

APRIL 2014



Bulletin

Message from the Principal

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Over recent weeks, I have been in discussion with the Deputy Principals about the level of expectation held by our students and the forethought they have about their immediate future beyond their college education. We have reflected with interest upon the student's lack of aspiration and how it seems to us that many of them, especially the Year 12 students, have done little thinking about what comes next in their life. Perhaps parents and family members also witness this when the question is asked, "What are you going to do next year?"

So, what can we all do about this lack of thinking and planning? Whenever I speak with students, the above question is one I always ask. It is surprising that so often the answer is "I don't know!". When I challenge them further to think about what will happen come December or January, when they no longer have to get out of bed to come to school, the look of astonishment tells me clearly, they have not confronted this question.

Parents no doubt worry about this situation. It is so important that students take time out from their busy social and academic lives to consider the next few years. It is important too, that parents have many conversations with their young adult child about this topic to generate ideas as to what they might do.

Recent statistics for Year 12 graduates indicate very high take-up of further education, training or employment pathways (*'Where are they now?'* <http://www.det.act.gov.au/>). However, as I was driving to college today, I was listening intently to discussions on local radio about the increasing unemployment rates for young people aged 20-24 in Canberra and across the country. This is the world that our 2014 Year 12 graduates will be entering in coming months.

Opportunities for further education or training exist in Canberra that is not available to many other young people in regional and rural Australia. Our students MUST research

these options if they are to move into rewarding careers.

A great place to start is with Careers Advice, so remind your Year 12 children that Stephen Smith is here for them to explore pathways beyond college. Please, tell them to see him NOW!

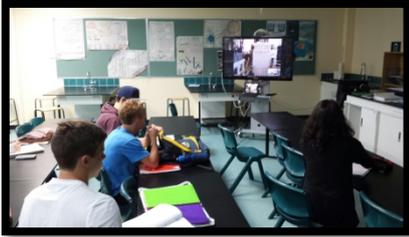
Interestingly, I have just this minute relished a conversation with a Year 12 student who is investigating how she can get to university given that she dropped from a Tertiary 'T' package last year due to the pressures she felt from her academic and sporting commitments. We had a long discussion about the various pathways she might take and explored what dedication she will have to pledge to make the most of the options we can offer. Her excitement, when she realised that she could still get to uni after producing a satisfying Accredited or 'A' package, made us both smile. I hope to hear many other similar, uplifting stories in coming weeks and months.

Recently 33 students from Canberra's government colleges, all of whom have shown commitment in the fields of academic endeavour and citizenship during their year 11 studies, were awarded Capital Chemist Centenary College Scholarships valued at \$1,000. Capital Chemist has awarded scholarships to students since 2004 and in 2013 it entered a partnership with the Public Education Foundation. Four students from Erindale College, Rhiannon Leetham, Romana Peckham, Jordan Tsekenis and Jordan Smith, each received the scholarships and are happily planning how to spend it to assist with their education expenses. Congratulations to these students on this fabulous recognition of their efforts so far.

Enjoy the upcoming term break. Cheers Michael.

Earth Science Videoconference

On Tuesday morning 11th March, the Earth Science class held a videoconference with scientists on board the Joides Resolution Research Vessel currently in the South China Sea drilling the sea floor for sedimentary rocks, nano fossils and oceanic crust.



They were given a tour of the ship including the drilling rigs deck & research laboratories in addition to having some of

their questions answered about the geoscience of the South China Sea. They learned about the research to understand the tectonic processes that the plates in region underwent causing their divergence approximately 45 million years ago to create the sea, which is up to 4km deep in parts, however, this divergence stopped around 20 million years ago for reasons which are not fully understood.

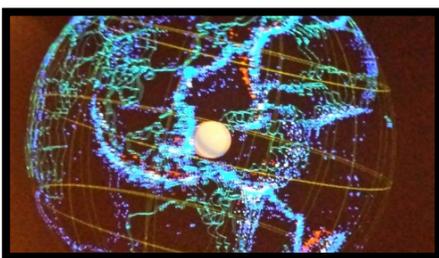
Students were given a tour of the on-board machines used to analyse the rock cores to determine magnetic alignment of the rock crystals, the fossils composition and rock compositions.

Our presenters Dr Tony and PhD student Elizabeth explained their work and life on the ship which is at sea for 5 weeks on this expedition and the goals for the research from this expedition. If you would like to find out more see <http://joidesresolution.org/node/3326>.



Earth Science excursion to Geoscience Australia

The students visited Geoscience Australia on Tuesday the 18th of March for the first of two visits as part of their Dynamic Earth course. They viewed the 3D cinema to see the relationship between the locations of



earthquakes and plate boundaries.

We examined the seismic wave records from a variety of major earthquakes before our host Shona Blewitt took us up to visit the Tsunami Warning Centre where we could see all the monitoring of seismic waves and their potential for tsunamis in the Pacific region. We will visit again in Term Two to see and examine the rock and mineral collection, do the Geological Time Walk and see the equipment used to radiometrically date the rocks.

Yr 10 Science

Students have learnt about Genetics so far this term. They have had the benefit of a program called Scientists in Schools where Dr Peter Chandler of CSIRO Plant Industries



came to speak with the students about Selective Breeding of Barley seeds. He provided

resources for the students to conduct a study into the growth of the Barley seeds which examined the inheritance of a variety what are term mutant genes which result in dwarfism. The students compared their results to the predictions using Mendelian genetics and used statistical models to analyse the results.

The students also participated in The Australian Brain Bee Challenge, a quiz for National Brain Awareness Week and have begun Brain Training programs to improve their cognitive ability.

Bradley Wilken - Science Teacher

Parent Teacher Evening

**10 April 2014
4 to 7pm**



Erindale College will again be using the Parent Teacher Online booking system. Check the college website for more information.

A letter with all the details will be sent out in the near future, please keep a look out for it in the mail.

If you do not receive a letter and would like to make a booking please contact the college so we can make your booking or create a login so you can make the booking yourself.

Canteen at the Rugby Nines

Well done to Meg's hospitality catering team of 14 who ran the Canteen at the Rugby Nines carnival at Manuka Oval on Thursday 27th February. The feedback we received on the day was outstanding and the profits made will be used in the hospitality classes in the coming weeks.



Meg Lennard | Food and Hospitality - Erindale College

'Faces of Asylum'

The Year 12 photography class attended the exhibition 'Faces of Asylum', presented by Amnesty International at the newly refurbished Tuggeranong Community Arts Centre on Wednesday February 26.



The exhibition tells real life stories of people who have left their homes, friends and everything they know to escape violence and persecution.

Southern NSW
Community Organiser

Bede Carmody, (pictured) spoke to the class about the three documented families / people and the plight of the refugees.

From your Chaplain

Over half way into the term! I hope you are keeping your enthusiasm going and getting your assignments handed in.

If you are having trouble there are a few things you can do:

Talk with your teacher, talk with your Link or AG teacher, talk with your counsellor Amit, or your chaplain Deirdre. Talking things over can make all the difference!

Deidre Herman - Chaplain



Girls in Construction: International Women's Day School Girls Luncheon

On Friday 14th March Jasmine Ellis, Marlana Law, Mariah Davis, Victoria Oliver and Emily Roberts attended the Girls in Construction lunch, hosted by Minister Joy Burch to celebrate International Women's day. The girls enjoyed a 2 course meal at the CIT restaurant while listening to three inspirational women speak about working in the construction industry. One of the women who spoke was an ex-Erindale College student Emma Stockbridge, who is now an interior designer with Designed by Emma and recently won the 'Renovation of the Year' competition in the Home Beautiful Magazine. It was a great day and enjoyed by everyone that attended.



Exploring Visual Arts

On Friday 28 February the Exploring Visual Arts class visited the Drill Hall, to see the survey exhibition of Tasmanian painter, Philip Wolfhagen, covering his twenty five year career.

Wolfhagen's abiding enchantment with the Australian landscape is the focus of this travelling exhibition, exploring the tactility and intimacy of his painting process - particularly in oil and bees wax.

The art foundation class will be responding to Wolfhagen's painting style later in term 1.

Year 11 student
Rebecca Brookhouse
reviewing Night
Beacon 2005 at the
Drill Hall



SPORTS NEWS

Beach Volleyball

The inter college beach volleyball competition was held on Friday March 7th. It could not have been a better day and anyone would have thought that we were beachside at the Bay rather than in the sand at Civic Pool.

Erindale were able to enter 8 teams of both boys and girls from Year 10, 11 and 12. Many of the students were new to the game but learnt much throughout the day.

Our most successful team was made up of Sheniya White, Cass Madrid, Brad Murphy and Santiago Mills who were narrowly defeated in the final minutes of the semi-final, just missing a place in the grand final play-off.

Congratulations to all involved in the day.



Water Polo Champions

Congratulations to the Erindale college water polo team who became ACT college champions on the 12th March.

The students were rallied together by Lachie Breen who is in the Sports Academy for water polo and is the first team that Erindale have entered for a number of years.

With a quick start we were able to score through Lachie in the first minute of the game. Unfortunately Narrabundah came over the top of the team with their own quick fight back and at half time we were exhausted and 5-1 down. Thanks to some great strategies our second half was a blinder. Three quick goals bought us back into the game. Then through some fantastic team work and magnificent defense we continued our run and won the final 5-8. A great afternoon was had by all. Although we will have to see how many of the fill-ins will play again!

The team consisted of: Lachie Breen, Tyler Van Luin, Ben Buchanan, Zac Cowley-Hilton, Jordan Gorman, Benji Floros and Ashlee Hesling.

We'll done team!



Inter College Cricket 10Ten Competition

On March 13 the Erindale Cricket Team won the ACT College Final against Gungahlin. The competition was run over 4 weeks with 5 games being played against Narrabundah, Canberra College, Gungahlin and Copland. In the Final our team batted first, scoring 116 off the allocated overs. In reply Gungahlin amassed 75. Best players were Khye Ditton, Nick Skelley, Benji Floros and Riley Hughes.

Other valuable team members were Darcy Spinks, Tyler Collins, Tyler van Luin, Ben Buchanan, Matt Cawte, Josh McGovern, Jarrod Thompson, Luke McKay and Mitch Cassimatis.



Softball

Josh McGovern was a member of the ACT Open Men's Softball team who won the National Championships in early March. The ACT won the Final 3-2 v Victoria. Josh will be representing Australia at the U19 World Championships later this year.

Former Erindale student and "ACT young gun Jesse Taws won the tournament's Best Batter Award and Most Valuable Player Award".

Golf News

On March 17 the ACT School Sport Golf Championships were played. **Maddy Hunter** won the Girls Open division with a score of 75. Josh Hunter finished 2nd in the Open Boys division. Jake Jackson finished 6th and Dean Lord 11th. All 4 are hopeful of representing the ACT at upcoming Nationals in Toowoomba.

TSP Camp

On March 20/21 fifty students were involved in the TSP Orientation Camp at Wollongong. The group had a great time and were challenged physically and mentally around a range of fun activities, mainly involving a fear of heights.



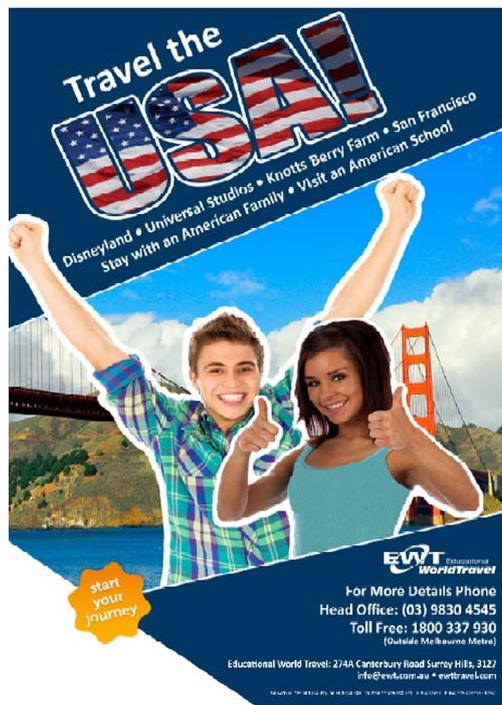
Wrestling Champion

Recently **Ben Pratt** represented Australia in 2 major Wrestling events in American Samoa.

Firstly he competed in the Oceanic Championships 15-17yrs, 100kg division. He competed against local athletes, as well as wrestlers from New Zealand and Palau. Despite being one of the smaller wrestlers at 92kg, Ben won the Oceanic Title.

The 2nd event was a Youth Olympic Qualifier. This involved 1 bout against an American Samoan. Ben won the bout 10-0 and has now qualified for the Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing, China in August.

Congratulations Ben.



Pacifika @ ANU

Erindale Pacific is a program for students from the Pacific Islands run jointly by the college and the Australian National University (ANU). As part of this program sixteen students attended ANU on Thursday 20th March and participated in Learning Pasifika. The students attended lectures and workshops in English, Maths and Science but with a distinctive pacific flavour.

Over the lunch break the students performed at Union Court. The girls performed two traditional Samoan dances and the boys performed a Fa'ataupati and their own haka which is a mix of the Samoan and Tongan hakas.

As a result of their performance and conduct throughout the day the group has been asked to mentor students from Belconnen High.



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Important dates to remember:

- 10 April Parent Teacher Evening
- 11 April last day of Term 1 2014
- 28 April start Term 2 2014
- 23 May TSP applications close
- 30 May College applications close
- 15 May Open Night 6-8pm
- 28 May P&C and Board Meeting
- 9 June Queens Birthday public holiday
- 19 + 20 June AST trial
- 4 July last day term 2



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