

# EGGSNEWS



Epsom Girls  
Grammar School

Te Kura Tuarua o Ngā Taitamāhine o Maungawhau

Volume 8, Issue 11 - September 2023



*Year 11 Sports Science (page 7)*



*Year 13 Drama Production (page 6)*

Dear parents, caregivers and students

This week a large number of students are representing the School at Tournament Week, and some fixtures occur in the coming weeks. There have been some nail biting moments and some impressive results to date, with more competition over the weekend.

You can see in this edition of EGGNEWS, a range of recent sporting achievements, as well as results in other areas, including a Gold Award for Paradisum at the Big Sing National Finale. Congratulations to all.

The term has seen a full calendar of events in the weeks leading up to the senior examinations, which start next Thursday. After the exams, the final week of the term is an important time for the Year 12 and 13 students getting exam feedback in their classes. This helps them to plan ahead about how much time they need to put into revision and study during the holidays, in preparation for their final three weeks of the year in Term 4, before they go on study leave.

Year 12 students have now completed applications for leadership positions for 2024, and many Year 13 students have been completing applications for tertiary scholarships and Halls of Residence, as well as applying for tertiary courses.

Key reminders:

- During the senior examinations Year 9 and 10 students will have some new walking routes from class to class and some areas will be roped off to ensure quiet conditions for the exam candidates. Year 9 and 10 students will receive full instructions relating to this
- For Year 12 and 13 students, if sudden illness prevents a student from sitting an examination it is important to contact the Dean on the day of the examination.

Thank-you to everyone who is involved in making Tournament Week happen – coaches, parents and Teachers in Charge, and all best for the weekend.

Ngā mihi

Lorraine Pound - Principal

## ***Coming up in Week 8***

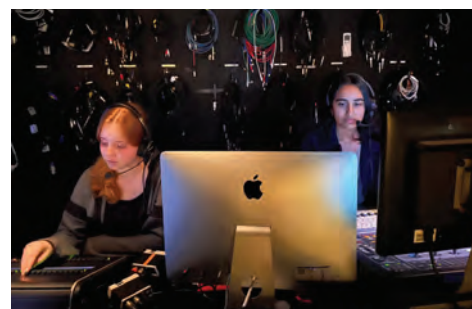
Thu 7 Sep School Exams begin

## ***Coming up in Week 9***

Mon 11 Sep School Exams continue

Thu 14 Sep Netsafe Parents Evening (online)

Fri 15 Sep Last day School Exams



*Year 12 Drama Production (page 5)*



*Tongan Group (page 9)*



FREE event  
for parents



## Supporting Young People To Be Safer Online

Join us for a free online presentation & discussion for Parents & Whānau



14<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.00-8.00pm



Zoom Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89896473087?pwd=NWI2anAwOEhPcGNRbTZMdK5K0RKQT09>

Netsafe's Education Advisor will talk about the risks, challenges and opportunities of digital technology, and the practical ways we can help young people to be safe online.

There will be plenty of time to answer your questions.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

## Homestay Families Required

The Epsom Girls Grammar School International Department are looking for host families who can provide a caring and supportive home environment for an international student. If English is your first language, you have a spare room and live within close distance to school, we look forward to hearing from you.

Hosting an international student is an enriching experience and a wonderful opportunity to share your family life, Kiwi culture and hospitality and to experience other cultures and learn more about the world.

In 2023, NZ\$335 per week is paid to cover full board.

Please call **Jo Bostock** on **970 6757** for further information  
or email [jbostock@eggs.school.nz](mailto:jbostock@eggs.school.nz)





# GENERAL NEWS

## Can for a Cookie

Community prefects and the Community Committee have held the annual Can for a Cookie event during interval from Tuesday to Thursday of week 5. Following the initiative that began a few years ago, a donation drive has been hosted where students and staff members bring a 'Can' or any non-perishable food items to get a delicious cookie in return.

A wide range of donations were collected including canned fruits, beans, vegetables, pasta and more non-perishable food items. Any gold coins donated were used to purchase more items to be donated. This resulted in the 7-8 bags of donated items being safely collected by the City Mission. It has been great to introduce a fun, enjoyable and rewarding way of making a positive impact to the wider community to the students, and we hope that this event allowed the students to recognise that there are many opportunities for them to make a difference in the community that are easier and more accessible than imagined.

*Coeun Ham - Community Prefect*



## Debating



Throughout Terms 1 and 2, twelve Epsom debating teams competed in the Auckland Schools Debating Competition. We have achieved some amazing results across all the grades. Two Senior Open teams and one Junior Open team qualified for the quarter-finals, with Senior Open team 5 and Junior Open team 2 going all the way to the semi-finals. Congratulations to the teams that made it to the quarter-finals, and well done to everyone who participated in Epsom debating this year!

Senior Open team 5:

Natalia Eady  
Lea Huh  
Anika Rai  
Ginny Fraser  
Charlotte Burt

Senior Open team 2:

Yulia Wu  
Zoe Zhu  
Hannah Long  
Aliza Khan  
Oshadi Kaluthanthreege Don  
Udana Wimalasena

Junior Open team 2:

Maayan Bialik  
Amrutha Madhusudhan  
Esther Polavarapu  
Fiona Yue  
Poppy Harrison  
Saye Kiuchi



*Lucy Kate McCallum - Debating Leader 2023*

# CURRICULUM NEWS

## Languages Week

In Week 3, the Languages Synedrion hosted Languages Week, a school-wide event where students got to participate in a wide range of activities based around the different languages in our school community. This culminated in our Friday food festival which allowed students to get a taste of different cultural foods. We had a great turnout and we hope that many students were able to learn something new about the diverse cultures we have in our school. Some of the activities students could try were watching films in their original language, ping-pong, tatreez cross-stitching, kimono trying on, pinatas and French artwork re-creation.



All students participated in a tutor competition in which they had to identify "Hello" in different languages. We are proud to announce 11HOK as the winners. Well done!

## Science Bowl



On Monday 21st August 16 students spent their evening competing in the Auckland Grammar School Science Bowl. Four teams, 2 junior and 2 senior, tested their knowledge (and speed on the buzzer) against students from other schools to answer questions on Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Maths. The event was student-run and our teams were led by . This year we did not progress to the semi-finals, but all competitors should be very proud of their contribution.

Everyone had a fun and inspiring evening, and we are keen to participate again next year. A huge thanks to Phoebe Liu and Kemindhi Amarasing Liyanage for coordinating this event.

## Mathex Competition

On the 23rd of August, the Year 9 and 10 representative teams participated in the Auckland Mathex Competition, and did well, though they did not win a prize. Mathex is a team mathematics competition involving quick mathematic problem-solving as well as running. The 4 teams listed below trained hard throughout the year starting from February.

Year 9 team A: Matilda Aprea, Shrika Nitsingham, Aanya Dewan, Emily Rope

Year 9 team B: Pangke Li, Katharine Leung, Sofia Liu, Zoe Dodson

Year 10 team A: April Li, Ruxin Chen, Jin Jia Wu, Sisley Fang

Year 10 team B: Shiley Fang, Nozomi Waga, Laura Du, Kalin Liu

The Year 10 Team A has shown outstanding abilities, remaining within the first 3 teams out of over 130 teams until the 85% mark. They have been placed 1st out of all teams participating until the 60% mark, which was a record for Epsom Girls Grammar School.





The Year 10 Team B has shown a very sturdy, consistent and remarkable progression, scoring 95 at the end of the competition which placed them 9th overall (tied with other teams). The Year 10 students were able to complete their final year of participating in Mathex with a huge sense of achievement and confidence.

The Year 9 teams have shown amazing skills and performed very well at their competition, despite this year being their first year competing in high school Mathex. Both teams were able to stay in the top 25% until the 60% mark and have achieved great results. We are excited to see their performance next year!

The student leaders of Mathex this year are:

Leader: Coeun Ham      Year 12 Mentors: Rushni De Silva, Keira Ng

We are extremely proud of the results achieved, and also for the consistent positive energy the junior students have displayed throughout the practices.



## Year 12 Drama

In Week 5, the Year 12 Drama class presented extracts from a variety of plays, directed by Ms Jaclyn Druitt, to members of the school community and the public in the Raye Freedman Arts Centre. The extracts chosen were from modern and classic plays, comedy and tragedy. This provided an opportunity for students to learn stage craft and to experience a season of performances. Additional opportunities were provided for students to Stage Manage and learn to work a professional lighting and sound system.





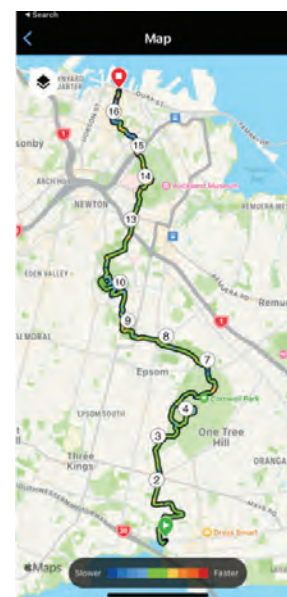
## Year 13 Drama

On Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd August, Year 13 Drama performed their class production of *"The Visit"* by Friedrich Durrenmatt, directed by Mrs Michelle Hesketh. This was a humorous (at times absurd) and compelling play about what happens when a woman tries to "buy justice" in order to seek revenge on a man who betrayed her.



Amanda Billing Photography

## 13 Sports Studies Coast to Coast Walk



On Thursday 24th August 15 Year 13 Sport Studies students set out on the 16km Coast to Coast walk across Auckland, from Manukau to the Waitemata. The walk takes you through landscapes shaped by 600 years of Māori occupation, and through some of our finest natural and built heritage areas offering panoramic views along the way. This was an enhanced learning opportunity for students to apply their assessment to a practical outdoor context. We were lucky on the day and didn't even need our rain jackets, which was a miracle considering recent weather. The students kept their positive attitudes and enjoyed walking through parts of Auckland that they hadn't seen before. It felt like a real achievement when we reached Britomart in just over 4 hours, and I am proud of all the students who took part and did their best. A big thanks to the teachers who accompanied us, it was great to have such keen and motivating staff to support the students.



## Sports Science Tough Gal Challenge



On Thursday 3rd of August 60 Year 12 and 13 Sports science students competed in the tough Guy and Gal Challenge at the Kumeu showgrounds. It was a beautiful clear and chilly morning but with over 1000 students competing the atmosphere was great. All students completed the 6km race and should be proud of their efforts. Kayo Findlayson put in an excellent effort and came home in 3rd place, with many EGGs students close behind finishing in the top 20.



## Year 11 Sports Science

On Tuesday 22nd of August, the 11PSS (Year 11 Sports Science) students headed to Vector Wero for a day of white water rafting! This trip is offered to 11PSS as part of the Responsible Behaviours unit of learning that they are currently undertaking this term. The students started their white water rafting experience with a brief history lesson of the legend of Maui followed by a safety session focused on learning the basics of rafting, risk management and being safe out on the water. Students were treated to 4 runs down the adrenaline-pumping Grade 3 River Rush course before finishing off with a plunge down the Pump Waterfall! What an awesome day out!





## Pasifika Fono

The Pasifika Committee hosted their Fono last week on Wednesday the 23rd of August from 6.00 -7.30pm. The theme of this Fono was to celebrate Pasifika success through the year. It was a lovely evening with the students getting awarded and a big talanoa with all the families that attended.



## French Senior Quiz Night

Nine of our Year 12s and 13s attended the French Senior Quiz Night at St Mary's College last Thursday. There was a total of 10 teams from six schools, including two from EGGs. Students had to answer questions about French history, about the different regions in France, translate Tahitian words into French, work out the next line in French songs and much more. They also did a Zumba dance to a French song.



*Les petit(e)s princes*



*Les grandes personnes*

Our two teams each dressed up as a character from "Le Petit Prince" (The Little Prince) book, which the Year 13s have just finished studying.

**Les grandes personnes (the grownups):** Audrey Goggin, Shaima Oumer, Salma Nofal, Sophia Malota.

**Les petit(e)s princes (the little princes):** Boshra Rahnamaee, Agustina Salinas, Lucy Kate McCallum, Louisa Kane, Rose Wilkinson.

Here are the prizes that our students won over the course of the evening:

- ♦ Audrey Goggin and Shaima Oumer each won a prize for answering a spontaneous question.
- ♦ Both teams won 3rd place for costumes.
- ♦ "Les petit(e)s princes" tied second with 68 points. Boshra Rahnamaee was then chosen to answer the tiebreaker question (how many departments are there in France?), which she then won enabling them to receive the silver medals. The winning team was from Baradene College and they had 69 points.



# ARTS & CULTURAL NEWS

## Arts Market



On Friday at lunch in Week 6, the Visual Arts Committee hosted the second annual Arts Market. For this event, anyone in the school could sign up to have a stall to sell their art. We had 37 stalls total this year, selling everything from crochet plushies to handmade jewellery. It was a huge success, the hall was packed from the start of lunch until the very end, and EGGs' creatives got the chance to be supported by their peers and show off their skill. Special thanks to the Visual Arts Leaders, Audrey Goggin, Shaima Oumer, Moet Imai, and Elena Suhren, and the Visual Arts Committee for putting together this event, as well as to Shivani Patel for photographing the event!

*Audrey Goggin - Visual Arts Co-leader*

## Tongan Group



Mälö e lelei! In Week 6 our Tongan students had organised a celebration of the Tongan Language for our student body. The theme for this year is, 'E tu'uloa 'a e Lea faka-Tongá 'o ka lea'aki 'i 'api, siasí (lotú), mo e nofo-'a-kāingá, which means the Tongan Language will be sustainable if used at home, church and in the wider community.

Throughout the week there were several events that focused on sharing and promoting our culture and ways of life. Some highlights throughout the week were a Kava presentation that our students had prepared for our teaching staff which showed the origins of the ceremony and how to participate in it. There was also a really fun Amazing Race around school where students had to perform various Tongan chores like Ha'ing the Ta'ovala, singing the national anthem, and memorising different bible verses. We had also prepared our very own EGGs Heilala Pageant to celebrate the talents and beauty of our Tongan students with a bit of a comical twist. Lastly, on Friday there was a food sale of some Tongan favourite desserts like Jam Rolls, Keke 'Isite, Puteni and Custard and Otai.

Our Tongan students wore their traditional Ta'ovala over their uniform to show the unity and collaboration between these two identities. It was a joy to see students participate in these activities and be proud to show off their cultural heritage at school.

A massive thank you to the following students who contributed their wonderful ideas and helped to run these fabulous events: Ilisapeti Makoni, Sarah Manu, Brooke Schaumkell, Cassandra Liku, Ofa Taufu'í, Jamie Allen, Vanika 'Aho'atu, Lupelota Opeti-Finau, Lata Siasau, Eunice Savelio, Latai Makaafi, Talahiva Makaafi, Telisa Ongaloka, Tika 'Ahokovi, Lucy Tominiko Vunipola, Leah Finau, and Maria Savelio. As well as Ms. Tu'itavake who dedicated her time and effort to support in making this week possible.



## Kava Ceremony Workshop

As part of Tongan Language week celebrations, students under the guidance of Helen Tuitavake (TIC Tongan Group) presented a fantastic workshop to some of the Pasifika Professional Learning Group (PLG) and other members of staff. This was a very special event for all staff who attended. The students shared their culture and knowledge through explaining the significance of Kava ceremonies in Tongan culture and demonstrated the different aspects of a Kava ceremony. No Kava was served but lots of learning took place and many staff commented on what an amazing job the student did teaching the teachers. On behalf of the Pasifika PLG and staff who attended we would like to acknowledge the work that Helen Tuitavake and the students put into this presentation.



## EPSOM MUSIC

### Big Sing Finale - Paradisum wins Gold



It was an amazing weekend for Paradisum, our school's auditioned choir, at The Big Sing Finale in Auckland! We are so proud of the choir for coming away with a gold award, and for all the hard work they have put into Paradisum this year.



Thank you to Ms Le Cren for directing our choir, to Ms Orr, Mx Komene, and Miss Mannering for all the behind-the-scenes work, and to Gemma Lee, Alison Dunlop and Soomin Kim, our amazing accompanists, support staff and parents! Our success would not have been possible without them, and we are so grateful for everything they have done for us.

*Larissa Mohd Azhar - Choral Leader*



*Photos by Jonathan Christiansen Photography*



## FOUNDATION NEWS

### Apply Now for the Foundation Fund Round 3

The Foundation Fund Round 3 closing date is 5pm Friday 15 September.

The Foundation Fund was established in 2006 by the Epsom Girls Grammar School Foundation to provide grants to the School, students or staff for activities and items which will benefit Epsom Girls Grammar School and its school community.

These are items and activities that are not funded within the school budget and therefore contribute to maintaining high standards and opportunities for which EGGG is known. Grants from this fund are usually between \$100 and \$400 each.

Any current EGGG student, staff or EGGG student and staff groups can apply for the Foundation Fund.

Some of the successful applicants include:

- Funding towards transport to ShowQuest
- Funding towards International Languages week
- Map boards for Adventure Racing
- Contribution towards vertical garden
- Purchasing of visors for the cycling team
- Funding towards purchasing Wearable Arts framed photographs
- Funding towards purchasing a design technology display case
- Funding towards the purchase of new ukuleles for the Cook Island Cultural Group
- Funding towards the purchase of garden plants and equipment

**Foundation Fund Round 3 Closing date is 5pm Friday 15 September.**

For the application form please click [here](#).

## New Sports Coordinator



My name is Hannah Patterson, and I am a new sports coordinator here at Epsom Girls. Growing up here in Auckland I played every sport I could from a young age. When attending Massey High School, through friends I found my passion for hockey. I am heavily involved with ABC Hockey Club on the Northshore as a coach, manager, women's club captain and Premier player. I studied at New Zealand Institute of sport gaining a diploma in Sport Management and Exercise Prescription. I value all the positive relationships I have formed through sport and am looking forward to building more and helping contribute to sport at Epsom. The team here has given me a warm welcome and I look forward to meeting more of you. Please feel free to come say hello. I would love to hear about your sports involvement. Don't hesitate to email me anytime - [hpatterson@apps.eggs.school.nz](mailto:hpatterson@apps.eggs.school.nz)

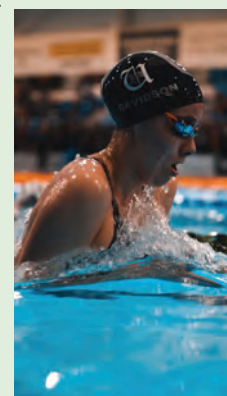
EGGS sports: Hockey, Touch Rugby, Underwater Hockey, Volleyball, Swimming, Squash and Ultimate Frisbee

## Swimming

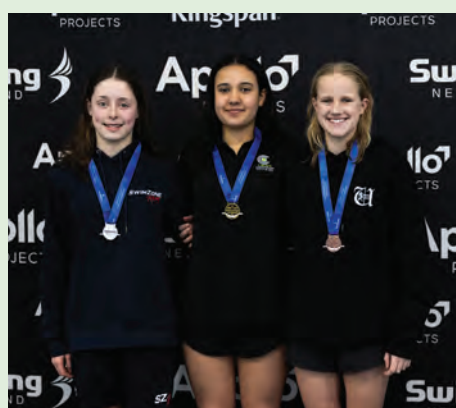
### Apollo Projects NZ Short Course Championships - Hawke's Bay Regional Aquatic Centre - 8 - 12 August 2023

A number of our swimmers travelled down to Hawkes Bay to compete in the last national pool competition of the year, the most prestigious of the short course events while representing their regional clubs. All 4 of them excelled, and showed some really awesome results including a number of age group medals, open age group finals, and some well deserved personal best times.

Emily Rope (13 yrs) came away with 3/3 personal bests in her breaststroke events, and 2 bronze medals in the 100 and 200 Breaststroke. Louise Ecclestone (16 yrs) earned 2 bronze medals in the 100 and 200 IM for her age group, 4 personal bests, and made 3 appearances in the open B & C finals across her events. Olivia Bates (15 yrs) also made 4 appearances in open B & C finals, placing 2nd in the B final of the 400 IM, as well as a very commendable 5th place in her age group final for this event. Abby Davidson (17-18 yrs) earned silver in both 50 and 200 Breaststroke, bronze in the 100 Breaststroke, and bronze in both 4x50 IM girls and 4x100 IM girls open relays for her club. She also placed 7th in both 50 and 200 Breaststroke open A finals, and completed over half the competition with a fractured finger!! What a way to finish the competition year for our students!!



Abby Davidson (left)



Emily Rope (right)



Louise Ecclestone (right)



## Waka Ama



From August 10 - 18, our very own Abigail Liufalani competed in the 2023 IVF Va'a World Distance Champs held in Samoa. The trial/selection was a 7 month process and as follow - In February, they submitted intent to trial for the NZ elite team where this was confirmed in April. Abi was one of the few selected for the NZ Elite team, aged 16! The squad had training camps and individually driven training from May to August before heading to Samoa for the competition.

Abi is a World Champion! Such an amazing achievement, we are so proud!

## Rugby

Congratulations to these 3 students; *(from the left)* Mikaya Kaipō, Molimau Pulu, Milahn Ieremia, who have been selected into the U18 Central East West Auckland Girls Rugby team for 2023! They have been stand out players on and off the field for our EGGs 1XV this year, and helped the rest of the team to transition from 10s to 15s. This week they will play their final EGGs XV's game of the year (final game ever for Mikaya & Milahn) at the Northern Region Rugby XV's tournament, so we wish them the best of luck for this and their U18 CEW Auckland season!



## Road Race

At the College Sport Auckland Road Race competition on August 15th, EGGs had a small, but mighty 3 person team attend. They came away with some great results and lots of smiles! All in the intermediate age group category; Emma Ward placed 8th, Ava Gatie 9th and Zoe Hammond 15th to finish 3rd overall in the 3 person team. Congratulations to these students and everyone else who has competed over the winter running season!



## Badminton Auckland Championships

On Thursday 17th August, Epsom Girls sent a team to compete in the 2023 Auckland Secondary School Championships. Through all Year Levels of Junior and Seniors and a great range of Singles and Doubles, it was safe to say this year was a massive success! To some, it was their first time and to a few it was their last year, despite the results, each girl that represented EGGs gave each game their all and more importantly had a lot of fun! Congratulations to our Seniors: Amelia Su and Emily Lin who fought their way back into the semis and secured a spot in the Finals! First time in a while since EGGs has had a successful podium win! Congratulations to all who attended the Championships, You guys should be very proud of yourselves!



*Emily Lin & Amelia Su at the Auckland Badminton Champs*

## Auckland Table Tennis Team Championship

2 Epsom Teams qualified and competed at the Auckland Table Tennis Team Championship on Thursday 24th August. The day started with Epsom B versus Kristin School, although the team is young they were able to hold their composure and win comfortably 4-1.

The two Epsom teams locked horns after and saw the Juniors from Epsom B step up their game and put on a wonderful performance, narrowly beating their compatriots Epsom A 4-3. This secured Epsom B a gold medal finish for this competition.

Epsom A had one more game to go against Kristin School, unfortunately they narrowly missed taking home silver, as it came down to the last match.

Congratulations to both teams' effort and achievements at this competition!



## Cycling - College Sport Auckland Secondary Schools Cycling season

The Epsom Girls Cycling squad has been training hard every Tuesday and Thursday morning since February. The dedication of the team to be ready to leave school at 5.45am to ride their bikes in the dark and often wet, is inspirational. We have a great team culture that supports each other on cold mornings to ride together and as a result, enjoy some good results together. Here are the results from the Auckland Secondary Schools Cycling season.

The College Sport Auckland Racing series takes place over many months, starting on May 30th and finishing on August 20th.

- 5 Team time trials
- 1 one individual Points race
- Finals day with a Team Time Trial and the awards ceremony for overall team, for most improved and the fastest time of the season.





## RESULTS

### The Juniors

Throughout this season the Junior A team (under 16 years) has been steadily improving on their 16km Team Time Trial time. This shows a development in their fitness and ability to work together as a team to produce a fast time. They placed 2nd overall in the race series.

On finals day they won with a great time of 26 min 07 sec (average speed of 37.22kph). They won the Merv Harland shield. Nina Worrall placed third in the individual points race (under 16 Girls).

We have 2 strong Junior teams coming to represent EGGs at the Nationals on September 23rd in Palmerston North.



### The Seniors

The Senior A have fought hard this season. They started without one of the captains who was training in Europe. But they have worked hard as a team, supporting each other to place second overall in the series.

On finals day they also placed second. However, the team produced the fastest time of the season of 23 min 45 sec for 16km with an average speed of 40.9kph to claim the fastest team Cup. They take that speed and confidence into the nationals where it will be close racing again.

Tegan Feringa placed second in the individual points race for under 20 girls.