



Epsom Rowing at the North Island Secondary Schools Championship Regatta held at Lake Karapiro last week (see page 8)

Dear parents, caregivers and students

We are in new and unusual circumstances – the whole world is – and there will be difficult challenges on a range of levels in the weeks and months ahead as a result of Covid-19. Here at school we are trying to keep things simple and as normal as possible.

One of the key aspects of this is everyone being responsible about staying home if they are unwell:

Students who are unwell are not to come to school:

- If a student is unwell, they need to stay at home. This includes a student who has a fever, or who is coughing, sneezing, or needing to blow their nose often. Please do not send them to school.
- If you are concerned about a student, or another member of your household, call the Healthline 0800 358 5453 or your doctor. Do not simply arrive at the doctor; call ahead and explain your concerns.
- If an unwell student is worried about an assessment, contact the Dean (assessments can be rescheduled where possible). An unwell student is not to come into school for an assessment first period, for example, and then go home. If the student is unwell they need to stay at home.
- Students appearing unwell in class are referred to the Health Centre.
- If a parent or caregiver is contacted by the Health Centre to collect the student, please make sure that this can be done in a timely manner. Please make sure that the person you have designated as an Emergency contact person in your KAMAR details is aware that they may be contacted to collect a student if a parent or caregiver is not available.

NZQA Assessments:

I know that senior students are concerned about their assessments. It is important to remember that this situation is affecting the whole of New Zealand. We are in close contact with NZQA and the universities. They will be responsive to this highly unusual situation and they have mechanisms for being flexible when something very unusual happens. For example, when the Christchurch earthquakes affected assessment programmes, procedures were put in place so that students were still able to gain access to their university and other provider courses.

Your daughters' teacher is the best person to provide guidance about what work she can carry on with if she is well but not at school (self-isolation). Students who are unwell must stay home to focus on their health and are not expected to complete work and assessments while unwell. In addition to this:

- NCEA Assessments where possible are being rescheduled.
- Where possible courses are being reconfigured (eg: internal course material swapped for external preparation materials).
- The Google classroom are a good place for students to keep up to date.
- eLearn is a good place to look for curriculum resources and to keep up to date.
- Subject course specific online tools and apps.
- Having a buddy at school who can keep you up to date when at home is a good option.

No hugs
No handshake
No honggi

SAFE

SMART

KIND

We recognise that the requirement for medical certificates for missed assessments may not be possible as individuals presenting with symptoms that could be Covid-19 are often not able to see their GP.

Once again, if a student who is at home is concerned about an assessment, they should email their class teacher. For many assessments alternative arrangements can be made.

We all have a large number of 'What if' questions.

The School is working closely with the Ministry of Education about their expectations regarding access to learning if there are school closures across New Zealand. I feel it would be naïve to think that learning and assessment could carry on completely as usual. We are exploring approaches that are working well in countries where there have been school closures, and we will keep you up-to-date regarding this. The decisions we make regarding best options for learning while at home will be largely determined by Ministry expectations once we receive these.

Keep up to date with the information that the school is providing – see **Covid-19 Information** on the KAMAR web portal - in the blue, top menu.

Ngā mihi / Regards

Lorraine Pound - Principal



Removing cash fares on buses and at service centres from Monday 23 March

From Monday 23 March 2020, Auckland Transport will be suspending cash fares on all buses.

We are doing this to minimise physical contact between customers, Auckland Transport staff and people who work on buses during Covid-19. Customers will be expected to pay their fare using AT HOP cards only. This will eliminate cash handling on buses and at depots to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus through touching money and interacting with customers. Our priority is to protect our customers and staff to ensure we can continue to deliver public transport.

FAQs

Why are we removing cash payments from buses?

Eliminating cash handling reduces the risk of potential transmission of COVID-19. Further measures will be put in place should instruction be given to Auckland Transport by the Ministry of Health.

The customer/student only has cash. Will they still be able to catch the bus?

- Under no circumstances will school students be refused travel. If they have not got a HOP card, they will be provided with the information leaflet as they board.
- We will still let people travel but will let customers know they will need a AT HOP card to travel next time.
- There will be a leaflet given to customers who do not have a HOP card to explain why we are not accepting cash payments during Covid-19 and where they can get an AT HOP card.

To get a HOP card go to <https://at.govt.nz/buyathop> or visit a Customer Service Centre

Is it safe to travel on public transport?

We are making it safer for people to travel on buses, trains and ferries so long as they are feeling well. Auckland Transport has already been taking proactive steps to ensure we are ready for a possible escalation of COVID-19. Some of these steps include:

- Asking Aucklanders to follow the Ministry of Health's [guidelines on self-isolation](#)
- Giving personal hand sanitisers to our frontline staff and reminding them that washing and drying hands is still the most effective means of practising good hygiene
- Cleaning AT buses, trains and ferries on a regular basis and stepping up the cleaning of surfaces like handrails. We have also identified plans to carry out even more extensive cleaning of our buses, trains, ferries and facilities, if recommended by the Ministry of Health
- Building 14 new public hand sanitiser stands to install at key locations across our transport network. All toilets across our transport network are also being fitted with hand sanitiser dispensers
- Making sure information and advice from the Ministry of Health on preventive measures are being supplied to our staff, operators and contractors. The frequency of these updates has increased since the first confirmed COVID-19 case in New Zealand was reported
- Displaying Ministry of Health posters regarding COVID-19, as well as hand hygiene, in our offices, buses, trains, ferries and other facilities
- Creating a [COVID-19 section](#) of our website, which we will continue to update with the latest information

GENERAL NEWS

We have Moved to Parent Portal Payments

For your convenience, you are now able to view voluntary and required payments excluding stationery and uniforms via the Parent Portal. You will see these in the Financial section of your dashboard menu.

Please make your payments using the Parent Portal. There are two payment options available:

- Account to Account – no surcharge applies. You will be asked to login to your internet banking.
- Credit card – a 2% surcharge will apply

Advantages to using the Parent Portal for payments are:

- You have control to select the payments you make
- Payments are reflected immediately and accurately
- Receipts are available to download for your records
- The Parent Portal is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

If you have any questions please contact receivables@eggs.school.nz

Select Payment Method

Select a payment method from the following available options:

VISA Mastercard account2account

account2account

SELECT BANK BANK LOGIN SELECT ACCOUNT REFERENCE DETAILS PAYMENT VERIFICATION

1 2 3 4 5

Please select one of the currently available banking services:

ANZ

ASB

BNZ

Kiwibank

The Co-operative Bank

TSB

Westpac

I have read and accepted the [terms and conditions](#)

[About Account2Account security](#)

NEXT

CURRICULUM NEWS

Art Department commision in collaboration with the Hikoi with Us PLG

Epsom Girls Grammar School is now the proud owner of a commissioned and recently installed artwork by John Reynolds. Over the past three decades John Reynolds has established a reputation as a painter who employs aspects of drawing (sketches, plans, charts, doodles) and different types of representation (expressive marks, symbols, patterns, writing) for poetic effect.

When EGGs was celebrating our centenary in 2017 the 'Hikoi with Us' professional learning group initiated a collaborative collection of words. Favourite Te Reo words with their English meaning and sign language signs were collected from students, staff and school whanau. This act was an acknowledgement of our indigenous language and bilcultural land which identifies EGGs as a school in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The Visual Art Department used money raised from the Year 10 Wearable Art shows to fund this commission through Starkwhite Gallery, Auckland.

This taonga is joyfully gifted by the Visual Art Department in collaboration with the 'Hikoi with Us' professional learning group and school community.



Languages Department - La Fête Saint-Valentin and Mardi Gras



For several years now, we have run a school-wide competition to celebrate St Valentine's Day and Mardi Gras. Students in language classes learn the original significance of these celebrations and discuss how and why they think it has changed over time. Then students school-wide are invited to create and decorate Mardi Gras masks with the artists with the best masks winning Valentine's chocolates.

In 2020, two Year 10 students carefully chose the traditional colours of purple, green and gold for their masks and added much sparkle and pizzazz to win the prizes.

Congratulations to Nicola Oschman and Simona Arefin.

Drama Department - Auckland Fringe Festival



Senior Drama students had the opportunity to see two performances and to attend a Q & A workshop at the Auckland Fringe Festival. They saw "Who Lived in a Vinegar Bottle" which was an impressive interactive light and sound performance and "This Fragile Planet", a collaborative work between the NZ Dance Company and movement practitioners from The Conch. This was a beautiful performance that used space and movement with impact and symbolism.



EPSOM MUSIC NEWS

Contemporary Music Concert

We were excited to share some original music at our recent contemporary music lunchtime concert. This was held in the Raye Freedman theatre on Friday March 6 to showcase some of our Epsom senior songwriters. Devanshi Ranjan, Betty Ji, Sophie Brown, Stella Beckmann, Madeleine Bonnar and Harriet Laughton all performed an original song. Around 120 people came to watch and their support was greatly appreciated. A big thanks to Lucy Shepherd for helping out as our stage manager, and thank you to Vaughan Williams (sound) and also to Mr Thomas.



SPORT



Dragon Boating



Over the weekend the Dragon Boating team competed at the AKSS College Sport Dragon Boating Championships! For the 20th consecutive year, the team won GOLD in the Girls 500m along with the the following outstanding results-

GOLD - Girls 200m

BRONZE - Open 500m - against mixed and boys teams

GOLD - 2km race - out of 12 teams including mixed teams

Thank you to all of the supporters, coach Sooupu and TIC Courtney Horler for organising everything on the day.

Volleyball

Congratulations to the senior team for participating at AKSS championships.



Volleyball Senior Team

Triathlon



EGS students at the Auckland Secondary Schools Triathlon Champs at Point England Reserve

Last Thursday a large team of 40 students competed at the Auckland Secondary Schools Triathlon Champs at Point England Reserve. Congratulations on the following results:

Junior Girls Champions - Rebecca Pitout, Elena Worrall, Ruby Brathwaite

Senior Girls Champions - Hannah Henson, Ella Wyllie, Terri Warner.

Thank you to the parents and Gordon Paulsen, Director of Sport for supporting the team for the day!

Further results can be found at collegesport.co.nz



Rugby



More weekend success from a few of our students! Victoria Talakai, Neleana Talakai, Siena Edwards and Sina Tuitupou competed in the Oceania Tag Rugby Tournament at Bruce Pulman Park in Takanini. They competed as the NZ Invitational team. Congratulations to the students who played 8 games throughout the day and came away with the Grand Final win in the U16 Girls grade! Year 9 student LaBelle Kumeroa also competed in the U14 girls competition and her team won 9 from 9 and also took out the grand final! Shout out to the InZone students who supported LaBelle during the tournament! Sabre Kamuhemu also represented Samoa in the U18 grade and won the grand final!

Cycling

Over the weekend Epsom Girls Grammar School student Bee Townsend, competed at the Vantage Age Group Track National Championships in Invercargill. Congratulations to Bee who came away with the following results (representing Auckland)-

- 1st in U17 Team Pursuit
- 2nd in the Maddison
- 2nd in the Points Race
- 4th in the Individual Pursuit

If you are interested in joining the Cycling team, see Mr Townsend in his Deans office or email ltownsend@eggs.school.nz



Rowing

Last Friday-Sunday the Epsom Rowing team competed at the North Island Secondary Schools Championship Regatta at Lake Karapiro.

Congratulations to the team who came away with the following results:

- GOLD** - GU18 2-
- GOLD** - GU16 8+
- SILVER** - Girls Novice 8+
- SILVER** - GU15 8+
- BRONZE** - GU16 4+

The school is extremely proud of what the Rowing squad have achieved in their 2019/20 season and look forward to begin recruiting for the 2020/21 season!

Thank you to the parent helpers, coaches, TIC- Leah and all of the families and friends for the support over the weekend.



Rowing Fundraiser - support our amazing sponsors

Epsom Girls Grammar Rowing held a very successful Wine Quiz and Party Fundraiser in February which we could not have done without the support of our amazing sponsors. Please be sure to support the following companies in return if the opportunity arises.

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

The Meikle Family

The Mabey Family

The Bennie Family

TEN50

ESSENTIAL deli

Tilly's Potted Plants

FACILITIES FOR HIRE

Epsom Girls Grammar School has a variety of venues and spaces for hire during evenings, weekends and school holidays.

For enquiries about the Marjory Adams Hall, Outdoor Courts, Gymnasiums, The Joyce Fisher Sports Centre, Dance Rooms, Field, Lecture Theatre and Classrooms, please contact :

Katie Holmes
Facilities Manager
kholmes@eggs.school.nz

EPSOM HOUSE FACILITIES HIRE



Epsom House is our residential boarding facility, located on school grounds. During school holidays only, the accommodation is available for hire. We can also hold small conferences.

For more information, please contact the Vacations Coordinator:
EHVacation@eggs.school.nz



**RAY FREEDMAN
ARTS CENTRE**

What's on?

For event listings, go to our website!
www.rayfreedmanarts.co.nz