Dear Parents

School Council
School Council nominations concluded last Friday with nominations matching equally the positions available. We will not need to have an election with John Richardson, Anna Marinovich, Ralf Huempel, Glenn McCann and Michael Newton being elected to parent member positions for a two year term.

DET nominations equalled positions available with Jay Tucker and Nicole Richards being elected.

The first meeting for the 2015 School Council will be on Thursday 19 March when office bearers and community members will be elected.

New Website
Last week we launched our new website after many months of planning. We have worked hard to make our site more user friendly and interactive. We are working towards it becoming our main portal for information, the newsletter, volunteering, the market and school news as it happens.

The site is compatible with mobiles and iPads making it much easier to read and interact with from any location. Feedback is most welcome as we keep building the website. To visit the site go to www.elwoodprimary.vic.edu.au.

Staffing News
After many years of service to Elwood PS and the Education Department Heather Fidge has decided to retire. Heather has worked at Elwood PS for over 20 years in a variety of roles. A suitable retirement function will be held in the future to mark this occasion. We all wish Heather the best in retirement and her future pursuits.

Principal Class Conference
Jay, Nicole and myself will be at a regional conference from Wednesday to Friday this week. In our absence the leadership team will be taking turns as the Principal. This is an important part of their leadership development. Kimberley, Ariana, Suzie, Ellie, Louisa and Amy will be in charge at various times over the next three days.

Building/Library & Market Funds
Funds raised this year will go towards a number of significant projects in the school.

Stage 2 of our Information Learning Hub (Library) will be completed. This will involve breaking through to the Assistant Principals’ office and creating more space for the library including shelving and work areas. The Assistant Principal’s office will also be revamped including new carpet and painting.

Decking will be erected around the beautiful tree in the courtyard in front of the Information Learning Hub. The garden in front of the courtyard will be completely landscaped giving the front of our school a well needed lift. The decking will become a outdoor teaching space as well as a stage for our many buddy actors and singers.

We will also commence our renewable energy program which is partly funded by the Bendigo Bank. We hope to have solar panels installed later this year which in turn will reduce our power costs and return power to the grid in the months when the school has minimal use.

Enhanced Learning Program
We are very excited to announce the recommencement of the Enhanced...
Learning Program at Elwood PS. Selected students from Grade 5 and 6 will be able to participate in this program. There will be two groups of 8 -10 students in the program.

This program has run successfully at Elwood Primary School over the last four years and has two main parts.

**Part 1:** Focused Educational Support to enhance student selected learning goals. This may also include the completion of homework.

**Part 2:** Enhanced Learning opportunities in an exciting range of activities.

The program will take place after school from 3:45pm – 5:30pm.

Students start with a snack then move into the educational support session followed by the activity based session. Each group will have at least three leaders chosen from a teacher training university (which may include Monash University, Victoria University, Deakin University or RMIT) and trained by myself. Volunteers from the NAB may be involved in the Enhanced Learning opportunities session. Elwood College Year 10 students will also assist with each group.

This is an extremely exciting opportunity which will further enhance learning and allow students to develop their skills and talents.

This program has received Schools First funding through the NAB program and forms a partnership with Monash University, Noble Park PS and ourselves. The first session will commence early Term 2 and then continue every week until the end of Term 3 culminating in a celebration / performance at the end of term.

**Cairns Trip**
As reported in the previous newsletter I spent 5 days in Cairns last week working with schools, regional leaders and local communities. The focus of my time was to present in many different forums about the importance of developing parent engagement and community links that lead to vibrant school cultures and improved student outcomes in all areas. Schools and leaders were very excited and in awe of all the things we do at Elwood PS. A group of teachers from Yarrabah PS will be visiting on Thursday 19 March to gain an insight into our literacy and numeracy programs, parent engagement and the development curriculum /Inquiry approach from P-6.

Much of this work was with indigenous communities with further opportunities to link with indigenous schools developing.

**Study Tour**
Five of our staff will travel to New Mexico on a study tour for the two weeks of the Term 1 break. This trip will enable Amy Wilson, Chloe Hohneck, Sam Brumpton, Rick McConchie, Jess Farrelly, Nicole Richards and myself to visit schools in another country, reflect on their practice, discuss what success and powerful learning is, look at community schools and parent engagement and work closely with George Otero with a focus on curriculum personalisation.

The trip enables our staff to grow as educators and develop their understanding of schools and teaching and in particular parent involvement and what success in schools is.

**How was the study tour paid for?**
No locally raised money will be used for this trip. A small amount of money from our staff professional development budget which is funded by the state government is used. Each participant will be out of pocket by at least $2000 and will travel and work during their holidays.

This is a huge commitment from our staff which will enhance our school significantly.

**Rob Csoti**

**You Can Do It!**

**Term 1: Getting Along**
Getting Along means working well with teachers and classmates, resolving disagreements peacefully, following the rules of the classroom and making positive contributions to school, home and the community including protecting the rights of others and looking after the environment.

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**You Can Do It!**
Manners Matter

Good manners or acting appropriate in a way that’s acceptable and respectful shows other people respect, care and consideration. Excellent manners can help you to have better relationships with people you know and with people you will meet.

If you’re unsure about whether or not the other person would appreciate having something done for them, such as the door held open, you can ask politely, “May I get the door for you?” This gives the other person an opportunity to accept or decline. You can use “May I?” in many different ways to show your manners matter. “May I leave the table?” to “May I please go to the toilet?”

“May I?” along with “Please and Thank you”, shows you are a friendly and considerate Elwood Primary Kid and that Manners Matter.

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! What’s on in the coming weeks?

5 March: Magha Puja Day
Magha Puja Day is a Buddhist celebration of the Fourfold Assembly. It is celebrated on the full moon day of March.

6 March: March into Yellow
Join the March into Yellow challenge to help raise the profile & awareness of endometriosis - a disease affecting one in 10 Australian women. During March, for a day, a week or the whole month, take the challenge to WEAR yellow to show your support and care for the women that live with this insidious disease every month of every year. You can use the yellow challenge as a way to raise funds to help Endometriosis Australia develop and run education/awareness programs, as well as fund much needed research.

8 March: International Women's Day
International Women's Day is a day to celebrate the contribution and achievements of all women. It is an opportunity to remember the barriers that women have broken through, and the accomplishments they have made despite barriers.

Hi EPS Community,

We are entering a team called Elwood Primary School in this year’s ‘Run for the Kids.’ We would like to open this up to as many students, teachers and parents as possible. All money raised will go towards The Royal Children’s Hospital; what a great cause!

You can choose the long or short course. We will choose a meeting point on the day of the race for a team photo and then all runners can run their race how they want. Please note, all students will need to be supervised by parents. We will celebrate our efforts at a nominated school assembly.

Please find below information on how to register and fundraise if you wish. Please remember to join the Elwood Primary School team when you register. For any questions, please contact Jay through the office.

Stay tuned for any relevant details.

Team Entry Password: EPS
Payment Option: Payment by Entrant


Jay Tucker … Senior School Assistant Principal
8-14 March: World Glaucoma Week
World Glaucoma Week raises awareness of the worldwide leading cause of irreversible blindness. The week also aims to raise funds to continue research in glaucoma.

8-15 March: Multiple Birth Awareness Week
Multiple Birth Awareness Week is a celebration of families raising twins, triplets, and more. The week also aims to raise awareness of the challenges that go hand-in-hand with raising these children.

9-15 March: Be Cruelty Free Week
Be Cruelty-Free Week aims to raise awareness of the leading global campaign to end animal testing for cosmetics. Join the Humane Society International and their partners around the world as we fight to end cosmetics animal cruelty forever. A great victory for animals was achieved by convincing Europe to become the world's largest cruelty-free cosmetics market. But in 8 out of 10 countries it's still legal to test beauty products and their ingredients on animals. Join HSI and help us convince the whole world to be Cruelty-Free!

12 March: World Kidney Day
Diabetes and high blood pressure are both key risk factors for chronic kidney disease. World Kidney Day aims to raise awareness of the importance of our kidneys to our health, and aims to reduce the impact of kidney disease worldwide.

13-15 March: Melbourne Ukulele Festival
The Melbourne Ukulele Festival brings together many of the world's best ukulele acts. It is a strongly community-focussed, non-profit festival; dedicated to sharing the joy of the ukulele with both die-hard uke nuts and music fans in general. The festival will have something for everyone, young or old, solo or ensemble, artist or fan.

14-22 March: Cultural Diversity Week
Cultural Diversity Week is held annually in March. The Week provides an opportunity for all Victorians to celebrate our cultural, linguistic and religious diversity, with a variety of events and activities taking place across the State.

Enjoy your upcoming weeks and whatever you may be celebrating!

Nicole Richards … Assistant Principal

Attachments:
What’s Happening during Week 5 & 6 at EPS
March Calendar
PT Interview Flyer

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**St Kilda Street Bridge Closure**

Phil Burga, Team Leader—Structures from VicRoads advises that St Kilda Street (John Monash) Bridge, Elwood will be temporarily closed for bridge works from 10 March to 24 March, 2015.

The closure of St Kilda Street Bridge is required to complete works to repair the footpath surface and bridge railing.

Traffic along St Kilda Street will be diverted via Glen Huntly Road, Nepean Hwy and North Road. Detour signs and electronic signs will be in place to advise drivers of alternative routes. A short signed detour will be in place diverting pedestrians and cyclists along the shared user path.

Please note that in the event of inclement weather, works will be moved to the next available date.

VicRoads apologises for any inconvenience. Please contact Mr Jay Caliskan on 9313 1184 (during business hours) or the VicRoads Traffic Management Centre on 13 11 70 should you have any queries regarding these repairs works.
What’s happening during Weeks 6 & 7 at Elwood Primary School?

Level 1 (Prep)

Literacy:
During literacy this fortnight we will be exploring the letters m, e, f and v and discussing the dominant sounds that they each produce. We will also be working on how we form each of these letters using the lower case letters. When reading our weekly big books we will be exploring various forms of punctuation such as capital letters, full stops, exclamation marks and question marks and be focusing on various high frequency ‘popcorn words’. We will also be generating rhyming word families such as bat, cat, hat and mat. During writing we will be creating invitations for our teddy bears to the picnic, and then writing a recount about our wonderful teddy bears picnic.

Maths:
During maths this fortnight we will be continuing to work on 2D shapes such as circles, squares, triangles, ovals, rectangles and rhombus and looking at characteristics such as their sides and points as well as the differences between each shape. When working on sorting we will be exploring various ways we can sort objects such as sorting animals by habitats, amount of legs, where they live or what they eat.

Investigations:
During investigations we will be focusing on our fortnightly manners matters focus ‘playing together’ and how we can use our resources and investigation stations positively. We are introducing the role of the reporter and photographer over the next fortnight and practising our speaking skills through these roles.

Other:
We are also looking forward to our ride/scoot/walk to school day on the 13th of March.

Level 2

Literacy:
The Grade 1 and 2 students are planning and drafting their Narratives while working through the writing cycle. The children will be identifying and using interesting vocabulary in their Narratives with their choice of seed. Their teacher will be modelling their own story while teaching the features of a Narrative, including characters, setting, a problem and a solution. In our reading sessions, we will be practising fluency as we read out aloud. During our reading rotation this will look like: pointing crisply and reading at a steady rate slow enough to match voice to print without long pauses, taking notice of full stops, putting words together in a phrase and changing reading for a word in bold or noticing quotation marks. Our handwriting focus is the cup letters u v w y.

Maths:
Our Numeracy focus this fortnight is Counting and Patterns. We will be practising our one-to-one correspondence and trusting the count, which means we do not need to recount the same collection because it will give us the same total. We will be practising to count forwards and backwards and skip counting by 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s. Other parts of this unit will include, using number patterns to help us solve problems quickly and efficiently, investigating that patterns are everywhere, create patterns using numbers that are increasing, decreasing and repeating.

Investigations:
Our emotional focus is to be mindful of and sensitive to others’ feelings and our language focus is showing interest in other people through questioning, this can be practised during Reflection Time as the Focus Children are sharing.

Environment:
We are being mindful of using our classroom recycling and composting stations responsibly and during investigations we are thinking about only taking what we need in regards to collage materials, box construction and coloured paper.
Level 3

**YEAR 3**

**Literacy:** During reading sessions students in Year 3 will be focusing on making connections to the text they are reading. They might make connections between the text and their own experiences or maybe the text will remind them of another book they have read. In writing, students will continue to write snapshots and will particularly focus on the revising stage of the writing cycle.

**Maths:** In maths students are focusing on the operations of addition and subtraction. Students will have opportunities to practise a variety of mental strategies (such as near doubles and using 10 to add 9). They will be provided with lots of opportunities to apply these strategies to solve problems.

**Inquiry:** Students will continue to explore a range of learning opportunities which are designed to help them to discover more about social, emotional and physical health.

**YEAR 4**

**Literacy:** In reading Grade 4 classes will be focusing on the comprehension strategy of making connections. They will be using their background knowledge to begin the process of creating mental images and thinking about the authors’ messages and intentions. When writing students will be using the skills that they have learnt over the past term to write their own narratives.

**Maths:** In Grade 4 students will be focusing on addition and subtraction. They will be using a variety of strategies (both mental and written) to solve problems and will be exploring the connection between addition and subtraction and using this knowledge to solve problems with missing numbers.

**Inquiry:** Students will continue to explore what it means to belong to our community and the impact that groups and individuals can have on their communities.

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**Level 4 (Year 5 & 6)**

**Literacy:** In reading, Grade 5 classes are learning to make meaningful inferences by using their background knowledge and clues in the text. Grade 6 classes are beginning to look deeply at the texts we are reading to explore the author’s purpose for writing the text and to explore different themes in the fiction texts we read. In Writer’s Workshop Grade 5 and 6 classes are working through ‘The Writing Cycle’ to produce quality writing that we have planned, drafted, revised, edited and published. Now that we have begun to explore a variety of persuasive texts we will be using our understanding of the main features and techniques to begin planning and drafting our own persuasive texts.

**Maths:** In Grade 5 and 6 we will be continuing to develop our place value and number property understandings. Grade 5 classes will explore factors and multiples while Grade 6 classes will begin to look at prime and composite numbers as well as learning about expressing numbers as powers of ten. We will then use all the knowledge we’ve gained from our Place Value Unit to help us make accurate and efficient calculations in our next Unit on Addition and Subtraction.

**Inquiry:** Grade 5 classes are learning how to classifying foods into different categories which make up the ‘Healthy Living Pyramid/Plate’. This sorts food into categories including foods we should eat more often, foods we should consume moderately and foods we should only eat sparingly. We will also begin looking into our own food habits as we record what we consume and make judgements about our options and choices.

Grade 6 classes will continue to learn about Australia’s democracy. This fortnight we will be looking at how women and Aboriginal Australians have experienced democracy throughout our history and look at the different rights that these groups fought for such as the right to vote.

**Other:** Grade 5 students are excited to be participated in Bike Education as they gain valuable safety skills, learn bike etiquette and gain experience sharing the road with motor vehicles.

Grade 6 classes enjoyed our visit to Elwood College on Tuesday where we got to have a taste of what High School is like.
# School Events at EPS

![Calendar Table]

**Please note:** This page is taken from the new school website. If you visit [www.elwoodprimary.vic.edu.au](http://www.elwoodprimary.vic.edu.au) then open the Calendar tab/click on the event for more detail. You will also have the option of saving the event directly to your Calendar.
Dear Parents/Guardians,
Parent/Teacher interviews will be held on: **Thursday 12th March from 3:40pm until 7:30pm**.
You can now book interviews at times that suit your family best.
Go to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) and follow these simple instructions.

**BOOKINGS OPEN MONDAY 2nd March in the afternoon**
**BOOKINGS CLOSE TUESDAY 10th March at 7:00am**

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**School event code**
**7FT5A**

**Go to**

**Enter THIS school event code.**
Then follow the 3 simple steps.

---

1. **Enter your details**
2. **Choose teachers**
3. **Choose times**

---

When you click **finish**, your interview timetable will be emailed to you automatically - check your junk mail folder if you do not receive your email immediately.
You can return to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) at any time, and change your interviews - until bookings close.

BOOKINGS OPEN **Monday 2nd March**
SO THAT ALL FAMILIES MAY BOOK AT THE SAME TIME

For parents that don’t have access to the internet at home, at work, at a friend’s house or on their phones, you can still make bookings by either calling the office or your child’s teacher and they can access the times for you.

Interviews are **strictly 10min** and spaces are limited. If you require more time, please contact your teacher directly to make alternative arrangements. We understand that for some parents, this date may not be suitable and classroom teachers may be available at other times and days for you, such as before or after school. If this is the case, please check the times of availability on School Interviews Online or contact your child’s teacher directly to make alternative arrangements.

If you have more than one child at school and are making bookings across the day for various teachers, please leave time between meetings to allow for moving to the different rooms.

Parents can change their interview bookings, any time prior to the closing date, by re-visiting the [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) website, and using the event code. Parents wishing to change their interview times after the closing date should contact the office or class teacher directly.

If you have any problems, please contact me directly or the office staff and we will endeavour to assist you.

Regards,
Nicole Richards
Assistant Principal
ELWOOD OSHC HIGHLIGHTS

What another fun fortnight we have had at OSHC with plenty of activities having taken place. Our colourful Better Buddies poster has been completed and is now on display in the OSHC hall. Well-done to all the children who contributed to this display, it has certainly brightened up our OSHC space!

Another great feature we have been working on is our ‘balloon birthday calendar’. We encourage everyone who attends OSHC to place their birthdays on this mural. It's a great way for the kids to feel a sense of belonging to the program and who doesn't enjoy a Happy Birthday sing-along.

Last week's curriculum day was full of fun and variety. We started the day off with some drama time and dress ups; Max Flanders did a great job at entertaining the crowd with his magic trick show and humour. We developed our culinary skills in the kitchen, got creative in arts and craft - paddle pop stick boxes, loom bands and a straw tower competition. It was great to see all the teams working cooperatively to experiment and problem solve ways to create the tallest and most stable designs. We also had some technology time, with a Game Cube tournament, a big dodge ball tournament outside and a 3D plane making competition.

Congratulations to our winners:

Best decorated – Ruby Carter, Sean Skok and team Rebecca Duggan, Leah Gelt and Ewa Agboton.

Furthest flyer: Bon Dunlop. Great job everyone!

On Monday, we had our routine emergency evacuation procedure. The kids were excellent and well informed on what they need to do in case of different types of emergencies.

Other highlights: groovy door hangers, clay making, drawing competition, vegemite and cheesy scrolls, chocolate cupcakes in cooking, group skipping, hockey matches, 40/40 game and a crowd favourite; Everybody's it!

Better Buddies Welcome tCAF program

Working with our charity partner – The Alannah Madeline Foundation, we will be participating in activities to further assist the new children in feeling connected and welcome to OSHC. This week we will be introducing 40 minute sessions of buddy time at the beginning of OSHC. The selected Buddy leaders will run activities with the Preps and continue to help ensure participation and connectedness in the program.

Tuesday - Footsteps Dance Class – Hip Hop

The session runs 4pm-4.45pm and is run by a specialist hip-hop teacher. The children have the option to participate. If you would like to book, simply enrol your child into after school care on this day.

If you have any questions about the program – please feel free to drop by, meet the team and see what happens in after school care first hand.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Sharlene Phillips and The Camp Australia Team.