Echuca West Primary School
Personal Best at the West

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Newsletter No. 13 Friday 15th May 2015

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Mother’s Day Morning Tea

I would like to congratulate all of the budding master chefs and their classroom teacher mentors for preparing last Friday’s Mother’s Day Morning Tea. It looked delicious and the presentation was impeccable. Ten out of ten was my official score. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the Parents and Friends Committee for organising the raffle and for setting up and decorating the tables. The array of raffle prizes was amazing! Thank you also to the families who were able to donate flowers. Once again, we had a large turnout of appreciative mothers, Grandmothers and special friends who were able to come along and enjoy the culinary delights. Our raffle and cold coin donations raised approximately $640 for the school.

2016 Prep Enrolments

On Friday 1st May a public notice advertising School Information Tours was published in the Riverine Herald. If you know of anyone who is considering sending their child to our school next year, please encourage them to contact the school and make a booking for a tour.

Wear Orange for One & All Day

It was great to see everyone wearing orange today to promote that there is no limit as to how inclusion can happen in our community. The One and All Campaspe Inclusion Project organised the day and we jumped at the chance to demonstrate our support by dressing up and selling orange juice icy-poles. All of the money raised will go towards maintaining & strengthening this very valuable program.

Grade 2/3/4 Trip to Sovereign Hill

The Grade 2/3/4 theme on ‘Gold’ will move from the classroom to the diggings next week when all of the students travel to Sovereign Hill in Ballarat to extend their learning. I will also be attending this trip and I am looking forward to finding some gold.
STAR OF THE WEEK AWARD

**Grade Prep A**—Serena Monigatti for working consistently at home and at school to improve her reading skills. Serena is using lots of reading strategies and her expression is lovely to listen to. Serena is always willing to help others and is a great class member. Keep up the super work, Serena.

**Grade 1B**—Maree Lever. Maree, you come to school each morning with your big smile and you are always organised and ready to learn. You are working hard to improve your reading and you are becoming a great little writer. Keep up the fantastic work. I am very proud of you.

**Grade 2/3C**—Brodie Millen for the fantastic effort you have put in to learning to tell the time accurately. Well done Brodie, you are making great progress!

**Grade 4D**—Kiara Rose Mills for being so enthusiastic about completing homework and reading, and for always working responsibly in the classroom. Congratulations Kiara!

**Grade 5E**—Kobey Allsop for his positive attitude towards learning and all activities in the classroom. This week he also worked really well with his skipping team to finalise their skipping routine. Well done Kobey!

**Grade 6F**—Hayley Rankin for her participation in the Soccer Round Robin. It’s great to see you putting in your personal best, even in sports where you’re not as confident.

CLASS OF THE WEEK

This week’s Class of the Week is Grade 4: For showing a great deal of respect for the students completing NAPLAN. Your classroom was very quiet and you welcomed the Grade 2 students with open arms.

MY SCHOOL TOO

**Jed Buntine** for looking after a younger student and letting a teacher know they were upset.

MUSIC/INDONESIAN WORKER OF THE WEEK

**Riley Hutton** for his enthusiasm in all his Indonesian work and being a great helper in the classroom. Well done.

SCIENTIST OF THE WEEK

**Cora Wilson** for writing a very comprehensive soil sample observation and presenting a very detailed labelled diagram in her science journal. Fabulous work Cora!
**GARDEN GURU OF THE WEEK**

Jake McKay for demonstrating a very enthusiastic attitude towards maintaining the garden and working cooperatively with others. Excellent work Jake!

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**SPORTS STAR OF THE WEEK**

Charlie Brain for making a super effort in PE and improving her skipping skills so much.

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**EDUCATION WEEK**

Education Week  18th – 22nd May  Keep your eye on the sky on Friday!

As part of our Education Week celebrations, the Grade Prep/1/2/5 and 6 will be involved in “The Great Echuca West PS Paper Plane” competition, to be held on Friday 22nd at around 11.30am. The theme this year is symmetry which is so easily demonstrated by making paper planes. The Grade 5 and 6 pupils will help the younger students plan and make their plane on Thursday as a Buddy activity. On Friday, David Wearne, a member of the Echuca Aero Club will be visiting the school to talk to Grade 5 and 6 students about how mathematics is involved in flight, plane design, fuel consumption and so on. Prep/1 and 2 will be shown the phonetic alphabet used as call signs by pilots. If the weather is good, David plans to fly over the school in the morning and demonstrate his skill as an acrobatic pilot. This will be a great opportunity for the students to learn about flight/symmetry and the importance of maths.

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**ADIDAS FUN RUN**

Congratulations to all the students who participated in the School Adidas Fun Run and a big thank you to the parents who helped out with this event. We would like to congratulate the three top fundraisers who were: Cora Wilson $413.15, Liam Hamilton $243.05 and Kirsty Nichol with $215.15. Well done. What a fantastic effort! Also the Highest fundraising class was Grade 2/3C with a total of $1679.20. The fun run prizes arrived yesterday and will be given out today.

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**JUMP ROPE FOR HEART**

Our school is participating in the Heart Foundation Jump Rope for Heart program this term. Heart Foundation Jump Rope for Heart is an exciting and non-competitive program which encourages children to become more active through skipping, learning new skills and raising vital funds for heart research and community health programs. Skipping is an excellent way for children to keep fit and healthy. Over the next few weeks, your child(ren) will be learning a range of fun skipping skills and new tricks. We will emphasise the importance of regular physical activity and the importance of healthy eating for a healthy lifestyle. At the end of the program we will be holding a Jump Off. This year we will be simply asking students to make a gold coin donation on Jump Off day, which will go to the Heart foundation. This will be held on Thursday 18th of June. The Jump Off day is a great opportunity for you to witness how much fun skipping can be. You are welcome to come along and pick up a rope! Grade 5/6 students will also be showcasing their skills through a skipping routine performance. More details on the Jump off will follow in future newsletters.

Rebecca Irving
Jump Rope for Heart Coordinator
KIDS IN THE KITCHEN

As part of our kitchen/garden program we have included some recipes that the students have cooked recently at school. They were delicious! The pumpkins we have used were sourced from our garden and the eggs were kindly donated by the Evans family.

PUMPKIN AND SWEET POTATO SOUP

**INGREDIENTS**
1 tablespoon of butter
1 brown onion finely chopped
1 garlic clove crushed & chopped finely
1kg pumpkin (kent or butternut)
500g sweet potato
4 cups of vegetable or chicken stock
½ cup of water
Chopped coriander
½ a red chilli finely chopped
2 tablespoons of shredded coconut
Sour cream to serve

**METHOD**
Heat half the butter in a large saucepan and add the finely chopped onion and garlic until soft. Add the coarsely cut pumpkin and sweet potato and cook for 2 minutes.
Increase the heat to high. Add the stock and the water. Bring to the boil. Reduce the heat to medium for 20 mins until the potato and sweet potato are very tender.
Using a stick blender, blend the soup until it is smooth and creamy. It should have a thick consistency.
In a separate bowl combine the coriander, chilli and shredded coconut.
Ladle the soup into a cup or bowl. Add a teaspoon of sour cream to the middle and add the coriander mixture to the top.
Additionally, you could oil some flat bread, add some cumin and bake in the oven for 5 mins until crunchy as a tasty addition.

#NB. If you are using old blue pumpkins or equivalent consider roasting the pumpkin first.

**EQUIPMENT**
Large heavy base saucepan
Knife
Chopping board

PUMPKIN PANCAKES

**INGREDIENTS**
2 cups of self-raising flour
1/3 cup of sugar
1 cup of milk
1 cup of cooked pumpkin (mashed or grated)
Butter to cook
1 egg

**METHOD**
Add the flour and sugar to a large bowl. Make a well and drip an unbeaten egg into the middle of the well. Add enough milk to make a thick batter and beat well. Add the cooked pumpkin to the pancake mix. Have the frying pan well-greased and hot. Drop the mixture into the frying pan from the tip of the tablespoon to make a good shape. Turn when a lot of bubbles appear then flip and allow to brown on the other side. Serve with a drizzling of maple syrup or cinnamon sugar.

#Source: The PWMU Centenary Cookbook 2009
Save the date in your calendars—Saturday 15th August, 2015 for our Centenary Celebrations. The day will begin with the Opening of the Time Capsule at 10.00am. There will be displays of memorabilia throughout the school, a BBQ lunch and more. Gates will close at 2.00p.m. Celebrations will continue with a dinner at Rich River Golf Club on the night. We will be producing a School Book continuing on from the 1990 75th Anniversary Book up until 2015. We are seeking past students, teachers who would like to join us to celebrate the Centenary. If you would like to register your interest in purchasing the book or attending the Centenary or if you have old school memorabilia to go on display please contact Echuca West Primary School on 03 54822263 or by email on Echuca.west.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

**BIRTHDAYS IN THE SCHOOL THIS WEEK**

We would like to wish a happy birthday to Billy Barnes who is celebrating his birthday this week. We hope he has a great day.

**REMINDERS**

Lunch Orders are Monday, Wednesday & Friday.
Lost Property Box is in the Undercover area.
Student Banking Day is Thursday.

**ADVERTISING SPACE**

If you would like to sponsor our newsletter and advertise your business in this space we would love to hear from you. This will cost $20 each week to include your business card or logo in our weekly newsletter. If you are interested please contact the school on 54822263.

**FUTURE DATES**

**Friday 29th May**
Grade 5/6 Echuca Netball
Prep/1 Melbourne Zoo Excursion

**Monday 1st June**
Student free day (teacher curriculum day)

**Tuesday 2nd June**
Regional Cross Country—St Arnaud

**Wednesday 3rd June**
Lunchtime Chess
**Friday 5th June**
Interschool Sport
**Monday 8th June**
Queen’s Birthday—Public Holiday

**Tuesday 9th June**
Grade 2-6 Tennis

**Wednesday 10th June**
Lunchtime Chess
AFL Player visit (Carlton)
School Council

**Friday 12th June**
Interschool Sport

**Thursday 18th June**
Jump Rope for Heart Jump off day
**Friday 19th June**
Interschool Sport
**Friday 26th June**
Last Day Term 2—dismissal 2.10pm
**Grade Prep A:** We hope you all had a lovely Mother’s Day and enjoyed the effort that the Preps went to make your card and gifts. Miss Inga Mullane is a 3rd year student teacher from La Trobe University, Bendigo and she will be working with us for 3 weeks. The Preps are enjoying having extra help and Miss Mullane has been taking lots of lessons. Farm animals have been our focus this week and tomorrow we complete the topic by working on ‘Who Sank The Boat?’. We have continued modelling addition and revising numbers and counting. We had the geoboards out to make rectangles and orientating them different ways. We also collected data to make a graph. Now we have a pictograph of Prep’s favourite pets displayed on our board. We have written an explanation on how to make a chicken and made a what am I clue sheet. The paper mache penguins will have eyes, a beak and feet on Monday and will be finally finished. We will then be making animal patterns with oil pastels as our next artistic venture. Mrs Mathers is looking for helpers on Thursday for cooking. Please let me know if you can help out. Enjoy your weekend.

**Grade 1B:** This week we welcomed Miss Pankhurst into our grade one classroom. Miss Pankhurst is a third year student teacher and will be with us for the next few weeks. It is great to have her in our room working alongside Mrs Bourke. We also welcomed a new grade one student - Shaun Darlacey. In Writing this week, we continued to look at how to write procedures using the key words, first, next, then and finally. We wrote a procedure on how to make fairy bread and enjoyed eating it after our writing. We are exploring subtraction in maths and learning to use a range of strategies to solve subtraction problems. Mass is another area we have started to focus on with the key maths language – heavy, heavier, heaviest, light, lighter, lightest. Skipping continues to be our sports focus. We are still enjoying learning about wild animals, have you seen how great our classroom is looking at the moment? Happy weekend, Mrs Bourke and her fabulous first graders.

**Grade 2/3C:** Gold Fever has definitely struck Grade 2/3! Everyone is starting to get very excited about our excursion/camp to Sovereign Hill. We watched a video clip about the best way to pan for gold and we picked up some really good tips so that we can strike it rich next week when we go gold panning. We learnt about the Eureka Stockade of 1854 and made Eureka flags for our unit books. It was also great fun listening to some traditional folk music from that era. Some of us even got up and had a dance! This week we have also been practising our fluency in reading; focusing on being able to read accurately with an awareness of punctuation. In Maths, we have been practising telling the time, which is proving to be quite tricky. And finally, a huge well done to all the Grade 3s for their fantastic effort in their NAPLAN tests. (Only 5 sleeps until camp and 6 sleeps until our excursion!)
Grade 4D: What a lovely atmosphere it was at the Mother’s day Morning Tea last week. Thank you to the mums and family members who were able to attend. This week in Grade 4 we are all getting very excited because camp at Sovereign Hill is only 5 sleeps away! We had a meeting to find out about everything we need to bring to camp and we practised some really funny skits that we will perform at the camp concert. We were fascinated to find out all about the Eureka Stockade this week in class. We learnt a new song about it and also created our own stockade pictures. We are looking forward to seeing the whole event played out at the ‘Blood on the Southern Cross’ sound and light show on camp. It’s going to be spectacular! It was nice to be able to wear casual clothes today featuring something orange, in support of the One and All Inclusion Project. Enjoy your weekend everyone and have fun packing!

Grade 5E: Grade 5 have been kept super busy this week completing all 4 Naplan tests. I am very proud of each student for trying their personal best in each test. This week we have also covered graphs and coordinates in Maths. In PE, our skipping routines are coming along nicely and we are all really excited to present our finished products on ‘Jump off Day’ (18th of June). In Art, we have been continuing to work on our projects and they are coming along nicely. We have all made a good start on our Australia Project learning to manage our class time well. We have also been practicing our soccer skills and are excited for our soccer day today at Jack Eddy Oval.

Grade 6F: This week in Grade 6 we have been a little interrupted with NAPLAN so we have had to do some outdoor activities. It has worked out in our favour because we have had a chance to work together in some team building activities and we also practiced our soccer skills to prepare ourselves for the round robin tournament on Friday. We did participate in the writing side of the NAPLAN and were able to use our persuasive writing skills to write some pretty powerful pieces. Other than NAPLAN we have worked really hard on our Art projects this week which are close to completion; they are looking fabulous! In Maths we have looked at percentages off items at stores and working out how much we would save on prices. Grade 6 have also been working very hard on their skipping routines for Jump Rope for Heart.
Do you care for a child with disability or Chronic Illness?

My Time group provides support for mothers, fathers, grandparents and anyone caring for a child with disability or chronic medical condition. My Time provides a place to socialise, to discuss, to support and be supported by other carers. Each group has a play helper who leads children and siblings in activities, so parents and carers can spend time focusing on catching up with others. If you are interested in attending My Time or want more information please contact:

Elle Grabham at Community Living & Respite Services ph: 5480 2388 email: egrabahm@clrs.org.au