



# Newsletter



**Website :** [www.elwoodprimary.vic.edu.au](http://www.elwoodprimary.vic.edu.au)

**Community Market (bookings) :** [www.trybooking.com/236549](http://www.trybooking.com/236549)

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Dear Parents

**2017**

At this time of the year, it is easy to rush into the holiday vibe, Christmas with friends and family and forward plan for 2018. But, it is important to take stock of the Semester and reflect on the year that has passed ever so quickly!

We kicked off the Semester with our Trivia Night, celebrated Asia Week, congratulated our Preps on their 100 days of school, held House Athletics, National Science Week with our volunteer parents and students running exciting science experiments, the Grade 1 Dinner, Book Week Parades and Grandparents' Day and celebrating the Enhanced Learning Program. We held Parent Teacher Interviews and Information Nights, a wonderful Father's Day Stall and our amazing night at the Palais with our Centenary Production! Grade 2 slept over at school, Grade 3, 4, 5 and 6 headed to adventurous camps and Ryan B got married! We held Chess Tournaments, went on excursions such as Sovereign Hill, Werribee Zoo and Ripponlea House as well as welcoming guest speakers to the school. Our Junior School loved their Tabloid Sports Day, Grade 6 held their Art Show and Grade 4 peddled through Bike Ed. We celebrated our Volunteers with a Morning Tea, danced at the Family Picnic, the Grade 6 Graduation Ceremony and met our new teachers and grades for 2018. Wow!

Of course, the biggest celebration was our Centenary Year – with T-Shirts, pavers, badges, newspapers, our sculpture that is forming before our eyes and our 100 year Market!

I know that I have missed so much

more and of course, the learning journey that our students have undertaken together with their classroom teachers and specialists goes without saying – but I shall say - a huge thank you again to our amazing staff who find joy each and every day teaching and learning at EPS.

I hope everyone has a restful and re-energising holiday with family and friends. I hope you get time to reflect on your year and celebrate the successes of 2017 together. We shall see you back at school for another great year in 2018.

#### Thank you

I would like to thank all the staff and parents for your assistance and support whilst sitting in the big chair and although I have always appreciated the huge role of Principal and the amazing job Rob does at EPS, I have an even better understanding of the complexities of the Principal role and value the leadership Rob demonstrates as Principal. We all look forward to Rob's return and I definitely look forward to heading back to my Junior School! I would like to particularly say thanks to the ladies in the office for their assistance and support throughout the year and most certainly through my time as Acting Principal. To Jay, Ariana and Sara who all continued to somehow complete their roles in our school as well as constantly helping me out and assisting in running the school. It has been an absolute joy!

#### Staffing

It was lovely to hear all the excitement and positive chatter during and after our Transition Day. Our kids, parents and staff are all looking forward to a new year and getting to know each other.

**20 December 2017  
No.22**

## CALENDAR

**Friday 22 December**

Last Day for 2017

1.00pm Assembly

1.30pm Finish

**2018 School Resumes**

Wed 31 January : Grade 1 - 6

Thurs 1 February : Preps

**Last day for 2017  
Friday 22 December  
students finish  
at 1.30pm**



*Wishes Summer Holiday - Victor*

**2018 Return Dates  
Wednesday 31 January  
Grades 1 - 6  
Thursday 1 February  
Prep**



Our teams are:

Prep: Christine (Level 1 Team Leader), Sam B (2IC), Millie, Jess F and Ryan

Grade 1: Lauren (Level 2 Team Leader), Charlie, Jacq, Peta, Stephanie Y and Tara and Suzie

Grade 2: Olivia (2IC), Adele, Ashleigh, Jess S, Jo and Laura and Steph M

Grade 3: Anna, Chloe (2IC), Nat, Rick and Valerie

Grade 4: Sarah P, Caroline, Julie and Thess

Grade 5: Corey, Gretl, Nick and Sarah C (2IC)

Grade 6: Louisa (Level 4 Team Leader), Billy, Melinda, Ryan M and Tim

Learning Coaches: Ariana (Level 3 Team Leader) and Sara W

Art: Leanne, Andrea and Leyna

Library and ICT: Ange, Debbie P and Eli

LOTE: Kirsteen, Jenny and Made

Music: Kaz and Paula

Performing Arts: Paula

PE: Sam C and Leyna

Literacy Support: Marianne

SAKG: Janet, Sam S and Kathy

Office: Deb N, Kez, Debbie P and Christine D

Many of our EPS families will notice a number of changes to our staffing, both office and classroom positions, which is always an exciting, time both professionally and personally for our staff, but also some changes in terms of staff leaving us – be it a little time or a long time.

**We say thank you, farewell, wish you well and see you soon to:**

*Kathryn Millett* is taking Long Service Leave for Term 1 and will return in Term 2. We wish her bon voyage and hope she enjoy the time away!

*Amy Wilson* is taking a years leave to pursue other areas and re-energise ready for a return in 2019. Amy's care, dedication and unwavering love of our Preps has always made for a calm, positive, smooth and exciting Prep year and we will miss her hugely. But of course, Amy has made sure she has dotted all her "i's" and crossed all her "t's" to ensure the 2018 Preps are ready and raring to go. Enjoy 2018 Amy!

*Sharron Hoggett* in the office – better known as Shaz – has resigned from her position to spend time with her family, travel and perhaps help out in 1S! We thank Shaz for her friendly, smiley face, happy antics and care for the Elwood Family. We will miss her hugely

And to *Jad Ryan*: After 50 years of dedication to the teaching service, and beginning her time with EPS in 1992, we say thank you and farewell. A teacher and educator to not only our students who have the joy of being taught by Jad, but also the parents who seek her advice and the staff who have had the pleasure to learn with and from her as both mentor, colleague and

friend. Choir master, Production Co-ordinator and PE Teacher are just some of the hidden talents that we have all benefitted from. Student welfare was also one of Jad's biggest roles in EPS – co-ordinating and championing students and families with learning differences or difficulties, attending Student Support Groups, implementing learning goals and improvement plans as well as assisting staff through her expertise and knowledge of these students and families. It was very telling that many past students, parents and staff came along to the House Singing Competition on Monday to join in our special little send off in song to Jad and I know the staff are all looking forward to personally saying their farewells and best of luck to Jad on Friday. Jad, we are so thankful for your expertise, dedication, enthusiasm and commitment to both teaching and EPS and we can only say that this is now your time to enjoy your family, particularly your grandchildren. Savour and enjoy Jad!

**Thank you and farewell Michael:**

Market and EPS in general, will be a little quieter with the absence of the ever calm, problem-solving, dedicated and hardworking parent and Market Committee Chairman, Michael Feferkranz.

Michael and his wife Pip have been a huge part of our school since 2006 and along with organising and thoroughly enjoying the Markets each month, the Feferkranz family have been instrumental in educating our students and community on gratitude and giving to others. The Feferkranz and Vincent Families raised money for the Life and Hope Association and with this donation from EPS, built a home for a Cambodian Family in 2013, as well as donating 13 new bikes to the community in Siem Reap. Photo on next page.

So we would like to thank both Michael and Pip for the countless hours of dedication to not only our school but to communities that benefitted from their generosity also. We are very grateful for all your hard work, sausage turning, organisation and commitment to Elwood Primary School. Thank you!

**Grade 6**

Congratulations to our Grade 6 students who will shortly finish their primary school education. Over their seven years at EPS they have grown in every way. They have become confident young people who know their talents and are well prepared for their secondary school journey both academically and socially.

I would like to acknowledge their wonderful Grade 6 teachers from this year; Louisa, Tim, Ryan, Jad & Jenny. To all the other teachers they have had along the way that have helped piece their learning journey with us together I thank you on behalf of our community.

Please join us at the last assembly on Friday at 1:00pm to say good bye and good luck.

**Families leaving Elwood PS :**

Good bye and good luck to the following families who are leaving Elwood PS:

Antonopoulos, Bannister, Baxter, Bennett, Boileau, Bonezzi, Brunner, Clapham Fell, Constable, Crawley, Cross, Davies, Dickson, Dowe, Edwards, Eyers, Farrelly, Feferkranz, Finkel, Fjell, Fox, Geer Bourke, Godby-Daley, Gould, Gulliver, Hanneysee, Harward, Henderson, Hill, Hinge, Huang, Ka, Kasper, Kilgour, Kuhl, Langdon, Larracas, Ling, McCarthy, Locke Kelly, Macdonald, Mikishkova, Mitelman, Napier, Neagle, Noonan, Olafsson, Pace, Panakos, Papantoniou, Paratheras, Phillips, Pierlot, Punicki, Quin, Redlich, Rekittke, Rodbard-Bean, Roveto, Sirianos, Star, Stewart, Suthar, Taylor Morgenthaler, Umansky, Vincent, Vivian, Wall, Wallace, Walker, Walker Walsh, Ward, Wasley, Watkins, Wilson and Woods.

I wish everybody a safe and happy holiday break.

*Nicole Richards* ... Acting Principal

**Parent Rep Volunteers in 2018**

An EPS class rep is the point of contact for and distributor of, school information within your class. As a rep you will be required to attend 4 parent and friends meetings per year, 1 each term, which are brief, informative and fun. These meetings are held on a Tuesday or Wednesday evening and run for about an hour. During the meeting you will have the

opportunity to contribute, if you wish, to some social school decisions and fund raising ideas, as well as keep up to date with important school information and market updates etc.

This is a great way to assist our families in getting to know each other and feel a part of our wonderful community. You will also get to know lots of other parents. So if you feel drawn to join us as a class rep in 2018, please sign up. <https://www.volunteersignup.org/XRC39>

*Sara Levene*

**Class Lists for 2018**

Class Lists are produced from information downloaded from our database and then sent to the class representative for distribution to your class. These lists are private & confidential and are to be only used for school based communication.

This list has the following details The student first name and surname, Adult A name, home phone number, mobile number, Adult B name and Adult A email address.

Students with **two families** who would like **both** families included please email the school at [elwood.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:elwood.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au) as soon as possible. If you have any questions call the school on 9531 2762.



Photo : The Life and Hope Association in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

## A Farewell to Jad

By Louisa Dretzke

Wisdom is not something you can buy and it is not something that everyone has. Jad Ryan has wisdom and anyone who has been lucky enough to work with her or be taught by her has benefitted from that wisdom. While Jad loves a song and a dance, she is not someone who makes one about herself. She goes about her teaching and her life in a quiet, modest way, but her impact on those around her is anything but modest. It is 50 years since she started teaching; her experience is vast and her passion and enthusiasm for the job has never dwindled. She has a depth of understanding about student welfare that comes from her passion, her experience and her genuine care for everyone who crosses her path. She has resources for everything that she happily shares and she possibly has every teaching related website bookmarked on her computer! If we need teaching ideas, Jad's got them.

The impact of someone's teaching career isn't always tangible or easy to quantify but if you look carefully, you can spot it. And Jad's impact is huge. You can see it in the way students (and teachers) come to her for advice; in the number of students who come back to visit her long after they have left our school or as adults invite her to their performances (knowing that she was a part of why they are successful in the performing arts). You can see it in the way students in her class take risks with their learning and strive to achieve high standards and you could hear it in the collective gasp that reverberated around the staff meeting when it was announced that Jad was retiring. I am ever so grateful that, for the first nine years of my teaching career, I have had Jad as someone to admire and emulate and I am even more grateful that I have been able to work closely with her in the grade 5/6 team and count her as a mentor and a friend. I can only hope that I will become half the teacher that Jad is.

While we know we will still see Jad around, we are going to miss her more than words can express. So Jad, I'll leave the last words to Neil Gaiman, (an author whom she loves): "May your coming years be filled with magic and dreams and good madness."



## Team Holiday Elwood

What a year it has been! Elwood Team Holiday would like to thank you all for inviting us into your community this year. We have loved getting to know all the children, families and school community and are looking forward to an amazing 2018!

We hope to see you in the school holidays. Some of the activities will be exciting excursions like Super Zu, Melbourne Zoo and mini-golf, incredible excursions like laser tag, slime time and bricks for kids and fun in-house days making hats and frisbees and fashion parades!

Don't forget Friday 22 December After School Care will be running from 1.30pm when school finishes, come join the end of year party! We will be having a jumping castle and party games.

We would like to say farewell and good luck to Brody and Emma, incredible team members who will be moving on to direct their own Team Holiday B&A programs.

We hope you all have a safe and happy holiday break - see you in 2018! **As we say at Team Holiday 'Let the Fun begin!'**

