Welcome to the first newsletter of the year!

We hope you had a relaxing break and are settling back into the new school year refreshed and ready to achieve your personal best! We are looking forward to another ICAS season and hope you are too!

Here at EAA we have some exciting news for 2014. After a very successful launch of ICAS English and Mathematics for Year 2 last year, we will also be offering ICAS Science to Year 2 students this year. Keep reading to find out more!

Also, for the first time, this year your results will be compared at a national level. This will mean that you will know how well you went in your favourite ICAS subject not just in your state, but compared to students all across Australia!

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**Official Dates for 2014 ICAS**

Here are the official sitting dates for 2014 ICAS. These dates may be slightly different at your school so don’t forget to confirm with your teacher when your school is sitting ICAS.

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<tr>
<th>ICAS Subject</th>
<th>ICAS Sitting Date</th>
<th>Closing Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer Skills</td>
<td>Tue 20 May</td>
<td>Tue 22 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Wed 4 June</td>
<td>Wed 7 May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>Mon 16 June*</td>
<td>Mon 19 May</td>
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<td>Tue 17 June</td>
<td>Tue 20 May</td>
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<td><strong>Spelling</strong></td>
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<td><strong>English</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mathematics</strong></td>
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*Students can sit ICAS Writing anytime in the week beginning Monday 16 June 2014 and will still be eligible for UNSW medals.

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**New ICAS for Year 2 Students**

Year 2 students from over 1,500 schools from all states and territories participated in ICAS English and Mathematics last year. So this year we are also bringing all the well-known benefits of ICAS Science forward to Year 2. If you have a little brother or sister in Year 2 why not encourage them to try ICAS this year? You never know, they may even be our first Year 2 triple medallist!

This year we will also be offering Year 2 equivalent papers in English and Mathematics to our students in countries including New Zealand, the Cook Islands, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and some international schools. To learn more, visit our [ICAS Introductory page](#).

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**Coming up in February and March**

Is your school celebrating any of the events below? Visit the official websites to get ideas on how you can mark these special days at home with your family or in the classroom.

**28 February - Schools Clean Up Day.** This is a great way to become educated about the importance of looking after the environment.

**2 March - Clean Up Australia Day.**

**8 March - International Women’s Day.** This year’s theme is *Inspiring Change*. For all you need to know including some great videos and resources visit the IWD website.

**19 March – Ride to School Day.** Be one of the 250,000 Australian students who ride, walk, scoot or skate to school – often for the first time ever!

**21 March - World Harmony Day.** By participating in Harmony Day activities, learn and understand how all Australians from diverse backgrounds equally belong to our nation.

**21 March – National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence.** On 21 March take a stand together and say ‘Bullying. No Way!’

**21 March – World Poetry Day.** Poetry is a great way to share experiences, tell a story or express feelings or ideas. On World Poetry Day why not read some of your favourite poetry or even write a poem of your own. Or for those of you who like something a little different you may even want to try making some mix-and-match poetry dice.

Plus don’t forget for those poets out there the [Dorothea Mackellar poetry competition](#) opens on 1 March.
29 March – Earth Hour. Do your bit for the planet by switching off the lights for an hour at 8.30pm. Use the time to go stargazing or play spotlight with your friends and family!

Competition results: Holiday Movie Giveaway

In our last newsletter for 2013 we asked you to tell us what the most useful things were that you learnt at school. We had some great responses and it seems like you all learnt a lot last year! But we had to choose a winner. The winning entry came from Adarsh Parekh, age 10 from South Australia. Congratulations Adarsh!

Adarsh wrote:
One thing that I found useful was going to a year 5/6 class to do maths when I’m actually only in year 4. The reason I went to the year 5/6 class was because I am very good at maths and did not find the maths in my class challenging at all. Another reason is because I am skipping a year and going to year 6 in 2014. It came in handy because I learnt a lot of mathematics that I did not know. In history classes I learnt about the history of Australia which was The First Fleet and how the British convicts came to Australia.

Get organised for 2014!

Being organised is a very important part of making sure you can manage all that homework, those after school activities and helping out at home. Download this great weekly planner to help make sure you’re on top of all your tasks each week! Or if you prefer online planners, check out some of these options: myHomework, iStudyz and MyStudyLife.

If you have any tips on how you keep yourself organised throughout the school year, let us know so we can share them with other ICAS students.

Keep up to date with the latest EAA and educational news

If you’re not already a fan of EAA's Facebook page, then ‘Like’ us today. Our Facebook page is a great way for you to keep in touch with the latest ICAS news, get resources and study tips – and connect with fellow ICAS fans!

Tell us what you think

At EAA, we believe that students often make the best teachers – and have the best ideas. Your feedback helps us improve ICAS so that it can meet your learning needs, and the needs of students everywhere. If you have any comments on our tests or practice materials, or have any suggestions for new products, then we’d love to hear from you. You can send your feedback to newsletter@eaa.unsw.edu.au
Neville Walter
Marketing Manager, International and Domestic
UNSW Global

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