Dear Parents

Prep 2015
Our Prep information night was held last week with over 70 excited new families in attendance. We expect 130 new Preps in 2015. Nicole, Suzie and myself went through many areas that make up our core values at Elwood PS. I started the night explaining the aims of our Learning and Teaching Policy. Literacy and numeracy was spoken about as being our number one priority at all times and that school tone, parent involvement and the many programs we run are all geared around giving our students the best opportunities to develop in all learning areas.

Michael Gulliver and Michael Feferkranz spoke about the market and parent rep program highlighting our volunteering and parent participation culture. I look forward to partnering with our many new families who will join our great school community very soon.

Family Picnic - Wednesday 3rd December 5.00-7.30pm
Our family picnic is only two weeks away and will be a great way to celebrate the 2014 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. It will be a great night to catch up with friends and watch performances from our students.

Election Day Sausage Sizzle
The State Election has been called for Saturday 29th November. With our school as an official polling station, we have an opportunity to hold a sausage sizzle. We are seeking someone to pull together a small team of volunteers to run the sausage sizzle on the morning of the election. If you are able to help, please contact Michael Feferkranz on 0418 376 169 to discuss further.

Dandelion Restaurant
A big thank you to Geoff Lindsay and the team at Dandelion restaurant in Ormond Road who raised $1000 for the Kitchen Garden Program through their winter BYO promotion. This money will go towards the replacement of three ovens in the kitchen. We are very appreciative of the support from Geoff and all of our community will benefit from our new ovens.

Kitchen Garden Program
A group of students from 3V visited Medibank Private in the city to demonstrate their kitchen skills for the SAKG Foundation. Medibank Private is a major funder of the foundation. Our school was chosen due to our exemplary program and our students did a fantastic job impressing everyone. Visit the Medibank Private website so you can see our students in action:

Indigenous Dancers—Yarrabah
A group of female indigenous elders will visit Elwood PS on Thursday 4th December to perform some traditional dances for our students and community. The dancers are from Yarrabah an indigenous community near Cairns whose mayor and principal visited our school at the start of Term 4. This is part of an ongoing relationship that is being developed between our two communities. The dances will commence at 9.30am and everyone is welcome.
Softball Team
We wish our softball team who have made the State finals the best of luck; they will play in a round robin this Friday and we know they will do there best and the display great sportsmanship no matter what the results.

2A Indigenous Children’s Literacy Program
Congratulations to 2A students and their families who raised $2,518.80 which will go towards the translating of Early Years children’s books into the many Indigenous languages making children in remote communities have access to books in their Indigenous languages. For more information visit www.indigenousliteracyfoundation.org.au/

Volunteers & Helpers Morning Tea
Thursday 4 December at 11.00am in the Hall
Once again we would like to thank everyone who has helped Elwood Primary in so many ways throughout the year by hosting a morning tea. If you helped in the classroom, uniform shop, Kitchen Garden, as a community rep, with fundraising, markets, on a sub-committee, special projects, excursions or in some other fashion we would love to see you.

Rob Cooti … Principal

Health Alert (Pertussis)
Whooping Cough
There has been a confirmed case of Pertussis or Whooping Cough in Grades 6 and 2. This is a highly contagious respiratory infection. The disease begins like a cold and then the characteristic cough develops and may last for an extended period. The whoop is not always obvious and vomiting after coughing is common. Babies under 12 months of age are particularly at risk. Medical diagnosis and treatment is required. If you have any concerns contact your local doctor or call the Department of Human Services on 1300 651 160 or visit http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bharticles.nsf/pages/Whooping_cough.

Spelling Continued….
In our last newsletter, we reintroduced you to our key spelling principles of:

**Principle One:** Spelling is learnt as we use it
**Principle Two:** Learning to spell is part of the developmental process of learning to write
**Principle Three:** Errors can be viewed as diagnostic and development signposts
**Principle Four:** Exploring words and vocabulary are part of learning to spell
**Principle Five:** Independence and self-evaluation are essential in spelling development
**Principle Six:** Effective spellers use a number of different strategies interactively in order to spell correctly.

So where does the Oxford Word List and learning to spell common used words fit in our spelling program?

An investigation of high frequency words in young children’s writing and reading development was conducted in Australian schools. This study is the first of its type in over 30 years!

The Oxford Word List or OWL considers words used by our broad student community and the classroom with increased relevance as they are included and referred to in reading, writing and most classroom spelling lists.

The Oxford University Press Australia conducted an extensive and rigorous study to find those words most frequently used by students in their years of school in their own writing.

There are several reasons why students should be explicitly taught High Frequency Words. One is that many of these words, such as *the*, *to*, *are* and *was* do not follow the commonly taught phonics rules and cannot be sounded out. The only way a student can read and write these words is by sight and memory. A second reason is that knowing how to automatically read and write these words makes students more fluent readers and writers. Students who need to pause and attempt to figure out how to spell the word, often lose track of what they are writing.

In the classroom, students are learning how to spell these words by;

- Looking for them in their reading and writing
- Identifying which words they have difficulty with to include in their weekly spelling list
- Using the Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check strategy of learning words
- Using these words to play games like Bingo, Guess the Word, Memory, Go Fish etc.
- Displaying displayed words around the room on Alphabet Word Walls or Lists for students to refer to
- Grouping words according to things they have in common such as spelling patterns, meaning and number of letters
- Using these words in sentences and paragraphs
- Creating their own dictionary of words they know how to spell automatically

In our next newsletter we will discuss how you can further help your children at home with spelling.
You Can Do It!

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 realisation 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!

Manners Matters

Please and Thank You

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!

MANNERS MATTER AT ELWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL!

Our Global Calendar

Each newsletter will inform you of global events and is a way to celebrate significant cultural and environmental events. This section of the newsletter is a terrific springboard for conversations at home! So, what’s on in the coming weeks?

20th November: Universal Children’s Day

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

20th November: Go Home On Time Day

Each year, Australians work more than 2 billion hours of unpaid overtime. Around half of all employees work more hours than they are paid for. On average, a typical employee works 49 minutes of unpaid overtime per day. For full-time workers, the average daily amount of unpaid work takes more than one hour. Overwork can have negative consequences for your physical and mental health, your relationships with loved ones and your sense of what is important in life.

24th -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: Orange Day

The UN Secretary-General’s UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign, managed by UN Women, has proclaimed every 25th of the month as “Orange Day” - a day to take action to raise awareness and prevent violence against women and girls. ContactWebsite: www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action
30th November – 6th December: GiveNow Week
GiveNow Week takes place around the country in the first week of December each year and aims to focus attention on the many ways that individuals, families, businesses, and groups can make a difference to the community in the lead-up to Christmas.

It's about helping people take some small, simple steps that open the way for a better supported, more inclusive, more vibrant community - not just during the Christmas period but all year long as well.

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 and whatever you are celebrating.

Nicole Richards … Assistant Principal

End of Year in the Kitchen Garden
A final thank you to volunteers for a very successful year for the Kitchen Garden Program.

Volunteers are invited to a morning tea on Thursday 4th December from 11-11.30am in appreciation of your support.

Classes will finish at staggered times, with all garden classes finishing up on Thursday 4th December and kitchen classes finishing up on Friday 5th December. The only variations to this are 4A, whose final kitchen class will be on Tuesday 9th December and 4T’s final kitchen class on Friday, 12th December.

To celebrate the end of the year, classes will be making foods from around the world. Students will not be making gingerbread houses, but the recipe will be provided on the school website for any families who would like to make them.

Kathryn Millett
Kitchen Garden Coordinator

Kitchen Garden News

Holiday Help
The school year is fast drawing to a close but the plants don’t stop growing! During the summer holidays the garden needs lots of TLC and we need the help of the school community to ensure we have produce ready for the beginning of next year. If you are available to visit the garden over the long break to water plants or to feed the chickens, we would love the hear from you. There is an online roster where you can volunteer for as many days as you wish.

For more information, please contact bulling.kathleen.k@edumail.vic.gov.au

Kate

Grade 6 Production DVD’s
If you would like to purchase a DVD copy of the Grade 6 Production ‘Crikey, It’s a Good Yarn’, please complete an order form at the office. Cost is $26.00 per DVD payable with cash or cheque payable to Video Essentials. Limited number available - don’t miss out!

Term Dates for 2015
Term 1: Fri 30 Jan to 27 March
Term 2: 13 April to 26 June
Term 3: 13 July to 18 September
Term 4: 5 October to 18 December

Attachments:
What’s Happening during Week 7 & 8 at EPS
Camp Australia
Team Holiday
## What's happening during weeks 7 & 8 at Elwood Primary School?

### Level 1 (Prep)

**Literacy:** This fortnight we will be continuing to practise our amazing handwriting by looking at letters that are formed with similar starting points - n, m and r (which have walking sticks) and l, t, b, h and k (which have tall sticks). We have a focus on visualising when we are reading, and will be practising how to stretch out unknown words and chunk them to help us read them. We will be using our imaginations a lot in writing this fortnight, as well as writing letters. When we are writing, we will continue to leave finger spaces and make sure we have a vowel sound for every syllable.

**Maths:** Over the fortnight we will be continuing our focus on addition as well as subtraction. We will be looking at using doubles (4 + 4) as well as near doubles when we are adding. We will also start a focus on location and giving clear instructions when we are describing a journey.

**Investigations:** Our environmental focus for the fortnight is water. We will be investigating why we need to save water, as well as learning about the water cycle and how this affects our life.

**Other:** Last week we had our first Fire Education incursion, where we had a brilliant time learning about safe and dangerous fires, and all about fire-fighting equipment. We have another incursion this Tuesday, so remember to ask us all about it and what we learnt!

### Level 2 (Year 1 & 2)

**Literacy:** During our reading sessions this fortnight we will be discussing characters from books and films and whether these are life-like or imaginary characters, for example talking animals. We will also be:

- Talking about the cause of feelings and the motivations of characters
- Looking for changes in characters over time and identifying reasons for that change
- Justifying inferences with evidence from the text
- Looking for the big ideas or message (theme) of the text.

**Our writing sessions will include:**

- Identifying letter patterns related to our whole class spelling focus
- Working through the writing process on our personalised pieces
- Correctly forming the following body letters; g, q, p, y, j, z
- A focus on using commas and exclamation marks accurately.

**Maths:** This week we will be working on Area. Children will:

- Describe surfaces by touching and looking
- Cover surfaces with a variety of flat objects
- Estimate order of areas and check estimates by comparing directly or indirectly
- Use appropriate language e.g. this covers more than that

**Investigations:** We will be focusing on strategies such as ‘taking a breath’ to help us calm down and keeping our hands and feet to ourselves when moving around the classroom, sitting on the floor and packing our school bags.

**Sustainability:** We will be investigating...

What month do local animals have their babies?
**Level 3 (Year 3 & 4)**

**Literacy:** In writing sessions students are writing complete pieces using the stages of the writing cycle. Mini lessons will focus on revising writing to improve word choice and order and editing for accuracy. Spelling continues to be a focus and students practise the words collected during their spelling strategy lesson and their personal words regularly.

When reading students are practising summarising and synthesising information that they read to develop their comprehension skills.

**Maths:** During maths sessions students are investigating shape; describing the properties of 3D shapes using mathematical language. Students will also begin to explore the topic of location; giving directions and investigating angles as turning. The recall of times table facts continues to be a priority and students are given time to practise this skill regularly.

**Inquiry:** Students are beginning to work on their ERPs; planning an investigation based on the properties of materials which they will be able to test during the final few weeks of term.

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

**Literacy:** In Reading grade 5 classes are beginning to learn strategies to analyse fiction and non-fiction texts. Students will learn how an author’s point of view affects a piece of writing and how to identify aspects of the writer’s craft including style, language, perspective and theme. The grade 6 classes will be finishing their analysis of non-fiction texts, particularly focusing on structure and language features. We will then begin a unit on film studies.

In writing, grade 5 students are busy publishing poetry for their Writer’s Gift. Next we will be learning about literary devices including metaphors, similes and symbolism. Students will learn how to use these in their writing to enhance their work. Through mini lessons, they will learn how to create mood and influence their audience through word choice. In grade 6 we are finishing our Information reports and working through the Writing Cycle focusing particularly on publishing.

**Maths:** Grade 5 students are beginning to review lines, shapes and angles in their unit on Geometry. They will be exploring the relationship between 2D and 3D objects and learn how to identify and describe shapes using their distinct features. Students will learn how to transform shapes by rotation, sliding and reflecting. Grade 6 classes are continuing our number patterns and algebra focus. This fortnight we will continue exploring BODMAS (order of operations) and will explore equivalent number sentences with multiplication and division.

**Inquiry:** Grade 5 and 6 classes will continue to use atlases, street directories and maps to look at distance, direction and location of places. We will identify features from maps and will draw maps using simple mapping conventions such as title, scale, north point and legend. We will investigate Australia’s natural features and process.

**Others:** Grade 6 classes are beginning preparations for our Graduation Ceremony.
OSHC NEWS

Term 4 is in full swing and the activities at OSHC have had some excellent program ideas and input from the kids for the term.

Recent activity highlights:
Sport: The leader tournament continues, currently, the scores are drawn, with both teams sitting on 9 points. It has been great to see some excellent sportsmanship during the matches, both teams congratulating and encouraging each other. Well-done!

Art & craft/Cooking: Friendship bracelets/weaving/beading, early summer mural, sewing, cardboard ice-creams, Zelf houses, pipe-cleaner animals, chocolate scones and Halloween crafts to go with our awesome Halloween dress up party!

We have also been participating in the Oxfam Junior Global Citizen program. We have been raising awareness about being a global citizen and learning about the world. The kids at OSHC have made some great friendship bracelets and Australian animal masks that will be sent to 800 orphaned children attending after school care at Sophakama Community Care and Support Programme, located in a small province in South Africa.

Active After School Communities
Program: Term 4
A national initiative providing children with access to free sport and other structured physical activity programs during ASC. The programs are run by special coaches.

Tuesday - Athletics
Thursday – Badminton

Award Winners
Billy McEvoy – 1 winner
Jianui Yang – Best helper
Chelsea Briggs – Kindness & Respect
Ruby Carter – Most creative
Anastasia Kobakhidze – Drawing
Jonah Holloway - Sportmanship

Staff profile
Assistant: Marta Adami

About me:
I was born in Ethiopia, which is in East Africa. I have been in Australia for 16 years. I have 3 sisters and 1 brother. I enjoy physical activity, bonding with friends and making new ones along the way. My favorite sports are basketball and tennis. I also enjoy listening to music and dancing.

I am currently studying towards my Diploma in Children Services. In the future I would like to continue working with children, as a social worker.

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:

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.

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.campaus.com.au/newparents

we make kids smile
www.campaus.com.au