Dear Parents

In Memoriam
Our deepest sympathy to the Cumming family. We have all been saddened by the passing of Kate last week after a long battle with cancer. Our thoughts are with her family particularly Charlotte, Eloise and Paul.

Elwood PS
I would like to thank all of the EPS staff for working extremely hard this year to do the best for your children. Our teachers are committed, passionate and enthusiastic towards providing the best curriculum and engaging their classes.

They all work long hours and love being at Elwood PS. I would to thank both Nicole Richards and Jay Tucker who have done a wonderful job as Assistants Principals. They are extremely supportive, highly skilled and want each child and teacher in the school to thrive.

Our school leadership team of Nicole, Jay, Amy Wilson, Louisa Dretzke and Amy Parsons have all done a fantastic job with their teams making sure that every grade level in the school is high functioning. Our fabulous office staff have been extremely committed to making sure the school runs smoothly and all of our support staff do their jobs to the highest level.

Everybody at Elwood PS works together to provide the best for the students and parents of our community.

Staffing 2016
Our final staffing set up for 2016 will be as follows:
Assistant Principals : Nicole Richards (Junior School) & Jay Tucker (Senior School)
Prep: Amy Wilson PA, Christine Lomp PC, Sarah Galbraith PG, Ashleigh Jordon PJ, Kristy Nicola PK & Sam Brumpton PS.

Grade 1: Charlie Cooper 1C, Dianna Du 1D, Jess Farrelly 1J, Kate Helms (formerly O’Connor) 1K, 1P Poeta Hope & Rosie Cooke (formerly Johnston) 1R.
Grade 2: Adele Meren 2A, Corey Hall 2C, Lauren Thomas 2L & Rick McConchie 2R.
Grade 3: Chloe Hohneck 3C, Kathryn Millett 3K, Nathanial Payne 3N & Valerie Zedda 3V.
Grade 4: Alison Jordan 4A, Jessica Smith 4J, Lauren Keay 4L & Thess Lohman 4T.
Grade 5: Greet Tan 5C, Julie Allen 5J, Nick D’Amelio 5N & Sarah Clair 5S
Grade 6: Jad Ryan & Jenny Zimbachs 6J, Louise Dretzke 6L, Ryan Murphy 6R & Tim Ghys 6T
I/T Coach : Sara Walsh & Ariana Peters (returns Term 3)
Specialists: Amy Parsons & Tara Devers (PE), Ange Dawson & Debbie Packham (ICT/Library), Kaz Sieger (Music) Kirsteen Reid & Made (LOTE), Leyna Dosch, Andrea Robinson & Jo Nathan (Visual Arts)
Reading Recovery : Marianne Garby
Student Support : Kazz Stafford, Natanya Fisher & Sarah Godlee
Kitchen Garden Program : Kitchen - Janet Cameron and a new appointment, Garden - Kate Bulling
Office: Chris Delaney (Business Manager), Deb Nelson, Debbie Packham, Kez Stubbs & Sharron Hoggett
Sick Bay : Katie Murray & Gabby Moohan
Groundsman : David Guadagno

Grade 6
Congratulations to all Grade 6 students on completing their primary school education. All of them have made a significant contribution to the school. They have worked well together and it has been a privilege for me to get to know them over the last 6.25 years. Their leadership roles, sporting and music highlights, camps but most of all seeing them
mature into well prepared students ready to tackle secondary school and the future. To all the teachers who have worked with them over the last seven years and in particular Jad, Jenny, Louisa, Ryan and Tim I thank you on behalf of all our parents.

**Elwood College Master Plan**

Please find attached the latest information on the Elwood College Master Plan. The college will be seeking views through a parent survey next year in regards to their grounds development. We all are looking forward to some spectacular new facilities over the canal which will commence next year.

**Buller Boys**

Congratulations to the Buller Boys (Marcus, Max, Jackson, Jasper, Aiden, Lucas, Chester, Miller, Hugo, Callum and Tyler) who have raised over $3000 for sports equipment which will be used to purchase soccer and football goals next year. The boys completed a strenuous hike through the Mt Buller alpine region over the Melbourne Cup weekend.

The boys decided to raise money for the school as well as challenge themselves. They held a market stall at the October market where they had a number of games and competitions. It is an incredible effort showing the strong community spirit of our students. Follow the link below to learn more about their adventure. [https://youtu.be/IHCfC3NI2G8](https://youtu.be/IHCfC3NI2G8)

**Families leaving Elwood PS**

The following families from Grade 6 have completed their primary school learning journey and other families who will be leaving us after the last assembly on Friday.


I would like to thank all of you for your contribution to Elwood PS. Your support for classroom teachers, the market, sporting events, excursions, the Kitchen Garden and many more aspects of the school is greatly appreciated and will be missed.

**Staffing News**

James Dixon will be joining Cornish college in 2016 to be closer to home and his young family. James has had a significant impact on his students and made everlasting relationships with the many parents he has introduced to Elwood PS through Prep. We wish James all the best for the future.

Marg Prest will be moving to Elwood College to work with one of our students. Marg has been at EPS for seven years and worked with many teachers and all grade levels. We thank her for all of her work.

Gemma Lloyd will be joining Bentleigh West PS next year. We would all like to thank Gemma for the work she has done with our students and the broader Elwood PS community.

Gabby Moohan will be changing her role next year and we thank her for the wonderful work she has done with the many students he has worked with. She will be with us once a week next year as a school nurse.

Rochelle Francis will be returning to New Zealand to teach after taking over 5B seamlessly since Brooke left in term 2. We would love to keep but the call of home is stronger.

Catherine Sullivan will be returning to St.Kilda Park PS to take up a teaching position. I would like to thank Catherine for her positive impact on the kitchen program.

Laura Collins & Emma Watson will be leaving us at the end of the year after taking 2K and 4N respectively during Term 4. We are very appreciative of the fantastic way they guided both classes in such a positive way until the end of the term.

Sam Somerville will be joining our Kitchen team next year and will be working on Thursday and until lunchtime each Friday. Sam brings a wealth of experience to us having worked in schools and cooking programs.

I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday period and look forward to seeing you all next year when we will continue to grow and evolve as a school.

Rob Csoti … Principal

**Where did 2015 go?**

Thinking back to the start of the year in the Junior School; all the learning experiences, friendships formed, the way your children have developed and changed, it may not seem that long ago! However, it has been a fast and busy year indeed and we are all in need of some down time. Time to re-charge the batteries and re-energize for 2016!

This is always a good time of the year to reflect on all of the events, learning opportunities and experiences and the people and friends in our community that helps make our school such a vibrant, happy and
positive place to be. We often get stuck in the everyday goings on and thinking “that’s just what we do”, often not reflecting on what truly makes us a great school.

When I look back on the year in the Junior School, yes it is all of the learning opportunities in the classroom with our amazingly dedicated, hard-working and talented staff but it is much more too. The special events such as 100 days of Prep, the excursions and incursions, Grade 1 dinner, Grade 2 sleepover, Investigations with parents running amazing clinics, blowing out candles for our Big Write wishes, Book Week dress ups, Picnics with Choirs and Orchestras and bands, performances at the Palais, play times in the shade of the trees, rolling in barrels from the POD and all manner of things particular to Elwood!

Most importantly, it is also the partnership with you, our families and students – learning together, sharing the learning journey and celebrating together that makes for a wonderful school.

We look forward to all of the opportunities for you to continue to take an active part in your child’s learning next year with us.

We hope that everyone gets to spend time with friends and family without having to rush around – slow down, reflect and enjoy the year that was – ready for the new year to come!

Have a safe break. See you back in 2016.
Nicole Richards ... Assistant Principal (Junior School)

Fantastic Achievement in 2015!
Looking back on the year and all that we have achieved, is a rewarding feeling for all. The dynamic and diverse curriculum that our staff have worked tirelessly to provide the students with has been outstanding.

The Kitchen Garden Program, excursions, excursions, ERPs and expo’s, the whole school production, choirs, lunch time activities, Leadership roles, Enhanced Learning, Athletics, Swimming, Inter-School Sport and school camps, just to name a few of the many opportunities our students have had.

The parent involvement in all of these experiences has been wonderful and we know that when parents and the community are involved, students learn more. A lot of the things we do just couldn’t happen without the efforts of parents and friends volunteering their time.

It would be fair to say that EPS is a leader in being a genuine community school and the positive environment this creates for all. These are just a few of the things I noticed this year and I’m looking forward to it all happening again in 2016.

Have a safe and happy break and look forward to catching up in the New Year.
Jay Tucker ... Assistant Principal (Senior School)

2016 February Market
Thank you for your contribution to the Elwood Primary School Community Market in 2015. Your efforts over recent years have helped to provide interactive whiteboards in classrooms and the beautified central space and stage area.

The next school market is on Saturday 6 February, 2016, which is only one week after school starts. The Market Committee would like to fill the February volunteer roster now, before the commencement of the Christmas school holidays.

Can you help for a couple of hours on Saturday 6 February? If you can, please select a volunteer activity for the February market at: www.elwoodmarket.com/volunteer/february

Class Representatives
Class Reps are invaluable to our school and community. Our programs would not be successful without them. If you are interested in being a Class Rep for your child’s 2016 class, please contact Monica King at monica@michaelforbes.org

Dear Community of Elwood Primary School
On behalf of the Outside School Hours Care staff members, I would like to thank everyone for making this year an exceptionally amazing year. Thank you very much for being patient with me while I learnt my new role and a big thank you for all of the support we gained at the service.

To those that will be parting ways with us it has been an amazing journey together, may it be half a year or five years, and we will you all the best in your future endeavours. However, I am looking forward to another fun filled adventurous year next year! Happy holidays.

Attachments:
House Swimming
Elwood College Master Plan Update
Community Market Flyer
House Swimming 2015
This year was a great year for House Swimming - it was a beautiful sunny day which made for a great atmosphere. The kids looked amazing in all their House colours, matching swimming caps and the venue looked great with all our banners and bunting around the pool. Every child took part whether they could swim a stroke or run through the water like a cowboy in the noodle race. It was great to see everyone having so much fun no matter what his or her level of ability.

All Houses showed fantastic House spirit although Gordon really stood out from the crowd by showing amazing house spirit all day. They sent kids to their events on time, they danced, they sang and the cheered without a pause all day long, it was great to see. They were awarded our House Spirit Award for House Swimming this year.

Thank you so much for Karen and Petrina’s amazing House coloured items from the House market stall and for all the things we have been able to buy for our school using the money they raise. I would also like to say a huge thank you to all the parents and teachers who helped on the day. It just would not have been the great day it was without your help. Thank you to all the teachers and parents who swam in the parent teacher and student race.

2016 Zimbachs House Champion Shield
House sports have reached a whole new level this year with participation, performance and of course House spirit. The new House Athletics competition ran extremely well and all the kids and teachers loved travelling to the Sandringham Athletics track. All Houses performed extremely well within our twenty competitions including: Our three House spirit awards, soccer, cross-country, basketball, chess x 2, athletics & ball sports, dodgeball, netball, trivia, spelling bee, tug of war, swimming, singing and lawn bowls.

Our results this year were extremely close between Gordon and Paterson coming 1st and 2nd for 2016. Gordon also managed to be awarded the House Spirit award three times which no house has ever achieved before. Their sportsmanship was impeccable.

What a great year of House Activities. I am very much looking forward to what 2016 has in store for us.

Amy P & Tim
Buildings and Grounds Masterplan Update

Friday 11 December, 2015

In 2016, we will embark on a $10 million building program, creating 21st-century learning environments and a more centralised campus for our students.

Planning for our new double-storey building is progressing according to the project plan with the Department of Education (DET) and our architects, Taylor Oppenheim.

The schematic design for the Masterplan will be completed in mid-February 2016 and tenders are expected to go out to builders in late May.

It is anticipated that building works will commence July 2016.

Three buildings will be demolished over Easter 2016. The remainder of our older buildings will be demolished once the new building is complete.

This is a very exciting time in the history of Elwood College, for the Elwood Hub and for the wider community. Saying goodbye to our older buildings will open up our site for extensive new sporting and recreation facilities.

We see this as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create a much-needed resource we can share with the community outside of school hours – a sport and leisure hub, a green space and a meeting place.

Wendy Dunstan, current Elwood College school councillor and EPS parent is leading our Building and Grounds subcommittee. In February 2016, this group plans to administer an online survey to our community on current use of the college grounds and what other facilities would be attractive (e.g. landscaped grounds, upgraded outdoor basketball and netball courts).

We also plan to work directly with interested parents from Elwood Primary School to feed your ideas directly into our planning.

Check the Friends of Elwood College Facebook page for regular Masterplan updates: Facebook/FriendsElwoodCollege
Elwood Community Markets - 2016.

6 Feb 5 March 4 June
6 August 5 Sept 3 Nov 3 Dec

stalls@elwoodmarket.com

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www.elwoodprimary.vic.edu.au

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/36342