
Whipstick Whispers

Eaglehawk North Primary School No. 1428

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THURSDAY FEBRUARY 5TH 2009

NO 1

CALENDAR

Tuesday	February 10 th	Jump Rope for Heart Team tryouts- Grade 3 to 6 students Student Banking Commences
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday	February 16 th , 17 th & 18 th	Grade 1 and 2 Goal Setting Interviews
Wednesday	February 18 th	3-6 Parent Information Night
Thursday	February 19 th	Prep Information Night
Friday	February 27 th	Closing Date for EMA applications
Wednesday	March 11 th	Prep Family Fun Night

PRINCIPAL'S COLUMN

Welcome to 2009

Welcome back to all of our families for what we hope will be a successful and enjoyable 2009 school year. Welcome also to the new families who have joined us from far and wide.

Our enrolment of 345 is lower than last year however we shall maintain our fifteen home classes which will result in much smaller class sizes. This year we also welcome a number of new teachers. Anna Rookes, Cherie Slattery, Bekki Probert and Simon Kiel have all displayed a high level of enthusiasm for their new roles and I am sure will complement our hard working and very capable staff.

I encourage all parents to be very active and work with us on your child's education. Together we will make a difference. If you have concerns at all, please contact us and arrange for an opportunity to work through these.

Principal's Awards

Congratulations to this week's award winners. I look forward to our presentations on Monday at assembly.

Please feel welcome in joining us. **Connor F, Makayla L, Ben W, Jemma H, Jasmine D, Stephanie T, Macklin W, Tyler G, Will N, Kobie C, Erica F, Derrien M, Trent H, Molly M, Nicole Tand Millie B.**

Staff Profile

We now have our staffing profile finalized and I have included an outline for your information.

Administration Team = Ron Payne (Principal), John Morton (Assistant Principal), Helen Forrest (Leading Teacher), Ricky Hunt (Business Manager), Katrina McNaughton (Administration Officer)

Grades 5/6 Learning Team = Jason O'Neill (Team Leader), Jo Madden, Robert Anderson, Amy Hurford, Bronwyn Coffey.

Grades 3/4 Learning Team = Anthony Bortolot (Team Leader), Cherie Slattery, Anna Rookes, Colin Brown

Grades P/1/2 Learning Team = Cheryl Healey (Team Leader), Judy Heath, Carolyn Wright, Simon Kiel, Tina Fitzpatrick, Sharna Holland

Specialist Teaching Team = John Morton (Auslan/Student Support), Helen Forrest (Technology/ICT), Brett Gilligan (Health & Physical Education), Sue O'Hara (Visual & Performing Arts), Bekki Probert (Visual Arts), John Reid (Intervention & Student Support)

Teaching Support Team = Wendy Kofoed (Chaplain), Liz Davis (Library & Technical Support), Tony McGillivray (Technical Support)

Integration Aides = Elva Greenwood, Helen Melgin, Wendy Gaylor, Tim Attwater

School Support Team = Mick Surplice (Maintenance), Judy Sheaf (Grounds), Nicole White (After School Care), Ian Kurzke (Cleaner), Anita Pilling (Canteen)

Heat Management

The extreme heat of last week may no longer be a challenge for us but I'm sure there will still be some hot days ahead. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) makes no provision for the closure of schools during extreme heat however it is important for parents to know that we do have a range of strategies in the event of very hot days. You will be kept informed if extreme circumstances arise. You can assist us by ensuring good practices are also followed at home. These include involving the children in quiet activities indoors, using coolers or fans and ensuring the children drink water regularly.

1:1 Laptops Program – Grade 6

Parents may have caught the recent press which highlighted a range of new funding and initiatives in schools. One of these is the provision of laptop computers to all grade 6 students in many schools across our state. It is anticipated that this will occur towards the end of this month. This program is being funded mainly by government and schools and parents will be required to contribute a nominal sum over each of the three years. I will be involved in a range of briefings that will provide me with full details on this program. I shall send full details to grade 6 parents on how this program will be introduced as soon as I can pull together all that is needed to ensure a smooth introduction.

Working With Children Checks

Our Business Manager, Ricky Hunt has sourced information relating to 'Working With Children Checks' and this is included with our newsletter for your reference.

Throughout the year we call on many parents to support our activities and there are times when you are asked to supervise a small group. Most times a WWC check is not necessary because your child is directly involved. If you are a regular volunteer however, it may be wise and a safeguard if you were to undertake the check. There is no cost and information on how to complete this is included.

We will use the information provided by Ricky as our reference point when undertaking activities that involve parent participation.

Please contact me should you require further clarification or have any concerns.

Personal Goods Brought to School at Owner's Risk

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools. I therefore wish to remind parents of the need to reinforce with children that items of important personal value should not be brought to school. While we wish to encourage children to be stimulated through sharing and showing, we cannot be responsible for toys or other personal items that are broken or go missing.

Canteen – Confectionery Guidelines

Important changes in the conduct of school canteens throughout Victoria will occur through the introduction of new School Confectionery Guidelines.

From 2009 no confectionery should be supplied through school canteens and other school food services. The School Confectionery Guidelines have been developed to assist schools identify products that are considered to be confectionery. The School Confectionery Guidelines contain a definition of confectionery, a list of foods considered to be confectionery, tips to assist schools to implement the policy and responses to frequently asked questions.

An audit of at least 100 schools will be conducted in 2009 to determine compliance with the confectionery ban. The audit will cover both confectionery and high-sugar drinks and involves schools in metropolitan and regional Victoria.

Through our School Council, our Canteen committee of management will review the operation of our canteen to ensure compliance with these guidelines.

Traffic & Parking Reminder

At the commencement of each school year we are issued with a reminder by the City of Greater Bendigo regarding road safety around schools. I often provide reminders to parents throughout the year however I have included below the generic notice forwarded to us for your reference.

TAKE CARE AROUND SCHOOL ZONES

Motorists are reminded to slow down and take extra care when driving in school zones especially when children are making their way to and from school.

The illegal parking of vehicles adjacent to school is also a major concern to the safety of children, pedestrians and other road users. Parents are reminded that it is essential to comply with parking restrictions when dropping off and collecting their children from school.

Motorists must not stop in no stopping areas, on resident's nature strips, too close to school crossings, park over driveways or double park.

School crossing supervisors have been asked to note the registration number of any vehicles not being driven in the correct manner in a school zone and that information will be passed onto the Police.

Parking and Animal Services from the City of Greater Bendigo have contacted schools following concerns raised with them and advised that Parking Officers will be conducting random patrols to ensure that motorists are adhering to the Road Rules.

School Eating Break Times – Note organisation now in place

Each new school year sometimes brings change to our school organisation aimed at creating the best for the children in our care.

This year we have reorganised our lunch and recess times in an endeavour to maximize the early part of each learning day before children tire. Rather than a recess break at 11.00am we will be taking an earlier lunch session at that time and following this with another 2 hour learning block before a half-hour break at 2.00pm. The final session of the day will then be a one hour session before we dismiss at the usual 3.30pm time.

The earlier lunch between 11.00 and 12.00 will see children provided with a substantial portion of their food rather than having them wait until 1.15 as in the past.

We will monitor this approach to gauge its effect.

School Term Dates 2009

To assist with your planning for the year ahead, the following dates are provided.

Term 1:	2/2/09 – 3/4/09 9 March – Labour Day holiday
Term 2:	20/4/09 – 26/6/09 27 April – ANZAC Day holiday 8 June – Queen's Birthday holiday 12 June – Pupil Free Day for Report writing
Term 3:	13/7/09 – 18/9/09
Term 4:	5/10/09 – 18/12/09 TBA – Bendigo Cup Day holiday

Policy Sharing

Over the course of this year I intend to provide parents with copies of the policies we have in place to guide our school operations. To do this I will attach one policy to each week's newsletter. This week I have started with the '***School Excursions' Policy***.

I encourage all parents to thoroughly read each policy as it is sent home in order that you become fully aware of that element of school. It would also be a good idea for you to file your copy for future reference if needed. All of our policies are located on the school website if you should have need for future reference.

www.ehnps.vic.edu.au

Ron Payne

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S COLUMN

You Can Do It

Regular attendees of our Monday morning school assemblies will be familiar with our You Can Do It awards. Children who have displayed the YCDI qualities of Persistence, Organisation, Confidence, Getting Along or Emotional Resilience are singled out by their teachers for recognition. Check the list on page 6 of this newsletter to see the first list of recipients of awards for 2009.

Walking School Bus

Our school has a very successful Walking School Bus. Thanks to our parent volunteers this program was able to commence last year and has been going strong, maintaining good student numbers.

Every Wednesday morning at 8.00am the WSB leaves the corner of Simpson's Rd and Burnside St near the lake and heads for our school through a series of streets arriving at approximately 8.40am. Have a look at the map in this newsletter to see the route we take. If you think your child would like to join in, get them to collect a Permission form and Behaviour Contract from the office. Walkers wear fluoro vests and safety is paramount. Children of all ages walk and our '***drivers***' are parents who have been trained by the City of Greater Bendigo WSB coordinator. Let me know if you have any queries about WSB or if you are interested in becoming one of our drivers. It is a wonderful school community program and the sight of our '***bus***' travelling through the heart of Eaglehawk turns many heads. New families should study the enclosed map and consider joining us. One of our aims is to increase the number of days each week we walk.

Student Services/Disabilities & Impairments/School Nurse/Student Welfare/Speech Therapy

The Wellbeing of our children is one of my areas of responsibility. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any concerns or queries in this area. In many cases your child's teacher will be your natural first point of contact. My office is just inside the front door of the school.

School Bike Track

A few years ago some of our older students developed a bike track in a section of the bush adjacent to our school. One lunch recess per week, when weather permits, I supervise children, who have parent permission, on this track. Permission forms are available now if children wish to participate. We even have a number of school bikes that children may use. The forms set out the rules and expectations for participants. Parents are welcome to ride as well if they are keen.

Climbing Equipment After School

We do not allow children on climbing equipment between 3.30pm and 3.45pm even if their parents are with them. Our priority at this time is to supervise the safe departure of our families. Parents who are prepared to stay back and supervise their children on the equipment after this time are most welcome to do so. We know that you will support us with this safety rule.



'Attender Chicken'

Each month we make a special award to the class with the best attendance. At our Monday assembly the class receives a special certificate and they get to keep '***Attender Chicken***' in their classroom for one month. '***Attender***' is a singing, dancing chicken. You will see a picture of him in the foyer just outside my office with a list of the winning classes. Our Prep/Grade 1 classes seemed to have an excellent record last year at our school and a couple of our Grade 5/6 classes weren't too bad either. We value regular attendance at our school and we recognise the good attendance of our students with certificates at various stages of the school year. Attendance is something parents of ENPS have been very supportive of us with. Please endeavour to have children at school nice and early for a smooth start to the day and avoid unnecessary absences. Research shows that regular attendance impacts very, very positively on student wellbeing and achievement.

John Morton

5/6 TEAM NEWS

Welcome to all students, parents and friends of the 5/6 Team. We have a few new students starting this year and hope their transition to ENPS is a happy one. We are all looking forward to a terrific school year in 2009.

Our Integrated theme for this term is *Values*. The students will be looking at the values that are important to them, school, the wider community and globally.

Homework: All students should have been handed their homework book and tasks for Term 1. We would appreciate your support in your child's endeavours in getting the homework completed and handed in on time.

The Parent Information Session for 5/6 will be held on Wednesday 18th Feb. This will be held in the evening. A note will be sent home soon outlining the details.

Note: All students are to be wearing school hats by Monday.

Amy, Jo, Jason, Bronwyn and Rob

3/4 TEAM NEWS

The students in the 3 /4 grades have quickly settled back into school routine. The new teachers and new grade set up are working well. For some the start of a new year can be a little '*scary*' but most have handled the changes with growing maturity. To ensure that the students continue to be confident in the school environment it is important that they are punctual as a lot of the settling time happens in the time before the bell goes when they link up with their friends or check on the boards what the day has in store them.

All classes have revised the school and classroom rules and the students have discussed what they need so that they will have a happy learning year. The rules are grouped under the headings: talking/communication, movement, safety, treatment, property/expectation. These are displayed in the classrooms to remind the students of what is expected of them.

Our study focus this term will be Values. We will investigate general community values and how we see them as well as local community values and family values. We hope to be able to have some of our local leaders speak to the students on the topic.

Homework is an important part of the students' education. This will begin next week with a scrapbook given and the homework sheet stuck in. The tasks will usually be sent home on a Monday and the tasks are expected to be completed and returned to school by Friday. Should your child not be able to complete the tasks, please let the classroom teacher know. If the student has difficulty with a task, please note it in the homework book so that the problem can be addressed in the classroom. Take- home readers will be the library

books borrowed during the week and there is a section on the homework sheet that allows for the students to record these so that all of this is in one book. We like to practise our '*Organisational*' **You Can Do It key!**

The 3 /4 Team are looking forward to a busy year guiding student learning.

Colin, Anna, Anthony and Cherie

PREP/2 NEWS

A **BIG** welcome to our new families and welcome back to our regular families also, for what promises to be a busy and enjoyable 2009!

All children, including our Preps are settling into their new classrooms and enjoying making new friends.

Simon Kiel is a new addition to our P/1/2 team. Simon has enthusiastically embraced working with his young class and brings many valuable qualities to our junior team.

Sunsmart - Please assist us to keep your child safe and comfortable in this extremely HOT weather! School broad brimmed or bucket hats and water drink bottles are essential. We have sink access so water bottles are able to be refilled when needed.

Healthy Food Eating Time - fresh or dried fruit, vegetables, cheese, meat or nuts are able to be eaten during class time, enabling children to re-energise and focus during their two hour teaching sessions. **Free fruit is also provided on Tuesdays.**

A daily reading routine is very important! Listening to your child read each night will enable practice of their reading strategies. Returning the reader bag each day is a must as we have reading practice every day!

Parent/Teacher/Child interviews are being conducted over the next three weeks in all classes.

Class Newsletters will be sent out early next week to inform you of class routines, timetables, special programs and excursions. Parent Helpers are a wonderful school resource and we hope you will consider assisting in your child's class this year. **(Please refer to the Working with Children Check Information attached).**

P.M.P and Fitness Program- all Preps will participate in this Program. Please read about this program in the P.E section of this Newsletter.

All Grade 2 children will participate in the Fitness Program. Grade One children will be selected to participate in either of these programs depending on their specific needs.

Specialist Days- Art, P.E and ICT- Tuesday for 1/2 classes and Friday for Prep/1 classes.

Prep

Prep Power! Assist your child to develop power or independence to perform school routines for themselves. Verbally remind them when they unpack their bag about where things belong- reader goes in the reader bucket etc.

Buddies- Grade 4 Buddies have been sharing lunch with the Preps this week. These wonderful buddies are making the Preps' lunch play transition into the school yard much easier. Their Grade One class mates have also assisted this process.

Interviews - are being completed over the next two Wednesday Rest days.

Parent Information Night- will be held on **Thursday 19th February** from 6pm to 7.30 pm in the Library Our many wonderful Class and School Programs will be outlined for you. **Baby sitting** will also be provided on this night. Please return the Baby Sitting form at the end of this newsletter if you require this service to allow us to cater for the correct number of children. A yummy supper concludes this informative evening.

Prep Family Fun Night- please mark **Wednesday March 11th** on your calendar.

Letter focus for next week - Bb- children can bring news items starting with this letter.

Grade 1/2

Goal Setting Interviews- **Monday February 16th, Tuesday February 17th and Wednesday February 18th.** Please complete and return these Interview forms. We look forward to this meeting to begin our parent-teacher partnership for 2009.

Spelling Homework- begins next week. Please support this program, outlined in the class Newsletter, as Spelling is a literacy skill that must be regularly practised.

Grade One Pizza Night-to be confirmed next week
Grade Two Sleep Over- to be confirmed next week.

If you have any concerns, please approach your child's class teacher.

Make sure you share in the school experience -your interest and involvement will have a positive influence on your child's learning.

We are looking forward to a great year together!

Simon, Tina, Sharna, Carolyn, Cheryl and Judy

YCDI AWARDS

Brayden R, Rebeka G, Tyler H, Kyal Z, Lain J, Caine S, Shania P, Madison W, Casey Y, Keisha B, Rhys H, Jayden B, Natt N, Cooper G and Georgia B.

**VISUAL ARTS**

A big **WELCOME BACK** to all our school community and a special one to our new families. Students will be attending the Art/Craft room for specialist lessons once a week. I will be taking classes on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and Ms Bekki Probert will be taking grades on Thursday and Friday. Bekki is no stranger to our school or the Art/Craft room and we extend a warm welcome to her and look forward to sharing her creative talents.

All students require their own, named art smock. Our first area is Painting and it is one area where students' uniforms will need protecting!

PERFORMING ARTS

We need to nourish and cultivate **music** in our students for the benefits are lifelong and all encompassing.

Music develops emotional and social skills through group singing, dancing, playing and creating.

Music develops physical skills.

Music enhances self esteem, creativity and expression.

Students in grades 4,5 and 6, who are willing to make a regular commitment to weekly sessions on Mondays, are invited to come along and become members of the School Choir 1pm- 2pm and/or Recorder Band 2.30pm- 3.20pm. All keen musicians are welcome!

Linda Broun, our visiting keyboard instructor, will commence lessons with students next Tuesday. If your child is interested in learning keyboard/piano please see me asap.

Keep Creating

Sue O'Hara and Bekki Probert

**LIBRARY NEWS**

It is great to see everyone back from their holidays and ready for the new year.

The Library is in full swing for our First Term. I hope we all have a great year.

If anyone would like to help with covering of books please come and see me in the library, your help would be much appreciated.

We are also looking for any old National Geographic's, Australian Geographic's and Time magazines for our Library.

Reading can take you anywhere!

Liz Davis



CANTEEN NEWS

The canteen is up and running for this year.

Lunch orders are available on a daily basis along with over the counter sales at both lunchtime and the afternoon break time.

Fruit sticks, grapes, strawberries etc are available over the counter.

An updated canteen menu will go home with students next week.

Anita Pilling

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

If you are eligible for EMA and *haven't* completed an application please call into the office with your Health Care Card before *Friday February 27th*.

Late applications will not be accepted.

Eligibility Criteria:

- *Centrelink Pension Card as at January 28th 2009.*

Ricky and Katrina

STUDENT BANKING

Student banking will commence on *Tuesday February 10th*.

If students wish to commence banking please contact the office for an information pack.

Ricky and Katrina

LOST PROPERTY

On Monday the lost property cupboard will be cleared out and *any unnamed items will be disposed of.*

Any named items will be returned to students.

Please take the opportunity before Monday to check the cupboard for any missing items.

UNIFORM SHOP

Thank you to the following parents for volunteering their time again this year to run our Uniform Shop:

Jo Pitt, Kylie Sea and Bev Varker.

Opening times are:

*Monday 8.45am to 9.30am
3.00pm to 3.30pm (from Feb 16th)*

Wednesday 3.15pm to 3.45pm

Friday 3.15 pm to 3.45pm

PERCEPTUAL MOTOR PROGRAM

This year, PMP will be run in the Prep classrooms. The program helps build fine and gross motor function.

The program will run on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings. The school requires some parent helpers to assist with the program. All helpers will need the required Working With Children checks. For more information, please contact your child's teacher or Mr Gilligan asap.



JUMP ROPE FOR HEART

Students will again have the opportunity to participate in a JRFH demonstration team. Students from ENPS will travel to other schools to perform routines they have made themselves, all while improving their fitness levels and having fun.

Tryouts for the team will be held next Tuesday at lunchtime in the Multi Purpose Room. All Grade 3 to 6 students are welcome to come and try. Students not successful in becoming part of the main team will still be provided with encouragement and support to continue to develop their skipping skills. If there are any questions, please see Mr Gilligan.

Community News

1. *Training grants for parents returning to work* are available to assist with covering expenses. To find out more information and eligibility criteria contact Makenna Bryon at BRIT on 1300554248.
2. *Aussie Hoops Basketball Program* for children aged 8-13 years. This program will run on Wednesday's from 4-30pm to 5-30pm at the Flora Hill Stadium. Cost is \$30 and includes a basketball /bag or \$35 with a basketball/reversible singlet. Phone Andrea Walsh on 54406304 for more information.
3. *Eaglehawk Uniting Church Cornerstone Program(Sunday School)* resumes Sunday February 8th with a big breakfast at 9.15am. Classes from 10am. For more information phone Brian Davey on 54469163.

Do you require babysitting of children whilst attending the Information Session?

Prep Information Session Thursday February 19th

Family Name.....

Number of children.....

Please return this slip to the office by February Monday 16th.

