Dear Parents

International Women’s Day
Last Tuesday was International Women’s Day. I would like to formally acknowledge the amazing women we have working at Elwood PS. They are all an inspiration and great role models to our girls and our boys. They are dedicated and focused on the learning development of all students at EPS and I am a much better person for working with them all.

NAPLAN
NAPLAN testing for Grade 3 and 5 students will commence in the week beginning May 9th. (Week 5 term 2) All parents in Grade 3 and 5 will receive a booklet next term explaining NAPLAN in detail.

NAPLAN stands for National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy. All students in Australia in Grades 3, 5, year 7 and year 9 sit NAPLAN assessments. Students are assessed in Writing, Reading, Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation) and Numeracy.

All parents receive an individual report on how their child performed in the assessments later in the year. The school also receives these individual reports and data around how we have performed against State means and similar schools.

How did we perform in 2015?
Our Grade 3 & 5 NAPLAN results were exceptionally high last year when compared to our normally great results.

Grade 3
• Results in Reading, Numeracy, Spelling & Punctuation and Grammar were well above the State. Writing results were above the State and much higher than 2014.
• All results were at their highest levels for the last four years.
• All results were on a par with our comparison schools.

Our Grade 3 results were very pleasing with significant growth in all literacy and numeracy scores. These results are an indication of the success of our literacy and numeracy strategies in the years leading up to Grade 3 NAPLAN testing.

Grade 5
• Results in Reading, Numeracy, Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar were significantly above the state. Writing scores were well above the state.
• All results were again at four year highs.
• All scores were on a par with our comparison schools
• Students achieving high relative growth from Grades 3 to 5 was well above our comparison schools and shows significant value adding to our students learning during Grades 3, 4 & 5.
• This comparative data again shows the strength of our literacy and numeracy programs with our students’ learning growing at an even greater level than our comparison schools.
• All teachers continue to work very hard in literacy and numeracy and we expect our strong results to continue this year.

Parent Teacher Meetings
These important and informative meetings are taking place this week. If you have not met with your teacher please email them to make an
alternative time. We strongly recommend that all parents meet with their classroom teachers to share and receive important information about their child’s learning.

International Conference
I will be attending and presenting at the International Community Schools Conference in the USA during the first term break. It is a large conference with delegates from all over the USA and the world. My presentation will focus on Parent Engagement, Curriculum Personalisation, Community Links and Enhanced Learning. It will be an in-depth look at how we operate at EPS which in turn makes us such a unique, high achieving and Inclusive Community School.

The Enhanced Learning Program returns to Elwood Primary School.

Selected students from Grade 5 and 6 will be able to participate in this program. There will be two groups of 8 – 10 students in the program.

This program has run successfully at Elwood Primary School over the last five years and has two main parts.

Part 1: Focused Educational Support to enhance student selected learning goals. This may also include the completion of homework.

Part 2: Enhanced Learning opportunities in an exciting range of activities linked to students interest areas.

The program will take place after school from 3:45pm – 5:30pm.

Students start with a snack then move into the educational support session followed by the activity based session. Each group will have at least three leaders chosen from a teacher training university (which may include Monash University, Victoria University, Deakin University or RMIT) and trained by myself. Volunteers from the NAB may be involved in the Enhanced Learning opportunities session. Elwood College Year 10 students will also assist with each group.

This is an extremely exciting opportunity which will further enhance learning and allow students to develop their skills and talents.

This program has received Schools First funding through the NAB program and forms a partnership with Monash University, Noble Park PS and ourselves. The first session will commence early Term 2 and then continue every week until the end of Term 3 culminating in a celebration / performance at the end of term.

Rob Csoti

District & Division Swimming
Elwood Primary School made history this year by coming 1st in District Swimming for the very first time. With thirty students swimming, twenty of these students then progressed on to Division swimming. This is the highest number who have made it through to this level, many of whom achieved their personal best times. Their support and sportsmanship towards fellow team mates as well as other schools was something to be proud of.

Go Elwood!!

Earth Hour
Turn off your lights for EARTH HOUR or EARTH DAY for schools

Saturday 19th March 8:30-9:30pm is Earth Hour. This year Earth Hour is celebrating the places we love that make our outdoor lifestyle and the Aussie way of life so great. Our beaches, rivers, reefs, snow-capped mountains, farmland and national parks uniquely distinguish Australia as the “lucky country”. You can become a part of the movement and start to take action on climate change by visiting earthhour.org.au to register for Lights Out or find your local event.

Camps, Sports & Excursion Fund (CSEF)
If you hold a Centrelink, Pensioner Concession or a Veteran Affairs Gold card you may be eligible to apply. You must also be a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered government primary or secondary school. Please see the office for details.

You Can Do It
Term 1: Getting Along
Getting Along means working well with teachers and classmates, resolving disagreements peacefully, following the rules of the classroom and making positive contributions to school, home and the community including protecting the rights of others and looking after the environment.
This fortnight we will be focusing on:
Taking turns and negotiating

Almost every day at school we need to take our turn. Sometimes it is in the classroom and other times, outside in the yard. In the classroom we may need to wait for our turn to see the teacher or to use some equipment. In games, we need to take our turn to bat or bowl and all sorts of play. Wait patiently, allow other to finish and give others a chance to have their go too.

Negotiation involves trying to get what you want by working it out with the other person. Negotiating needs to be planned and each side has to complete their side of the bargain. Remember, you are more likely to get what you want and keep friends if the other person gets something they want or need too. When negotiating, always use a friendly voice.

You Can Do It!

Manners Matter
Almost every day at school there are people who help us and who we help too. In the classroom we can help our friends and our teachers and outside in the playground, we often help out students from other classrooms and especially some of the younger students at our school.

Hopefully when we help out our friends, teachers, parents or people around us, they will usually respond with “thank you.”

A polite way to respond to someone saying thanks; is to say - ‘You’re welcome.’ Other ways of saying “you’re welcome” can include, “no worries” or “no problems.” For example, a friend might say, “Thanks for helping me with my work” and we can respond with, “No problems” because it is informal and we know each other well.

If an adult such a teacher or parent says “Thank you for helping me,” we should respond with “You’re welcome”.

Thank you and “You’re welcome” is another way to show people around us that we are kind, caring and considerate Elwood Primary Kids.

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?

18 March: National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence
This day encourages parents and families to take a stand together with school communities and recognise the important role that everyone plays to stop bullying.

19 March: Earth Hour 8.30pm
Earth Hour is an international sustainability movement, where individuals and businesses are encouraged to turn off all lights for an hour. Earth Hour aims to increase awareness of the impact we have on our world through the use of fossil fuels and electricity.

Here at EPS, we will be having Earth Hour/Day activities to highlight our sustainability efforts such as classes popping down to one of our many local natural spaces with their teachers such as the canals, Elmer creek, Elsternwick Park, Elwood beach or even just enjoying some time in the Garden, courtyard, turf or park.

20 March: International Day of Happiness
Do something, big or small, to take part on 20 March and bring happiness to others.

21 March: Naw Ruz (New Year) - Baha’i
Naw-Ruz (‘New Day’) is the Bahá’í and Iranian new year. It occurs on the date of the vernal equinox, and symbolises the new life of spring.

21 March: Harmony Day
Harmony Day is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home - from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world. By participating in Harmony Day activities, we can learn and understand how all Australians from diverse backgrounds equally belong to this nation and enrich it.

Remember, Manners Matter!
21 March: World Poetry Day
The United Nations describes poetry as another facet of the dialogue among cultures. World Poetry Day is a celebration of the contribution made to society by poetry. Do you have a favourite poem that you can recite?

21 March: World Down Syndrome Day
Down syndrome is a naturally occurring chromosomal arrangement that has always been a part of the human condition, exists in all regions across the globe and commonly results in variable effects on learning styles, physical characteristics or health. Adequate access to health care, to early intervention programmes and to inclusive education, as well as appropriate research, are vital to the growth and development of the individual.

Enjoy your upcoming weeks and school holidays, whatever it holds or whatever you are celebrating! Keep safe, relax and enjoy time with friends and family and we will see you in Term 2.

Nicole Richards ... Assistant Principal

Music News
High Voltage Rock School will visiting Monday 21st March in the Music room during lunchtime to talk to students who’ve returned forms. On the day the kids will be informed about what the program is all about and play their instrument to help decide on groups. You are welcome to bring your own instrument. Band classes will be held during lunchtimes every Tuesday. Rock on!

Garden News
There are lots of changes in the garden as the seasons change. Can you notice what is happening?

Leaf, Root & Fruit
Have you noticed that some of our fruit trees have had a haircut? We have been lucky enough to have some professionals from 'Leaf, Root & Fruit' to visit our garden.

Duncan and Tim spent over 2 hours pruning fruit trees and also gave me a pruning lesson and other expert advice. And they did this for free, donating their visit to our kitchen garden program!

I heard Duncan talking about veggie boxes, wicking beds and growing vegetables in small spaces during the Sustainable Living Festival. When I engaged him to come to our garden, I did not expect such generosity.

We want to thank Leaf, Root & Fruit (http://www.leafrootfruit.com.au/) for this help. I hope I can remember all their pearls of wisdom.

Chickens
Do you have a name in mind for one of the new chickens? There is a shoe box on the garden veranda to post names. Write the number of your chicken on a slip of paper with the suggested name. These photos show the numbers and the breed of each chicken.

Kate Bulling (Garden Specialist)
Learning and the School Holidays

Supporting your child’s learning at home can continue throughout the school holidays and there are many fun activities at home and around Victoria that can help your child learn while enjoying this time away from school.

- Check out your local library for children’s activities scheduled during the school holidays.
- Spend the day cooking to help with reading, maths and science skills.
- Organise a craft day and make birthday or Christmas cards, paint or create simple friendship bands with a mixture of buttons and big beads.
- Help your child make a cubby house outside or inside with cushions and spare blankets under a table or a bed.
- Hold a treasure hunt. You could hide toys, books or treats all over the house and garden and let your child search for them to discover the treasures you’ve hidden.
- Enjoy a book or two together.

Don’t forget, we also have Team Holiday running their School Holiday Program here at school. They have great programs operating all holidays including Movie Excursions, the Junior Rockers Incursion to learn basic drums; learn how to make their own drum and explore a range of percussion instruments and the Slip ‘n’ Slide is back!

It is also really important to remember to have some down time!

Although a short term, it has been a very busy one, particularly for our Preps and Junior School, with developing new routines and an enormous amount of learning in Literacy, Numeracy, Specialist areas and all of the social and emotional developmental learning that is part of each day at EPS.

Brain research tells us that “switching to a state of mental rest, such as daydreaming, helps us process our experiences, consolidate memories, reinforce learning, regulate our attention and emotions and keep us productive and effective in our work and judgment.”

With so much learning happening at school and learning often continuing after school with sport, music and other personal pursuits – fitting in downtime is easier said than done.

However, even just closing your eyes, taking one deep breath, and exhaling can help to refresh the brain and takes practically no time. Offering more downtime in the school holidays might be just the thing for keeping ourselves on schedule and giving our brains that little bit of freedom to turn off for just a minute.

Holidays are a perfect time for all of us to take a break. I’ll certainly be finding some time to unplug, unwind, and turn off. Will you?

Nicole Richards
Assistant Principal
What’s happening during Weeks 8 & 9 at Elwood Primary School?

**Level 1 (Prep)**

**Literacy:** During literacy this fortnight we will be exploring the letters b, j, d and z and discussing the dominant sounds that they each produce. We will also be working on how we form each of these letters using the lower case letters. During writing sessions this fortnight we will be continuing to work on correct pencil grip and will be working towards recording dominant sounds in words that we hear to support our illustrations. When reading our weekly big books we will be exploring various forms of punctuation such as capital letters, full stops, exclamation marks and question marks and be focusing on various high frequency ‘popcorn words’. We will also be ‘predicting’ what will happen in stories and ‘re-reading’ words for clarification and to help us decode the text.

**Maths:** We will be learning about location and interpreting the everyday language of location and direction, such as ‘between’, ‘near’, ‘next to’, ‘forwards’, ‘towards’. We will be looking at how we can collect data to show information such as our favourite foods and colours. We will be learning about how to record this data and how to represent it in simple picture graphs. In the final week of the term we will be revising all of the wonderful things we have learnt during maths this year!

**Investigations:** During Investigations this fortnight we will be looking at our Manners Matter and You Can Do It foci of taking turns and using a friendly voice when we are working together in teams. The Prep teachers will continue to introduce the Photographer and Reporter and support the children in understanding the role of each of these.

**Other:** Wow, what a wonderful first term the preps have had! We are extremely proud of the transition they have all made and we would like to thank you all for your support and positive feedback! Have a wonderful school holiday and we look forward to a fun filled term 2! The Prep teachers ©

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**Level 2 (Grade 1 & 2)**

**Literacy:** This fortnight we will be starting a new seed in Writer’s Workshop. Our VCOP focus is openers; we will be playing lots of games that explore the variety of ways in which we can open a sentence. During our spelling lessons, we will be listing for and clapping out syllables and identifying and recording a vowel sound in each syllable of a word. Our handwriting letters walking sticks, which include m, n, and r. As we draw towards the end of the term, children will have the opportunity to share and celebrate their published written pieces. Our reading strategy is monitoring and self-correcting. During our reading groups we will practise rereading sentences to problem solve, self-correct or confirm meaning. We will be looking for clues in the pictures and the text and using prior knowledge to help understand the meaning of the text.

**Maths:**

This fortnight is investigating, questioning and discovering 2D shapes and 3D objects. We will use lots of hands on materials to learn the names of shapes, describe the properties of each shape and compare the differences and similarities in shapes. 2D figures can be straight, curved or a combination of both while a 3D object has width, depth and height. We will be learning how to deconstruct a 3D shape in to a net.

**Investigations:** Our developmental focus is to show empathy. Empathy is when you place yourself in someone else’s shoes and feel what they are feeling. This helps us to better understand people’s actions and therefore a better friend.

**Environment:** Last week we looked at our composting and recycling behaviours at school. This fortnight students will be coming up with ways to reduce waste in the home.

**Grade 2 Incursion:** We are having the Life Education come and visit us at EPS. We will be learning about safety within our community, expressing our emotions and locating all the major organs within the body.
Level 3 (Grade 3 & 4)

Literacy: Over the next fortnight our Year 3 and Year 4 students will continue to focus on the comprehension strategy of visualising as they read, ‘creating a movie in their mind’. Students will be encouraged to identify the descriptive words and phrases that help them to create images and will spend time recording these images and use of language in their reading journals. Our Year 4 students will be creating visualisations that emerge from descriptions around all five senses and will discover that, as proficient readers, their images constantly adjust as they continue to incorporate new information. During writing sessions the Year 3 students will continue to explore the writing cycle, focusing on revising and editing pieces for their Writer’s Gift. During writing sessions this fortnight our Year 4 students will continue the writing cycle, focusing on revising their work using our VCOP elements with a particular focus on punctuation and the use of WOW words and new more descriptive and advanced vocabulary.

Maths: During this fortnight’s maths sessions our Year 3 students are continuing to develop their recall of known number facts (such as immediate recall of doubles, near doubles, 9 more, 10s facts etc) and will begin to use these strategies in more formal addition and subtraction algorithms and problem solving tasks. The Year 4 students also continue their exploration into addition and subtraction making connections between mental strategies they have built and how these can be used in problem solving tasks. They will also continue to use the formal algorithms for addition and subtraction with many students moving to renaming within these equations and larger numbers and more complicated problems.

Inquiry: Students in Year 3 are continuing to focus on the three dimensions of health; physical, emotional and social. Each class is working on a scaffolded whole class Educational Research Project (ERP) which will be shared between the Year 3 classes in the last week of school. Over the next few terms this will build to a more formal EXPO for families and friends to attend in which students will share their learning and more independently created ERPs. The Year 4 students continue to explore the concept of community and will be focusing on the diversity we find in our community. Students are also beginning to plan and prepare our Year 4 ERP: Our ANZAC Day Assembly ready to share with the Elwood School Community next term, Friday 22nd April 2016. More details to come!

Level 4 (Year 5 & 6)

Literacy: In reading, Grade 5 classes have been immersed in authentic persuasive texts and are now using their inferential skills to explore character emotion, values and motivation. We make meaningful inferences using text clues and our background knowledge. Grade 6 classes are continuing to explore the themes of the texts that we are reading and are identifying common themes that are found in literary texts.

In Writing Grade 5 and 6 classes are continuing to draft their persuasive and mystery texts and using a variety of techniques that have been taught throughout the term. Students are then going to publish their persuasive and mystery texts.

Maths: Grade 5 and 6 classes will continue to work on developing the ability to use a variety of strategies to solve addition and subtraction problems. Grade 5 classes will revise their mental strategies for solving addition and subtraction problems. Grade 6 classes will begin to explore ways to add and subtract decimals. Both Grades 5 and 6 will look at how to use estimation and rounding to check the reasonableness of answers.

Inquiry: In Grade 5, students are busy identifying and discussing the ways in which people define their own identities including personality, values, family and relationships. We will be looking into support networks within our community that are present to help us feel safe and physically, socially and emotionally happy and evaluating how, when and why we use them.

Grade 6 classes will begin to look at stories of groups of people who have migrated to Australia and the reasons they migrated. We will also look at migrants’ experiences of Australian democracy and citizenship. We will begin to draw together our learning to consider the ways in which Australian society changed throughout the twentieth century.

Other: Grade 6 students have handed in their leadership applications and leadership roles will be announced in the final week of term.
This year (beginning Term 2) you can earn **HOUSE POINTS** by bringing Nude Food each Monday. See the tips below and **NUDE your FOOD!**

Did you know, you do not need to put Gladwrap around your sandwich? They will stay fresh on their own.

Little containers are very good for putting snacks inside.

You can make your own tasty snacks at home instead of buying things in packets.

You can bring tomato sauce in a container instead of ordering it from the bakery.

You can actually wash and re-use snap lock bags.

Lunchboxes with little sections are great for delicious bits and pieces!

You can spoon yogurt into containers from a big tub instead of buying lots of small ones.
RIDE-TO-SCHOOL DAY

A huge congratulations and THANK YOU to all the students, parents and teachers who participated in national Ride-To-School day last Friday. It was a huge success! Altogether we took 229 cars of the road. Both the senior school and junior school bike sheds we over flowing.

HOUSE COMPETITION RESULTS
1st Lawson 155pts
2nd Paterson 139pts
3rd Dennis 126pts
4th Gordon 125pts

Last Friday was also Clean Up Australia Schools Day. Students from Grade 6, Grade 2 and Prep participated. They managed to collect many bags of ‘rubbish’ from within and just outside the school grounds. This material will be weighed and sorted into recyclables and disposables by the grade 2s during their investigations time. Thanks to all those who participated!

Remember, it is up to all of us to keep our grounds ‘rubbish free’!
HIGH VOLTAGE

ROCK SCHOOL

ROCK ENROLL TODAY!

PERFORMANCE BASED MUSIC PROGRAMS THAT CATER FOR MUSICIANS OF ALL AGES & ABILITY

High Voltage Rock School is perfect for individual musicians looking to **form a band** or established bands looking for extra support. At HVRS, kids get the opportunity to **play live shows, record songs in a professional recording studio** and most importantly learn and **create the songs** they want to.

High Voltage Rock School provides a safe and nurturing environment for rockers aged between 5 and 18 years. Term and Holiday programs available.

For more information and to find your nearest location please visit:

[HVRS.net.au](http://hvrs.net.au) or email: dan@hvrs.net.au
ELWOOD OSHC HIGHLIGHTS

Helping the Children
At the service, we aim to ensure that children are developing their life skills and broadening their understanding of the world. Therefore, we encourage parents to come into the service and be a guest speaker to help the children understand other cultures, other careers, or anything that you may be able to offer the children. If you would like to volunteer as part of this program, please contact So on 0422 005 489.

Staff Profiles

My name is Kate Davey and I work at the service every Thursday morning and Thursday afternoon. I have been working at Elwood primary for the past 7 months and have loved every shift I’ve had since the very start. I am studying a Bachelor of Arts at Monash University and also aim to do my Masters in Education once I complete my Bachelors. I have also worked at other services within Camp Australia, but I believe that Elwood is one of the best schools so I transferred here. I like to do art crafty things such as crochet, knitting and my favourite movie is the lion king. I look forward to getting to know the Elwood community.

I am Laura Palmer and I work every Wednesday morning, Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning. I am a new addition to the team and have enjoyed my time at the service so far! I am currently studying a Bachelor of Primary Education at the Australian Catholic University, and I’m very excited about my next teaching round! I love working with children; watching them grow and learn in a safe, fun environment that Elwood provides. I enjoy yoga, going to the beach and getting involved in the arts and crafts activities at the service! I am looking forward to getting to know the many families that contribute to the Elwood community soon!

AUTUMN 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.
Love Our Street 3184

Do you.....
love the streets of Elwood?
care about our environment?
appreciate Port Phillip Bay?
want to make a difference?

Join us in looking after our local area by....
preventing litter flowing to Elster Creek
protecting Elwood Beach from litter
improving the appearance of our streets

Who? Anyone
Children under 13
accompanied by an adult

When? Sunday 13 Dec 9.30-10.30 am

Where? Corner Tennyson & Kendall Sts

What to bring?
Sturdy gardening gloves
Bags for litter & recyclables

Wear clothes, hat, sunscreen to suit weather conditions

Contact Jill email: loveourstreet3184@gmail.com
Further information visit us on Facebook