

---



---

# Whipstick Whispers

Eaglehawk North Primary School No. 1428

Contact Details: P.O. Box 11, Eaglehawk 3556 Ph:(03) 5446 8366 Fax:(03) 54469684

Email: eaglehawk.north.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

Web Address:www.ehnps.vic.edu.au

THURSDAY MARCH 5TH 2009

NO 5

## CALENDAR

Monday	March 9 <sup>th</sup>	Labour Day Public Holiday
Wednesday	March 11 <sup>th</sup>	Prep Family Fun Night Tickets for Easter Raffle sent home to families
Friday	March 13 <sup>th</sup>	Shave For a Cure and Crazy Hair Day(Gold Coin Donation) Farewell for Mandy Costello from 3.45pm to 4.15pm
Friday	March 20 <sup>th</sup>	Harmony Day
Saturday	March 21 <sup>st</sup>	Dahlia and Arts Parade
Wednesday to Friday	March 25 <sup>th</sup> to 27 <sup>th</sup>	Scholastic Book Fair in Room 15
Friday	March 27 <sup>th</sup>	Return of Easter Raffle tickets
Wednesday	April 1 <sup>st</sup>	Easter Raffle(s) drawn
Friday	April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Last Day Term 1(2.30pm finish)
Monday	April 20 <sup>th</sup>	Term Two starts

## PRINCIPAL'S COLUMN

### *Principal's Award*

As there will be no assembly next week due to the long weekend, the awards will be selected over a two week period and presented at the following Monday's assembly.

### *School Closure on Tuesday*

I wish to extend my appreciation to all parents/guardians for your tolerance, support and understanding in relation to Tuesday's school closure. I know some inconvenience was experienced.

While the conditions that prevailed may, in hindsight, have not normally forced a school closure, we are bound by the direction of Government and the Education Department. The decision to close was taken on the advice available and, when we consider the consequences of the very recent bushfire events, the decision taken is understandable.

### *Clean Fill Wanted*

We are presently undertaking a small EcoProject involving senior students in the development of a natural sculpture which will soon be planted out. You may have noted early works on this facing Franklin St. It should look fantastic when finalized.

We need a couple of trailer loads of clean fill for this project. If you are able to help out, please contact Mr. Alan Windust on 54395099 and he will arrange for pick up. Thanks in anticipation.

### *Headlice*

Our comprehensive monitoring program continues and we are generally well in control of this ever-present concern. Judy Sheaf does a great job in regularly checking the children's hair and in keeping you informed of the situation involving your child's screening.

The frustration of some parents is understandable and we work hard to ensure we give the best support and advice we can. Rest assured that I impose appropriate sanctions on those parents who do not do the right thing in keeping abreast of the head lice challenge.

We will never eliminate this concern from our school but, working together and addressing our responsibility, we will continue to keep the concern to a minimum.

While some parents can become frustrated because they are doing their very best, it is important that you understand the cycle of head lice and the most effective treatment methods. I have included information as an attachment to the newsletter that should be of help.

I am always receptive to you letting me know if you think things are getting out of hand. In this way I can intervene at a focused level.

### ***Harmony Day***

Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> March has been set aside as a day when all in our school will celebrate the '***Cultural Diversity***' of our nation and of our community in particular. Teachers at the various Learning Team levels are developing lessons and activities which their classes will share over the next fortnight. This learning will culminate with Harmony Day and we encourage all children to dress in traditional clothing of nations around the world. Please watch for information from the respective Learning Teams on what they have planned. There is no cost associated with this program.

### ***Performing Arts***

Included with your newsletter this week is a pamphlet forwarded to us from The Capital – Bendigo's Performing Arts Centre.

You will see from this pamphlet a wonderful range of productions being offered with children in mind. Please give the attendance at one or more of these productions some thought. The Capital does a wonderful job of presenting performing arts and I'm sure your child would gain much from such an experience.

### ***Eaglehawk Secondary College – Bendigo Education Plan***

Families of grades 5 & 6 students have also been provided with a further pamphlet dealing with the new Eaglehawk Secondary College. Karen Roberts and her team are working hard with our region personnel to create a wonderful learning facility for the community. This pamphlet will give you a snapshot of what is intended. When time comes to consider secondary college enrolment for your child, I'm sure Karen and Noel will be most helpful in providing the information you need.

A number of extra pamphlets are available at our office if you are interested.

Also attached to the newsletter is a general update regarding the Bendigo Education Plan.

### ***Student Absences***

Congratulations to Prep/1 Fitzpatrick on recording the lowest number of absences across the school for the month of February. 8 absences in a class of 22 students is a very pleasing level of attendance. The junior section of our school has shown the way overall for February. The attendance of particular students can inflate figures for a class and I will have discussions directly with parents where this is warranted.

### ***Lateness to Class***

While the overall attendance for February wasn't too bad, I do have some concerns with regards lateness. We had 103 instances of lateness during February across all classes. This is not a culture that is encouraged in our school. Some of these are attributed to the same children and I will be discussing this with parents directly. Lateness has a range of impacts and I ask parents to try to do better in this regard for March. If you have concerns, I am happy to support you with addressing these.

### ***Policy Sharing***

This week's policy for your reference is our '***Emergency Management Plan – DISPLAN***' policy.

Please note that the document provided to you is the policy statement only. There is a comprehensive implementation document which sits behind the policy statement and provides guidance to all staff on the carrying out of our DISPLAN.

Contact me if you have any concerns relating to this 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***

**5/6 TEAM NEWS**

**Homework-** Students should have completed for tomorrow their times tables booklet (5 & 9's), 3 nights of reading, and the English Brainstorming key activity. Please keep supporting your child in these demands. Those students that do not hand in their homework on Friday will be in the Homework Club during Monday lunchtime recess.

**Hobbies and Clubs will start tomorrow.** Ask your child which activity they are doing. Thank you to the parents who have offered their expertise to take an activity. We hope all students will enjoy their activity and learn new and exciting skills.

For students involved in the groups such as Community Activities, Cooking, Sewing/Embroidery and Scrapbooking any associated costs will be covered by the Excursion Levy paid by families at the start of the year. For those families who opted not to pay the levy, a note will be sent home with your child indicating how much money is required for your child to be involved.

**Excursion** – The '*Clean Up Australia Day*' excursion although cancelled to Lightning Hill was able to become an incursion, whereby the students participated in cleaning up the school grounds and surrounding environment. The students, teachers and participating parents all did a wonderful job of picking up rubbish and some very unusual items (saucepan, jumper, boxers, shoe, tin). Thank you to those parents who gave up their time to come and help.

**Premier's Reading Challenge** – Please return your notes as soon as possible.

*Amy, Jo, Jason, Bronwyn and Rob*

**3/4 TEAM NEWS**

**Premier's Reading Challenge-** Thank you to all who have signed up for the Premier's Reading Challenge. Please make sure that all forms are returned by Friday so that the necessary paperwork can be completed.

**Thanks to families** for their continued support with the homework program. It is great to see the range of books that students are reading as a part of their homework. Some students are still challenged with their spelling words on the class tests.

**The value being investigated this week** in Social Competencies is "*compassion*": it means caring about someone who is hurt. We looked at how we felt when we were hurt and the body feelings experienced, eg butterflies in the stomach. We talked about how we can help new students to the school or a game or a group.

**All students** should have returned their computer and photo forms. If you haven't, please do so as soon as possible. All students must have their art smocks and library bags so that they can be fully involved in these programs.

Library books should be returned to school to be replaced or re borrowed each week.

**Students are designing posters** for each grade for the Dahlia and Arts festival.

**Keep watching this space** for information about '*Harmony Day*' which will be celebrated by the whole school on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March**.

*Colin, Anna, Anthony and Cherie*

**PREP, 1/2 NEWS**

**Art Smocks and Library Bags-** there are still a few children without these essential items. A large, old t-shirt or shirt would be a suitable for Art while a \$2 Environment shopping bag would be suitable as a Library Bag.

**Premier's Reading Challenge** – We are enjoying reading these stories each week. A few children still need to return their permission slips so they are eligible to receive a certificate.

**Gardens-**All classes have been allocated a garden to look after. As the weather becomes more suitable for gardening we will be looking at preparing designing and planting. If any parents or grandparents have green thumbs and love gardening we would appreciate your input.

**Harmony Day-**This is on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March. It will be a dress up day at no cost and we encourage children to talk to their parents about their family history and family cultures. More news about this day next week.

**PREP**

**Prep Literacy Focus-** next week's letter is "*t*" and high frequency word is "*can*".

**Prep Fun Night-** This entertaining night is next Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March. Flyers have been sent home. Hope you will join us to have fun and meet other Prep families and children.

**GRADE ONE & TWO**

**Grade 1 Literacy Focus-** this week's blend is "*pr*" and rime endings are "*it*" and "*id*".

**Grade 2 Literacy Focus-** this week's focus is "*st*" starts and "*st*" endings and the vowel focus is the short "*u*" sound eg. but

**Grade One Pizza and Disco Night-** A wonderful night was had by all! The children really loved getting on the dance floor and showing us their individual dancing styles. Many thanks to the parents who assisted with various jobs on the night. We can only provide these events with your support. We greatly appreciate your time.

**Grade Two Sleep Over-** The school was abuzz with lots of activity after dark last Friday night. Many thanks to all the parent helpers again, especially Ash D and Ken W who bravely volunteered to be on duty in the Boys' room for the sleepover. The children were wonderfully behaved which made for a very enjoyable and restful night.

*Photos and stories next week.*

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

### **'FAREWELL TO MANDY COSTELLO'**

**On Friday March 13<sup>th</sup>** we are organising a farewell to Mandy Costello who left our school to take up an Assistant Principal position at Comet Hill PS. Mandy has worked at ENPS for several years and in that time she has contributed in so many ways to our students, staff and school community. Her boundless energy, drive and friendship have been valued by so many. **Parents are invited to say farewell at 3.45pm to 4.15pm** and staff will continue with the more formal acknowledgement and presentation. It will be held in the Staffroom and refreshments will be available. Mark your diaries if you would like to say thank you and farewell to a former, wonderful staff member of ENPS.



### **LIBRARY NEWS**

I hope everyone has started to read books for the Premier's Reading Challenge. Remember the green dots are for 3-6 and the yellow dots are for Prep-2.

Don't forget to bring back your overdue books.

***Reading can take you anywhere!***

*Liz Davis*



### **SPORTS NEWS**

The district swimming sports have been postponed until Friday March 13<sup>th</sup>.

***Brett Gilligan***



### **CANTEEN NEWS**

To assist with processing lunch orders please ***don't staple the lunch bags***. Your assistance with this request would be appreciated.

If students have items to add to their lunch order(eg) icy poles, they must take their ***lunch order bag back to the canteen at the end of the eating period***.

***Anita Pilling***

***Mother Hen Catering***



### **EASTER RAFFLE**

It's nearly that time of year again.

***We will again hold our Easter Raffle.***

Tickets will be sent home to each family on Wednesday March 11<sup>th</sup> to be returned by Friday March 27<sup>th</sup>. The raffle(s) will then be drawn on Wednesday April 1<sup>st</sup>.

During March we will call for donations of Easter eggs.

***Fundraising Committee***

### **LOST PROPERTY**

Could parents and students please check lost property from time to time. The grey cupboard is located near Mr Payne's office.

***Please name clothing items*** as this assists with returning lost property to students.

### **WALKING SCHOOL BUS**

The Walking School Bus, there's no wheels, no fuss. Join the bus!!!

We have 63 students registered, 6 parent volunteers and thank you to their valued commitment each week. The program has been going strong maintaining good student numbers.

***The Walking School Bus leaves the corner of Simpsons Road and Burnside Street (opposite the lake) at 8.10am and heads for our school along a series of streets arriving at the school gate at approximately 8.40am.***

If students would like to join, permission forms are available from the office. If there are any parents who wish to become involved, please contact Suzy McGregor (parent volunteer) for details or leave your name at the office.

Volunteer induction and training sessions will commence towards the end of Term 1.

**Community News**

1. ***Kids Cooking Classes*** will be held in the April school holidays at the Schweppes Centre. See flyer on main noticeboard or book on 54406246. Brochures are also available from the office foyer.
2. ***The Bendigo Regional YMCA*** will commence bookings for the holiday program this week. Bookings will be taken at B Central in Mundy St. Phone 54418200 or go online to [www.bendigo.ymca.org.au](http://www.bendigo.ymca.org.au) to view the brochure from March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Printed brochures will be available from the school office foyer by March 10<sup>th</sup>.
3. ***Huge Baby and Kids Sale*** will be held at YMCA Stadium 45 Mundy St on Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9am to 1pm. Book your stall now. Prices start from \$20. Phone Kate on 54445667.
4. ***Bush Fire Bombers Football Match*** will be held on Monday March 9<sup>th</sup> at the QEO from 4pm. Any child aged 10-12 years that lives in the fire affected community is eligible to play in the game which will include some senior players from the Essendon Football Club. Entry is adults \$10, U14 free.
5. ***Parent Support Group Information Evening*** will be held on Wednesday March 11<sup>th</sup> at 7-30pm in the church building at Eaglehawk Primary School. Phone Judy on 0408312027 for more details.
6. ***Falcons Baseball Club*** will hold a Come & Try/Registration Day on Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup> at the Albert Roy Reserve from 11am. Team coaches will be present on the day, lots of activities and BBQ. New players are most welcome.
7. ***Eaglehawk Hockey Club*** advise that the season will commence on Monday April 14<sup>th</sup> for U13 & U15 and from Friday April 17<sup>th</sup> for U17. Training is on Thursdays at the Ashley St complex from 6pm. For further information contact [eaglehawkhc@gmail.com](mailto:eaglehawkhc@gmail.com)
8. ***Family Day and Cultural Festival*** will be held in Canterbury Park on Sunday March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 11am to 3pm. Lots of free activities for the whole family. Information brochures are available from the office foyer.

***Attachments***

1. ***The Capital Theatre Brochure***

**JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCIL**

***On Friday March 13<sup>th</sup>*** our school will be involved in helping raise money for The World’s Greatest Shave which supports the Leukaemia Foundation.

***Mr Ash John*** (Teisha’s dad from P/1K) is volunteering to have his head shaved and contribute his donations to our efforts.

***The shave will happen at lunch time at 11.30am.***

Amelia’s Hair & Beauty in Eaglehawk have volunteered to help with the shave.

The children can be involved in ‘***crazy hair day***’ to help raise money and we ask for a gold coin donation. Children are also able to have their ***hair colour sprayed*** during lunchtime between ***11.15am-11.45am*** for a gold coin donation from the children who participate.

If you wish for your child to have their hair colour sprayed please complete and return the permission form By ***Thursday March 12<sup>th</sup>***.

-----

I .....(parent/guardian)give  
permission for

.....(student/s) Grade.....

**to have their hair colour sprayed on Friday March 13<sup>th</sup> to help raise money for the World’s Greatest Shave-Leukaemia Foundation.**

Parent  
Signature.....