



# Newsletter

**Website :** [www.elwoodprimary.vic.edu.au](http://www.elwoodprimary.vic.edu.au)

**Community Market (bookings) :** [www.trybooking.com/106452](http://www.trybooking.com/106452)

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Dear Parents

## Staffing

The time has come to say goodbye to Ellie Dodd, Suzie Knorr and Brooke Crawford who will leave us on Friday for the birth of their first children.

All have made a significant impact on Elwood PS. Both Suzie and Ellie have been team leaders and key drivers in the curriculum development and implementation in the school and, in turn, their teams. They have both been members of our leadership team and I have personally been very grateful for their support. It goes without saying that their students will miss them dearly.

Brooke has done an exceptional job as a teacher and her team and students will miss her. She has been heavily involved in our literacy development and her commitment to her students learning and wellbeing is amazing.

We are very lucky however, to have Ryan Buoy take 4E, Rochelle Francis take 5B and Christine Lomp taking PS. We are very happy to find three great teachers to take over for the rest of the year. Please make Ryan, Rochelle and Christine very welcome to our Elwood PS community.

## SRI

Opt in forms for Jewish SRI were sent out in March. After collating the responses returned there were insufficient numbers to administer this program in the school. There are no SRI classes at Elwood PS this year.

## NAPLAN Testing

NAPLAN testing will take place in two weeks' time in the week

beginning Monday 11 May. All parents of Grade 3 and 5 students will receive a booklet and letter from myself further explaining the NAPLAN process early next week.

## Yarrabah

The Prep team from Yarrabah PS in Cairns who visited just before the last school holidays have sent an email and pictures below highlighting the impact of their visit.



"I thought you may be interested in some of the alterations our Prep teachers have made in their classrooms since our visit to your school. We took away some great ideas which we thought would complement our explicit teaching agenda and I am very proud of our prep teachers who have enthusiastically embraced some key aspects of "Investigative Play" (as we are terming it). It is still obviously a work in progress and we are still to purchase more resources and storage. Amanda, Natalie and Cara have been very happily and enthusiastically spending large sums of money to set up their facilities. The sharing of knowledge is extending beyond our school gates to our Pre-Prep and we are currently in the early stages of engaging with the day care facility to establish links and smooth transitions into pre-prep

**29 April 2015  
No. 6**

## CALENDAR

**Thursday 30 April**

4A & 4J Bookstore visit

**Friday 1 May**

Winter Sport - Grade 5 & 6

**Saturday 2 May**

Community Market -  
all Grades 6 Rostered

**Monday 4 May**

Melbourne Museum - Grade 2  
House Cross Country - Grades 3 to 6

**Tuesday 5 May**

Sub committees meet

**Wednesday 6 May**

Interschool Competition  
Enhanced Learning commences

**Thursday 7 May**

Mad about Science - 4A, 4J & 4N  
Mothers Day Stall

**Friday 8 May**

Mothers Day Stall  
Winter Sport - Grade 5 & 6

**Monday 11 May**

3.00pm Assembly - Senior Choir

**Tuesday 12 May**

NAPLAN

**Wednesday 13 May**

NAPLAN

**Thursday 14 May**

NAPLAN  
Professor Bunsen - Grade 4

**Friday 15 May**

Winter Sport - Grade 5 & 6

**Education Week 17 - 23 May**

**Tuesday 19 May**

3H Bookstore visit

**Wednesday 20 May**

3V Bookstore visit

and then school.

I am hoping you may remember how the classrooms were set up so that the attached photos make more sense to you. " Rebecca Forgie Yarrabah State School



### ANZAC Day

Congratulations to our Year 4 teachers and students who put on the most amazing ANZAC assemblies last Friday. They were heartfelt and an example of some very authentic learning that took place in our Year 4 classrooms.

Our senior choir also sang, the National Anthem with Elwood College and "The Last ANZAC "at the Elwood ANZAC Day ceremony on Saturday morning. Our Choir sounded beautiful on what was a cold and wet morning adding a somewhat sombre tone to the event making reflection around ANZAC Day even more poignant.

### Elwood Hub Students Meet with Minister

SRC members from Elwood College and Elwood Primary had the opportunity to grill our local Members of Parliament on Tuesday, 28 April.



Member for Albert Park Martin Foley (and a Victorian Government Minister) joined a Hub SRC meeting, along with the Member for the Southern Metropolitan Region Philip Dalidakis.

The parliamentarians faced some interesting questions, including, 'What do I have to do to become a Minister?' and 'What's happening with the master plan funding'. These students really do have what it takes for a life in politics!

In positive news for the College, Minister Foley's response is that we should hope for the master plan to proceed "in the very near future".

Our students also faced some intense questioning in return, including 'What are you doing to fundraise for your schools?' and 'What would you change at your

school if you could?' Both Primary and Secondary students did a great job of representing the Elwood Learning Hub.

### Market

Just a reminder that our market is on this Saturday 2 May. Come along and enjoy all that is on offer. Our famous cake stall is an opportunity for everyone to contribute to the market which the school make 100% profit from, so everyone is invited to bake and deliver their tasty delights to the cake stall on Friday afternoon or Saturday morning. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

### Rob Esoti

### Health Alert - Chicken Pox

This letter is to advise that a case of CHICKEN POX has been reported in Grades 6 & 5.

Chicken Pox is a highly contagious but generally mild disease. It presents with a low-grade fever, malaise and a rash. The incubation period is from two to three weeks and is usually 14 - 16 days. The rash develops into a sore which blisters and progresses to crusted lesions and scabs over about five days. They are most numerous on the trunk and less so on the face, scalp, limbs and mouth.

There is a Chicken Pox Information Sheet available from the Vic Govt Health Department or visit <http://ideas.health.vic.gov.au/bluebook/chicken-pox.asp>

If you are concerned, or would like further information contact your local doctor or the Victorian Department of Human Services on 1300 651 160.

### You Can Do It!



#### Making Decisions in a Group

#### Why learn this skill?

There are all sorts of ways to make a decision in a group situation, from negotiating and suggesting to persuading others. There are also other things you can try.

#### What you can try:

- Majority vote
- A decision by a leader
- Take it in turns
- Go with the person who feels most strongly

#### What you should avoid:

- Don't just ask one or two people, ask everyone
- Don't see it as losing if your idea is not accepted

### You Can Do It!

### Manners Matter - Excuse Me

Part of being a friendly and respectful Elwood Primary School kid is realising that from time to time you might inconvenience others. You may not mean

to, but sometimes it is unavoidable. When these occasions do arise, we need to know how to handle them courteously.

If we have to interrupt somebody working, or perhaps two people talking, we should begin by saying "excuse me" and then quickly explain what is so important.

Of course before we interrupt, think! Do we really have to deal with the matter immediately? Can it wait for a short time? Is it really important? If it is important, then "excuse me" is the way to go.

Saying "excuse me" shows others that you are thoughtful and considerate. All part of being an Elwood Kid.



### Manners Matter at Elwood Primary

## Our Global Calendar

Welcome back to school and to Term 2! 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 Month of May?

### Mindful in May:

Mindful in May brings the benefits of meditation together with an opportunity to help bring clean water to those living in the developing world. Your donation and fundraising will be used by Charity Water in its mission to solve the water crisis. When you register and donate, you'll receive a one-month meditation program. Go to: [www.mindfulinmay.org](http://www.mindfulinmay.org) for more information.



### Miracle Month of May

The Miracle Babies Foundation raises awareness and funds for premature and sick newborns, their families and the hospitals that care for them.



### 11th -17th May: National Volunteer Week

National Volunteer Week (NVW) is the largest celebration of volunteers and volunteerism in Australia, and provides an opportunity to highlight the role of volunteers in our communities and to say thank you to the more than 6 million Australians who volunteer. Here at Elwood Primary, many of the great things we do such

as Kitchen Garden, Writer's Workshop, Reading Groups and Investigations can't happen without our volunteers - both parents and community volunteers. So.....thank you!



Enjoy your upcoming weeks, whatever it holds or whatever you are celebrating!

*Nicole Richards* ... Assistant Principal

## Prep Parent Get Together

Come along for a night of fun and get to know other Prep parents at the Prep Parents Get Together. To be held on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May from 7.30pm at the Elwood Sailing Club. The Padre's will perform and there will be nibbles/drinks at bar prices. Tickets \$25 per person. Please contact your Class Rep to RSVP. General enquiries contact Lena on 0402 251 546.

## Garden News

Guess what we are doing every day in the garden now! Yes, Autumn is truly here and we are constantly raking up leaves.



We have also been preparing beds and putting in plants that grow during the winter like broad beans, snow peas and broccoli.



### Marvellous Manure

We make wonderful compost in the garden to help enrich our soil but we need more. From time to time we have received welcome donations of **cow, horse or sheep manure** from our families with country connections. This is much appreciated. If you have access to any of these wonderful organic goodies and could get some to the garden, then our plants would be very grateful.



### Invitation - Join Friends of the Chooks

Once again a big thankyou to the families who cared for the chickens over the holidays (Dunn,



Gillingham, Jones, Power) and to those who come on the weekends to take care of them. We are keen to share the love when it comes to looking after the chickens. You don't need to have a child in the KG program. If your family would like to become a 'Friend of the Chooks' please contact Kate Bulling for more details.

### **Pruning the Fruit Trees**

I'll bet there is plenty of expertise out there in our school community on pruning fruit trees. If you think you are a bit of an expert or even if you just know a bit

and would like to help, we would be keen to hear from you. We are hoping to organise a pruning working bee some time during the winter. Contact Kate if you can help.

**Kate Bulling** (Garden Specialist)  
bulling.kathleen.k@edumail.vic.gov.au

### **Attachments :**

Skiers & Snowboards  
What's Happening during week 3 & 4 at EPS?  
Camp Australia  
EPS Community Market



# **Skiers and Boarders ...**

**The 2015 Victorian Interschool Snow Sports Championships  
will again be held at Mt. Buller from**

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August**

**With divisions 4 (Year 4 & under) & 5 (Years 5 & 6) competing  
from Monday 24<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>**



**Check out [www.vicinterschools.com.au](http://www.vicinterschools.com.au) for more info**

**Elwood Primary School has sent a team of skiers and boarders for the last two years and achieved some fantastic results but, more importantly, had a wonderful time with memories to last a lifetime.**

**In addition to the entry terms and conditions outlined on the website, the team will be self-organised (not by the school), parents must attend and supervise their own children and may be required to assist with volunteering around the various race courses.**

**It promises to be another fantastic week, so if you can meet all of the conditions and want to register your interest or have any questions, please call Matthew Franceschini on 0411 123 154 or email [mf@entitysolutions.com.au](mailto:mf@entitysolutions.com.au)**



## What's happening during Weeks 3 & 4 at Elwood Primary School?

### Level 1 (Prep)

**Literacy:** In Literacy this fortnight, we will be looking at the letters and dominate sounds for C, K, X and Q and how we use them to spell words. When reading, we will be learning all about how we can predict the ending of a story based on the beginning and will also be making predictions based on our background knowledge of stories and authors. We love our weekly Big Talk and Big Write sessions in prep and during week 3 we will be exploring the outdoors for inspiration about the environment and important landmarks in our community, such as our garden and the canal. In Week 4, we will be discussing and celebrating the important women in our lives in our writing session. While writing we will be focusing on punctuation this fortnight with a major focus on "I can use a capital to start my sentence" and "I can write an initial sound for each word".

**Maths:** During maths this fortnight we will be exploring all things number! We will be focussing particularly on numbers 1 -10 and will be working on counting, recording and representing amounts using various hands on materials. We are practising various number strategies such as subsisting (recognising an amount without having to count it) and exploring the different ways we can make up a number (3 and 3 makes 6, 2 and 4 makes 6).

**Investigations:** We will be investigating natural and man-made materials and the difference between the two in our classroom environments. We will also be practising our Manners Matter/YCDI foci which are saying 'excuse me' and making decisions in a group. We will be reflecting on our personal learning during tuning in and reflection time.

### Level 2 (Grades 1 & 2)

**WRITING:** This fortnight our explicit text type is writing a procedural text. Some classes will have a shared experience to write about. Our VCOP focus is punctuation with a closer look at full stops and capital letters. We will also be learning about adjectives. Our Big Write will be a recount on our recent excursions. The Grade 2s are off to the Melbourne Museum in week 4 and Grade 1s are going to the Eco Centre in week 3.

**READING:** Reading this week is maintaining fluency. When reading children will be taking notice of full stops, putting words together in phrases, changing reading when noticing quotation marks and practising to read at an appropriate pace (not too fast or not too slow). Each class will have an author study and a spelling strategy and spelling sound pattern to work on.

**MATHS:** We will be working with graphing, data and chance in maths. We will be collecting data to answer questions and interpret results and make tallies and frequency tables. When working with chance, children will explain why something is more or less likely to happen and use and understand the language of chance (impossible, unlikely, likely, certain).

**INVESTIGATIONS:** The environment focus is energy taking notice of power point use. During Investigations students will be showing interest in other people through questioning and moving safely around our spaces while considering others.

## Level 3

### Year 3

**Literacy:** During writing sessions students will be practising using emotive language and organised arguments to persuade someone. They will then be using these techniques to write persuasive texts on a number of subjects. During their Big Write session this fortnight students will be writing a narrative using a picture of a box as their seed.

**Maths:** During maths sessions students will begin to explore the operations of multiplication and division. Students will be focusing on making connections between these two operations and will be exploring a variety of mental strategies to assist them when solving real life problems. Students will continue to regularly practise recalling times table facts, and the related division facts, in random orders.

**Inquiry:** Everyone is very much looking forward to our excursion to Scienceworks this week where we will be learning more about our inquiry topic, Earth and Space.

### Year 4

**Literacy:** During writing lessons students will begin to explore what makes an effective explanation text, particularly focusing on the structure and the language choices.

When reading students will be focusing on how using our background knowledge helps us to infer a writer's message.

**Maths:** In maths sessions students will be exploring the concept of fractions and decimals. They will investigate equivalent fractions and practise counting using fractions. Students will also explore splitting a whole number up into the smaller parts of tenths and hundredths and will illustrate their understanding by creating models and drawing pictures.

**Inquiry:** During inquiry lessons this fortnight students will unpack our learning intentions relating to our subject focus, physics – heat and for. Students will then begin to explore the different ways to create heat.

## Level 4 (Year 5 & 6)

**Literacy:** In reading, grade 5 classes are working on questioning and searching for information. We are looking at the different types of questions readers ask before, during and after reading in order to develop deeper comprehension. We will also be learning to make judgements about a text using critical evaluation skills. Grade 6 classes are beginning their immersion into the mystery genre. We will be reading a number of different short mysteries to begin to understand the essential elements of a mystery text.

In writing sessions, grade 5 and 6 classes are introducing the VCOP elements of Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers and Punctuation. Throughout our Writers Workshop sessions we will begin to look at how we use these elements in our own writing.

**Maths:** During maths sessions grade 5 and 6 classes are finishing our unit on addition and subtraction, focusing on adding and subtracting fractions and decimals as well as using rounding to estimate the answer to a problem and check the reasonableness of our own solutions. We will then begin our multiplication and division unit by finding out the strategies and skills that the students already have.

**Inquiry:** Grade 5 and 6 classes are beginning our science inquiries. We are beginning by looking at the scientific method and steps to investigating scientifically – Observe, Question, Research, Predict, Test, Conclude, Communicate and Evaluate. This term grade 5 classes are focusing on physics and will start by looking at how light from a source forms shadows and can be absorbed, reflected and refracted. Grade 6 classes are focusing on chemistry. We will begin with an incursion on the chemistry of forensic science which we will also link to our writing focus on the mystery genre.

**NAPLAN:** Our Year 5 (and Year 3) children continue to have regular practice for the NAPLAN assessments coming up in May. We are supporting their preparation by ensuring that they understand the 'genre' specific to each subject area and are familiar with the expectations required.

**Other:** Grade 5 and 6 classes are preparing for cross country in week 4 (Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May). We will practise long distance running around the oval and learn about ways to pace ourselves appropriately.



*we make kids smile*

## GREAT FUN

- ★ Outdoor games and sports
- ★ Arts & Crafts
- ★ Playing with friends
- ★ Great educators
- ★ Food and Cooking
- ★ Indoor Activities



### ELWOOD OSHC HIGHLIGHTS

Welcome back to Term 2 everyone!

#### Highlights

We have been busy at OSHC the last few weeks enjoying a wide variety of activities as suggested by the children. Week 1 we decided on a Superheroes, princesses and fairies theme. Willie Goldsmith, Ahmed Ibrahim, Sean Skok and Darsh Patel made some amazing superhero glasses and outfits. Morgan Wydeman, Paige Wood, Oli Coster, Lilly Piazza and Edie Holloway made some fantastic contributions to a 'Fairy night garden' mural displayed in the hall.

Our new stencil set has been getting a workout; the kids have had fun printing their names on scratch art paper and also making beautiful fluoro pastel placemats.

The kids also had the opportunity to learn about the important national commemorative day; Anzac day. We made and discussed the meaning of poppy flowers and poppy wreaths, made cut-out army officers and practiced our baking skills by making some delicious Anzac biscuits. I was proud to hear the children's understanding on the topic and their knowledge of the historical significance of Anzac day.

Outside, the kids have been getting active; down ball tournaments have been very popular over the last few weeks. So popular in fact, we have re-created a down ball court inside. Pictureka board game has also been popular - testing the kid's photographic memory. Fun with Hama bead creations and jewellery making, this is great for developing detail and fine motor skills.

#### WINTER ACTIVITY DONATIONS

Moving into the colder, wet months, we will be spending much more of our time indoors. There are plenty of activities and resources we offer; however, the program will operate even better if the children had even more access to a variety of games/activities. If any families have board games, foosball tables, mini pool tables or things of this kind you would like to donate to OSHC we would very much appreciate it. Please contact, myself, Sharlene on: 0422 005 489 to make arrangements.

#### Fortnightly Award Winners

<b>+1 winner:</b> Eva Maticka	<b>Drawing &amp; Painting:</b> Charles Tanner
<b>Kindness and Respect:</b> Madeleine Ritchie	<b>Most creative:</b> Molly Ireland
<b>Best Helper:</b> Kyla Ballantyne	<b>Best Buddy:</b> Ella Phillips-Green
<b>Fair play:</b> Hoia Te Awhitu	<b>Guideline Keeper:</b> Callum Hull

visit [www.campaustralia.com.au](http://www.campaustralia.com.au)

*we make kids smile*

# Edwood Community Market

...2015...



Feb 7th

Aug 1st

Mar 14th

Sept 5th

May 2nd

Nov 7th

June 13th

Dec 5th

**ENQUIRIES - 0422 976 276**

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