

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It is hard to believe that we start Week 6 of Term 1 which means we are half way through the term already.

### Student Attire

As you may be aware, I have placed a much greater emphasis on the presentation of our students and their wearing of the correct school uniform. I am not intending to change any expectation from what is recorded in the Student Diary. However, I believe that if it is a school policy then it needs to be enforced.

The main issues are in relation to jewellery, make-up and piercings and I would like to draw your attention to current policy –

- Jewellery – Students may wear a watch and one flat ring. During sport, for safety, only studs may be worn.
- Make-up and coloured finger nail polish are not appropriate at school and are not permitted.
- Facial Piercings – Any facial studs must be clear, students with pierced ears may wear gold or silver studs or sleepers.

With winter fast approaching, I urge all parents to order winter attire and remind parents that under no circumstance are hooded jackets to be worn.

### Key Contact People

Please do not hesitate to contact members of the Administration for matters relating to your student's schooling.

Year 8 - Kym Dickinson, Deputy Principal  
 Year 9 - Shirley Booth, Deputy Principal  
 Year 10 - Kym Dickinson, Deputy Principal  
 Year 11 - Gary Dawes, Deputy Principal  
 Year 12 - Jim Baker, Principal

### Sports Attendance

I urgently seek parent support to encourage their student's participation in regular sport on Wednesday afternoon. Last week the school recorded 146 absences on Wednesday, our sporting day, with many leaving at the start of sport at 12.15pm. This represents nearly 10% of our student population and it means that it is difficult for us to field full interschool sporting teams. I believe an opportunity to engage in a team sport is essential for young people with busy lives. It can provide a balance and I firmly believe in the adage 'healthy body, healthy mind'.

### Year 9 NAPLAN Practice Tests

As you are no doubt aware, National testing of Year 9 students will occur in May following its introduction in 2008. The three days of testing will cover

- reading
- writing
- spelling
- grammar and punctuation
- numeracy.



Whilst the school performed well in 2008, there is still room for improvement. Practice testing will commence next week and an analysis of the results will enable us to refine our teaching and learning strategies to seek further improvement.

Until next week, best wishes.

Jim Baker, Principal

## SWIMMING CARNIVAL REPORT



Our recent Interhouse Swimming Carnival was once again a highlight of our sports calendar. All students, both competitors and supporters, must be congratulated for their enthusiasm and spirit on the day.

A number of excellent performances were recorded and three new records were set –

Male 14 Years 50m Butterfly – Sohichi Imamiya

Male 14 Years 50m Backstroke – David Horne

Female 17/18 Years 50m Backstroke – Heleena Ethell.

**Coolangatta** was the overall **House Champion** on the day followed by Kirra, Bilinga and Duranbah. Congratulations!

A big thank you to all the staff who assisted on the day. It was a great success and enjoyed by all.

Sharon Jones, Sports Co-ordinator

## YEAR 8 NEWS

Year 8 students are settling into the challenges of high school. On the whole I have found students to be polite, respectful and enthusiastic and I look forward to a great 2009.

All Year 8 students have been issued with a diary and are required to take their diary to each class, including CREW each morning. The purpose of the diary is for students to write down their homework for the day and any due dates for assessment. The diary also enables parents and teachers to communicate on a regular basis.

To support students in the effective use of their diaries it is requested that parents/guardians sign the diary once a week in the space provided for parent/guardian signature. Also any comments that have been written in by teachers regarding student's behaviour and/or academic progress should be initialled by the parent so that the teacher knows it has been read. Student's diaries will be checked and signed once a week by their CREW teacher. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that a parent/guardian has signed the diary before their CREW teacher signs it. This process is important as it allows parents to support students in their academic studies and to keep on open communication with teachers.

Jo Vann, Year 8 Co-ordinator

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**Monday 2 March –**

Canoe Camp (All Week)

**Tuesday 3 March –**

Student and Staff Mediation Training

**Tuesday 10 March –**

University Showcase for Year 12 Students

**Friday 20 March –**

Immunisations for Years 8 and 10

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

At Elanora State High School we value the ideals of an international education. Our International Programs foster cultural understanding and personal development for our visitors and for our school community. Through our programs, we provide opportunities for students and staff to form life-long global networks.

Elanora High welcomes visitors from overseas destinations on both short-term and long-term programs. Our school community values the cultural heritage of other nations and is very interested in developing global networks of friendship and education.

Integral to the success of our programs are the International Senior Leaders who were confirmed into their positions on Wednesday. These students are dedicated to providing our International Students with the best possible experience during their time with us. International Senior Leaders act as mentors, guides and friends to the many international visitors we host throughout the year.

Together, students discover that the world is filled with many diverse cultures and languages, yet young people everywhere share similar hopes and concerns for the future.

Congratulations to Elanora High's International Senior Leaders for 2009: Corina Barnwell, Bianca Hockey, Kelley Jessen, Jonathan Mace-Kaff, Katelyn Moy, Billy Shearer, Kelsey Sieberhagen, Chris Thornley, Joe Welsh, Alison Price, Daniela Sunde-Brown, Karl Graf and Georgia Dal Broi.



### JAPAN STUDY TOUR 2009 -

In other International news, Elanora will once again embark on our regular visit to our Sister School, Yokosuka Sogo High School in Japan during the September school holidays. This study tour provides students with the opportunity to see Japan through a 10 day tour combined with the unique feature of a homestay component. Students will visit places such as Kyoto, Osaka, Tokyo and Yokohama and experience the best Japan has to offer.

A school study tour offers countless benefits for a student keen to embark on this international adventure. Going overseas without one's parents and stepping outside an existing social network develops responsibility, initiative and accountability for one's actions.

If your student is keen to embark on this adventure please register your interest and collect an application form from Mrs Alison Fahlbusch in Staffroom One. Once student numbers have been confirmed an initial information evening detailing costings and study tour itinerary will occur.

Alison Fahlbusch, HOD – International

#### HEAD LICE

**With the hot, humid weather at the moment, head lice are quite prevalent. Please check your children's hair regularly and treat as required.**



## ELANORA HIGH SCHOOL'S RUNNING CLUB

This year Elanora High will complete in the 10km Corporate Challenge during the Gold Coast Marathon festival. On Wednesday afternoon a dedicated group of students began their training. These students have demonstrated dedication, commitment and bravery by putting up their hands and deciding to tackle this challenge head on. Not all students (or Teacher Coordinators) are skilled runners but all are committed to reaching their 10km goal. These students are to be congratulated for setting a goal and organising a plan to get them to that goal. The running club will train during sport time on a Wednesday afternoon and will also put in another training session on Friday afternoons, 3.30pm – 4.30pm. Students who have not registered to be involved in the Wednesday afternoon sport group can still participate in the 10km challenge in the Gold Coast Marathon or can simply join in all the fun and fitness during the Friday afternoon training session. If you are interested in joining the Elanora High Running Club please register your name with either of the Teacher Coordinators, Miss Hamilton or Mrs Fahlbusch. Don't miss this great opportunity to get fit, make new friends and expand your horizons!

**Paula Hamilton and Alison Fahlbusch,**

**Teacher Co-ordinators**

## EMILY TAKES THE MIC



Elanora High's singing teacher Kristy Bloomfield was not the only one to share her talents at an 'Open Mic Night' at Zullaz Café in Burleigh on Wednesday night. Year 11 Music student Emily Schembri also shared the stage singing and playing a collection of her favourite songs, including one of her own compositions. Emily had great success on the night and has been invited to perform again at a Youth Week Festival in April. Past students Chang Po Ching and Matt Holman also participated in the 'Open Mic Night'.

Please contact Amanda Burnett, Music Co-ordinator for more information regarding music lessons and upcoming events.

## COMMUNITY NEWS .....

### 2009 Funding for School Camps for Children Being Raised by Their Grandparents –

This program is operated by the Seniors Enquiry Line and funded by the Department of Communities. To be eligible, grandparents must be the primary carers and not receiving the fostering allowance and not an approved Dept of Child safety kinship carer. For further information phone 1300 135 500 or visit [www.grandparentsqld.com.au](http://www.grandparentsqld.com.au)