Dear Parents

I am honoured and feel very privileged to be given the opportunity to lead Elwood PS again. I have had much time to reflect over the last 10 weeks on our school and my leadership. A major goal of mine going forward will be to positively engage with and work with as many parents as possible.

Over the last three days I have visited every classroom to talk to our students which reinforced my view that we have the most wonderful students who are a credit to you and our staff.

I have an open door policy and urge any parents who have any unresolved issues or would like to talk about our school to contact me so we can move forward together.

I will be holding a parent evening later this term to outline my vision for the school over the next 5 years. It would be great if as many parents as possible could attend. Another innovation will be to have ‘learning walks’ for parents. This will take the form of a guided tour throughout the school to specifically look at the learning taking place.

A letter from me to the community was sent home with every student on Tuesday this week. If you haven’t received your copy there are extras available from the school office.

I look forward to working with our students, staff and parents to make Elwood PS the best school it can be.

The School Term Ahead
A fantastic term awaits with many events planned such as: the Grade 3 & 4 Camps, the Grade 1 Dinner, the Grade 2 Sleepover, Book Week, Grandparents Day, Parent/Teacher meetings, an Interschool Chess Tournament, House Athletics Sports and our wonderful classroom programs.

Parent Forum
We are looking forward to working with Elise Bialylew, doctor, coach and wellness educator in a parent forum on meditation and mindfulness on Wednesday night 23rd July at 7:00pm in the JLC. Elise is founder of Mindful in May - A one month online mindfulness challenge.

Many of our classrooms and year levels have been fortunate to be able to work with some of our parents who are experts in this field with strategies for mindfulness and wellbeing such as yoga and meditation.

We thank Christina Redlich for putting us in contact with such a dynamic presenter and educator to help us along our journey to formulating a Wellbeing and Mindfulness Policy for the school and

Mindfulness, Meditation, SAFEMinds (Schools and Families Enhancing Minds) & More

Wednesday night, 23rd July, 7.00pm - 7.45pm in the JLC

Join Elise Bialylew, doctor, coach and wellness educator will conduct a forum for parents on meditation and mindfulness. Elise is founder of Mindful in May - A one month online mindfulness challenge.

See attached flyer for more information about the evening.
implementing the new Government initiative, SAFEMinds. We hope to see you Wednesday night.

**Curriculum Day**
Our last Curriculum Day for the year will be held on Wednesday 30 July. During the day staff will focus on the State Government "SAFEMinds initiative", assessment practices at EPS and a number of staff will undertake first aid training.

**Interstate Visitors**
Thirty-five teachers from Western Australia will be visiting 2L this Friday to observe their investigations. They will also be looking at how we use the collaborative space in the JLC. Kathy Walker from Walker Learning will lead the tour and showcase the work we are doing with the developmental curriculum in the Junior School. It is an acknowledgement of the wonderful work that the Junior School has done with investigations.

**Library Renovations**
At the end of last term the Library was packed up in readiness for the extensive renovations about to take place. By the start of Term 4 we expect to have a new Information Resource Centre that will combine a computer lab with our Library giving us greater flexibility and greatly enhanced computer access. Plans of the renovation are available on the schools website. Due to the tender prices being more expensive than expected the renovations to Cate Elshaug’s office will be part of Stage 2 to be completed next year.

**Staffing News**
Vicki Kirwin, our Performing Art teacher has unfortunately resigned due to ill health. We hope to have a small farewell for Vicki in the future. I would like to thank Vicki on behalf of our whole community for the creative influence that she has had on all students and staff, her role in school productions and our choirs. We will miss her and wish her well. Her position will not be filled at this stage.

We have a number of teachers on Long Service Leave this term:

Julie Allen (5A) will be away the first 3 weeks of term with Steven Hurst replacing her.

Alison Jordon (4A) will be away the first 4 weeks with Cassidy Van Bloom replacing her.

Kirsteen Reid (LOTE) will be away the first 4 weeks and will be replaced by Miriam Sztrajt.

**The Elwood Learning HUB Art Show**
This year’s Art Show will take place on Thursday 23 October (Term 4). We are looking for two parents to be part of the joint Organising Committee between Poets Grove, Elwood College and EPS. The Art Show will be a celebration of the creative and high standard visual arts work that students produce across the Elwood Learning Hub. If you are interested in being part of the organising committee please contact me or the school office.

**EcoCentre Visit**
The City of Port Phillip EcoCentre will visit our kitchen garden as part of a gardens tour this Saturday. They will be visiting a number of gardens chosen for their environmental practices and used as examples to others. This is a quite prestigious event and an acknowledgement of the work by Kate Bulling our Garden Specialist plus our community and parent volunteers who work together in the Kitchen Garden Program.

**Robert Csoti**
Principal

**You Can Do It!**

**Listening**
Listening is a very important social skill to develop as it allows us to access learning, recalling information, shows we care about others, models good conversational skills and allows us to interact in social situations.

Part of being interested is showing interest in what others have to say. You show interest and courtesy mainly by ‘Listening’ and ‘Asking good questions’.

**Listening Do’s and Don’ts**

* DO look at the person who is talking
* DO stand or sit still when you’re listening
* DO pay attentions and think about what is being said.
* DO show that you have been listening by asking a good question based on what the person has said.

* DON’T look at the ground or other things around you
* DON’T fidget
* DON’T let your mind wander
* DON’T just concentrate on what you want to say next
* DON’T ask questions that change the topic

Good listening shows others that you are thoughtful and considerate. All part of being an Elwood Kid.

**YOU CAN DO IT!**
Manners Matters
Respecting differences
There are many things we have in common and share at Elwood PS. But there are many ways in which we differ too.

Some of us like football, where others prefer netball. Some like maths, others prefer reading books. Some people like to listen to CDs and music, others like to play on the computer. Some of us are tall, some of us are short. Some are strong and some are fast. In some way or another, we are all different and that makes us all the more interesting.

It would be pretty boring if everyone went around doing exactly the same thing – we would all be like robots. Thankfully we are not robots, we are human and we are all different. Even in the same family, we are different from our Mums and Dads, different from our brothers and sisters.

Rather than worrying about these differences, we need to accept and respect them and also to celebrate them.

It is good that we are all different from each other and all special and unique!

Respecting differences shows everyone that we are thoughtful, considerate and friendly children. All part of being an Elwood Kid.

MANNER’S 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?

18th July: Nelson Mandela International Day
The UN and the Nelson Mandela Foundation call on people across the world to devote 67 minutes of their time to helping people on Nelson Mandela International Day - one minute for each year Nelson Mandela devoted his life to serving humanity.

25th July: White Ribbon Night
Join communities across Australia to unite in support of bringing an end to violence against women by having a night in to get the word out. You can invite two people or 2,000 to your movie night, games night, dinner party, watch the footy with mates... the possibilities are endless!

27th July: National Stepfamily Awareness Day
The last Sunday in July has been designated as ‘National Stepfamily Awareness Day’. A day dedicated to the stepfamily, it provides an opportunity to acknowledge, promote and celebrate the great work that stepfamilies do.

29th July: Eid al Fitr - Islam
During the month of Ramadan Eid al-Fitr is a time of charitable giving, peace-making and spiritual renewal.

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

Nicole Richards … Acting Principal

Garden News
The children have planted all the garden beds with winter crops which have started to grow now that the weather has begun to behave as it should for the season! But did you notice that the garden suddenly looked barer at the end of last term? That is because we gave the fruit trees a good prune. This was done with the help of a number of volunteers.

A huge thank you goes to Tim Hanna from T Hanna Gardens http://thannagardens.com.au. Tim and his employee Sam generously donated a total 6 hours of their time and expertise working on our fruit trees. Hopefully the pruned trees will be more productive come summer and also the fruit will be lower and easier for the children to harvest.

Thank you to one of our parents, Katie White, who approached Tim, asking him to volunteer his time, brought morning tea on pruning day and helped during the pruning by lugging the cuttings to the pile!

The olive and the peppercorn trees were pruned with the help of Pam Herdman from Plant it Like Pam who once again generously donated her expertise, time and equipment. Thanks Pam.

The huge pile of cuttings was collected and disposed of by John Watkins (father of Jimmy in 3K). Thank goodness for his truck. We are so grateful for his help.

We can’t finish talking about the garden without thanking Renata Montiroli and the Thomas family (Kim, Dan, Evie (Grade 1) and Oliver) who shared the task of visiting the chickens and caring for them each day during the holidays.

Friends of the Garden will still be working in the garden this term on Wednesdays at 2.30pm. All welcome. Also the invitation to drop in, at a time
that suits you, to do some weeding or tidying outside school hours is still open. There is a list of suggested jobs on the board on the garden shed or you could adopt a garden bed or two and help the children care for it. Contact Kate for more information.

Kate Bulling  … Garden Specialist
bulling.kathleen.k@edumail.vic.gov.au

Specialist Overview for Term 3 2014

Visual Art (Leyna Dosch, Andrea Robinson and Jo Nathan)
The art room is seeking NEWSPAPER and old sheet music. Any scraps would be appreciated.

Until then, most of students’ art pieces will be in the art room.

Preps  Students are learning about the art element of texture by creating a variety of collages. Books will inspire students’ art pieces.

Year 1  Students will create a variety of collages using various papers. Students will be inspire by books and themselves

Year 2  Students will learn to create a 3D sculpture. Students will be inspired animals in their natural habitats.

Year 3  Students will use ink and printing tools to create monoprints and collagraph prints. Students’ interests and experiences will inspire their artwork.

Year 4  Students will create sculptures using a variety of materials including recycled goods, plaster and acrylic paint. Students will be inspired by different styles of art.

Year 5 and 6  Students have achieved so much during the first half of the school year. I love seeing students take ownership over their artwork and explore new materials and processes. There are some truly beautiful creations coming out of the art room.

PE & Sport (Amy Parsons)
Preps  are taking part in different tasks and games to develop their spatial awareness, boundaries and knowledge different rules. Then we are developing their hand eye co-ordination and kicking skills. We are also developing our athletic skills such as jumping, running and throwing. Students are developing their capacity to share, help and co-operate with others.

Grade 1 & 2’s  are completing tasks and problem solving activities to develop our ability to work as a team in a co-operative way. We are also exploring different throwing and catching games and games which involve moving the ball with our feet. We are also developing our athletic skills such as jumping, running and throwing. Students are developing their capacity to share, help and co-operate with others.

Grade 3 & 4’s  are taking building knowledge and ability to perform dribbling, passing and shooting skills for a range on throwing and catching games and games which involve moving the ball with our feet or stick. Students will take part in pairs, small groups and whole class activities. They are then learning how to effectively apply these skills to game like situations. Students are exposed to situations where they are able to show their co-operation, teamwork and leadership skills. We are then building our athletic skills in running, jumping and throwing.

Grade 5 & 6’s  are taking building knowledge and ability to perform dribbling, passing and shooting skills for a range on throwing and catching games and games which involve moving the ball with our feet or stick. Students will take part in pairs, small groups and whole class activities. They are then learning how to effectively apply these skills to game like situations and make links across different sports and activities. Students are exposed to situations where they are able to show their co-operation, teamwork and leadership skills. They are learning how to moderate and evaluate their own and others performances. We are then building our athletic skills in running, jumping and throwing.
Mindfulness, Meditation, SAFEMinds (Schools and Families Enhancing Minds) & More

Join Elise Bialylew, doctor, coach and wellness educator in a parent forum on meditation and mindfulness. Elise is founder of Mindful in May - A one month online mindfulness challenge.

Elise will discuss the following topics on
Wednesday night, 23rd July, 7.00pm - 7.45pm in the JLC

- What is mindfulness?
- Mindful relationships - managing your emotions and reactivity to support more effective communication.
- How mindfulness can support more focus, increased performance, emotional mastery and improved stress management
- Some cutting edge research that demonstrates how mindfulness can change the brain for the better and help us find more calm and clarity

Elise is also working with our staff in the lead up to implementing the Victorian Schools initiative of “SAFEMinds” and “NIP it in the bud”.

Emotional distress affects children and young people and school communities every year. This may include health issues such as anxiety and depression and self-harm behaviours. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has partnered with Headspace, the National Youth Mental Health Foundation, to develop SAFEMinds, a comprehensive learning and resource package that will enhance the capacity of school communities to effectively identify children and young people with early signs of mental health issues, offer school-based interventions and refer appropriately when needed.

SAFEMinds and Mindfulness at EPS aims to:

* enhance early intervention mental health support for students, specifically regarding mild mood disorders (anxiety and depression) and self-harm
* increase engagement of parents and carers with EPS to more effectively support children’s mental health

Schools play a critical role in the social and emotional learning of children and young people. The relationship between children or young people and their family also has a significant impact on their mental health.

Let’s work together to encourage SAFEMinds, Mindfulness and early intervention approaches at EPS!
### EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (optional/user pays)

**By outside providers here at Elwood Primary School**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Chess Kids</strong></td>
<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>
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<td><strong>Drama Time</strong></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 4-6) and Wednesday (Grade 2-3). 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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<td><strong>Ukulele Classes in 2014</strong></td>
<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 Term 3. Enquire now for fee information, or to enrol your child.</td>
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<td><strong>Creative Music Program</strong></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 $16.50 per lesson (payable per term). Enrolments are now being accepted for Term 3, 2014. Interested parents should call Sue 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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<td><strong>Brass &amp; Woodwind Music Program</strong></td>
<td>Tuition is available in <strong>SAXOPHONE, CLARINET, FLUTE</strong> and <strong>TRUMPET</strong> 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 <strong>FREE TRY-OUT</strong> 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>
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<td><strong>Mini Picasso’s</strong></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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| **Kelly Sports**             | 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 pierre@kellysports.com.au. |
| **Violin Lessons**           | now available at EPS.  
  Mrs Biana Goldenberg is a 4th generation string player and an experienced teacher, teaching all levels.  
  Prices range from $19.00 per lesson for paired lessons to $31.00 per lesson for individuals (30 minute lessons). Exciting discounts and offers are available.  
  Contact Biana on 0432 571 407 or email at ygolden@walla.com. |