Welcome back everyone!

Welcomes!
A special welcome to 28 new EPS kids! We are delighted to report that our 2015 Preps have made a great start to the school year and were officially welcomed into our school community at assembly on Monday.
We hope they continue to enjoy school, and to grow and thrive within the fantastic environment that we share.
We have also welcomed a number of students into our Years 1-6 classes—big welcome to Hayden S, Kiarn F, Makayla O, Arabella M, Chloe B, Aysha M and Jed C as well as their families to our EPS school community.
Further to that, we also have 2 new staff members! We are delighted to have Miss Lynice Riches and Mr Heath Hackett join our team. Miss Riches is working as a classroom teacher in our 3/4 Learning Community, as well as delivering our brand new Science curriculum to all students Prep-6. Mr Hackett is providing our PE curriculum on Thursdays and Fridays. We welcome both of them to both our staff team and our wider school community.

Goodbyes
It’s very unfortunate that at the very end of last year we were advised our application for Chaplaincy funding was unsuccessful. That meant that we were unable to continue employing Mr Matthew Coop and Mrs Helen Jones to provide chaplaincy services for our students and families. We are very sad to see these two valuable staff members go and we wish them all the very best.

Student Free Day
This year our first student free day is being held on THURSDAY 19th OF FEBRUARY. On this day our staff will be attending a writing workshop as part of our professional learning and our school-wide goal to increase the writing outcomes for our students.

Special Religious Instruction
As of 2014, Religious Instruction in government schools is an ‘opt in’ system. If you completed forms for your child to be involved in SRI in 2014, this consent is still valid. SRI is offered from Year Prep to 4 in our school. If you have not completed one of these forms and would like your child to participate please call in at the office.

School Council Nominations
School Council is the governing body of government schools in Victoria and ours is a very active, positive group that oversees the running of our school. Every two years, the tender of our parent positions ends and councillors either need to re-nominate or surrender their position. This year 5 parent positions are ending and we are calling for nominations to fill these positions. Later in the newsletter you will find more details about this process.

Oval Redevelopment
As you may have already noticed our oval is currently under redevelopment! Our School Council have been saving funds to pay for this for a few years so it’s fantastic to see it finally commence! Over the next few days more and more dirt will appear, and then over the next week or so that dirt will be spread and then seeded with grass. It’s an exciting time, but one with safety issues we need to be vigilant about. Please ensure you do not drop children off to access school through the oval double gate as this is currently fenced off.

Assembly
Next Monday, the 9th of February our assembly will include a special presentation of badges to our newly elected School Captains, Vice School Captains, House Captains and Vice House Captains. All are welcome and encouraged to attend to join in this celebration.
Head Lice
Head lice are an ongoing issue in all schools and at EPS we practise vigilance in eradicating the problem. Attached to this newsletter you will find our Head Lice Policy as a reminder of how we manage this issue as well as the expectations of parents in managing their children at home. Next week we will be conducting HEAD LICE INSPECTIONS. Please ensure your child/ren are checked and if necessary, treated, at home regularly in order to both stop the spread as well as minimise interruption to their schooling as any child found with live lice will need to be collected from school as per our policy.

Uniform
It’s always lovely to see our students at the beginning of the year all decked out in their new uniform with shiny new shoes! However I have noticed that quite a number of students are regularly wearing sneakers/runners to school. Our Uniform Policy states that shoes must be plain black school shoes for both boys and girls, and that sneakers can only be worn on PE and sport days. If you haven’t already, you should shortly receive a welcome letter from your child’s teacher outlining a number of things, including your child’s class timetable which shows PE and Sport days. Please ensure you adhere to the Uniform Policy and feel free to contact either myself or your child’s classroom teacher if you have any concerns.

Fees
Our ‘Subject Contribution Fee’ this year remains unchanged from last year at $140 per student. There is also a $20 charge for the use of XOs and a voluntary $30 Gardens and Grounds contribution that goes towards maintaining our school. Fees can be paid at any time through the office, with statements being issued shortly. We are always more than happy to accommodate payment arrangements via either direct debit, cash payments or using Centrepay which is a very convenient way of making regular contributions straight to your school family account from your Centrelink payments.

Angela Hall
Principal

Student Awards!

P/1H  Cody T for making a confident start to year one! Fantastic effort!
1T    Seth B for actively contributing to discussions and quickly settling back in to routine.
2G    Harrison H for setting himself a high standard to start the year.
3/4R  Jessikah E for being a super Teacher Assistant with her brilliant knowledge. Great start to the year!
3/4T  Emily L for making a great start to the year and listening well to instructions.!
5H    Jacob K for his determination to solve Maths Problems.
6H    Jed C for making a fantastic transition into Elliminyt Primary!
Canteen
Friday 6th February, 2015
Morning Supervisor: Sallee Sell
9:00am: Sara Furney, Renee Hall, Elizabeth Borsos
Afternoon Supervisor: Janet Walters
12:30pm: Marlene Farnes, Donna O’Reilly

PIANO LESSONS
If you are interested in your child/ren to learn piano Pam Radcliffe has a limited number of times for lessons at Elliminyt Primary School for 2015.
For more information please call Pam on 52314194.

PARENTS & FRIENDS NEWS
The major winner of our 2014 Christmas raffle was Sharyn Newton.
Many thanks to the generous sponsors who supported our raffle with such fabulous prizes.
Our first Parents & Friends meeting will be held at 9.30am on Monday 16th February in the Conference room.
The Annual General Meeting was held in November with all position being filled as listed below:
President: Kerryn Irvine
Vice President: Renee Hall
Secretary: Hayley Dewar
Treasurer: Faith Parsons
Looking forward to seeing some old facers and lots of new facers for our first meeting, younger siblings and most welcome.
Thanks,
Kerryn Irvine—President

UNIFORM ORDERS
Could you please return the uniform order along with payment to the school office by this Friday 6th February so that I can have the uniforms back by School Photo Day.

ANNUAL FAMILY RECORD SHEET
Could you please fill in the green from and return it to school as soon as possible.
Thanks,
Megan Doolan

COLAC DISTRICT LEGO BRICK CLUB
The Club commences on Tuesday 10th February from 3.45 to 4.45pm. It will be held in the Art room at Alvie Consolidated School. The cost for the term is $25 or $27 (Concession).
For more information please contact Dominique Little (P&F President) on 0425 702 480 or 5234 8256

INDOOR REBOUND SOCCER - Open to Girls and Boys!
Strikers: Grade 1 & 2s - Skill based soccer drills followed by a game. Starting Thursday 12 February, 40 minute sessions.
Soccer Competition: Grades 2 & 3, and 4-6. Scheduled matches, 6 to a side, starting Monday 9 February runs over Term 1. Cost $55.00.
REGISTER individual or team entries Call Paul on 5231 4788 or online at www.colacindoorsports.com.au
Kids love the high energy game!

COLAC TABLE TENNIS
Come and try for FREE February 5th, 9th and 12th From 7.00pm until 8.30pm At The Guiles Hall (opposite Colac Police Station) Learners, Families, Young & Old All welcome
For more information please phone 0428 527522 Or 0488 015961

BARWON WOUTH WESTERN SKATEPARK SERIES 2015
Saturday February 7th at Colac Skatepark
Scoot rego 10.30am BMX rego 12pm Skate rego 2.30pm
12 & Under, 16 & Under, Open Male, Open Female Scoot divisions—14 & Under - 15 & Over
www.skatepark.ymca.org.au
School Council Elections

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within state-wide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

School Councillors generally serve a two year term, with vacancies being created every year via a rotation system. This year, we have 5 Parent Member Category vacancies. As such we are calling for nominations from our parent body to fill these positions. Parents on School Council provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

No special experience is required to be on school council – what you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future. The full council meets monthly, with subcommittees also meeting outside of this monthly schedule.

I hereby issue a Notice of Election for the Elliminyt Primary School Council and call for nominations for the Parent Member Category. If you wish to nominate yourself, or someone else, please either collect or request a nomination form from the school office and return it to school BEFORE Wednesday 25th of February. Should the number of nominations outweigh the number of vacancies, we will proceed to a ballot. As always, if you have any questions or concerns regarding any of this, don’t hesitate to contact either myself, or Sallee Sell, our School Council President.

With thanks,

Angela Hall
Principal
Headlice policy

Policy Statement:

Head lice (pediculosis) are tiny insects that live on the human scalp where they feed and breed. Probably between 2-3% of primary school children are infested at any one time. While they do not carry or transmit disease, they are a cause of head itch and scratching, which may lead to infection and swollen lymph glands; therefore, they need to be controlled.

Aims:

1. To respond to reports of head lice quickly and effectively.
2. To ensure effective processes for treating head lice are well known and consistently followed.
To ensure that parents and guardians are well informed about head lice and their treatment.

Implementation:

• Anyone can catch head lice. Head lice cannot fly, hop or jump. They spread from person to person by head to head contact, and may also be spread by the sharing of personal items such as combs, brushes and hats.
• While it is parents who have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice on their children, the school will assist by offering up-to-date information, by offering a screening process, and by alerting parents of lice when detected.
• The Principal will ensure all teachers and aides are provided with relevant information regarding head lice, and these staff will then be authorised to carry out visual checks of students heads for head lice (observations without touching of the students head or hair). The Principal will also identify specific staff members to carry out head lice inspections (physical examinations) of students head and hair for the presence of head lice.
• The school will ask parents to sign a permission form allowing their children to be inspected by our specific staff members for the presence of head lice. Only children whose parents have returned the permission form will be inspected, however, all students may be visually checked. (Appendix 1).
• All children inspected will be provided with a confidential report indicating to parents the results of the inspection (Appendix 2), as well as advice on the latest information regarding head lice.
• Consistent with Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001, the Principal will ensure that the parents of any child found to have live lice are immediately informed and asked to collect their child from school. The child is to be excluded from attending school until the day after appropriate treatment has commenced.
• The Principal will also provide parents of children found to have live lice with information about head lice treatment and prevention.
• Upon their return to school, parents of excluded children must present the signed declaration (Appendix 2) indicating that appropriate treatment has commenced. All excluded children are to undergo another inspection from our trained head lice inspectors upon recommencement of school.
• The Principal will ensure that information relating to the prevention and eradication of head lice appears throughout the year in the school newsletter, particularly at times of heavy infestations.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in June 2014
Thank you to our sponsors....