



# Newsletter

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

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Community Market (bookings) : [www.trybooking.com/36342](http://www.trybooking.com/36342)

Dear Parents

## School Council Elections 2016

Our School Council comprises of parents, DEET employees and community members who meet monthly to partner together to ensure our school provides a quality education for all students. Parents on School Council do not need to have special skills, just a commitment to work in partnership with others to help shape the schools future.

As a parent you can nominate or second a nomination for other parents to be on school council for the next two years.

It is a fantastic way to be deeply involved in the school.

If you would like to stand for School Council or nominate a parent to stand please collect a nomination form and return it to the office before 4.00pm Friday 26 February.

The following parents have completed their two year term or are retiring: John Richardson, James Pergl, Wendy Priddle and Anna Marinovich.

If there are more than four nominations, an election will need to be held and you will be informed of the election process.

The following teachers have completed their terms: Lauren Thomas and Amy Wilson. If there are more than two teacher nominations an election will also need to be held in this category.

**Timeline for School Council Elections**  
Thursday 11 February: Nominations called for School Council

Friday 26 Feb: Nominations closed  
*A list of candidates, nominator and seconder will be displayed (if there are more nominations than vacancies)*

Tuesday 1 March: Distribute ballot papers if required

Friday 11 March: Close of ballot (4:00pm)

Friday 11 March: Count votes and declare the poll

Thursday 24 March: New council is able to meet

Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss anything regarding nominations for School Council.

## Information Nights

Information Nights are being held this week at 7.00pm in the JLC:

Prep : Monday 15 February  
Grade 1 & 2 : Tuesday 16 February  
Grade 3 & 4 : Wednesday 17 February  
Grade 5 & 6 : Thursday 18 February

**February 17 2016  
No. 2**

## CALENDAR

**Wednesday 17 February**

7.00pm Level 3 (Grade 3 & 4)  
Information Night

**Thursday 18 February**

7.00pm Level 4 (Grade 5 & 6)  
Information Night  
7.15pm School Council

**Friday 19 February**

Summer Sports - Grade 5 & 6

**Monday 22 February**

Learning by Doing - Grade 1

**Tuesday 23 February**

Learning by Doing - Grade 1  
7.00pm Parent & Friends Association

**Wednesday 24 February**

Prep Gap Day

**Thursday 25 February**

Prep to Grade 2 Photos  
(some photos)

**Friday 26 February**

Summer Sports - Grade 5 & 6

**Monday 29 February**

3.00pm Assembly - Grade 1 Choir

**Tuesday 1 March**

Sub-committees meet :  
5.45pm Environment  
6.30pm Strategic Planning  
7.30pm Community Engagement

**Thursday 3 March**

District Swimming for qualifying students in Grades 4 - 6

**Friday 4 March**

Summer Sports - Grade 5 & 6

## SCHOOL PHOTOS

**Thursday 25 February**

(Prep, Grades 1 & 2 + some Families)

**School uniform must be worn**

Family and extra Student Envelopes will be available from the school office.



**Curriculum Day  
Student Free  
Monday 7 March**

Information booklet will be available from our website to download or read. You will be sent a link to all information books this week.

### **Student Welfare at Elwood PS**

Students, teachers and parents work together to make Elwood Primary School a lovely place to be. We want students to be the best they can and be 'Organised, Persistent, Confident' and able to 'Get Along' with others. To do this, we must respect each other's differences, treat each other kindly and listen to each other.

We all need to remember that we have rights and responsibilities to make Elwood Primary work well, and must follow some simple safety rules.

These ideas and rules help with the safe running of the school and make sure students can enjoy their time here and develop as co-operative individuals.

Each class teacher and specialist teacher develops a set of Rules, Consequences and Rewards which the class work by and are on display in the classroom. A short description of what may occur in each classroom follows:

#### **Rules**

Each classroom develops a set of rules/expectations/values that the class work to. These will generally be set up to cover respect for others, safety, social expectations, responsibilities and desired behaviours.

#### **Rewards**

Our school believes that children respond to positive reinforcement.

Notes of praise are sent to parents. Children's efforts are recognised by verbal praise and awards in class and whole school assembly.

Good behaviour by individuals and the whole class may accrue points towards a reward. This reward is negotiated between the children and the teacher. It does not devalue any area of the curriculum and should not incur any cost for the parent.

A typical reward may be a class party or extra time provided for a favourite activity. Accrued points are not taken away for misbehaviour.

#### **Consequences**

For those children who choose not to comply with our school rules and behavioural expectations there is a sequence of consequences.

Just as points accruing towards a reward for good behaviour cannot be deducted, so consequences or punishments for misbehaviour are always carried out.

All grade teachers will email home a copy of their class classroom procedures this week for you to read and discuss with your child.

### **Parking**

Please obey all parking restrictions around our school when dropping off or picking up students. Poets Grove Kindergarten has asked me to remind parents that their car park is for Poets Grove staff and visitors only. Local by-laws officers have informed us they will be in attendance to enforce all parking restrictions around Poets Grove and Elwood PS.

### **Curriculum Day**

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March will be a student free day.**

This is a productive and important day for staff to learn about our new student information and data tracking program and continue our professional development around the VCOP and Big Write writing program that was first implemented in our classrooms last year so successfully.

In the first part of the day, staff will be working with consultants from "Grade Expert", a student information and data tracking system being used in many primary schools and that we have trialled over the past year.

Teachers are able to add assessment data and information to the program, add notes in regards to learning and create various graphs showing grade, group and individual learning progress. This program will also assist us in streamlining important information and records about each child and make assessment and reporting more efficient.

The last part of the day will see all staff continuing their learning in implementing and embedding our VCOP and Big Write program across the school. We will be focusing on best practice, sharing strategies and approaches to use in the classrooms and moderating writing pieces through our Cold Writes (independent, sustained writing tasks for assessment purposes once a term) and Big Writes (independent, sustained writing task for student editing and up-levelling purposes and student goal setting once a fortnight) using the Student Writing Criteria.

Our Curriculum Days are always centred on the best and most effective strategies, approaches and programs for teaching and learning at EPS.

### **Rob Osofi**

### **Fire Drill**

As we do each year, mandated by the Department of Education for every school in Victoria, we will hold our first Fire Drill Evacuation on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February.

All teachers will talk to their class about the importance of Fire Drills for safety practice and as part of school life, as well as reiterating the message of security and calmness.

In light of the high profile hoax calls to schools in the media of late and a few schools having to either lockdown or evacuate their schools, we will ensure all students feel safe, calm, informed and well-versed in this evacuation procedure both before and after the evacuation has taken place on Thursday.

Students will be told they will hear an announcement, "This is a drill" and then the sound of our evacuation siren. They will then practice walking calmly to the school park/oval with their grade and teachers where they will line up in their grade, hear teachers take roll call and then be dismissed to head back to their classrooms for a de-brief.

We have completed numerous Fire Drills over the years and we expect that our first Fire Drill for this year will run smoothly - as it always does, with our students showing great Elwood Primary School actions such as co-operation and helping others both sensibly and in an Elwood PS manner.

*Nicole Richards*, Assistant Principal

## Room to Read, Nepal

Following the wonderful success of Elwood Primary School's book week activities in 2014, I am pleased to share with you that the library the Elwood school community supported in Nepal is fully established and open for use. We do apologise for the delay in sharing this information with you but following the earthquake it was necessary to revisit all projects.

In this regard we are pleased to report that this library suffered no structural damage resulting from the earthquakes that devastated Nepal last year. The school where this library is located, however, did sustain damages. While the library is open and functional, some aspects of its administration - for example, the implementation of a standardized book check-out system - may be delayed while school repairs are prioritized. We thank you in advance for understanding, and hope you will enjoy reading the attached final project report, which outlines the activities you funded and the resources that have been provided to Shree Salyantar Higher Secondary School. Students have already begun to enjoy the new world of written words opened up by the library and hundreds more will benefit in the years to come.

Thank you for helping plant the seeds of literacy in this wonderful community!

With your generous support, we have now reached more than 10.6 million children with our life-changing Literacy and Girls' Education Programs. We cannot thank you enough for investing in these students and their communities. Together, we are providing them with the tools to rewrite their future, as well as fighting for widespread change to help lift entire countries out of poverty. We look forward to working

with you to continue this trajectory and reach millions more children in the years to come.

For the complete report visit [http://www.elwoodprimary.vic.edu.au/uploaded\\_files/media/project\\_launch\\_report\\_eps.pdf](http://www.elwoodprimary.vic.edu.au/uploaded_files/media/project_launch_report_eps.pdf)

*Janelle Prescott*

Associate Manager, Room to Read Aust

## CHICKEN POX Health Alert

There has been a confirmed case of Chicken Pox in Prep. You may be at high risk if you do not have immunity including newborns, pregnant women and those immunosuppressed individuals with haematological malignancies, on chemotherapy, high dose steroids or HIV infection. If you have any concerns contact your local doctor or visit <http://ideas.health.vic.gov.au/bluebook/chicken-pox.asp>

Due to Immunisation, many cases of the disease present with few symptoms, however the disease is still highly contagious and should be reported to the school. Chicken Pox is a notifiable disease and is reported to the Department of Health for better health management in future. A visit to your doctor is recommended.

## 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 focus on: Playing Fairly

Whatever age you are, playing games is a great pastime. There are a whole range of games we play, from footy to cards and other ball games to games in the sandpit or with POD scrap and while it is always good to do your best, it should always be done in a fair and friendly way.

Playing fairly means not just following the rules of the game but following the spirit of the game. By all means, try your hardest, use the best strategies and support your team mates but always do this in a fair and reasonable way.

Start every game in a friendly manner. Encourage those on your team and give them opportunities to participate and respect your opposition and all their hard work as well.

Help pack up at the end if there is equipment involved and look forward to the next day. You will earn much more respect by being a fair player than you ever will by being a proud winner or bad loser.

At all times, play fairly. Give others a go and stick to the spirit of the rules. In the end, the game should be fun for all, win, lose or draw.

#### DO:

Keep smiles and celebrations low key  
Comment on good players  
Try hard, even if you are winning  
Thank others for the game  
Give others a go

#### DON'T:

Don't boast about your ability or victory  
Don't comment on how far behind the others are  
Don't point out where others are going wrong  
Don't cheat or manipulate  
Don't act happy about others' mistakes

You Can Do It!

## Manners Matter

**This fortnight with Manners Matter, we will focus on: Please and Thank You**



There are opportunities everyday to say **Please and Thank You**. At home, in the classroom, visiting the office, in the yard, at a friend's home - there are people who help us and all of them need to be treated courteously.

One great way we can do this is by saying **Please and Thank You**.

You will be surprised how much people value **Please and Thank You**. These simple words let people know you do appreciate what they do for you and also let them know you are a friendly kid.

So this fortnight - let's hear lots of **please and thank you!**

**Remember, Manners Matter!**

## 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?

20<sup>th</sup> February: **White Night Melbourne** : Melbourne city is transformed into an all-night wonderland for everyone to explore. From dusk until dawn there are over 80 free events celebrating music, food, film, art and light. White Night Melbourne is part of an internationally renowned phenomenon that began in Paris.



Website: [whitenightmelbourne.com.au](http://whitenightmelbourne.com.au)

## 22<sup>nd</sup> February: **Magha Puja Day**

Magha Puja Day is a Buddhist celebration of the Fourfold Assembly. It is celebrated on the full moon day of March.



## 27<sup>th</sup> February – 6<sup>th</sup> March: **Seaweed**

Seaweed is the Marine Education Society of Australasia's (MESA) major national public awareness campaign. It is conducted annually to focus



community awareness, provide information and encourage an appreciation of the sea.

## 28<sup>th</sup> February: **Rare Diseases Day**

Rare Disease Day is an annual, awareness-raising event. The main objective of Rare Disease



Day is to raise awareness

amongst the general public and decision-makers about rare diseases and their impact on patients' lives.

## 1<sup>st</sup> March: **World Compliment Day** :

Give someone a genuine compliment today!



## 1<sup>st</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> March: **Australian Women's History Month**

Women's History Month (WHM) is held annually in many parts of the world to acknowledge and document the role women play in making and shaping history.

Enjoy your upcoming weeks and whatever you may be celebrating! Why not compliment someone everyday not just on the 1<sup>st</sup> March - but it is a start!

*Nicole Richards* ... Assistant Principal

## 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 attachment for full details.

#### Attachments :

What's Happening during Weeks 4 & 5 at EPS Camp Australia



## What's happening during Weeks 4 & 5 at Elwood Primary School?

### Level 1 (Prep)

**Literacy:** During literacy this fortnight we will be exploring the letters i, n, l, and r discussing the dominant sounds that they each produce. We will be reading a number of wonderful picture story books related to these sounds/letters and will be practising writing these letters. During reading we will be continuing to explore various print concepts and making predictions about text relating to the title, pictures and or previous experience with the text. We will be using the 'snake' reading strategy to help us stretch out words as we read them.

**Maths:** During maths this fortnight we will be continuing to explore numbers to 10 and counting with one to one correspondence (counting each item at a time). We are looking at each number and what it is made up of e.g. 6 is made up of 3 & 3, 4 & 2 and 1 & 5. We will also begin to explore shape, sorting and patterns. We will be going on a shape hunt around our school, creating various patterns and sorting objects based on various characteristics.

**Investigations:** During Investigations, we will be continuing to practise group work skills such as sharing materials, negotiating idea and taking turns. We are also working towards establishing routines for composting and recycling in our classrooms. We will be talking about and answering the questions: What happens to food in the compost? Where does the recycling go? Where does rubbish go? What difference does recycling and composting make? We are also developing a sense and understanding of community in our rooms, our school and discussing and making connections to the local community. We will investigate 'community' further as the term continues and as we lead up to a visit from the Fire Fighters in week 6.

**Other:** On Tuesday we had our Buddy Picnic! All of the Prep students met their Grade 6 Buddy for the first time and we had our lunch together out in front of the stage. We look forward to meeting with the Grade 6 students every second Wednesday for our Buddy session!

Well done on a wonderful start to Prep!

### Level 2 (Grade 1 & 2)

**Literacy:** The Grade 1 and 2 students are planning and drafting their recounts while working through the writing cycle. Their recounts will include the 5w's: who, what, where, when and why. Our VCOP focus is vocabulary and looking at how to use interesting verbs to up-level our writing. We will be using an exciting seed for our 'Big Write' session coming up in week 5. As our reading groups begin, our initial focus is decoding. This will involve recognising words quickly with the help of the first letter, meaning and pictures in the book and recognise high frequency words. Each class will have their own spelling focus and in handwriting we will look carefully at the cup family with letters that include: u, v, w and y.

**Maths:** Our Numeracy focus this fortnight is Time. We will be investigating the ways in which time can be measured and that there are a number of different tools we can use to keep, measure and tell the time e.g. calendars for dates and stopwatches for duration.

**Investigations:** We are using our questioning skills to show an interest in others. We are practicing sharing our views and opinions in a kind and positive way. During reflection time we are showing confidence by speaking clearly in front of the class about our learning.

**Environment:** We are setting up and using our classroom recycling and composting stations responsibly and during Investigations we are thinking about only taking what we need in regards to collage materials, box construction and coloured paper.

**Incursions:** The grade 1s will be having a Woodwork incursion on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of February. The students will explore creative woodworking that provides a unique opportunity to learn, grow, discover and experiment in a fully supervised and safe workshop environment.

## Level 3 (Grade 3 & 4)

**Literacy:** Over the next fortnight Year 3 and 4 will continue to set up their reading and writing classroom routines and classroom libraries. Book club groups will begin with a focus on choosing 'just right' books and students will begin to explore comprehension strategies such as visualisation and prediction. Students will also begin to read and deconstruct narratives. Year 3 will be searching for powerful words and images and interesting sentence openers. Students will then use this knowledge to help them to write 'snapshots' of events; really focusing on using descriptive language and interesting sentence openers. Our Year 4 students will be focusing on thinking about the effects that a writer's word choice and order has on the reader and will be collecting some excellent examples of descriptions. Students will then have opportunities to practise writing their own powerful character descriptions and story openers through a narrative text.

**Maths:** Teachers within Level 3 are assisting students in setting their own personal maths goals which they will have opportunities to work on each week. During this fortnight's maths sessions students will be focusing on reading, writing, partitioning, renaming and sequencing numbers up to 10,000 in Year 3 and up to 99,000 in Year 4. Students are also encouraged to continue learning their multiplication facts at home and through their class specific practice program. The expectation being that students can recall all times table facts up to 10x10 by the end of Year 4.

**Inquiry:** The Year 3 students will begin their 'exploration' sessions focusing on our Health Unit. These hands on learning experiences will help the students transition from Investigations into our Senior School Inquiry model. This fortnight in Year 4 we will begin unpacking our learning intentions for our inquiry unit which focuses on the subject Civics and Citizenship. As part of this unit students will be visiting the Shrine of Remembrance (more information to follow) during weeks 6 & 7.

**Other:** Our wonderful Kitchen and Garden program begins this week! We would love to see lots of new and familiar volunteers signing up to assist over the term in the Kitchen and Garden.

Please see the link below for more information. <http://www.elwoodprimary.vic.edu.au/page/199>

## Level 4 (Year 5 & 6)

**Literacy:** In reading, Grade 5 and 6 classes are continuing to set up their independent reading and book club/literature circle routines and expectations. This fortnight grade 5 classes are beginning to explore persuasive texts while grade 6 classes are beginning to explore the mystery genre. We will be reading and analysing a variety of persuasive and mystery texts to develop a deeper understanding of what the main features are and the different techniques that authors use to create these texts.

In writing, Grade 5 and 6 classes are continuing to set up their Writer's Workshop routines and encouraging students to work through the Writing Cycle. We are learning how to keep a Writer's Notebook and exploring different types of seeds we can collect and different ways to use these seeds to generate ideas for writing.

**Maths:** Grade 5 and 6 classes are beginning a unit on Place Value. Students will develop their ability to read, record and order numbers beyond the millions and decimals into the thousandths. We will also be looking at how we can round whole numbers and decimals.

**Inquiry:** Grade 5 classes are beginning their Health inquiry unit. Students will identify factors which affect physical, social and emotional health, both positively and negatively, and to use this knowledge to analyse and explore strategies to promote their own physical, social and emotional health.

Grade 6 classes are beginning their Australian History inquiry unit. We will be revising what we learnt last year about colonial life and this fortnight we will be learning about Federation and the development of Australia's system of law and government

**Other:** Grade 6 students were thrilled to meet their prep buddies this week and are very much looking forward to working with them throughout the year.

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

### CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$125 for primary school students
- \$225 for secondary school students.

### HOW TO APPLY

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from [www.education.vic.gov.au/csef](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/csef)

### MORE INFORMATION

For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit [www.education.vic.gov.au/csef](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/csef)





## GREAT FUN

- ★ Outdoor games and sports
- ★ Arts & Crafts
- ★ Playing with friends
- ★ Great educators
- ★ Food and Cooking
- ★ Indoor Activities



## ELWOOD OSHC HIGHLIGHTS

### About the Elwood Outside School Hours Care

We open the service at 7:15am in the morning and serve a wide range of breakfast in the kitchen. Breakfast includes cereal, vita-brits, baked beans, spaghetti, toasties/toast, and pancakes on some mornings. For those children who do not need breakfast, we will be running activities corresponding to the weekly theme that are chosen with the help of the Buddy Leaders. In the afternoon, we will be serving afternoon tea between 3:30-4pm and 5:10-5:30pm. During this time, the children will be able to help themselves to assorted sandwiches, apples, oranges, bananas, assorted fruit, biscuits and crackers.

The service has a Better Buddy Program that runs in partnership with the Alannah and Madeline Foundation. It is a program that keeps children safe from violence, bullies, and ensures that the all children feel safe and secure. The children apply for the opportunity to become a Better Buddy Leader each term. Better Buddies each get a younger buddy from the service that might need some help with certain activities or might need another person to help them out around the service and school. Better Buddies may also be asked to run a group activity or may also be asked to lead cooking with a staff member.

### A bit about the coordinator

My name is So Imamura and I've worked at the Elwood OSHC since 2011. I first started as an assistant working a few days a week and then went onto gaining an ongoing role within the service. I started coordinating the Elwood program at the end of Term 2 last year and it has been an amazing experience. I studied Public Relations in university and now I am in the process of finishing my Diploma in school aged care. I will ensure all children at the service are equally cared for and are all enjoying themselves. If you have any special requests with regards to your child attending the program, please feel free to get in contact with me.

### SUMMER 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.

To find out more about our program, view fees and to register visit [www.campastralia.com.au](http://www.campastralia.com.au)

visit [www.campastralia.com.au](http://www.campastralia.com.au)

we make kids smile