Dear Parents

Big Night Out …  
Roll up, Roll up, Roll up  
I have my Ring Master outfit ready to wear for what will be a great night of fun and dancing. There are still tickets available to this unforgettable school event at the iconic St. Kilda Town Hall.

Parent Opinion Survey  
The annual Parent Opinion Survey has been sent to 100 randomly selected parents. If you have been selected you should have received your survey in the mail. The survey is to be returned to school in the sealed envelope provided. We then forward the unopened envelopes to the Department of Education & Training for analysis. Later in the year we receive the results. The data received forms a big part of our future planning in a range of areas such as behaviour management, reporting, school improvement, approachability, parent input and extra-curricula activities to name a few.

If you received a survey could you please ensure you fill it out and return it to school by Monday 1 August.

In previous years we have received around 45% of completed surveys and we would like all surveys returned so that we have more reliable data.

We value your opinion and the survey helps us to continually grow and become an even better school than we presently are.

Staffing  
Congratulations to Stephanie Yarwood who was appointed to replace Rosie Cooke (1R) for the rest of 2016. We are excited about Stephanie joining Elwood PS. She has been working for most of the year in various roles at EPS.

I will be on Long Service Leave next week. Nicole Richards will be Acting Principal for the week and is based in my office.

100 Year Celebrations  
Our 100 Year Celebration activities are just around the corner and look forward to a year of looking back and forward. An overview of what has been planned so far is:

Term 1  
- Dress up Day  
- 100 year Badge launch  
- The History of Elwood curriculum units of work

Term 2  
- EPS Family bricks  
- 100 year Trivia Night  
- Community art works  
- Whole school photograph

Term 3  
- Whole school production  
- EPS Family bricks laid

Term 4  
- Open Day / Market  
- 100 year Publication  
- Family Picnic with whole school photograph

27 July 2016  
No. 12

CALENDAR

Wednesday 27 July  
Enhanced Learning

Thursday 28 July  
ESC Casual Dress Day wear something that makes you happy - gold coin donation  
Parent Information Session : Technology at EPS

Friday 29 July  
Athletics Practice Gr 4 - 6  
Ready Set Go for 2017 Preps  
The ‘Big Night Out’ for Parents

Monday 1 August  
Hands on Science - Grade 2

Tuesday 2 August  
Sub-committees meet

Wednesday 3 August  
Enhanced Learning

Friday 5 August  
Athletics Practice Gr 4 - 6

Saturday 6 August  
Community Market - all Grade 1 classes rostered

Monday 8 August  
3.00pm Assembly - Snr Choir

Wednesday 10 August  
Billy Cart Building - Preps  
Grade 1 Dinner  
Enhanced Learning  
6.30 Hub meeting at Elwood College

Thursday 11 August  
100 Days of Prep

Enrolments for Prep in 2017 close on Friday 5 August

Community Market (bookings) :  www.trybooking.com/36342
An exciting year awaits and will allow past, present and future members of our community to be involved in a variety of ways.

Front Gardens
Our new gardens, seats and table are complete and fully functional. The front of the school looks fantastic adding to our already great environment. Thank you to all families who contributed to our Building Fund that paid for this project.

Chess comes to Elwood PS
An interschool Chess competition will be held at Elwood PS on Monday 8 August. If your child is interested in being part of the day when 5 - 6 games are played by each competitor as part of the EPS Chess team please email the school on elwood.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au and I will contact you with more information. We have up to eight more places available for interested players.

Oval
Our new oval is quite waterlogged at the moment and we are keeping the students off the turf to protect the new grass before Spring arrives. The oval has made a huge difference to park play and we need to protect it now that the wet weather has arrived.

EPS Curriculum Day
We had a focus of Maths for our Curriculum Day last Thursday. Our teachers and support staff learnt:

- What the research tells us about effective Maths teaching
- The 6 Key Principles of Effective Teaching of Mathematics
- Learning tasks and group discussion to support this content

The day was facilitated by Maths Educator Andrea McDonough. Andrea has 29 years of experience in Maths Education at the Australian Catholic University and has been a colleague and worked on projects with Professor Peter Sullivan over the years.

The day was a nice blend of theory and practical tasks. The input and positivity from staff was excellent, making it a very worthwhile day. It was really an affirmation of how we already plan and teach, but will inform our teaching moving forward.

Manners Matter
Respecting Adults
Part of being a friendly and respectful Elwood Primary School kid is in Respecting Adults.

There are many adults around our school and homes that help us. It may be your teacher or your next door neighbour. Sometimes we do not realise it, but these people are always looking after us, making sure we are safe and happy.

A great way to show these people that we do appreciate their help and concern is to show them respect. We can do this in lots of ways – by saying please and thank you, by giving way, by offering help and just by listening when they speak.

Respecting adults is important. All of us would like people to respect us and we certainly expect people to respect the adults we know well like our parents, grandparents and teachers.

Respecting adults shows everyone that we are thoughtful, considerate and friendly children.

All part of being an Elwood Kid.

You Can Do It
Term 3: Persistence
Persistence means trying hard to do your best and not giving up when something feels like it’s too difficult or boring. Examples of persistent behavior are continuing to try even when schoolwork is hard, not being distracted and checking work when it’s finished to make sure it’s correct.

This fortnight we will focus on: Teamwork
Why learn the skill of Teamwork?
Teamwork is very important at our school and used in many ways. You need teamwork if you are in a sports team, an Inquiry Team or Investigations, a music group or simply a group in your grade.

Teamwork is all about working with others to produce a team result. It is about using your talents and interests with others to achieve something together.

What you can try:
- Encourage others in your group to do their best.
- Put the team interests in front of your own.
- Recognise everyone’s contribution to the team and congratulate them.
What you should avoid:

- Don’t criticise team members, even when things go wrong.
- Don’t try to dominate a team.

You Can Do It!

Nicole Richards ... Assistant Principal

Cross Country

This year Elwood PS did exceptionally well in Cross Country. We actually came in 1st place in the District Cross Country which was a great achievement.

We also had more students than ever before, progressing up the Cross Country Competitions. At Regional level there would normally only be a few or no students through. All of these students performed extremely well achieving many ‘personal bests’. Well done to all our students who took part.

We had some upset players after narrowly losing the Grand Final, but we could not be prouder of the way the team represented the school and the effort they gave.

Jay Tucker ... Assistant Principal

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?

30 July: International Day of Friendship

The International Day of Friendship was proclaimed in 2011 by the UN General Assembly with the idea that friendship between peoples, countries, cultures and individuals can inspire peace efforts and build bridges between communities.

31 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.
1 - 7 August: **Homelessness Prevention Week**
Homeless Persons’ Week is an annual awareness raising week held in the first full week of August each year to highlight the over 105,000 Australians who are homeless on any given night. Homelessness Australia provides information sheets and resources to support events all around Australia.

4 August: **National Aboriginal and Islander Children’s Day (NATICD)**
National Aboriginal and Islander Children’s Day (NATICD) is a celebration of human rights and Indigenous children. Held on 4 August each year, NAITCD was first observed by SNAICC in 1988.

7 August: **Threatened Species Day**
National Threatened Species Day is held to encourage the community to help conserve Australia’s native fauna and flora. Take action to prevent further extinctions by restoring healthy numbers of endangered species and ecological communities.

7 - 13 August: **Speech Pathology Week**
Speech Pathology Week is the annual week to raise awareness about communication and swallowing disorders, as well as the work of speech pathologists.

8 August: **Tara Day (Buddhist)**
The eighth of every month is Tara Day. Tara is a female Buddha, whose name means Rescuer; she is the embodiment of swift compassion. If we rely upon Tara sincerely and with strong faith, she will protect us from all obstacles and fulfill all our wishes.

9 August: **International Day of the World’s Indigenous People**
This is a day used to celebrate and recognize the stories, cultures and unique identities of indigenous peoples around the world.

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

_Nicole Richards … Assistant Principal_

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**Garden News**

Thanks to Charlie Tucker, Amanda Harrison, Helen Young, Victoire Blum, Janet Power and their children and other family members who cared for our chickens over the holidays. We couldn’t keep chickens in the garden without help from our community. Our young chickens have matured and we are now regularly collecting 2 - 3 eggs per day. If you are interested in helping with chicken care we are always keen to have more volunteers. Contact Kate by email bulling.kathleen.k@edumail.vic.gov.au

We recently had an ‘Aerobin’ 400 compost bin donated by Jo and Andrew McLoughlin who are parents of a student in Grade 2. According to the Aerobin website, (https://www.aerobin400.com/) testing by Swinburne University has shown that these bins are more efficient composters than normal bins due to their unique aeration system. We will see what Elwood Primary tests find out!

Thanks also to local community members, Sophie Britton and Mike Scobie for the donation of soil and scoria which they transported to the school for us. We will be using these materials to make a new garden bed in a crate which was donated earlier this year.

Some of our garden classes are currently short of volunteers. You do not need to have a child in the program to volunteer in the garden. For more information ask at the office or visit Kate in the garden.

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Happy Gardening …

_Kate Bulling_

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**The Padres**

If you are planning a school function or private party in the second half of the year, think about having a performance by The Padres – Elwood Primary School’s dads’ band. The Padres are first and foremost a great party band who will ensure that your event goes off. The Padres can also play more mellow tunes at more sophisticated gigs if required. The Padres offer very competitive rates and all of the money that they make goes towards Elwood Primary School’s music program. Contact Peter on 0417 525 831 if you want to talk about a booking.

**Attachments :**

- What’s Happening during Weeks 3 & 4 at EPS?
- Literacy Interview
- JS Computer Club & Spelling Bee
- Math’s Challenge 3
- Big Night Out
What’s happening during Weeks 3 & 4 at Elwood Primary School?

**Level 1 (Prep)**

**Literacy:** This fortnight we will be further developing our reading strategies by using information to help us understand the story, as well as recalling events in a story in order. We will be using superhero stories to help build our curiosity and prediction skills. We will also be writing about our own superhero stories. This fortnight we will be exploring bossy ‘e’ (magic or silent e) and wh sounds in words and things around us in the classroom.

**Maths:** During Week 3 and 4, we will be exploring teen numbers and probability. We will be identifying, counting on and knowing double facts to make a teen number. We will be looking at the outcome of familiar events involving chance and describing them using everyday language such as ‘will happen’, ‘won’t happen’ or ‘might happen’.

**Investigations:** This fortnight we will be continuing our focus on Indigenous Australians, looking at Australian animals and plants, while learning about different aboriginal language groups such as the Yalukit Willam clan. We will also be focusing on the way objects move depending on a variety of factors, including their size and shape.

**Other:** We are so excited about our Billycarts incursion on Wednesday 10 August when we get to build a billycart and go riding in it. This will be followed by OUR 100 DAYS of PREPS on Thursday 11 August.

**Level 2 (Grade 1 & 2)**

**Reading:** This fortnight we have been practicing the skill of searching for information in books and now we are learning about summarising non-fiction texts in preparation for when we write our Information Reports.

**Writing:** Children are currently working on planning and drafting their very own Information Report. They have been researching and practicing putting new information in to their own words. The handwriting focus is walking stick letters which include m, n and r.

**Maths:** This fortnight we are learning about division. Students will be practicing sharing a collection or shape in to groups of the same amount. Students are encouraged to share their thinking and strategy of how they solved a division problem.

Our Environment focus for the term is Nude Food Mondays and our aim is to have a “Rubbish Free” Grade 1 Dinner and to reduce, reuse and recycle as much as possible during the Grade 2 Sleepover.

**Dates for your diary!**

Grade 1 Dinner - Wednesday the 19th of August
Grade 2 Sleepover - Friday the 26th of August
Level 3 (Grade 3 & 4)

Literacy: In reading, our Year 3’s over the next fortnight will begin to explore the comprehension strategy of inferring. With a focus on what is inferring and beginning to infer through images in picture story books this will be explored in upcoming book clubs and class mini lessons.

Our Year 4’s begin Term 3 with a focus on unpacking a new comprehension strategy summarising and then later moving onto synthesising. We begin this through looking at finding key words in inquiry and class based texts during book clubs.

Level 3 students continue to work through the writing cycle during Writer’s Workshop sessions busily publishing a variety of student choice writing pieces ready to collect for their Writer’s Gift Books. Our Year 3’s also begin to explore Poetry and look at language features such as onomatopoeias, similes and the use of descriptive words in free verse poems.

The Year 4 students’ text type focus this term will be Information Reports, a great factual text type which will be linked to our Educational Research projects and History inquiry.

Maths: Our Year 4 students begin this term with a continued focus on formal and informal multiplication and division strategies, consolidating from our work in Term 2. Our next mathematics topic immerses the students into Fractions and Decimals through visual and concrete materials.

Our Year 3 students continue their focus into Statistics and Probability highlighting the language of chance and data collection. Their next mathematics area of focus will be Geometric Thinking with a focus on shape and transformation.

Inquiry: Over this fortnight our Level 3 students will begin their exploration into their new Inquiry focus for this term. With a focus on Australian History our Year 3’s will begin to unpack learning intentions highlighting the life and culture of indigenous Australians pre settlement. The Year 4’s build on their Year 3 learning to explore life in England and Australia pre and post settlement with a focus on cause, effect and perspective. The Year 4’s have also begun their history rotations and have enjoyed investigating famous explorers in history and reasons why people explore new ideas and places.

Other: Years 4, 5 and 6 have begun their Athletics practices each Friday afternoon. The sessions run from 1.45pm-3.20pm and on this day we have an early lunch (12.30pm-1.45pm). Just a reminder this is a no lunch order day due to the time change. The students work in rotational age groups participating in a variety of track and field events in preparation for our EPS Senior School Athletics Day on Thursday 18th August.

Level 4 (Grade 5 & 6)

Literacy: In reading, grade 5 and 6 classes will be having a focus on analysing. Grade 5 classes will be analysing literary texts. We will be analysing literary devices such as similes, metaphors and personification and looking at how authors use these devices to create meaning. Grade 6 classes will be analysing non-fiction texts. We will look at different types of non-fiction text and their organisational features.

During writing sessions grade 5 and 6 classes will begin to explore information reports looking in depth at the structure and language features used in high quality information reports.

Maths: In Maths, grade 5 and 6 classes are finishing a unit on data and statistics. Grade 5 classes are looking at the features of different forms of data representation and grade 6 classes are investigating how statistics are used in the media. We will then start a unit on fractions, decimals and percentages.

Other:

Grade 6 classes have launched themselves into rehearsals for the grade 6 production of Alohaargh. We are busily learning lines, songs and dances and making props, costumes and advertising material.

Grade 5 classes headed to Sovereign Hill on Tuesday 26th of August to immerse ourselves in Australia's colonial past. We participated in activities such as gold panning, mine tours and re-enactments.

Years 4, 5 and 6 have begun their Athletics practices each Friday afternoon. The sessions run from 1.45pm-3.20pm and on this day we have an early lunch (12.30pm-1.45pm).

Just a reminder this is a no lunch order day due to the time change. The students work in rotational age groups participating in a variety of track and field events in preparation for our EPS Senior School Athletics Day on Thursday 18th August.
Literacy Interview

Hello. We are the Year Six Literacy Leaders (Ali Thomas, Emily Zantuck and Daisy Paxton-White) and we developed a survey about reading and writing, which we then sent off to numerous teachers around the school. This week we learn all about Nicole Richards and Adele Meren and their love of literacy. Enjoy!

NICOLE RICHARDS ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

1. What is your favourite children’s book? Why?
   Pearl Barley and Charlie Parsley – it is beautifully written and funny. I know all the words off by heart. I also love The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane because it makes me cry every time I read it.

2. What do you prefer teaching? Reading or Writing? Why?
   I think both, you can’t really do one of them without the other and I am pretty good at both, so I enjoy teaching them equally.

3. What are some ways to promote reading and writing for children?
   Read and write yourself. Being a good role model and getting excited about a book makes them excited too.

4. What book are you reading now?
   I am reading the Book Thief again for the 3rd time as I watched the movie on TV not long ago and it made me want to read it again. I also have Wonder sitting on my bedside table ready to go.

5. Who is the most inspirational character you have read about?
   Definitely Scout from To Kill a Mockingbird, she is a strong female role model and is the funniest, smartest, compassionate and most caring person I have ever read about.

6. What are your favourite genres to read and/or write?
   I enjoy all books really, but I tend to focus on one genre for a little while and then think I should mix it up and get stuck on another kind of genre. I like realistic fiction and biographies the most, historical fiction too. Anything really. I LOVE READING!

ADELE MEREN GRADE 2A TEACHER

1. What is your favourite children’s book?
   ‘The Giving Tree’ by Shel Silverstein. Simple drawings that describe a mother – what she would do for her child, even cutting off her limbs! I also think that the Anthony Browne books are brilliant for children.

2. What do you prefer teaching? Reading or writing?
   Reading – to see the world open up for a child is miraculous – they’re set for life!

3. What are some ways to promote reading or writing to children?
   Have books all around the classroom; constantly read aloud [using different voices] to children on a daily basis; let them see YOU actually reading as well. With a baby or a pre-schooler, cuddle them while reading, so that they can ‘feel’ the words.

4. What book are you reading right now?
   I’m enjoying re-reading the John Le Carter novel ‘The Night Manager’ upon which the BBC series is based.

5. Who is the most inspirational book character you have read about?
   The tree in ‘The Giving Tree’ [see Q1 above].

6. What are your favourite genres to read?
   Thrillers, mysteries [not sci-fi] as well as biographies.

BY DAISY PAXTON-WHITE, EMILY ZANTUCK AND ALI THOMAS - Literacy Leaders
Computer Club runs on Wednesday during lunch time from 2.00-2.30pm. During the sessions, Grade 1 and 2 students explore software programs such as Scratch, Kodu and Lego Designer. They create animation, games and design 3D worlds. Students are supported by the Grade 6 Media Leaders.

Grade 1 and 2 students participated in a House Spelling Bee during Term 2 and 3. The bee was run in 3 stages, with students working and earning points for their House individually and in teams. The winner of the first Junior School Spelling Bee was Eperke T of 2C. Congratulations, to all those who participated!
Math Challenge 3

Congratulations to the following students who were lucky enough to be selected as our Math Challenge 3 winners.

A massive thank you to ALL the students who took part. We were truly impressed with the level of persistence and mathematical thinking.

Look out for Math Challenge 4 very soon.

Anoushka 5N    Scarlett 5J    Sophie 4L
Isabelle 5J    Noah 4L       Bailey 2A
William 5N     Oliver 4J     Max 2C
Elwood Primary School proudly presents

THE BIG NIGHT OUT

CIRCUS
EXTRAVAGANZA

7PM FRIDAY 29 JULY ST KILDA TOWN HALL

Tickets on sale WEDNESDAY 1 JUNE

$45 pp $35 concession

Food & entertainment included. Drinks at bar prices.

for more info visit: elwoodprimary.vic.edu.au

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