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 for another ICAS season!

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 are now offering ICAS Science to Year 2 students this year.

We have also had some big developments in ICAS Reporting. Keep reading to find out more!

Preliminary Reports now available within 3 weeks*!

You will now receive your students’ ICAS raw score results online within 3 weeks* of returning their ICAS answer sheets. Comprehensive online and hard copy ICAS reports will still be delivered to your school within 6 weeks, enabling further analysis of your school’s ICAS data as well as access to the questions tested in ICAS, so questions can be revisited and reviewed.

* Australia only

New developments in Results Reporting

This year we have introduced national reporting for your ICAS reports. This means your school’s ICAS results will be reported against all participating schools in Australia, rather than just at a state level.
We have also introduced new Merit certificates. Certificates will now recognise student achievement as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High Distinction</td>
<td>Top 1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distinction</td>
<td>Next 10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit</td>
<td>Next 25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merit</td>
<td>Next 10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>Remaining 54% of participating students</td>
</tr>
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**New ICAS Introductory Paper 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*.

The Science paper will assess students’ skills in the key scientific areas of: Interpreting data, including observing, measuring and interpreting diagrams, tables and graphs; applying data, including inferring, predicting and concluding; and higher order skills, including investigating, reasoning and problem solving. The Introductory ICAS Science test paper has 30 multiple choice questions and students are given 45 minutes to complete the test.

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.

* Australia only

**Official Dates for 2014 ICAS**

Below are the official test sitting and closing dates for 2014 ICAS. If your school is unable to sit ICAS on any of the official sitting dates, contact our Customer Service team on 61 2 8344 1010 or at info@eaa.unsw.edu.au to arrange an alternative sitting date.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ICAS Subject</th>
<th>ICAS Sitting Date</th>
<th>Closing Date</th>
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</thead>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>Mon 16 June**</td>
<td>Mon 19 May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>Tue 17 June</td>
<td>Tue 20 May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Tue 29 July</td>
<td>Tue 1 July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Tue 12 August</td>
<td>Tue 15 July</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Students can sit ICAS Writing anytime in the week beginning Monday 16 June 2014 and will still be eligible for UNSW medals.**

**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 in the classroom.

**28 February - Schools Clean Up Day.** This is a great way to educate students 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 great videos and resources visit the IWD website.

**19 March – Ride to School Day.** Encourage your students to join the 250,000 Australian students who ride, walk, scoot or skate to school!

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

**21 March – National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence.** The teacher section of the website provides information and resources to help school leaders and teachers create and sustain safe and supportive school communities.

**21 March – World Poetry Day.** Encourage students to share experiences, tell a story or express feelings or ideas through poetry. Plus don’t forget to remind those poets out there the Dorothea Mackellar poetry competition opens on 1 March. Take a look at the website yourself as it has some good resources for teaching students poetry.

**29 March – Earth Hour.** Encourage students to do their bit for the planet by switching off their lights for an hour at 8.30 pm. The Earth Hour website also has an extensive curriculum toolkit to ensure our kids are well informed about the environment.
Was this part of your preparation for Back to School?!

Teaching:
The only profession where you steal supplies from home and bring them to work.

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, links to resources and interesting articles – and connect with fellow ICAS fans!

At EAA, we strive to meet the needs of all schools and students, and your feedback helps us to do this. If you have any comments on EAA's assessments and practice materials, or any suggestions for new products or services you would like us to offer, 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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