



Newsletter

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Scott Street, Elwood Vic 3184

Phone : 9531 2762

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Community Market (bookings) : www.trybooking.com/333813

Dear Parents

Happy Holidays

Another exciting term draws to a close at Elwood Primary School with many highlights. Our new preps have completed one term of school, new portables are on site, two markets were held, new students, new staff, swimming sports, information nights, parent teacher meetings, kitchen garden classes, Interschool round robin sports day, a chess tournament all on top of some amazing learning within each grade and our specialists classrooms.

I would like to thank our amazing dedicated teachers, Elwood Primary School staff and our office staff for another great term. We are so lucky to have them all!

LTC Demolition

Demolition will commence during the school holidays in two phases; the removal of asbestos and then the demolition of the LTC.

The Victorian School Building Authority (VSBA) will be undertaking the safe removal of asbestos-containing material (ACM). The VSBA has engaged an expert occupational hygienist and asbestos removalist to undertake this work.

Works are scheduled to commence on Friday 30 March 2018. This will not affect the surrounding neighbourhood.

All works, including the removal of ACM, will be undertaken in strict accordance with the Victorian Occupational Health and Safety Framework.

If you have any further concerns about these matters, please contact the Program Manager (Adam Shkolnik) on 03 8618 7200 or via email adam@bhapm.com.au.

We appreciate your cooperation and patience during this process. If you have any questions, you may also contact me through the front office, on (03) 9531 2762.

100 Year Pavers

The 100 year pavers are currently being laid and look fantastic. Seats and landscaping will be completed early in the holidays. It will be a beautiful space once completed.

New Mexico Study Tour

An incredible learning journey will be taken by six of our teachers over the school holidays in Santa Fe New Mexico during the Term 1 break. Thess (4T), Sam (PE), Christine (PC), Nat (3N), Ryan (PR), Nick (5N) and myself will work with seven staff from Noble Park Primary School and George Otero to challenge our thinking as educators, the role of a school and the importance of connecting the parent community to learning as well as the culture and context of our communities that we work in. Another underlying theme will be the quality of the relationships we form with our students, parents, communities and ourselves which leads to a substantial impact on learning.

We arrive in Santa Fe on Thursday 29 March to be immersed over the next four days in the culture and context of the local communities that make up our learning communities. We will explore the rich multi-cultural history of Santa Fe, visit the Native American Museum on Monument Hill, the Pecos National Monument and also meet with local educators. We will immerse ourselves in the Santa Domingo Pueblo to observe their Easter dances. This part of the trip will have a major focus on how:

- The communities we live in influence the context and culture of our schools.
- The impact of the notion - "It takes a community to raise a child" seen in its rawest form in the Native American communities visited.
- That the world is very different to the community we live in.
- That there are many layers to

**28 March 2018
No. 5**

CALENDAR

Thursday 29 March

5S Walking to St Kilda Readings
9.30am-11.30am

2S Class Party Clarke St Park
9.40am—10.45am

**End of Term 1
2.30pm finish**

Friday 31 March
Daylight Savings Ends

Monday 16 April
Term 2 Commences

3.00pm Assembly, no performance

Tuesday 17 April
1.45pm Aerobics in hall

Wednesday 18 April
State Swimming

Thursday 19 April
1.45pm Aerobics in hall

Friday 20 April
Sport Grade 5/6

Tuesday 24 April
Anzac Day Assembly
10.15am -11.00am 4T & 4C
11.30am—12.15 4J & 4S

Wednesday 25 April
Anzac Day Public Holiday
No school

**Thursday 29 March
End of Term 1
2.30pm Finish**

understanding the impact on people and schools depending on the history of the communities they live in.

The next five days of the trip will be spent in different schools and workshopping the experiences we are exposed to. We visit different schools to focus on parental involvement, personalised learning, project based curriculums, community interaction, leadership and literacy as well as numeracy outcomes in the American context, which have been involved in high stakes testing for many years.

We will spend time at:

- Taos Academy – a 21st century school that focuses on online learning in the mornings and a project based learning each afternoon.
- The Toas Pueblo – the oldest continuously inhabited community in the world.
- Le Mesa Elementary school in Albuquerque - an example of the power of working with the communities we serve. Le Mesa is referred to as the war zone by locals.
- Next Generation Middle School – a project based school achieving outstanding results with a strong culture and amazing examples of students led learning.
- Weimagination – a developmental learning complex which works with teachers and educators on many of the themes we hold close to our hearts at Elwood Primary School.
- Rameriz Thomas Elementary School – which has had to rebuild itself after nearly being closed down for poor performance.
- The parent University at Rameriz Thomas Elementary - run by parents to engage other parents in difficult circumstances to be involved in the school.
- Kearny Elementary - a high performing school .

During the trip we place our teachers in a constant state of reflection as educators and as people. We ask many questions about ourselves and our role as educators:

- What is the role of the school?
- What type of relationships do we foster at school and in our lives?
- How do we involve our parents in the learning process?
- How much attention do we pay to the families we serve?
- What type of experiences do our students have with us?
- What messages do we send our students, parents and peers on a daily basis?

The New Mexico experience places our staff in a totally different culture and context away from the distractions of our own lives. It enables us to immerse ourselves in a

professional and personal learning journey. Our educators come back changed in many ways, all of which have a significant positive impact on them as teachers and in turn a positive impact on your children.

We have amazing committed teachers at Elwood PS and it will be a privilege and honour to spend ten days with six of these teachers in a unique and thought provoking inquiry.

The trip is fully funded by each teacher which is a least a \$3000 commitment in their Term 1 break.

Rob Csoti

Learning and the school holidays

Supporting your child's learning at home can continue throughout the school holidays and there are many fun activities at home and around Victoria that can help your child learn while enjoying this time away from school.

- Check out your local library for children's activities scheduled during the school holidays.
- Spend the day cooking to help with reading, maths and science skills.
- Organise a craft day and make birthday or Christmas cards, paint or create simple friendship bands with a mixture of buttons and big beads.
- Help your child make a cubby house outside or inside with cushions and spare blankets under a table or a bed.
- Hold a treasure hunt. You could hide toys, books or treats all over the house and garden and let your child search for them to discover the treasures you've hidden.
- Enjoy a book or two together.

It is also really important to remember to have some down time!

Although a short term, it has been a very busy one, particularly for our Preps and Junior School, with developing new routines and an enormous amount of learning in Literacy, Numeracy, Specialist areas and all of the social and emotional developmental learning that is part of each day at EPS.

Brain research tells us that "switching to a state of mental rest, such as daydreaming, helps us process our experiences, consolidate memories, reinforce learning, regulate our attention and emotions and keep us productive and effective in our work and judgment." With so much learning happening at school and often continuing after school with sport, music and other personal pursuits, fitting in downtime is easier said than done.

However, even just closing your eyes, taking one deep breath, and exhaling can help to refresh the brain and takes practically no time. Offering more downtime in the school holidays might be just the thing for keeping ourselves on schedule and giving our brains that little bit of freedom to turn off for just a minute.

Holidays are a perfect time for all of us to take a break. I'll certainly be finding some time to unplug, unwind, and turn off. Will you?

Nicole Richards ... Assistant Principal



31 March: Daylight Savings Ends

Biology Safaris

This term the year 6 students have been researching our local area, as part of our study of biology. We visited, the St Kilda Botanical Gardens, Elster Creek, Elsternwick Park and Point Ormond. We have been collecting information about flora and fauna so that we could share our knowledge with the community. This helped us to build character, organization, responsibility and presentation skills. It will also help to get us ready for all the work we will be getting in high school.

We got split up into different locations and put in small groups (from 1 to 4) to research different topics of our choice. That meant we could not just do it in our homeroom. We all managed to get it finished in time for the presentation, which was at the areas that we were studying. Being there meant that we could help the community learn more about that area. The way we presented, was we stood in a set place and gave a short speech and showed our audience any other aspects of our project such as pamphlets, pictures, posters etc. We showed other students, parents and members of the public. We had to do a large amount of work at home. This meant we could completely control our presentation and our information.

Students were introduced to these areas by a local expert named Gio. He was doing so well with his biology studies, that when he finished high school The Port Phillip Eco Centre asked him to become their Youth Wildlife Ambassador and help educate the students and adults in our local area. He gave us prompts to start learning and creating our ERPs (Educational Research Projects). We wouldn't have been anywhere without Gio, so thank you Gio.

We learned a lot from this project and enjoyed learning about different aspects of our local environment. None of us had much knowledge about local areas at the start but now we know lots! Over all this was a great experience for us all!

-Tessa 6L, Toby 6M, Jones 6M, Anastasia 6B, Ruby 6T and Ella 6T.

Prep Information Workshops

On Wednesday 14 March over 40 Prep parents joined Nicole and I to hear about the important role parents have to play in creating positive home learning experiences.

Alice (Prep C) and Violet (Prep R) were very confident when showing us how the home reading session might look. One of the most important aspects discussed was to create positive routines at home.

We will be running further Parent Workshops including Home Learning for Grade 1 and 2, Supporting Reluctant Readers in Grade 3 to 6 and Supporting your Child with Maths.

We look forward to connecting with parents and continuing to build the home-school partnership.

Sara Walsh..... Teaching & Learning Coach

Attendance School Policy

The Strategic Planning sub committee is currently reviewing the Attendance School Policy. We are seeking parent feedback on this policy. This will be reviewed in Term 2. The current policy is attached for your perusal. If you would like to provide feedback please contact Jay Tucker – tucker.jay.f@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Mother's Day Cocktail Lunch

SAVE the date for the annual Mother's Day Cocktail Lunch on Friday 11 May from midday until 3.30pm at the Village Belle Hotel. Tickets \$55.00 are available on QKR. Flyer attached.

If you would like to donate something to the Mother's Day raffle please contact amandab@idcollective.com.au as all donations will be greatly appreciated.

Girls U10 Football Team now Recruiting

Looking for your Grade 3 or 4 girl to experience being part of a team, trying a new sport and having fun?

St Kilda City Football Club is now recruiting for its U10 girls team. No special love or previous skills for AFL required. It's a team of first timers!

Training will be Wednesdays 5.30-6.30pm at Wattie Watson oval (Elwood foreshore). Matches played on Sundays.

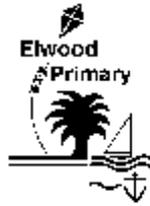
Please contact U10 Girls team manager, Anna Draffin for more information: annadraffin@gmail.com.

Lost Property

We have various lost property items at the office that need to be collected before end of term. We would love to see them reunited with their owners. Please see attached picture.

Attachments :

Ladies who lunch
Attendance Policy
Lost Property
Elwood College



Elwood Primary School No 3942

Scott Street, Elwood 3184 Telephone 9531 2762 Fax 9531 5497

Attendance

PURPOSE

To ensure all children of compulsory school age are enrolled in a registered school and attend school every day the school is open for instruction.

BROAD GUIDELINES

In accordance with the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*, schooling is compulsory for children and young people aged from 6 – 17 years unless an exemption has been granted.

Parents/guardians must enrol a child of compulsory school age at a registered school and ensure the child attends school at all times when the school is open for instruction.

Students are expected to attend the school in which they are enrolled, during normal school hours every day of each term, unless:

- there is an approved exemption from school attendance or attendance and enrolment for the student, or
- the student is registered for home schooling and has only a partial enrolment in a school for particular activities.

A principal or regional director (depending on the circumstances) may authorise an exemption and provide written approval for student attendance or attendance and enrolment to be exempt or reduced to less than full time.

For absences where there is no exemption in place, the parent/guardian must promptly provide an explanation on each occasion to the school. The school will determine if the explanation provided is a reasonable excuse for the purposes of the parent meeting their responsibilities under the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*.

Schools must maintain attendance records, identify and follow up unexplained absences, and develop policies to support and maintain attendance.

For full details, see: [School Attendance Guidelines \(docx - 148.04kb\)](#)

IMPLEMENTATION

Schools must record student attendance twice per day in primary schools and in every class in secondary schools and record, in writing, the reason given for each absence. This is necessary to:

- meet legislative requirements

- discharge schools' duty of care for all students
- assist calculation of the school's funding
- enable school councils to report on student attendance annually
- meet Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) requirements (for VCE students).

All registered schools must ensure their system for recording student attendance meets the requirements above. Government schools must use only CASES21, eCASES21 or third party software which is compatible with CASES21 to record student attendance. Schools using third party software are required to import attendance data into CASES21 on a monthly basis. Schools that do not have current attendance data recorded in CASES21 will receive regular email notifications reminding them to import their data. Parents/guardians are required to provide an explanation for their child's absence from school, and a principal must record in writing the reason (if any) given by the parent/guardian.

Schools must advise parents/guardians of unexplained absences, on the same day, as soon as practicable, including for post-compulsory aged students.

Additionally schools enrolling international students are required to effectively monitor student attendance and implement a documented intervention strategy where attendance is at risk of failing to meet the minimum Student Visa requirement (attendance of a minimum 80% of the scheduled course contact hours during each study period). See: *ISP Quality Standards and School Resources* under [Department resources](#)

RESOURCES

Education and Training Reform Act 2006

[ISP Quality Standards and School Resources](#) - see: International Student Program Quality Standards for Schools, Quality Standard 11 - Monitoring attendance

POLICY HISTORY

Version Approval Date:	Summary of changes:	Next Review:
February, 2018	Policy Created, council approved	3 year cycle or as needed
February, 2021	Amendments made by Sub Committee, School Council	3 year cycle or as needed

Ladies who Lunch

**YOU ARE INVITED TO ELWOOD PRIMARY'S
MOTHERS DAY COCKTAIL LUNCH.**

When: Friday 11th May.

Where: The Village Belle St Kilda.

Time: Midday until 3.30pm

Dress: Splash of pink

Tickets are \$55 per head and include delicious finger food
and a glass of French bubbles on arrival.

All proceeds from the event will be donated to Breast
Cancer Network Australia.

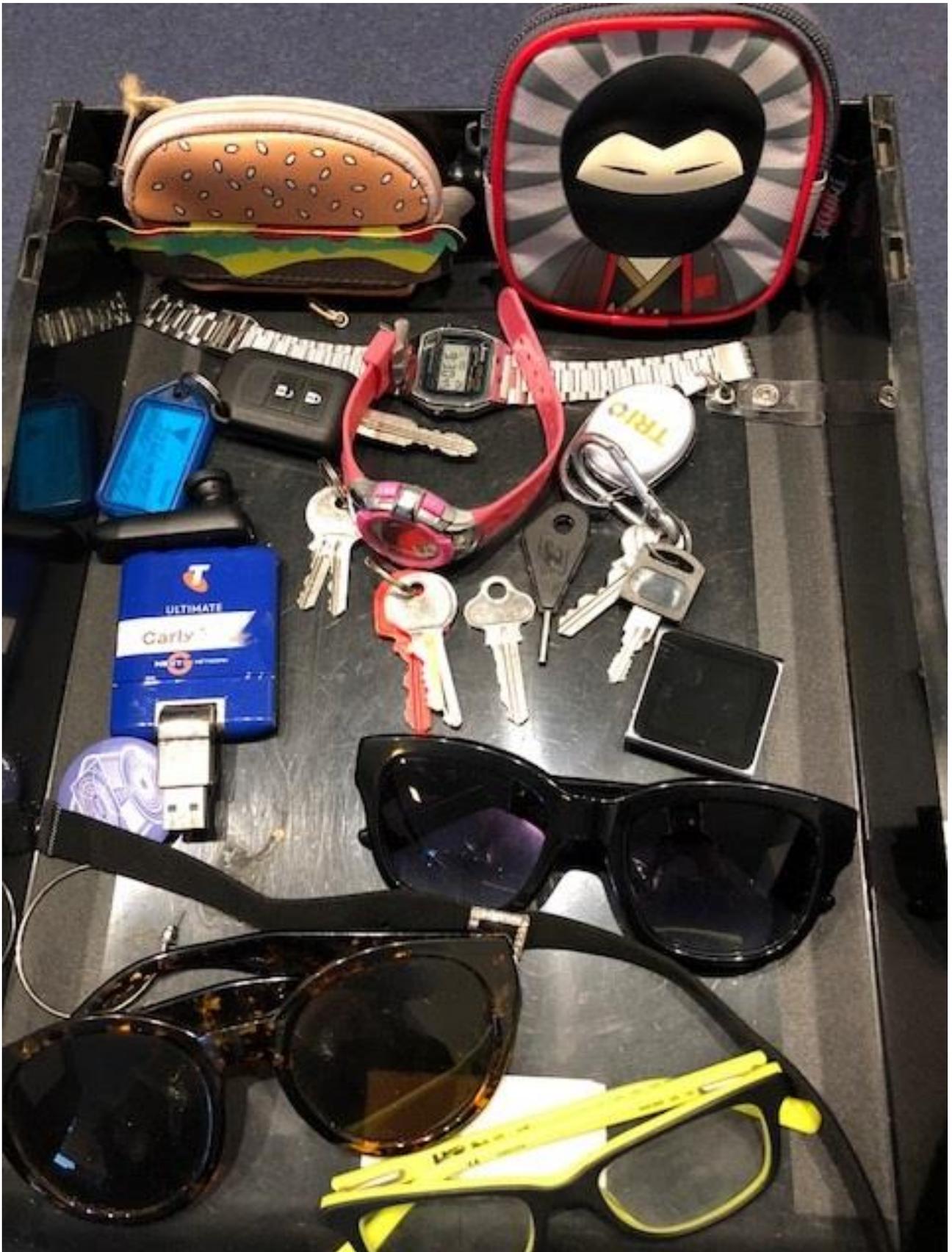
Drinks at the lunch will be at bar prices.

Be Quick, ticket numbers are limited and we don't want you
to miss out. Buy tickets on Qkr!



Please make payment by QKR under School Events.

If you require any assistance please contact the school office.





ELWOOD COLLEGE OPEN NIGHT

— TUESDAY 24 APRIL 6:00PM —

Meet our teachers and see our new facilities.

Find out about the personalised education and welcoming community we can provide for your child.

Hear how we balance high academic expectations with support for every individual.

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL: Phone 9531 9566
or email elwood.co@edumail.vic.gov.au

www.elwood.vic.edu.au