Welcome back for the start of as new school year. We are looking forward to a really exciting 2015. It is great to welcome some new families to our school:

Rhiannon O’Connor & Nicholas Fleming (Jett—Gr 2 and Zahli—Prep)
Jessie Lee Davies (Montana—Prep)
Tyler & Libby Hudson (Loxley—Prep)
Jacinta & Nathan Martin (Benjamin—Prep)
Danielle Morey & Joel Trist (Zayden—Prep)
Sage & Robert Wiltshire (Miley—Prep)

Please make yourselves known to our new families.

Welcome to 2015

Welcome back to the start of another school year. Over the holidays a number of exciting things happened at the school including the arrival of new laptop computers for all Grade 6 Students; painting of the Administration Block, Toilet Block, Art Room, Library and First Aid Room; and the installation of a watering system in front of the Grade 5/6 classrooms.

Important Information about EMA.

Education Maintenance Allowance has been abolished. For more information please read the letter I have attached to the back of this newsletter.

Thank you to Matt Hamilton and Colin McKee

I would like to thank Matt Hamilton for his tireless work helping to maintain the grounds and buildings at the school. Over the holidays Matt helped to clean out all the gutters in the school, spray weeds, repair a burst water main and install a sprinkler system.

Thank you also to Colin McKee for volunteering his time to regularly slash the soccer pitch.

Traffic Conditions during Drop Off and Pick Up Times

I would like to remind everyone to be extremely careful when dropping off and picking up children before and after school. Our policy is that no child is allowed to leave the school premises without being accompanied by an adult. This means that parents will need to get out of their cars and collect their children from the school gates. Please observe traffic signs to help keep everyone safe and avoid parking in the bus turn around zone or beside the school mailbox.

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.
Please do not assume that vehicles travelling North or South along Echuca West School Road will give way. We have had a number of near misses in recent times.

**Bell Times**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08.55am</td>
<td>First Bell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09.00am - 11.00am</td>
<td>Class session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.00am - 11.30am</td>
<td>Recess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.30am - 01.30pm</td>
<td>Class session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01.30pm - 02.10pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02.10pm - 02.15pm</td>
<td>Class Circle Time Activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02.15pm - 03.15pm</td>
<td>Class session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03.15pm</td>
<td>Dismissal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parents are asked to have their children at school by approximately 8.50 am so they can be settled and in the class ready to start at 9.00am. Independent reading will commence at this time. Children should not be dropped off at school before 8.00am.

**Lunch Orders**

Café Worx, located at 11 Murray Valley Hwy, will once again be providing lunch orders this year. A menu is attached to this newsletter and is also available on Tiqbiz. Lunch order days will still be Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

**Back to School Working Bee**

Thank you to the following people who were able to come along to our first working bee: The Moss family, the Blachford family, Matt Hamilton, Belinda and Jayde Evans, Erin Jenkins and Mason and Jayda Golding, Jody and Cora Wilson & Nicole and Emma Judd.

**SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

All students have been given the supplies that they will need in the classroom throughout the year. These supplies are to remain in the classroom. **Parents do not need to purchase extra items or send things from home.**

We also have class sets of art smocks. Children have been given a plastic cup for water, a reader bag, and Home School Journal (Diary in Grs 5 & 6).

The only thing that we ask that you supply from home is a bag for library book borrowing. Prep children can use their new school start bag which they will receive soon.

**PARENT PAYMENTS**

Please find attached a copy of our Parent Payments for 2015. Family statements will be posted next week. Prompt payment would be appreciated.

**BUSES**

**Country Bus Service:**

In the morning all country bus travellers are taken directly to the college and the Woods bus delivers them to school. At 3.15pm the Woods bus picks up all country bus travellers at school and takes them into the college where they will connect with their country bus.

If a child misses any connecting bus at the college they must go to the office at the college. There are also bus supervisors helping students at the College.

**Town Bus Service:**

The town bus departs the school at approx. 3.20pm each day. All bus travellers must let Clare of Vikki in the office know if they are not travelling on the bus after school. The buses are delayed if we are looking for children who are on the list but are not travelling that day.
TAKE HOME RUBBISH POLICY

Our school is an accredited ‘Go for Your Life Healthy School’. As part of this program we have a policy to reduce and recycle rubbish.

To this end all children must have a lunch box. Lunches are packed in this lunch box with a minimum of wrappings and any rubbish is put back in the box and taken home each day. This allows for parents to monitor what their children are eating. Lunch boxes are also brought to school on lunch order days so children can take home rubbish.

SMS MESSAGING SYSTEM

Echuca West Primary School has a School/Parent text messaging services to deliver SMS alerts and notifications whenever Echuca West Primary School needs to rapidly contact Parents. Examples include last minute notifications regarding delayed buses, changed venues or meeting times and late breaking news.

The text messaging strategy is also a service for parents who wish to notify the school in advance if their child(ren) will be absent or late or for some other purpose, such as requesting an appointment. Parents wishing to send a text message to the school from their mobile phone, should use the

Virtual Mobile Phone Number  0428 937 348

The school will check messages 3 times a day (09:00am, 12:00am and 3:00pm). If you need to send a message after 3pm it would be best to ring the school. Please do not send text messages in emergency situations or if you need to talk with a staff member.

It is imperative that the school has your most current details. The school cannot receive text messages from any phone number which is not registered in our data base. At present the only mobile phone number in the data base is the Primary Family Mobile Number which is generally the mother’s mobile phone number. Therefore this is the only number that can be used for communication by SMS.

It is important for parents to inform the front office of any changed mobile phone numbers. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school and thank you for your co-operation.

TIQBIZ

Tiqbiz App

Information regarding this communication app was included in Home School Journals today. Please read carefully.

FAMILY DETAILS

Just a reminder to parents to let the school office know if there have been any changes to family details e.g. phone number, address, medical information etc. This is so we are able to have up to date information for the students at school. We have attached a change of details form for your convenience. Please fill in and return to the school office asap. Thanks.

PREP REST DAY

Next Wednesday 4th February is PREP rest day. Preps will have a rest day each Wednesday during February.
**CONVEYANCE**

Families who transport their children to school may be eligible for a conveyance allowance. To receive this all students must attend their **nearest** government school and must reside more than 4.8km from that school. For the first time this year parents of new children to the school need to also hold a **healthcare card** to be eligible for conveyance. Eligible parents need to fill out an application form at the office.

Applications are due Feb 27th.

Parents who have previously applied and have not changed their residence do not need to reapply.

This allowance does not apply to families who live in the city of Echuca.

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**SPECIALIST DAYS**

**Library**

All children have the opportunity to borrow from our library. Library borrowing day will be Wednesday for all grade. In February Preps will be able to borrow on Thursdays. Library sessions will begin on Wednesday 11th February.

**Music/Indonesian**

Mrs Devlin will be working with all grades on Tuesday or Thursday.

**Science**

Mrs Mathers will be working with all grades on Tuesday and Thursday.

**Physical Education/Health**

Mrs Mathers and Mrs Devlin will be working with the grades on Tuesday and Thursday.

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**STUDENT BANKING**

Student Banking will continue on Thursdays. Please have bank books at the office by 9a.m. at the latest.

**Opening accounts for School Banking.**

School Banking accounts can now be opened at any Commonwealth Bank. You no longer need to complete application forms and return them to school. Just go into any branch and ask to open a Youthsaver account for school banking. Take in identification for you and your child (such as drivers license and birth certificate) and you will receive your Dollarmites wallet on the spot – it is that easy! If you are a Commonwealth Bank customer with Netbank you have the option to open the account on line as well! For each deposit your child makes they receive points and once ten points are accumulated they are able to redeem a fantastic reward prize.

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**SCHOOL UNIFORM**

Parents and students are to be congratulated for the way in which they support our school uniform policy. Please make sure that you label all items of school uniform clearly and carefully as we don’t want to end up with a box full of lost property. “Sew On” labels are best as they don’t get torn off like tags. Also label lunch boxes and drink bottle.

Just a couple of reminders:

- basketball shorts and netball skirts are not part of our school uniform.
- School bags need to be our EWPS back packs.
BIRTHDAYS IN THE SCHOOL THIS WEEK

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

CENTREPAY FOR SCHOOL PAYMENTS

CentrePay is a free direct bill paying service available to customers who receive a Centrelink payment. The deductions can be used to pay school charges, camps, swimming, uniform etc. The minimum amount you can have deducted is $10 per fortnight. A one off payment or fortnightly deductions can be selected. If interested, application forms can be obtained at the front office.

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 5482263.

TERM DATES FOR 2015

Term 1—Thursday 29th January to Friday 27th March
Term 2—Monday 13th April to Friday 26th June
Term 3—Monday 13th July to Friday 18th September
Term 4—Monday 5th October to Friday 18th December

FUTURE DATES

Tuesday 10th February
Open Water—Grade 5/6

Wednesday 11th February
Prep Rest Day
Library Sessions begin
EWPS Swimming Carnival—Moama Pool
Monday 16th-Thursday 19th February
Grade 5/6 Swimming

Wednesday 18th February
Prep Rest Day

Friday 20th February
Interschool Swimming Sports

Monday 23rd February
Grade 5/6 Swimming

Wednesday 25th February
Prep Rest Day

Friday 27th February
Family BBQ at Apex Park—6pm
COMMUNITY NEWS

2015 Enrollments now being taken!!

- Vocal
- Guitar (acoustic, electric)
- Drums
- Bass
- Piano/Keyboard
- Theory
- Glee (singing & movement)
- Pre-school Music (4-5 yr olds)
- Tots n Tunes (2-3 yr olds)
- Dance (ages 5-18 yr old)

Dillmac Entertainment also takes lessons at the following schools: (not all instruments are available at all schools)

- Echuca West School
- Kyabram P-12 College (primary campus)
  - Lockington Consolidated school
  - Nathalia Primary School
  - Nathalia Secondary college
  - Sacred Heart Primary School
  - St. Augustines College
  - St. Francis Primary Nathalia
  - St. Mary of the Angel’s Nathalia
  - St. Pat’s Tongala
  - Tatura Primary School
  - Tongala Primary

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Echuca United Football Netball Club

JUNIOR NETBALL
17&u, 15&u, 13’s, 12’s & 11’s
(ages as of 31/12/15)
Meet the coaches and register to play
Light training session
Tuesday 3rd February @ 4.30 pm
All past, present and new players welcome
All enquiries to
Fiona Davis (president) 0409 937 050

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AUSIE HOOPS

BASKETBALL PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN BETWEEN 5 & 8
Where: Echuca Basketball Stadium (Stubberfield Group Entertainment Centre)
When: WEDNESDAY 11th February - 25th March 2015
Time: 4:15 – 5:00
Cost: $85 – You receive: Ball, Backpack, T-shirt, Certificate, Sessions
      $80 - Your receive 8 Sessions & Certificate

PLAYERS AGED 2009 & 2010
Registration online @ http://www.ausiehoops.com.au/
January 2015

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (“EMA”) IN 2015

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Many families at Echuca West Primary School have been receiving the EMA since their child/children first commenced school. Two years ago, changes were made so that schools no longer received their portion of the EMA and therefore parents were encouraged to use their parent payment to pay for Essential Educational Items or Extra Curricular Activities.

From 1st January 2015 the EMA will be completely abolished.

Schools have been informed by the DEECD that additional funding will be provided to schools rather than directly to parents through the EMA.

Not all schools will receive this additional funding in 2015 and the amount of money provided will be different at each school.

As a result of these changes, three primary schools in Echuca (Echuca East, Echuca South & Echuca West) have made a commitment in 2015 to reduce parent payments by $120 for each child for families with a health care card.

If you are one of our many families who have relied on the EMA payment to help with school expenses, you should plan accordingly to ensure these expenses are budgeted for in 2015.

If you receive Centrelink payments, one of the best ways to pay for school expenses (eg school charges, camps, excursions, uniform etc.) will be to apply to pay by regular instalments through Centrepay.

Centrepay is a voluntary direct bill-paying service offered to customers receiving Centrelink payments. Through Centrepay you can choose to manage bills (including educational expenses) by having a regular amount deducted from your payments and transferred electronically to an approved Centrepay organisation (Echuca West Primary School is registered with Centrepay).

You can also arrange regular instalments (e.g. $20) to be paid into the school’s bank account every fortnight via BPAY.

If you have any further questions regarding Centrepay or BPAY, please do not hesitate to see Clare Archard in the office.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Judd
Principal
ECHUCA WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL

CHARGES 2015

Essential education items:

Student Materials - A charge of $150 will be made per child to assist the school in supplying all the necessary materials and requisites that are required for the year.
A charge of $150.00 per child.

Extracurricular Activities - A charge of $90 per year has been set for each child to cover the cost of local excursions, visiting performers and special activities. This covers bus transport, entrance fees and any associated costs. This payment must be made so that your child can have access to these extracurricular activities as they are direct charges to the school.
A charge of $90.00 per child per year

| Total essential payments per child: | $240.00 |

Further charges: (May be subject to change)

Major Excursion - A direct charge will be made to each student who participates in our major excursion.
A charge of $30 per child covers bus transport and admission

Swimming – A direct charge will be made to each student who participates in our swimming program. Prep, Grades 1 and 2 students have 10 swimming sessions in term 4 and Grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 have 5 sessions in Term 1.
A charge of $9.00 per session covers pool admission and bus transport

School Camps – A direct charge will be made to each student who participates in our camping program.
A charge per child of approximately $50 Gr P/1/2; $250 Gr 3/4 & $250 Gr 5/6

Voluntary financial contributions

Gardening & Maintenance charge - A charge will be made per family to cover the cost of employing a gardener to mow lawns and a handyman to maintain the buildings and grounds.
A charge of $50.00 per family

Technology Charge: - A charge will be made per Grade 5 & 6 student to cover the cost of laptops which have been purchased for each student.
A charge of $80.00 per year

School uniform – a price list and order form is available through the office and on our Tiqbiz app.

Healthcare Card Holders
If you hold a current Healthcare/Pension card you will be credited $120 per child to reduce your essential payments. Your healthcare card will need to be presented at the office to be copied by Feb 28th.
CHANGE OF DETAILS. (Please complete and return by Friday 13th February)

FAMILY NAME

ADDRESS

OCCUPATION – MOTHER WORK PHONE

OCCUPATION – FATHER WORK PHONE

HOME PHONE NO

MOBILE - MOTHER

MOBILE - FATHER

EMERGENCY CONTACT NO. 1 PHONE NO

EMERGENCY CONTACT NO. 2 PHONE NO

Email Address

Would you like the newsletter emailed
Yes No

IMPORTANT!!!!

STUDENT MEDICAL INFORMATION

ASTHMA

If your child’s Asthma plan has been updated please attach current plan.

ANY OTHER MEDICAL DETAILS e.g. Allergies etc.

Please forward details of any changed/updated medical plans.

Office Use Only:
Cases 21
SMS
Emergency Sheets
Lunch Order Menu: Mon, Wed and Friday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOT FOOD</th>
<th>FRESH SANDWICH BAR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HOT DOG W/SAUCE</td>
<td>$2.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAUSAGE ROLL</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARTY PIES .80c each HAM</td>
<td>$2.00, $2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAG HOT CHIPS $2.00 HAM &amp; SALAD</td>
<td>$3.80, $4.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEAMED/FRIED DIM SIMS $1.00</td>
<td>$4.00, $4.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEESEBURGER $3.20 CHICKEN, LETTUCE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BBQ SAUSAGE &amp; MAYO</td>
<td>$3.50, $4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W' CHEESE &amp; SAUCE $2.90 EGG &amp; LETTUCE</td>
<td>$3.00, $3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROAST ROLL $3.90 CHEESE</td>
<td>$2.00, $2.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>PASTA BOLOGNAISE $3.90 VEGEMITE</td>
<td>$1.80, $2.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRILLED CHICKEN, CHEESE &amp; MAYO</td>
<td>$3.90, $4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BURGER SALAD (LETUCE, TOMATO)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARROT, CUCUMBER</td>
<td>$3.50, $4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUTTERED BREAD (2 SLICES)</td>
<td>$1.00, $1.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>EXTRA SAUCE SACHETS .20c each</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>HEALTHY SALAD TUBS</td>
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</table>

| CAKES & SNACKS                  | CHICKEN & GARDEN SALAD | $3.90 |
| ICED DONUT $1.50 FRUIT SALAD    |                    |
| JAM DONUT $1.80 SINGLE APPLE OR BANANA | $1.20 |
| LAMINGTON $1.90                 |                    |
| HEDGEHOG $1.90 DRINKS           |                    |
| JJ's LIGHT & CRISPY SNACKS 20g-PIZZA, |                  |
| SALT & VINEGAR OR CHICKEN $1.20 NIPPY'S DAIRY DRINK 250 ml | $2.00 |
| BUTTERED ORIGINAL POPCORN 30g $1.20 CHOCOLATE OR STRAWBERRY | $2.00 |
|                                  | NIPPY'S FRUIT DRINK 350 ml |
|                                  | APPLE, ORANGE, APPLE & BLACKCURRANT | $2.20 |
|                                  | WATER 600ml | $2.00 |

WHERE SPECIFIC FLAVOURS OR VARIETIES ARE REQUESTED A SUBSTITUTE MAY BE GIVEN DEPENDING ON AVAILABILITY. WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO ACCOMMODATE ALL REQUESTS.

ALL ORDERS MUST BE WRITTEN ON A BROWN PAPER BAG INCLUDING NAME & GRADE. CORRECT MONEY MUST BE IN THE BAG AS NO CHANGE WILL BE GIVEN. THANK YOU.