Dear Parents

Education Week
Next week is Education Week in all schools in Victoria. We will be offering a range of opportunities for you to visit the school and see the amazing learning that is taking place.

We will have an Open Morning on Tuesday from 9:00am – 1:30pm when we invite you to visit your child’s or any classroom or specialist program in the school (see attached flyer).

School tours operate every Tuesday and Wednesday during Term 2 for incoming new parents.

Our 2016 Prep Parent Information Night covering ‘Learning & Teaching at EPS’ will be held at 7.00pm on Thursday 21 May and you may like to see our Grade 5 and 6 students involved in sport against other schools on Friday afternoon.

Annual General Meeting – Wednesday 20 May – 7:00pm
Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will precede next week’s School Council meeting on Wednesday 20 May in the JLC. The school Annual Report will be presented at this meeting and contains information about student achievement, NAPLAN, NAPLAN learning gain, student attendance, school finances and learning strategies for 2015. The Annual Report will be available on our website after the AGM.

Nepal Appeal
Thank you to all students and families for your support in the gold coin fundraiser on Monday. We raised $1400 which will be sent to Nepal via World Vision. Funds will go to emergency services needed after the devastating earthquake.

Parent Nights
The first of our parent evenings that focus on the curriculum taught at Elwood PS is on Tuesday 26 May at 7.00pm in the JLC. This evening will focus on our VCOP Big Write program that is being implemented this year. A separate flyer will be sent home shortly. Our parent evening series is as follows:

Term 2: Tuesday 26 May
VCOP – Big Write

Term 3: Wednesday 22 July
Numeracy at EPS

Term 3: Wednesday 12 August
Literacy at EPS

Term 4: Wednesday 28 October
Investigations & ERP’s

Information Learning Hub Plaque (Library)

The plaque is now on display above the entrance door.

It reads:
Thank you to our whole community for supporting the school in both the Market and the Building or Library funds. Your support allows us to continually improve our grounds, classrooms and teaching programs.

School Charges
Receipts have been posted to families who have already contributed to our Building or
The deck in the courtyard, the garden at the front of the school and Stage 2 of the Information Learning Hub (soon to commence) are being funded by the Market and Building or Library Funds. These will be fantastic additions to the school this year.

Every family will shortly receive a statement via the post which will reflect payments made up until 12 May 2015. Please check that this statement is accurate; if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

If you have overlooked making payment could you please do so as soon as possible. Excursion fees must be paid before students attend. If you are experiencing any difficulties with payment, please contact me via the school office on 9531 2762.

Chess Competition
As highlighted in last week’s Community Link the interschool chess competition is on Friday 5 June at Elwood PS. It is an opportunity for both experienced and learning players to hone their skills against players of similar ability. Please complete the attached form so that we can enter a school team (see attached form).

Rob Csoti

Working Memory Boosters
Working memory is a term that teachers and parents are hearing a lot more about as new research and understanding of working memory filters through our Education system.

Working memory refers to how we manipulate information stored in short-term memory. Students use working memory to learn and follow directions.

Working-memory boosters can be built into your child’s daily life at home as we also support them through the classroom and best teaching practices.

So what can working memory difficulties look like? Students may have a hard time remembering directions or math facts or often forget what they want to say. However, this can also be a developmental process also.

Working memory refers to the manipulation of information that short-term memory stores. (In the past, the term “working memory” was used interchangeably with the term “short-term memory.”)

It’s a skill students use to learn. You can help your child improve their recall by building some working memory boosters into their daily life.

1. Teach visualization skills
Encourage your child to create a picture of what they have just read or heard. For example, if you’ve told them to set the table for five people, ask them to come up with a picture in their head of what the table should look like. Then have them draw that picture. As they get better at visualizing, they can start describing the image to you instead of drawing it.

2. Have your child teach you
Being able to explain how to do something involves making sense of information and mentally filing it. If they are learning a skill, like how to dribble a basketball, ask them to teach it to you after their coach explains it to them.

3. Suggest games that use visual memory
Give your child a magazine page and ask them to circle all instances of the word “the” or the letter “a” in one minute. Alternatively, play games in the car in which one of you recites the letters and numbers on a license plate you see and then they have to say it backwards, too.

4. Play cards
Simple card games like Crazy Eights, Uno, Go Fish and War improve working memory in two ways. Your child has to keep the rules of the game in mind, but also has to remember what cards they have and which ones other people have played.

5. Make up category games
When words and ideas are put into categories, they’re easier to remember. Playing games in which you name as many animals as you can think of can eventually lead to playing games with more complicated concepts. For example, you may ask your child to name as many clue words for addition as they can (such as “all together,” “in all,” “total” and “plus”).

6. Number your directions
Beginning a sentence with words like “I need you to do three things…” can help your child keep all of the different points in their head. You can do the same thing with other information, too, like shopping lists (“We need to buy these five items…”).

7. Connect emotion to information
Processing information in as many ways as possible can help your child remember it. Help them connect feelings to what they are trying to remember. For instance, if they are learning about how the pyramids in ancient Egypt were built, ask them to think about what it felt like to have to climb to the top of one of them pulling a heavy stone in the hot sun.

Amanda Morin, a parent advocate and former teacher, is the proud mom of kids with learning and attention issues and the author of “The Everything Parent’s Guide to Special Education.” She has written about many strategies and activities parents can do at home to boost working memory. Here are the top 8:

Library Funds. Donations are tax deductible and all funds enable us to continually develop our school. It is not too late to contribute to either of these funds for inclusion in your 2014/15 tax returns. If you would like to contribute please contact the school office.

The deck in the courtyard, the garden at the front of the school and Stage 2 of the Information Learning Hub (soon to commence) are being funded by the Market and Building or Library Funds. These will be fantastic additions to the school this year.

Every family will shortly receive a statement via the post which will reflect payments made up until 12 May 2015. Please check that this statement is accurate; if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

If you have overlooked making payment could you please do so as soon as possible. Excursion fees must be paid before students attend. If you are experiencing any difficulties with payment, please contact me via the school office on 9531 2762.
8. Help make connections
Connections are the relationship between things. Finding ways to connect what your child is trying to remember with things they already know can help them learn the new material. For instance, show them that the twos times table is the same as his doubles facts, such as $4 \times 2 = 8$ and $4 + 4 = 8$.

Memory-boosting tricks and games are just some of the ways you can help improve your child’s executive functioning skills.

Nicole Richards … Assistant Principal

Reporting the News
This term, students from Grade 5 and 6 have the opportunity to participate in Writer’s Club. This club encourages students to further immerse in writing for authentic purposes.

The journalistic team have decided to publish a newspaper known as the E.P.S News.

Articles the newspaper will cover include; reports on senior school events, odd spots, comic strips, advertisements for upcoming events and stories written by our own students and much more to come.

Students have committed to spending one lunchtime a week putting the paper together and will report on events in their own time.

A thank you to Sarah Campbell (former journalist) for sharing her time with the members of the Writer’s Club to provide tips about journalism and interview techniques.

Wei Li Boey … Chief Editor of the Writer’s Club

News from the Art Room
Calling all budding artists! The art leaders are holding a school art competition and the winner’s art piece will be featured on the banner of the school’s new website. All you have to do is create a piece of art that shows what makes Elwood Primary special. Create your masterpiece on an A4 piece of paper with any art supplies you have lying around at home. Entries can be handed to the senior school art room and are due on Monday 1 June. A small prize will be given to 1st – 3rd place winners and all entries will be displayed on the website.

Can you help? The art room is seeking newspapers for upcoming projects.

Leyna Dosch … Visual Arts Teacher

Uniform Shop needs Volunteers
The uniform shop is seeking new volunteers - we need extra people to assist on a Monday or Thursday morning for about an hour a week. Duties include help set up, serve customers, fill orders and pack the shop away. The volunteer will need to be able to start at 8.45am. It is a great way to meet other parents and to contribute to the smooth running of the school. Anybody interested can contact me at the Uniform shop on Monday mornings or via the school office. Grandparents are very welcome!

Terri Boyle

2015 House Cross Country
This year was our most colourful year yet, with all students wearing their House coloured tops, they looked great. It was an amazing atmosphere with kids and parents cheering for all competitors no matter what their position in the race. See photos at bottom of Pages 3 and 5.

All runners gave their absolute best efforts and performed really well on the day by finishing the race!

Well done to the top 8 places from each age/gender group. You now progress onto District Cross Country on the 26th May at Dendy park.

This was a great day! Thank you to all Teacher, Parents and Student Teachers for their help and support on the day.

Amy Parsons … PE & Sport Co-ordinator
EPS Trivia Pursuit
As you may have already heard on the grapevine the EPS Trivia Pursuit is on again in 2015. This event is our Biannual School Fundraiser and if previous years are anything to go by it is an event which is loved by all, well attended and importantly raises good $$ for our school (approx. $16,000 in 2013).

This year the Trivia Pursuit will be held on Friday 17th July at the St Kilda Townhall. SAVE THE DATE for what promises to be a fun event, filled with lots of amazing prizes and silent auction items. Tickets on sale soon.

Which is where we need your help:

We are looking for donations for the raffle and or silent auction to include on the night - some examples are:

- vouchers - restaurant / retail / goods / services
- spa and beauty vouchers
- retail goods - clothing / bags/ shoes / beauty products
- artwork
- new kids toys and books
- lessons - golf / sailing / tennis / any sport or dance etc
- accommodation - this is a big ticket item $$$… hotel / holiday / holiday house for weekend or week - would you consider donating your holiday house?

Any items gratefully received. If you can help please contact : Kate Allen : kate.a.groom@gmail.com or Nicole Nabout : nicolenabout@icloud.com

Our Global Calendar
Our Global calendar is a way to celebrate significant cultural and environmental events and is a terrific springboard for conversations at home!

13-20 May: Coeliac Awareness Week
Coeliac Awareness Week is held annually from 13-20 March. Coeliac disease remains one of the most under-diagnosed conditions in Australia. Public recognition of coeliac disease and the potential reactions to gluten (often self-diagnosed!) have never been higher, yet awareness of the condition among medical professionals continues to be low.

15 May: International Day of Families
The International Day of Families is an opportunity to raise awareness of issues relating to families in the international community.
For more information go to: www.un.org/en/events/familyday/

16 May: Shine a Light on Road Safety
Victorian drivers are being urged to turn on their headlights as a simple, free and highly visible gesture, to remember those impacted by road trauma and show their commitment to road safety.

17 May: RSPCA Million Paws Walk
The Million Paws Walk is a fundraising event for the RSPCA. The RSPCA investigates more than 50,000 of animal cruelty or neglect each year.
www.millionpawswalk.com.au

17-23 May: Food Allergy Week
Food allergy continues to increase at alarming rates. Whilst researchers across the world try to understand more about food allergy and the increase, those in the Australian community live with the challenge of managing risk whilst maintaining a good quality of life. Website: www.foodallergyaware.com.au/

21 May : World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development
The World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development is an opportunity to increase understanding of cultural diversity, and the positive impact it can have on countries and communities.

23 May: World Turtle Day
To bring attention to, and increase knowledge of and respect for, turtles and tortoises, and encourage human action to help them survive and thrive.

24 May: Pentecost - Christian
Pentecost is a Christian celebration of the fiftieth day after Easter. Pentecost Sunday, which marks the end of the Easter season in the Christian calendar, celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles.

25 May: International Missing Children’s Day
A day where people around the world commemorate the missing children who have found their way home, remember those who have been victims of crime, and continue efforts to find those who are still missing.

25-31 May: Kidney Health Awareness Week
Kidney Health Week is a national awareness campaign to promote good kidney health, held annually in the last week of May.
26 May: National Sorry Day
National Sorry Day is a continuing effort to achieve appropriate education, reconciliation and recognition for the Aboriginal stolen generation.

Enjoy your upcoming weeks, whatever it holds or whatever you are celebrating!
Nicole Richards … Assistant Principal

Kitchen News
We have had a busy couple of weeks in the kitchen. Grade 3’s have been learning how to make risotto and pasta while Grade 4 students have been ‘perfecting the art’ of pasta and risotto.

We have had an abundance of interesting fruit this last month from strawberry guavas, quinces, tamarillos, raspberries. This fruit has been made into jellies and jams, crumbles, cakes and more.

Our ovens are working beautifully, which makes such a difference to being able to finish our cooking sessions on time.

Some classes are struggling for volunteers so if you or anyone you know are able to help that would be fantastic. Contact the school office to obtain information about getting on the roster.

Thank You’s
To our lemon providers please keep up the supply as they are so expensive to purchase. Terry for quinces and Arianne for olives. A big thank you to our lovely volunteers for your support as it is invaluable.
Janet & Catherine … Kitchen Specialists

Garden News
The change of seasons is now obvious in the garden. The battle to keep on top of the autumn leaves continues! Most of our winter crops are now in place. Last week we planted spinach, beetroot, radishes, peas and carrots.

Can you help the garden?
Chooks: we need more families who can take a turn to feed and water the chooks over the weekend or holidays.
Manure: does anyone have a source of horse, cow or sheep manure?
Pruning: the fruit trees will need to be pruned over winter – can you help?
Gardening: on Wednesdays (just gardening tasks – no classes) 2:30-3:30pm always looking for more participants.

See you in the garden!
Kate Bulling … Garden Specialist
bulling.kathleen.k@edumail.vic.gov.au
What’s happening during Weeks 5 & 6 at Elwood Primary School?

Level 1 (Prep)

Literacy: In literacy this fortnight we will be continuing to practise prediction skills when reading, including changing our predictions as the book goes on and when we find out more information. We will also be learning how we can make text-to-self connections with books, by comparing people, places and events in our own lives. We will be practising decoding unknown words by stretching them out into syllables and chunks. During our Big Talk and Big Write we will be getting back out into our environment and exploring our compost, worm farm and chickens as inspiration. Our learning intentions while writing is punctuation looking at skills such as “I can use a full stop to end my sentence” and “I can use a finger space between each word”. Our letter/sound focus this fortnight is the letter ‘y’ and the diagraph ‘ch’.

Maths: This fortnight, we will be learning all about informal addition! This includes combining, joining and counting sets of objects to find a total amount. We will be using real-life strategies to practise counting on, developing vocabulary related to addition and looking at addition in our daily lives.

Investigations: During tuning in and reflection times we are working on our speaking and listening skills by discussing how we can contribute relevant ideas to class discussions. We will also be adding adjectives to our Wow words wall about chickens and worms and exploring how our worm farm works.

Level 2

Writing: This fortnight VCOP is looking at openers, how to write the opening of our sentences in interesting ways to draw in the reader. The Big Write is a narrative with ‘The Gift’ as our seed. Our punctuation focus is exclamation marks and the grammar focus is nouns (learning about pronouns). Handwriting is the stand alone letters, which include: S I X E. Each class will have their author study and spelling strategy and spelling sound pattern to study.

Reading: The reading strategy this fortnight is predicting. Children will be making predictions using information from pictures, reading the beginning and middle of the story and using evidence from the text or background knowledge to support the predictions we are making.

Maths: This week Grade 2s are working with fractions. Fractions are part of a whole. Students will be showing halves, quarters and thirds in a variety of different ways. Grade Ones will be revising Place Value, looking at subsidising small collections of numbers and connecting number names and numerals with sets of more than 20 elements.

The unit on Location will look at understanding direction and how to give and follow directions as well as understanding how to read elements of a map.

Investigations: The environment energy focus is assigning computer monitors to check that computers are shutdown properly at the end of a day and just left to ‘sleep’ during school hours.
Level 3

Year 3

It’s NAPLAN week during week 5 so this week students in Year 3 will be undertaking nationwide testing in Reading, Writing and Maths. We’re sending all of our Year 3 students lots of positive thoughts and encouragement this week.

Literacy: During writing lessons this week students will be exploring vocabulary, particularly looking at synonyms. When reading students will continue to practise asking questions as they read.

Maths: Students will continue to focus on multiplication and division and will be applying their mental strategies to solve problems.

Inquiry: Students will continue to explore our Inquiry topic of Earth and Space. They will be investigating the patterns and cycles that occur on earth (e.g. day and night, the seasons) and what causes these.

Year 4

Literacy: During reading sessions students will continue to focus on the comprehension strategy of inferring, focusing on how we can learn more about a character by thinking about what they say and do and what other characters say about them.

Maths: In maths sessions students will explore the connection between multiplication and division. They will have lots of opportunities to solve multiplication and division problems mentally using a variety of strategies.

Inquiry: Students will continue to explore our Inquiry topic of Physics. Students have been very engaged and participated in science rotations. We have had a Mad about Science incursion and the amazing Professor Bunsen incursion is tomorrow. The focus for the rest of the term within Physics will be Forces.

Level 4 (Year 5 & 6)

Literacy: In reading, grade 5 classes are beginning a solid focus on narrative writing. We will begin by looking at well written narratives by well know authors and analysing what makes a successful narrative. Grade 6 classes are focusing on analysing the texts that we read. We are beginning by analysing the elements of literature such as plot, theme, mood, style, tone and point of view.

In writing grade 5 classes will be working through the writer’s cycle on pieces of the students’ own choice. Teachers will be conferencing with students and continuing to set individual writing goals that are specific to the strengths and needs of each student. Grade 6 classes will be beginning to plan our own mystery stories. Careful and thorough planning is essential for all narratives but especially for mystery stories where clues must be scattered throughout and a clear ending must be written.

Maths: Grade 5 and 6 classes are well under way with our multiplication and division unit. This fortnight, grade 5 classes will be focusing on using a range of strategies to solve multiplication problems, specifically learning to use the area, partitioning and lattice methods of multiplication and consolidating our skills in using the formal algorithm. Grade 6 classes are working on using the correct order of operations (BODMAS) to write and solve number sentences.

Inquiry: Grade 5 classes are thoroughly enjoying their science unit focusing on physics. This fortnight we will be learning about the ways in which electrical circuits provide a means of transferring and transforming electricity. We will be creating small electrical circuits using batteries and light bulbs and will explore different types of circuits.

Grade 6 classes loved the forensic science incursion where we got to solve a crime and discover the ways in which science is used in the real world. We are now continuing to explore the different observable properties of solids, liquids and gases and the different ways that each behaves.
EDUCATION WEEK
at Elwood Primary School

Every week is Education Week at Elwood Primary School but during the week of 18th May - 22nd May, it is the celebration of education in all Victorian schools.

Many educational activities are taking place throughout this week such as our 2016 Prep Parent Information Night, Annual General Meeting & School Council Meeting, Grade 6 and Prep Buddies and of course, the wonderful learning taking place in each classroom and across our Specialist areas.

Although always welcome and we see many of you here, we send a special invitation to all parents, friends and family to our:

Open Morning
Tuesday 19th May
9.00am - 1.30pm

Please feel free to visit the classrooms, join in a specialist session such as Music or Art, or head into the Garden.
Port Phillip Interschool Chess Tournament

Elwood Primary School

Entry Form

5th June 2015
9am to 2pm

Elwood Primary School is proud to be hosting the upcoming interschool chess competition on 6th May. This is a great chance for your child to be part of the Elwood chess team (coordinated by parents) that usually attends a couple of competitions a year. It is also a great opportunity to gain valuable competition experience in a friendly atmosphere.

The competition is 7 rounds of chess (each game is 30 minutes) with 15 minutes on the clock per player. The cost is $20 per player and currently there are 20 places available.

If your child is interested, please return the below form to the EPS office with $20 (competition cost) included in an envelope by Friday 29 May. The interschool chess competitions are run by Chess Kids.

For more information contact Kylee Shiel 0402256675 or kylux@bigpond.net.au

Name of child: ____________________________________________

Child’s class: ____________________________________________

Name of parent/guardian: __________________________________

Email address: __________________________________________

Phone number: _________________________________________
Elwood Community Market

Feb 7th  Aug 1st
Mar 14th  Sept 5th
May 2nd  Nov 7th
June 13th  Dec 5th

ENQUIRIES - 0422 976 276
www.elwoodprimary.vic.edu.au
www.trybooking.com/106452