Introducing....

the fresh
faces...

of Prep 2015!
Echuca West Primary School
Personal Best at the West

Newsletter No. 2 Friday 6th February 2015

Echuca West Primary School
ECHUCA WEST
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Special Events Next Week

Tuesday 10th February
Open Water—Grade 5/6

Wednesday 11th February
Prep Rest Day
Library Sessions begin
EWPS Grade 3-6 Swimming Carnival—Moama Pool
School Council Meeting 7p.m.

STUDENT LEADERS

Hayley Rankin & Thomas Draicchio

Thomas Draicchio and Hayley Rankin continue as our Student Leaders for the next week.

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.

School Council Elections

The annual School Council election process will start next week. The first part of this process is to call for nominations. If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent Category. A nomination form can be collected from the front office or emailed by request. These forms must be lodged by 4:00pm on Monday 23rd February. The term of office for elected members is two years.

We currently have one parent position that needs to be filled.

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school. If the number of nominations is more than the number of vacancies a ballot is required.

Why is Parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

School Council Election Timeline

Notice of election and call for nominations……………………Friday 6th February
Close of Nominations………………………………………….. Monday 23rd February
Display list of candidates, nominator and seconder….Wednesday 25th February
Prepare ballot papers and distribute (if necessary) ……….…Monday 2nd March
Close of ballot………………………………………………….Friday 6th March
Count votes and declare ballot…………………………………Friday 6th March

Parent Information Nights

Parent information nights will be held in Week 4. They will be conducted by the class teachers and are designed to provide you with specific class information and ways that you can best support your child’s education at home. Please note that no supervision for children will be available.

The dates and times of sessions are as follows:
Grade 5/6 – Tuesday 17th February at 7:00pm
Grade 2/3/4 – Wednesday 18th February at 7:00pm
Grade Prep & One – Thursday 19th February at 7:00pm
Family BBQ

On Friday 27th February we will be holding a family BBQ to welcome new families to the school. The BBQ will be held at Apex Park in Echuca and start at 6:00pm. Sausages, burgers (vege or meat), onions, coleslaw and an icy-pole will be provided. Please BYO chair, blanket and drinks. The cost will be $15 a family or $5 per person. An RSVP note will be sent home in your child’s home/school journal next week.

Parents & Friends

A great way of becoming involved in the school is by joining the Parents and Friends Committee. This committee meet during school hours and organise events that help students and families become more connected to the school. If you are interested in joining this committee, or even helping out from time to time, please let the office know or talk to Christine Millen. The focus for fundraising this year is improving the outside appearance of the school. Money raised will go towards painting the rest of the school, purchasing a shade sail for the sand pit area and replacing the carpet in the undercover area.

100th Anniversary Commemoration of ANZAC Day

As there are no surviving soldiers or sailors who fought in WW1, the Echuca Sub Branch of the RSL are hoping to select three students from across the region who can march behind a WW1 banner and represent the local WW1 soldiers and sailors on ANZAC Day. If your child is a descendant of a WW1 soldier or sailor and has access to their medals, please let me know if they are interested in being involved.

Inaugural Swimming Sports

Our very first swimming sports for Grade 3-6 students will be held next Wednesday 11th February at the Moama Outdoor Pool. Students will be participating in 25 and 50 metre events as well as kick-board relays and cork scrambles. The focus of the day is to encourage fun and participation while at the same time allowing us to select students to participate in the Campaspe Zone Swimming Sports on Friday 20th February at the Echuca Pool.

Westwood Park Bus Reinstated

I was informed yesterday that the town bus service has reinstated four afternoon stops for our students in the Westwood Park Estate. The approximate locations of the stops are as follows:

- Corner of Jamieson Drive & James Ave.
- Corner of Jamieson Drive & Caroline Crt.
- Corner of Jamieson Drive & McLachlan Rd.
- Corner of Declan Way & Yeovil Crt.

Students will depart Echuca West Primary School at approximately 3.15pm and arrive at the above stops between 3.20pm & 3.25pm. This is fantastic news for students living in the Westwood Park Estate and will also help to alleviate overcrowding issues in the latter part of the route.

Southern 80

This year is the 50th anniversary of the Club Marine Southern 80. To promote the event our school was asked to select two students who reflected our school values along with the values of ski racing including working as part of a team, believing in yourself and doing your best. The two students were Caleb Millen and Lara Urbaniak.

To recognise their achievement, Lloyd Woolman and Mitch Mulcahy, who ski behind the boat Thunder-nuts, came to our assembly to talk about the race and present Lara and Caleb with a certificate and a hat.
PARENT PAYMENTS

Family statements were posted this 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.

MY SCHOOL TOO

Lila Rix and Emma Kervin for finding out who something belonged to that was left in the yard.

STAR OF THE WEEK AWARD

Grade Prep A—Caiden Kerber for a great start to his Prep year. Caiden is ready to learn all the time by sitting on the mat, listening to instructions and always trying his best. Super start to Prep, Caiden.

Grade 1B—Ryder Johnson for being a STAR FIRST GRADER! Ryder you have had a great start to this year. I love how enthusiastic you are and how you are always ready to learn. You are this week’s STAR!

Grade 2/3C—Riley Hutton for his great organisational skills and for being super helpful around the classroom to his classmates and teacher. Well done Riley!

Grade 4D—Seth Blade for being conscientious and very helpful in the classroom and being able to see the funny side of awkward situations!

Grade 5E—Kirsty Nichol for a fantastic start to the year. She always works hard and makes an effort to be inclusive of others in the classroom. Fantastic job Kirsty!

Grade 6F—Erin Blachford for having an outstanding start to the year and always staying focused on the task at hand.

CLASS OF THE WEEK

This week’s Class of the Week is Grade Five: for choosing to play games that are inclusive and help to build positive relationships.
Echuca West Parents and Friends

Here you can follow along with the latest news and upcoming events for our school.

www.facebook.com/echucawestparentsandfriends

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**

Now we have commenced a new year, you will need to check and change your tiqbiz selections to match the year level and information you want to receive.

To do this:
1. Go into the tiqbiz app and click the menu button in the top left.
2. Click ‘find & tick”
3. Type in our school name, and click the school when it appears.
4. Leave the Whole School or General box ticked on, but on the specific year level boxes below you can tap to select and deselect the grades you require.
5. Once you have completed the changes you needed to make, return to the inbox.

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. If there are any changes to your details please return the form attached to last weeks newsletter to the office. Thanks.

PREP REST DAY

Next Wednesday 11th 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.

ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOLS

Active After Schools has had a change of name and is now Sporting School Victoria. Due to the changeover the activities will not be funded by the Australian Government until July 2015. Therefore our program will begin again in Term 3, 2015.

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.

Most school uniform items can be purchased at the school. Just call into the office and see Clare or Vikki for an order form.

School bags can be purchased from the school.

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.

BIRTHDAYS IN THE SCHOOL THIS WEEK

We would like to wish a happy birthday to Asha Gray and Tayah Healey who are celebrating their birthdays this week. We hope they have a great day.

REMINDEERS

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.
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
Monday 16th-Thursday 19th February
Grade 5/6 Swimming
Tuesday 17th February
Grade 5/6 information Night 7.00p.m.

Wednesday 18th February
Prep Rest Day
Grade 2/3/4 Information Night 7.00p.m.

Thursday 19th February
Grade Prep/One Information Night 7.00p.m.

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

GRADE REPORTS

Grade Prep A: Well done to all the Preps and Prep parents, we have made it through the first week! We have started quite well and the Preps are getting used to the big days and routines. Thank you for reading all the notes and returning the Local Excursion permission forms. Please try and mark a time for Wednesday interviews as explained in Home School Journals. The times and dates are on the Prep door. We will try and get to the Library next Thursday afternoon so please send along a library bag or supermarket plastic bag for the time being. We have looked at ‘s’ as a sound and letter and the Preps are finding ‘s’ everywhere. In Maths we are concentrating on numbers 0 to 5 and shapes. So, enjoy the year and don’t forget to see me if you have any concerns or questions. The answer to the first question is – yes, the Preps get very tired and sometimes a little cranky at home after a big day at school. Enjoy your weekend.

Grade 1B: Welcome back to all our families. Our Fabulous first graders are settling in well. They have been learning the rules and routines of our school life for this year. We’ve been doing lots of STAR interviews to learn about each other and our likes and dislikes. We have been setting up our program structures and our main focus has been ‘read to self’ and building ‘reading stamina.’ Thank you so much for your help already with reading at home and helping to read in the classroom. We love having you here. Already, there is some great writing on display in our room. In Maths we have launched our number focus and have been looking at developing our confidence with number sequences, numbers before and after and have played lots of maths games to aid our learning. We’ve had lots of fun with Mrs Mathers and Mrs Devlin as part of our specialist areas – Sport, Health, Science, Music and Indonesian. Library starts next Wednesday (11th Feb) so don’t forget to pack that prized borrowing bag. Have a great Southern 80 weekend and see you back fresh and ready to go for week 3. Mrs Bourke and her fabulous first graders!
**Grade 2/3C:** Welcome back everyone! We are all looking forward to a fantastic year in Grade 2/3. We have had a fabulous start to the year and it has been wonderful to see everyone coming to school every day with a great big grin on their face, ready to learn. In Literacy we have been revising how to choose a just right book and we have been improving our reading stamina. Every day we try to stay in our “reading bubble” for one more minute. So far we are up to 8 minutes! Who knows where we will stop? It has been great to see so many students reading at home every night and marking it in their reading log. Keep up the good work! In Maths we have been looking at big numbers and how to say them and write them. We have also welcomed a new student into our classroom: Jett Fleming. What a great start to the year. Well done Grade 2/3!

**Grade 4D:** What a positive start to the year. Grade 4s enjoyed catching up with their friends and it was great to see the enthusiastic way that everyone adapted to new class routines and quickly settled in to concentrate on their learning. It is always quite exciting when supplies are handed out and we all get to work in new books and set new goals for the year. We have worked out our classroom agreement and signed the My School Too board for this year as well. In Literacy we have been practising all of the procedures we will be following for Reading and Writing workshops throughout the year. Our unit this term is ‘All about me’ and on Monday we had a go at using the correct proportions for drawing a self-portrait. It was challenging but the finished art work was really good. Our P.E. focus this term is Cricket and we have been working on our hitting skills. We are really looking forward to the very first Echuca West Swimming Sports next Wednesday. There will be different events so everyone can be included and it should be a lot of fun. Don’t forget the sunscreen!

Have a great weekend everybody.

**Grade 5E:** Grade 5 have had a fantastic start to the year. We are loving our new open space classroom and working in different areas. The highlight of the week has been getting our laptops and changing our backgrounds as well as learning how to use the webcam to take photos. We have worked together with grade 6 to establish classroom rules, roles and responsibilities. We are enjoying writing our cereal box autobiographies, including coming up with a creative name for our cereal and we look forward to publishing these next week. We have started to establish our daily 5 routines and will get stuck into this next week. We looked at place value in maths and have started daily 10 to make sure we are practising our numeration skills daily. We are learning art elements in Art with Mr Watson, and have started netball skills in PE with Mrs Irving. Have a great weekend and rest up for our busy week next week with open water and swimming sports.

**Grade 6F:** It has been a wonderful start back to the year for grade 6. The students have settled quite well into their new environment of grade 5/6 and are working well in the open classroom. It has been fun working with Mr Watson, Mrs Irving and Mrs Campbell in different areas of the classroom. We have spent most of the week getting used to the routine, which included exploring the Daily 5 activities in Literacy, learning place value and order of operations in Maths, setting up our brand new laptops and working on our autobiographies. We are excited for the new opportunities we will experience as grade 6 and the leaders of the school this year.
### Checklist for Parents

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Does your child have an up to date Asthma Action Plan (Asthma Care Plan)?</strong></td>
<td>The Asthma Care/Action Plan tells the school how to manage your child’s asthma and what to do if their asthma gets worse. This should be updated &amp; signed by the doctor on an annual basis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Does your child carry their reliever puffer and spacer with them at all times? Or is it readily available to their Carers?</strong></td>
<td>Medication needs to be available wherever your child may be (school, child care, sporting field, home)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Are you and your child aware of their asthma triggers?</strong></td>
<td>Do you take steps to avoid these triggers? Are the Teachers aware of these triggers?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Do you listen to what your child says?</strong></td>
<td>They will be aware of their asthma symptoms and should be able to tell you when they need their medication.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Does your child take their asthma medication correctly?</strong></td>
<td>Good technique allows more medication to get into the lungs where it is needed. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you would like to check your device technique.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The Asthma Foundation of Victoria. FREECALL 1800 278 462. asthma.org.au
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)

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

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

Moama - Echuca Border Raiders Soccer Association

Training Times
Border Raiders Junior
(Saturday Morning Competition)
U-7 4.30pm – 5.30pm
U-9 5.00pm – 6.00pm
U-11 / 13 5.30pm – 6.30pm
U-16 6.00pm – 7.30pm

ALL SESSIONS ARE AT JACK EDDY OVAL
ON WEDNESDAYS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

NEW PLAYERS WELCOME
COACHES ALSO REQUIRED FOR THESE SESSIONS
For additional information please contact:
Head Coach Dave Coward dcoward@footballechuca.com.au
or 0400 296 671 / 0407 715 747

AUSSIE HOOPS
BASKETBALL PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN BETWEEN 5 & 8

Where: Echuca Basketball Stadium (Suttersfield 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.aussiehoops.com.au/