
Whipstick Whispers

Eaglehawk North Primary School No. 1428

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THURSDAY MAY 28TH 2009

NO 15

CALENDAR

Friday	June 5 th	Return of Secondary School Placement Forms(Grade 6 students)
Monday	June 8 th	Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
Friday	June 12 th	Pupil Free Day (3 Way Conference Interviews from 12 noon to 7pm)
Wednesday	June 17 th	Return of Permission Notes and Payment for Grade 3/4 Ceres Excursion
Tuesday	June 23 rd	Grade 3/4 Ceres Excursion

PRINCIPAL'S COLUMN

Principal's Award

Well done to this week's group of students recognized for striving for excellence. I look forward to presenting your certificate on Monday at our weekly assembly. *James D, Jerry M, Alex G, Konnor H, Brodie J, Jackson H, Corey R, Alex H, Bridgitt B, Tahlia C, Seth G, Nathan B, Aimee C, Georgia B, Savannah W and Sarah G.*

Retirement of Mrs. Joyce Wood

Recently I was notified by Joyce of her decision to retire from the Education Department in August of this year. Joyce has been a very loyal servant to education and her retirement will close a long and very distinguished career in teaching, approximately 20 of which have been associated with Eaglehawk North. Once details are arranged, I will provide further notification to the community of a special assembly at which our parent and student community can acknowledge Joyce.

Staffing Matters

As part of the administration work I undertake, I have recently advertised classroom and education support positions for take up in Term 3. This undertaking is due to decisions taken by particular staff on their employment and their future. Parents of students directly affected by these processes will be advised by a specific class notice detailing all appropriate information.

If any parent has specific concerns, please make an appointment to speak with me. Do not be guided by speculation.

'Empowering Eaglehawk' Grant

Recently we received a visit from Noel Claridge, in his capacity as an Empowering Eaglehawk representative, to present our school with a grant of \$1000 to be directed towards the digital literacy's program of grades 3/4. Mr. Bortolot is progressively developing a program around radio and in the second half of the year we should see some exciting oral language work being undertaken.

We express sincere appreciation for the contribution from Empowering Eaglehawk and encourage community members to support their endeavours whenever possible. They are doing fantastic work across the community.

Student Participation – All Curriculum Areas

A matter of concern has arisen whereby we have recently had difficulty with a number of children electing to “opt out” of curriculum activity, particularly that involving physical activity.

It is important that parents and students understand that our role as a state government school is to provide a comprehensive curriculum that meets all dimensions of a child’s developmental needs and “opting out” is not a practical or responsible way to address this requirement.

All students are expected to participate in the curriculum program provided unless there is express permission from parents for them to do otherwise.

If parents make the decision their child is not to participate, this needs to be communicated in writing with the reason for the exemption from the activity. Such decision will be respected with the child continuing to be supervised in the most practicable manner for the duration of the program.

Canned Foods

The Federal Government recently made available to schools a quantity of canned foods to support families disadvantaged by drought. After undertaking efforts to distribute our allocation, we find we still have a small quantity left. If you would like to make use of some of this food, please see our ladies in the office and you will be assisted with this.

Appropriate Clothing

With the change of seasons I ask parents to be vigilant to the clothing needs of the children. We are finding a number of children coming along to school inappropriately dressed and without windcheaters or jumpers. This will cause challenges with coughs and colds.

I also request, as far as possible, that school uniform be worn. It is understandable that this may not always be possible because of clothing requiring washing mid-week, however the wearing of general garments for extended periods will be questioned.

Our second-hand uniform store is well stocked and good garments can be purchased for next to nothing. The lost property cupboard is also usually fairly full. Thank you for your anticipated support with this.

Policy Sharing

This week’s policy for your reference is our ‘Curriculum’ policy.

This policy is very generic in terms of the Teaching & Learning program offered and provides an overview of what it is we try to do best.

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

www.ehnps.vic.edu.au

Ron Payne

ASSISTANT PRICIPAL’S COLUMN***You Can Do It Awards***

Congratulations to our award recipients this week. ***Tianna McK, Todd K, Luke W, Tia M, Krystal D, Jackson H, Corey R, Ryan B, Rani M, Kobie C, Annabel B, Zoe V, Trent H, Matthew T, Justin B and Cher N-D.***

The Resilience key will be given a large focus in the immediate future. The ability to bounce back from setbacks is important. Resilience is an attribute we all need. At times it can be the difference between coping and not coping as we all know. Some of this week’s awards relate to achievements that required great resilience. I’m sure the Cross Country, involving our grade 3-6 students called upon powers of resilience and persistence on Wednesday.

After School Care

Occasionally I like to remind families through my column of our very convenient After School Care service. It operates at school from 3.30pm til 6.00pm daily. The beauty of our program is that it is on site and the children can walk straight from their classroom to meet Nicole, our carer. It costs \$8.00 per day. All parents need to do is complete an ASC enrolment form and the service can be accessed whenever it is needed. See me if you have any queries regarding this program.

Walking School Bus

Some of our children are eligible for 40 walking days awards and will receive these at an upcoming school assembly. Now that we are walking on both Wednesdays and Fridays some of our children will quickly accumulate awards. The cooler weather does not appear to be deterring our walkers. We had 26 walkers yesterday!

Auslan

Grades 3 to 6 receive a weekly one hour Auslan session where the focus is not only upon learning the language but also learning some deaf culture. It was interesting to meet a number of grandparents last week during Grandparents Day who sat in on my sessions in the 3/4 area and commented that they had learnt the Signed Alphabet during their childhood. In those days it was often referred to as '***Deaf and Dumb Signing***'. We had quite a discussion about this terminology, particularly the word '***dumb***'.

Attendance

I think I may have neglected to announce that Mr O'Neill's 5/6 class were the winners of our April attendance certificate. From memory they only had a total of 5 days absence for the entire month. '***Attender Chicken***' is residing in their classroom until the May winning class is announced.

John Morton

5/6 TEAM NEWS

Three Way Conferences: Please make sure that these are returned ASAP so that appropriate arrangements can be made to meet with your child and their teacher.

Year 7 Secondary Placement Forms: All grade 6 students must return these forms to the office by ***Friday June 5th*** so that placements for 2010 can be finalised.

SES Visit: As a part of our '***Natural Disasters***' integrated topic this term the SES came to visit our school last Thursday 21st May. The visit was very worthwhile with the children learning many new and interesting things. Thanks to Miss Coffey for making the arrangements, your hard work is appreciated.

Natural and Manmade Disasters: Just a reminder to all that the next task due is task 3, due ***tomorrow*** Friday, 29th May.

Netbooks: The grade 5/6 students have been putting together a PowerPoint presentation on either '***how things work***' or '***how things are made***' during their Technology rotation each week. The presentations are coming together well and will begin to be peer assessed in the not too distant future.

Homework: Just our regular reminder that homework is due in on each Friday. The natural disaster illustrations based on the template provided this week were great. Keep up the good work!

Cross County: The Zone Cross Country event was held on Wednesday of this week and was a huge success. Well done to all involved for the great sportsmanship that was displayed on the day. The senior students once

again represented the school in an outstanding manner and we would like to congratulate them for doing so.

Orienteering: Congratulations to all who participated in this event. Our results overall were very good with our school placing second. It was great to see all students giving their best. Well done to all.

Amy, Jo, Jason, Bronwyn and Rob

3/4 TEAM NEWS

The value being investigated this week in Social Competencies is "***determination***" – it is using your will power and focusing your energy on a task until it is done. This fits with our task of goal setting which the students will complete as part of their mid -year report.

Friday was a very busy day. Our junk pile – recycle sculptures came to life. The students worked in groups to complete their tasks. They first had to design their sculpture so that it met the design brief. We had one overall student who performed best throughout the grade 3 / 4 unit and that was Michael T.

The grades had a great day at the Zone Cross Country. It was great to see so many of the students who were keen to participate and do their best. Many were almost over awed by the number of children at the race track. It is pleasing to report that the staff found it to be a pleasure to be out with the students. We are proud of them.

Below is an image of Ethan P working as part of his his team.



All permission forms and \$18 payment for our excursion to CERES should be returned to the office no later than **Wednesday June 17th**. This excursion will take place on **Tuesday June 23rd**. Please let the Principal know if you need to make arrangements for this excursion payment.

If you require another form please ask your classroom teacher. If your child is not able to attend, please return the form indicating that the student will not be participating.

We will need parent helpers for the day. If you would like to attend, please let the class teacher know in a note so that we are able to select our helpers and get the relevant information to them. As this is a well planned excursion and a great experience for all children we encourage parents to allow their child to attend. **Unfortunately if we do not have enough students attend this excursion we may need to cancel.**

Please return the 3 Way Conference appointment forms as soon as possible.

Colin, Anna, Anthony and Cherie

PREP, 1/2 NEWS

Three Way Conferences

The term is absolutely flying along. Class time has been full of new learning and assessments. Teachers are busy writing reports and children are busy reflecting on their learning and the achievement of goals.

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

Parent Helpers

A VERY BIG THANK YOU to all our wonderful parent helpers. Both teachers and children (not just your own)

really appreciate your effort and commitment and benefit from your assistance.

PREP

Prep Literacy Focus – Next week's letter is **"Ll"** and the high frequency word is **"you"**.

GRADE ONE & TWO

Grade 1 Literacy Focus- Next week's is **"sp"** and rime ending **"un"**.

Grade 2 Literacy Focus – Next week's focus are words with **"oi"** and the blend **"spr"**.

Simon, Tina, Sharna, Carolyn, Cheryl and Judy



LIBRARY NEWS

Students have been busy reading books for the Premier's Reading Challenge, keep up the great work.

Don't forget to return any overdue library books. If you cannot find them please let me know.

'Reading can take you anywhere'

Liz Davis

SPORTS NEWS

Zone Cross Country

Yesterday over 200 Eaglehawk North students ventured to the Bendigo Racecourse for the annual Zone Cross Country. We had some tremendous results, with two division winning pennants and many top 20 finishers. Although not wanting to single anyone out, a special mention must be given to **Carly O'Neill**, who has now won her 4th Zone Cross Country in a row, meaning she has never lost a race on the Racecourse. I'm sure not many could claim that achievement. Well done to all those who took part.

Orienteering

We had some outstanding results from our Orienteering team after the Bendigo Schools Champs. Well over half the team (30 of 50) gained points for the overall shields, with many individual and group winners on the day.

In an outstanding effort, Eaglehawk North won 6 of the 12 sections, and also recorded 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th in four of those sections, including Grade 4, 5 and 6 individual girls and Grade 6 individual boys.

Thank you to the teachers and parents who accompanied the team. A special mention to Jim Russell, who has been passing on his valuable experience to all team members throughout the term. The students will now compete in Melbourne during November in the Western Zone Champs. Remember if anyone is interested in orienteering on a Saturday morning, please see Mr G.

Brett Gilligan

SCHOOL COUNCILLOR PROFILE**ROBERT T****Children who attend ENPS:**

Stephanie T

What roles do you undertake as a school councillor?

I am currently school council president and also attend the management and finance subcommittee which I chaired previously as Treasurer for a number of years.

Why did you choose to be a member of the school council?

My first child had just begun to attend EHNPS and I was approached to see if I would be interested in helping out by joining the school council given my accounting and business background. I was only too pleased to help as I am a firm believer that you get as much out of something as you put in and as we intended that all our children would go to EHNPS I wanted to assist EHNPS to provide the best environment and education it could for all children who attend.

What is rewarding about being a school councillor?

To see the transformation over the last ten years of the school due to the hard work of the school leadership group and the enthusiasm of the children in their endeavours is reward enough. It makes you feel that you are contributing to something positive and meaningful and I feel fortunate to be part of it as it is a privilege and an honour.

What is your most memorable moment at the school?

I have experienced a number of memorable moments at the school from the school fairs, changes to the car park, new staff facilities and setup of the computer centre just to name a few, however my most memorable will still be seeing my two eldest children graduate with honours.

What are your favourite things about the school?

The warm and friendly environment whenever you visit the school that makes everyone feel welcome and I am also extremely appreciative of the fantastic efforts of the teaching staff which so many times go beyond the call (that I might add is noticed and appreciated by the children) and sets such a great example for them to follow. Namely the after school activities such as the Dahlia and Arts procession, the kids congress (which was actually run by EHNPS), the support of sporting teams, the school concerts, school fairs etc.

**NETBALL DRAWS*****Saturday May 30th******13/Under Section 6***

E/H Nth Blue V Violet St A Crt 12 11am

11/Under Section 1

St Monicas Black V E/H Nth Navy Crt 5 11am

11/Under Section 4

E/H Nth Gold V Spec Hill Green Crt 12 9am

Grade 3 Clinic at 12 Noon

E/H Nth V St Monicas Red Crt 6

**MOBILE PHONE MUSTER*****Only 2 weeks to go!!***

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.

Anita Pilling

Mother Hen Catering

Community News

1. ***Neangar Pre School All Wares Night*** will be held on Thursday May 28th from 7pm to 9pm. Entry is \$2 with a light supper provided.
2. ***BOLD*** (Learning Difficulties Support Group) will hold their next morning tea on Friday May 29th from 10.30am at the Hill Top Café located in the Salvation Army Complex, Mundy Street. Phone Judy on 0408312027.
3. ***Neangar Pre School Open Day*** will be held on Wednesday June 10th from 2-15pm to 3.15pm. Children for both 3 and 4 year old kinder groups for 2010 are invited to attend.
4. ***YMCA School Holiday Program For Winter*** is now open for bookings by phoning 54458300. ***Bookings for Eaglehawk are available from May 25th to May 29th.*** Brochures sent home with students today.
5. ***Free Family Food Fun and Games Day*** will be held on Wednesday June 17th 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 12th.

Attachments

1. ***Eaglehawk YMCA Holiday Program***

