

EGGSNEWS



Epsom Girls
Grammar School

Issue 3 - March 2016



EGGS rowers at the North Island Secondary Schools Championships at Lake Karapiro

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Students

We are looking forward to Term 1 Conferences on the Wednesday and Thursday after Easter. To see and hear students articulating how they are settling into the demands of a new year, taking a step up, is such a positive experience for students having agency in their schooling – being in charge; being in the driving seat of the process – not at school as a passive passenger.

It is also an opportunity to look ahead – to see what commitments a student has for the year and how the tutor and parents can help them navigate that – it may be in terms of the assessment calendar for senior students or in terms of looking at how many in-school and out of school activities place demands on time. As a School we want to be absolutely clear – students should not feel that they must join a large number of co-curricular activities. We are not wanting students to feel undue pressure – we want them to enjoy their learning, to enjoy their co-curricular involvement and to have time for family and down-time. We have all seen pieces in the media from time to time about the importance of not being ‘clubbed’ until feeling giddy – in other words belonging to so many clubs and activities that there is barely an unorganised moment in the week. I feel that this is an area where each individual needs to make good decisions, in conjunction with their family, for their own circumstances. At the other end of the spectrum if a student is not involved in any activities, in or out of school, this might be something to review as benefits beyond the classroom are one of the important features of a well-rounded education.

Polyfest, Dragonboating, Zone Athletics and Swimming, Tennis and North Island Rowing Championships have involved a large number of students, parents and teachers. You may have seen photos on the website and there are more in this newsletter – congratulations to everyone who has been involved in the past two weeks.

I hope everyone enjoys the Easter holidays. School will finish at 3.15pm on Thursday and start again on Wednesday 30 March with the first day of the Term 1 Conferences.

Lorraine Pound - Principal

EGGS Open Morning and Epsom House Open Afternoon Tuesday 12 April 2016

[Click here for more details](#)

Coming up in Week 9....

Wed 30-31 Mar Student/Parent/Tutor
Conferences

Coming up in Week 10....

Mon 4 - 8 Apr Summer Tournament Wk
Thu 7 Apr Last Night of the Proms



Samoan Group



Tongan Group

Polyfest photos - Fia Roache Photography

OLD GIRLS ASSOCIATION

On Wednesday 6 April, the Old Girls Association will be having its annual morning tea in Epsom House. Following on immediately from this occasion, will be reunions for those who started in the third form in 1946 and 1956. We know that these senior old girls really cherish meeting current students on their tour of the school and enjoy reminiscing in the Archives Room. It never ceases to amaze those on the OGA Committee how school friendships from EGGs stay strong for decades.

We were delighted to be asked last month to provide a cup for the Pasifika Awards and look forward to meeting the recipient of the award for 'Service to the EGGs Community' in the near future.

It's amazing to think that the countdown to the Centenary celebrations starts on April 5 with a special assembly at school. The Centennial Committee is working hard to ensure that the planned events will be talked about by attendees for years to come.

We hope that everyone has a relaxed and joyful Easter break.

Per Angusta Ad Augusta

Kathryn Seagrave - Co-President, Old Girls Association

SOCIAL SCIENCES and BYOD

A genuine blended learning environment has become a reality in the Social Science learning environment at EGGs with the advent of BYOD. Walking into a History, Geography or Business classroom, you will see students moving seamlessly between paper based and digital resources as they work. Devices are used at every step in the learning process – as students define and plan, use sources of information and process ideas, through to recording learning and presenting. Students enjoy the immediacy and flexibility that digital devices offer: "It's good to have a source of up-to-date information", "It is great for class presentations – [we] can add videos and music to things like role plays to make them more interesting."

Teachers have identified three key areas where they feel devices have made a real difference to classroom learning - the three 'C's of control, collaboration and connection.

A BYOD environment has promoted more student control of what, when and how they learn, with less reliance on the teacher to provide 'the answer'. This is particularly the case with research assessments, a core part of Social Science programmes. Devices allow students to choose the nature, type and number of sources they use rather than those choices always being made for them. Devices provide easy access to important databases such as EPIC. Teachers are able to use web tools such as Scoop it, Padlet and Google applications to provide curated selections of useful educational links to support learning on topics as diverse as WW1, Human Rights and Sustainability.



Collaboration is central to learning. Devices in classes allow students to share, critique and build on ideas. Digital platforms support group work, and allow students to form online learning communities to achieve their goals. For example, in Social Studies, a whole class might be working together to answer a 'fertile question' using their devices to access a sharing space such as a google document, slideshow or a wiki. Business students in small groups use digital platforms to create and implement plans and produce products for sale.

Finally, Social Science teachers report that devices have created more connectivity between teacher and student. Absent students can stay in touch. Online resource sharing, reminders, queries, questions and feedback can all happen beyond the restrictions of a one hour period, providing multiple points of contact and supporting the development of those crucial learning relationships.

COMMUNITY

On Thursday 17th March the Community Egg had their first assembly. Leaders Courtney York and Mehek Dutta addressed the school with the following words:

"Community Egg is all about promoting a sense of belonging, school spirit and support within Epsom Girls. Our goal for this year is to continue to promote this through new and exciting events that we can all enjoy. Within the Egg, we have older students supporting you in the school such as Peer Support, MASH, Kotahitanga and International Committee. We also have committees such as Sisterhood of Spirit and Student Council who work to promote school spirit and student voice amongst many other groups.

Whether you realise it or not, every single person sitting in this hall is a part of the Community Egg as we all bring something special to the unique carton of eggs that is our school. On the topic of eggs, this term we are bringing you the very exciting Good Egg Award. We will be choosing a few girls from each year level who have done something good this year, to receive a small prize. This is your time to shine so get on board and nominate your friends, google nomination forms will be sent to your emails by the end of this week.

The Community Egg will be bringing you many more fun events throughout the year such as Community Week next term so keep a look out for that and get involved."

We are calling on senior students to assist with poppies at the Dawn Parade at the Domain on Anzac Day, 25th April. There are 11 volunteers so far and we need another 9. If you are interested please contact Mehek Dutta for further details.

2016 Student Council: [click here to view details of this year's Student Council](#)

CAREER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

On Thursday 17th March, the Career Education Department was excited to host two former EGGs students as part of its Thursday Lunchtime Talks series. Rachel Miller (2010) and Karina Kaufusi (2009) are now both working as engineers, Rachel with Fisher and Paykel Healthcare, and Karina with BECA. It was great to hear about the subjects they took while at EGGs and the relevance of these to their study, why they chose to be engineers, and what they do now. These young women have a very positive future ahead of them and they were very inspirational speakers to our aspiring engineers.

For more photos from their presentations, please go to our [Facebook page 'EGGS Career Education'](#).

Thursday Lunchtime Talks series, DSO.

All students welcome.

24 March - Unitec

7 April - Education USA

14 April - Lincoln University



Thursday Lunchtime Talk series - DSO

These dates and more, can be found on Dreamcatcher, the student notices, and our Facebook page as they become closer.

ART DEPARTMENT

The Art Department had a hugely successful trip to the Museum to draw from the Taonga held there. Students sketched from all 3 floors and were able to visit the exciting Air New Zealand collection.

Visual Art leaders were in full swing during athletics and managed to create two 'whole school participation paint-by-numbers' paintings that will go around the school. It was great to see all of the up and coming student photographers working hard at Fia Fia night taking photographs of the performances. Congratulations to our Visual Art Leaders; Monica Wang, Maddison Crutch, Beth Clemens and Rebecca Hazard.

Pavement Art is coming up in Week 11 (Wednesday 13 April) and this is a great opportunity for students to form a group and participate in a really exciting, annual visual Art event.

Ex EGGs old girl and Pasifika Student Ane Tonga presenting lectures on her role as a curator:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1656832197915468/>



ARTS AND CULTURE

Fia Fia Night

On Saturday the 12th March Epsom Girls Grammar School's cultural groups showcased their talent and hard work at the annual Fia Fia Night. The purpose of this evening is to help the students prepare for ASB Polyfest and enable their parents, friends and family to enjoy their performances. The evening began with the groups selling delicious food at the market stalls, which helped to set the atmosphere for the evening. The Kapa Haka group kick started the performances with a beautiful showcase of both femininity and strength. Our thirteen different cultural groups then proceeded to demonstrate love for their culture and vibrancy in performances that showcased the school's diversity. Samoan Group closed the evening and the audience leaving on a high with their energetic Sasa. Thank you to Auckland University of Technology who supported us on the evening and our Arts and Cultural Prefects Shanaia Boutsady and Lucy Sua who MC'd the event. The Arts Leaders ran backstage like a well-oiled machine and our Teachers in Charge ensured that our students looked beautiful on stage. We are grateful to the tutors and parents, without whom, our cultural groups would not be able to exist.

ASB Polyfest

Every year Epsom Girls Grammar School sends a cohort of over 300 students to perform at ASB Polyfest at the Manukau Sports Bowl. It was a pleasure to attend the Powhiri with Kotahitanga Coordinator Kareen Girven and representatives from both the Kotahitanga Committee and the Arts and Cultural Committee. Thursday saw our Diversity Groups take the stage and like previous years Epsom Girls Grammar continues to be one of the most strongly represented schools on this stage. Throughout Wednesday and Thursday students from the Cook Island Group, Samoan Group and Tongan Group gave speeches on their respective stages about the dangers of rheumatic fever in Pasifika communities. Our Kapa Haka group took the stage very early on Friday morning and there were many positive

comments from the crowd on the vibrancy of the performance. The Cook Island Group were the Mana Kura for the Cook Island Stage, as well as giving a stunning performance which gained them third place in the non-competitive section. Elsie Hosking and Shanaia Boutsady were asked to accompany Prime Minister John Key around Polyfest on this day and represented the school with aplomb. Saturday saw the Tongan and Samoan groups taking the stage to an excited audience. The Samoan Group gained third equal overall in the competitive division. The entire Polyfest was hugely positive and all students and staff involved had a fantastic time over the four days. Thank you to the teachers in charge, the tutors and the parents for their support, hard work and commitment.

Results

Cook Island Stage: Third Place

Samoan Stage: Third Equal, Second in the Sasa, Second for Costume and Tiana Asaua came third place as the Taupou (Princess.)

Awaiting results from the other stages.

► [View photos from the Polyfest here.](#)

EGGS/AGS Production - 14-21 May 2016

This year's annual combined production with Auckland Grammar School is *West Side Story* - a 1950s' adaptation of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. During the summer holidays, the cast had a boot camp in the Raye Freedman Arts Centre where they learnt lots of choreography and had bonding time getting to know each other. They have been working very hard at rehearsals three times a week with their director Anna Richardson, choreographer Rebekkah Schoonbeek, musical director Peter Thomas and vocal coach Virginia Le Cren. With all of their practising, the show is looking very promising with the cast loving every moment of the fun process. They are very much looking forward to the next 6 weeks in the lead up to show week; which will be from the 14th May to the 21st May. Watch this space for ticket information.

Anna Richardson, Arts and Cultural Coordinator

EPSOM MUSIC

Term One has been a hive of activity already for the Music Department. We are thrilled to have a great bunch of new enthusiastic musicians entering our doors and a wonderful group of music leaders: Abbey Busch, Lanlan Li, Alana Janssen, Hana Ireland, Lauren Easteal, Enya Finlayson, Jemima Wu and May Gao.

Our three choirs had a very productive weekend rehearsal workshop in Week Three of this term with almost 200 girls involved and in Week 6 we enjoyed a wonderful talk from APO Horn player Emma Richards.

Currently everyone is working hard towards our annual **Last Night of the Proms Concert** on April 7th. This is always a night to remember, showcasing most of the Epsom Music groups and ending with a bang of traditional Proms vigour. Tickets can be purchased from the Music Department.

On Open Morning, April 12th, we have a free **Music Showcase Concert** in the RFAC at lunchtime. Come along for an hour of entertainment and witness some of our contemporary music students showcasing their amazing talent. ([Click here to view the poster.](#))

There will be a special screening of '[Crossing Rachmaninoff](#)' at the RFAC at 7:30pm on April 13th. Watch this space for more details.



Epsom Music Leaders for 2016

SPORT

Sports Uniform

Epsom Girls has a new sports uniform this year which is compulsory to those new to sport and all Year 9s. There are t-shirt and singlet options, depending on which sport you take part in, and royal blue shorts and tights available. It has been great to see the new uniform out in action with students wearing it to their competitions and events in the last few weeks standing out from the crowd.



Athletics

Athletics Central/Eastern Zones took place on Monday 14th March and we had 18 students qualify for the Auckland Championships on Wednesday 23rd March at Mt Smart Stadium. Well done Catrin Dawson who qualified with the fastest time across all Auckland zones in the Intermediate Girls 1500m.

Aquathon

Well done to the 12 girls who took part in the Aquathon on Friday 11th March at St Kents College. Congratulations to Ruby Murray and Ellie Eastwood who placed third in the Intermediate girls team competition.

North Island Secondary Schools Rowing Championships

The North Island Secondary Schools Championships took place on the 18th – 20th March at Lake Karapiro in Cambridge with Epsom sending down 42 girls to compete and coming away with some great results. The U18 Coxed four placed 3rd, U17 Coxed eight placed 2nd and the U15 Coxed eight also placed second.

► [View more photos from the Rowing Championships here.](#)

Summer Tournament Week

In Week 10 Summer Tournament Week gets underway with Water Polo competing in Auckland at the NISS, Ultimate Frisbee going to Taupo for the NZSS Champs, Rowing to Twizel in the NZSS Maadi Cup and Equestrian to Cambridge for the NISS Dressage.



Aquathon - St Kents College

EGGS FOUNDATION

We're very excited to be fundraising with Entertainment™ this year. Order your NEW 2016 | 2017 Entertainment™ Books and Entertainment™ Digital Memberships from us today, and 20% of the proceeds contribute towards our School!



[CLICK HERE TO ORDER NOW](#)

Email foundation@eggs.school.nz or phone Suzanne Hails on 09 970 6753

For further info about the EGGS Foundation visit:
www.eggs.school.nz/foundation

RELIEF ADMIN STAFF NEEDED

We are looking for people to be trained to help us on a relief basis, when needed. Term time only and usually school hours.

People with the skills to do the following:

- attendance
- reception
- data entry
- staffroom duties.

If you are interested please email: office@eggs.school.nz with a one page CV.



RAYE FREEDMAN ARTS CENTRE

The Raye Freedman Arts Centre is hosting the 6th Annual Auckland Indonesian Festival, presented by the Indonesia New Zealand Society on Saturday, April 2. Discover the culture, food, crafts and arts of Indonesian for FREE. For more information, click [here](#).

♦ [Visit the RFAC website to see what else is coming up in April.](#)