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# Whipstick Whispers

Eaglehawk North Primary School No. 1428

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THURSDAY JUNE 4TH 2009

NO 16

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## CALENDAR

Friday	June 5 <sup>th</sup>	Return of Secondary School Placement Forms(Grade 6 students)
Monday	June 8 <sup>th</sup>	Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
Tuesday	June 9 <sup>th</sup>	Zone Hockey (Ashley St Complex)
Thursday	June 11 <sup>th</sup>	Zone Soccer at Beischer Park (Boys)and Spring Gully Soccer Ground(Girls)
Friday	June 12 <sup>th</sup>	Pupil Free Day (3 Way Conference Interviews from 12 noon to 7pm)
Wednesday	June 17 <sup>th</sup>	Return of Permission Notes and Payment for Grade 3/4 Ceres Excursion
Tuesday	June 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Grade 3/4 Ceres Excursion
Friday	June 26 <sup>th</sup>	Last Day Term 2 (2.30pm finish)
Monday	July 13 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> Day Term 3

## **PRINCIPAL'S COLUMN**

### *School Mergers Update*

On Monday I provided you with an outline of the current status of the primary schools merger proposal.

While there is some clarity required around our role in the merger, what is clear is that the four schools involved will become two with one of them being sited at Eaglehawk North and the other at Comet Hill. Change for our community will therefore be around what is necessary to support a merger of the other schools and what will result here as a consequence.

Both schools will be developed within the parameters of template options provided by the Department of Education and Early Childhood. The templates provide a variety of teaching spaces which allow for a great deal of flexibility in the way in which children can be taught to best prepare them for the twenty-first century. These templates are being used by all government schools across Victoria.

A key feature of the two school solution is an acknowledgement of the importance of the early years (0-5 years) and facilities to support that cohort will be developed over time. The early years provision includes occasional and long term child care, maternal and child health, kindergarten and intervention services.

It is expected that it will take about two years to get the facilities established across both sites. A project plan is currently being developed which will address such issues as timelines, communication strategies, transition, governance, staffing, etc. Schools' staff, councils and the parent communities will have extensive opportunities to work together to develop this very progressive initiative.

Through our newsletter I will keep you informed of progress and of the opportunity for input and involvement as appropriate.

***Student Mid Year Reports / 3 Way Conferences***

Our staff having been working hard to undertake the preparation of the student reports and it is planned that these will be sent home next **Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> June** for you to read prior to the 3 Way Conference program to be held on **Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup>**.

***If you haven't yet registered*** for the Conference program, to be held from 12 noon to 7pm on Friday, please contact Ricky or Katrina in the office **ASAP** as timeslots are filling quickly. Those parents unable to participate in the Friday program will need to make individual arrangements with class teachers to meet at another mutually agreeable time.

At this point in time I have read all but two classes' reports and I am very pleased and impressed with the level of knowledge teachers are displaying about their children's progress. Your children are in very capable hands.

***Schools Pride Program***

The \$150,000 Federal Government grant we recently received for school maintenance and refurbishment has allowed us to prepare for some significant school improvement work. Hopefully, during the coming school holidays, works will be completed on the upgrading of the front asphalt area with a new synthetic turf surface and replacement of our wire fence at the front of the school with a new steel picket one. Both projects should lift the presentation of the grounds significantly. The major portion of the grant will be spent on finalising our refurbishment of the original building through development of a new administration office area. I have project managers working on this at present and this will be undertaken in the second half of the year.

***Policy Sharing***

This week's policy for your reference is our **'Drug Education'** policy.

All of our policies are located on the school website if you have need for future reference.

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

**Ron Payne**

**ASSISTANT PRICIPAL'S COLUMN*****Beautiful Rain***

Recent rain has seen our gardens and grounds looking the best they have for quite awhile. The progress of trees planted in the last 12 months has been particularly pleasing. Two or three years ago a storm decimated a row of trees near the historic pathway. The replacement trees are thriving. Overall most of our plants have survived the worst of the drought, even the beautiful old Irish Strawberry tree that shades the pathway leading down to the car park.

***Historic Steps***

When the school was redeveloped in 1989-90 an old bluestone step was removed from the front entrance. This has been in storage since then. This historic item will soon re-surface as a schoolyard seat adjacent to the historic pathway. Its incredibly worn top surface tells the tale of many thousands of feet passing over from 1874 until its removal in 1990. Keep an eye out for its reappearance.

***100% Attendance***

We currently have 67 children who have been lucky enough to maintain 100% attendance until the end of May. The breakdown is as follows: 3 Preps, 14 Grade 1's, 10 Grade 2's, 10 Grade 3's, 8 Grade 4's, 14 Grade 5's and 8 Grade 6's.

***We Need Sunlight***

During the week a memorandum arrived from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Education reminding us of the importance of getting enough Vitamin D, a vitamin essential to development of healthy muscles, bones and teeth. The message is simple. We do not need to cover up from May to August. Whether this will mean revising our Sunsmart Policy that specifies compulsory hats only in Terms 1 and 4 remains to be seen.

**John Morton**

### **5/6 TEAM NEWS**

**Three Way Conferences:** a reminder that these will take place next Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June. Please make sure that appointment notices are returned **ASAP** so that appropriate arrangements can be made to meet with your child and their teacher.

**Secondary School Placement Forms** handed out to grade 6 students must be returned **tomorrow** to the office to enable placement at a secondary school in 2010. Even if you are not attending a secondary school in the Bendigo area your form still needs to be returned.

**Netbooks:** The Netbook program is still running smoothly. We have only had a few technical issues to deal with. Thank you to everybody for the care and respect you have been showing towards this excellent learning resource.

**Natural and Manmade Disasters:** Well done to all who handed in their natural disaster brochure last Friday. The standard was high. Good luck with task four, building a model of a natural disaster. The construction time set aside for the completion of this task is Thursday morning **June 18<sup>th</sup>**.

**Homework:** Just our regular reminder that homework is due in on each Friday. This week you are required to read for three nights, complete the maths task, and answer the **'What If'** question that forms the English task.

**Soccer:** Zone soccer will occur next **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June**. If your child is involved, please return permission forms and \$4 payment ASAP.

**Hockey:** Zone hockey will take place next **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June**. Once again, if your child is involved, please return permission forms and \$4 payment ASAP.

**Amy, Jo, Jason, Bronwyn and Rob**

### **3/4 TEAM NEWS**

**The value** being investigated this week in Social Competencies is **"enthusiasm"** – enthusiasm comes from having a positive attitude about the things you do. The students will be looking at what they are enthusiastic about.

**Our planning for our puppets** is well under way. The students will be writing their scripts, designing their puppets and making them. A variety of styles are being used in the classrooms. The theme for the story is **"natural resources"**.



With the onset of winter and the colder, wetter days students need to think about their clothing and footwear. While our rooms are heated, students need jumpers or jackets for when they go outside. Please remind them about dirty shoes inside! Please check to see that jumpers and coats are named as we are already building up a lost property store. Some students take their shoes off when they come inside and so it is wise to name their shoes too as many students seem to have similar styles.

**We are still waiting for some Ceres excursion forms and \$18 payment to be returned by students. PLEASE** ensure that these are returned by **Wednesday June 17<sup>th</sup>**.  
**Colin, Anna, Anthony and Cherie**

### **PREP, 1/2 NEWS**

#### ***Three Way Conferences***

Thank you to those parents who have returned the form and arranged a time for your child/ren's Three Way Conferences. These are an important component of our reporting process. We look forward to your child/ren sharing their learning journey and successes with you and together strengthening the School-Home partnership.

**If you have not arranged a time for Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June please do so as soon as possible.**

#### ***KOOLtime Visitor***

Today we had Mr Sloan, Sandhurst Network Coordinator, visit our classes during KOOLtime to view the children working on their investigations, sharing their discoveries and final products.

**PREP**

**Prep Literacy Focus** – Next week’s letter is **“Rr”** and the high frequency word is **“for”**.

**GRADE ONE & TWO**

**Grade 1 Literacy Focus**- Next week’s is **“sm”** and rime ending **“up”** and **“ub”**.

**Grade 2 Literacy Focus** – Next week’s focus are words with **“oy”** and the blend **“spl”**.

*Simon, Tina, Sharna, Carolyn, Cheryl and Judy*

**LIBRARY NEWS**

Winter is here and it is great to see the rain. With this sort of weather it is nice to snuggle up with a good book near a nice warm fire.

The shortlisted books are now on display so please come and have a look and see which book you think should win which category.

**‘Reading can take you anywhere’**

*Liz Davis*

**VISUAL ARTS**

The Art/Craft room is into Clay modeling with a vengeance! Senior students have created pinch pot desk buddies, slab wizards, moulded bowls and a variety of **‘own choice’** artworks. Junior students are learning the language and basic skills of clay modelling, including texture and the use of clay tools. With the approaching school holidays it would be a great Arts experience to take your students to the Bendigo Art gallery to view the prestigious Archibald Exhibition. Maddy Abel participated in a workshop recently and was very lucky to obtain the winner’s autograph and have one of her portraits on display. Congratulations Maddy.

**MUSIC**

Our school Choir performed at Monday’s assembly and they gave a wonderful presentation of singing, movement and team work. We are increasing our repertoire, competence and confidence in performing, and will go outside the school next term to entertain. In July the Music is Fun Band will be coming to ENPS for a whole school music incursion. All grades are learning the songs and students will be involved in singing, playing recorder, dancing, assisting with puppets, signs etc. It is always an energetic and fun filled afternoon for **EVERYONE**.

**Keep Creating,**

*Sue O’Hara and Bekki Probert*

**SPORTS NEWS****Orienteering**

Just a quick note on our **“Space Racing”** teams. We had a great weekend, with our team doing an outstanding job, and have moved into 2<sup>nd</sup> position overall. The team now has a weekend off before heading to Strathdale Park for the next round.

**“Hit, Run, Throw” Success**

At assembly on Monday, Terry Smith from the Bendigo Baseball Association came to announce our school as one of the winners from their **“Hit, Run, Throw”** clinic. As well as this, he also presented Mr Payne with a cheque for **\$500**. This money will go toward buying new equipment for the school. Well done to those students who participated. If you are interested in playing baseball, please feel free to contact Terry Smith on 0400 016 964 or Mr G at school.

**Softball Clinic**

Tomorrow sees almost 30 Grade 5/6’s head off to Catholic College to participate in a softball clinic. It is a great opportunity for them to learn the finer points of the sport. We look forward to the softball champs later this year.

**Hockey and Soccer Champs**

Next week, over 50 of our students will be representing the school in Hockey and Soccer Championships. Good luck to those going and we wish you well.

*Brett Gilligan*

**EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> instalment of EMA will be paid during Term 3. Please let us know at the office by **Monday August 3rd** if your situation has changed regarding eligibility for a Health Care card.

- If you received EMA and your Health Care card is current as at **July 13<sup>th</sup>** no action is required.
- If you received the 1<sup>st</sup> instalment of EMA and your Health Care Card has been cancelled or expired please contact the office.
- If you are a new parent to the school and you have a Health Care Card dated from **July 13<sup>th</sup>** please contact the office to complete an application.
- If you weren’t eligible for the 1<sup>st</sup> instalment but now have a Health Care card please contact the office.

*Ricky & Katrina*



### **NETBALL DRAWS**

***Saturday June 6th***

No Netball due to Long Weekend Public holiday.



### **MOBILE PHONE MUSTER**

***Last day tomorrow!!!!***

Once again, 5/6 Coffey are eagerly looking to help the environment and support farmers in areas affected by the recent bushfires by collecting any old, unused (working or not) mobile phones, chargers and mobile phone accessories.

For each 5kgs of phones we collect before ***June 5th***, a fence post will be provided to help rebuild the farm fences burnt during the recent Black Saturday fires.

If you, a friend or a member of your family has an old mobile phone laying around the house we'd really appreciate it if you could drop it off to the collection box in the Office. Alternatively you could also drop it off at Miss Coffey's classroom (Room 3).

***Thanks for your assistance***

***Miss Coffey and 5/6C***



### **CANTEEN NEWS**

Apple Slinky machines are available from the canteen for \$25-00 each.

***Canteen Specials for next week;***

- Tuesday Spaghetti Bolognese \$3-50
- Wednesday Fried Rice \$3.50
- Thursday Chow Mein \$3.50

***Anita Pilling***

***Mother Hen Catering***

### **Community News**

1. ***Neangar Pre School Open Day*** will be held on Wednesday June 10<sup>th</sup> from 2-15pm to 3.15pm. Children for both 3 and 4 year old kinder groups for 2010 are invited to attend.
2. ***Free Family Food Fun and Games Day*** will be held on Wednesday June 17<sup>th</sup> at the Long Gully Community Centre in Havilah Road from 11am to 3pm. Lots of activities for the whole family. See poster on main noticeboard. RSVP to Kate by Friday June 12<sup>th</sup>.
3. ***CentaCare*** are holding a free workshop called "Blending Families" on Wednesday June 17<sup>th</sup> from 6.30pm to 8.30pm at 176-178 McCrae St Bendigo. Bookings are essential. Please phone 54381300.