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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

Our first official newsletter for 2019! It has been a fantastic start with all students coming back and settling very quickly into the new school year. Welcome to all of our new families, we hope that you feel welcome in our Eppalock PS community and get to know people in the school. A great place to meet new people is in our main building at about 3:05pm each day at pick up time. Come in and say hello while you are waiting for the students to be dismissed.

We will be holding a 'start of year' information session and meet the teacher night on Tuesday the 12th of February, starting at 5:00pm. This will start with a general session, followed by a P/1 session at approx. 5:20pm, 2/3 session at approx. 5:40pm and a 4-6 session at approx. 6:00pm. Teachers will be in their own classrooms during other sessions to say hello and answer any questions you might have about the new school year.

We just wanted to say another 'thank you' to all families who did some work at the school over the holidays. We really appreciate the hours of time people have put into the school during these breaks.

It is important at the start of the school year to let our office know if any of your home or contact details have changed since last year. Accurate and updated information, including current employment, is important for our own and department records.

Fire Safety Message

With the hot and dry weather over the summer months it is important for our school community to be aware of what would happen on days with Code Red and Extreme fire danger ratings.

Our school will be **closed on Code Red days**. The school will be contacted in advance about this and communication will go home to families to let you know what is happening.

On Extreme fire rating days, the school will be open.

We are given up to date information at school about weather conditions and will communicate this to families via email, phone tree or Facebook.

We understand parent concern on these days, however it is important to try and keep the school phone lines open for emergency service information. If you have any questions about this, please come and see us at school. We have included the fire rating symbol which most families are already familiar with. All families should have their own home fire plans in place.

School has an emergency management plan in place which is reviewed regularly. Staff and students will practice evacuation procedures in the coming weeks to ensure we are well prepared if needed.



WWCC—Working With Children Check

With the new school year, it is also important to know that if you are planning on working/volunteering in the school in some capacity **a Working With Children Check is now compulsory.**

Documentation for a volunteer is free and doesn't take long to obtain. Please let us know at school if you need some help with this process. Once you have it in place, please bring it in to school so that we can keep a copy on file.

We are also currently trialling an electronic sign in process at the office for visitors spending significant time in our school building. We hope to have this up and running by the end of term 1. Visitors will need to know their WWCC number when this begins.

Specialists

I have included this information again today so that families are aware of the days of specialists. Preparing students at home before school for the changes in teacher can sometimes help alleviate any anxieties they might have. A sturdy pair of sport shoes would be a good idea for PE and an art smock or old shirt for the Art session is also required.

At this stage for term 1 our specialists will operate on the following days.

- Chinese – Mondays
- MARC Van – Wednesday fortnightly starting on February 13th
- PE – Wednesday (but on Mondays in February)
- STEM – Wednesdays
- Living Green – Thurs/Fri
- Music/Drama – Friday fortnightly starting on the 8th and will alternate with Art when it starts
- Art – Friday fortnightly but will start on the 22nd and then alternate with Music

Swimming Program

Our swimming program will begin next Tuesday the 12th of February. Information and permission notes were sent home last week to each family. Please return any outstanding permission notes by the end of this week—students cannot attend excursions without a signed permission form.

The cost of the program for Term 1 is \$44.00 and payment is required prior to the program commencing.



Medical requirements

Please remember to check in at the office if your child needs to update or change medical information. This is important for staff to know in case of emergency. Asthma and Anaphylaxis Plans need to be updated for the new year. Epipens and asthma pumps should be checked to ensure they are in date.

Parking Around the School / Road Safety

Please be aware of parking restrictions around our school—NO parking in front of the fire shed (there need to be access at all times), NO parking in the BUS zone, NO parking in the gateway of our neighbour's property next to fire shed. We also ask that parents who park opposite the school, please meet their child/children at the school gate to ensure children are safe when crossing the road.



HEAD LICE—Parents are reminded to be vigilant regarding checking their child's hair regularly for head lice. If head lice are found please treat hair before your child returns to school.

School Council

Our March school council meeting is our AGM where our 2019 School Council is elected. If you are interested in the role of a School Councillor and would like to nominate please speak with one of our current members or someone at the office. We have included some information about the school council later in the newsletter.

Bus

For students travelling home on the bus from school, it is important that their name is recorded on the bus roll each day. To do this, please either give the school a call during the day or confirm with your child when they are going home on the bus. Some confusion occurs when our students are not sure what they are doing. When this occurs we will hold the student at school until we can make contact with a family member to confirm arrangements.

Student Accident Insurance Arrangements

The Department does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Student accident insurance policies are available from the private insurance market. They can be obtained by parents for individual students.

Thanks
Mr O'Neill

Functions of a school council

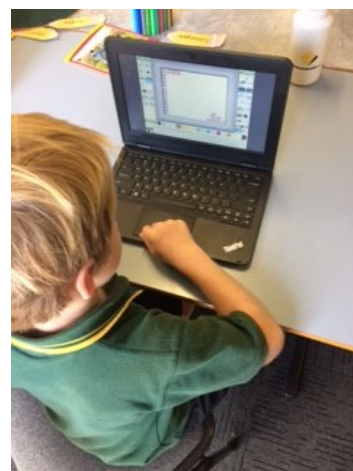
The functions of a school council include:

- establishing the broad direction and vision of the school within the school's community
- participating in the development, monitoring and endorsement of the School Strategic Plan and Annual Implementation Plan
- approving the annual budget and monitoring expenditure
- developing, reviewing or updating school policies as required by law or DET policy
- raising funds for school-related purposes
- maintaining the school's grounds and buildings
- providing the cleaning and sanitary services that are necessary for the school
- ensuring that all money coming into the school is used for proper purposes relating to the school
- entering into contracts (such as for cleaning in regional schools or construction work)
- reporting annually to the school community and to the Department
- creating interest in the school in the wider community
- taking into account the views of the community
- regulating and facilitating the after hours use of school premises and grounds
- making provision for a preschool program at the school or other premises controlled by the Minister.

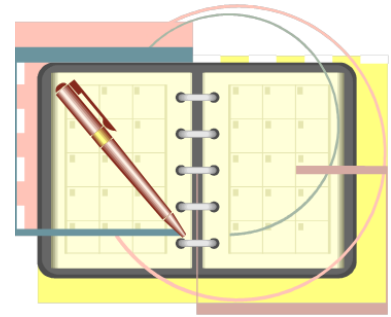
School council may also be involved in the school principal selection process. When this occurs, a panel of councillors and Department staff is formed to review applications, interview shortlisted applicants and recommend one or more applicants to the Secretary of the Department. The Department's regional office staff are also involved and principal selection panel members are provided with principal selection panel training.

The school council president, on request from the Regional Director, provides input to principal contract renewal discussions. The president advises the school council of that input at the next school council meeting.

*Currently school council meetings are held on a Thursday night at 6:00pm with a finance meeting starting earlier at 5:30pm. Please speak with someone at the office or on school council if you have any questions.



IMPORTANT DATES



FEBRUARY

Thursday	7th	SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
Friday	8th	MUSIC
Tuesday	12th	SWIMMING PARENT INFORMATION SESSION—5.00 pm
Wednesday	13th	PREP STUDENTS—NO SCHOOL MARC LIBRARY
Tuesday	19th	SWIMMING
Wednesday	20th	PREP STUDENTS—NO SCHOOL
Friday	22nd	MUSIC
Tuesday	26th	SWIMMING
Wednesday	27th	PREP STUDENTS—NO SCHOOL MARC LIBRARY
Thursday	28th	CENSUS DAY

MARCH

Tuesday	5th	SWIMMING
Wednesday	6th	PREP STUDENTS ATTEND SCHOOL SCHOOL PHOTOS
Friday	8th	MUSIC
Monday	11th	PUBLIC HOLIDAY—LABOUR DAY
Wednesday	13th	MARC LIBRARY
Friday	22nd	MUSIC
Tuesday	26th	12.30 pm—6.30 pm '3 WAY CONFERENCE' (parent/teacher/student)
Wednesday	27th	MARC LIBRARY

APRIL

FRIDAY	5th	LAST DAY—TERM 1
TUESDAY	23rd	FIRST DAY—TERM 2
THURSDAY	25th	ANZAC DAY—PUBLIC HOLIDAY

MAY

THURSDAY	2nd	WHOLE SCHOOL EXCURSION—MELBOURNE ZOO
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MARC MONTHLY!

February

I truly hope everyone had a relaxing break; and that you managed to squeeze in a book or two! I was lucky enough to spend most of my holidays in Italy being surrounded by amazing history and art (and pasta and pizza of course!). We discovered just how easy and useful digital books were– since we had limited baggage space. We used Borrow Box which you can access via the Goldfields Library website. There are lots of different categories to search and it is super easy to renew or reserve books. Although I still love reading an actual book this is a terrific alternative when travelling! *Mrs G :)*

What I have read.....



A new novel by the wonderful Kate DiCamillo. Louisiana and Granny are running from something; from something neither of them really understand. Family, friendship and forgiveness.



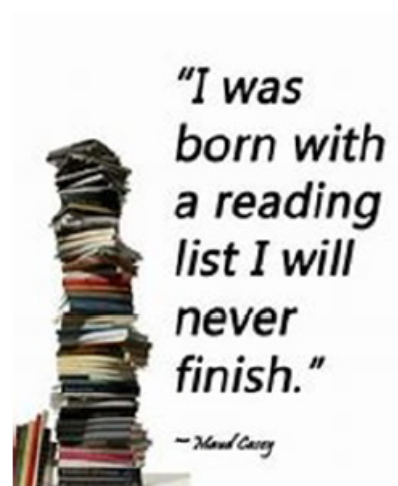
Emily Rodda's latest novel. This is a story within a story. Four students and their teacher get stranded at an abandoned house where they find a desk with a secret drawer. And in it a book. Mystery, history and lots of twists!



A graphic novel by Jennifer Holm. Sunny is sent to Florida to spend the summer with Gramps. She meets Buzz and discovers comic books. This book deals with problems some families have and how they deal with them.



A fabulous graphic novel by Svetlana Chmakova set in middle school. School doesn't start the way Peppi wanted it to. She is in the art club who are rivals with the science club. Friendship, problem solving and a little bit of Leonardo Da Vinci!



Graphic Novels.....are here to stay! There are so many reasons why these books are valuable in the reading diet of our students. It is no longer just superheroes and cartoon cats in these books. Many are filled with relevant, meaningful text using high quality language. I have plucked a few of the (very!) many reasons why graphic novels are terrific;

- ◆ Graphic novels are full of text. Kids are definitely reading!
- ◆ Graphic novels combine pictures and text which help keep kids interested and learning.
- ◆ Graphic novels can engage reluctant readers.
- ◆ Graphic novels have well-developed plots, themes, stories and characters.
- ◆ Graphic novels are rich and engaging.
- ◆ Students who read graphic novels often want to make their own.

I continually add to the graphic novel section of the MARC van. Pop in if you would like a look!

CSEF—CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families.

The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$125 for primary school students
- \$225 for secondary school students

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the CSEF visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

If you applied for the CSEF at your child's school in 2018, you do not need to complete an application form in 2019 unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- ♦ **new student enrolments**; your child has started or changed schools in 2019 or you did not apply in 2018.
- ♦ **changed family circumstances**; such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing at the school in 2019.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.



PIANO | DRUMS
GUITAR | BASS | UKULELE
SINGING | WOODWIND | BRASS | STRINGS
BANJO | MANDOLIN | MARIMBA
HARMONICA

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