



Partnerships for Success

March 2019 Newsletter

From the Principal

Welcome to our new look newsletter. The title embodies the way school communities must work together. Strong partnerships between families and schools are essential to provide a school environment focused on success for every student. To achieve this a School Ethos statement has been developed. It is expected that staff, students and the school community, will work within the school ethos in all communications, behaviours and interactions. The school ethos is a commitment to:

- valuing learning as central to everything we do
- always aspiring to excellence
- valuing all members of the school community and treating them with respect
- celebrating the successes and achievements of all members of the school community
- reflecting on our own performance and taking responsibility for our own behaviour

The school year is well underway with students settling into study in their chosen courses. Year 7 students have begun their High School years well. Several important announcements and developments have been announced by the Department of Education this term. The school Board has reviewed and discussed these matters at their recent meeting. Information on these and other matters is contained in this newsletter.

Regards

John Dunning

Principal

Newly Appointed Director General

Recently, I was able to hear an address from the newly appointed Director General of Education Ms Lisa Rodgers. Ms Rodgers has been chief executive of the Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) since 2016 and has previously held numerous roles in the education sector in Australia and New Zealand, including Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Education in New Zealand responsible for the New Zealand Curriculum, assessment and workforce policy, and the Deputy Secretary for the Data and Research Group.

Minister's Statement on Violence in Schools



The Education Minister has released a new plan to address violence in schools and provide greater clarity for teachers and other school staff on their rights and responsibilities.

Under the 'Let's take a stand together' action plan, new tactics to address violent behaviour by WA school students and better support staff to manage incidents will roll out over the next three years.

The plan follows consultation with stakeholders from across the community about effective ways to bring about change. It includes 10 actions for schools, families and communities to work together to address this complex societal issue.

Better support for public school staff – including clear advice on preventing, managing and responding to aggression and violence – will be provided to help schools.

From next year, every graduate teacher employed in a public school will be trained on how to de-escalate and manage aggressive behaviour, as part of their induction program.

New rules will apply in public schools so that any student who starts or films attacks or fights will be suspended automatically. Principals will automatically move to exclude any student who physically attacks school staff. 'Exclusion' means a student is removed from a particular school permanently or for a set period of time. Every exclusion order is approved by the Director General of the Department of Education.

New alternative learning settings to help students manage their behaviour, are being developed.

The plan focuses on the behaviour of students who have intentionally been physically aggressive to others. Students with a disability who either cannot manage their behaviour or do not intend to harm others are not the target of this plan.

See the 'Let's take a stand together' action plan [here](#). (from email)

Eastern Hills School Board

The Board had its first meeting on 7th March. The Annual School Report was tabled and endorsed. The Report demonstrates the school's achievements in 2018. Importantly it demonstrates the school's progress in meeting the targets set in the Eastern Hills Senior High School Business Plan 2018 - 2020. This report will be Published through the Department's Schools Online site in the near future and will also be made available through the school's website.

The Board discussed and endorsed the school's response to the Minister's statement on countering violence in schools. This included an endorsement of the school's Good Standing Policy.

A number of Board members are approaching the end of their term. Elections for Board positions will be announced in the near future.

VET Courses in School

There has been some discussion and news around provision of VET courses in recent weeks. Parents can be assured that VET courses at this school will continue as expected and that provision of future VET is fully supported by the Department of Education.

Good Standing Policy

The Ministerial statement requires all schools to have a Good Standing Policy. This policy has been in place for many years at Eastern Hills. The Policy ensures students are aware of their obligation to work cooperatively within the school community. Students who do not comply with the Policy are restricted in their access to certain activities such as social events. Full details are available on the school website.

Student Services

In 2018 a new plan for student services was successfully implemented. The Student Services Team includes the School Psychologist, School Nurse, Chaplain, two Program Coordinators (Year 7 –9 and 10 –12) and six Year Coordinators. The team is managed by Mrs Critch, Deputy Principal. The team works with students and their parents to manage attendance and behaviour issues as well as providing a positive, supportive school environment. If parents need to make contact with a member of the Student Services Team, details are available on the school website.

ANZAC Assembly

The school's annual assembly to commemorate ANZAC Day will be held in the gymnasium on Thursday April 11th at 10 am. The assembly will be led by members of the Student Council and the School Cadet Unit. Local RSL branch members will be in attendance. Parents are welcome to attend.

Attendance System

A new attendance system has been installed this year. Generally, the introduction of the system has been quite smooth, however there have been some issues with SMS and email follow-up on attendance. When these have been brought to our attention we have worked to resolve these matters. Any students who are late to school, or need to leave during the day, must do so through administration where their details will be updated. The system scans SmartRider cards to record student details for these events. Details and contacts for the Attendance System are included on the website.

Phone System

We have been experiencing a number of issues with the school phone system in recent weeks. One of the consequences is the out of hours answering service is not functioning. We apologize for any inconvenience this has caused, replacement phone system will be installed in the near future.

Mobile Phones

A reminder that whilst students are permitted to bring their phones to school, the school policy does not permit use during class times. An information sheet regarding explaining the responsible use is available on the school website.

Personally Owned Devices

We live in an increasingly complex world where information and communications technology skills are crucial. The school encourages students to engage with this technology as part of their learning program. The school provides as much access to the technology as it can with the resources it has available. If students wish to have greater access they are able to bring their own device and use the school's network. Advice on the type of device and conditions of use are available on the school website.

NAPLAN

NAPLAN testing is scheduled for Year 7 & 9 students in Term 2. Information has been made available about the testing to parents of students involved in 2019. Sound achievement in NAPLAN is very important, particularly for Year 9 students who must demonstrate minimum Band 8 Performance to avoid OLN testing in Year 10, 11 & 12. The WA Certificate of Education (WACE) requires either Band 8 Year 9 NAPLAN or satisfactory OLN completion.

OLNA

OLNA writing tests were conducted last week. This week the Reading component is being tested and Numeracy will be available in the following week with some opportunity for catch-up session for those who have missed a test after that. OLN is an important test for those students who wish to complete the WACE. Those who have not demonstrated Band 8 Performance in Year 9 NAPLAN are required to complete the OLN by the end of Year 12 to gain the WACE.

Parents Evenings

There will be two parent evenings this term on the 25th March and 2nd of April. Teachers will be available from 5 – 8pm. Bookings are made online from the school website (www.ehshs.wa.edu.au) To be prepared for the evening, parents can check student progress using **Connect**.

P&C

The P&C surveyed the community in 2018 to gain some views about how it works. One of the areas they surveyed was about meeting times. In response to the feedback the next meeting will be held earlier in line with the preferences expressed in the survey. As a result, the next meeting on **Wednesday 20th March** will be held at **6pm**.

Scholarships

The school has a system of scholarships which are sponsored by a number of organizations including the P&C. Unfortunately, one category of scholarships which were called the Merit Scholarships have been undersubscribed for several years with very few applicants. In 2018 the decision was taken to re-examine the criteria for these scholarships and delay the selection to early 2019. The process to reshape these scholarships is nearly complete and more news regarding applications will be released very soon.

Swimming Carnivals

Congratulations to all students that participated in the recent School Swimming Carnival. It was great to see everyone competing fiercely and strive hard to earn point for their House.



The overall results for the day were:

Connolly – 649 points

Carrick – 603 points

Flynn – 429 points

Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded Champion Swimmer for their age group:

Year 7 Boys – Alec Rowlett

Year 7 Girls – Keeley Donnelly

Year 8 Boys – Bo Read

Year 8 Girls – Oceana D'Abbs

Year 9 Boys – Rohan Smith

Year 9 Girls – Zoe Di Mascia

Year 10 Boys – Dane Sawers

Year 10 Girls – Paige Nicholas

Open Boys – Zane Denford

Open Girls – Dayesha Ferris

An Inter-School Swimming team will now be selected to compete at the School Sport WA Inter-school Swimming Championships on Friday 15 March 2019.

Senior Boys Cricket



The Senior Boys Cricket team had their first win for 2019 in the Graeme Wood Shield Competition. The team played John Septimus Roe Anglican Community School (JSR) in a 20/20 game.

Eastern Hills batted first and scored a respectable total of 101 with Brendan Agnew (11.02) top scoring with 30 runs and Brody Allen (12.01) contributing positively with 21 runs. JSR started their run chase brightly being 0 for 20 of the first five overs before the bowling of Sophie Brown (11.02) broke the opening partnership. Brendan Agnew (11.02) was the best of the bowlers with the figures of 4 for 8 off 3 overs which included a hat trick.

Well done to Miss Kross and the team on the well-earned win.