Dear Parents

NAPLAN testing for Grade 3 and 5 students will commence in the week commencing May 11th (Week 5 Term 2). All parents in Grade 3 and 5 will receive a booklet next term explaining NAPLAN in detail.

NAPLAN stands for National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy. All students in Australia in Grades 3, 5, Year 7 and Year 9 sit NAPLAN assessments. Students are assessed in Writing, Reading, Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation) and Numeracy.

All parents receive an individual report on how their child performed in the assessments later in the year. The school also receives these individual reports and data around how we have performed against state means and similar schools.

How did we perform in 2014?
Our students performed particularly well in Reading and very well in Numeracy in both Grade 3 and 5.

Writing, Spelling and Punctuation, and Grammar were similar to like schools across Australia in Grade 5.

Writing, Spelling and Punctuation and Grammar in Grade 3 last year were below what we would have liked. We certainly believe they are capable of showing us more in these areas.

What have we done to improves our Writing, Spelling and Punctuation, and Grammar scores in Grade 3 and spelling in Grade 5?

• The implementation of timed writing in all classes in the school. Each fortnight, students will start and complete a piece of writing in a set time to build their writing stamina and self-editing techniques.

• The introduction VCOP – Big Write

Big Write and VCOP (Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers and Punctuation) is a literacy program that provides immediate results, whilst addressing the need for long term strategies in delivering a successful writing program across all age and ability levels.

VCOP and Big Write will provide us with more differentiated lessons and activities to help increase the current enthusiasm and raise standards in writing, particularly in boys. This program provides a simple, sequential approach that supports teachers and students in developing higher level writing skills.

This program fits perfectly with our current writing program of the Writer’s Workshop and Writer’s Notebook.

• A whole school focus on raising expectations in relation to self-correction, neatness, spelling and punctuation in drafts and published pieces.

• The development of a whole school Spelling Scope and Sequence including the implementation of mandatory spelling requirements. Students are expected to be able to spell minimum sets of words from the Oxford Plus most used word list.

- Prep: Working towards spelling 30 of the first 100 (Popcorn words)
o Grade 1: Working towards spelling the first 100
o Grade 2: Working towards spelling the first 307
o Grade 3 & 4: Working towards spelling the first 404
o Grade 5 & 6: Consolidating the first 404 and extending their spelling further using the Oxford Word lists extension.
www.oxfordwordlist.com/pages/

- These spelling expectations will go hand in hand with our normal spelling program.
- The revision of all homework expectations now include spelling, reading, Mathletics and writing in senior grades.
- The introduction of 2 mandatory handwriting lessons per week in all Grades from Prep to 6.

Our current Grade 3 and 5 students have been and will continue to prepare for NAPLAN in a variety of ways so that they can perform to their ability.

All of the above strategies are school wide strategies that will have a significant impact on all students at Elwood PS in up levelling their skills. We expect all students learning to improve as well as NAPLAN scores then reflect this ability.

Staffing
We are pleased to announce that we have secured four fantastic teachers to take PS, 2S, 4E, and 5B from Term 2 when Sarah Galbraith, Ellie Dodd, Brooke Crawford and Suzie Knorr leave us to have their first child.

As you already know Ryan Bouy will take 4E from Week 4 in Term 2 and Poeta Hope will be taking 2S from Week 1 in Term 2.

Ryan will spend the first three weeks of next term in 4E and Po will spend next week in 2S to ensure a smooth transition for all students before Ellie and Sarah leave.

We have also been able to employ Rochelle Francis to take 5B from Week 4 of Term 2 and Christine Lomp to take PS from Week 4 of Term 2. Both teachers are experienced teachers coming to the Victorian Education system and we are very excited to have them join the EPS team. Separate notes for these grades have been sent home.

Parent Teacher Meetings
These important and informative meetings took place last week. If you have not met with your teacher please email them to make an appointment We strongly recommend that all parents meet with their classroom teachers to share and receive important information about their child’s learning.

Rob Csoti

You Can Do It!
Term 1: Getting Along
This fortnight, we will focus on: Taking turns
Almost every day at school we need to take our turn. Sometimes it is in the classroom and other times, outside in the yard. In the classroom we may need to wait for our turn to see the teacher or to use some equipment. In games, we need to take our turn to bat or bowl and all sorts of play.

When turn taking, it is important to wait patiently, allow others to finish and give others a chance to have their go too.

You Can Do It!

Manners Matter
YOU’RE WELCOME

Almost every day at school there are people who help us and who we help too. In the classroom we can help our friends and our teachers and outside in the playground, we often help out students from other classrooms and especially some of the younger students at our school.

Hopefully when we help out our friends, teachers, parents or people around us, they will usually respond with “thank you.”

A polite way to respond to someone saying thanks; is to say - ‘You’re welcome.’ Other ways of saying “you’re welcome” can include, “no worries” or “no problems.” For example, a friend might say, “Thanks for helping me with my work” and we can respond with, “No problems” because it is informal and we know each other well.

If an adult such a teacher or parent says “Thank you for helping me,” we should respond with “You’re welcome”.

Thank you and “You’re welcome” is another way to show people around us that we are kind, caring and considerate Elwood Primary Kids.

Manners Matter at Elwood Primary

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?
20th March: International Day of Happiness
Do something, big or small, to take part on Friday 20th March and bring happiness to others.

20th March: National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence
The theme of the day encourages parents and families to take a stand together with school communities and recognise the important role that everyone plays to stop bullying.

21st March: World Down Syndrome Day
Down syndrome is a naturally occurring chromosomal arrangement that has always been a part of the human condition, exists in all regions across the globe and commonly results in variable effects on learning styles, physical characteristics or health. Adequate access to health care, to early intervention programmes and to inclusive education, as well as appropriate research, are vital to the growth and development of the individual.

21st March: Harmony Day
Harmony Day 21 March is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home - from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world. By participating in Harmony Day activities, we can learn and understand how all Australians from diverse backgrounds equally belong to this nation and enrich it.

21st March: Naw Ruz (New Year) - Baha’i
Naw-Ruz (‘New Day’) is the Bahá’í and Iranian new year. It occurs on the date of the vernal equinox, and symbolises the new life of spring.

22nd March: Run for the Kids
Herald Sun / CityLink Run for the Kids will see people run or walk set courses - all people participating in this event play a part in raising money for the Royal Children’s Hospital Good Friday Appeal.

26th March: Purple Day
Purple Day is an international grassroots effort dedicated to increasing awareness about epilepsy worldwide. On March 26th annually, people in countries around the world are invited to wear purple and host events in support of epilepsy awareness.

28th March: Earth Hour 8.30pm
Earth Hour is an international sustainability movement, where individuals and businesses are encouraged to turn off all lights for an hour. Earth Hour aims to increase awareness of the impact we have on our world through the use of fossil fuels and electricity.

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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
1st April: National Smile Day
Smile day is The Humour Foundation’s annual fundraising campaign. It is the one day of the year we ask the public to get involved in raising funds to help sick children SMILE in hospitals around Australia. Together we can discover the power of a smile!

2nd April: World Autism Awareness Day
Autism, a developmental disability, is a lifelong disorder that impairs social interaction, communication and behaviour. World Autism Awareness Day aims to increase understanding of the disability.

3rd April: Good Friday
Good Friday is a religious holiday primarily observed by Christians commemorating the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ.

3rd - 11th April: Passover
Probably the best known Jewish holiday, Passover commemorates the story of the exodus, where the Israelites were freed from Egyptian slavery.

4th April: Easter Saturday
Or Bright Saturday, on the Christian calendar is the Saturday following the festival of Easter.

5th April: Easter Sunday
Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ after his crucifixion.

7th April: Day of Remembrance of the Victims of the Rwanda Genocide
This day commemorates the deaths of 800,000 people who were murdered during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, central Africa.

11th-19th April: Nature Play Week
Nature Play Week celebrates initiatives of all shapes and sizes that reconnect kids with nature and the outdoors. The week is filled with over 40 Nature Play experiences for kids and their families facilitated by dozens of wonderful local organisations, parents and schools across Victoria, and beyond.

14th April: Baisakhi - Sikh
The harvest festival of North India, the beginning of the solar year. For Sikhs, it represents the founding of the Khalsa, a Sikh brotherhood. Baisakhi always falls on 14th April and this is also the Hindu New Year for North India.

Enjoy your upcoming weeks and whatever you may be celebrating! Enjoy the school holidays, relax and enjoy time with friends and family and remember to keep smiling beyond just the 1st April, National Smile Day. Remember - it takes more muscles to frown than it does to smile?

Nicole Richards … Assistant Principal

Kitchen Garden News
On March 3rd Elwood Primary hosted eleven visitors for the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation. The visitors were from the Foundation’s major sponsors (Medibank) and also officials from the Singapore Department of Health.

We were very honoured that our school was chosen as a vibrant, successful example of a Kitchen Garden program. The visitors observed kitchen and garden lessons and joined the children in eating the food they had prepared from our garden produce. They were most impressed with the program and with the skills and knowledge of our students. Well done children!

Thank you to our volunteers who helped on that special day and thanks to all of the volunteers who have contributed to the kitchen and garden classes so far this term. Please keep coming – we cannot run this wonderful program without you. If you are thinking of volunteering but haven’t done so yet – JUST DO IT!

PS: The kitchen still needs lemons!

Janet, Catherine and Kate
Kitchen and Garden Specialists

Attachments:
What’s happening at EPS during weeks 8 & 9?
Extra-Curricular Activities here at EPS
Camp Australia
What’s happening during Weeks 8 & 9 at Elwood Primary School?

Level 1 (Prep)

Literacy: During literacy this fortnight we will be exploring the letters b, j, d and z 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. During writing sessions this fortnight we will be continuing to work on correct pencil grip and will be working towards recording dominant sounds in words that we hear to support our illustrations. Our speaking and listening focus this fortnight will see us working on maintaining eye contact when we are speaking to each and remembering our 5Ls when sitting on the mat (Legs crossed, eyes Looking, ears Listening, hands in Lap and Lip locked).

Maths: We are beginning to learn about measurement, including the use of informal units to measure things such as our hands and feet. We are learning about comparing objects by using terms such as larger, smaller, taller, shorter, longer and bigger. We will be looking at how we can collect data to show information such as our favourite foods and colours. We will be learning about how to record this data and how to represent it in simple picture graphs.

Investigations: During Investigations this fortnight we will be looking at our Manners Matter and You Can Do It foci of taking turns and using a friendly voice when we are working together in teams. We will be linking our maths foci and looking at shapes and patterns around our rooms and in our investigation creations.

Other: Wow, what a wonderful first term that the preps have had! We are extremely proud of the transition they have all made and we would like to thank you all for your support and positive feedback! Have a wonderful school holidays and we look forward to a fun filled term 2! The Prep teachers 😊

Level 2

Literacy: This fortnight we will be starting a new seed in writing, our punctuation focus is full stops and capital letters. During our explicit spelling lessons, as well as our class sound focus, we will be listening for and clapping out syllables and identifying and recording a vowel sound in each syllable of a word. Our handwriting letters are tall sticks, which include l t b h k. As we draw towards the end of the term, each child will have the opportunity to share and celebrate their published written pieces. Our reading strategy is monitoring and self-correcting. During our reading groups we will practise rereading sentences to problem solve, self-correct or confirm meaning. We will be looking for clues in the pictures and the text and using prior knowledge to help understand and self-correct intonation when it does not reflect the meaning.

Maths: This fortnight is investigating, questioning and discovering 2D shapes and 3D objects. We will use lots of hands on materials to learn about names of shapes, describe the properties of each shape and compare the differences and similarities in shapes. 2D figures can be straight, curved or a combination of both while a 3- dimensional object has width, depth and height. We will be learning that a 3D object can be deconstructed to form a net and that the size and orientation of a shape does not change it.

Investigations: Our cognitive focus is reflecting on our own personal goals and start setting new goals ready for term 2. Our physical focus is to move safely around our spaces and consider others when walking down the corridor, coming out of the toilets and packing our school bags with others around us. As we work towards the end of the term we need to use our resilience and calming strategies as we tire, strategies might include counting to 3, walking away or taking a big breath if we are feeling frustrated in a situation.

Sustainability: Nude Food Mondays: conversations had and awareness of how many wrappers we have in our lunchboxes. Data will be collected every Monday at snack time in classrooms.
### Level 3

#### Year 3

**Literacy:** Students will be focusing on visualising as they read, ‘creating a movie in their mind’. Students will be encouraged to identify the descriptive words and phrases that help them to create images and will spend time recording these images in their reading journals. During writing sessions students are exploring the writing cycle, focusing on revising and editing.

**Maths:** During maths sessions students are focusing on improving their recall of known number facts (such as immediate recall of doubles, near doubles, 9 more, 10s facts etc.). Students are being encouraged to choose the most efficient strategy when solving addition and subtraction problems.

**Inquiry:** Students are continuing to focus on the three dimensions of health: physical, emotional and social. They are looking forward to sharing their learning with you during the final week of term. More details to follow soon!

#### Year 4

**Literacy:** Students will be focusing on the comprehension strategy of visualising. Students will be creating images that emerge from descriptions around all five senses and will discover that, as proficient readers, their images constantly adjust as they continue to incorporate new information. In writing sessions students will be following the writing cycle, focusing particularly on revising.

**Maths:** During maths sessions students will be learning about measurement. They will have the opportunity to explore a variety of scaled instruments to measure capacity, length, temperature etc.

**Inquiry:** We will continue to explore the concept of community and will be focusing on the diversity we find in our community.

### Level 4 (Year 5 & 6)

**Literacy:** In reading, Grade 5 classes have been immersed in authentic persuasive texts and are now using their inferential skills to explore character emotion, values and motivation. We make meaningful inferences using text clues and our background knowledge. Grade 6 classes are continuing to explore the themes of the texts that we are reading and are identifying common themes that are found in literary texts.

In Writing Grade 5 and 6 classes are continuing to draft their persuasive texts and using a variety of persuasive language and techniques that have been taught throughout the term. Students are then going to publish their persuasive texts.

**Maths:** Grade 5 and 6 classes will continue to work on developing the ability to use a variety of strategies to solve addition and subtraction problems. Grade 5 classes will revise their mental strategies for solving addition and subtraction problems. Grade 6 classes will begin to explore ways to add and subtract decimals. Both Grades 5 and 6 will look at how to use estimation and rounding to check the reasonableness of answers.

**Inquiry:** In Grade 5, students are busy identifying and discussing the ways in which people define their own identities including personality, values, family and relationships. We will be looking into support networks within our community that are present to help us feel safe and physically, socially and emotionally happy and evaluating how, when and why we use them.

Grade 6 classes will begin to look at stories of groups of people who have migrated to Australia and the reasons they migrated. We will also look at migrants’ experiences of Australian democracy and citizenship. We will begin to draw together our learning to consider the ways in which Australian society changed throughout the twentieth century.

**Other:** Grade 5 students have successfully completed their Bike Ed program. Big thanks to Amy for the organization of such a valuable program that teaches our students to be safe on the road. Grade 6 students have handed in their leadership applications and leadership roles will be announced in the final week of term.
## 2015 EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (optional/user pays)

By outside providers here at Elwood Primary School

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chess Kids</th>
<th>Drama Time</th>
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<td>Chess makes kids smarter – learning while playing! Building Mental Muscles – problem solving, tactical &amp; strategic planning, lateral &amp; logical thinking, memory, visualisation and decision making. Children learn a new strategy, idea or skill at the start of each session. Chess Club meet Thursday lunchtime. Enrol online at <a href="http://www.chesskids.com.au">www.chesskids.com.au</a> or phone 1300 424 377. Students must be enrolled prior to attending.</td>
<td>DRAMA TIME is an exciting and rewarding drama program. Our goal is to help children develop creatively, explore their imagination, build self-confidence and improve communication skills while having great fun! Classes from 1.45-2.25pm on Monday (Grade 3 - 6) and Wednesday (Grade 2). To enrol contact Freyja at <a href="mailto:freyja@dramatime.com.au">freyja@dramatime.com.au</a> or call 9528 8998. For more information visit <a href="http://www.dramatime.com.au">www.dramatime.com.au</a>.</td>
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<th>Ukulele Classes</th>
<th>Creative Music Program</th>
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<td>The ukulele is now the preferred introductory instrument in Primary Schools in Australia. Our program makes learning even better. Lots of discounts available for our in school group classes. Enrolments from grades 1 - 6 are being taken for 2015 Term 1. Enquire now for fee information, or to enrol your child. Phone: 0418 356 574 Email: <a href="mailto:info@ukes4kids.com">info@ukes4kids.com</a> View: <a href="http://www.ukes4kids.com">www.ukes4kids.com</a></td>
<td>Come and join in the fun of learning to play keyboard, guitar. Creative Music for Schools conducts a music program here at school each week. Small group classes or one-on-one lessons give children an excellent grounding in music where they will learn to read music and play their chosen instrument. Tuition costs from $17.90 per lesson (payable per term). Enrolments are now being accepted for Term 1, 2015. Interested parents should call Swee during office hours on 9818 2333 for more information or visit our web page at <a href="http://www.creativemusic.com.au">www.creativemusic.com.au</a>.</td>
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<th>Brass &amp; Woodwind Music Program</th>
<th>Mini Picasso’s</th>
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<td>Tuition is available in SAXOPHONE, CLARINET, FLUTE and TRUMPET taught by professional musician and educator, Dean Hilson. Classes are Wednesday during school time. Private or small group lessons are available. If your child is not sure of which instrument to choose, a FREE TRY-OUT session can be arranged where they play on all of the instruments and are assessed as to which may suit them best. For further information or to enrol your child, please contact Dean Hilson <a href="mailto:deanhilson@optusnet.com.au">deanhilson@optusnet.com.au</a> or 0433 456 455.</td>
<td>Develop your Child’s Creativity. This class introduces children to a variety of drawing and painting processes. We aim to expose participants to a range of fun yet educational exercises that begin to teach them the elements of seeing and translating both on a visual and an expressive level. Drawing, painting, sculpture, wood, paper mache, murals, public art, tiny canvas - large Canvas, resin, glass, fashion design, mosaic’s, guest artists!! Just to name a few of the amazing fun activities for kids to learn and explore. Sessions are coordinated by Helen Pollard - Professional Artist &amp; Project Manager. To enrol <a href="mailto:mini.picassos.artprogram@gmail.com">mini.picassos.artprogram@gmail.com</a> or call 0415 039 791. Visit <a href="http://www.circles-of-art.com.au">www.circles-of-art.com.au</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Kelly Sports</th>
<th>Violin Lessons</th>
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<td>Programs for Prep to Grade 4 students. Basketball: Tuesdays 3.30 – 5.00pm Have fun playing with your friends while learning the skills and rules. Great for beginners or even if you have played before. Super Soccer: Tuesdays 3.30 – 5.00pm Learn all the basic skills required to play the game in a safe and challenging environment. Contact Pierre 0432 832 466 or email <a href="mailto:pierre@kellysports.com.au">pierre@kellysports.com.au</a>.</td>
<td>Mrs Biana Goldenberg is a 4th generation string player and an experienced teacher, teaching all levels. Prices range from $22.00 per lesson for paired lessons to $32.00 per lesson for individuals (30 minute lessons). Exciting discounts and offers are available. Contact Biana on 0432 571 407 or email at <a href="mailto:ygolden@walla.com">ygolden@walla.com</a>.</td>
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ELWOOD OSHC HIGHLIGHTS

The term is flying by - time certainly does go quickly when you’re having fun! The themes for the last fortnight have been trucks, cars and planes; requested by Charles Tanner and monsters and aliens; requested by Ciara Orr, Emilia Weil and Bon Dunlop.

Highlights

In arts and crafts we made 3D cars and planes, had a Lego car competition, drawing competitions, tissue dot paper art, Better Buddies welcome cards, 3D UFO’s, plasticine monsters and aliens, monster posters, monster colouring in competition and monster costumes! We encourage the children to use their creativity, imagination and effort in all their work.

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<tr>
<th>TRUCKS, CARS AND PLANES</th>
<th>Fortnightly Award Winners</th>
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<tr>
<td>Drawing competition winners: Charles Tanner, Hugo Richey,</td>
<td>+1 winner: Noah Franklin</td>
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<td>Lex and Phoebe East, Alice Stubbs, Luca Searle &amp; Dante Biviano.</td>
<td>Kindness and Respect: Ciara Orr</td>
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<td>3D car making competition: Georgia Duns.</td>
<td>Best Helper: Oliver Coster</td>
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<td>Lego car making competition: Colin Sanders.</td>
<td>Improved Behaviour: Kerim Celik</td>
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<td>Most creative: Camille Robinson</td>
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<tr>
<td>MONSTERS &amp; ALIENS</td>
<td>Best Buddies: Ethan &amp; Alice Stubbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drawing competition winners: Camille Robinson, Hannah Lowndes, Deidre Gaylard</td>
<td>Guideline Keeper: Emilia Weil</td>
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<td>3D UFO’s: Billy Jones</td>
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Well-done to our competition winners and OSHC award winners!

Other activities: Hockey match, soccer game, banana cupcakes in cooking, group skipping, dodgeball, 40/40 game and everybody’s it!

Camp Australia Holiday Program

Camp Australia runs holiday programs nationwide. The closest programs in the area operate from; St Kilda, Port Melbourne and Brighton Primary School and Middle Park. If you are looking for a familiar face during the holiday period, I will be Coordinating at Middle Park Primary School. For holiday club details, please go to www.campaustralia.com.au/holidayclubs

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.