Dear Parents

In Memoriam
Our deepest sympathy to the Boileau family. We have all been saddened by the passing of Andrew last weekend after a long battle with cancer. Our thoughts are with Jeneane, Digby and Henry.

Recent Tragic Events
The tragic events of last weekend in France have touched us all in different ways. The impact of these events may evoke questions from your children who may have varying degrees of information in relation to the attacks. Attached to this week’s newsletter is, “Advice for parents addressing children’s responses in relation to traumatic events” from the Education Department.

Elwood PS Centenary Celebrations
2017 marks the 100 year anniversary of Elwood PS. There will be a year of celebration and special events to mark this historic occasion.

I am calling for expressions of interest from parents and staff who would like to form the initial working party. If you would like to be part of this group please contact myself or the office.

We will have a preliminary meeting before the end of the year.

Staffing
We are very close to finalising our staffing for 2016.

James Dixon has taken a position at Cornish College and we wish him all the best for the future. I will acknowledge the contribution James has made to EPS in a future newsletter.

We have appointed 5 new teachers to Elwood PS:

- Sarah Galbraith who returns to us after 3 terms away looking after her first child
- Ashleigh Jordan who comes to us from Fish Creek PS
- Gretl Tan who completed her final year of teacher training in 5J
- Charles Copper from Ntaria School in the Northern Territory
- Nathaniel Payne who comes to us from Brighton Beach PS

We are very excited about the quality of the staff we have appointed and look forward to them making significant contributions at Elwood PS.

Graduation
After careful consideration it was decided to move the 2015 graduation ceremony venue to the St. Kilda Town Hall. This iconic venue has a rich and long tradition with Elwood Primary and we are sure to have a fantastic night there.

As you know previous ceremonies have been at Elwood College which is our preferred venue for school functions. However this year we have our biggest Grade 6 group for many years. The Phoenix Theatre at Elwood College holds 269 people and we anticipate around 400 attending the graduation ceremony with parents, siblings and relatives in attendance.

Grade 6 Graduation is on Thursday 17 December and will be a night to remember.

Kitchen Specialist Position
Catherine Sullivan has resigned from her role as one of our Kitchen Specialists. We have placed the position on the Stephanie Alexander Foundation website with a commencement date in Term 1 2016. The position is for 10.5 hours per week, 7 hours on a Thursday and 3.5 hours on Friday mornings.

Community Market (bookings) : www.trybooking.com/106452

18 November 2015
No. 19

CALENDAR

Thursday 19 November
RSG PJ Party for 2016 Preps

Friday 20 November
Rippon Lea - 1J & 1K

Tuesday 24 November
ESC Casual Dress Day
Dress in Colours
Cancer Council Australia
Gold Donation Required

Wed 25 - Friday 27 November
Grade 4 Camp Manyung

Thursday 26 November
7.15pm School Council

Friday 27 November
Rippon Lea - 1D & 1R
10.30am Volunteers Morning Tea
Grade 4 Camp return 3.30pm

Monday 30 November
3.00pm Assembly - Senior Choir Performing

Tuesday 1 December
Police Cybersafety - Grade 6

Wednesday 2 December
5.00pm Family Picnic

Friday 4 December
House Swimming Sports - Gr 3 to 6

Saturday 5 December
Community Market
All Grade 3’s rostered
Xmas Trees for sale
Later 2.00pm Finish

Friday 18 December
End Term 4
1.30pm Dismissal
Details of the position can be found by following the link below.

https://www.kitchengardenfoundation.org.au/content/about-us

Catherine is returning to a teaching position and we wish all the best in the years to come. Applications for the position close on Friday 27th November.

Family Picnic
Will be held on Wednesday 2nd December 5.00-7.30pm. Our family picnic is a great way to celebrate the 2015 school year. There will be performances from our Preps, Grade 1 and 2 choirs, Middle and Senior choirs as well as the Orchestra. The evening will finish with a performance from the famous Yard Duty Birds and the Padres. It will be a great night to catch up with friends and watch performances from our students. See the attached flyer for full details and times.

Rob Csoti
Principal

BULA Elwood PS

Last week I had the absolute pleasure and honour to work alongside Victorian Parliament Educators, Fijian teachers and Education Consultants from the Fijian Ministry of Education and Fijian Parliamentary Members to assist in auditing their school curriculum in Fiji. The aim of the program is to make stronger links between their new Parliament and classroom practice.

The opportunity to represent Elwood Primary School overseas, at the invitation of Victoria’s Parliament, arose due to its partnership with our Pacific neighbours, in particular Fiji. For the first time in more than six years a democratic government was recently elected in Fiji and they are receiving a range of assistance from us to improve their education practices.

The invitation saw me run a two-day workshop in Suva, Fiji. Prior to this I worked alongside Suzie Luddon, Community Engagement Projects Officer from the Community Engagement & Education Unit of Parliament of Victoria and Andres Lomp, Communications and Public Engagement Manager of Parliament of Victoria to create over 7 Units of Inquiry, or Modules, ranging from Grade 3 through to Year 9 to introduce to the Fijian Teachers and Education Consultants.

These Inquiry Modules not only built upon their curriculum guidelines of Fijian Parliament education, but also introduced them to an Inquiry approach to units of work that are already proven to be successful in engaging EPS students.

The workshop included guiding teachers though units of Inquiry, hands on activities that will become part of their curriculum, as well as conversations around best practice and teaching and learning. To see the participants engage and share their enthusiasm and appreciation, as well as share their own knowledge base, learn along with me and take on board new pedagogies within their own teaching approaches, was an unforgettable experience.

I also took part in the Diwali celebrations of Fiji’s Parliament and heard the beautiful Fijian Farewell song, Isa Lei, and celebrated the passion and joy of teaching that was proved yet again to me to be the same the world over.

On Thursday 19th November Rob and I will proudly attend Victorian Parliament to receive a certificate of appreciation from the President of the Legislative Council and the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly to honor the contribution EPS has made to the Pacific Parliamentary Partnerships program for Fiji.

A very exciting and humbling part of learning at EPS for me personally, which we hope will continue!

Vinaka.
Nicole Richards … Assistant 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 Leadership.**

Leadership is a combination of many skills which enable us to take control of our lives.

Although there are natural born leaders and every group requires both leaders and followers, with support and encouragement we all have potential leadership skills which can be developed and enhanced.

Leadership is about being in control of your own life. It is about thinking of things which we can make happen, rather than things happening to us.

The main areas of leadership focus on communication, teamwork, negotiation, planning and persistence.

We need to appreciate that there are times and situations where it is appropriate to switch between being a leader to a follower and vice versa. We also need to understand the importance of a good support group within the role of a follower and that there is nothing shameful or ‘wimpy’ about it.

Collaboration and teamwork is a key ingredient in leadership. An important part of working together and leading a group, is the realised that a group, which may be a family or a group of friends, can get more done and in less time, rather than simply going it alone.

**YOU CAN DO IT!**

Nicole Richards & the YCDI Leaders

**Manners Matters**

There are opportunities everyday to say Please and Thank You. At home, in the classroom, visiting the office, in the yard, at a friend’s home – there are people who help us and all of them need to be treated courteously.

One great way we can do this is by saying Please and Thank You.

You will be surprised how much people value Please and Thank You. These simple words let people know you do appreciate what they do for you and also let them know you are a friendly kid.

So this fortnight – let’s hear lots of please and thank yous!

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**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?

**18th November: Wow Day**

A day of recognition and appreciation where the dedicated work of State Emergency Service (SES) volunteers is celebrated across Australia. The focus of WOW Day is to encourage the community to show their support in a very simple but highly visible gesture by wearing the colour orange. This is the colour worn by SES volunteers.

**20th November: Universal Children’s Day**

Universal Children’s Day is observed as a day of worldwide fraternity and understanding between children.

**21st-29th November: Social Inclusion Week**

Social Inclusion Week aims to help ensure all Australians feel included and valued, giving everyone the opportunity to participate fully in society. It’s about connecting local communities, workmates, family and friends in order to build and strengthen relationships and networks, addressing isolation and exclusion by supporting people who may be unable to help themselves.

**25th November: White Ribbon Day**

The White Ribbon Campaign aims to raise awareness among Australian men and boys about the roles they can play to prevent violence against women. The campaign calls for men across Australia to speak out and take an oath swearing never to commit, excuse or remain silent about violence against women.

**29th November – 5th December: Give Now Week**

It's on again! Between Sunday the 29th of November and Saturday the 5th of December people are encouraged to visit www.givenow.com.au and consider the many ways that you, your family, friends and work mates can make a difference to your community in the lead-up to Christmas.

**3rd December: International Day of Persons with Disabilities**

Australia celebrates the International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD) every year on 3rd December to acknowledge the valuable contribution people of all abilities make to our community.

Enjoy your upcoming weeks, whatever it holds or whatever you are celebrating and why not extend “Give Now” week! Enjoy.

Nicole Richards … Assistant Principal
Royal Children’s Hospital
On Wednesday 18 December the Grade 6 Leaders from Elwood Student Council (Jordan H, Kaia L, Jock S, Jack A, Vincent F, Angus C, Anushka S and Georgia M) went to the Royal Children’s hospital with a cheque for $1422.10. The money was raised through our last Casual Dress Day. It was an extremely proud moment for all of us and it was great to see where the money raised goes. We were also given a tour of the new ward at the Children’s Hospital which was very special. Thank you to everyone who contributed with a donation.

Soiree – Musical Performance
EPS students who are learning an instrument (including voice) are invited to come and perform in a small soiree. All instruments are welcome! Celebrate your achievements in front of an enthusiastic and welcoming audience. Students are invited to play one song that they know very well and is suitable for a concert. You may choose your favourite exam piece, a crisp and interesting study, an audition piece or even a popular song. Hopefully you keep working on your pieces right up until the concert and we’ll hear you play at your best, so keep practicing!

The Soiree will be held Tuesday 15th December 2015 at 5:15pm in the Music Room. A form will be available soon.

Kaz Sieger

Basketball/Netball Court Hire 2016
If you are interested in booking a court for your team training next year, please contact the school office to enquire about court availability.

If you currently hire a court, please email delaney.christine.a@edumail.vic.gov.au to secure your place for 2016. Please do not assume that your current booking will be carried over into next year. ALL bookings for 2016 will need to be made at the school office.

Attachments:
Year 6 Art Show
Traumatic Events
What’s Happening during Week 7 & 8 at EPS?
Family Picnic Flyer
Camp Australia

You’re invited.....

Volunteer & Helpers Morning Tea

When: Friday 27th November, 2015
Where: Junior School Hall
Time: 10.30am—11.30am

The world’s a better place
Because of folk like you
Who take the time to do nice things
The way you always do.
Thank you so much

We would like to thank everyone who has helped
Elwood Primary School in so many ways
throughout the year by hosting a morning tea.

If you helped in the classroom, Kitchen Garden,
as an Ardoch Volunteer, as a community or
class representative, with fundraising, markets,
sub-committees, special projects, camps,
excursions, library or in some other fashion,
we would love to thank you for all
your assistance and we look forward to
seeing you on the 27th November.
Advice for Parents addressing children and young peoples' responses in relation to traumatic events

Children and young people will have seen and heard about the terrorist attacks that occurred in Paris on Friday 13 November 2015. The authorities in France and countries around the world will help to support the people who have been impacted by this event.

Children often worry and know more than we realise. Adults may assume that children are doing okay if they don’t talk or ask questions about what has happened. Sometimes they have questions they may not ask unless we provide the opportunity.

It is wise for you to monitor your child’s exposure to television coverage, print media and social media. Some children and young people will want to talk about the tragic events and try to make sense of what they have both seen and heard. Other children will avoid any discussion around the events and will be reassured by routine and normality.

Remember the importance of routine, sleep, exercise and healthy eating.

There is a range of things you can do to assist your child during events such as this, including:

- **Acknowledge that the event was distressing**
- **Reassure children that they are safe**
- **Look for signs of distress (e.g. some children/young people might be scared)**
- **Normalise responses - typical response will range from anger to general upset or sadness**
- **Maintain a normal routine - keeping the structure at home or at school in place**
- ** Allow children to express feelings as they arise**
- **Telling stories about how people manage during difficult times can be helpful.**
- **Separate fact from fiction e.g. children may express fears about unrelated events.**
- **Plan relaxing activities before bed – talk your child through a gentle relaxation, this might include using soothing music and talking them through relaxing tension in their body or simply reading something to them that induces relaxation (i.e. a favourite book).**
- **Speak in hopeful terms – children and young people will often take their cues from their parents’ reactions; if you are honest, calm, compassionate and open they will be much more able to trust that they will be okay.**
- **Always remember the value of doing something with children that they like to do such as playing, exercising, being outdoors - have a time during your day to share time with your child.**
What’s happening during weeks 7 & 8 at Elwood Primary School?

Level 1 (Prep)

**Literacy:** In Literacy this fortnight, we will be looking at the blends ‘sp/spr’ and ‘pr’ and how we use them to spell words. When reading, we will be learning how compare books to film by reading books such as ‘The Lorax’ and ‘Charlotte’s Web’ and watching a film. For our Big Talk and Big Write sessions we will be writing a letter to someone special in week 7. In week 8 we will be exposing the children to information reports and writing about the water cycle. When writing, we will be focusing on how we can use a variety of sentence openers to engage the reader.

**Maths:** During maths this fortnight we will be learning about location words such as: beside, under, above, next to, in front of, left and right. We will be using these words to give directions and to describe positions. We will also be revising subtraction and 2D shapes and 3D objects.

**Investigations:** During investigations we will continue to learn about different people in our community, following on from the second visit from the firefighters last week. We are learning about the difference between ‘needs’ and ‘wants’ and continuing to investigate different types of mini beasts, their life cycles, habitats and food. We will also be practising our Manners Matter/YCDI focus which are ‘please and thank you’ and ‘leadership’.

**Other:** Some of the Prep classes have started their garden walks. Thank you to the parents who have offered to host these and share their home with us. It is a wonderful learning opportunity for the children and a beautiful time of year to be doing it!

Level 2 (Grades 1 & 2)

**Literacy:** This fortnight Grade One and Two students will be looking at the **question mark.** Where do we see it in books? What do we do with our voices when we read a question mark? And when should we use them in our writing? We are also looking at simple and compound sentences and how we can add extra detail to our writing, using connectives to link our ideas together. In Week 8 Grade One students will be writing a Recount for their Big Write and Grade Two students will put their persuasive skills to the test.

In Reading, we have been Making Connections. Thinking about what books remind us of, what memories they bring back and how we can interpret the author’s meaning and intended purpose. We have also been making connections to other books we have read, we can use our Author Box’s to help us do this too.

Next week, we will be Predicting. This is a great skill to use when reading as we can think about what might happen in the story based on the information we see on the front cover, the information in the pictures or even what we know and understand about the characters.

**Maths:** This week we are continuing to work on **Subtraction.** Some of us may be consolidating the understanding of Subtraction in terms of ‘taking away’ whereas others may be comparing the difference between numbers. Some Subtraction strategies we might be looking at is counting back, counting up, skip counting and subtracting 10, 100 or 1000 from numbers. Tools we like to use include counters, place value charts, bundling sticks, unifix and calculators.

Next week we begin **Location.** We will be looking at maps of the school, of the local area and possibly around world. We will be working on giving clear and concise directions from place to place and working on left and right.

**Investigations:** The Manners Matter focus is ‘please and thank you’ and the You Can Do It focus is ‘Leadership’. In classrooms we will be holding discussions around these topics, focus specifically on them in investigations and design tasks for our Photographer and Reporter to fit.
Level 3 (Year 3 & 4)

Literacy: Grade 3 will continue to focus on the reading strategy of inferring with an immersion into Poetry, looking into cinquain, free verse and limericks. Grade 4 are using the reading strategy of Summarising and Synthesising, with an immersion into Information Reports. Grade 3 and 4 will be writing a Recount text for the Cold Write in week 5 and incorporating VCOP elements to further improve the learning. They will use various VCOP feel that have been taught during the year, depending on the class need. Grade Three will have explicit sessions on Poetry. Each classroom is working on spelling investigations with a sound focus and incorporating it into Writer’s Workshop. They will try to include similes, metaphors and the correct use of paragraphs in their writing.

Maths: Grade 3 is completing a two week unit on Time. During this unit they will tell time to the minute and investigate the relationship between units of time, convert between units of time and use am and pm notation to solve simple time problems.

Grade 4 have another week on Multiplication and Division. Some key understandings they will have explored:
- Mathematical problems (real-life stories) can be solved by multiplication and division computations.
- Problems can be modelled with materials, pictures, arrays or numbers (and operations).
- Multiplication is repeated addition
- Multiplication is a more efficient way to add the same number many times
- Understanding numbers (place value) and knowing basic number facts (including times tables) are essential skills when using the operations (number sense)
- We can use a variety of strategies to solve problems (mental, formal algorithms, selecting operation, order of operations)
- There are specific processes used to solve problems with written algorithms (step-by-step methods)
- There is a relationship between the operations
- We can make estimations in order to check the reasonableness of our calculations (mental strategies),
- There is a formal language and symbols associated with calculations and operations.
- We use calculations and the operations in many other areas of maths.

Level 4 (Year 5 & 6)

Literacy: In Writing our grade 5 classes are working on how to write a good concluding statement for an information report. Next we will peer conference our work, and practice our revising and editing skills with our peers. Grade 6 classes are working to write information reports about the school to be put together into a booklet for new students.

In Reading Grade 5 students have become synthesizing experts and we are beginning to use our skills while reading our Book Club books and in our independent reading ‘just right’ books. Grade 6 classes are taking the skills we have learnt during our analysis of short films and applying them to feature length films as we begin our movie clubs. These will run like book club with each group selecting one movie to watch and analyse together.

Maths: We are finishing up our Geometry unit. Grade 5 classes are learning about how enlarging and reducing shapes affects their properties and grade 6 classes are finishing investigating angles. Both grade 5 and 6 students will be reviewing and practicing our strategies for using the four operations. We will consider which strategies are efficient and which strategies we personally prefer to help us find accurate answers.

Inquiry: Grade 5 students have chosen their colonial topics to research for their ERP’s. Students are busy taking notes using dot points and writing in their own words. Their notes will inspire students to create artifacts that demonstrate their learning about the colonial past, which may include models, dioramas, books and speeches.

Grade 6 classes have identified issues relating to the biodiversity of our local area and are working on projects that can help to bring awareness and solutions to the issues.
Elwood Primary School is very excited to invite you to our End of Year Family Picnic!

When: Wednesday 2\textsuperscript{nd} December, 2015
Time: 5.00pm to 7.30pm
Where: Turf Area & Stage

BYO
Food and drinks and of course, your picnic rug!
Please take home your own rubbish
To make this event safe and enjoyable for everyone, the supervision of your children is your responsibility.

Entertainment for the Picnic:

5:20pm – School Orchestra
5:40pm – Preps
5:50pm – Grade 1 Choir
6:00pm – Grade 2 Choir
6:10pm – Middle Choir Grades 3 & 4
6:25pm – Senior Choir Grades 5 & 6
6:45pm – The Padres
7:05pm – Yard Duty Birds Teacher Band
7.30pm Finish
ELWOOD OSHC HIGHLIGHTS

This Term for tCAF

Elwood OSHC will be participating in the Global Citizens program that Camp Australia has programmed for many of the services. The Global Citizen requires the children to make arts and craft activities to send over to the Sophakama community based in Port Elizabeth, South Australia, with the help from Oxfam. We will be creating literacy and numeracy games. These can include a Bingo game made with Australian animals, alphabet games. These will be done this week as part of the program.

Get well soon Renee!

Renee, who is one of our treasured staff members, will be having minor surgery on her neck. She will be away from the 18th to the 23rd of November. We wish her a speedy recovery and wish her good luck.

Staff Profile:

My name is Soichiro Imamura, but I’m more commonly known as So, and I have been working here at Elwood Primary for 5 years now. I have worked up as a casual staff member to an on going staff member to becoming the coordinator for this amazing service. I play field hockey with my friends every week and also try to go on the 1000 steps as often as I can. I will always try my best to ensure that the service is running as smoothly as possible and ensuring that the children are happy attending after school care.

SUMMER ACTIVITY DONATIONS

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.

NOTE:

Please remember to cancel your child or notify us if your child is not attending aftercare on any given day. This will save us time in following up whether your child has been picked up or not and will allow us to run the service more smoothly. Furthermore, if you have any questions about the program, please feel free to drop by, meet the team and see what happens in our program first hand.

To find out more about our program, view fees and to register visit www.campaustralia.com.au