

# Erina News

The last term at Erina High School is rapidly disappearing with staff and students actively engaged with teaching and learning. All students are completing assessment tasks in preparation for the semester two reporting process. We are aiming to have reports issued on the last school day of the school year which will be Wednesday December 18. Year 11 students have recently received their reports and I strongly encourage them to follow their teacher's advice as they commence the HSC year.

It is with regret that I advise the School community that our student numbers are lower than expected for 2014 as a result of changing demographics, lower numbers in year 6 and the competitive educational landscape Erina is in. This sadly will also see a reduction in our staffing. As we work through our staffing allocation, student numbers and timetabling, I will advise the community of the variations.

Erina High School needs your help to tell everyone you know about the great things happening at our school and how impressive our school grounds and facilities are becoming and please share the concerns you may have with me first. I am in a better position to manage issues when I am aware of them. I have been conducting parent forums this year and have found the feedback most helpful, resulting in some changes in direction for the school. If you are interested in attending the next parent forum, please contact me at school so an invitation can be sent to you.

Keep up to date with school life at Erina High School by visiting our Facebook page - it is always pleasing to see great photos of kids enjoying their learning. Thank you to Ms Johnson who does a terrific job managing our Facebook. Visit us at [www.facebook.com/ErinaHighSchool](http://www.facebook.com/ErinaHighSchool).

As of Monday, November 18 our school car park gates will be locked from 8.45am until 3.15pm Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. On Tuesdays the gates will be locked at 8.45am and opened at 2.30pm. For staff and students on a flexible timetable the gates will be open during break 2 at 1.50pm and closed at 2.30pm Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and re-opened at 3.15pm. This decision has been made necessary due to the ongoing use of our car park by unauthorised users, illegal parking practices and for safety reasons. Authorised users of the car park, that is Erina High School staff and senior students wishing to park on site, will need to be aware of the opening and closing hours. This decision has been endorsed by the P&C, and supported by the staff and students at Erina High School.



**Erina High**

Issue 11

11 November 2013

## School Events

**11, 12, 13 & 15  
November  
Year 8  
ESSA Test**

**13-15  
November  
Year 9  
South Passage**

**14 November  
Year 7  
Scripture**

**20 November  
P&C Meeting  
6.30pm**

**21 November  
Year 9  
Taronga Zoo**

**25 November to  
27 November  
Erina On Stage**

**28 November  
Year 7  
Taronga Zoo**

**2-6 December  
Year 10  
Gold Coast  
Excursion**

It is a term of celebration as we recognise and applaud exceptional student achievement on both the academic and sporting arenas. Our annual presentation night will be held on Wednesday December 11 starting at 7.00pm, followed by our sports presentation morning on Thursday December 12. I look forward to sharing in our students' success.

The teaching staff will be engaged with two professional learning days on Thursday December 19 and Friday December 20 where we will be focusing on the implementation of the Australian Curriculum in English, Maths, Science and History as well as training in Focus on Reading which has been part of our national partnership program to improve literacy. We will also receive training in the welfare data base program we have purchased called Sentral that will track student achievements, issues of concern, attendance and individual learning programs. This will allow us to communicate more accurately and regularly with students and parents.

Congratulations to Mr Jones and Mr Lyons on a very successful "Little Day Out" held for our year 6 students from our partner primary schools. It was a gala event as students rotated through a whole range of sports and had a fabulous day. Despite the extreme heat a great day was had by all, my thanks and appreciation also to the Erina high school student helpers who were a credit to our school. Well done Erina !!!



On Wednesday December 4 we welcome our new year 7 students as they participate in orientation day. We have a fabulous day planned and I know students will thoroughly enjoy the experience. My thanks to Ms Bissett and Mr Bangura for all their work in planning for this day and to the staff who have offered to present taster lessons for the students.

In 2014 we will be trialling a innovative eTEC class in year 7 where students will have the opportunity to use a technology teaching and learning platform in a number of curriculum areas. Educational research has shown that using technology in the classroom improves student performance, retention and engagement. We are in a digital world where the use of technology is an integral part of day to day life, work and leisure. eTEC is an initiative to close the gap between what is happening in the classroom and the “real world”, giving students access to a global audience and preparing them for jobs that don't yet exist. eTEC is Erina High School's unique and innovative technology based teaching and learning platform.

This learning platform incorporates cloud based computing (Google Apps for Education), multiple devices and extension applications. eTEC teachers are specially trained so that a majority of lessons, class management and tasks are based around using eTEC to enhance engagement and learning opportunities.

Google Apps for Education (GAFE) is a cloud based suite of applications that encourages collaboration and communication. Each student's GAFE account is accessible from any computer with an internet connection, anywhere in the world at any time and is free for the student. The Google Apps for Education suite includes applications that closely resemble Microsoft Office suite of applications, plus many more developed for online collaboration and creativity. If you would like any further information on the eTEC class for year 7 in 2014 please contact me at school.

Enjoy the rest of the term! Erina High School believes in *Care, Cooperation, Commitment and Courtesy* - fundamental values that make our school great!

**Yours sincerely**  
**Mrs Nicol**  
**Principal**

## **YEAR 12 PATTERN OF STUDY**

Year 11 2013 have now commenced their Year 12 pattern of study. Students have received a booklet outlining the HSC rules and information about eligibility for the HSC, Content Endorsed Courses, Extension Courses and TVET Courses. If students have not received a copy of this booklet, please see Mrs Smith immediately. In addition all students will be receiving their HSC assessment schedule this week. It is recommended parents look at the schedule and due dates for assessment tasks. Parents may like to map due dates for assessments onto their own calendars.

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

## RED CROSS BLOOD DONORMOBILE

On Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> November The Red Cross Blood Service Donormobile attended Erina High School for our annual student donation day. This visit had to be organised at short notice and the date meant that Year 12 students were not available to donate this year.

A plea for help went out to our Year 10 students to add support to our regular Year 11 donors. After Year 10 were informed of the aims of the program and were told of the routine on the day, an amazing 35 students came forward and put their names on the list.

Students must be 16 at the time of the donation. This meant that there were limited numbers of potential donors from Year 10. In previous years we have had students donate on their 16th birthday!

Red Cross staff are always pleased to attend Erina High School and regularly compliment our students on the calm and mature way in which they approach donating. This year was no different and the community can be proud of our students.

All together 53 students from Years 10 and 11 were prepared to donate on the day with 30 successful donations. Given the high deferral rate of first-time donors (due to illness, recent ear/body piercing, and travel to exotic destinations) this was a great result. It has the potential to save 90 lives.

Students and parents/carers are encouraged to discuss the possibility of students donating in the future as part of the school's ethos of public service.

**John McMullen, Staff Co-ordinator**

## YEAR 7 NEWS

Term 4 is a busy time for our Year 7 cohort. We are looking forward to our end of year excursion to Taronga Zoo which will take place on 28 November 2013. Students have been given notes in Roll Call and additional notes can be collected from Mrs Serrano or Mr Knight. Payment and notes need to be returned as soon as possible.

We have a committee who are busy organising a fundraiser to save the world's orangutans from extinction. All students in Years 7-10 will be asked to donate a gold coin in roll call during Week 7. The money raised will allow us to "adopt" a number of these beautiful animals and help provide medicine, veterinary care, food and forest school training. Well done to our hard working and enthusiastic team which consists of Caitlin Booker, Jackson Crane, Jayde Hall, Hannah Hawkins, Joshua Kadir, Bayleigh Little, Kobi-Dylan Myers, Tahlia Nugent, James Wilkin-Poole and Oliver Vanderslot.

We have many talented students in our year group and this month there are a number who are participating in exceptional events. Matthew Cahill is currently in Barcelona for the 13 years Australian Futsal tour and Oliver Vanderslot will soon head to Malaysia for the 12 years Australian Futsal tour. Additionally Caitlin Booker will be attending the BMX Victorian State Titles on 17<sup>th</sup> November. We wish these students the very best of luck.

**Carmen Serrano/Ross Knight, Year 7 Advisers**

## HIGH ACHIEVERS CAMP

Henry Chan, Shelby Jacobs, Kirsten Bock, Emma Forrest, Casey Smith and Steffany Caltabiano had the opportunity to attend the 2013 High Achievers Camp. This provided us with a unique and beneficial experience to better our understanding and skills to assist us in our HSC, meet and interact with new people in a fun environment and gain advice and tips from those who have profoundly excelled in their area of expertise.

It was an awesome experience that we are grateful for, and we encourage anyone in further years who is presented with this opportunity to take it!

We would like to thank the P&C for financially supporting the camp.

## CANCER COUNCIL CAKE STALL A DELICIOUS SUCCESS!

On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October a fundraising cake stall was held to raise funds for the Cancer Council and Relay for Life. It was run by a wonderful group of Year 9 Art students who did a fabulous job either manning the stall on the canteen verandah, or walking around to staffrooms selling cakes, biscuits, muffins and slices. Those students were Olivia Mostaert, Nischala McDonnell, Jake Mottershead, Neslihan Baydar, Kintan Golledge, Phoebe Flores, Lucinda Flores and Skye Hahn.

A huge thank you to the following individuals who donated cakes to the stall: Tyrone Patterson, Mrs Coon, Olivia Mostaert, Elyssa Cameron, Skye Hahn and Nischala McDonnell. And thank you also to the other members of 9VA who assisted in setting up the stall.

The cake stall was a huge success raising \$326 for the Cancer Council and contributing to a total \$1256 donated by Erina High School staff and students since I began my Relay for Life fundraising campaign earlier in the month. The Newcastle/Lake Macquarie Relay for Life was held just last weekend over a sizzling 18 hours of extreme heat, but was a most rewarding and satisfying experience for all involved. My team, Mick's Banana Peels, named in memory of my brother who passed away from bowel cancer in 2006, raised a total of \$5908 for the Cancer Council; a total that was double what we raised last year!

Thank you to all the generous individuals who helped us achieve such a lofty goal and heartfelt gratitude to the Erina High School community for digging deep and taking this worthy cause to heart.

**Karen Scott**



## ENGLISH NEWS

The English faculty would like to thank the departing year 12 students for their contributions to the School over the past six years and we wish them well as they move on to the next stage of their lives. Thank you as well for the exceptional response in returning books and course material, very few books remain unaccounted for.

We now extend this call for the return of books to all students in years 7-11. Please check for any texts from previous units of work and return these to your English teacher or the English staffroom. Thank you for your cooperation in this.

Years 7- 9 continue to work through their Drama unit of work, with an assessment due in week ten of term. This task will be a visual representation and a written explanation of the major themes in their text. Students are reminded that marks carry over from the final assessment this year to their results for Semester One next year. Year 10 students are finishing the year with a focus on Advertising and the persuasive techniques that have been employed in the media.

If students or parents are ever unsure of the assessment tasks scheduled, they can visit our school web site and download English assessment dates as well as assessment task notifications.

Year 11 Advanced and Standard students are, at the time of writing this, making final preparations for their speech assessment in week 6 as part of their HSC Area of Study: Belonging work. The English staff have been impressed with the efforts that many students have put in so far, and we anticipate a productive and successful year ahead for this cohort.

Year 11 English Studies students have been exploring the topic of “We Are Australians” through a range of texts, delving into the ideas and values that are apparent in these texts. The first assessment task for these students will take place in week 11.

Year 10 Drama has completed their unit of work on Kabuki theatre, which was extremely successful. Drama classes continue their exploration of the theoretical and practical elements of “physical theatre”, culminating in the creation of performance pieces. Many of these performances will be able to be seen at the “Erina on Stage” matinee and evening performances on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November.

Year 11 Drama are studying the theatre of Berthold Brecht. They will complete a performance task based on this style of theatre for their first assessment in week 9 of this term.

The recent excursion to attend the Sydney Theatre Company production of William Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet was a resounding success. Feedback from the students was that they valued the opportunity to expand their cultural boundaries, and thoroughly enjoyed engaging with this complex play. The supervising staff would like to applaud the students for their impeccable behaviour throughout the day as well.

Students in years 9, 10 and 11 Drama are invited to attend the Sydney Theatre Company production of Waiting for Godot by Samuel Beckett. Additional information is available from Ms Kearney or Ms Johnson. Limited tickets are still available from the Front Office if you have not bought your ticket yet. Students who are attending this excursion must meet at Gosford station at 8.20am on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> of November.

## ADVERTISING/COMMUNITY NOTICES

### CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS

Have you taken a photograph that celebrates or reflects cultural diversity?

Green Point Community Centre in partnership with Northern Settlement Services invites you to submit your entry to win.

The photos will be judged in the following age groups:

Primary School | Secondary School | Open Adult | Seniors (60+)

For more information and application forms call Green Point Community Centre on 4367 7591 or email [info@greenpointcommunitycentre.com.au](mailto:info@greenpointcommunitycentre.com.au)

**ENTRIES CLOSE FEBRUARY 28, 2014**



**Special Needs Kids Christmas Party**  
For Children with Additional Needs / Disabilities - Central Coast and Lower Hunter  
**Sunday, 1st December**  
11:00am - 4:00pm



**\$2 per person**

Accessible Rides and Amusement  
Entertainment and Raffles  
Modified Sports and Activities  
Disabled Access and Facilities  
FREE Paediatric Ear Exams  
Santa's Arrival and Photos  
Face Painters  
Market Stalls  
Pamper Place  
*and much much more*

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**Claus Manor**  
Pacific Highway, Wyoming

at  
**Camp Breakaway**  
80 Highview Avenue  
SAN REMO

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He needs someone to care.

Do you have room in your home and space in your heart? Help us meet an urgent need for foster carers in the Hunter and Central Coast region.

The most urgent need exists for:

- Sibling groups of primary school age.
- Children in need of respite (short break) care, for example can you care for a child / children one weekend a month to give their full time carers a break?

Visit [fosteringnsw.com.au](http://fosteringnsw.com.au) or call 1800 236 783

### Southern Cross Cultural Exchange

(SCCE) is seeking volunteer host families to host international exchange students arriving in February 2014. For more information:

**visit:** [www.scce.com.au](http://www.scce.com.au)

**email:** [scceaust@scce.com.au](mailto:scceaust@scce.com.au) or

**call:** 1800 500 501

**Erina High School**

*A caring community committed to excellence in education*

152 The Entrance Road  
ERINA NSW 2260  
<http://www.erina-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/>

Phone: 4367 7353 or 4367 7246  
F: 4365 3086  
E-mail: [erina-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:erina-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au)



**Erina High School**  
**SPECIAL SALES**  
**EVENING**

Lowes Erina, Erina Fair Shopping Centre.  
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December, 3.00pm – 7.00pm

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**RECEIVE 15% DISCOUNT**

Off the regular price on all store items.  
For all incoming Year 7 parents and students

**PLUS**

**BONUS EZY-WAY 5% DISCOUNT**

additional for Lowes Ezy-Way customers

**OR 5% REWARDS**

Lowes Rewards Card holders receive in-store Gift Vouchers  
to the value of 5% of their purchase

**PLUS**

Lowes will pay your school annual **5% rebate** on every  
uniform purchased in-store.

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