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

Our school photos are scheduled to be taken this Thursday 26th February. Photos will begin at 9am so please ensure all students arrive at school on time, in full uniform and looking spick and span for the photos. **All photo slips should have already been returned to the office. If we haven’t returned them as yet please ensure they are returned tomorrow.** Thank you.

Don’t forget we will be conducting Parent/Teacher Interviews on Thursday 5th March 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. Please return your timeslot preferences to the office ASAP.

As we have not had sufficient interest we will not be running an Active After School Sports Program this term. I will send out information and expression of interest forms again later this term for term 2 and hopefully the program can go ahead next term.

Just a reminder to all parents that the fees for this term’s swimming program should have been paid in full already (excluding parents who pay off their account by regular ongoing payments). If you have not yet paid for your child/children to attend swimming please see Marie in the office ASAP. Also all other school fees need to be finalised as soon as possible. Again please see Marie in the office if you need a payment plan or would like to set up a regular ongoing payment to the school to cover fees.

Last year as part of our Chinese Immersion Program we hosted two, grade 5 Chinese Boys in our school for 8 weeks. These boys lived with the Symes and Gallagher families for that time and we thank them for their generosity in accepting them into their families for the two months they were in Australia. We will be taking part in this program again this year and we are seeking expressions of interest from any families who would like to host a Chinese student this year. I don’t know the exact dates but it will be probably be around late October through to early December. You are able to host for either 4 or 8 weeks and there is a reimbursement payment per week for expenses to you and your family. If you are interested please fill out the attached EOI form or if you would like some further information please come and see me or have a chat to the Symes or Gallagher families, I’m sure they will be more than willing to share their experience with you. All EOI forms need to be back by this Friday please.

As an element of the Department of Education & Training 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 2015 AIP was approved at School Council last Thursday night. I have attached a condensed version of our AIP in today’s newsletter for your reference. If you would like to see our schools AIP in full please visit the school website.
Please see below information sent to all schools from the Department of Education & Training 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; and 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.

After School Care—Please be aware that there will be **NO** After School Care on Wednesday 18th March, 2015 due to all staff being involved a professional development session. We are very sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

Don’t forget the MARC Van library will be coming to school again this Thursday. Please remember to bring your books along to school on that day so you can return them and borrow new ones.

**SCHOOL COUNCIL**— 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.

Have a great week everyone. Mrs Ryan

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**AUNTY PEACH SHOW**

On Tuesday March 10th, the whole school will travel to Axedale for this show that provides children with a fun-filled learning experience that supports literacy, personal development and drama, all in an enjoyable, interactive environment.

Centring around the magic of Roald Dahl’s wacky and humorous twisted fairy tales as published in the “Revolting Rhymes”, this education show is children’s entertainment at its best. Along with the animated storytelling, the magic, the visual spectacle and the humour, Aunty Peach also passes on to the students stage terminology and useful tips for drama performance.

The cost of the show is $9.00 per student capped at …………………. For family of three or more.

Payment is required prior to the day—please enclose money in a sealed envelope with ‘Aunty Peach Show’ and your family name on the outside.

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**INVITATION FROM WILD FAMILY** ...

“As many of you know we are building a strawbale house and some people have expressed an interest in coming along and learning how it works. If you are interested and available this Saturday 28th February we are doing the ‘wall raising’. You are welcome to come for an hour or two or bring a BBQ lunch and stay for the day.

Let us know if you are coming - Vanessa Wild 0429 806 058 or Brendan Wild 0428 173 543.”

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Congratulations to the following students who received awards at Assembly this week ...

- Caleb for making an excellent start to life at school
- Mackenzie for her wonderful attitude in school
- Bella for always doing her best

VALUES AWARD—CARE AND COMPASSION
JOE for being kind, caring and thoughtful

Grade 4/5/6

It's been another busy week in Grade 4,5 & 6! In Literacy, we have begun focusing on the Narrative text type with students beginning to plan their narratives. Student recounts have been completed and are displayed on the ‘Publishing Wall’ in the classroom for any parents who would like to have a look.

In Numeracy, we have begun looking at length and perimeter with the students completing an open ended task to help fence Mr Harvey’s paddock.

Please make sure you are hearing your child read 3-4 nights per week and signing their diary.

Mr Harvey

Prep / Grade 1

Quite a few children have told me that they have been practising their skills on IXL maths. Well done to those students. Foundation Level is for Prep students. Grade one’s are working on number lines and the Preps are working with numbers to 10. This week we are concentrating on numbers 8 and 9.

Tomorrow I look forward to further assessment appointments with Prep students.

You are very welcome to come to the pool to see your child’s swimming lesson. The lessons start at 1.00 and conclude at 1.40 at the Eaglehawk Indoor Pool, Napier Street, Eaglehawk.

Many children feel greatly encouraged by their parents involvement in their lives at school and I thank you for your support.

Diane

Grade 2/3

In Grade 2/3 this week we are focusing on the blend 'ar'.

Don't forget our spelling test each Tuesday.

In story writing, we are moving onto narratives and the first piece of writing will be based on a book the children have read. In Maths, we are working on number lines and skip counting, whilst in measurement we will continue to work on length.

Last week we measured ourselves using linking cubes and you can see the results in our classroom doorway.

In Art we made colourful pictures of bugs. Please keep up the spelling practise and reading at home.

Ms Hartney
IMPORTANT DATES

FEBRUARY

Wednesday 25th Drama / Music
Thursday 26th School Photos—9.00 am
          MARC Library
Friday 27th Living Green
          Clubs
          Community Night—5.30 start (see attached details)

MARCH

Tuesday 3rd Swimming Program
Wednesday 4th Music / Drama
Thursday 5th Parent / Teacher Interview Day—12 noon onwards
Friday 6th Living Green
          Clubs
Monday 9th PUBLIC HOLIDAY
Tuesday 10th Excursion—Axedale “Aunty Peach Show” (Prep—Grade 6)
Wednesday 11th Drama / Music
Thursday 12th MARC Library
Friday 13th Living Green
          Clubs
Wednesday 18th NO AFTER SCHOOL CARE AVAILABLE
Thursday 19th Incursion—Hockey Clinic (Grade 2—Grade 6 students)
Friday 20th KIDSHOTZ PHOTOGRAPHY fundraiser (information attached)
Saturday 21st KIDSHOTZ PHOTOGRAPHY fundraiser
Friday 27th Last Day Term 1 (1.30 pm finish)

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST RETURN SLIP—please complete and return to school by Friday of this week

CHINESE IMMERSION PROGRAM HOSTING A CHINESE STUDENT
TERM 4, 2015

Our family is interested in hosting a Chinese Student during Term 4.

(please circle)  4 week period     8 week period

FAMILY NAME

.........................................................................................................................
EPPALOCK PRIMARY SCHOOL COMMUNITY NIGHT

FRIDAY 27TH FEBRUARY

5.30 pm START to eat by 6.00 pm

- BYO shared meal, plates, cutlery, drinks and chairs
- Families are asked to bring a main course (enough for their family) eg lasagne, casserole, cold meat platter, roast chicken, quiche as well as a salad or sweet/slice/cake
- Families with surname A-L to bring a sweet/slice/cake
- Families with surname M-Z to bring a salad

As part of our evening we are having our ‘very famous’ crazy bingo—great fun for all ages.

If every family could bring two small gifts for each person in their family—gifts should not be more than $1 to $2 in value and can be anything from a chocolate bar, a bouncy ball, water pistol, can of baked beans etc.

This is a great opportunity for our school community to come together for a social evening, get to know each other and share in lots of fun and activities
Don't forget Kidshotz photography will be running family photo days on March 20th (Fri) and 21st (Sat). This is a great opportunity to raise funds for our school with the full booking fee and up to 20% of the proceeds from photo purchases being returned to the school. Malcolm and Maya can take photos in their "Box" or in Black & White or both. So book soon on 1300 309 776 to ensure you get a spot and let your friends and family know. The more the merrier.

Funds raised from this event will go towards materials for building our pizza oven.
Here are 5 golden rules to guide you along your parenting journey in 2015 by Michael Grose

1. **Build confidence**

With so many parents reporting that they have a child experiencing anxiety it would seem that we are currently experiencing a crisis in children’s confidence. It would also seem that we have somehow forgotten how to absorb children’s fears, insecurities and anxieties, and instil a sense of **confidence** that these can be overcome. Using a mixture of coaxing, coaching and cajoling parents need to find a way to impart in children a sense of courage to put themselves in new or potentially awkward social situations; to have a go at activities where failure is a real option; and to contribute to the wellbeing of others, which reduces anxiousness and fear.

2. **Build developmental knowledge**

Many challenges parents experience with their children are due to a developmental mismatch. That is, parents raising their ten year old as if they are eight. The nuances of parenting are age-related, yet due to inexperience we so often don’t read the cues. Recently, I witnessed a mum and dad tearing their hair out trying to communicate with their nine-year-old son. For the first time he was saying no to them. They thought him stubborn and disobedient. I thought him normal, as nine can be a problematic age, where usually malleable children suddenly start changing. Puberty is stirring. When this couple’s second child turns nine she will experience the benefits of her elder brother paving the way and breaking her parents in for her.

3. **Swim against the tide**

Listen to talkback radio, read the headlines of a newspaper or watch a current affairs TV program and you’ll realise that, right now, we live in an incredibly judgemental society. Parents are harshly judged as well. Allow your kids to walk to school and you risk being judged as negligent. Drive your kids to school and you risk being told that you are spoiling them and neglecting their physical wellbeing. It takes a strong parent to swim against the tide of popular opinion. It also takes a strong parent to deny her child say a mobile phone when every other child has one. It helps to say “This is the way we do it in our family.”

4. **Be brave**

Perhaps the biggest challenge facing parents, and their children, is the ability to let go of their parental reigns and give kids the freedom they need to develop autonomy. It’s relatively easy to develop children’s independence at home as the stakes aren’t as high. If they can’t cook a meal then you just have to do it for them. However, developing children’s independence outside the home is a different story. Granting kids freedom has an element of risk; that’s why parents need to be brave. Having the courage to let go is a basic requirement of parenting. It won’t stop you worrying, but that’s part of the game.

5. **Add emotional intelligence to your parenting mix**

With kids experiencing mental health challenges at a depressingly high rate it’s time to add some emotional intelligence to the parenting mix. While many schools are now introducing emotional and social programs on the curriculum, it’s important that parents develop a deep understanding of how emotions work: how emotions can be recognised; how they can work for us and against us; how we can regulate our emotions so they don’t overwhelm us; and how to recognise and respond to the emotions of others. These sound like life-changing skills that if learned, are capable of impacting significantly and positively on future generations.
COMMUNITY NEWS

GUITAR LESSONS

Daniel Bish (VCE guitar graduate 2014) is offering lessons after school hours at Eppalock Primary School. The cost of lessons is $25.00 per session with full term fees to be paid at the beginning of the term (7 week term fee $175.00).

If you would like more information, please contact Daniel on 0418 377 808 or email danbish10@gmail.com

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.

Further information is available from the school office or by calling into the Bendigo Bank Strath Hill branch.

INTERESTED IN PLAYING INDOOR CRICKET OVER WINTER?

Those who are looking to keep their skills sharp during winter please note that the Strathfieldsaye Jets Cricket Club are fielding interest in running some Indoor Cricket teams at Bendigo Major League. Age groups of approximate 10 to 16 years of age.

Indoor cricket is a great fun format of the game and can help improve cricket skills. Michael Clarke seems to have benefited starting his career playing Indoor.

You don’t have to be registered with the Club to play and this could be a good way to get involved in a short form of the game or if other summer sports get in the way of a game you still enjoy.

For all enquiries, and to register interest please email strathfieldsaye@club.cricketvictoria.com.au