Grade One
Garden Fun
Echuca West Primary School
Personal Best at the West

newsletter No. 21 Friday 31st July 2015

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Parent Opinion Surveys

A parent opinion survey is currently underway throughout the state to assist with future planning and improvement in Victorian schools. The annual survey is sent out to randomly selected families and contains a range of questions designed to help monitor how well the school is meeting students’ needs. Approximately 40 families at our school will be surveyed. The survey is a chance to increase partnerships between schools, families and the wider community and assists schools to self-evaluate and plan for the future.

Responses help schools to reflect on current activities and to make any necessary changes. The survey is designed to take no more than 20 minutes to complete and all responses are anonymous and treated confidentially. Only about half of the surveys have been returned to the school so we are extending the return date to **Friday 7th August**.

New Chaplain

I am delighted to announce that Julie Mansfield has been appointed to our school as our new Chaplain. Julie has over 35 years’ experience as a primary school teacher and will be a valuable asset to our school. Julie has always had a passion for student engagement and well-being and is highly regarded in this field.

Lost Property

The lost property tub at school is currently overflowing with school windcheaters. None of the windcheaters have readable labels so we are unable to hand them back to the rightful owners. I would like to encourage parents to re-label their child’s uniform in order to make this task a little easier.

Important Information.

Please note the following important reminders:

1. Centenary Dinner RSVP is Monday 3rd August.
2. Sporting Schools begins next week with Softball on Monday 3rd August and Touch Football on Wednesday 5th August. Enrolment forms are required to be completed at the office before children can participate.
**STAR OF THE WEEK AWARD**

**Grade Prep A** - **Norah Lenne** for consistently giving her personal best at all she attempts. Norah is always willing to help others with their learning and is a good friend to all her class mates. Well done, Norah.

**Grade 1B** - **Kym Underwood** for using fantastic character expression in our Goldilocks and The Three Bears Reader’s Theatre this week. Well done Kym.

**Grade 2/3 C** – **Logan Blachford** for the amazing work you have done in Literacy. You have a fantastic attitude towards learning and you are making wonderful progress in your reading and writing. Well done Logan!

**Grade 4D** - **Kynan Baldwin** for making a commitment to improve his home reading and for stepping up and helping out whenever the need arises.

**Grade 5E** - **Bianca Norris** for her positive attitude towards learning. She is always willing to have a go and she puts her personal best into everything she does. Well done Bianca!

**Grade 6F** - **Patrick Kervin** for the amount of effort he is putting into his reading responses for homework. I look forward to reading them each week. Keep it up Pat!

**CLASS OF THE WEEK**

This week’s Class of the Week is Grade One: for creating fun and interesting games to play at recess and lunchtime.

**MY SCHOOL TOO**

**Gabe Gallimore** for alerting a teacher to some careless behaviour in the playground that could have resulted in someone getting hurt.

**Charlie Mundie** for making sure that a student was alright after someone had said something inappropriate.

**Liam Hamilton** and **Bodhi Chique** for looking after a friend who was feeling upset.

**MUSIC/INDONESIAN WORKER OF THE WEEK**

**Kym Underwood** for joining in all of the Indonesian and music activities so enthusiastically every week. Well done.

**SPORTS STAR OF THE WEEK**

**Bianca Norris** for her great determination during high jump practice. Well done.
Sporting Schools Program in Term 3. Our Sporting Schools Program will commence this Monday 3rd August and run for 7 weeks. We are running sessions between 3.30pm and 4.30pm on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Activities include:
- Monday 3rd August—Softball—Session 1
- Wednesday 5th August—Touch Football—Session 1

Interested children can pick up an enrolment form from the office. Children will be given a snack straight after school. Please make sure that you pick your child up at 4.30pm. School policy requires students to be picked up at the front of the school after finishing the Sporting Schools Program.

EARN AND LEARN: WOOLWORTHS: Earn and Learn has started and will run until Tuesday 8th September. When you shop at Woolworths you can collect Earn & Learn stickers from the check-out operator and place them on an Earn & Learn sticker sheet. You get one sticker for every $10 spent (excluding liquor, tobacco, and gift cards) Once completed simply place the sticker sheet in the collection box at Echuca Woolworths. It’s easy to earn valuable resources to help your local school, so start collecting your Woolworths Earn & Learn Stickers today.

BIRTHDAYS IN THE SCHOOL THIS WEEK

We would like to wish a happy birthday to Kiralee Macumber and Billie Tobias who are celebrating their birthdays this week. We hope they have 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
- Tuesday 11th August
  - Grade 2-6 Tennis
- Wednesday 12th August
  - School Council
- Friday 14th August
  - Student Free Day
- Saturday 15th August
  - Echuca West PS Centenary

Monday 24th August-Friday 28th August
- BOOK WEEK
  - Monday 24th August
    - Athletics Working Bee
  - Tuesday 25th August
    - 11/12 y.o. Athletics
  - Wednesday 26th August
    - 9/10 y.o. Athletics
    - Grade 4 Library Visit
  - Thursday 27th August
    - Book Week Parade
  - Friday 28th August
    - Author Visit—Susan Berran
- Wednesday 2nd September
  - Prep/1 Fathers Day Craft
**GRADE REPORTS**

**Grade Prep A:** Thank you to everyone who has returned the school nurse forms and to the wonderful parents, grandparents and even an Auntie in America who have completed their homework assignment. Your efforts are appreciated. The week has been busy with trying to complete our books for Book Week. We are now illustrating our stories. Our sports training is going well and the high jump mat has made a big difference to our high jump techniques! In Maths we made, drew and recorded subtraction problems and used MAB blocks to make teen numbers. We collected data and graphed our favourite animals yesterday. Yesterday was very exciting as Mrs Mathers cooked ham, cheese and pineapple pinwheels with the Preps. Very yummy. We hope to see you all at the school sports. The Preps are encouraged to wear their house colour polo/tee shirt on the day. Enjoy your weekend.

**Grade 1B:** We have been reading Spike the Dragon this week in class. Spike is no ordinary dragon, he likes things bright, tidy and clean. Spike also enjoys the company of Knights and invites them to tea. We planned and wrote our own dragon stories this week based on Spike. Our Words Their Way spelling groups this week have been focusing on initial sounds (c, h, f, d), initial blends (br, bl, gr, gl) and vowels (short o, long o, oddballs). When we sort our words each day, we have been really emphasising the sounds we hear to help us when we try to spell words in our writing. In Maths we have been revisiting skip counting, place value and days of the week. Our Athletics training is in full swing and we are excited about our upcoming Whole School Sports next Thursday (August 6th). We hope that we see many of our parents there to cheer us on. Please ensure you have checked your child’s home school journal for permission notes to upcoming events. Mrs B and her Fabulous First Graders.

**Grade 2/3C:** Grade 3 have had a great week, a wonderful week, a fabulous week, a terrific week! As you have probably guessed, we have been learning about synonyms. We have been learning how to replace a word in a sentence without changing the meaning and how using synonyms can make a text more interesting to read. In Maths we are continuing to work on our times tables. The effort that everyone is making both at school and home to learn them is just amazing; great job Grade 2/3! In Art we finished our Sidney Nolan work. It is looking fabulous, hanging on our classroom wall. Don’t forget that Sports Day is next Thursday. Hopefully the sun will shine and it will be a little warmer than it is at the moment!

**Grade 4D:** The environmental sanctuary in our room continues to grow as more and more Australian animal soft toys manage to find their way to the Grade 4 room for our Backyard Buddies unit. We have even created a wetlands area! Our Reading focus this week was making predictions about the text. This means thinking ahead while we are reading and working out what might happen next in the story. It helps us make connections between new information and what we already know. We are also working on writing narratives for Book Week, as well as researching for information about Australian native animals. In Maths, we extended our understanding of perimeter and area. Our Sidney Nolan inspired Ned Kelly paintings are completed. We are really proud of them and they look great displayed in our room. We have been working hard on our athletics skills this week, and can’t wait for the Echuca West Athletics Day next Thursday. Have a great weekend, everyone.
**Grade 5E**: Grade 5 are becoming stars at descriptive writing. Learning how to use a wide range of adjectives to add to our writing and to better describe characters in our stories. In Spelling, we have looked at words with ex, de and re at the beginning and about the meaning of these words. We have learnt all about area and perimeter in Maths and how to apply this to real world situations. In Earn and Learn, we were all excited to learn about applying for jobs including writing resumes and cover letters. We also rented out our seats in the classroom, created our letter boxes and thought of our own street names so we all have a postal address. We are excited to finally receive our first pay cheque next week. PE saw us finishing off our athletics practice ahead of the whole school athletics next week.

**Grade 6F**: This week the grade 5/6s have been very involved in their new unit Earn and Learn. We have arranged the classroom as a working community now and the students have to pay rent for their spot at a table. It was fun auctioning off the different tables for students and working out how much money they would be left with after all the deductions. They also made their own letterboxes for the back of their chairs. The notice board was updated this week too, it now displays jobs that are being offered in the classroom to earn extra money. This week they include working at the bank and the supermarket. The grade 5/6s have been looking at what it takes to write a good job application and are in the process of creating their own resumes and cover letters. In Maths we have been learning about area and perimeters of different shapes and doing some challenges relating to that. In Art we have started creating centre pieces for the centenary lunch and in PE the students have been practicing hard for the School Athletics next week!