Dear Parents

NAPLAN Results 2015
Our Grade 3 & 5 NAPLAN results were exceptionally high this year when compared to our normally great results.

Grade 3
- Results in Reading, Numeracy, Spelling & Punctuation and Grammar were well above the State. Writing results were above the State and much higher than 2014.
- All results were at their highest levels for the last four years.
- All results were on a par with our comparison schools.

Our Grade 3 results were very pleasing with significant growth in all literacy and numeracy scores. These results are an indication of the success of our literacy and numeracy strategies in the years leading up to Grade 3 NAPLAN testing.

Grade 5
- Results in Reading, Numeracy, Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar were significantly above the state. Writing scores were well above the state.
- All results were again at four year highs.
- All scores were on a par with our comparison schools.
- Students achieving high relative growth from Grades 3 to 5 was well above our comparison schools and shows significant value adding to our students learning during Grades 3, 4 & 5.
- This comparative data again shows the strength of our literacy and numeracy programs with our students’ learning growing at an even greater level than our comparison schools.

Grade 5 results were also very pleasing and I would like to thank our dedicated teachers throughout the school for their dedicated and comprehensive literacy and numeracy teaching.

Individual NAPLAN results will be mailed home on Friday and should be read in conjunction with your child’s report and parent teacher meeting information to gain a full picture of your child’s progress.

Attitudes to School Survey
The Attitudes to School (A survey completed by all Grade 5 & 6 students in Victoria) has arrived back at school with very strong results in all areas surveyed. Our students have given the school and in particular their Grade 5 & 6 teachers, learning environment and school culture a huge tick of approval. A summary of the data is as follows:

- Extremely high data across Grades 5 & 6.
- Higher than state and region means in all areas.
- Teaching and learning questions have increased significantly over the last three years.
- All scores have us in the 3rd and 4th percentile.

Three year Percentile Trend scores show significant growth in all survey areas including:

- **Teacher Empathy** 52% improvement over the last three years.
- **Stimulating Learning** 47% improvement over the last three years.
- **Student Motivation** 48% improvement over the last three years.

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- Student Safety 45% improvement over the last three years
- Learning Confidence 43% improvement over the last three years

Rob Csoti

Production Prop Working Bee
Thanks so much to the volunteers for giving up time on Sunday to help with painting props. We made a good start with music snacks and sunshine … they are looking awesome.

There is still plenty to do though and less and less time. If you can help out in any of the following ways it would be most appreciated;

- Come along this Saturday 29 August from 9.00am-1.00pm for as much time as you can offer, to paint placards, seagulls and bunting.

- We are in need of some light but long pieces of timber or poles (2.5—3m high) for placards and bunting

- We also need some more cardboard (large boxes flattened).

Please let me know if you can help in any of these ways—thanks for your support.

Sam Brumpton & the Production Team

Health Alert
There has been a confirmed case of Impetigo (school sores) in Grade 4. Impetigo is a rapidly spreading, contagious superficial skin infection seen mainly in children but it may occur at any age. The infection may present with mildly irritating blisters that become pustular and erode rapidly leaving a honey-crusted crust. It often appears around the nose and mouth. Local lymph nodes may be enlarged and the affected child may occasionally be acutely ill. Students can return to school after treatment has commenced and the sores must be completely covered with a watertight dressing. If you have any concerns contact your local doctor or http://ideas.health.vic.gov.au/bluebook/impetigo-info.asp.

Do you have a Centrelink card?
Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund (CSEF)
Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund payments have now been processed. Even though the closing date was last term, if you have a Centrelink benefit card and feel you may be entitled to this funding please contact the school office.

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.

Manners Matter
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.

Our Global Calendar
Our Global calendar is a way to celebrate significant cultural and environmental events and is a terrific springboard for conversations at home!
What’s on in the coming weeks?

26th 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.

28th 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.

30th August – 13th September: A Walk in the Park
A Walk in the Park is your chance to celebrate, support and empower people living with Parkinson’s. It brings together people from all walks of life - those living with Parkinson’s, families and carers, and health professionals. As Australia’s largest annual community event, A Walk in the Park is dedicated to improving the lives of people with Parkinson’s. Every dollar raised by A Walk in the Park helps to support people living with Parkinson’s in Australia. Website: www.parkinsonswalk.com.au/

1st-6th September: Spina Bifida Awareness Week
Spina Bifida Awareness Week aims to increase awareness of the disease that affects roughly 5,000 Australians. For more information www.sbfv.org.au/upcoming-events/

1st -7th September: National Asthma Week
Activities are organised to promote awareness of asthma to the general community - and highlight ways to help people manage asthma. Each state/territory foundation organises individual events and is run during the first week of Sept each year. Website: www.asthma.org.au/

1st -7th 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.

Photo: The Elwood PS Ski Team before the competition begins at Mt Buller.
Full details and their results in next week’s Community Link.
The Month of 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.
Website: www.fosterabrighterfuture.com.au/

Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
Childhood Cancer Awareness Month helps to spread the message about childhood cancer in order to help more Australian families who have children with cancer.

5th 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.

6th September: Father's Day
The best day to celebrate all fathers across the world and to show your appreciation for them or a special male in our lives – uncles, brothers, Grandpa and mates.
Enjoy your upcoming weeks and whatever you may be celebrating!

Nicole Richards … Assistant Principal

Photo: Grade 1D Investigations celebrating Book Week

Attachments:
What’s Happening at EPS - Week 7 & 8
Camp Australia

Intention for Next Year
I wish to advise that my child/children will NOT be returning to Elwood Primary School next year.

Student/s Name/s & Grade/s:_____________________________________________________________

Reason: We would very much appreciate your comments/feedback to assist with future planning.

☐ Moving House: _________________________________________________________________

☐ Family moving Interstate: _________________________________________________________

☐ Transferring to another Victorian State School:
   Name of School (to assist with transfer documents): ________________________________

☐ Transferring to Private School: Name of School: _________________________________

☐ Other: ____________________________________________ I am happy for a member of the school staff to contact me.

Parent Signature: ____________________________ Date: ____________________________

PLEASE RETURN TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
What's happening during Weeks 7 & 8 at Elwood Primary School?

Level 1 (Prep)

Literacy: When reading, we will be learning about how we change our speech when we notice that a character is talking. We will be learning about the letter blends ‘gr’ and ‘fl’. In Big Write we will be writing about our wonderful learning experiences from the Collingwood Children’s Farm, Father’s Day and the arrival of Spring!

Maths: We will be focusing on learning about how and why we label parts of 3D shapes, as well as trying to make our own 3D shape models using play-doh and matchsticks. In Week 8 we will be starting to learn about subtraction by estimating, comparing and separating sets of things and continuing to work on our numbers from 1-20 with a focus of teen numbers.

Investigations: We will be starting to learn lots of interesting facts about farm animals, in preparation for our excursion to the Collingwood Children’s Farm.

Other: Thank you to all of the family members who attended Grandparents Day and the Book Parade last week! It was marvellous!

Level 2 (Grades 1 & 2)

Our maths focus are length for this week and then mass next week. In length we will be comparing lengths of familiar objects and identifying measurement attributes. We will use direct and indirect comparisons to describe which is longer and explain reasoning in everyday language. We will be using both informal units and formal metric units when measuring. During mass students will use balance scales to determine whether the mass of different objects is more, less or about the same.

Our VCOP focus in writing this fortnight is punctuation with a closer look at how we use talking marks correcting in our writing. Our whole school cold write is a narrative and our handwriting letters are letters with tails, which include f, g, j, p, q, y, z.

During reading we are inferring and synthesising. Inferring will include: Recall key ideas from a text Recognise literal and implied meaning in texts Identifying the characters feeling and motives through a range of reading strategies Providing evidence for your inferences Talk about the pictures to interpret a problem or a characters’ feelings Look for changes in characters over time and identify reasons for change Infer the big ideas or message (theme) of the text.

Synthesising will include: Talk about what I already know about the topic/story I am reading Look for new information in the text or pictures while reading Remember new information I have learnt from the text to discuss later Demonstrate learning new content from reading.

Our Environment/Sustainability focus continues to be Nude Food Mondays and this fortnight we will be talking about what belongs in the recycle bin.
Level 3 (Year 3 & 4)

Literacy: For Reading during week 7, Grade 3 and 4 will be enjoying Book Week activities. In week 8, Grade 3 will start Summarising, where they read texts, identify the main ideas and put them together to make a summary. Grade 4 will continue learning about Questioning and Persuasion. This involves asking questions to clarify meaning and improve their knowledge of a text. With persuasion, we are identifying the author’s techniques to persuade and why they are effective.

For Writer’s Workshop Grade 3 will start a focus on up-leveling. In week 7 and 8, Grade 4 will continue writing persuasive texts with a focus on openers. We also have a ‘Narrative Cold Write’ in week 8.

Maths: The Grade 3’s will be finishing up Volume and Capacity and moving on to a unit on Addition and Subtraction. They will be looking at the relationship between the two and even to multiplication and division. They will be revising the process of addition and subtraction and using strategies to improve their mental computation. For example, the split, round-up and/or near double strategies. The students will also use these processes to solve problems that may include fractions and decimals. In Maths the Grade 4’s will be finishing up Addition and Subtraction and for the rest of the term, be looking at Fractions and Decimals.

Inquiry: With a lot of time spent on Production practice, Grade 3 are slowly introducing next term’s Inquiry topic of Aboriginal History, with an excursion towards the end of term. We have also been incorporating this topic into our Literacy program. Grade 4 will continue to touch on the topic of Biology this term, looking at life cycles and sustainability. We have been able to incorporate this into garden sessions too.

Level 4 (Year 5 & 6)

Literacy: In Reading, grade 5 classes are finishing our unit on analysing literary texts. We will finish up by exploring point of view. We will learn about the first, second and third person point of view and analyse why authors choose to use a particular point of view. We will also investigate the use of multiple perspectives. Grade 6 classes are finishing our unit on analysing non-fiction texts. We are continuing to learn about the 5 main non-fiction structures: description, time/order sequence, problem and solution, compare/contrast, and cause and effect.

In Writing, the Grade 5 classes are finishing our poetry unit. The students are continuing to write different types of poems and publishing these in different ways. Grade 6 classes are continuing to learn about explanation texts. Having immersed ourselves in the structure and language features, we are now brainstorming topics and planning our own explanation texts.

Maths: Grade 5 and 6 classes are continuing to learn about fractions, decimals and percentages. Grade 5 classes are learning different strategies to add and subtract fractions with the same denominator and will then focus on reading, writing, comparing and ordering decimal fractions. Grade 6 classes are looking at adding, subtracting and multiplying decimal numbers and using rounding and estimation to check the reasonableness of our answers.
ELWOOD OSHC HIGHLIGHTS

Next week we will be fundraising for The Smith Family Back 2 School Foundation as part of the tCAF program within Camp Australia. tCAF, is the Camp Australia Foundation, where every Camp Australia program throughout the nation is asked to participate in a charity fundraising in Term 3 each year. The Smith Family Back 2 School is a charity where they help the most disadvantaged communities around Australia. The charity helps children by giving them the right support so they can keep up with their classmates, develop confidence and are given the best chance to succeed in life.

We will have a jar with Lego in it and ask you to guess the number of Lego blocks there are within the jar. For every dollar raised, I will be riding a kilometre. Thank you in advance to all of the people that will donate for our cause.

A BIG thank you to Kyla B’s family who have generously donated a TV to OSHC and also a Wii console for the children at OSHC.

Update on Sharlene:

Sharlene recently moved up in the company as a ‘Regional Co-ordinator in training’ that lead her to an intensive 8 week course. Last week on Wednesday the 19th of August, she was given a position as a ‘Regional Co-ordinator’! Everyone at Elwood Primary OSHC would like to congratulate her on her newly appointed position in the company.

WINTER ACTIVITY DONATIONS

Moving into the colder, wetter months, we will be spending much more of our time indoors. There are plenty of activities and resources we offer; however, the program is always looking to provide more games/activities. If any families have board games, foosball tables, mini pool tables or would like to donate any other indoor activities to OSHC we would very much appreciate it.

Please contact So on 0422 005 489 to make arrangements.

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visit www.campaustralia.com.au

we make kids smile
Elwood Community Market

Feb 7th  Aug 1st
Mar 14th  Sept 5th
May 2nd  Nov 7th
June 13th  Dec 5th

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