Dear Parents

Parent Opinion Survey
The results from the Parent Opinion Survey conducted last term have arrived back at school. Nearly all variables surveyed were well above State Primary School mean scores. The survey scores reflect continuous growth over the last three years and are an endorsement by our parents of our school.

The survey was sent to 100 randomly selected families and sent to the Department of Education & Training for collating. Parents were asked to rate the school in many areas on a seven point scale.

Survey results were as follows:
- School Improvement - well above state mean
- Approachability - well above state mean
- Teacher Morale - well above state mean
- Parent Input - well above state mean
- Behaviour Management - well above state mean
- Stimulating Learning - well above state mean
- Homework - just below state mean
- Extra Curricula Activities - well above state mean
- Transitions - well above state mean
- General Satisfaction - well above state mean
- Student Behaviour - well above state mean
- Student Safety - well above state mean

The survey compares very favourably with the student survey our Grade 5 & 6 students filled out earlier in the year. These are outstanding results for the school and are a reflection of the hard work of our staff, School Council and our parents. We have a true community where everybody works together to achieve the best outcomes for all students. Student behaviour and student safety scores were exceptionally high and reflect our tone, values and collective work of our wonderful staff and parents.

Art Show
The art show held last Thursday was an outstanding success. The quality of the work was fantastic and the presentation of our “gallery” was superb. We have so many creative and talented students who showcased their creativity and hard work with pride.

The food vans and orchestra added to the night and made it an enjoyable event for all. Seeing art pieces from Poets Grove and Elwood College enabled us to see the creative journey students go through first hand.

See the photo collage later in this newsletter.

A huge thank you needs to go to our art team of Leanne, Jo and Andrea for putting on the show and their encouragement and nurturing of all our students. I would also like to thank Bec Long who once again provided an opportunity for our students to complete an interactive art piece with our students during the art show. It is now on display in the JLC.

100 year Celebration Badge
All students from Prep – Grade 6 voted for the badge they liked the most. Congratulations to Zali C from 3N who will now have her design made into a badge to be given to all students next year and also become the 100th birthday logo. The badge will also be available for sale to parents and
visitors next year. Thank you to all students who entered the competition.

Staffing News
Poeta Hope starts family leave from this Friday. She has had a huge impact on 1P with her caring and supportive approach to her students and their families. We will miss Po but wish her all the best for the future and look forward to a visit from Po and her new baby.

Jacq Vawdrey will complete the year in 1P and we look forward to her joining the EPS family.

Sporting News
Congratulations to Mikayli B, Jones G, Hugo R and Maisy E who competed in the Division Athletics Championships last Thursday. Everyone performed magnificently. Placed results were:

Mikayli came 5th in the 100 metres
Jones came 3rd in the 1500 metres
Hugo came 1st in the 800 metres
Maisy came 1st in Shot Put

Hugo and Maisy will now compete in the State Championships later this term.

Rob Csoti

2016 Art Show
School Council Report – September meeting

School Council was held on Tuesday 13 September 2016. This meeting was held following the annual joint meeting with School Councilors from Elwood College. The joint meeting focused on the development of the Elwood College campus and future plans, beyond the current scope of works.

At our meeting, the Minutes from the various sub-committees were tabled, and no major discussion points were raised. A range of new and redrafted policies related to the new Child Safe Standards were presented to Council for ratification and will be made available for the school community to review.

Rob Csoti outlined the 2016 NAPLAN results, noting that Grade 3 and 5 students scored above or well above the state mean on most measures. Most significantly, our students demonstrated high relative growth (the growth of students between Grade 3 and 5), performing well above the state mean in all areas.

Any interested parents are welcome to attend a School Council meeting or be a part of the sub-committees. The next School Council meeting will be held on Thursday 20 October.

Kim Annesley … School Councilor

Big Write Talk Homework

“Reading and Writing floats on a sea of talk” – James Britton.

After almost two years of trialling the VCOP and Big Write program the staff and students at EPS are becoming experts in how this framework supports them in becoming the best writers they can be. I am sure parents are also developing their own routines at home to enhance their children’s writing through the “Talk Homework” element of the program. You will notice that the Talk Homework seed is communicated to parents each fortnight in a variety of ways – via email, a note home the night before or on the homework matrix at the beginning of the week. Finding time to engage in talk homework does not need to be added chore, it can be done whilst having dinner, driving to school or before bed. The philosophy behind ‘Talk homework’ is if they can’t say it, they can’t write it! The more opportunities that our students have to think and talk about their writing the more developed their ideas and language will become. Talk Homework does not require students to write a detailed plan at home. Senior students may wish to write down an opening sentence, a few dot points that outline their story or some vocabulary that will help describe their characters and setting – however this is not a requirement; JUST TALK AND LISTEN

Occasionally your child may come home with a graphic organiser to support their Talk Homework, particularly if it is linked to an information report or their inquiry project.

The next time your child comes home with Talk Homework enjoy engaging in conversation and discussing the questions that your teachers have outlined on the Homework sheet.

Have fun

Ariana Peters … Teaching and Learning Coach

Mathematic Parent Workshops

Earlier this week our two Teaching & Learning Coaches, Ariana Peters and Sara Walsh led Parent Workshops on Mathematics. Over fifty parents attended the sessions which focused on explaining effective Maths teaching, key developmental milestones, Maths vocabulary and how best to assist your child with their Maths learning.

The sessions were well received and the feedback has been very positive. Thank you to the parents that attended the sessions, we will most definitely run them again next year.

Here is a link to a great resource on how to assist your child at home with their learning: www.education.vic.gov.au/.../primary/201literacymathstips2011.pdf

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!**

*Nicole Richards & YCDI Leaders*

**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?

**22-30 October: Children's Week**
Children's Week celebrates the right of children to enjoy childhood. It is also a time for children to demonstrate their talents, skills and abilities. For info and activities go to: www.childrensweek.org.au/

**23 October: World Polio Day**
World Polio Day shines a spotlight on the importance of the global eradication of polio, and addresses the existing threat to the global community of ongoing poliovirus transmission and the risk of circulating vaccine derived polioviruses (cVDPV).

**25 October: National Kidsafe Day**
National Kidsafe Day aims to increase awareness of unintentional childhood injuries and their prevention, as well as the important work of Kidsafe - the Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia, in public education, advocacy and research into the causes and prevention of unintentional childhood injury.

**28 October: Day for Daniel (Morcombe)**
The Day for Daniel is a National Day of Action to raise awareness of child safety, protection and harm prevention. Website: www.dayfordaniel.com.au/

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

**30 October - 5 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!

**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.

**National Psychology Week**
National Psychology Week (NPW) is an APS initiative that aims to increase public awareness of how psychology can help people and communities lead healthier, happier and more meaningful lives.
6-12 November: Spinal Injury Awareness Week
Every day in Australia someone’s life changes in an instant due to a spinal cord injury. The week is relevant not only to people living with spinal cord injuries, their families and friends; but the broader community, venues and business.

Enjoy your upcoming weeks, whatever it holds or whatever you are celebrating! Don’t forget your random act of kindness during “National Others Week” and all other times too!

Nicole Richards … Assistant Principal

Attachments:
What’s Happening during Week 3 & 4 at EPS?

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

Important Notice to Families
Reminder to please make/cancel bookings in advance

Camp Australia is committed to providing the Elwood Primary School community with a quality program that is safe and fun for all children. In order to continue this, we would like to remind you to make your bookings at least 24hrs in advance and to cancel your booking if your child is not attending. Making your bookings in advance, instead of on the day casual bookings allows us to adjust our staffing and resourcing requirements as appropriate, which helps to ensure the safety of children and a high standard of care.

You can make, cancel and view your current bookings anytime through our Parent Portal at www.campaustralia.com.au or by calling our Customer Care Team on 1300 105 343.

For last minute cancellations, please call us direct to the service on 0422 005 489.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation on this important matter.

The Camp Australia Team.
What's happening during Weeks 3 & 4 at Elwood Primary School?

Level 1 (Prep)

Literacy: In Literacy this fortnight, we will be looking at the blends ‘gl’ and ‘br’ and how we use them to spell words. When reading, we will be learning how to retell a story through pictures by using storyboards. During our writing sessions we will be focussing on living and non-living things, mini beasts, following on from our CERES excursion. For our Big Write in week 4, we will be focusing on using ‘wow’ words, ambitious vocabulary and begin to label our pictures in our non-fiction writing. The seed will be mini-beasts.

Maths: During maths this fortnight we will be learning about clocks and time. We will be discussing what time is used for, learning the different parts of a clock and begin to read o’clock times. We will also be introducing ‘sharing’ (division) in week 4. We will be using real life stories to support the children’s understanding when comparing, combining & separating sets.

Investigations: We will be investigating different types of mini beasts, their life cycles, habitats, and food. We will pose questions to the children such as: ‘Where do they live? How do they survive? What do they look like? How many body parts do they have?’ We will also be practising our Manners Matter/YCDI foo which are ‘Body Language and Being Assertive’ and ‘Appropriate Language’. We will be reflecting on our experiences at CERES and sustainability in the environments around us.

Other: We are looking forward to Tabloid Sports next Tuesday October 26th. Thank you to the parents who were able to attend and help on the CERES excursion. It was a brilliant day!

Level 2 (Grade 1 & 2)

Reading: In week 3 we are practicing our comprehension skill of inferring. Inferring means using evidence form the text as well as your understanding of the world to make a judgement. For example, ‘The character missed out on a prize therefore I think they will feel disappointed’. Students will be discussing how the pictures and language in a book reveal a problem or characters feelings. We will also be discussing how a character’s feelings change over time and throughout events. Inferring also means understanding that every action causes an effect. In week 4 we will be practicing the comprehension skill of making connections. Students make connections between books (text to text) between the book and themselves (text to self) and between the text and the world (text to world). Making connections helps us dig deeper in to a text and further understand the meaning of a text, both fiction and non-fiction.

Writing: This fortnight the students will be exploring, planning, drafting, revising, editing and publishing their very own persuasive piece. We will be exploring the use of persuasive techniques such as emotive language, restating your position, using statistics to support your argument and rhetorical questions. Our handwriting focus this fortnight is Magic C Letters a, o, d, g, q.

Maths: This fortnight in Level 2 we are revising how and when to use addition, subtraction, division and multiplication to solve a mathematical problem. Students will be problem solving a variety of open ended problems and representing their solutions using pictures, T charts and number sentences. Students are expected to use a variety of strategies to solve a problem such as:
- counting on and back
- doubles and near doubles
- skip counting forwards and back
- tens friends
- known number facts
- add and subtract 10/100/1000
- solve a simpler problem,
- partitioning using place value

Investigations:
During this fortnight our Gr 1&2 students are exploring water and the water cycle. They will also be defining what appropriate language means for at school as well as online.
Level 3 (Grade 3 & 4)

Literacy: Our Year 3’s will begin the term unpacking on their new reading comprehension strategy of summarizing and synthesizing. They will use book club and whole class mini lessons to begin to summarise orally and through the use of key words and then as the term progresses move onto summarizing and then synthesizing this information. Our Year 4 students begin the term with a focus on questioning as our new comprehension strategy, this will be explored through fiction and non-fiction texts during book clubs and whole class mini lessons over this term. Year 3 also begin to explore Information reports this term as their text type focus and Year 4 begin to unpack the structure and text features of a persuasive text. Through our fortnightly Big Write sessions we encourage the students to complete their Talk Homework with their families with a new focus just on the talk and no planning or writing at home. This is an effort to aid our class Big Talks and prepare the students ready with ideas to begin planning during planning time at school that is provided during Big Write sessions.

Maths: Year 3 begin Term 4 with a Maths focus exploring the concept of Time. The students will be aiming to sequence and sort events, associate events with times of the day, discuss cycles of events based on months, years and seasons, estimate and measure the durations of events and use am and pm notation. The Year 4 students have begun Term 4 with a continued focus on Geometry. Students will continue explore 2D and 3D shapes, angles and symmetry. Following shape the students will begin investigating patterning. This will be explored through number, letter and move onto problem solving using patterns.

Inquiry: Both our Year 3 and 4 students have begun their new Science inquiry over the last few weeks and will continue to explore their key learning intentions through hands on learning tasks. Year 3 continue to explore Chemistry through reactions and change and Year 4 investigate Biology through living and non-living.

Level 4 (Grade 5 & 6)

Literacy: In reading, grade 5 classes have been immersing themselves in poetry. We are exploring different kinds of poems and gathering information about how and why poems are written. We are also using our analysing skills that we developed in Term 3 to look at how authors use literary devices to create meaning in poetry. Grade 6 classes are beginning to analyse visual texts through our film studies unit. We will begin by developing a broad overview of the elements of film making before we start looking at each element in depth. In Writer’s Workshop grade 5 classes will be focusing on using paragraphs in our writing and how to make any character dialogue in our narratives meaningful. Grade 6 classes will be focusing on developing a good understanding of sentence structures. We will also explore ways we can make our non-fiction writing varied, interesting and engaging.

Maths: Grade 5 and 6 classes are finishing our unit on measuring volume, capacity and mass. We will be conducting hands-on explorations, with grade 5 classes investigating how to choose the most appropriate units to measure volume, capacity and mass and the grade 6 classes developing strategies to convert between these units. We will then be able to link some of our new learning with our next unit on geometry.

Inquiry: In inquiry, Grade 5 students are continuing to immerse ourselves into our space unit. Through active role play, picture storybooks and videos we are learning about how the planets in our solar system orbit the sun. We will also be researching how planets and stars compare in size and distance to each other. Grade 6 classes are continuing our unit on Chemistry, building on what we have learnt from the Monash University scientists who have been working in our classes for the last four weeks. We will continue to explore the different observable properties of solids, liquids and gases and the different ways that each behaves, as well as learning more about chemical and physical reactions and reversible and irreversible changes.

Other: The Grade 6 students are very excited about performing our original musical production ‘Aloahargh’ next week. We have been rehearsing extremely hard at school and look forward to rehearsing in the theatre next Monday and Tuesday before performing on Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th at 7pm. Tickets for both nights are still available and we would love to show as many people what we have been working on. To purchase tickets, go to www.trybooking.com, click on ‘buy tickets’ and search Elwood Primary, then scroll down until you see Elwood Primary School’s Musical Production of Aloahargh.
Do you want the opportunity to work with some of Australia’s best-known industry experts?

We are seeking students who can sing, dance, play an instrument, beat box, scratch, pop, lock, roller blade or even rap for the Principal Cast of the VSSS17, to be performed at Hisense Arena in September.

Participation is free.

Performing Arts Unit, Department of Education and Training (03) 9415 1700

To register for an audition visit www.cvent.com/id/gvqwsp

Students are encouraged to register before November 18.

Auditions will be held during November and December 2016.

You could be the next star of VSSS17!