Dear Parents,

**Parent Night School vision**

Last Thursday night over 50 parents attended an evening covering my vision for the school over the next 5 years. It was a very informative night giving me the opportunity to outline the “big picture” of our schools’ direction over the next 5 years. If you would like a copy of the power point and other documents presented please email the school at Elwood.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

Areas covered in the presentation were:

- School tone
- Curriculum
- Teachers
- Students
- Parents
- The HUB
- Specialised Curriculum
- Facilities & Grounds

**Literacy and Numeracy At EPS**

Literacy and Numeracy are, and will continue to be our biggest focus areas at Elwood PS. Our Leadership Team and teachers are committed to delivering the most up to date and best practice strategies in these two areas. We have a Literacy and Numeracy coach who works with our staff and we have spent over $200,000 on Staff Professional Development and resources to support our students and our teachers in these areas over the last three years. I talk a lot about Curriculum Personalisation, school tone, parent engagement to name a few areas but our approach to Literacy and Numeracy and student achievement in theses areas is always at the forefront of our thinking and Strategic Planning.

To follow on from my “School Vision Night” we are running a Numeracy night this week. (See following).

A Literacy night will follow later this year.

**Thursday 14 August 7:00pm – 8:00pm JLC**

**Numeracy at Elwood Primary School**

This session will focus on Numeracy at Elwood PS. Nicole and I will talk about some of the myths around Numeracy teaching at EPS. We will then focus on Numeracy across the Junior school and Senior school.

Areas to be covered:

- Curriculum content covered throughout the year
- How maths teaching has changed in recent times
- Skills that are core to our teaching
- How parents can support students at home

**Book Week “Connect to Reading – Reading to connect”**

Book Week is here next week with many great activities planned. Author visits, a read-a-thon, costume parades (Wednesday), book swaps and book studies to name a few of the exciting things to take place.

Congratulations to Brooke Crawford for organising the week. Full details of all events are attached to the newsletter.

**Grandparents Day**

This fantastic day will take next Wednesday for all of our Prep grandparents. They will get to see their grandchildren in class, watch the book week costume parade and enjoy a morning tea whilst listening to our senior choir. It is one of my highlights each year to see our adoring grandparents showing how much pride they have in your children.
Art Show

The Art Show competition is in full swing with entries closing on Monday. A press release was sent to all families via their class reps this week which outlines all the details of the competition. The winning piece or pieces will have their design displayed on billboards, flyers and posters publicising the art show, “An Art Safari”, a trek through the Hub.

Staffing

Laura Collins (Prep R) and Mick have announced that they are expecting a second child to join sister Mem. Laura will complete most of the year and leave us in early December.

Rebecca Strawhorn (Prep R) gave birth to beautiful baby Jemima in May and we are hoping for a visit soon.

Jackie Hughes (Prep H) gave birth to Samuel in May. Congratulations to Laura, Jackie and Rebecca.

Camp

Our Grade 3 campers have had a fantastic time at camp arriving home on Wednesday afternoon. There are lots of exciting stories of adventures had and activities completed. This was the first camp experience for many of our Grade 3’s. It forms part of our camp program which includes:

- Prep – Teddies Bears picnic
- Grade 1 – Grade 1 Dinner
- Grade 2 – Grade 2 Sleepover
- Grade 3 & 4 – School Camps
- Grade 5 & 6 – School Camps

These events provide your children with some of their lasting memories of school. I would like to acknowledge Ellie, Corey, Valarie, Kathryn, Caroline, Leyna, Jodie, Gemma and the many student teachers who have attended camp. They give up their own precious family time to make sure your children get this wonderful experience.

Uniform

A reminder to all parents that we have a compulsory school uniform policy. Wind cheaters and bomber jackets not in school colours are not permitted. Leggings must be blue, not black and footwear needs to be either school shoes, or acceptable runners that would be suitable for sports activities.

Rob Csoti
Principal

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 behaviour 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: “I can do it!”

This is an important part of the year to stop and think about our learning, celebrate what we have achieved so far and then remember to reflect on our goals. We need to ask ourselves, are we still sticking to our goals? Do we need to adjust our goals? Or, are we achieving them and setting new ones?

“I can do it” is thinking that we are more likely to be successful than we are to failing.

“I can do it” means not thinking badly about ourselves when we do make a mistake.

“I can do it” is thinking that it is good to try something new even though we might not be able to do it and that it is important to try new activities.

“I can do it” means being independent, accepting yourself, taking risks and having the confidence to have a go.

YOU CAN DO IT!

Manners Matters

Respecting the Opposite Gender

There are so many things we have in common and so many interests we share, that often we assume that everyone thinks and behaves the same as we do. Certainly there are many that all, or nearly all kids like; playtime, PE, Music, winning a prize, playing with our friends. There is a huge list.

But sometimes we need to consider that there are people who have different interests to us and that their interests are just as worthwhile. Sometimes that difference is between boys and girls.

While many girls and boys share the same interests, sometimes they do not. Sometimes they like to play different games, or watch different TV shows, or listen to different music. All of that is OK! It does not make one better than the other.

We need to respect both males and females and the choices they make, and be happy that there are at times, differences.

MANNERS MATTER AT ELWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL!
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?

6th - 22nd August : Book Week

Each year, many schools and public libraries from all over Australia spend a week celebrating books and Australian authors and illustrators. Classroom teachers, teacher librarians and public librarians develop activities, offer competitions and tell stories relating to a theme to highlight the importance of reading. Watch out for all the upcoming Book Week Activities with thanks to Brooke from Grade 5!

19th August : World Humanitarian Day

World Humanitarian Day is used to increase public awareness about humanitarian assistance activities worldwide and the importance of international cooperation in this regard, as well as to honour all humanitarian and United Nations and associated personnel who have worked in the promotion of the humanitarian cause and those who have lost their lives in the cause of duty.

19th August: International Orangutan Day

From 1992-2000, the population of the Sumatran orangutan is considered to have declined by more than 50%. Its relative, the Bornean orangutan population fell nearly 43 percent in the past decade, from 35,000 in 1996 to 20,000 in 2006. Since these studies were done, deforestation rates have continued to climb which means the actual populations could be well below these. Something has to be done to save orangutans and that is the reason for International Orangutan Day!

22nd August : Daffodil Day

Daffodil Day is one of the Cancer Council's most loved fundraising events and this year, every daffodil and every donation grows hope - hope for more survivors, hope for better treatments and hope for greater support. As the largest merchandise based event in the Southern Hemisphere, it's day to support all Australians affected by cancer.

23rd August : International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition

International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is intended to inscribe the tragedy of the transatlantic slave trade in the memory of all peoples. In accordance with the goals of the intercultural project "The Slave Route", it should offer an opportunity for collective consideration of the historic causes, the methods and the consequences of this tragedy, and for an analysis of the interactions to which it has given rise between Africa, Europe, the Americas and the Caribbean.

24th August : Hearing Awareness Week

One in six Australians is Deaf, Deafblind, hearing impaired or has a chronic ear disorder. Hearing Awareness Week provides an opportunity to explain that hearing health is an important issue for every Australian. For the 22 per cent of Australians aged 15 and over who are Deaf or have a hearing impairment, it's their week to share their experiences and knowledge and help to create a greater understanding of their needs, aspirations and the contributions they can make to our nation.

24th - 30th 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. We take this opportunity to thank our wonderful Speech Pathologist, Jodie, who works with us each Wednesday!

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

Nicole Richards … Assistant Principal

Congratulations to our Tee Ball Team

We would like to say a huge congratulations to our Level 4 Tee Ball Team after coming 2nd in the Regional Finals. They performed really well in the first game but unfortunately lost their second game. All the boys displayed great sportsmanship which was acknowledged by the event organisers.

Community Market

The Elwood Community Market Committee is looking for “first point of contact” early rising “market gate” volunteers to meet and greet stall holders, assist them to locate their stalls and handle general traffic management and queries on market mornings.

After 5+ years of dedicated market service our Grade 6 parents are “graduating” and we have several positions to fill. We require happy, easy going and quick to think on your feet type people for 8 markets per year (first Saturday of the month –
February, March, May, June, August, September, November & December). Shifts start at 6.30am and concludes at 9.30am.

Support the work of the market, get to know your local community and work with a great team of fun committed school parents. End your shift with an egg & bacon roll, great coffee and a good laugh.

Please call or SMS Camille Sunshine 0407 477 754 if you would like to be part of this wonderful team of parents.

**Indigenous Children’s Literacy Day**

3rd September 2014

Indigenous Literacy Day aims to help raise funds to raise literacy levels and improve the lives and opportunities of Indigenous Australians living in remote and isolated regions. We need your support to help raise funds to buy books and literacy resources for children in these communities.

2A students [with the full knowledge and support of their parents, Rob and Nicole] are having one day a week [Fridays] to each donate a ‘gold coin’ until the end of the year in support of the “Indigenous Children’s Literacy Foundation”

http://www.indigenousliteracyfoundation.org.au. These donations will help to provide Early Childhood books that may be translated into the various Aboriginal languages [there are around 200 of these] for Remote Communities. $25 equates to 4 books, while $140 equates to a “Book Buzz.” [Book Buzz provides families, babies, toddlers and preschool children with sets of developmentally appropriate books [board and cloth books] that introduce children to the joys of reading. They cover a range of topics: people, places, animals, objects, narrative stories, early concepts of letters and numbers, sensory elements, and facts about the world. These books are selected by an Indigenous literacy specialist, in consultation with children’s book professionals and key contacts and elders within remote communities. There are now three sets of Book Buzz packs available, each with a supporting Buzz Literacy Box. These Literacy Boxes are designed to support the implementation of the books and encourage further interest and engagement in stories.]

In order to earn that coin, 2A students must do a job at home e.g. get a younger sibling dressed, etc. Rob and Nicole are also donating to our class, with a similar proviso – the students must do a job at school to earn their coin from them.

2A students and parents have also decided to sell second hand books and toys at our next school market – Sat. September 6th, to add to our end of year total. Using their Mathematical thinking skills, the students worked out that if $25 can provide 4 books, then how many books would 20 weeks worth of ‘gold coins’ provide [apart from the money to be earned at the school market]. They’ve also used Data via their money chart ‘thermometer.’

Of course, any of you, the EPS community, are most welcome to contribute to our fundraising, either via donating second-hand books or toys to our stall [you may bring them to our classroom in the LTC] OR via a ‘gold coin.’ We’re a VERY ‘rich’ [in books] school and want to help others to enjoy books. We’ve discussed the whole idea and have also read some Aboriginal bi-lingual books – 2A are VERY excited about it. Please come and join with us in sharing our ‘rich’ literacy environment.

**2A Students, Parents and Adele Meren**

**Sustainability News - Get into the Nude Food Groove!**

Did you know that Australians are the 2nd highest producers of waste per person in the world? Each year we send 690 kilograms of waste to landfill. Did you know that it can take 20 to 1000 years to break down plastic? And did you know that some of our plastics that make it to the sea are responsible for thousands of sea birds and marine mammals dying each year? But don’t despair!

The good news is that you can make a huge difference and it is so easy! Make the Nude Food Pledge by cutting down on wrapped and packaged food and you will make an enormously positive impact on our planet. Lunchboxes with compartments are one of the environments best friends because lunchboxes are excellent ‘reducers’ by reducing the use of plastic wrap and foil wrap. The added bonus is that fresh unpackaged food is so healthy for you. So it is a win win!! By cutting down on packaged foods both you and the environment become healthier! For great ideas on unwrapped yummy lunch box treats…watch this space!

**Elwood Primary Green Team**

**Friends of Kitchen Garden**

We would like to say a huge thanks to all the volunteers for their support and please keep coming. Your help is vital to the running of the program. Also we would love any lemons that you may be able to spare from your garden, as we are using them in recipes.

**Janet, Kate & Bess**
In 2L we have been learning how to draft, revise, edit and publish all different types of poetry.

We created some about our beautiful environment and how to care for it!

We hope you enjoy!

Recycling helps the environment
Everyday we recycle
Compost too
Yikes! That’s not recycling
Cardboard goes in
Little things, big things
Interesting ways to help the earth
Need to separate cardboard and plastic
Great work!

Cherry Blossoms
Pink and white delight.
Cherry blossom on the tree.
Come cherry blossom.

By Sarah Jamieson in 2L.

Trees
Trees are in nature.
Trees can be big or small.
Sometimes trees fall down.

By Sammy Hutton Squire in 2L.
What's happening during weeks 5 & 6 at Elwood Primary School?

### Level 1 (Prep)

**Literacy:** This fortnight we will be continuing to read mystery texts and thinking about how stories end, as well as how we can use information we have read to predict the end of the story. We will be focusing on stretching out words and chunking letter clusters to help us with decoding. We will be writing about a spooky forest and reflecting on our Grandparents Day/Book Parade events. When Writing, we will also be practising using capital and lower cases letters correctly as well as full stops.

**Maths:** During Week 5, we will be learning all about comparing, combining and sharing sets of up to 20 objects. We will look at odd and even numbers and whether or not we can share them into equal groups. We will practise sharing out given groups of objects into fair and even groups. As well as this, we will be exploring practical use of ordinal numbers from 1\textsuperscript{st} to 10\textsuperscript{th}. During Week 6, we will be doing lots of group work, games and assessment in preparation for Parent Teacher Interviews in Week 8.

**Investigations:** In line with our focus on Book Week, we will be using texts to give us ideas for role-play, writing our own stories, imagining interesting settings for texts and surveying the class on their favourite books.

**Other:** We can’t wait for Book Week! We will be talking a lot about how much we love books, our favourite characters and, most importantly, we will be doing lots of reading.

### Level 2 (Year 1 & 2)

**Literacy:**
This week we are searching for information during our reading sessions with nonfiction texts. We are searching for specific facts, noticing and using readers’ tools such as the contents page and index page and rereading to confirm what we’ve read. Next week we move onto practising the skill of Summarising during our reading sessions in readiness for our explicit writing week on Information Reports. We will identify important ideas in a text and report them in an organised way, both orally and written. Each class will undertake word studies based on the classroom sound focus and in our handwriting sessions we will be practising the formation and direction of the letters, w u v y j and the number 4.

During our explicit week on information reports we will be:
- Understanding the purpose and identifying the features of an information report
- Using the structure of an information report
- Making connections between description text and information reports

Our speaking and listening focus is using topic specific vocabulary when discussing ideas in small groups and with the whole class.

**Maths:**
Our focus this week is Location. We will be revising location words such as left, right, between, under etc. We will be giving and following directions accurately and understanding maps and why and how we use them. We will be using a grid to read a map and constructing our own informal maps.

The following week is Statistics and Probability. Our lesson foci are:
- The likelihood of certain events occurring
- The language of Chance
- The most effective way to collect and present data
- How to interpret, understand and explain the data collected

**Investigations:**
We will be talking about and working on showing appropriate behaviours for maintaining positive social relationships and reviewing the appropriate steps to solve simple conflicts.

**Sustainability:**
We will be investigating…
- Where the pipes, taps and drains are inside and outside our school?
**Level 3 (Year 3 & 4)**

**Literacy:**
During reading sessions Year 3 will be focusing on the comprehension strategy of inferring, developing their skills to read between the lines through written and visual text. Writing will involve a continued focus on Poetry ensuring students are familiar with the features of and language used in this text type. The Year 4 students will continue to develop their summarising skills and connect this to synthesising, using the skills of connecting their prior and learnt knowledge to their own understandings. Students will continue to explore writing an information report. Using planning templates, students will focus on their researching skills and the ability to rewrite information in their own words.

**Maths:**
The Year 3 students will begin their investigation into the concept of Fractions and Decimals. This will be explored through the use of concrete materials and by making connections to fractions and decimals used in everyday life. After a consolidation of addition and subtraction strategies and formal algorithms, the Year 4s begin their next investigation into Statistics and Probability. They will be exploring the language of chance, the use of this in everyday life, fair and unfair tests and representing collected data in a variety of ways.

**Inquiry:**
After camp, the Year 3 students will continue their exploration of the learning intentions within their subject focus, Australian History: First People. Year 4 will continue to investigate Australian History, participating in the incursion ‘History Box’ on Wednesday 13th August, having the opportunity to learn through a variety of hands on activities. Students will begin to develop their Education Research Projects, progressing through the planning and researching phases.

**Other:**
We will be celebrating Book Week beginning Monday 18th August. Activities include Level 3 Book Swap, book character dress-up day and parade, and an author visit by Felice Arena. Year 4 students will be participating in Hoop Time on Tuesday 19th of August. Teachers will remind students of their groups by the end of week 5. Parent helpers are welcome, please contact Amy if you can help on the day.

**Level 4 (Year 5 & 6)**

**Literacy:** During reading sessions grades 5 and 6 will be finishing our focus on the comprehension strategy of synthesising. We will be using the skills that we have been developing to investigate the ways in which we draw together what we have read to develop our perspectives about our own lives.

During writing sessions grades 5 and 6 will be finishing our focus on explanation texts. We will draw together our learning to plan, draft, edit and publish our own explanation texts.

**Maths:** Grade 5 classes are finishing our focus on multiplication and division and will begin our new unit on data and statistics. We will pose questions to collect categorical and numerical data through observations and surveys. We will then use that data to create a variety data displays such as column graphs.

Grade 6 are finishing our unit on data and statistics by summarising measures of centre and spread by calculating the mean, median, mode and range for sets of data. We will then move on to our geometry unit where will begin by looking at the properties of 3 dimensional shapes and we will construct pyramids and prisms.

**Inquiry:** Grade 5 classes are continuing to learn about the solar system by looking at data and different models and representations of the distance and size in space. In week 6 we will begin to formulate our own questions for our research projects.

Grade 6 classes are continuing to learn about physical and chemical changes and how all substances are made of particles. We will continue to explore the different states of matter and what happens when a change of state occurs. In week 6 we will also begin to formulate our own questions for our research projects.
Dear Parents/Guardians,

Parent/Teacher interviews will be held on: **Thursday 28th August from 3:40pm until 7:30pm.**

You can now book interviews at times that suit your family best.

Go to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) and follow these simple instructions.

**BOOKINGS OPEN MONDAY 11th August in the afternoon**

**BOOKINGS CLOSE FRIDAY 22nd August at 5:00pm**

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**Go to**


**Enter THIS school event code.**

Then follow the 3 simple steps.

1. **Enter your details**
2. **Choose teachers**
3. **Choose times**

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When you click *finish*, your interview timetable will be emailed to you automatically - **check your junk mail folder** if you do not receive your email immediately.

You can return to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) at any time, and change your interviews - until bookings close.

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**BOOKINGS OPEN Monday 11th August SO THAT ALL FAMILIES MAY BOOK AT THE SAME TIME**

For parents that don’t have access to the internet at home, at work, at a friend’s house or on their phones, you can still make bookings by either calling the office or your child’s teacher and they can access the times for you.

Interviews are **strictly 10mins** and spaces are limited. If you require more time, please contact your teacher directly to make alternative arrangements. We understand that for some parents, this date may not be suitable and classroom teachers may be available at other times and days for you, such as before or after school. If this is the case, please check the times of availability on School Interviews Online or contact your child’s teacher directly to make alternative arrangements.

If you have more than one child at school and are making bookings across the day for various teachers, please leave time between meetings to allow for moving to the different rooms.

Parents can change their interview bookings, any time prior to the closing date, by re-visiting the [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) website, and using the event code. Parents wishing to change their interview times after the closing date should contact the office or class teacher directly.

If you have any problems, please contact me directly or the office staff and we will endeavour to assist you.

Regards,

Nicole Richards
Assistant Principal