



Newsletter

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Dear Parents

NAPLAN

NAPLAN school results and individual student reports will be released to schools from next week.

What do we do with the results?

- All students results are checked to see if students have performed above, below or to expectation
- Parents of students who have performed at a lower level than expected will be contacted before results are sent home
- The school looks at all aggregated data in all learning areas tested to see how we are travelling against NAPLAN
- Curriculum may be adjusted to address any trends that may occur or celebrated when working well

Parents should remember that NAPLAN is a once in a year snapshot of their child's learning taken under specific conditions. NAPLAN results should be read in conjunction with student's reports, parent teacher interviews and regular classroom assessment.

We intend to send out your child's NAPLAN results at the end of August. This will give teachers enough time to analyse your child's NAPLAN report and make contact with any parents.

Attitudes to School Survey

The Attitudes to School data (A survey completed by all Grade 5 & 6 students in Victoria) has arrived back at school with extremely strong results in all areas surveyed. Our students have given the school and in particular their Grade 5 & 6 teachers, learning environment and school culture a huge tick of approval.

A summary of the data is as follows:

- Extremely high data across grades 5 & 6 in the three areas of Student Relationships, Wellbeing and Teaching and Learning
- Higher than state and region mean score in all areas and our highest scores for the last 5 years
- Teaching and learning questions have continued to increase significantly over the last five years
- All scores have us in the third and fourth percentiles relative to all Victorian Primary Schools which is very high

These results are a testament to the dedication of all of our teachers and in particular our Grade 5 and 6 teachers who work extremely hard to create the best learning and teaching environments for your children.

Big Night Out

On behalf of the Elwood PS community I would like to thank Christina, Nicole, Pip, Helen, Melissa and Jules for putting on such a wonderful event that was enjoyed by all. A night at the circus was enjoyed by all! St Kilda Town Hall was beautifully decorated, the photo booth was used non-stop; there were performers, a band and a huge variety circus themed costumes. We are so lucky to have such dedicated parents who put in so much time and energy for all of us.

Rob Csoti

Port Phillip Library Story Writing Competition

We are thrilled to announce that Elwood Primary's own budding author Ruth B (5G) was named one of three winners in the Port Phillip Library Story Writing Competition.

Ruth won first place in her age category (9-10 years) with a whimsical

**10 August 2016
No. 13**

CALENDAR

Thursday 11 August

100 Days of Prep
2.40pm Aerobics & State School
Spectacular Performance on the turf

Friday 12 August

Athletics Practice Gr 4 - 6

Tuesday 16 August

The Mouse that Roared - Elwood
College Production - Gr 5 & 6

Wednesday 17 August

Step-up Program - Gr 6
Enhanced Learning

Thursday 18 August

House Athletics : Gr 4 - 6
7.15pm School Council

Friday 19 August

Ready Set Go
Author Visit - Gr 5 & 6's
Ready Set Go for 2017 Preps

Mon 22 - Fri 26 August

Book Week

Monday 22 August

Author Visit - Preps
3.00pm Assembly

Tuesday 23 August

District Athletics - qualifying students
Author Visit - Gr 5 & 6

Wednesday 24 August

Prep Grandparents Day
Book Character Parades
Step up Program - Gr 6
Enhanced Learning

Thursday 25 August

Author Visit - Gr 3 & 4

Friday 26 August

Author Visit - Gr 1 & 2
Grade 2 Sleepover

short story, entitled 'The Library Book'.

“Cassy, the new student teacher at Scarlett Primary School, is shy, gentle, and a brilliant artist. She spends most lunchtimes sitting in the school library doodling and teaching children how to draw. No one, Cassy included, would have expected this quiet pastime to result in one of the most eventful lunchtimes in Scarlett Primary School history!”

You can read 'The Library Book' on the Port Phillip Library Lightning Readers blog visit <http://lightningreaders1.blogspot.com.au/2016/08/the-library-book-by-ruth.html>. Jump on the site at <http://lightningreaders1.blogspot.com.au/p/what-is-lightning-readers.html> to check out book reviews written by Ruth and other young book enthusiasts.

Chess at EPS

Although the Chess Tournament did not go ahead this week it didn't stop our amazing Chess players from holding their own demonstration in the Hall on Tuesday. Students from Prep to Grade 6 played, watched, strategized and pondered the Chess movements. Thank you to our extraordinary Chess players who organised and set up for the day and helped mentor new players to the team. I think a lot of EPS students were inspired to play Chess this lunchtime! Well done.



You Can Do It

Term 3: Persistence

Persistence means trying hard to do your best and not giving up when something feels like it's too difficult or boring. Examples of persistent behavior are continuing to try even when schoolwork is hard, not being distracted and checking work when it's finished to make sure it's correct.

This fortnight we will focus on: “I can do it!”

This is an important part of the year to stop and think about our learning, celebrate what we have achieved so far and then remember to reflect on our goals. We need to ask ourselves, are we still sticking to our goals? Do we need to adjust the goals? Or, are we achieving them and setting new ones?

“I can Do it” is thinking that we are more likely to be successful than we are to failing.

“I can do it” means not thinking badly about ourselves when we do make a mistake.

“I can do it” is thinking that it is good to try something new even though we might not be able to do it and that it is important to try new activities.

“I can do it” means being independent, accepting yourself, taking risks and having the confidence to have a go.

You Can Do It !

Nicole Richards ... Assistant Principal

Manners Matters

Respecting the Opposite Gender



There are so many things we have in common and so many interests we share, that often we assume that everyone thinks and behaves the same as we do. Certainly there are many things that all, or nearly all kids like; playtime, PE, Music, winning a prize, playing with our friends. There is a huge list.

But sometimes we need to consider that there are people who have different interests to us and that their interests are just as worthwhile. Sometime that difference is between boys and girls.

While many girls and boys share the same interests, sometimes they do not. Sometimes they like to play different games, or watch different TV shows, or listen to different music. All of that is OK! It does not make one better than the other.

We need to respect both males and females and the choices they make, and be happy that there are at times, differences.

Manners Matter at Elwood Primary School!

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?

7 -13 August: Speech Pathology Week

Speech Pathology Week is the annual week to raise awareness about communication and swallowing disorders, as well as the work of speech pathologists such as our fantastic Speechie, Jodi who works with many of our students, staff and parents.

9 -16 August: Elvis Week

Each August, Elvis fans from around the world gather in Memphis for a celebration of the music, movies and legacy of Elvis Presley. Elvis Week always includes traditional events such as the Elvis Fan Club Presidents Event, Elvis Insiders Event and Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist Contest, plus special concerts, panel discussions, dances and much more.

12 August: International Youth Day

International Youth Day is a reminder that investment in the world's youth will provide a better future for all.



12 August: World Elephant Day

World Elephant Day was launched to bring attention to the urgent plight of Asian and African elephants. The elephant is loved, revered and respected by people and cultures around the world, yet we balance on the brink of seeing the last of this magnificent creature.



13 August: Left-Handers day

International Left-Handers Day is an annual event when left-handers everywhere can celebrate their sinistrality and increase public awareness of the advantages and disadvantages of being left-handed.



13 - 21 August: National Science Week

National Science Week celebrates the contributions Australian Scientists have made to the world. There are hundreds of activities, events and debates across the country during the week.



18 August: Vietnam Veterans Day (Long Tan Day)

18 August each year is the anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, now synonymous with Vietnam Veterans Day. In acknowledging Vietnam Veterans' Day,

communities throughout Australia remember the sacrifices made by our young men and women in a conflict that spanned a ten year period, thus making it the longest war in which Australian's participated.



20 -26 August: Book Week

Each year, many schools, just like EPS and public libraries from all over Australia spend a week celebrating books and Australian authors and illustrators. Classroom teachers, teacher librarians and public librarians develop activities, offer competitions and tell stories relating to a theme to highlight the importance of reading.



We have lots of activities and guest speakers organized for Book Week here at EPS and of course our Book Week Parade and Prep Grandparents Day coming up. Watch out for more info!

Enjoy your upcoming weeks, whatever it holds or whatever you are celebrating. We hope to see everyone dressed up for Book Week!

Nicole Richards ... Assistant Principal

Attachments :

What's Happening during Weeks 5 & 6 at EPS?
Literacy Interviews with Teachers



What's happening during Weeks 5 & 6 at Elwood Primary School?

Level 1 (Prep)

Literacy: This fortnight we will be revising our reading strategies and continuing to use information in texts to help us understand the end of a story, as well as recalling the events in a story in order. We will be learning the sound oi/oy and investigating the words in which we find these. We will also be writing about all of our 100 Days of School events and our Billy Carts incursion, using a variety of different sentence 'openers'. We will be continuing our focus on Indigenous Australians, looking at dreamtime creatures and Australian animals.

Maths: During Weeks 5 and 6, we will be exploring the number 100 for our 100 Days of School! We will be counting to 100, skip counting, estimating large sets of objects, building 100 piece structures and doing 100 exercises! We are also learning about ordinal numbers from 1st -10th. We will practise this by having lots of different kinds of races in preparation for our mini Olympics in week 8.

Investigations: During investigations we will be continuing to learn about designing and making billy carts and everything about the number 100. Our You Can Do It and Manners Matter foci which we will be learning about and practising are 'I can do it' and 'Respecting the Opposite Gender'.

Other: We have had such a wonderful day at our Billy Carts incursion! We have designed, made, tinkered and even got to ride in a billy cart. On Thursday we will be celebrating our 100 Days of School. You would have received an email from your classroom teacher with all the details of the day. We look forward to seeing all of the children dressed up!

Level 2 (Grade 1 & 2)

Reading: In week 5 the students are continuing to make predictions about the action of a character based on our prior knowledge of the character's traits. In week 6 students will begin to immerse themselves in the text type of narratives. They will be discussing the structure of a narrative and key common language features.

Writing: This fortnight is a Writer's Workshop cycle which means that students are choosing pieces to write based on their interests and passions. The VCOP focus this fortnight is openers so students will be playing lots of hands on games involving up-leveling sentence/paragraph openers to make them more enticing for the reader. The handwriting focus is tall letters that reach the head line of the dotted thirds, these are l, h, f, b and k. The grammar focus for this fortnight is prefixes and suffixes. Our next Big Write will be in week 6 and it is an information report about the students. Please keep an eye out for the Big Talk note being sent home.

Maths: This fortnight the Grade 1 and 2 students are investigating, making and dividing fractions in to equal parts. They will be using language such as numerator, denominator, equal, fraction, whole part, halves, quarters, thirds, fifths and eighths. This is a great concept to make links with at home whilst cooking, using money, watching the football, you can even make links with the Olympics by discussing the medal tally.

Investigations: During Investigations students are discussing and practicing our You Can Do It focus of being confident and setting goals. They will be practicing reflecting on the skills that they have used during their Investigation and using this to help set future goals.

Other: Grade 2 Sleepover – Friday the 26th of August. Please start helping your child prepare by getting them to open and pack a sleeping bag, make a list of what they will need to pack, maybe even have a practice run at a friend's house.

Level 3 (Grade 3 & 4)

Literacy: Our level 3 students continue to explore and practise the comprehension strategies of inferring as well as summarising and synthesising. Our Year 3s are focusing on building their inferential skills through book club and whole class mini lessons using picture story books and descriptive passages. Our Year 4s continue to use their skills to highlight key words, find the main idea and to sequence events to complete a summary of a text they have read.

Writing this fortnight will see the Year 3s continuing to be immersed into Poetry and to begin writing their own poems ready for publishing for their Writer's Gifts. We will be continuing our explicit teaching of Information Reports this fortnight with our Year 4 students using planning tools and building their research skills to write an information report during writing sessions. This will be in preparation for the literacy aspect of their Term 3 History Educational Research Projects (ERPs) later this term.

Maths:

This fortnight the Level 3 students begin to explore their new maths focus of measurement. The Year 3s will be exploring measurement through location and mapping. The students will be exploring measurement through The Spud Olympics! This with a focus on length, weight, distance, distance, time and real world applications. The Year 4s will be continuing to explore fractions and decimals and will then be moving onto linking their new maths exploration into measurement through the Olympic Games. With a focus on measuring time and time intervals using both a digital and an analogue clock.

Inquiry:

Our Level 3 students continue to unpack our Term 3 History Inquiry this fortnight with a focus on language such as cause and effect, change and perspective. We investigate Indigenous life in Australia pre and post the First Fleet and British Settlement. The Year 4s also explore life in England in the 18th century and the cause and effects of the First Fleet and settlement in Australia on the Indigenous population and way of life.

Level 4 (Grade 5 & 6)

Literacy: In reading, Grade 5 classes will continue our focus on analysing literary texts We will begin to identify how authors use literary devices such as exaggeration (hyperbole), imagery and personification and the reasons for using these devices. Grade 6 classes will continue analysing non-fiction texts. We will be looking at how an understanding of the text structure can help us when reading non-fiction texts and skimming and scanning to find particular information. During writing sessions grade 5 and 6 classes will be focusing on learning how to write each important element of an information report. We will also review how we gather information, take notes, and cite sources.

Maths: Grade 5 and 6 classes are continuing our fractions, decimals and percentages unit. Grade 5 classes will be comparing the size of fractions with a numerator of 1 and ordering fractions on a number line. Grade 6 classes are learning about adding and subtracting fractions with the same or related denominators and making connections between equivalent fractions, decimals and percentages.

Inquiry: Grade 5 classes are enjoying our immersion into Australia's colonial past. We are building on our prior knowledge of the first fleet from Grade 4 and learning how and why the first colonies were settled. As we explore colonial life, we are considering what kinds of primary and secondary sources we should use to learn about this time period in history.

Grade 6 classes are continuing our Geography inquiry. We are continuing to develop our ability to use an atlas and this fortnight we will be looking more in depth at the five themes of geography: Location, Place, Movement, Region and Human Environment Interaction.

Other: On Tuesday 16th of August the grade 5 and 6 classes will be going to Elwood College to watch their whole school production of The Mouse That Roared. This will be a great opportunity for us to explore a different type of story – one that is performed live rather than written. For the grade 6 students this will be a great opportunity to learn about performing on the stage and see the Phoenix Theatre where we will be staging our production of Aloharh in October.

Literacy Interview with Teachers

Hello. We are the Year Six Literacy Leaders (Ali Thomas, Emily Zantuck and Daisy Paxton-White) and we developed a survey about reading and writing, which we then sent off to numerous teachers around the school. We hope you enjoy our interviews.

This week we learn about Charlie Cooper and Chloe Hohneck.

CHARLIE COOPER GRADE 1C TEACHER

1. What is your favourite children's book? Why?

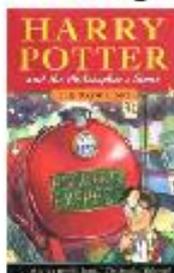
Oh the Places You'll Go by Doctor Seuss, because it teaches us about the importance of working hard and trying even if you're not sure of what you're doing, and how great we can all be if we put our minds to it.

2. What do you prefer to teach? Reading or Writing?

Writing, because I love all the amazing stories my students come up with using their fantastic imagination.

3. What are some of the ways to promote reading to children?

By making sure we choose books that are interesting for who is going to read them, and show them reading is fun.



4. What book are you reading right now?

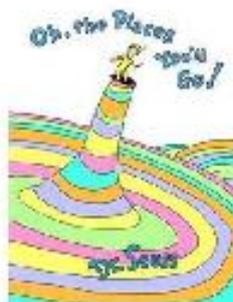
The Great Gatsby - It is my favourite book and I am reading it again because I love the way the author describes the characters and the setting.

5. Who is the most inspirational book character you have read about?

Harry Potter - He is loyal to his friends and is very brave, and he knows the right thing to do, even though sometimes it's very hard.

6. What are your favourite genres to read and/or write?

My favourite genre is Narratives, because I love making up new and interesting stories and characters, and they can do whatever I want them to!



CHLOE HOHNECK GRADE 3C TEACHER

1. What is your favourite children's book? Why?

A forest by Marc Martin. It's a beautifully illustrated picture book which shows the impact humans have had on the Earth over time. The imagery is so powerful it could almost tell the story by itself.

2. What do you prefer teaching? Reading or Writing - Why?

Wow! Hard choice! I think reading because I love to watch people connect to a text or author or an issue. But with writing I love watching the growth a student makes with the mechanics of writing through to the craft during the year.

3. What are some ways to promote reading or writing to children?

My biggest advice to parents is to promote the culture of reading within their home. Spending time to show you value reading as a way to spend your time. I loved diary writing as a child as well as creating shared oral story telling which I would often use as a stimulus to my writing.

4. What book are you reading right now?

From Little Things Big Things Grow is on my desk right now! It is the lyrics in picture book form told by Kev Carmody and Paul Kelly.

5. Who is the most inspirational book character you have read about?

I absolutely loved the Tomorrow series and specifically the main character Ellie Linton. She is who comes to mind but more as a strong female character.

6. What is your favourite genre to read and/or write? I don't often write beyond teaching but I love reading crime and thriller texts.



BY DAISY PAXTON-WHITE, EMILY ZANTUCK AND ALI THOMAS -Literacy Leaders