analyse a number of texts for their conventions and the techniques used. They will also be learning about the 7 Steps to Writing Success method to enhance their short story writing.

#### Year 9

Prejudice is the focus for a thematic study this term. A range of texts are studied to ascertain the various ways prejudice can be conveyed in texts. Students will be assessed via an essay task, later in the term.

#### Year 10

Students are completing a poetry study this term, and will focus on picture books or speeches later in the term.

#### Year 11

Standard and Advanced English are currently studying the common module 'Reading to Write' focusing on a number of Australian texts. Students are required to analyse the techniques used and then experiment with applying these techniques to enhance their own writing. This culminates with students submitting their best work with a reflection statement explaining their ideas and the construction processes. English Studies are working through the mandatory module 'Achieving through English' focussing on their skill development.

#### Year 12

Students are working hard on their new units of work.



Advanced students are involved in a critical study of Great Expectations, Standard students are analysing Robert Gray's poetry, and Studies students are studying 'On the Road'. All students have assessment tasks to complete by the end of the term. Extension 1 and 2 students have recently completed their first assessment task for the year with a creative writing focus.

Mrs Kelly Hodkinson Head Teacher English

#### **CAPA REPORT**

Welcome to all students and parents to another year. The Creative and Performing Arts Faculty is fortunate to have Mrs Chloe Zwaan join us as Ms Emily Riordan travels overseas for the year. James Dallas, Andrew Mayes, Ngoc Tran, Jade Vardon, Alice Yates and Gennaro Serra continue to be part of the Creative and Performing Arts team for 2019.

#### 2018 HSC Results

Congratulations to all the Visual Arts and Music Students who sat the HSC and submitted a Major Body of work and or performed a musical Item for their examinations last year. Their extremely pleasing results validated their commitment and dedication towards their practice and art making. Well done to all the students who completed the Visual Arts and Music courses in 2018.



#### **Art Express Gallery Excursions**

Year 12 and 11 students who are completing the Visual Arts course will have the opportunity to visit this year's ART EXPRESS Exhibition at the Art Gallery of NSW and The Armory at Newington. This is a fantastic opportunity for our senior students to experience the high standard of work produced by other Visual Arts students across the state who completed the 2018 HSC Arts course.

#### Equipment 2019 Visual Arts / Photography / Visual Design / Ceramics

Including BYOD, an A4 or A3 Visual Arts Process Diary (This is a mandatory requirement in all courses - Years 8 to 12) 2B or 4B lead pencil, easer, glue stick, scissors and apron or paint shirt (optional). Students completing senior art courses may be required to purchase speciality equipment out of their own funds to supplement and complete their body of works. (Year 11 and 12).

#### Music

Including BYOD, an exercise book with lined manuscript paper (minimum 96 pages) lead pencil, easer, glue stick, scissors and optional headphones for use while playing keyboards.

#### Fees

Just a friendly reminder about subject contribution fees for our courses. This goes a long way towards helping all our students experience all facets of courses in providing materials, instruments and general up keep of equipment. Every little bit helps and we are appreciative of the funds that we receive. Details of the fees schedule are available on the school's website.

#### **Music News**

Year 7: Many of you have already surprised both Mr Mayes and Mr Dallas with your musical talent and knowledge and we congratulate those students who are taking on the challenge of learning an instrument for the first time.

Year 8: Unfortunately, you are no longer doing your mandatory course this year. Yr. 8 students are always very welcome to participate in additional activities.

Year 9, 10, 11 and 12: Students are welcome at any time to participate and extend their musical abilities.

#### **Concert Band Year 7 BBQ**

The first performance for the band this year was at the Year 7 Meet the Teachers BBQ afternoon. New members of the band have made their way up from the training band. This is great news as the band is looking at recruiting more members in 2019. It will be a busy year with the band performing at a range of events. Students who were in a band program in Year 6 should continue to learn an instrument and join the school's Concert Band.

#### **Training Band**

Every Tuesday afternoon from 2.40 - 3.30pm, there is an opportunity for students looking to learn or increase their skills on the basics of wind, brass and percussion instruments, to join the Training Band. This allows students to learn an instrument in a band environment and experience the benefits and enjoyment of learning and playing a musical instrument. If you are interested, please see Mr Dallas or Mr Mayes in the CAPA Staffroom.

#### Instrument Tuition

Students who are interested in undertaking lessons during school time on guitar, keyboard, drums

or singing, a new program is developing to allow students to expand their musical skills. Please see Mr Dallas or Mr Mayes if you are interested in finding out more details.

Mr Gennaro Serra Head Teacher, Creative and Performing Arts

#### SUPPORT REPORT Bedford Work Experience

Students have been working hard, developing new skills and socialising in the warehouse setting. They have been packaging and preparing different products that are being shipped out all across the country. Here we can see some students enjoying their day on the floor.





#### **Bunnings Work Placement**

Jordan Cairns and Rodney Carlin have been working well independently at Bunnings. Here we can see them in their work uniform ready to help out some potential customers.





#### Kari Scholarship Winners

Rodney Carlin and Tremayne Yule have both earned the Kari Schools Scholarship, which entitles them to \$500 that can be spent on practically anything relating to their schooling. Well done to all the winning recipients!

#### DARE Gardening

DARE gardening has returned this year allowing our junior students to participate in an internally run work experience, helping them develop gardening and landscaping skills that will be useful down the track.

#### **Class Activities**

Our students have been engaging in some pretty fun activities over the last five weeks. From science experiments and sport, to cooking, and dancing, we have been flat out learning new skills along the way.



Mr Andrew Blom Head Teacher Support

#### **GAT REPORT**

The Gifted and Talented students have made an excellent start to the year! The Gifted and Talented Program involves staff working closely with students to extend, challenge and inspire their learning.

The Year 7 and 8 students have been engaging in the new withdrawal program which includes a variety of challenges, skills and completing individual and group projects.

The Year 7 students will be completing an "All About Me" project which involves students producing a product that represents key attributes of themselves. This project will be due in Week 11.

The Year 8 students are completing a unit with a focus on Drama in order to build their confidence,



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communication and analytical skills. Students will be required to compose their own dramatic text based on social issues prevalent amongst teenagers and they will perform their compositions in Week 11. Year 8 will also take on individual projects, including costume and program design, directing and script writing.

This year, the Gifted and Talented Team will meet once a fortnight, and are busy planning some exciting opportunities for our students. Upcoming opportunities include Tournament of Minds which is a problem-solving programme where teams will be required to solve complex activities. The team selections will not be until Term 2 as the 2019 challenges will not begin until Term 3.

It is safe to say that 2019 will be an exciting and busy year for our Gifted and Talented students. I look forward to encouraging and assisting students to further develop their skills along their journey here at Erskine Park High School.

Please feel free to contact me with any concerns or questions.

Mrs Angelita Manalo Gifted and Talented Coordinator

#### LIBRARY REPORT

2019 has seen a busy start to the year in EPHS library, most probably because it continues to be the Best Place in the School. Already, Speed Dating a Book has happened with many successful pairings of students and books. Wide reading groups have begun regular forays into the library, with some students gearing up for the Premier's Reading Challenge which begins the first week of March. Speed Dating a Book ties in nicely with the CBCA book week theme of "Reading is my Secret Power" Amongst the speed daters were some of the visiting Chinese students who embraced the concept.





Tuesday saw the unveiling of the "Long List" - books nominated for the Children's Book Council of Australia book week awards. The shortlist will be announced with a flourish on Tuesday 26th March with lots of reading and re-reading until the winners are announced during CBCA book week in August.



A timely reminder for students from Years 7-9 to sign up for the Premier's Reading Challenge. Students successfully achieving their goal will receive a certificate and those who have completed successive years may be eligible to receive a medallion. Four EPHS students received

medallions in 2018 which was a wonderful achievement.

The library collection continues to develop with the addition of new books across many genres, including graphic novels. The collection building supports the curriculum, the Premier's Reading Challenge, Wide reading and the CBCA with quality Australian literature.

Remember to visit the library soon.

Ms Terry Fahy Teacher Librarian

#### YEAR 9 REPORT

Welcome back Year 9 and welcome to our first newsletter for 2019. I hope all students and their families had a relaxing break and are refreshed and ready for the year ahead. Most students have settled in well and are continuing to meet the expectations of high school.

#### New Assistant Year Adviser



I would also like to welcome Mr Banks to the role of Year 9 Assistant Year Adviser. He is located in the HSIE staffroom and is looking forward to assisting the students of Year 9 throughout the year. Mr Banks will be notified electronically when Year 9 students have received 5 teachers

awards and will issue students a bronze award. Students are encouraged to continue to work hard in class to achieve teachers awards.

#### **Elective Subjects**

Students this year have had the opportunity to choose electives for both 100hr and 200hr courses. Some of these subjects have specific requirements with regards to equipment. It is necessary for all students to wear leather shoes in practical subjects including; Science, Food Technology, Wood Work and Metal Work. Any students participating in practical lessons are required to wear leather shoes. Students are also encouraged to check their assessment schedules for any upcoming assessments.

#### SRC

Congratulations to the following students on being elected as the Student Representatives for Year 9 2019. Hurairrah Masood, Sukhesh Patro, Heidi Yopp, Aamya Kholsa and Erin Galang.



#### **Sporting Achievements**



Congratulations to Malakai Borg who has been selected to play in the Werrington zone basketball team to trial for the Sydney west basketball team on 8th March 2019. This is a huge achievement as usually the team is made up of older boys in Year 11 and 12. Well done Malakai. We wish him all the best for the upcoming trial. Both I and Mr Banks would like to congratulate Year 9 for their wonderful start to 2019. We hope you have a fantastic year and continue to strive to achieve your personal best. We encourage you to ask questions, be brave and step out of your comfort zone to try something new. Remember we are here to help you and are located in the following staffrooms: Miss Humphrey - TAS1 Mr Banks – HSIE

Miss Kaitlin Humphrey and Mr Joshua Banks Year Adviser and Assistant Year Adviser

#### YEAR 10 REPORT

Welcome to our very first newsletter for Year 10, 2019. We hope all students and their families had a lovely and refreshing holiday. Most students have settled in very well and are continuing to meet the demands of high school with ease.

#### **Upcoming Events**

May 22nd - Athletics carnival May 23rd - Western Sydney Careers Market

#### Congratulations

We would like to congratulate the 65 students who expressed interest in becoming peer mediators. This was a record number of nominees and this is a true reflection of the fantastic students we have in Year 10 and their willingness to give back to our school community.

We would also like to congratulate our 2019 SRC representatives; Crystal Halteh, Jasmine Halteh, Claudine De Paz, Tyla Herd and Delta McAnulty. We look forward to having these students represent our grade through the committee.

#### **Formal Committee**

Students who wish to join and assist in the organisation of this year's formal, please come and see Miss Christensen in the Science staffroom.

Miss Rebecca Christensen and Miss Alice Yates Year 10 Adviser and Assistant Year Adviser

#### ST MARYS RSL SUB BRANCH ANZAC 2019 at St Marys

The RSL will be conducting the usual two ANZAC Commemorative Services again this year. You are invited to lay a floral tribute at either/both services.

 On Sunday 14th April they will conducting the annual march and service. Following advice from authorities, they have altered the start location and time for the march and also the time and location of the service. The march will commence from the western end of Cook Park in Wilson

Street, St Marys at 11.00am. The march will proceed to the War Memorial in the grounds of St Marys RSL Club, corner of Mamre Road and Hall Street, St Marys, where a service will commence on its arrival (likely around 11.20am). The march is 0.7km.

- On ANZAC Day, Thursday 25th April, a Dawn Service will be held at the St Marys RSL Club, corner of Mamre Road and Hall Street, St Marys, commencing at 5.00am. They suggest an early arrival as car parking areas often become congested soon after 4:30am.
- The St Marys RSL appreciate that these events fall at either end of school vacation however they would truly welcome attendance and participation of interested students from EPHS (and behind the school banner for the march).

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# **Erskine Park High School** "Pride in Achievement"

# INFORMATION EVENING

We are holding an information evening for Year 6 students and their families

## THURSDAY 14TH MARCH 2019 AT 7.00PM IN THE SCHOOL HALL

Please join us for a tour of the school. The tour will start at 6.00pm. Meet outside the hall.

Contact Kylie McMahon on 9834 3536 for more information



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