Dear Parents

Market
Our final market for the year is on this Saturday. Fingers crossed for great weather and a big turnout. There will be Christmas trees, opportunities to purchase presents, great food and of course exceptional coffee.

It will be a great way to catch up with everyone before the end of the year. Our famous cake stall is an opportunity for everyone to contribute to the market which the school make 100% profit from, so everyone is invited to bake and deliver their tasty delights to the cake stall on Saturday morning. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

Staffing
I am pleased to announce that Jay Tucker has been appointed as Assistant Principal to join Nicole and myself on our Principal Class team. He will start next year. Jay is currently at Ormond PS as a leading teacher with experience in the Senior School, numeracy and leadership of teams. We look forward to Jay joining us and you meeting him next year.

Kaz Sieger will also be joining us next year as our new music teacher. Kaz comes with an extensive background in school music programs, teaching instrumental music, choir work, and performance. Kaz is looking forward to being part of a school that has a rich and comprehensive music and performance culture.

We are currently advertising for a part time performing arts teacher to join Kaz in forming a comprehensive music/performing arts program.

Transition Day
Transition Day is next Tuesday with students finding out their teachers, classrooms and grades for next year. This will take place between recess and lunch. There are 130 new excited Preps joining us to start their journey at EPS. We are looking forward to making them welcome as well as supporting all students as they transition through the school.

House Swimming
The Grade 3 - 6 House Swimming Sports are this Friday. It will be a fantastic day with lots of fun, house colours and songs, swimming and the annual staff versus students and parents race a highlight. The winning House could determine the overall House winner for 2014. Please ensure that your child has a hat, T-Shirt and sunscreen at the event.

Booklist
After much feedback from parents around the cost, availability and time taken to find booklist items, School Council has decided to do away with our school booklist. From 2015 the booklist will be absorbed in our bulk ordering process at school allowing for greater savings for all families. A cost of $40.00 will be added to term planners equating to $10.00 a term to cover this expense.

Rob Csoti … Principal

3 December 2014
No. 20

Calendar

Thursday 4 December
9.30am Yarrabah Indigenous Dancers
11.00am Helpers Morning Tea
7.00pm UkeKids EOY Concert

Friday 5 December
Garden Walk - Prep J
House Swimming Sports
Grades 3 to 6
No 3A & 4T Kitchen Classes
2.45pm Grade 2 play “Holiday’”

Saturday 6 December
Community Market
1J, 1M, 2A, 2K, 4E & 4T rostered

Monday 8 December
Beach Ed - Grade 6
Werribee Zoo - Grade 2

Tuesday 9 December
Whole School Transition Day
4A make-up Kitchen Class

Wednesday 10 December
New date : Whole School Picnic
4.15pm Creative Music EOY Concert

Friday 12 December
4T make-up Kitchen Class
Science Incursion - Grade 3 & 4
6.30pm Senior Choir performing at Ripponlea House

Mon 15 December
4.15pm Creative Music EOY Concert

Tues 16 December
3.00pm Year 4 Expo
4.15pm Creative Music EOY Concert

Wednesday 17 December
3.00pm Year 4 Expo
Grade 6 Graduation

Thursday 18 December
Big Day Out - Grade 6

Friday 19 December
1.00pm Assembly

Whole School Picnic
New Date : Wednesday 10 November
Time : 5.00 — 7.30pm
Unfortunately due to threatening weather and possible electrical issues it was necessary to postpone last nights whole school picnic. Please note the new date.
Health Alerts x 2

IMPETIGO (School Sores)
There have been confirmed cases of Impetigo (School Sores) in Grade 2 & 3.

Impetigo is a skin infection and is extremely contagious. It can be spread from one person to another through touch or shared items such as clothes and towels. Children are most at risk.

It first appears as a small itchy, inflamed area of skin which blisters. The blisters rupture, release a yellow fluid and develop honey-coloured crusts and form scabs. New blisters develop in the same area or in different parts of the body and may ooze fluid which is highly contagious.

If you would like more information visit http://ideas.health.vic.gov.au/bluebook/impetigo-info.asp.

GIARDIASIS (gastroenteritis)
There have been a confirmed case of Giardiasis in Prep.

Giardiasis is a form of gastroenteritis caused by a parasite called Giardia Lamblia, which lives in the bowel. Giardia infection is usually asymptomatic but may present as acute or chronic diarrhoea associated with abdominal cramps, bloating, nausea, vomiting, fever, fatigue and weight loss. Fat malabsorption may lead to steatorrhoea. Symptoms usually last one to two weeks or months. Giardiasis can affect anyone but is more common in infants, children and adults aged 20 to 40 years. Giardia parasites can also be found in wild, pet and farm animals plus untreated water taken directly from lakes and rivers.

School exclusion: students should not attend school until diarrhoea has ceased or until a medical certificate of recovery is produced. If you would like more information visit www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bhcpdf.nsf/ByPDF/Gastroenteritis_giardiasis/

If you have any concerns about either of these contact your local doctor or the Victorian Department of Human Services on 1300 651 160.

Literacy and The Writer’s Gift at EPS
One of our agreed approaches and strategies at Elwood Primary School is our whole school focus on the Writer’s Workshop.

There are many explicit teaching elements to the Writer’s Workshop program including focusing on a writing “seed” to get students thinking about topics and text types to write about, to concentrating on all elements of the writing cycle. The writing cycle moves students through drafting and conferencing to editing and publishing pieces of work throughout the year.

Part of the writing cycle includes the “Celebration” of writing.

Many of our grades follow this part of the cycle in various ways from the older students sharing and reading their published pieces to the younger grades, students sharing their pieces with other teachers and the leadership team to parents coming in at the end of term to have an afternoon of celebration.

This part of the writing cycle is extremely important to all students as it brings with it a sense of accomplishment as well as an opportunity to share the effort, time and skill taken in publishing so many different pieces and text types throughout the term and year.

This year we would like to make the celebration of our writing an even bigger focus and event at our school. Usually we would have students choose one piece of published work to fit into a school magazine, “Our Voices”. This year, the students will be able to share all of their pieces with the Writer’s Gift which is replacing ‘Our Voices’.

The Writer’s Gift is exactly that - a gift to you and the families from our students. All students will have a Writer’s Gift to celebrate and share with you at the end of the year. The Writer’s Gift may look different in various grades, as does the “Celebration” part of the writer’s cycle, but every child will come home with a Writer’s Gift to enjoy and celebrate with you at home.

We hope you enjoy it and get to keep these as lovely mementos of the students’ hard work, their skill in this area of Literacy and most importantly, their love of writing!

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 Staying positive

Staying positive keeps you happy, provides the energy to overcome challenges and makes others around you feel positive too.

But if you’re like most of us, staying positive consistently is tough. Here are 5 ways to stay positive:

1. One way of staying positive is to just take a little time each day and think about the things you’re grateful for. Start with the obvious and work from there. Be grateful for having food, water and a roof above your head to friends and family and adults that care. If you’re facing a challenge, be grateful for the opportunity to learn from it.

2. When you’re struggling or worried you can feel miserable and sad. Even in everyday life, the weight of a million little things can be heavy. But always remember the saying: “This too shall pass.” Your negative feelings won’t last forever; there’s a light at the end of every tunnel. It might not happen today or tomorrow, but you’ll feel better eventually.

3. Having high self-esteem keeps you positive, improves personal relationships and encourages happiness. If you don’t appreciate yourself enough – or are feeling down – try making a mental list of awesome stuff you’ve done recently.

You’ll find that, as you go over your awesome actions and choices, you start to feel great about yourself. It’s hard not to when you remind yourself how amazing you are.

4. It’s easy to become worried over the little things: the human mind can blow things way, way out of proportion. To stop that from happening, always ask yourself: what’s the worst that could happen?

Chances are, “the worst” isn’t that bad. Sure, it would be better if things went according to plan, but sometimes they don’t. When you’re no longer afraid of any outcome, you can focus on having fun and getting things done. Don’t wind yourself up for no reason!

5. If you want to feel great about yourself, try giving to someone else. It takes very little to help someone out. When you make a big difference with just a few minutes you’ll always remember how important and amazing you are. And with an attitude like that, it’s hard to be anything but positive.

YOU CAN DO IT!

Manners Matters - SMILE!

With only a few weeks left of school, we can all feel busy and a little stressed. Smiling is such a wonderful friendly thing to do. It’s fun and contagious and you can’t say that about too many things!

And did you know, according to research, smiling takes less muscles than to frown. So, plenty of smiles for the last few weeks together!

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?

Hanukkah(Chanukah or Chanukkah)
Also known as the Festival of Lights, Feast of Dedication, is an eight-day Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Holy Temple. Hanukkah festivities include playing dreidel and eating oil based foods such as doughnuts and latkes.

10th December: Human Rights Day
A day to celebrate the basic rights of all humans and to remember that many people still have to fight for their human rights.

16th December: Day of Reconciliation in South Africa
The Day of Reconciliation is a public holiday in South Africa. The holiday came into effect in 1994 after the end of apartheid, with the intention of fostering reconciliation and national unity.

18th December: International Migrants Day
Organizations are invited to observe International Migrants Day through the dissemination of information on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants, and through the sharing of experiences and the design of actions to ensure their protection.

25th December: Christmas
The Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, the son of God.
26th -31st December: The 12 Do's of Christmas
At Christmas, Australians buy more, travel more and eat more than at any other time of the year. To help reduce the environmental and financial impact of these festive activities, Planet Ark has come up with 12 simple, positive actions - the 12 Do's of Christmas. Head to this Website: 12dos.planetark.org/

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

National Trust Twilight Christmas Festival
Our wonderful Year 5/6 Senior Choir will be performing at Ripponlea House and Gardens on Friday 12th December. The event is from 5.00-9.00pm. This is a family event with food vendors, a visit from Santa and other choirs and activities during the evening. Many families choose to make an evening of it with a picnic dinner. Our choir is performing at 6.30. Tickets can be booked on http://www.trybooking.com/Booking/BookingEventSummary.aspx?eid=104674&bof=1 or bought on the night. Love to see you there.
Jad & Brooke (Senior Choir)

Class Reps for 2015
If you are interested in becoming a class representative for your child’s grade next year please contact or email the school office as soon as possible.

Running Club
Running Club will not be ‘running’ this Friday 5th December due to the House Swimming Sports. The last day for 2014 will be Friday 12th December. Running Club will continue in 2015 on Fridays at 8:15—8:50am.
Amy Parsons & Sarah Galbraith

Garden News
This week we have been harvesting lots of berries in the garden which were made into delicious cupcakes in the kitchen.

We have removed most of the crops we grew over winter and replaced with plants that produce over summer. We are getting the beds mulched ready for the warm weather.

Dealing with all the soft green waste has just become easier due to the donation of a small second hand mulching machine by Terri Boyle. We are so grateful to her because this will make our composting system even more efficient. Thanks also to Noel Paten who serviced the machine and sharpened the blades.

Kate Bulling

Attachments:
What’s Happening during Week 9 & 10 at EPS?
Community Shred Day
Teen Holiday x 2

Next Community Market
Saturday 6 December
9.00am to 2.00pm
What’s happening during weeks 9 & 10
at Elwood Primary School?

Level 1 (Prep)

Literacy: Over this fortnight during our reading we will be working on our fluency, in particular how we can read at a steady pace and pause at full stops. We will also be looking at how we can change our voice to match a character in a story. During writing this fortnight we will be exploring imaginative writing and how to structure a story. We will also be looking at writing letters to Santa and special people in our lives.

Maths: In maths during week 9 we will be exploring Capacity and answering questions such as; What is capacity? What is the difference between volume and capacity? As well as engaging in lots of hands on capacity investigations. During week 10 we will be exploring Time such as the features of a clock, different types of clocks and how to read a clock.

Investigations: We will be looking at the importance of water conservation as the weather starts to warm up and how we can be sun smart ourselves. We will be continuing to care for our growing plants and tracking their progress through seed diaries.

Other: The Prep children are very excited about finding out who their grade one teachers will be on transition day (Tuesday 9th) and are also very excited about the prospect of making even more friends at school in grade one. On a final note we would love to congratulate all of the prep’s on a fantastic first year of school! We would like to wish you all a safe, relaxing and happy holiday.

Level 2 (Year 1 & 2)

We are reflecting on our and others personal qualities that contribute to the development and maintenance of friendships. We will also be thinking and talking about smiling when we meet new friends as transition into grades 2 and 3 begin.

Our Numeracy focus this fortnight is Subtraction. We will be:
- Modelling, solving and recording subtraction problems using mental strategies and concrete materials
- Using appropriate language to describe subtraction
- Relating addition facts to the solving of subtraction problems
- Using place value knowledge to partition numbers to solve subtraction problems.

In the next few weeks we will be sharing our favourite books and authors and giving reasons for our preferences. During our writing sessions we will be completing our final explicit text type for the year which is letter writing. Children will be:
- Identifying the reasons to write a letter
- Thinking about who we can write a letter to
- Completing the writing cycle
- Thinking of different ways to publish a letter
- We may even be able to go for a walk to post our letter in a mailbox!

Our reading focus is making connections with what we are reading. We will be:
- Making connections between what we are reading and our own life
- Making connections between this text and other texts we have read
- Making connections with the text we are reading and the world around us
- Knowing that connections can relate to topics, characters, settings and endings.

Other reminders include, the Grade 2’s will be performing a short musical play called ‘Holidays’ on Friday the 5th of December - parents are welcome.
The Grade 2’s will also be visiting the Werribee Zoo on Monday, the 8th of December.
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<th>Level 3 (Year 3 &amp; 4)</th>
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<td><strong>Literacy:</strong> During writing sessions students are busily editing and revising their favourite pieces of writing to ensure that they are the best they can possibly be. Students are then publishing these in a variety of forms including interactive books and handwritten pieces which they will be including in their Writer’s Gifts to share with you at the end of the year.</td>
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<td><strong>Maths:</strong> Students are spending time during the final few weeks of the 2014 academic year revising different concepts such as decimals, strategies for solving problems involving the four operations and fractions. Students are continuing to practise recalling times table facts automatically (as being able to recall all facts to 10×10 is an end of Year 4 standard).</td>
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<td><strong>Inquiry:</strong> Our classrooms currently look like science labs as there are investigations set up everywhere! Year 3 students are conducting Chemistry experiments to answer questions such as ‘What is the best material to use to make a lava volcano erupt?’ and ‘Does a waterbead freeze at the same temperature as water?’ Grade 4 students are investigating Physics concepts such as ‘Which metals are attracted to a magnet?’ and ‘Which surface will the toy car travel the furthest on?’ Students are ensuring that their investigations are fair by keeping the variables constant. We look forward to sharing their personal projects with you at our end of term Expos.</td>
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<td><strong>Incursions:</strong> We are all looking forward to meeting Professor Bunsen next Friday. He is going to be entertaining the Grade 3 students with an interactive presentation focusing on ‘Fun Chemical Changes at Home’; discovering the power of laundry materials when an explosive balloon is produced and finding out how heat packs work. The Grade 4 students will participate in a fun presentation entitled ‘The Science of Toys’ where they will discover what makes toys waddle across the floor and how energy is converted from potential energy to kinetic energy in toys. We look forward to sharing this science learning with you.</td>
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<th>Level 4 (Year 5 &amp; 6)</th>
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<td><strong>Literacy:</strong> Grade 5 classes are busy celebrating the books they’ve finished in Book Club with a variety of creative formats including movie making, script writing and designing new book covers. In Reading, grade 6 classes have finished their book clubs and are starting film studies. We will be looking at the techniques that film makers use to convey their message; such as lighting, camera angles, sound and editing. In Writing, the grade 5 and 6 classes are looking back through their drafts that they have written this semester and working on publishing one or more of these pieces. Grade 5 classes are busy organising their Writer’s Gifts with all their published work for the year.</td>
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<td><strong>Maths:</strong> Grade 5 and 6 classes are revising the maths skills they have learnt this semester. We will be going back over the topics we have covered and doing activities and games to revise our learning. Grade 5 is finishing up a unit on Geometry and beginning to explore algebraic patterns.</td>
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<td><strong>Inquiry:</strong> Grade 5 and 6 classes are practising their map reading skills in preparation for next week’s Geography Amazing Race in which the students will use the skills that they have learnt this term to solve clues and locate places in our local community. From St Kilda Pier to Middle Brighton Baths, across to Lanoxy Park and up to Balaclava station. We would love to have some parents to volunteer their time to lead a group. If you are available on Wednesday 10th of December from 3:45-4:30 to lead a group please let your classroom teacher know. You must have a current Working with Children Check to help out.</td>
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<td><strong>Other:</strong> Grades 5 and 6 are looking forward to House Swimming this Friday 5th December as well as the House Singing competition next Friday 12th at 2:30 at the stage area. Each house will perform a classic rock and roll song from the 1950s and everyone is welcome to come and watch. The grade 6 classes are looking forward to Beach Ed next Monday where we will learn all about water safety and life saving. We are also working hard on preparing for graduation on Wednesday 17th of December.</td>
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JOIN US FOR A
COMMUNITY SHRED DAY
SATURDAY 6th DECEMBER 9am - 2pm
Elwood Primary School Market
Scott St Elwood

FREE
up to 5 boxes per person

Shred your confidential documents on site

• Tax returns • Bills, Invoices, Receipts • Old legal documents
• Financial information • Bank statements • Cheque books & Diaries

Gold Coin Donation
Proceeds go to Elwood Primary School
For more information call 1300 55 88 76 or shredonsite.com.au/shredday

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