Dear Parents

End of Term

As another term draws to a close at Elwood PS, I would like to wish everybody an enjoyable break. All students and staff will return recharged for another great term at EPS. I would like to particularly acknowledge our teaching and support staff who work incredibly hard to make sure that both your child and yourself have a fantastic experience at our school.

Elwood PS returns to the Palais Theatre

Next term is shaping up as extremely exciting for Elwood PS. Our whole school concert will take place on Tuesday 8 September at the Palais Theatre. Each grade will practice three times per week on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. There will be no music or performing arts classes during Term 3. All grades have adjusted their timetables to maintain our Literacy and Numeracy focus plus include concert practice to ensure all students continue their learning journey and that we stage a fantastic concert for our community.

Semester 1 Reports

Your child’s reports will be sent home with students on the last day of term.

It would be beneficial if you read the report then discuss it with your child. Your teachers have spent many hours assessing and then writing your child’s report. All reports are then read by Nicole Richards, Jay Tucker, Ariana Peters or myself.

The report uses graphs to give you a clear overview of what your child has achieved, as well as more detailed comments from your child’s teachers, and in many cases from your child too, on progress made and the next steps forward.

The A-E ratings and comments on your child’s report show what your child has achieved against state-wide standards, not against the other students in your child’s class or year level.

To get a clear picture of your child’s progress against the state-wide standards refer to the box headed ‘Ratings’ on the report card, which tells you exactly what each of the A-E ratings means. This along with the detailed written comments form the basis of this report.

- a “C” rating means that a student is at the standard expected at the time of reporting and that their learning is on track. (“C” is for Coping well; in Command and Consolidating)
- a “B” rating means that a student is above the standard expected for their year level at this time of reporting
- an “A” rating means a student is well above the standard expected for their year level at the time of reporting
- a “D” rating means a student is below the standard expected
- an “E” rating means well below the standard expected for their year level at the time of reporting

As students transition from one level to the next at school (P-1, 2-3, 4-5) there may appear to be a slowing of learning progress which can be attributed to the much larger amount of student outcomes to be covered. This can be a factor in the Semester 1 reports as all learning outcomes will not have been covered at this time of the year.
A more detailed explanation of the report is contained in the report package you will receive on Friday.

**Staffing News**

As you may be aware or have noticed our Learning and Teaching coach Ariana Peters is expecting her second child. She will take parental leave from week 4 next term and will be replaced by Sarah Walsh from the start of Term 4. We wish Ariana all the best and look forward to her return.

**Information Learning Hub Stage 2**

Tenders for this building project closed three weeks ago and were all higher than expected. We have decided to retender the project next term and will hopefully be able to appoint a builder to complete works in the Term 3 holidays.

**Rob Csoti**

**Elwood Pursuit**

Tickets are selling quickly … there are only eight tables left so buy now to avoid missing out. See the attached flyer for details or visit the school website for the link.

Also don’t forget to drop off a bottle of wine at the office for the hampers. All donations greatly appreciated.

**Friendships & Social Skills**

Following from last newsletter regarding friendships and learning about how to develop friendships, this article looks at patterns of friendships in primary school.

Children choose friends who have similar interests and enjoy similar activities. During primary school, close friendships are most often with a child of the same sex and often are a result of friendships made through parent groups and kinder.

Often boys tend to prefer active kinds of play in groups, whereas girls typically prefer gentler games in pairs or threes and use talk more than action. Such preferences may be especially strong around the ages of eight and nine when many children become more aware of social expectations regarding girls’ and boys’ behaviour. These expectations can create difficulties for boys who are interested in gentler kinds of play and for girls who prefer the kind of active play that is usually associated with boys.

Friends cooperate and communicate more with each other than with other children. They also have conflicts more often, but usually manage to settle them without upsetting the friendship.

Friends can often influence each other’s behaviour. Over time they may take on similar mannerisms, language and preferences. Although friendships usually have positive effects, friends who have behavioural problems may encourage problem behaviour in one another.

As children’s interests and developmental needs change, their friendship patterns may also change. By the middle of primary school it is common for children to form small friendship groups based around similar interests. These groups often establish their own rules about who can join them.

Setting rules and learning to negotiate them is important for helping children to develop their understanding of social relationships. However, when children lack cooperative relationship skills it can lead to friendship groups being dominated by some children and excluding others.

Children who are good at making and keeping friends use positive social skills. Parents, carers and school can help children learn positive social skills by guiding them as young children, being positive examples for children to follow and providing opportunities for play where children can practise their skills.

Next term we will look at the key social skills that help with friendships including cooperation, communication, empathy, emotional control and responsibility.

Nicole Richards... Assistant Principal

**VCOP & Big Write**

Earlier in the Term we held a very successful and fun-filled night of writing; introducing our writing program, VCOP and Big Write.

A major component of the VCOP and Big Write is for the students to be able to articulate their writing skills and set their own learning goals.

To assist them with this, we use the VCOP Placemat that helps them to up-level their writing by placing writing skills in Vocab, Openers, Connectives and Punctuation in a pyramid.

Attached to this newsletter is a VCOP Placemat for home.

Feel free to use it at home to assist with writing tasks, pop it on the fridge for reference, or use it yourself to up-level your writing this week!

Nicole & Ariana

**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?
26th June: Red Nose Day
Red Nose Day is the national fundraising event day for SIDS and Kids held throughout the month of June. Red Nose Day provides critical funding for a 24-hour bereavement support service, community education to reduce incidents of SIDS and fatal sleeping accidents, and research into areas such as SIDS and stillbirth. To date it is estimated that SIDS and Kids has saved the lives of over 6,500 babies across Australia. www.rednoseday.com.au/

26th June: National Whale Day
Launched in 2008 by IFAW, National Whale Day is a celebration of the whales and dolphins that migrate to our coastlines annually and Australia's position as a world leader in whale conservation. National Whale Day provides an opportunity to raise awareness of, and discuss solutions to, the threats facing whales and their environment including whaling, noise pollution, vessel strikes, marine debris and by-catch, entanglement and climate change.

2nd July: Asalha Puja Day (Buddhist)
Asalha Puja Day is one of the most sacred days in Buddhism. It is observed on the fifteenth day of the waxing moon of the eighth lunar month (July), and is a celebration of the foundation of the Sangha (the community of Buddhist monks).

6th-12th July: NAIDOC Week
NAIDOC stands for National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee. NAIDOC Week is held in the first full week of July. It is a time to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and an opportunity to recognise the contributions that Indigenous Australians make to our country and our society.

6th-12th July: Alopecia Awareness Week
Variety - the Children's Charity is all about helping Aussie kids be kids! Variety is championing Alopecia Awareness Week, raising awareness and raising funds to provide wigs to children affected by the condition. You can get involved by donating your hair to be made into a wig or hold a fundraiser to purchase a wig for a child.

12th-18th July: National Diabetes Week
Each year Diabetes Australia celebrates National Diabetes Week to raise awareness about diabetes in Australia. The campaign aims to educate Australia of the risk factors for type 2 diabetes and how type 2 can be prevented.

14th July: Malala Day
On this day we remember the millions of children worldwide (mostly girls) who do not go to school and reaffirm our commitment to defend the right to education for all children. Enjoy the school holidays, relax and enjoy time with friends and family.

If you are looking for a good read – Senior Students and Parents, I recommend “I am Malala.” The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban by Malala Yousafzai

Nicole Richards ... Assistant Principal

Attachments:
VCOP Placemat
Camp Australia
Elwood Pursuit
Ambitious Vocabulary

Vinny Vocabulary

Connie Connective

All the above plus:
- before even though after
- although while besides as well as
- also in addition to contracts
- nevertheless so as to however despite

A range of sophisticated ways of connecting thoughts, ideas, phrases and sentences.

Cool Connectives

C.

C.

C.

C.

C.

C.

Punctuation Pyramid

C.

C.

C.

C.

C.

Open with a wide range of sentence openers to keep the reader interested.

Sentence Openers

C.

C.

C.

C.

C.

Ollie Opener

Penny Punctuation
ELWOOD OSHC HIGHLIGHTS

The weeks are rolling by and the fun continues at Elwood OSHC. We have had some great themes suggested by the kids the last few weeks. We had a science theme and a friendship week in the last couple of weeks at our program. During the weeks we made straw planes, wind turbines, dress ups, friendship bracelets, sweet muffins, friendship cookies, the fish of friendship and more and that is all written in our Reflection Book that is available for anyone to see, situated next to our sign in and out desk.

We have continued with the Buddy Leader system from the last few weeks. The Buddy Leader program is where children apply to become a Buddy Leader and then a few are chosen to become a leader. A buddy leader ensures that everyone in the service is being fair to one another, is a good role model for the other children, looking after the other children especially the foundation children, with many more aspects involved. The Buddy Leaders chosen for term 3 are Jasmine B, Ethan S, Alice S, Louis M.B, Emma C, Charles T, Kiara G.F, Joanna S, Emily Z, Sophie S. Congratulations to them!

Sharlene, who was with the program for four years, has progressed in her career becoming a Regional Coordinator. This entails her to not only taking care of one school but many schools within her region. She will be sorely missed but we are all wishing her the best of luck at Elwood OSHC. In addition, I, Soichiro Imamura or more commonly known as So, will be taking over Sharlene’s role as the co-ordinator. I am looking forward to getting the opportunity to see more of the children grow into mature leaders.

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, So on 0400 085 520 to make arrangements.

This week, we are having Electronics week, along with Asia week in conjunction to the school. We will also be making a good bye card for Sharlene.

Fortnightly Award Winners

+1 winner: Sophie S.

Good Helper: Catherine M.

Kindness and Respect: Velika K.

Most Creative: Deirdre G.
Elwood Primary School proudly presents...

The 2015 Trivia Night
A Biennial Fundraising Event

Elwoood Pursuit

Friday 17 July
7:00 pm - 11:45 pm
St Kilda Town Hall

Silent auction, raffle, lucky door prizes, tasty tacos and bar (at bar prices) or BYO food and beverages (alcohol permitted).

Tickets on sale 1st June
$25 www.trybooking.com/HVZB

This is a tabled event, so when booking please nominate a table ‘Captain’ or year level to be seated with - tables are of 10.

PLEASE NOTE: TICKETS ARE NOT AVAILABLE ON THE NIGHT!