



*Biology students enjoying some practical work - more photos on page 3*

Dear parents, caregivers and students

On Thursday morning a filmed assembly message went out to all students. I am including the text of that message in this edition of EGGNEWS:

Good morning everyone and welcome to a slightly different assembly this morning. I want to talk with you about something important and I don't want to wait until next week.

I want to address an issue that has been raised in this school community and across the world in the last week. The issue is racism. I want to be absolutely clear that at Epsom Girls Grammar School racism in any form is not acceptable.

This school community welcomes and celebrates diversity, and each person's ethnicity and cultural identity is a cultural advantage, contributing to the richness of New Zealand as a bi-cultural and multi-cultural nation.

You may find this link to the Human Rights Commission helpful - <https://www.hrc.co.nz/news/give-nothing-racism/>

### **What does this mean here at school? Firstly – some important reminders:**

The School Code of Conduct has clear expectations including:

- Respecting diversity
- Using appropriate language in all forms of communication
- Showing respect and consideration for others (no mocking, no name calling, no putdowns of any kind)
- Using digital media appropriately

Following on from the last point, there is a law - *The Harmful Digital Communications Act 2015* – which provides legal protection from a range of harmful online communications, including racism. Three of the Act's Principles are especially relevant:

#### *Principle 3*

*A digital communication should not be grossly offensive to a reasonable person*

#### *Principle 5*

*A digital communication should not be used to harass an individual.*

#### *Principle 10*

*A digital communication should not denigrate an individual by reason of his or her colour, race, ethnic or national origins, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or disability.*

Any incidence of racism here at school is taken very seriously, and the detail of that process is, of course, between those involved and the School.

Racism has no place at Epsom Girls Grammar School.

## **And, secondly, what does the world focus on racism mean here at school?**

This week a global spotlight has been shone on racism with the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis at police hands. To update since Thursday morning the four officers involved have been charged. Very naturally, people in many countries are questioning police attitudes and actions as well as thinking about other people's (other than police) actions that we may have identified as racist in our own contexts. Hopefully, people across the world will also be questioning our own behaviours and talk.

What we have seen here is that many EGGs students want to be able to be a voice for social justice and show their support for being open and honest about racism and speaking out against it in respectful and productive ways. Some senior students have come to meet with the Senior Leadership Team about this and we are looking forward to working together on a way ahead. More details coming soon.

### **Covid-19**

First of all, thank you to all staff and students as we reach the end of our third week of navigating the public health requirements in schools for Alert Level 2. As we know, Monday afternoon may bring more news on a decision about Level 1 and when that decision is made we will get new instruction from the Ministries of Health and Education.

It is really good having everyone back onsite and for Year 12 and 13 students the news this week from NZQA about changes for this year to qualification requirements, has been positive. See the link on Page 3 for details.

*Ngā mihi / Regards*

*Lorraine Pound, Principal*

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## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

We welcome back the EGGs community to some form of normality, whatever that now means and looks like. As we pen this newsletter with the real possibility of New Zealand moving into Level 1 as early as next week we shouldn't forget what we have all achieved yet also reflect on what other parts of the world continue to experience.

After a prolonged period away from school; longer than the standard end of year break, the script remains a work in progress. Lockdown was enforced with less than 48 hours' notice, term holidays moved forward to allow time to prepare for online learning, zoom meetings became the new norm and New Zealand began its fight against Covid 19. Level 3 saw schools begin to re-open and EGGs welcomed back 2 students while others continued to learn online. The move to Level 2 was anxiously anticipated by all schools as this meant welcoming back all staff and students while following strict measures to keep everyone safe.

During this unprecedented time the Board has remained in constant communication with the school and senior leadership team. The Board would like to acknowledge the commitment of this team, led by Mrs Lorraine Pound, and also the entire staffing community for your dedication to the challenge to ensure student learning was not materially impacted. The school management will report back to the board over the coming months on the learnings of the online environment and the strategic initiatives that may be considered into the future.

The annual audit of the school's financial results for 2019 is near an end. Made a little more difficult by the fact that the finance team was working from home but they have done a great job. New to the process this year and as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic was to report on the likely financial burden for 2020 and beyond. EGGs needs to self-generate significant income to continue to deliver the enhanced learning opportunities across the curriculum and co-curriculum pathways. This income, derived from international students, facility hireage and Foundation and parental support is forecast to be well below previous years and we do expect to have conversations with the Ministry of Education to provide additional support to schools to ensure standards and capabilities are not compromised. The recent government budget provided little support but hopefully a portion of the unallocated \$20bn as part of the Covid recovery fund is directed to support the financial needs of schools.

The Board's monthly face to face meetings have recommenced under Level 2 and I need to acknowledge the time and commitment of all the trustees during this lockdown period. I know you have all had your own challenges and your support for EGGs is greatly appreciated.

It has definitely been a challenging start to 2020 and I feel especially sorry to all the students who have worked so hard to then have events, performances, games, trips and other special milestones cancelled as a result of Covid 19. The student leadership team have done a fantastic job to keep morale high in a difficult situation and your leadership skills are an example for all. I certainly hope that the remainder of 2020, especially for those students in your last year at EGGs can be packed full of positive memories.

*Chis Iles, Board Chair*

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## ► NCEA INFORMATION 2020

See the Covid-19 response changes: NCEA, UE and Learning Recognition credits

### **CHANGES TO THE REPORTING, CONFERENCING AND ASSESSMENT CALENDAR:**

As a response to the impact of Covid-19 on the academic year, NZQA have shifted the start of the NCEA exams from the **6th of November** until the **16th of November**. See the [updated 2020 NCEA Exam Timetable](#). In order to maximise the amount of learning time that this provides, the School Practice Exams will now be held at the start of Term Four 14th – 21st of October (inclusive).

We have also had to review the reporting and conferencing calendar. Until we know more about restrictions in schools due to Covid-19, Subject Teacher Conferences scheduled for the end of this term are cancelled. Reports for students in Years 9-13 will be available on the last day of Term Two, July 3rd.

## CURRICULUM NEWS

### Biology



*It's lovely to see the girls back in biology. After a lot of on line learning on bacteria, enzymes and issues in biology it's time for some practical work.*



COME ALONG TO THE

*Pasifika  
Homework  
centre*

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EVERY WEDNESDAY

IN TERM 2 & 3

3.30-4.30 PM

IN L11 & THE LIBRARY

We look forward to seeing you there!

# ARTS & CULTURAL NEWS

Dear caregivers and students,

We hope you are well and that you've found some joy in your time at home. We know that the cancellation of Arts and Cultural Events has been disappointing for caregivers and students, we have been thinking of you over this time and wanted to give you an update from the department.

Following the move into Level 2, we want to allow everyone the time and space to adjust to our new normal here at school, and have made the decision to pause all Arts and Cultural co-curricular activities for one month. It's very important to us that everyone feels comfortable and safe to participate in these activities, so we will be taking this next month to make the appropriate arrangements for health and safety. We want to ensure that systems for contact tracing are developed and that the required processes are in place for Arts and Culture to restart in 2020.

This decision is supported by senior leadership and the heads of the Arts departments - Peter Thomas for Music, Jaclyn Druitt for Drama and Michelle Christoffersen and Michele Martin for Visual Arts. We have also discussed this with Jo Kelly (Manager of the Raye Freedman Arts Centre) and Katie Holmes (Facilities Manager), who are all supportive of allowing staff to take time to think about what the rest of the year looks like considering the disruption and cancellation of events.

We realise this may cause some upset and ask that you bear with us as we try to think of the best way forward.

We know that being involved in Arts and Cultural groups is an important and cherished part of the school year for everyone involved, thank you for your patience and we very much look forward to resuming groups and events from June 15 onward.

If there are any specific events that anyone wishes to discuss prior to the above date please get in touch with Miss Richardson.

Kind regards,

*Miss Anna Richardson*

*Miss Kayla Wolfenden*

## Production

On Saturday night 9th May students involved in this year's Production of Chicago came together via Zoom to mark what would have been opening night. Anna Richardson, Kate Slattery and Virginia Le Cren popped in briefly to read a letter to the cast and say hi, before having their own staff video call to mark the occasion. The students had either dressed in costume or were dressed up to go to the Theatre, which was lovely. *(Photos by Year 13 student Aliyah Malate)*



THEATRAGE PRODUCTION  
CHICAGO 2020  
January - March

# EPSOM MUSIC NEWS

Congratulations to Year 12 student Sophie Brown who is this year's winner of the Hook, Line and Sing-a-long national songwriting competition. She is a prolific songwriter who came to the craft just a couple of years ago. Unbeknownst to the Hook, Line and Sing-a-long judges Sophie, who uses the artist name "girl.", had success in the 2019 Play It Strange Competition and in School of Rock – The Musical song writing competition.

Even though we were under lockdown during late March and through April, Sophie managed to produce and record all of the tracks for the song herself at home. Read more and have a listen to her song here:



► [Sophie Brown - Hook, Line and Sing-a-long](#)

*Year 12 student Sophie Brown launches her "Hook, Line and Sing-a-long" winning song with lucky intermediate students.*



*Members of the Epsom Percussion Ensemble rehearse for the New Zealand Schools Chamber Music Competition under the guidance of Percussion tutor Rebecca Celebuski*

Year 10 student Imogen Pearce (bass guitar) recorded an original song with her band "The Dawns". She has also been included in a special quarantine video of the Nineties alt-rock band Wheatus. She is one of the 106 contributors from 16 different countries. Check out these links:

► [The Dawns](#)

► ['Teenage dirtbag' Cover - quarantine video](#)

## MUSIC EVENTS ALA COVID

Smokefree Rock Quest, KBB Music Festival and NZCT Chamber Music Competition will be offering a chance to present performances by submitting videos. Unfortunately, The Big Sing has been cancelled this year. We will be in constant communication with students involved in music at EGGs to keep them up to date with details of rehearsals and recordings.

## Closing Dates for Music Competitions

Smokefree Rock Quest solo/duos close Monday 29th June

Smokefree Rock Quest Bands close Friday 24th July

Chamber Music Contest applications close Friday 3rd July, 5pm.

## Songwriting Competitions

Our good friends at Play It Strange are offering two songwriting competitions.

Applications for the **Lion Foundation National Secondary School Songwriting Competition** are now open to students across all year levels. The finalists have the opportunity to record their songs at a professional recording studio and will be included on the annual Play It Strange album. The closing date for this is Thursday 23rd July. For more information click the link down below.

### ► [Lion Foundation Songwriting Competition](#)

Applications for **Who Loves Who Competition** are now open to students across all year levels. This competition is a chance for students to celebrate New Zealand music by recording their own unique interpretation of a New Zealand song. Finalists will get their tracks mastered by Kob Studios, Chris Chetland, and will be released on a Who Loves Who Competition album. The closing date for this is Friday 12th June. For more information click the link down below:

### ► [Who Loves Who Competition](#)

Over the course of the lockdown Head of Music Peter Thomas has been sharing a selection of videos with his senior music classes. The videos feature ex students and some special guests talking about their life in music. Our students have found them inspiring and particularly helpful at this challenging time. Here is the latest in our series. It features former EGGs student Mona Sanei aka Chaii in conversation with Peter Thomas.

### ► [Video series - Life in music - Mona Sanei](#)

Follow Epsom Music on Facebook for more posts like these. We have also been celebrating NZ Music Month 2020. Each day we are sharing an original NZ work performed by Epsom Musicians or people closely linked to EGGs.

### ► [Facebook - Epsom Music](#)

## Big Sing

Sadly there will be no Big Sing this year. The wonderful people at the Choral Federation have come up with this alternative. See if you can spot some of our students.



## FOUNDATION NEWS

### Apply Now for the Heritage Fund - Round 2

The Heritage Fund Round 2 closing date has been moved out to Friday 26 June to allow students and teachers more time to consider their applications.

The Heritage 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 EGGs is known. Grants from this fund are usually between \$100 and \$400 each.

Any current EGGs student, staff or EGGs student and staff groups can apply for the Heritage Fund.

Some of the successful applicants include:

- Funding towards the purchase of performance poi for the Kapa Haka Group
- Funding towards 1st XI Cricket uniforms

- Funding towards high jump training fees
- Contribution towards vertical garden
- Funding towards purchasing Wearable Arts framed photographs for A-Block stairwell
- 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 shorts for the Senior A Basketball team
- Supporting the costs of Science Club weekly experiments
- Funding towards the purchase of garden plants and equipment

Applications are submitted to the Foundation for funding consideration four times a year.

**Heritage Fund Round 2 Closing date is 5pm Friday 26 June.**

For more information and the application form please visit: <https://www.eggs.school.nz/our-family/the-eggs-foundation/heritage-fund/>

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:EHVacation@eggs.school.nz)



**RAY FREEDMAN  
ARTS CENTRE**

**What's on?**

For event listings, go to our website!  
[www.rayfreedmanarts.co.nz](http://www.rayfreedmanarts.co.nz)