GRADE 4

MY LIFE IN A SHOEBOX

Our shoeboxes are filled with 10 items that are special to us.
**Echuca West Primary School**

**Personal Best at the West**

[echucawestps.vic.edu.au](http://echucawestps.vic.edu.au)

SMS 0428937348

**Newsletter No. 7 Friday 13th March 2015**

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**STUDENT LEADERS**

Emily Bray & Billy Barnes

Congratulations to Billy Barnes and Emily Bray who are our new student Leaders for the next two weeks.

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**Our School Values**

- **Respect** - having regard for self, others and the environment
- **Inclusion** - sense of belonging
- **Integrity** - being honest and fair
- **Responsibility** - being responsible for your actions & words
- **Personal Best** - striving for excellence

In Term 1 our focus is on **Inclusion**.

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**Special Events Next Week**

- **Tuesday 17th March**
  - Regional Swimming
  - Tennis—Grade 2-6
- **Wednesday 18th March**
  - Cake Stall—All grades
- **Friday 20th March**
  - I want to be...Dress up Fundraiser Day

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**PRINCIPAL’S REPORT**

**Fun Run**

Our Parents and Friends Committee have organised an Adidas Fun Run as a major fundraising event this year. The event will be held on Friday 17th April within the school grounds. A note and fundraising form was sent home yesterday with every child explaining the details. Please check your child’s bag if you have not seen this note. Students in Grades 3-6 will also be timed and selected to run in the Interschool Cross Country on the 1st of May based on their performances. Parents and family members are welcome to attend.

**Grade 2**

The structure of our units has changed this year. We are now running a Prep/1 unit, a Grade 2/3/4 unit and a Grade 5/6 unit. Due to these changes there have been a number of decisions we have had to make in order to ensure the year runs smoothly. Some of these decisions include:

The Grade 2 students will attend a day trip to Sovereign Hill Gold Mining Township when the Grade 3/4 students are on their camp. They will spend one day participating in activities with the Grade 3 and 4 students and have dinner with them before returning home. **This excursion will replace the end of year Grade 2 Sleepover.**

The Grade 2 students will attend the Immigration Museum Excursion in Term 4 with the Grade 3/4 students. **This excursion will replace the Zoo Excursion.**

These decisions have been made after much consultation and discussion. We believe they are positive changes that will help the Grade 2 students feel a sense of belonging. It will also be invaluable to their learning because many classroom activities will draw on these experiences.

**Grade 2/3**

On Fridays there will be some changes in the Grade 2/3 classroom. Mrs Devlin will be teaching the Grade 2/3 students from 12.00pm to 3.10pm each Friday. This will provide Ms Martin with some valuable time to perform her role as our Student Engagement and Well-Being Coordinator.
**Buddies & House Activities**

Over the last couple of years there have been some changes to our Buddy and House Activity structure. Buddies don’t run as often as they once did and Grade 5 students are now being “buddied” up with the Preps instead of Grade 6 students. The reasons for these changes are as follows:

- Grade 5/6 students now participate in approximately 8 days of interschool sport as well as other sporting carnivals such as soccer, netball, football and basketball. Most of these carnivals fall on a Friday, the day we have buddies.
- Grade 6 students now organise and run ‘House Shuffle’ activities for the 3 houses on a Friday as part of our Leadership Development Program. They do this for a term.
- Grade 5 students are buddied up with Preps because they remain in the school for another year which means the relationship that has developed can continue for another year.

**World’s Greatest Shave**

Tyler Williams, a Grade 6 student at our school, had his head shaved last night at the Echuca Scout Hall. He had been growing his hair for 10 months and looked completely different today at school without any hair.

If you would like to make a donation, you are still able to do so online at the World’s Greatest Shave website or at school until the end of March. Money raised will go to the Leukaemia Foundation. Well done Tyler.

**STAR OF THE WEEK AWARD**

*Grade Prep A—Stevie Lever* for applying herself and working hard in the classroom this week. Stevie is making great steps forward in her learning and she also finds time to help others with their work. Well done, Stevie.

*Grade 1B—Will Newton* for his great work in place value this week. It has been fantastic to see your confidence in this area grow. You really know your tens and ones. Great job!

*Grade 2/3C—Brandon Hope* for your great enthusiasm when giving your talk about your “life in a shoebox”. Well done Brandon. Good luck in your new school. We will all miss you.

*Grade 4D—Dakota Monigatti* for such energetic participation in the cricket clinic, being so quick to offer help in the classroom, and generally being so very enthusiastic about everything at school! Well done, Dakota!

*Grade 5E—Alice Davidson* for her positive approach to school and learning. She takes great pride in all her work and shows a great passion for learning. She is a fantastic member of the grade 5 classroom. Well done Alice!

**CLASS OF THE WEEK**

This week’s Class of the Week is Grade 4: for being inclusive and allowing everyone to join in games and have fun.

**MY SCHOOL TOO**

Eden McInnes, Asha Gray, Lucy Williams and Emily Bray for supporting their peers and continuing to help until the problem was resolved.
Our school is once again participating in the Premier’s Reading Challenge. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to read lots of books. Children are required to read a number of books including 10 from the challenge list to complete the challenge which runs until September 2015. If you would like your child to participate in the Premier’s Reading Challenge please sign and return the consent form which will be sent home next week. This consent form is for participation in the challenge as well as permission to publish your child’s name in the online Honor Roll. Happy Reading!!

FREE Premiers’ Reading Challenge Calendar
The Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge Calendar is now open!

Don’t miss your FREE giant calendar poster in the Herald Sun on Tuesday 17 March. Featuring key Challenge dates, literary events, fun facts, popular authors’ birthdays and tips, it’s a great way for parents and children to track their reading progress, count down the days and stay motivated throughout the Challenge.

For more information on the Challenge visit: www.education.vic.gov.au/prc
What do you want to be when you grow up? A farmer? A deep sea diver? A cricketer? A ballerina?

Come to school next **Friday (20th March)** dressed up as what you would like to be, and help raise money for The Kids Cancer Project and Leukaemia Research.

The event is being organised by the Student Action Group and you can join in the fun by dressing up and making a gold coin donation. Thank you for your support.

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**FUNDRAISING**

**Cake Stall.**

Our next Cake stall will be held next Wednesday 18th March at 3.00p.m. If all families could provide some cakes or produce to sell on the day it would be fantastic. Thanks.

**Fun Run—**

Students should have received some information regarding our Fun Run which will be held on the school grounds on Friday 17th April. Registration can be completed online. We will need some volunteers on the day so if you are able to help out please let the school office know.

**Easter Egg Guessing Competition—**

We are holding a Guess the Number of Easter Eggs in the Jar again. If you would like to enter the competition this can be done at the school office. Each guess costs $1 or 3 for $2.

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**SCHOOL PHOTOS**

Our School Photos are being taken on the last day of this Term **Friday 27th March from 9am**. Order forms will be sent home on Monday. As orders can now be placed online, each envelope is now personalized with student name and unique ordering code. If you wish to hand in an order on Photo Day, orders and correct money are to be given to the photographer on the day. No change will be given on the day. Each child needs his/her own envelope if ordering. Family Photo envelopes are available at the office. Credit card orders are now strictly online.

Family Photo order forms are available from the school office.
INDONESIAN/MUSIC UPDATE

It has been a hectic start to the year and going so quickly. The preps are very busy learning new songs and their Indonesian numbers and greetings. We are very fortunate to have been donated enough funding for a terrific incursion during week nine, thanks to the Echuca Workers and Services Club. The children will be part of the One Stop Rock Shop show where they will join in with the rock songs and perform a school dance. They will be able to see drums, electric guitars etc being played, as well as a variety of musical genres: rock, disco, blues etc. We have also purchased two sets of ‘Boomwhackers’. Hopefully, we will be able to play them well enough soon to show off in a school assembly. If you are curious about this instrument call into the Indonesian/Music room, or ask your child to show you. Keep up the good work ‘westies’.

SCIENCE UPDATE

Science has been a flurry of activity this term. We have been studying Life and Living across all grade levels. Preps are learning about the movement of humans and animals, Grade 1 students have been investigating the playground’s habitats and its inhabitants, Grade 2/3/4 have been investigating plants and Grade 5/6 have been learning about the fascinating adaptations of desert animals that help them survive in the harshest of conditions.

In keeping with our theme, we have resurrected the worm farms and watched in awe the resident silk worms go through their lifecycle. We have tried with limited success to maintain an ant farm (any advice from anyone who has an ant farm will be warmly welcomed) and our permanent residents Priscilla and Boris (our bearded dragons) are still living a comfortable life in the science room.

The students have been growing their own bean plants, growing grass under a range of conditions as well as measuring the amount of water desiccated from the trees’ leaves and learning how the surface area of leaves affects the amount of water lost during the day. The younger students have been investigating the lives of ants, worms, snails and of course silk worms.

Thank you to Nikita in Grade 1 and her family for donating the silk worms to our school, it has been a wonderful learning experience for everyone.

ECHUCA WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL CENTENARY—SATURDAY 15TH AUGUST

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
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 24th March
Music Performance—One Stop Rock Shop

Friday 27th March
School Photos
Easter Bonnet Parade
Last Day Term 1
Dismissal 2.10p.m.

Monday 13th April
Term 2 begins

Wednesday 15th April
State Swimming

Friday 17th April
School Fun Run/X Country Trials

GRADE REPORTS

Grade Prep A: A short but busy week. We have been revising our sounds –s/f/t/m/a/o and have looked at ‘i’. We made a story map based on “We’re going on a Bear Hunt”. Patterns and numbers 1 to 10 have been our maths focus this week. We made some great patterns that repeated. We have been practising one handed throws and two hand catches in Phys Ed. The Fun Run (two words that really don’t go together in my world) information came home with your child last night. This will be a great whole school activity and further information will be in the newsletter. We played card and dice games with our buddies today to practice and consolidate our number work. Don’t forget the SAG dress up day on Friday and look out for leprechauns on Tuesday. Enjoy your weekend.
**Grade 4D:** What an amazing sight it was on Monday morning when everyone brought their shoe boxes in to school, filled with 10 objects, carefully selected to represent their lives! We all made a display of our special items and we had time to wander around and have a look at each other’s display. We discovered lots of new information about our classmates when they explained why they had chosen certain things. We each had an allocated morning to share our boxes and it was really interesting listening to the different presentations. Today we enjoyed sharing them with our Grade One buddies. In Maths, we have been learning to accurately measure lines and spaces outside, using trundle wheels and metre rulers. We are working on converting the measurements from metres to centimetres and vice versa. We were very happy when Brayden, from Cricket Victoria, returned yesterday. We worked on our catching and bowling skills through some really fun activities in a one hour clinic. He was very impressed with our skills. Yesterday we were excited to find out about the Fun Run that will be held at the school next term. The prizes look amazing! Don’t forget our dress up day next week when we can come as what we want to be when we grow up. Have a great week end everyone.

**Grade 5E & 6F:** Grade 5 and 6 has had a busy 4 day week after enjoying a relaxing long weekend. On Tuesday we tackled how to edit our stories to ensure they have correct meaning, punctuation, grammar and spelling. We are also ensuring we reread and add interesting words to our writing at any stage of the writing process. In Reading, we have continued looking at summarising and enjoyed summarising some of our favourite nursery rhymes. Maths has been fun exploring time and clocks. We discovered that it can be very tricky reading an analogue clock and something that we need to continue to practice. On Wednesday we enjoyed having Miss Devlin and Mr T while Mrs Irving and Mr Watson were learning about how to better teach Maths in grade 5/6. Our passion projects are coming along nicely but we need to ensure we are organised to have them complete by the 25th of March. Thursday proved to be a busy day with Art covering form, space and value. We also had a game of netball in PE and our skills have really improved throughout the term. Grade 6 had a fantastic leadership day today and grade 5 enjoyed a day with a large open learning space to themselves. Have a great week end everyone.
Community News

**Knowing Your Teenager Workshop**

Join other parents and carers in this two hour workshop that aims to provide information, improve understanding and explore strategies that focus on the strengths and challenges of this stage of development.

**When:** Monday 23rd March 2015

**Time:** Arrival and registration 6.15pm. Session starts 6.30pm-8.30pm

**Where:** St Mary’s Parish Hall, 224 Anstruther St, Echuca

**Cost:** $5 - if holder of a HCC no charge

**Child Care:** Sorry, child care is not provided

**Facilitators:** Narelle Williams and Ev Holzer, CatholicCare Sandhurst

RSVP Wed 19th March. Contact Ky Gregg 5438 1300

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**The Campaspe Cannons would like you to be a part of their Under 18’s Development Squad.**

Campaspe Cannons are an under 18’s lawn bowls squad that are based in Echuca and practise on a regular basis. Our players come from Deniliquin, Nanneella, Echuca, Moama and Rochester.

The aim of our squad is to provide the opportunity for young people to have fun whilst learning, playing and practising bowls.

Come and try your skills at bowls on the following dates:

- March the 30th at 4:30pm City of Echuca Bowls Club (Ogilvie Ave, Echuca)
- March the 25th at 4:30pm Rochester Bowls Club (Victoria St, Rochester)

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United has their Net Set Go Program each Friday starting Friday the 17th of April 2015 @ 5:00pm – 6:00pm. All registration and payments will need to be done on line at [http://netsetgo.asn.au/](http://netsetgo.asn.au/) by April 11th. If you would like any further details please call this year’s Net Set Go Co-Ordinator, Kristi Larkin 0401 673 858
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HOST AN OVERSEAS EXCHANGE STUDENT

Learn about another culture, learn a new language or perhaps improve your culinary skills

Hosting - An Experience for Life

Student Exchange is looking for host families across Australia to welcome overseas students into their home

Visit www.studentexchange.org.au/host-a-student or call 1300 135 331 for more information

Echuca United AusKick (Friday Nights).
Starts Friday the 17th of April 2015 @ 5.00pm. All registration and payments is done online at www.aflauskick.com.au. Footy packs will be sent to you in the mail. Purchase before 15th of April to access your 4 free tickets to an AFL Match. If you can’t register online or any other inquiries, please contact Peter Gronow on 0428989535 or pgronow@rabar.com.au.