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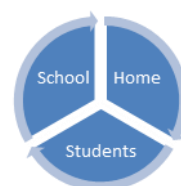
Website: <http://www.eppalockps.vic.edu.au>

February 13th
Issue 2/2019

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

We held our start of year information session last night and had a great turn out of families. During the session we covered a range of general school topics and it was great to see so many new and old faces on the night. Classroom teachers then had the opportunity to share some of their specific classroom information and what to expect for the year. If you ever have any questions please make a time to come in and see your child's classroom teacher or drop a note in the diary, email or phone.



This message has been in the newsletter over the past couple of weeks and was mentioned again last night at our information evening. Please take the time to read this if you haven't already to ensure you are aware of what would happen on a code red day.

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

A reminder to ensure that any volunteer working in our school must have Working With Children documentation lodged at the office. If you are not sure how to obtain this, please speak with someone at the office and we will give you some assistance.

Swimming Program

Yesterday we began our swimming program at Eaglehawk YMCA. This was well received by our students and they all seemed to have a great time. Each time we have been to swimming the participation and manners has been first class. Well done to all of our students. In the first sessions the swimming instructors assess the ability of all students and adjust the groups accordingly.

School Council Communication

From time to time I have attempted to communicate some of the key discussion points from school council meetings, but have not always done this very well. School council meetings are not secret, however, sometimes there are confidential matters or discussions that need to occur. Each AGM school councillors are required to sign a confidentiality statement to ensure private matters or details are not spread amongst the community. This is only necessary on the odd and rare occasion. This weeks newsletter contains a great summary of the school council meeting we held last Thursday the 7th February. We will endeavour to do this after each meeting this year.

School Council

Last week at School Council we approved a timeline for our 2019 election beginning with a call for nominations today. If you would be interested in being part of our school council, please come into the office to complete a nomination form. Nominations close next Friday the 22nd of February. It has been great to have a number of inquiries already which is a positive sign for the school.

- **Wednesday 13th February 2019 - Notice of election and call for nominations**
- **Friday 22nd February 2019 - Closing date for nominations**
- Monday 25th February 2019 - The date by which the list of candidates and nominators will be posted
- Wednesday 27th February 2019 - The date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed
- Wednesday 6th March 2019 - Close of ballot
- Wednesday 6th March 2019 - Vote Count
- Thursday 7th March 2019 – Declaration of poll
- Thursday 7th March 2019 – First council meeting to elect office bearers (the Principal will preside)

Head lice policy

At school council last week we discussed our Head Lice policy. Council ratified a decision on the implementation of this policy which now requires students with hair longer than chin length to have it tied back at school. This will be discussed with students at school and expectations communicated clearly. If there are any concerns or questions about this, please speak with Mr O'Neill. Our updated head lice policy can be obtained at the office if families would like to read the new wording. It will also be posted on our school website in the coming weeks.

- Also as part of the policy we will be implementing head checks by approved adults throughout the year. This is quite common in schools. All families will be given a consent form to sign to allow this to happen at school and notice will be given about dates of checks. Thanks for your support with this.

Illness

We have had a little bit of illness going around a few students and this is not uncommon for the beginning of a school year when people are getting back into regular routines and may be a bit run down and tired. A reminder that if your child has been sick and vomited they should remain home for at least 48 hours to ensure illness is not passed onto other students in a school environment.

Medical requirements

Thanks to those families who have updated any medical requirements at school. It is important to ensure these details are up to date and that all equipment is ready to go if required. If you haven't already been in to do this, please drop in asap and have a chat with Kristy.

Chinese New Year

Emily, our Chinese student visitor from 2018, who stayed with the Symes family, wanted to pass on a special hello and Happy Chinese New Year to us all at Eppalock PS. Emily was a great visitor to our school and was a positive contributor to our school community while she was here so it is great to hear she is doing well and has not forgotten us. The Symes family keep in contact with the students they have hosted which is a fantastic lifelong connection to have.

Emily sent the Symes family a message this week that she wanted passed onto the students at school (it is printed further on in the newsletter).

Bus information

If your child travels on the bus please ensure that they are 100% sure about whether they are or aren't on the bus each night. We have a bus diary at the front office – parents can write in there what is happening with bus each night to ensure staff are also aware. Some families have given the instruction that their child is on the bus each night unless they ring through which certainly helps. Confusion can arise if students approach staff at the end of the day and ask if they are on the bus. Thanks for your support with this.

Foodshare

Our Foodshare will be picked up on Tuesday mornings at about 10:00am each week and will be available to collect from the old school building if you would like some items. We would like to thank Marlene and Leigh for volunteering to help out by picking Foodshare up each week. Marlene was able to 'bag up' a lot of the vegetables and had it all ready for easy pick up by families. What a great community contribution! Please come in and grab some items if you would like some.

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.

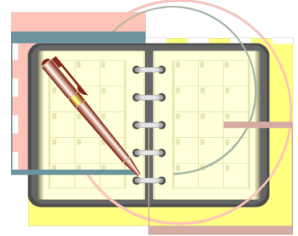
School council may also be involved in the school principal selection process. When this occurs, a panel of councillors and Department staff is formed to review applications, interview shortlisted applicants and recommend one or more applicants to the Secretary of the Department. The Department's regional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

Wednesday	13th	School Council Notice of election and call for nominations
Tuesday	19th	SWIMMING
Wednesday	20th	PREP STUDENTS—NO SCHOOL
Thursday	21st	School Nurse visit—prep students
Friday	22nd	MUSIC COMMUNITY NIGHT—6.00 pm—BYO Picnic tea followed by 'Crazy Bingo' Closing date for School Council nominations
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
Thursday	7th	School Council Annual Meeting followed by March General Meeting
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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School Council News

Sal Symes, Councillor

School Council held their first meeting for the year on Thursday 7th February 2019. The Finance Sub-Committee held their usual half-hour meeting before the Council meeting and endorsed a number of finance motions to be put to the School Council. It was noted that the School is starting the year in the 'black' and will hopefully be able to have some extra 'support' in our admin/office area once we get settled into the term. The 2019 School operating budget is still in development at this stage until after the first Census date for the school year. A 'Census' date is the day that the school will report on the actual number of students enrolled at and attending regularly the school. It will determine what 'payment' the Education Department will give our school 'per child' to operate on for 2019, and hence our operating budget for 2019. School Council will endorse the School's operating budget at either March or April School Council Meeting. We discussed the implementation program and upcoming milestones for our two current 'big' grants; School Sports and Pride Grant (\$129,000) and our Inclusive Schools Playground Grant (\$200,000). Very Exciting stuff! School Council also discussed some additional funds being put into the Art program budget this year, to enable the NEW ART PROGRAM resuming this year to have some start up money to clean up the Art Room and get some art supplies ready for our kids to start their fortnightly Art Lessons!

School Council discussed the new online 'UEDUCATE US' program that the school has purchased. What is this you ask - don't worry, the teachers will run an info session specifically on this great tool, later in the term. We can log on at home and there will be a tablet to use at the front counter. We can access forms, notes, information etc... It's another communication portal giving families options which is great! Currently it's only being used by staff at school to capture information - so they can become more familiar with it, and School Council is trialling it so we can see if there are any bugs that parents might encounter. It will be used to capture information (forms, notes, send out messages etc). *You may have started getting notifications when teachers mark the roll and a child is marked 'absent' with no explanation to the school. This is fantastic stuff for school safety and risk management. There will be LOTS more information to come.

School Council also discussed the outcomes of last year's intense School Review Process. For our newbies this happens once every four years. Thank you to everyone that was involved throughout the year. More information to come on the Report and the outcomes will be touched on at our Parent Info Night. We'll also keep talking about it after the School Council Annual General Meeting when School Council prepares it's Strategic Plan (rolling 4 year Plan) and it's Annual Implementation Plan (the annual action plan that implements the Strategic Plan for that coming year).

We discussed the success of our School Parents 'Grounds Roster' from last year. Most families are aware that we do not have a budget anymore that supports a maintenance and grounds person (we used to) and we don't get the support to charge Maintenance and Gardening Fees. So instead, we have a Grounds Roster and everyone just gets one rostered Working Bee day per year. Council was thrilled with the success of how it worked last year, especially with the added social and cultural support it seemed to provide our school community on top of the obvious maintenance tasks that got completed. A massive thank you to everyone for their contribution last year. School Council endorsed it to happen again this year so look out for the new Grounds Roster which will come out soon for 2019.

School Council discussed a range of other issues at the meeting including;

- boundary fencing - More secure fencing along Patons Road and Axe Creek Road. Powder coating the gates along Patons Rd. Ball fencing along basketball court;
- changes to the Uniform Policy and Head Lice Policy regarding students needing to have their hair tied up if it's longer than chin length.
- progress with some After School Care options for families needing After School Care;
- Camps for 2019;
- Swimming Program for Term 1
- Staffing for 2019, and

the Annual General Meeting for our next School Council Meeting - Thursday 7th March. School Councillor Elections.

IMPORTANT

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.

BOOK CLUB - Issue 1 of Scholastic Book Club is attached to this newsletter.

NOTE: All orders for Book Club need to be completed online via the **LOOP facility**.

LOOP is Scholastic's Linked Online Ordering & Payment platform for Parents.

If you want to pay by credit card for your online Book Club order, LOOP makes it easy! It eliminated the need for paper order forms plus your online order is submitted to the school safe and sound.

Log-In to www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP or download the iPhone and iPad app from the App Store or get it on Google Play for Android.

For a quick start, just click on ORDER in the top menu or REGISTER first to save your details for next time.

- ♦ Select our School (Eppalock Primary School)
- ♦ Add your child's first name and last initial (so we know who the book is for)
- ♦ Enter the item number from the Book Club catalogue
- ♦ You can order for multiple children at once if they attend the same school
- ♦ All orders are linked directly to the school for submission to Scholastic. Books will still be delivered to our school and distributed to your child.





Message from Emily ...

Xīn nián kuài lè de péng yǒu" This means Happy Chinese New Year my friends. Peng you means 'friends'.

Emily wanted to wish all her friends at Eppalock Primary School a very happy Chinese New Year and good fortune for the year ahead and great study for the 2019 year at school!

The Chinese New Year is on the 5th of February this year and the Chinese people celebrate the New Year for 15 days! So they are still celebrating!

This year, 2019, is the year of the Pig in the Chinese horoscope and in the Chinese culture, pigs are the symbol of wealth. Their chubby faces and big ears are signs of great fortune.



Fun Mandarin – our School Chinese Language Program

BASIC GREETINGS

Hello - **Nǐ hǎo** (sounds like Nee how)

Goodbye – **zài jiàn** (sounds like tzai tzien)

Thank you – **xiè** (sounds like seair seair)

My name is Timmy – **Wo jiao Timmy** (sounds like woar tzeow Timmy)

NUMBERS 1-10

1	One	Yī	Sounds like ee
2	Two	èr	Sounds like arrr
3	Three	sān	Sounds like sarn
4	Four	sì	Sounds like sir
5	Five	wǔ	Sounds like ooo
6	Six	liù	Sounds like leoo
7	Seven	qī	Sounds like tea
8	Eight	bā	Sounds like bar
9	Nine	jiǔ	Sounds like jeeaw
10	Ten	shí	Sounds like sher

FRIDAY 22nd FEBRUARY—6.00 pm

It's on again!

Eppalock's Annual Crazy Bingo Community Night.

Its loads of fun for the whole family and a great way to meet new people in your community.

Each person who wishes to play is asked to bring along 2 small gifts (adults get involved too).

The gifts can be as crazy as you like, inexpensive is best, wrap them up, newspaper is fine (eg ball, toilet roll, bubbles, key ring, or find something in your present cupboard you've been meaning to clear out, etc).



On the night we play a huge outdoor game of bingo with a crazy twist.

6pm—Friday 22nd February at school

Bring your own picnic tea.

See Alicia Martin 0439 691 767 or Marie in the office for more details.

Hope to see everyone there!



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

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