



# Newsletter

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

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Community Market (bookings) : [www.trybooking.com/568612](http://www.trybooking.com/568612)

## Smooth sailing

Hard to believe we have been back at school now, face to face, the way we like it - for 7 weeks.



I have been meeting with all staff one on one throughout the last few weeks as part of our Teacher Professional Review Program and time and time again, I am impressed with the reflections and professional growth all of our staff made during our Remote Learning period.

We continue to discuss and reflect upon our Remote Learning time, taking in the positives of our lessons, our communication and overwhelmingly, the independence, confidence and pleasant surprises our amazing students demonstrated.

It has been an absolute joy to visit all of the classrooms and hang out in the playground on yard duty; watching our students reconnecting with each other, slipping seamlessly into routine and school life.

With only 5 weeks left of Term 4, we continue to maintain all of our classroom programs, focusing on continuous teaching and learning and celebrating our goals and achievements.

Well done EPS!



## Konnective updates

Throughout Remote Learning and all through the remainder of this term, I will continue to push out important information and up to date daily goings-on through Konnective.

Latest posts to our App have included photos about Grade 4 Bike Ed, House Spirit orders, news from TeamKids and ways for levels to connect such as the Grade 6 Inflatable Water Park get together.

So.....please make sure you are connected!!

## Mini Prep 2021 visits

With new Operations Guides from the Department of Education and the Health Minister and ongoing changes to daily school life, one of the updates has meant that we have been able to begin small Prep 2021 visits to the prep classrooms.

The groups are only 10 people at a time, adults and children included in this 10, visiting a single prep room.

We have begun the mini visits with excited and ready kinder kids coming into Prep C with Christine on Monday, Prep S with Stephanie Tuesday and the other prep teachers ready to go for the rest of this week. The kinder kids have quickly engaged in the Investigation stations set up, chatted to the teachers and enjoyed a story!

As we move into the coming weeks, we will open more days for the afternoon visits.

Last week saw over 70 Prep 2021 Families join us over Zoom to learn more about our school and all about being an Elwood Kid.

I thank all of the 2021 Prep Team - Christine L, Stephanie Y, Sarah P, Ryan, Mardi and newest addition to the Prep Team - Anna, for organizing and presenting such a wonderful zoom. My thanks also to Rosie and Sara for their continual support of the Junior School and in particular, our Preps.

A recording of this Zoom was also sent out via Konnective for those families who were not able to attend. This zoom and all of the Virtual Tours are available on our website. This week, more videos are coming from all the Prep Team, reading a story and introducing themselves. Many of our kinders are also showing these videos to their kids.

17 November 2020

## CALENDAR

Wednesday 17 November

Book Week Dress Up

Monday 23 November

Sexuality Ed - Grade 5

Tues 24 Nov—Weds 25 Nov

Grade 4 Camp Onsite

Wednesday 25 November

Sexuality Ed - Grade 6

Thursday 26 November

NGV Virtual Experience—Grade 1

Monday 30 November

Sexuality Ed-Grade 5

Assembly via Zoom

Tues 1 Dec - Weds 2 Dec

Grade 3 Camp Onsite

Wednesday 2 December

Sexuality Ed—Grade 6

Thursday 3 December

Space Incursion—Grade 2

Monday 7 December

Sexuality Ed - Grade 5

Tuesday 8 December

Transition Day

Tues 8 Dec-Weds 9 Dec

Bike Ed - Grade 5

Wednesday 9 December

Sexuality Ed—Grade 6

Hari Pelangi (Rainbow Day)

Free Dress

Weds 9 Dec - Thurs 10 Dec

Primary High

Thursday 10 December

Grade 1 Lunch Onsite

11.30am-1.45pm

Tuesday 15 December

Grade 6 Graduation

Ceremony at school

## COVID compliance visit

Like many businesses, schools are also being visited by Worksafe Australia to conduct COVID compliance checks.

We were visited by a Worksafe auditor last week. They read through all of our COVID compliance documents, visited our spaces – staffroom, classrooms, yard, office, sick bay... and were impressed by the level of safety and the effort all of our staff and our kids were taking to ensure our school is safe and we are keeping ourselves and each other safe.

We have passed all COVID compliance checks, with no outstanding actions or measurements to be revisited or changed. A huge thank you to all of the staff who maintain our safety, abide by the DET Operations Guide and make sure our school is safe and even more importantly, a happy, positive and calm place to be each day.

## Class placements

This week the children will be selecting their Learning Buddies with their teachers for next year – Oh how time has flown and we are already thinking about 2021!

Learning Buddies are 4 children from ANY other class in the level that your child might like to have in their class for next year. Teachers will have many conversations in class this week about Learning Buddies. Mostly we have discussions along the lines of – *Learning buddies are not always your 'best friends' – Learning Buddies are people who you work really well with and make great learning choices with.*

If you so choose, you might like to chat to your child about their Learning Buddy choices – HOWEVER – please know that they might choose differently when they discuss this with their teacher and quite possibly differently to what they discuss at home with you ...that is OK. We honour their choices and their teachers will be there to 'help out' and encourage good Learning Buddy choices too.

The children are guaranteed at least 1 person from their list in their class next year, the list is not in order and all names have equal rankings. Please know, even though they might not get their 'preferred choice' of learning buddy they also have play time, weekends, holidays, after school, play dates and LOTS of time to catch up and build on friendships both inside and outside of the classroom.

Creating grades for the upcoming year is a time consuming and most well thought out, thorough and detailed process that takes weeks to ensure the very best teaching and learning combinations are created. Teachers take into account student preferences, consider the wide range of abilities within the classroom, gender balance and personalities. All of these factors assist us in ensuring the 2021 classes are the best possible combination of students for a productive year of learning and growth.

As we do each year, classes are adjusted to consider all the above and clusters of students who work well together are connected with other small clusters rather than all the "cards" being thrown in the air and re-starting from scratch. Our aim and what we enjoy seeing coming to fruition at the end of 7 years of primary school, is a cohort of students who have been able to meet, work, learn and play with a variety

of others throughout the whole time at EPS.

If you have any concerns in regards to teaching and learning combinations for your child heading into next year, please make a time to discuss this with myself, Jay or Rosie. Please know and understand that requests for teachers will not be considered. We thank you and know that you will trust our professional judgement in consideration of your child's class placement for 2021.

## Filming at EPS

The Department of Education are producing TV advertisement and supporting media, promoting their teacher recruitment campaign. Elwood Primary School has been selected for filming! Filming begins this Saturday 21 November in our beautiful DWB and newly renovated Senior School classrooms. Watch out for our school on TV soon – you might recognise some faces and places!

*Nicole Richards.....Principal*

## Scholastic

Unfortunately we were unable to have our annual Scholastic Book Fair at Elwood this year, due to restrictions. However, we can still help you and your child foster a love of reading, while supporting the school with new books and resources. Look out for the Scholastic Book Club Issue 8 which will be available for ordering next week. We hope you find some great bargains for holiday gifts and plenty of choice for summer holiday reading! 20% of your purchase will be returned to the school in new books and resources for classrooms. Thank you as always for your support.



*Sarah Clair.....Grade 2 Teacher*

## Movember at EPS

Movember is the leading charity changing the face of men's health and this year we are joining them at EPS. Together we can make a difference for men's health – in prostate cancer, testicular cancer, mental health and



suicide prevention. Help stop men dying too young. Help start positive conversations around mental health and wellbeing.

You may see some of the staff around school sporting

We would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we are gathered today, the Yalukitj Willam clan of the Boon Wurrung People and pay our respects to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge and respect their continuing relationship to the land upon which we meet.



some interesting looking Mo's, it's becoming a great new tradition at EPS! Our moustaches are in need of your support! Please donate to our #Movember efforts and help us change the face of men's health. TO DONATE to our Elwood Primary School team "The Woodsmen" click on the link: [The Woodsmen](#), and help us break the stigma around men's health and mental wellbeing.

Cheers,

*Ryan & Charlie ..... Prep & Grade 4 Teachers*

## Live band for the Whole School Production 2021

We need you! If you play an instrument please consider joining the live band for the Whole School Production at The Palais next year. We need to know soon! If you are interested please get in touch with Kaz via email, link:

[Kaz Sieger](#)

What a great way to help the community and our students really benefit from both the experience of live music and musicality that such talented players bring to the performance. The gig is on Wednesday 1 September 2021 and rehearsals will be held throughout Term 3. You might know someone who you think is just waiting for an opportunity like this! Let them know. Looking forward to what should be a lot of fun. It's a blast for the students and the always enthusiastic audience!

*Kaz & Paula....Music & Performing Arts Teacher*



## Grade 3 Science Experiment

