SCHOOL VALUES

- **Care and Compassion** – Care for self and others
- **Honesty and Trustworthiness** – Be honest, sincere and seek the truth
- **Respect** – Treat others with consideration and regard: respect another person’s point of view
- **Responsibility**—Be accountable for one’s own actions, resolve differences in constructive, non violent and peaceful ways; contribute to society and civic life, take care of the environment

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

We will be conducting Parent/Teacher Interviews on Tuesday 11th March 2013 from 12 noon till 6pm. There will be no school on that day for students but care will be provided for children while their parents meet with teachers. A note will be sent home shortly regarding time slots etc.

The children had a great day today touring the newly refurbished Bendigo Library. What a great facility and a lovely place to sit and relax and lose yourself in the wonders of reading. They also walked down to Rosalind Park before heading to Canterbury Park in Eaglehawk for a picnic lunch and then on to the YMCA Centre for their swimming lesson. It was a jammed packed, fun filled day and I’m sure they will all sleep well tonight!

It was fantastic to see so many families at our first Community Night for the 2014 school year. Thank you so much to the Parent Club for organising this and to all the families who provided prizes for the Crazy Bingo and food for dinner. It was a great night and a lovely way to meet our new families in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere.

As an element of the Department of Education & Early Childhood Developments School Accountability and Improvement Framework all schools are required to develop an Annual Implementation Plan (AIP). Our AIP is complete and teachers have been working closely with this document to ensure curriculum planning is aligned with the school’s goals, targets and strategic intent for this year.

Annual implementation planning assists our school to:

- plan and communicate their work for the coming year and how this will lead to achieving the goals and targets in the school strategic plan
- ensure efficient and effective allocation of resources to complete the work
- monitor progress and success.

The Eppalock Primary School 2014 AIP was approved at School Council last Thursday night. I have attached a one page condensed version of our AIP in today’s newsletter for your reference. If you would like to see our school AIP in full please visit the school website.

Please see below a range of information sent to all schools from the Department of Education & Early Childhood Development which is required to be passed on to parents.

* **Student accident insurance/Ambulance cover arrangements and private property brought to school**

The Department does not provide personal accident insurance or ambulance cover for students. Parents/guardians of students, who do not have student accident insurance, are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including the cost of ambulance attendance/transport and any other transport costs.
Parents/guardians can purchase insurance policies from commercial insurers

*The Department does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property.*

- **‘No Exceptions, No Excuses’ to combat children being left in cars during the heat**
  - Children and Hot Cars. No Exceptions. No Excuses.
  - On hot days, it is important to remember that children should never be left alone in a car.
  - The temperature inside a car on hot days begins to rise as soon as the door closes and within minutes the temperature inside can be double the temperature outside.
  - Leaving children in hot cars – even for a moment – can result in injury or death.
  - Young children’s smaller body size and underdeveloped nervous system places them at a much greater risk of life-threatening heatstroke, dehydration and other serious health risks.
  - Victorian legislation makes leaving a child unattended in a car a criminal offence, with penalties ranging from fines of $2165 or three months in prison.
  - If you are travelling with a child in a car and you need to get out, make sure you take your child with you. No exceptions. No excuses. For more information, see: Kidsafe Victoria; www.kidsafevic.com.au

- **New Student Engagement and Inclusion Guidance, which comes into effect on 1 March 2014.**
  - Please see attachment to today’s newsletter for complete details. The Guidance helps schools meet their responsibilities under principle 3 of The Compact: Roles and Responsibilities in Victorian government school education which requires that schools provide inclusive, safe and orderly environments for all members of the school community, establish clear policies relating to student engagement and to support students with challenging behaviours, and apply appropriate discipline procedures.

Tenders Sought—School Council has approved the employment of a Casual Grounds Person to do general school maintenance and gardening. The required person will need to provide all equipment including ride on mower, whipper snipper, blower vac and other gardening and maintenance tools, have a current working with children check and also have their own Public Liability Insurance. The position is casual, approximately 2 ½ hours per week or 4-5 hours per fortnight.

If this sounds like you please provide your details and estimated quote to me by the end of business this Friday, 28th February.

Have a great week everyone …. Mrs Ryan

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**SCHOOL CENSUS DAY**—Friday February 28th is School Census Day. Our budget is based on the number of children who attend school on this date and enrolment numbers and information required at time of enrolment will be subject to audit. If your child is not at school on this date please ensure a note is sent with them on their return.

**CAN YOU HELP?** Does anyone have a tree on their property that has blown down in the past 12 months that we could cut into 30-40 cm lengths (approximately 30cms diameter) to use for seating in the vegie garden area. If you can help, please let us know.

**EDUCATION MAINTENENCE ALLOWANCE (EMA) & CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE 2014**

EMA application forms are available from the office and parents will need to have their card with them to complete an application form. **Applications must be submitted by Friday, 28th February 2014.**

**THE STUDENTS AT EPPALOCK PS SEEM TO BE HAVING A GROWTH SPURT!**

Over the last week some students have been extra hungry and as a result have eaten all their lunch at playtime and not had enough food to get them through the day. Could parents please check that students bring adequate food to get them through the day. An extra piece of fruit or another sandwich could be all that is needed.
## IMPORTANT DATES

### FEBRUARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 26th</td>
<td>Drama / Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday    28th</td>
<td>Living Green Clubs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Special Lunch Day—Pizza &amp; Cookies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### MARCH

**3rd – 7th**  
**Water Science Week**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday   3rd</td>
<td>Parent Club AGM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Confucius Classroom Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday  4th</td>
<td>Swimming Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 5th</td>
<td>Drama / Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday  6th</td>
<td>MARC Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday    7th</td>
<td>Living Green Clubs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday   10th</td>
<td>Public Holiday – Labour Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday  11th</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Interviews (12 noon – 6.00 pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 12th</td>
<td>Drama / Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday    14th</td>
<td>Living Green Clubs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday   17th</td>
<td>Confucius Classroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 19th</td>
<td>Gindaja Performance at Axedale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drama / Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday  20th</td>
<td>MARC Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School Council—AGM—6.00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday    21st</td>
<td>Harmony Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Living Day</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday   24th</td>
<td>Confucius Classroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday  25th</td>
<td>Drama / Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday    28th</td>
<td>Living Green Clubs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### APRIL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday  1st</td>
<td>Drama / Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday  3rd</td>
<td>MARC Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday    4th</td>
<td>Last day Term 1 (1.30 pm finish)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday   22nd</td>
<td>FIRST DAY TERM 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Wednesday 23rd & Thursday 24th**  
**Camp—Grade 3/4/5/6 students**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday    25th</td>
<td>ANZAC Day—public holiday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
School Awards - Congratulations to the following students;
Hannah - for being happy at school and making lots of friends.
Will - for trying hard in school.
Jesse - for working hard in class and trying his best.

Care & Compassion Award this week is awarded to;
Abby for being kind, caring and thoughtful.

Random Acts of Kindness
- To Levi, for leaving a post-it note on my computer desk with a drawing of a hug for mum in the holidays and for giving me a flower on Valentine’s Day. - Levi’s Mum.
- Annette gave some fabric to the school - Jess.
- Abby Helped when Daisy was upset.
- Bianca gave me a big hug.
- Jess helped cook tea for my birthday - Nicole

PARENT CLUB NEWS

- **PARENT CLUB MEETING**—The AGM of our Parent Club will be held on Monday 3rd March at 9.15 am. Come along and have a cuppa—all welcome.

- **SPECIAL LUNCH- PIZZA AND COOKIES**

  The parent club will be preparing a pizza and cookie lunch for this Friday, 28th February. There are 3 pizza options and 2 cookie options available. Children can order 1 pizza and 1 cookie for $3.

  If you have not already placed an order, please do so tomorrow.
School Council Elections 2014

The Annual General meeting for Eppalock Primary School will be held on Thursday 20th March 2014 at 6.00 pm followed by the first meeting of the new council. Our current school council make up is as below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Term Ends</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emily Ryan</td>
<td>Principal Treasurer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wendy Ratcliffe</td>
<td>President Parent Member</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Gallagher</td>
<td>Vice President Parent Member</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karen Green</td>
<td>Secretary DEECD / Parent Member</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Gallagher</td>
<td>Parent Member</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brendan Wild</td>
<td>Parent Member</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shane Hodson</td>
<td>Parent Member</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diane Lindhe</td>
<td>DEECD Staff Member</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Reade</td>
<td>Community Member</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackie Hebble</td>
<td>Parent Member</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danielle Couch</td>
<td>Parent Member</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neil Bowe</td>
<td>Parent Member</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Any interested parents are urged to nominate for School Council. The school benefits from a variety and diversity of opinions on Council, and the value of fresh ideas and enthusiasm should not be underestimated. Nomination forms for the parent member category can be collected at the office and need to be lodged by Friday 28th February 2014.

What is a school council and what does it do? All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council? There are three possible categories of membership:

- A mandated elected Parent category. More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not employed at the school.
- A mandated elected DEECD employee category. Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- An optional Community member category. Its members are appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members. The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important? Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved? The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

Do I need special experience to be on school council? No. 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.
COMMUNITY NEWS

BENDIGO BANK SCHOOL BANKING

The staff from Bendigo Bank’s Strath Hill branch visit Eppalock Primary School each TUESDAY MORNING providing a school banking service for students.

Participants in the program will use a Bendigo Piggy Bank Passbook Account and moneybox to learn about the process and the benefits of saving.

With no account keeping fees, no transaction or government fees, no penalties and no deposit restrictions—plus a lot of fun games and rewards—a Piggy Bank Passbook Account makes saving fun.

Please note—the school banking program provides a deposit service only, however, withdrawals can be made at the Strath Hill branch.

AXE CREEK COMMUNITY FRESH PRODUCE SWAP

Do you have excess vegetables, fruit, eggs or herbs from your garden?
Not sure what to do with them?
Bring them to the Axe Creek Community Fresh Produce Swap at Eppalock Primary School.

If you have excess vegetables, fresh fruit, eggs, herbs or any other items, please bring them along and be part of our Fresh Produce Swap program. There are baskets on the bench in the school foyer and the process is that you can swap your produce for other produce.

If you do not have produce to swap that’s OK, just help yourself to the fresh produce displayed. You do not need to pay for any of the produce, however if you wish to make a monetary donation for anything it will be put towards our Living Green Program.
Strathfieldsaye Junior Football Club
Positions Available in the following age groups:
Under 10
Under 12
Under 16
Youth Girls
For enquiries email Angela Gamble sjfcregistrar@bigpond.com or phone: 0409 304 654

Are you looking for a babysitter?
Ashleigh is 13 ½ years old and is well liked by younger children. She would be looking to charge about $10 an hour but is negotiable according to how many kids and how, when & where.
Anyone interested can contact Donna on 0408 509 061.

Fun Languages for Little Linguists

NEW Fun Language Clubs for Kids
HELD HERE AT EPPALOCK PRIMARY SCHOOL
FUN, PLAY BASED PROGRAMS
AFTERSCHOOL
Expression of interest
I am interested in my child taking part in Mandarin classes on Wednesday afternoons (after school).
Child/Children's Name:
Signed;
Everyone welcome
Affordable pricing & family discounts
The FUN way to learn another language
Great preparation for taking languages in Secondary School
Play-based programs: Games, craft, songs, puppets, plays and fun activities to get your child using the language naturally and quickly.
We can help your child become bilingual....

Enquiries to Sally-Anne mob: 0418 390 824
email: sally-anne.symes@lfclubs.com.au
www.lfclubs.com.au
FACT SHEET FOR PARENTS AND CARERS – NEW SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION PROCEDURES

Every member of a school community has the right to feel safe at school. As a parent or carer you should be confident that you are sending your child into a safe and supportive learning environment.

Suspension and expulsion are serious disciplinary measures and should be used as a last resort in managing a student’s behaviour.

As of 1 March 2014 changes have been made to how suspension and expulsion processes work in government schools.

The grounds for suspension and expulsion have also been updated to better enable principals to prevent and respond to behavioural incidents that may compromise the health, wellbeing and safety of staff and students. The grounds for suspension and expulsion can be found at: http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/discipline.aspx

THE RELEVANT PERSON – ENSURING STUDENTS ARE SUPPORTED

It is important that every student has a person to support and advocate for them throughout a suspension or expulsion process. The new guidance on suspensions and expulsions has introduced the concept of a relevant person, which is the adult who will play this important support role.

In most cases a student’s relevant person will be their parent or carer. However, you as the parent or carer can also nominate another responsible adult to act as relevant person if you cannot, for whatever reason, take on this role yourself.

The role of the relevant person does not replace your role as parent or carer with regard to responsibility for decision-making about your child’s education, and for their enrolment and attendance at school. Rather, it has been introduced in recognition of the fact that students come from diverse family backgrounds and that a parent or carer may not always be able to act as a support person for their child.

THE SUITABLE PERSONS LIST

In some cases, a parent or carer may be unable to act as the relevant person for their child during a suspension or expulsion process, and may also be unable to nominate another adult to fulfil this role.

In these situations the school principal will appoint a person from the ‘suitable persons list’ to act as the student’s relevant person. The suitable persons list is a register of departmental employees with relevant welfare expertise, experience and training.

This is to ensure that every student has somebody to support and advocate for them.
**MEETINGS WITH THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL – THE BEHAVIOUR REVIEW CONFERENCE**

A principal is required to hold a meeting, called a behaviour review conference, when an expulsion is being considered for a student. The student and their relevant person must be invited to this meeting to discuss the student’s behaviour and possible consequences and strategies to address the behaviour.

The relevant person can also request a meeting with the principal at any point during an expulsion process if they have any concerns.

The relevant person – whether parent, carer or another adult – may bring an independent support person to any school meeting as long as they are not acting for fee or reward.

When suspending a student, principals are not required to hold a meeting with the student and relevant person either before or after the suspension, but the relevant person can request a meeting with the school principal at any point during the suspension process if they wish to discuss any concerns.

If you are unable to resolve your concerns with the school principal, you can contact the relevant department regional office to discuss further. To contact your closest regional office see: [http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/contact/Pages/regions.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/contact/Pages/regions.aspx)

**EXPULSION APPEALS**

A student who has been expelled has the right to appeal their expulsion. The relevant person may exercise this right on their behalf, taking into consideration the student’s views and best interests.

The school must provide every expelled student an appeal form along with the Notice of Expulsion.

**MORE INFORMATION**

For more information on suspension and expulsion processes, see:


## Annual Implementation Plan 2014

**Eppalock Primary School**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goals</th>
<th>Key Improvement Strategies</th>
<th>Actions 2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Student Learning</strong></td>
<td>To improve learning outcomes for all students, particularly in the key areas of literacy and numeracy. To provide a consistent whole school approach to explicit teaching and learning that differentiates the curriculum to cater for all students and improves student learning outcomes.</td>
<td>Develop and document whole school yearly, termly and weekly planners for Literacy and Numeracy to ensure a consistent, whole school approach is achieved. Planning Day allocated for whole school consistent planning at the end of the 2013 school year and again during term 1. Build teacher capacity to identify all student’s point of learning by assessing against the AusVels standards and developing strategies to inform learning intentions and success criteria. PD time allocated in staff meetings for the analysis of data. Purchase &amp; use of SPA (Student Performance Analyser) System to track individual student progress. Further Professional Learning &amp; Curriculum PD on Inquiry Based Learning. Build &amp; develop teacher capacity to improve student outcomes in numeracy. PD Days with Michael Ymer – Maths Specialist.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Student Engagement &amp; Wellbeing</strong></td>
<td>To develop high levels of student engagement and motivation within a culture that fosters positive relationships, connectedness and well-being.</td>
<td>Continue to provide for professional learning around effective strategies for working with students with special needs/ and or learning difficulties. Continue to develop a whole school framework for improving students social and emotional development. Continued Implementation of the KidsMatter Framework (Component 2 &amp; 3). PD provided for Staff on KidsMatter &amp; Action Team Meetings conducted termly.. Staff &amp; parents to complete online KidsMatter survey. Inclusion of Values Education &amp; explicit teaching of social &amp; emotional skills each week based on School Values/Bounce Back &amp; KidsMatter. Inclusion of a Child Psychologist on site once per week to work with &amp; support children &amp; families as required. Student Welfare Officer Employed at a .2 time fraction for the year. CASEA Program delivered Semester 2-4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Student Pathways &amp; Transition</strong></td>
<td>To improve transition processes and pathways for students as they enter the school and as they pass through Eppalock Primary School and beyond.</td>
<td>Develop a benchmark survey instrument to seek feedback from Prep parents and parents of students entering at other year levels.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### School Profile

#### Purpose
At Eppalock Primary School we provide a nurturing and challenging environment which caters for the needs of all students to reach their individual academic and personal potential.

#### Values
- *Care and Compassion*: Care for self and others
- *Respect*: Treat others with consideration and regard respect another person’s point of view
- *Honesty and Trustworthiness*: Be honest, sincere and seek the truth.