Dear Parents

Open Door Policy
As stated in previous newsletters my door is always open to meet with parents on any issue no matter how small. For many of you, your first port of call will be your classroom teacher. If you have concerns that need attention beyond your classroom teacher, of course Nicole Richards and Ariana Peters can meet with you. However, please feel free to make me your first port of call for anything at all. Whoever manages your concern I will always be fully briefed and involved. The welfare and learning of your children will always be my highest priority.

Elwood College Survey
Elwood College as part of the HUB have developed a survey which I would ask all parents to take part in. Rhonda Holt the College Principal and Elwood College School Council is very interested in identifying the factors that you use to select a secondary school and in particular what influences your choice. It is a short survey with the link attached below.


Parent Learning Walks
Parent learning walks will commence next week. When conducting the walks I will take you on a tour of our school to witness learning first hand. We will visit classes from Prep to Grade 6 so that you see the progression of learning across the school and see firsthand the programs and philosophies we talk about. Literacy, Numeracy and Inquiry learning will be a focus as well as experiencing our wonderful school tone. Learning walks will take approximately 1 1/2 hours with a thirty minute debrief at the end.

The first learning walk will be next Wednesday 3 September at 9:00am. Call the school office to book your spot. Future learning walks will take place every two weeks, contact the office to book for any of these dates.

NAPLAN
NAPLAN results will be made available to schools early next week. Individual student reports will be sent home before the end of term.

The school does two main things with the NAPLAN data. Firstly we compare our student data with NAPLAN results to see if individual students have performed as expected, not as well as expected or better than expected. This gives us a greater understanding of our students. Parents of students who have not performed as well as expected will be contacted prior to the reports going home.

The other main focus of NAPLAN allows us to reflect on the programs we run to see if there are areas of concern we need to address as a school. We go through an intensive review process of analysis after results are made available. Changes are made to our literacy and numeracy strategies, and approaches to support our students if necessary.

Parent Meetings
Parent Teacher meetings are taking place this week. These important meetings should link learning goals identified in the half year reports with learning progress in Term 3 as well as identify learning goals for the rest of the year.

If you cannot make these meetings please email your classroom teacher to ensure you meet before the end of term.
House Sport
Our House Athletic sports were held on Monday and Tuesday with much activity, great sportsmanship, excitement and fierce competition. The overall winners were Denis with Paterson taking out the House Spirit Award.

A big thank you to Amy for her excellent organisation and enthusiasm to make the event such a success. Without the support of our many parents, staff, student teachers and Elwood College students the days would not have been able to run. We are very grateful for the unwavering support of our community.

Our Interschool Athletics team will compete on Friday at the Balclava District Athletics Carnival at Sandringham Athletics Centre. I wish all competitors the best of luck in their events.

Dandelion
As reported in the Community Link last week Geoff at Dandelion restaurant on Ormond Road, has generously decided to donate the $10 from corkage on Tuesday and Wednesday nights to the Kitchen Garden Program. The money raised will pay for the replacement of the 4 ovens in the kitchen. This is an incredible donation and will allow us to replace the original ovens which are struggling to work as well as they need to. Your support of this sponsorship would be greatly appreciated.

Art Show
The art competition to find art work for our billboards and brochures has concluded. We had over 100 fantastic entries from Elwood PS with many art pieces worthy winners. The winners will be announced in next weeks Community Link and soon be seen on prominent billboards.

Book Week
Book Week was an outstanding success with the book parades, book swaps, mystery readers, author visits, Grandparents Day and the Read-A-Thon making for a week full of excitement and a huge literacy focus in all classrooms. Congratulations to Brooke for organising such an excitement packed week.

Planning for 2015
To help with planning for next year if you won’t be at EPS next year could you please fill out the form below or contact the school office. Students currently in Grade 6 are NOT required to complete one. Student movement impacts on staffing and class size which we plan for late Term 3/early in Term 4.

Rob Csoti
Principal
Lost Property -
Help Stop the Waste
Lost Property …Where is it? … There is a light blue wheelie bin located in the Senior School past the School Office & another bin in the Junior School near the entrance to the JLC.

We have a mini mountain of lost property at the moment. The good news is that lots of it is named. Thank you, as this makes the return of property possible.

Anyone who has searched through the overflowing bin in the JLC will agree that the number of unclaimed items is amazing.

We need a big effort from students with support from parents and teachers to turn this around and reduce the waste. It is important for students to learn to be responsible by taking care of their things.

The unnecessary purchase of additional uniform items is actually contributing to environmental waste. Dilya Williams, director of sustainable fashion at the London College of Fashion, says: 'We are buying four times as many clothes as we were less than ten years ago. There’s been a cultural shift and the emphasis is now on getting a quick fix, then throwing items away.' Daily Mail 18/8/14

School uniforms are not a fashion item but they can quickly become waste.

We don’t want to unnecessarily contribute to landfill.

The best solution is for items to never reach Lost Property.

Please encourage our children to develop the habit of looking after their own things. They need to be the ones to pick up their belongings and take them with them at home and at school.

“Look before you leave,” is the prompt that school staff will use when students are on the move.

Please do what you can to help.

EPS Environment Team

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: Seeing it through Being persistent is easier said than done … you need self-confidence, dedication and discipline. Once you move closer to your goals and success … not only do people around you support and encourage you … all of a sudden you can believe in yourself even more!

That’s the thing about being persistent and seeing it through……sometimes you may have to work hard at a goal or activity without seeing instant results … sometimes you don’t see results for a very long time, yet you keep moving forward any way. Have patience, the results will come … it’s a matter of time.

How do you see things through when it is tough?

- First of all you must be persistent and if you feel that it’s the right thing to do, keep trying!
- Be determined. Know what you would like the outcome to look like…. picture yourself reaching your goal … enjoying the success
- Believe in your goal, all the time, every time. Because if you don’t … it’s less than likely that you will keep going when things get tough. Don’t let others question your goal and have conversations with friends who support you

Once you put faith in yourself to see it through… it’s not long before others start to see that too. By being persistent and seeing it through … you succeed eventually … and then start to inspire people … your actions convince them to have a go at their dreams too.

YOU CAN DO IT!

Manners Matters

Respecting Property – Yours and others

Around our school, our home and the homes of our friends, there are many things we use that make our life more enjoyable. At home it may be the television, the stereo or computers. At school it may be sports equipment, the POD, art materials or other equipment in the yard. Whatever we use, we need to look after, not just for ourselves but because others like to use these things as well.

Respecting property – yours and others - shows everyone that we are thoughtful, considerate and friendly children. All part of being an Elwood Kid.

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?
27 August: National Meals on Wheels Day
National Meals on Wheels Day is an opportunity to celebrate the 78,700 volunteers that contribute to their community.

31 August: A Walk in the Park for Parkinson's Victoria
Join us for a leisurely, non-competitive 4km (return route) walk, or 2km shortcut, along Melbourne's picturesque Yarra River and celebrate the lives of family and friends who have been touched by Parkinson's. The day's activities begin in Federation Square at 8.30am and conclude at approximately 2.30pm. The Walk begins at 11.00am sharp.

31 August - 6 September: Legacy Week
Legacy Week is an important fundraising day for many Australians. Over 100,000 war widows and 1900 children and people with disabilities benefit from the money raised. Many Australians regard this as one of the best times to remember the sacrifice made by many Australian soldiers and their families.

31 March - 1 September: Social September
Social September encourages us all to press pause in September - disconnect from our digital lives and reconnect with each other, and ourselves. The aim is to create spaces for face-to-face social connection, promoting positive mental health and wellbeing.

1-7 September: Spina Bifida Awareness Week
Spina Bifida Awareness Week aims to increase awareness of the disease that affects roughly 5,000 Australians.

1-30 September: Save the Koala Month
Save the Koala Month aims to raise awareness and funds for the conservation of wild koalas and their habitats.

1-30 September: Foster Care Month
The primary aim of Foster Care Month is to raise the profile of fostering in the wider community by promoting the great work done by existing substitute care services in both the Government and non-Government sectors. The month also creates an opportunity to focus on the secondary aim of increasing recruitment by highlighting the ongoing need for the recruitment of appropriate foster care families.

3 September: National Flag Day
Australian National Flag day celebrates the anniversary of the Australian Flag, first flown in 1901.

5 September: International Day of Charity
Poverty persists in all countries of the world, regardless of their economic, social and cultural situation, particularly in developing countries. In recognition of the role of charity in alleviating humanitarian crises and human suffering within and among nations, as well as of the efforts of charitable organizations and individuals, including the work of Mother Teresa, the General Assembly of the United Nations in its resolution A/RES/67/105PDF document designated the 5th of September, the anniversary of the death of Mother Teresa, as the International Day of Charity.

7 September: Father's Day
The best day to celebrate all fathers across the world and to show your appreciation for them.

11 September: R U OK? Day
Are You Ok Day is an annual national day of action that aims to get Australians, right across the entire spectrum of society, connecting with friends and loved ones, by reaching out to anyone doing it tough and simply asking: "Are you ok?" talking about suicide with someone at risk actually reduces the chances of them taking their life. It is the one thing we can all do to make a real difference. R U OK? Day is about prevention, preventing little problems turning into big problems.

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

Nicole Richards … Assistant Principal

Garden News
Spring is in the air and we have our first blossoms on the fruit trees in the garden.
Drop by and check out changes in the native garden and frog bog area when you are next passing through.

The next holiday period is fast approaching and there are still vacancies for chicken carers over the break. The job involves visiting the chickens to give them fresh water and food and to collect the eggs. For more information contact me at bulling.kathleen.k@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Kate Bulling

**Holiday Program at Elwood Primary for Kids & TEENs**

Team Holiday is a multi-award winning Vacation Care Service now operating at Elwood Primary School. We offer two programs, one for 5-12 year olds and the other for 10-15 year olds, the later offering awesome TEEN day adventures and overnight camps. We’ll be operating Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm in the Junior Hall of EPS. All children and teens from any school welcome.

All programs are fully rebatable for Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebates, which means you only pay half, if not less!

Staff are fully-qualified, Working With Children Checked and are either teachers or studying in the field…not to mention great fun!

For more information, please visit [www.teamholiday.com.au](http://www.teamholiday.com.au) or call our friendly staff on 03 9532 0366.

**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.

**Elwood College On-Line Survey**

I would kindly ask parents to assist Elwood College with an online survey it is undertaking.

The college specifically wants to hear from parents with primary school-aged children to better understand their influences when choosing a secondary college.

Elwood College is the local government secondary school for many of our students, so this is a great opportunity to tell the college what you want for your child’s Year 7-12 education.

The survey will take five minutes and can be completed anonymously:


To find out more about Elwood College visit [www.elwood.vic.edu.au](http://www.elwood.vic.edu.au)

Warm regards

Rhonda Holt
Principal
Elwood College

Attachments:
Nude Food Guide by 1K
What’s Happening at EPS - Week 7 & 8 September Calendar Calling All Bakers Team Holiday x 2
Did you know, you do not need to put Gladwrap around your sandwich? They will stay fresh on their own.

You can make your own tasty snacks instead of buying things in packets.

Containers are very good for putting snacks inside.

Lunchboxes with little sections are great for delicious bits and pieces!

You can bring tomato sauce in a container instead of ordering it from the bakery.

You can wash and re-use snap lock bags.

You can spoon yogurt into containers from a big tub instead of buying lots of small ones.
What’s happening during weeks 7 & 8
at Elwood Primary School?

Level 1 (Prep)

Literacy: This week in reading we will be discussing fluency when we read and looking at how we can change our voice when we notice talking marks. We will be looking at our ‘chunking monkey’ reading strategy and discussing how we can break words into chunks to help us decode them. We will be talking about friends during writing this week, listing characteristics that our friends have and why we like our friends. In week 8 we will be writing recounts after our visit to Collingwood Children’s Farm.
Maths: Throughout week 7 we will be exploring shapes in particular 3D shapes! We will be discussing the characteristics of 3D shapes and what makes them different to 2D shapes. We will be learning the names of some common 3D shapes and will be making our own 3D shapes using play dough and sticks! In week 8 we will be working on collecting data and graphing we will be looking at how to pose a good question, how to collect information and the features of a graph. The children will have the opportunity to pose their own questions, collect data and to transfer this into simple bar graphs.
Investigations: During Investigations this week we will be looking at our Manners Matter Focus which is respecting property (yours, mine and ours). In the lead up to our excursion to Collingwood Children’s Farm we will be discussing farm animals and we will be exploring the Collingwood Children’s Farm rules so we are well prepared for our visit.
Other: We are super excited that our first excursion to Collingwood Children’s Farm is coming up in week 8. Prep S, Prep R and Prep H will be going to the farm on Wednesday the 3rd September and Prep M and Prep J will be going on Thursday the 4th of September. Don’t forget to wear your gumboots! Thank you to all the Grandparents and special friends that came along to our book parade last Wednesday. We had a wonderful day showing you all our classrooms and school.

Level 2 (Year 1 & 2)

Maths:
We continue to focus on Statistics and Probability. We will be looking at the most effective way to collect and present data and how to interpret, understand and explain the data we’ve collected. The following week we are revisiting Multiplication. We will be practicing a variety of strategies to solve multiplication problems such as skip counting, repeated addition and arrays. We will use the x symbol when writing multiplication number sentences and practice the automatic recall of number facts from 2, 5 and 10 multiplication tables.
Literacy:
This week we will be identifying letter patterns related to our whole class spelling focus, correctly forming the letters h, I, J, k and working through the whole writing cycle for our information reports. During our reading sessions we will be summarising factual information into our own words, recognising the authors’ intended purpose and identifying descriptive language and discuss how it adds enjoyment to books. Our speaking and listening focus is using topic specific vocabulary when discussing our ideas.
Investigations:
Our emotional focus is the discussion around and practice of having ‘tough skin’ and bouncing back, this is about being resilient. Our wellbeing focus is dedicating time in the school day to reflect on something good that has happened.
Sustainability:
We will be investigating... How can we save water in the home? What affect does this have on the environment?
Level 3 (Year 3 & 4)

**Literacy:** Grade 3 classes are exploring the different features of poems and then using this knowledge to create their own pieces of poetry. During reading sessions students are particularly practising the skill of inferring; reading the hidden messages in a text.

**Maths:** During maths sessions students are exploring the concept of fractions. Students will be consolidating the notion that fractions refer to equal parts of a whole (which can be a collection or an object) and will begin to compare and order fractions. Times table fluency continues to be a focus and all Year 3 classes will be practising recalling times table facts.

**Inquiry:** During weeks 7 and 8 students will be working on developing their individual Education Research Projects (ERPs). Students will be selecting an area of our History unit to research in more depth and will then be presenting their findings. We look forward to inviting you to our EXPOs in Week 10.

**Other:** The Year 3 team would like to say a huge thank you for all of the positive feedback we have received about camp. Everyone had a great time and your feedback is greatly appreciated 😊

**Literacy:** Grade 4 classes are finishing their Information Reports. Students are researching and drafting a report on a topic of their choice and are going to be publishing this using ICT skills including inserting sound and graphics. When reading students are developing their summarising and synthesising skills. You could practise this at home by asking your child to summarise the chapter they have just read in three sentences.

**Maths:** During maths sessions students are exploring the operations of multiplication and division. Students will have opportunities to practise solving problems using both mental strategies and the formal algorithm. Times table fluency continues to be a focus and all Year 4 classes will be practising recalling times table facts.

**Inquiry:** During weeks 7 and 8 students will be working on developing their individual Education Research Projects (ERPs). Students will be selecting an area of our History unit to research in more depth and will then be presenting their findings. We look forward to inviting you to our EXPOs in Week 10.

**Other:** We are already starting to get excited about Grade 4 Camp (11th – 13th November) and have voted for which activities we’d like to do while at Lake Manyung. If you’d like to know more about camp please come to our Grade 4 Camp Info night on Wednesday 10th September at 7pm.

Level 4 (Year 5 & 6)

**Literacy:** During reading sessions, grade 5 and 6 classes will be exploring how authors develop characters across a text. They will be focusing on how authors give characters personality and how characters’ actions help to show their points of view. We will then use this analysis during writing sessions to help us develop our ability to write complex characters that develop throughout our narratives.

**Maths:** Grade 5 classes are finishing their focus on data and statistics continuing to create a variety of accurate graphs and interpreting graphs that others have made. We will then begin our unit on fractions, decimals and percentages.
Grade 6 classes are continuing our geometry unit and we will now begin focusing on angles. We will develop our ability to use a protractor to measure and compare angles in degrees and will work on classifying angles according to their sizes. We will develop our understanding of the language of angles using words such as acute, obtuse, reflex and right angled.

**Inquiry:** Grade 5 and 6 students will continue developing their own research project topics. They will complete an Educational Research Project (ERP) proposal form which will outline to their teacher what they plan to research and how their project will link to the learning intentions. They will then use classroom time and resources to work on their projects.

**Other:** The Grade 6 production rehearsals are well under way and the show is beginning to come together nicely. Meanwhile the Grade 5s and 6s are getting excited for Hoop Time next Thursday 4th September.
## September 2014

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NEXT MARKET
SATURDAY 6 SEPTEMBER

"Elwood Community Market"

"calling all CAKE BAKERS..."

THANK YOU so much to everyone who has baked for our market in the past. What an amazing sight it is, to see such a beautiful display of cakes and sweet treats (home made by family and friends) at the Elwood Community Market on Saturday mornings. So please, we need your best cakes, slices, biscuits, cupcakes, and more, again this market!!

Barbara (market committee) has created some fabulous allergy free goodies. Children with allergies won’t miss out on something yummy this market. If you want tips for allergy free baking, contact Barbara on 0417 388 318 or visit her blog at http://queenbeeaalergyfree.blogspot.com/

Wrapping and tags available from outside the kitchen on Friday’s before Market. (No nuts, unless goods are already wrapped and labelled before delivery.)
You’re invited!

Who’s welcome:
ALL KIDS
5 to 12
YEARS OLD

Where:
NEW VENUES: ASPENDALE, MUNAWADING,
WHEELERS HILL & NOBLE PARK AND MANY
OTHER GREAT LOCATIONS NEAR YOU!

When:
These SCHOOL HOLIDAYS!
MON 22ND SEPT
- FRI OCT 3RD

What’s ON:
Tube sliding, Laser tag, CLIP ‘N’ CLimb, Silent disco, Bounce, MCG tour, zoo, Frisbee golf
& much more!

www.teamholiday.com.au - 03 9532 0366
TEEN HOLIDAY
10-15 YEARS
DAILY ADVENTURES & CAMPS

You’re invited!

Who’s welcome:
All kids 10 to 15 years old

Where:
Come on a day trip, multiple days, or a camp!
We pick up from a location near your see website for all pickup points

When:
These school holidays!
Mon 22nd Sept - Fri 3rd Oct

What’s on:
Mountain boarding, tree surfing, mountain biking, laser tag, Clip ‘n’ Climb, Luna park and overnight camps!

4 new great locations: Aspendale, Noble Park, Nunawading, Wheelers Hill

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Bring friends
Make friends
Overnight camps
Day trips