Dear Parents

Literacy and Numeracy at EPS
I would like to take this opportunity to reassure parents that Literacy and Numeracy continues to be our core business. Every teacher including our Leadership Team has the development of each child’s learning in these core areas as their Number 1 priority at Elwood PS.

For our students to thrive in all of their learning, in particular Literacy and Numeracy, we combine a number of foci proven to provide students with the best teaching and learning outcomes, welfare (student and family), student engagement, parent involvement, specialist teaching areas, learning environment (outdoor spaces, classroom set-up etc)

We spend approximately 10 hours on explicit literacy instruction (reading, writing, spelling & punctuation and grammar) and 5 hours on explicit numeracy every week. This is 15 out of the 25 hours that your child has at school each week. Embedding Literacy and Numeracy into inquiry units, the Development Curriculum, Kitchen Garden and specialist session is also an integral part of our approach. Our Literacy and Numeracy planners are extensive with all teachers following the same agreed strategies and approaches in their grade level to ensure consistency across the school.

As reported earlier, we revised our Writing, Spelling and Punctuation and Grammar programs in response to our Grade 3 NAPLAN scores, as this was an area we didn’t perform as strongly as we would like. We believe our current strategies are sound and best practice. We have however made some adjustments which we believe will make for much stronger results and further develop all students from P-6.

We have already started this process with the trialing of the VCOP writing program which will compliment Writer’s Workshop.

Other key strategies are:

- The implementation of timed writing in all classes in the school. Each fortnight, students will start and complete a piece of writing in a set time to build their writing stamina and self-editing techniques.
- A whole school focus on raising expectations in relation to self-correction, neatness, spelling and punctuation in drafts and published pieces.
- The development of a whole school Spelling Scope and Sequence including the implementation of mandatory spelling requirements. Students will be expected to be able to spell minimum sets of words from the Oxford Plus most used word list.
  - Prep: Working towards spelling 30 of the first 100 (Popcorn words)
  - Grade 1: Working towards spelling the first 100
  - Grade 2: Working towards spelling the first 307
  - Grade 3 & 4: Working towards spelling the first 404
  - Grade 5 & 6: Consolidating the first 404 and extending their spelling further using the Oxford Word lists extension.

Websites:

- www.elwoodprimary.vic.edu.au
- Scott Street, Elwood Vic 3184
- Phone : 9531 2762
- Fax : 9531 5497
- Community Market (Bookings) 0422 976 276

22 October 2014
No. 17

CALENDAR

Thursday 23 October
Tabloid Sports - Prep to Grade 2
Elwood Learning Hub Art Show
7.15pm School Council

Friday 24 October
Level 4 Summer Sport - Gr 5/6

Monday 27 October
Werribee Zoo - Grade 2
Como House - Grade 1

Wednesday 29 October
Ceres - Prep
Bike Ed - Grade 4
Grade 6 Production - Crikey, it’s a Good Yarn!!!

Thursday 30 October
Bike Ed - Grade 4
Grade 6 Production - Crikey, it’s a Good Yarn!!!

Friday 31 October
Bike Ed - Grade 4

Saturday 1 November
Community Market
1M, 1R, 1S, 2J & 2L rostered

Monday 3 November
Normal School Day
Uniform Shop Closed
3.00pm Assembly - Grade 2 choir performing

Tuesday 4 November
Melbourne Cup Day
Public Holiday
No School

Website:

www.elwoodprimary.vic.edu.au

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• These spelling expectations will go hand in hand with our normal spelling program.

We will continue to work in partnership with you at home in raising the standards, expectations and outcomes of our students in Literacy and Numeracy.

**Art Show**
The art show is tomorrow night. We are all very excited and full of pride. The work on display is truly first class and a credit to our art teachers and your children. Don’t forget that food will be available at both Elwood PS and Elwood College to enjoy whilst you are on your trek through the Hub. The show begins at 5:00pm at Elwood Secondary College and Elwood Primary School and 3:30pm at Poets Grove. The art show will be open on Friday at Elwood PS until 12:30pm for parents and grades to visit as well.

**Library/Information Resource Centre**
The library is now open with students commencing classes this week. The facility will now be called an Information Resource Centre with information gained from both books and computers.

For the rest of 2014 classes will have normal library sessions each week and they will also visit the computer lab a number of times this term in readiness for 2015. These computer classes will be taken by Carolyn Allison our ICT specialists.

All parents are welcome to visit the Information Resource Centre at the start or end of the day for a tour of the new space.

Currently we have 1,569 books that are overdue which is about $31,000 worth of books. Please have a look around at home, under your bed, in your shelves, and in your car to see if you can find any school library books. There will be a box at the front office to put them in, you can bring them to the new Library/ICT area, or you can give them to your teacher. We are looking forward to seeing lots of our overdue books back in the library for others to borrow.

**Kitchen Garden**
After an extensive search and interview process we are excited to announce that **Catherine Sullivan** has been appointed as our new Kitchen Specialist. Catherine will conduct our Wednesday to Friday classes and join Janet to make a very strong kitchen team. Catherine has extensive cooking experience and is a trained teacher with a strong environmental focus.

**SAKG Foundation Visit**
The SAKG foundation paid us a visit last Thursday with some special visitors. Their thank you letter is below which makes interesting reading.

> “On behalf of Ange and myself, I would sincerely like to thank Elwood Primary School for hosting our special Boeing visitors yesterday. It was wonderful to tour such a thriving garden and to be treated to such a delicious meal! I would especially like to thank Janet and Kate for assisting with our photo shoot and for making Maureen and Melanie feel so welcome in their kitchen and garden classes. The school should be very proud of the students in the Program classes, as well as the two Grade Six leaders who accompanied us. Maureen and Melanie both expressed how impressed they were by the student’s enthusiasm and knowledge.

> It is so valuable for our Partners to experience the Program first-hand and both Maureen and Melanie left feeling very inspired by the Program at Elwood.

> Thank you again for all your effort. I look forward to visiting a class again soon.

Kind regards
Siobhan

Siobhan Macken
Partnership Coordinator
Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation”
Visitors from Cairns

Last Wednesday we had four visitors from the Yarrabah State School near Cairns [<http://yarrabahss.eq.edu.au>], including their Principal, one of the teachers, a Queensland education department representative, a school councillor as well as the Mayor of the Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council – Cr. Errol Neal.

I spent a full day at their school in July and was very impressed and taken by this indigenous community doing their best to educate their children in very trying circumstances. The group toured the school, spoke to our staff, visited the SAKG program and a number of classes.

A highlight for the group was a visit to 2A where the students explained their involvement in the Indigenous Children’s Literacy in remote communities program.

Simon the Principal is looking at literacy and numeracy programs, how to engage parents and programs such as the kitchen garden to engage students and the community with the school.

A group of “grannies” (female elders) from Yarrambah will visit EPS next year to share stories and dances with our students.

Family Statements

The end of the year is approaching fast and payment of some school charges for your child or children may have been overlooked. The school relies heavily on this money to provide classroom supplies and the excellent programs that our families have come to expect. Family statements will be sent home shortly and payment to finalize your account would be appreciated.

Rob Csoti ... Principal

You Can Do It!

Term 4 : Confidence

Confidence means...feeling I can do it. Confidence also means not being afraid to make mistakes or to try something new. Confidence also means standing up tall and speaking with a clear voice (not too loud, not too soft).

Work confidence means choosing to participate in new, difficult activities or classes, doing hard work without asking for help, offering to take responsibility and trying problems and answering questions when not too sure of the answer.

Social confidence means meeting someone new, sharing ideas with classmates, speaking in a clear voice so that you are heard and starting up conversations.

This fortnight, we focus on Body Language.

We communicate much of what we feel and think through speech, but that is not the only way.

Body Language is also a very powerful way of communicating. How we stand, how we look at others, how we show them we are listening, the look on our face, often says more than words.

At school this fortnight, we will consider the different ways you can use your body language to communicate.

How do you show someone that you are listening?
How do you show people that you are friendly?
What types of body language are negative?
What can we learn from other people’s body language?

Think about how you use your body language and practise those types of things that encourage friendly behaviour.

YOU CAN DO IT!

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 : _____________________________

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

☐ Moving family home: _____________________________
☐ Family moving interstate: _____________________________
☐ Transferring to another Vic State School: Name of School: _____________________________
☐ 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
Manners Matters
Using Appropriate Language
Part of being a friendly and respectful Elwood Primary School kid is in using appropriate language.

The words we chose to say are often determined by the environment we are in and the people to whom we are talking. Good communicators understand that we need to choose language that is appropriate to various situations.

If you are speaking to your elderly aunt, you will probably choose different language from that chosen to speak to your friend.

If you met the Prime Minister, it might be a different meeting from your cousin. Similarly the language we would choose at a football match is likely to be different to that used at a family function.

Being able to work out what language is appropriate in a range of circumstances is important. We need to be aware of the needs of those around us and communicate in the best possible way.

Using the appropriate language 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?

23rd October: Diwali
Diwali is a festival of lights celebrated by Hindu, Jain and Sikh religions.

24th October: United Nations Day
This day marks the anniversary of the founding of the United Nations in 1945.

26th October: Walk for Prems
Approximately 45,000 infants are admitted to a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit or Special Care Nursery ward each year in Australia, while around 15 million babies across the world are born premature per year. All funds raised by Life's Little Treasures Foundation's family-friendly social walk will help provide families with information, support and understanding to help them with their challenging journey. For more info and activities go to: www.walkforprems.org.au

28th October: Pink Ribbon Day
Pink Ribbon Day is the Cancer Council's fundraiser aimed at helping raise awareness of breast cancer, as well as funds towards research, early prevention and patient support programs. The pink ribbon is the international symbol of support and recognition for women affected by breast cancer across the globe.
www.pinkribbonday.com.au

31st October - 1st November: Samhain
(Summer's End)
Meaning 'summers end', Samhain is an ancient Celt festival marking the beginning of winter/the Celtic new year.

Month of November: National Novel Writing Month
National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) is a fun, seat-of-your-pants approach to creative writing. On November 1, participants begin working towards the goal of writing a 50,000-word novel by 11:59 p.m. on November 30. Valuing enthusiasm, determination, and a deadline, NaNoWriMo is for anyone who has ever thought fleetingly about writing a novel.

Month of November: World Vegan Month
Ever considered going vegan, but not sure where to start? Vegan Month is dedicated to educating about vegan eating and lifestyles, and encouraging you take it a go. Take part by eating and living vegan, being kinder to the environment, stopping animal cruelty and living a healthier life!

2nd - 8th November: National Others Week
Held from the first Sunday in November, NOW encourages people to find a way to help someone, whether it's a random act of kindness or a planned activity. Because as the NOW motto says - life is a team sport!

Enjoy your upcoming weeks and whatever you are celebrating.
Nicole Richards … Assistant Principal

GRADE 4 BIKE ED NEED HELP
Bike ED for Grade 4 is Wed 29 (11:30am- 3:30pm), Thurs 30 and Friday 31 October (11:30-1:30pm).
I urgently need parent helpers with bikes from 2:30-3:30pm on Thursday and Friday to enable groups to go out of school and ride on bike paths to the beach. Otherwise any parent with or without a bike who can assist at any other times please email me. The more help available - the better the program is for the students.
Amy Parsons
parsons.amy.l@edumail.vic.gov.au
What’s happening during weeks 3 & 4 at Elwood Primary School?

Level 1 (Prep)

Literacy: This fortnight we will be revisiting our dotted thirds in handwriting focusing on letters z, p, f and vowels. When reading, we will be working on inferring character feelings through the use of visual and text content. We will also focus on the skill of ‘getting your lips ready’ for reading, by reflecting on known sounds for letters and blends. We will be exploring procedural writing this fortnight, with reference to our current focus on ‘gardens’ through writing steps for planting seeds and growing plants. We will also be writing reflective pieces on our experiences at CERES. An overall goal we are looking at this fortnight in writing is re-reading your work as you write to make sure your writing makes sense.

Maths: We will be focusing on addition over the following fortnight. We are developing our understandings of the symbols needed to create addition equations and the language associated with adding groups of objects together. We will be concentrating on the ‘how’ and ‘why’ of addition including our skills at using strategies such as, counting all and counting on to find a total.

Investigations: It’s been a very interesting start to Term 4 with our focus moving from gardening to mini beasts! We are investigating their physical features, habitats, diet, lifecycles and other highly interesting facts that arise about these amazing creatures.

Other: We are all very excited about our up and coming visit to CERES on 29th October in week 4.

Level 2 (Year 1 & 2)

Literacy: This fortnight we will write a piece of persuasive text. We will be exploring and using persuasive tactics, learning about the structure of persuasive text and write using personal viewpoints. During reading we will be critiquing a variety of texts by sharing our opinions about the text and illustrations, make judgements about characters or events in a text and consider how characters could have behaved differently. We will make judgements as to whether we think a text is interesting, humorous or exciting, and specify why. Our speaking and listening focus is to use language appropriate in asking for directions and for information in readiness for our excursions.

Maths: Our maths focus is Money. We will be recognising Australian coins and notes and ordering coins based on their value. We will be practising skip counting with 5s, 10s, 20s and 50s. We will be adding up groups of the same and or different coins to make a certain value, practising grouping like coins to improve efficiency when counting, rounding to the nearest dollar to estimate or check the total cost and learning about calculating change.

Investigations: Our emotional focus is showing resilience through change. Our social focus is being aware that we represent Elwood Primary when we are in public and our identity focus is to begin to recognise our contribution to the achievement of a positive learning environment in and out of the classroom.

Environment: We will be investigating what happens if a plant doesn’t have the right amount of sun, water or the correct temperature?

Excursions: Next Monday, October 27th some Grade 1 classes have their day at Como House while all the Grade 2 students will spend the day at Werribee Zoo.
**Level 3 (Year 3 & 4)**

**Literacy:** During literacy sessions Year 3 students are exploring information reports; identifying the features of these and the language used. After this reading exploration stage students will begin to research and draft their own information reports. Students will also be participating in fortnightly timed writing sessions focusing on a variety of genres to help build their writing stamina.

**Maths:** Students are investigating concepts of time; practising using the correct language and reading both analogue and digital clocks. Students will also have opportunities to solve problems telling time. The recall of times table facts continues to be a focus and students practise this skill multiple times a week.

**Inquiry:** Our inquiry sessions this term are focused on Chemistry. Students are exploring the properties of materials and investigating how materials are chosen for specific reasons based on these properties.

**Literacy:** During reading sessions students are exploring how asking questions helps them to understand the texts they are reading. We are practising this skill during whole class focused sessions, book club meetings and when reading independently. In writing, students are writing their own procedural texts; focusing on the features included and the use of imperative verbs.

**Maths:** During maths sessions students are focusing on geometry. Students will be identifying angles in the real world and naming and comparing them. Students will also investigate symmetrical patterns, shapes and pictures.

**Inquiry:** Our inquiry sessions this term are focused on Physics. Students are investigating how heat is created and transferred and are conducting experiments to further their knowledge.

**Other:** Students are starting to get very excited about Grade 4 camp (10th–12th November). Please make sure that all forms have been returned and final payments have been made.

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

**Literacy:** In reading grade 5 classes are developing their comprehension skills through visualisation. We are learning to picture the text in our minds as we read to further engage in written work and make meaning from words. During regular Book Club sessions we will practise visualising and compare and contrast our different views. Grade 6 classes are developing their ability to analyse the texts we read. We will explore the ways in which authors use literary devices such as metaphors, multiple perspectives and imagery to enhance meaning.

In writing, grade 5 students have been exploring poetry and this fortnight we will begin explicit lessons to learn how to write a variety of different kinds of poetry. Grade 6 students have been exploring information texts and this fortnight students will begin planning their own information reports. Students in both grade 5 and 6 will continue to work through the writing cycle at their own pace, improving their texts through peer and teacher conferences.

**Maths:** Grade 5 classes have consolidated their knowledge of fractions, decimals and percentages and have moved on to a Measurement Unit including Volume, Capacity and Mass. We will be measuring, ordering and comparing objects using familiar metric units. Students will learn to choose appropriate units of measurement and use scaled instruments to measure and compare amounts.

Grade 6 classes are learning about chance and probability. We are conducting chance experiments and working out the theoretical probability as well as the experimental probability. We are listing all possible outcomes for chance events and beginning to use tree diagrams to list all events in a systematic manner.

**Inquiry:** Geography is our focus for Term 4. We have begun exploring the subject through immersion activities including videos, children’s literature, iPad apps and tools such as atlases and maps. This fortnight each class will participate in a short excursion run by the Port Phillip Eco Centre. The excursion will include a walk from Elwood PS along the canal to Point Ormond where students will engage in activities that explore how humans have impacted on the local geography over time.

**Other:** The grade 6 students are putting the final touches on their production of Crikey It’s A Good Yarn! Tickets can still be purchased at http://www.trybooking.com by clicking on Buy Tickets. You can search for our show simply by typing in the word Crikey.
OSHIC NEWS
Welcome back to Term 4! There has been plenty of sunshine the last few weeks and loads of fun being had at OSHIC 😊

Recent activity highlights:
Sport: Leader tournament – We have been incorporating teamwork and team tactics in our group games, Capture the Flag, Heart and Lung dodge ball, plus a new game created by our Tuesday kids – ‘Dodge flag’ (combining the two games). Inside, we have a giant checkers game that the kids have really loved playing as well. It’s great to see the kids developing tactical skills while working cooperatively.

Art & craft: We have been utilising the last of Term 3’s resources – allowing the kids to use their imaginations and creativity with all the supplies. Clay sculptures, puppet theatres, scratch art competitions, origami, loon bands, creative writing, book creations, cellophone shape mobiles have been popular.

Role playing: The kids are encouraged to share their knowledge on topics, develop social interaction skills, spark creativity and express themselves. We have had fun acting out Mermaids on the beach and operating a cafe.

Active After School Care Program: Term 4
The Australian Government’s Active After-school Communities (ASC) program is a national initiative providing children with access to free sport and other structured physical activity programs during ASC. The programs are run by specialised coaches.

Through a positive and fun experience the aim is to help children develop a love for physical activity and sport that inspires them to keep active and join a local sporting club.

Thursday – Badminton

Staff profile
Assistant: Katie Coulter
About me:
I grew up in Phillip Island and moved to Melbourne when I finished high school. I have completed a Certificate III in Children’s Services and I’m currently studying a double Diploma in School Aged and Early Childhood Education and Care.

Children’s education has always been my passion. I plan to become a Prep teacher after I have travelled and experienced more of the world.

Award Winners:
+1 Winner
Children accumulate points for positive behaviour demonstrated at OSHIC.
Congratulations to Deidre Gaylard!

HOW TO GET STARTED
Before using our programs register online for an account. This enables you to make bookings, view your statements and manage your details anytime of the day. Registering is quick and easy. Visit www.campaaustralia.com.au/newparents

Once registered
You can make bookings and cancellations, view your statements and manage your details anytime of the day.

Save on Care
Save 50% or more on before and after school Care with the Child Care Rebate. Almost all families are eligible. To find out more call our Customer Service Team on 1300 105 343

Holiday Clubs
Don’t forget about the Camp Australia Holiday Clubs these school holidays. Use the Holiday Club Finder on the website to find the nearest program: www.campaaustralia.com.au/holidayclubs

Healthy Snacks
Afternoon tea is served daily. Menus are tailored to children’s tastes, development and nutritional needs. Afternoon tea includes a selection of yummy sandwiches and fruit. Children may also engage in fun cooking activities.

we make kids smile
www.campaaustralia.com.au
NEXT SCHOOL MARKET

Elwood Community Market 2014

Nov 1st (Saturday) 9am - 1pm

AMAZING CAKES, GOURMET BBQ, VEGETARIAN FOOD

great coffee, fresh juices, sushi

NEW & PRELOVED CLOTHING & TOYS

FRUIT 'N VEG, PLANTS 'N FLOWERS, TRASH 'N TREASURE

arts, crafts & jewellery plus much more...

Elwood Primary School
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ENQUIRIES - 0422 976 276