PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Education Week—We had a very successful Education Week last week. Thank you to all the families who came along to our Open Day last Wednesday. It was fantastic to see so many parents, grandparents and special people sharing morning tea with the children and viewing our wonderful facilities. On Thursday we had a group of kinder children visit our school from Jenny’s Early Learning Centre in Strathfieldsaye. They had a wonderful time in Mrs Lindhe’s room listening to stories, doing a craft activity and playing outside on the basketball court and in the sandpit. Thank you so much to all the staff for the hard work and support last week, well done to all.

MARC Van—Just a reminder that this Thursday the MARC Van will be at school. As I stated in last week’s newsletter a number of children have overdue books and are unable to borrow until these books are returned. Please remind your child/children to bring their MARC Van books back to school on Thursday, thank you.

Transition Cluster Sports Carnival—Grade 5 & 6 students will again be taking part in the Transition Cluster Sports Carnival on Thursday afternoon. We will be teaming up with Quarry Hill Primary School to play against Spring Gully Primary School this time. Good luck to all students. We desperately need the assistance of one parent to help transport the students to and from the venue (two staff are already using their private vehicle for this excursion). If you can help, please let us know tomorrow.

Mid-Year Reports—The mid-year written report will be sent home at the end of this term. Report’s this year will look a little bit different from previous years as schools are required to report to AusVels in English, Mathematics, Science and Humanities-History. The remaining areas will be reported on using the VELS (Victorian Essential Learning Standards) as in previous years. AusVELS provides a single curriculum for levels F-10 that incorporates the Australian Curriculum as it is progressively developed within a framework that reflects particular Victorian priorities and approaches to teaching and learning (F is the abbreviation for ‘Foundation’ which is now the common term agreed to by all States and Territories to refer to the first level of school for curriculum design purposes). AusVELS has been designed to ensure that schools and teachers are not required to manage two different curriculum and reporting frameworks during the development of the Australian Curriculum. AusVELS is based on the VELS structure of three interconnected areas of learning called strands.

Don’t forget the Ideas/Feedback box on the table in the foyer. I am really interested to hear the thoughts/opinions/ideas of all parents and community members on ways to continue to improve Eppalock PS.

Have a great week everyone……………Mrs Ryan
Congratulations to the following students who received awards this week …

- Jessica for helping other students in class
- Joe for making better choices at school
- Harmony for always doing her very best

Honesty & Trustworthiness Award - Kaden

Acts of Kindness … (the following comments were drawn from the ‘Random Acts of Kindness’ box)

Reuben helped me pack up the minnies (Jess)
To Harmony for being really nice in doing everything with us (Chloe and Abby)
Lee was nice because he said to Mackenzie ‘are you alright because she fell over” (Jessica)
Lee helped Jackie clean up after special lunch without having to be asked (Mrs J)

Happy Birthday to Jaiden (Sunday 26th May)

WELCOME

We have three third-year student teachers from Latrobe University working in the classrooms with our teachers for a three week period (they started last week) …

Elodie Pieper (Prep/Grade 1/Grade 2)
Jessica West (Grade 3/4)
Shae Walker (Grade 5/6)

Also last week we were fortunate enough to have two students on work experience from Bendigo South East College.. Geordie (ex Eppalock PS pupil) and Bethany. It was really great to be able to support these young people in this way.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE—a reminder to all families that After School Care operates each afternoon from 3.15pm to 5.30pm (4.30pm—5.30pm on Active After School program days). To ensure we have a supervisor available, we need to know by 2.00pm on the day if your child is to be in the program for that day (a phone call to the school is ok). Also if children are NOT collected from school by 3.30pm they will automatically be placed in After School Care for their safety.
**IMPORTANT DATES**

**MAY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 29th</td>
<td><strong>EXCURSION—SLEEPING BEAUTY (Heathcote)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 30th</td>
<td><strong>MARC LIBRARY</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>TRANSITION CLUSTER SPORTS (Grade 5/6)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 31st</td>
<td><strong>LOTE CLUBS</strong></td>
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**JUNE**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 4th</td>
<td><strong>SCHOOL BANK DAY</strong></td>
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<td><strong>DRAMA &amp; MUSIC</strong></td>
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<td>Thursday 6th &amp; Friday 7th</td>
<td><strong>GRADE 3-6 CAMP—Urban Camp, Melbourne</strong></td>
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<td>Monday 10th</td>
<td><strong>PUBLIC HOLIDAY—Queen’s Birthday</strong></td>
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<td>Tuesday 11th</td>
<td><strong>SCHOOL BANK DAY</strong></td>
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<td><strong>DRAMA &amp; MUSIC</strong></td>
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<td>Wednesday 12th</td>
<td><strong>Drama Excursion—Grade 5 &amp; 6 students—‘Legally Blonde’</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 13th</td>
<td><strong>MARC LIBRARY</strong></td>
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<td>Friday 14th</td>
<td><strong>LOTE CLUBS</strong></td>
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<td>Monday 17th</td>
<td><strong>HELP US KICK GOALS—3BO live broadcast from Eppalock Primary School</strong></td>
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<td>Tuesday 18th</td>
<td><strong>DRAMA &amp; MUSIC</strong></td>
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<td>Thursday 20th</td>
<td><strong>SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING—6.00 pm start</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 21st</td>
<td><strong>LOTE CLUBS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 28th</td>
<td><strong>LAST DAY OF TERM—1.30 PM FINISH</strong></td>
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**EXCURSION— SLEEPING BEAUTY—TOMORROW, WEDNESDAY 29th May**

We will travel to Heathcote for this performance leaving school at **8.45 am sharp** - we cannot wait for late-comers and ask that all non-bus travelling students be at school by **8.35 am**.

School bus travellers please note: the school bus will run **10 minutes earlier on Wednesday 29th May** to ensure that all students are here at school by **8.45 am**.

Following the performance we will have morning tea and a play in the park area at Heathcote before returning to school approximately **1.00 pm**.

This is a great opportunity for our students to enjoy quality theatre.
PARENT CLUB MEETINGS …
♦ 24th June—9.15 am—at Edwards Green Grocers, Strathfieldsaye for coffee
♦ 29th July—9.15 am in staff room at school to finalise details for Trivia Night
♦ 26th August—9.15 am in staff room at school
♦ 26th September—12.30 pm at Axedale Tavern for lunch

TRIVIA NIGHT—TERM 3—we are desperately seeking donations for prizes at our Trivia Night. If anyone has any contacts who they think may like to donate something towards the night, could you please ask them and let us know? This is the hardest part of organising the Trivia Night—your support and assistance is very much appreciated.

SPECIAL LUNCH DAY—Our next special lunch day will be held next Monday 3rd June—home made SOUP—$3.00 (endless cup).
Order forms are attached—all orders and money must be in by end of school (3.15 pm) Friday 31st May.

FUN RUN—thank you to everyone who has collected their sponsorship money and returned it to school. If any has outstanding money, we ask that you collect it and return it to school by Monday of next week (3rd June). The total figure raised will be announced in the newsletter next Tuesday.

SCHOOL WORKING BEE - SATURDAY 15TH JUNE 2013
9.00 am start - Sausage Sizzle supplied

LIST OF JOBS TO BE UNDERTAKEN …
*
Move bird bath
* Mount mosaic on sand-pit wall
* Move gravel and bark-chips into position
* Boards on sandpit
* Black plastic in sandpit
* Concrete slab for bird aviary
* Install gutter and chain on blackboard
* Hand blackboard and attached a backing
* Screw on weaving station
* Concrete in wooden stumps and tyres
* Fix old mower into position
* Lay artificial grass
* Weld seat brackets

We are aware that families have sporting commitments on a Saturday, but if you could spare an hour or two to work on the Sensory Garden and the general school grounds that would be great.

We would very much like the school and grounds to look pristine for the media visit on the following Monday.

If you cannot attend on the day, you may like to nominate a job that you will complete in your own time. Please let us know.
HELP US KICK GOALS

HelpUsKickGoals.com.au is a new, local online auction for tickets to AFL matches throughout the footy season with all funds raised going to individual school.

BLS Financial has made available tickets to AFL matches every week throughout the AFL season, with two (2) seats available in the Etihad Medallion Club, and another two (2) in the AFL Members Reserve at the MCG.

Eleven school have been selected and allocated two rounds each—EPPALOCK PRIMARY SCHOOL is fortunate to be one of the lucky schools chosen.

Our allocated games are later this term -

**Round 13**
- **Friday June 21st**
  - Hawthorn Vs West Coast Eagles—Etihad Stadium
- **Saturday June 22nd**
  - St Kilda Vs Melbourne—MCG
  - Western Bulldogs Vs Richmond—Etihad Stadium

**Round 14**
- **Saturday June 29th**
  - Melbourne Vs Western Bulldogs—MCG
- **Sunday 30th June**
  - North Melbourne Vs GWS Giants—Etihad Stadium
  - Richmond Vs St Kilda—MCG

As part of this fundraising promotion, 3BO will broadcast live from Eppalock Primary School on Monday 17th June from 12noon—1.00 pm and there will be lots of fun activities happening here at school on the day. Stay tuned for further details.

REMEMBER—ANYONE CAN BID FOR THE TICKETS
AND ALL FUNDS RAISED WILL COME DIRECTLY TO OUR SCHOOL
COMMUNITY NEWS

PRIVATE MUSIC LESSONS—Private lessons are held every Tuesday at Eppalock Primary School...
Guitar lessons
Vocal lessons
Bass lessons
For more information, please contact Mel on 0430 042 405
Email: sina_rox@hotmail.com

ADULT MALE GUINEA PIG (name Rexy)
FREE TO LOVING HOME
(no cage included)
Contact Annette Shue 0411 591 074
Do your kids put themselves out for you?

Recently, a friend told me she was frustrated neither of her teenage children would lift a finger to help at home, despite the fact that both she and her partner worked full-time.

She admitted she’d made a rod for her own back by NOT expecting her kids to help when they were young.

Now that they are teens (16 and 19 years respectively) they’ve got the attitude that “you’ve survived this long without me, what’s the problem?”

I’ve seen it happen before where NO or FEW expectations are placed on kids to help or put themselves out for others. They become part of the L’Oreal Generation……… kids with a false sense of personal entitlement who think (as the tagline in the advertisements) says Things should go my way………because I’m worth it!

I believe the job of parents is to develop a sense of ‘other’ in their kids.

Here are 3 compelling reasons to promote a sense of giving in kids:

- Kids learn how to belong to groups through their family. As I wrote in Why First Borns Rule the World and Last Borns Want to Change it this view usually stays for life. Expecting kids to help develops the view that “I belong through my contribution……….” rather than “I only belong when I can be the boss/get my own way/get others to look after me/ through misbehaviour.”
- Helping out develops independence and problem-solving skills. Resilience research has identified independence & problem-solving as to two core characteristics of resilient kids. (Social skills, optimism and the ability to put boundaries around your thinking are some of the other attributes of resilience.)
- Helping others is good for your mental health. Helping others makes you feel good (yep, it releases the feel-good chemicals in your brain). Volunteering or helping outside the family takes kids out of themselves for a time, which is really therapeutic and helpful in adolescence. It releases the pressure on perfectionists so they understand that they don’t have to do the perfect job when they help others. They are not being judged!

Parents, like my friend with the L’Oreal Gen kids, often ask if they can change kids with such entrenched habits.

It’s possible but you need rock hard determination and you also need to start small.

In my friends’ case, she should probably start (and I hope she will) with getting her kids to cook one meal each once a week. A simple, doable act that would make her life easier.

She will need to resist their attempts to manipulate her; put up with their contemptuous comments and other awful behaviour to wear down her resistance.

It will help if her partner supports her as her kids are very good at ganging up on her to get their own way!

My friend should stick to her guns and only cook 5 nights of the week……not on the nights designated for the kids.

While she is at it, she could think about STOPPING being a SLAVE for them (washing their clothes, driving them to the bus stop when they could walk) until they start to cooperate and pull their weight.

Yep, this may be hard ball but this mum needs to get across that she is no longer willing to play a game of her children’s making.

Of course, it’s easier if you expect kids to pull their weight when they are at a more malleable age………i.e. well before their tenth birthday. The longer you leave it the more comfortable that kids are with the status quo and the harder they are to budge.

Michael Grose is the author of 8 parenting books—he has an education background and holds a Master of Educational Studies with research into what makes healthy families tick.