Stratton House takes the cup at Echuca West Swimming Carnival
Special Events Next Week

Monday 16th-Thurs 19th February
Grade 5/6 Swimming

Tuesday 17th February
Dillmac Music Lessons begin
Grade 2/3/4 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/1 Information Night 7.00p.m.

Friday 20th February
Interschool Swimming Sports

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

New Dismissal Time - 3.10pm

Last week I informed everyone that the town bus service had reinstated four afternoon stops for our students in the Westwood Park Estate. This is welcome news but is causing a great deal of disruption at the end of the day due to the bus being required to depart Echuca West Primary School at 3.15pm in order to connect with other services. Consequently, students wanting to use this service need to be dismissed at 3.10pm so that they have enough time to catch the bus. This issue was raised at School Council last night and a decision to adjust our bell times so that all students can be dismissed together at 3.10pm was made. This change will start on Monday 16th February.

Bell Times

08.55am First Bell
09.00am - 11.00am Class session
11.00am - 11.30am Recess
11.30am - 01.30pm Class session
01.30pm - 02.10pm Lunch
02.10pm - 03.10pm Class session
03.10pm Dismissal

Inaugural Swimming Sports a Huge Success

Our very first Echuca West Primary School Swimming Sports for Grade 3-6 students was held on Wednesday 11th February at the Moama Outdoor Pool. Students participated in 25 and 50 metre events as well as kick-board relays and cork scrambles. It was great to see everyone having a go and doing their best. Thank you to all the parents who supported this event and helped out on the day. I would like to congratulate Mrs Irving for organising such a successful carnival. The winning House was Stratton.

The age group champions were:
12/13 Year Old Girl Champion – Nemesha Collins
12/13 Year Old Boy Champion – Gabe Gallimore
11 Year Old Girl Champion – Asha Gray
11 Year Old Boy Champion – Bodhi Chique
9/10 Year Old Girl Champion – Emma Judd
9/10 Year Old Boy Champion – Max Collins

Photos of the carnival will be included in next week’s newsletter.

School Council

If anyone is interested in becoming a member of school council, all you have to do is arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself. 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 have one vacant position that needs to be filled.

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.
Parent Information Nights

Parent information nights will be held next week. 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

STAR OF THE WEEK AWARD

**Grade Prep A—Norah Lenne** for being a very helpful and courteous Prep. She always gives her best efforts in all her work and takes her time to do her work well. Norah is a sensational Prep girl to teach.

**Grade 1B—Tarni Chalmers** for the beautiful smile she brings to school each day, her lovely reading and for skip counting by 2s all the way to 100. What a star!

**Grade 2/3C—Jett Fleming** for his fantastic effort to follow all our classroom routines. You are settling in really well at your new school. Well done Jett.

**Grade 4D—Will Kervin** for his positive approach to learning and the effort he puts into making his writing interesting. Well done, Will.

**Grade 5E—Beau Trahar** for his positive attitude towards learning. He also put in his personal best at the Echuca West Swimming Sports and was willing to have a go. Well done Beau!

**Grade 6F—Caleb Millen** for starting off the year with maturity and leadership. You are always inclusive of others and willing to help out fellow classmates.

CLASS OF THE WEEK

This week’s Class of the Week is Grade Prep: for making a great start to the year and enjoying each other’s company.

MY SCHOOL TOO

**Logan Blachford** for naming it to someone who was not making a good choice.

**Kynan Baldwin** for not being a bystander when he saw someone not doing the right thing.

**Aliyah Rankin** for not walking away when someone dropped their lunch and staying to help.

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Millewa is House of the Week. Well Done.

**Points:**
- Stratton: 790
- Millewa: 820
- Watson: 700
**GARDEN GURU OF THE WEEK**

Noah Mundie for working tirelessly turning the soil in the garden. Well done Noah!

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**PREP REST DAY**

Next Wednesday 18th February is PREP rest day. Preps will have a rest day each Wednesday during February.

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**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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**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.

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**BIRTHDAYS IN THE SCHOOL THIS WEEK**

We would like to wish a happy birthday to Brandon Hope, Cora Wilson, Luke Steele, Blake Healey and Shyloh Chique who are celebrating their birthdays this week. We hope they have a great day.

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**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 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: The Preps have been at school for 10 days. It seems like they have been here for much longer as they have settled so well into school and work routines. Many thanks for coming out on such a hot day Wednesday for Prep Interviews. Your time is much appreciated. We have been counting in Maths and making sure that we touch or move each object as we count. Mr Triangle is hanging on our windows with all his triangle friends. The sound ‘t’ has been our focus this week and a little work on ‘m’. The Preps are having a go at writing and this is great to see them practice their letters and sounds. We went to Library yesterday and borrowed one picture story book. Please remind your child to return this book next Thursday as you can’t borrow unless the other book is back. Don’t forget our Information night next Thursday. Enjoy your weekend.

Grade 1B: This week we have been enjoying reading “Where’s My Teddy?” by Jez Alborough. It is has been a great text for us to practice reading with expression and feeling! Our classroom routines are going well. All children come to school, read, then go and play outside. On the first bell, we come back into our classroom and start our ‘read to self’ before our morning housekeeping. Shared reading is next, followed by our ‘Daily 5’ reading groups which started this week. In Maths we have been skip counting by 2s and 5s, exploring 2D shapes and reviewing o’clock times. In Art this week we explored primary and secondary colours through the story ‘Mouse Paint.’ Remember our information evening for Prep/One will be held on Thursday 19th February at 7pm in the Grade One classroom. We hope to see you there. Happy Weekend, Mrs B and the fabulous first graders!
**Grade 2/3C:** I can’t believe we are at the end of week 3 already! We have had another great week of learning. In Literacy we have been listening to the “reader’s voice” inside our head when we read, and we are learning how to use sticky notes to record our thoughts. We have also been writing about people and places that are special to us: trying to describe things with lots of detail. In Maths we have been working with big numbers into the thousands and have been putting them in order from smallest to biggest. We also played our first game of chess. It is really tricky to remember how all the pieces move! On Wednesday Grade 3s had a great day at the pool at our school’s first swimming carnival. Well done everyone. The Grade 2s had a good day too back at school and were glad to be out of the heat! Hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Please remember our information night next Wednesday at 7pm in the Grade 4 room.

**Grade 4D:** We have all been putting a lot of effort into reading silently when we come inside in the morning. It’s great to see everyone so focused and absorbed in their books. We have been working on strategies to help us think about the text and make connections to improve our comprehension. We have decorated our writer’s notebook and we are enjoying writing down our personal stories and trying to use interesting words and expressions. In Maths we have been working with place value and large numbers. We are very excited about the number of new laptops available in our classroom. It means we can all work with a partner on a computer at the same time. If the grade 2-3s are not using them, we have enough computers for everyone to have one to themselves! The Swimming Sports on Wednesday were very successful and so much fun! Even though it was such a hot day, there was plenty of shade and we were all very sensible and sun smart. Everyone had a chance to compete and receive a ribbon. It gave us an opportunity to demonstrate our skills, take on a challenge and push ourselves to do our personal best. A big thankyou to all of the parents who helped out on the day. Don’t forget that the 2, 3, 4 Information night is next Wednesday and we hope lots of parents will be able to come. Have a great weekend, everyone.

**Grade 5E:** Grade 5 have been busy in the water this week! On Tuesday students went to Maiden Inn to complete an open water course which included a number of rotations learning survival skills and safety in and around the river. We then competed in the first annual Echuca West swimming sports on Wednesday. We were really proud of all the students in grade 3-6 for having a go at various events and showing their personal best. Congratulations to Asha and Bodhi who were the age group champions from grade 5 and to Stratton who were the winning house. Everyone did really well to survive the heat and we were proud that students managed to stay sun safe both days. Back at school our cereal box autobiographies are coming along with most students nearly ready to print and put their cereal box together. Daily 5 is in full swing this week including guided reading groups and our 4 independent reading choices. We have all selected a reading goal and are working towards reaching that goal. In maths we have started looking at the 4 operations. Addition and subtraction have been our main focus. We have also started our digital portfolios and learnt how to hyper link on power point. Have a great weekend and don’t forget swimming lessons start on Monday.

**Grade 6F:** It has been an eventful week for grade 6. We are settled into our daily routine of Literacy and Maths with the grade 5s and thoroughly enjoying learning with new people. In Literacy we have been setting ourselves reading goals and completing our daily 5 requirements. In Maths we have looked at the 4 operations and completing sums and equations based around them. On Tuesday we participated in ‘Open Water’ at the Big6 Holiday Park on the Murray River. It was great fun and we learnt a lot about water safety around the river. On Wednesday we competed in our house groups for the first Echuca West Swimming Sports. It was a hot hot day but we managed to survive the brutal heat. The day was a great success.
ECHUCA & DISTRICT NETBALL ASSOCIATION INC A0000568P

SATURDAY NETBALL REGISTRATIONS
Net Set Go, Primary & Senior Registrations can be downloaded at edna.org.au. Primary commences 10.30am
Due date MARCH 25TH. All enquiries telephone
Netball Office 54801725 Betty McCoomb President

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Girgarre Community Cottage
Trade Day Fundraiser
February 22nd, 1pm

Come and join us at the Girgarre Community Cottage (27 Olympic St, Girgarre)

For fun, laughs and the opportunity to purchase some great items, lucky door prizes and Raffle.

Products available include:

- Chefs Toolbox
- Scentsy
- Thermomix
- Body Shop
- YIAH
- Avon
- Tupperware
- Linen
- Nature’s Direct
- Green Thumb’s Nursery
- Neways
- And More...........

Come along, grab some great products and support this Community resource, including the Girgarre Community Car.
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
7 ways to make this year your child’s best year ever at school

A new school year means a fresh start for students. Regardless of your child’s performance last year, they start school with a clean slate. A break offers students the chance to begin new habits and adopt new behaviours.

Here are seven ideas to help you make the most of the fresh start and make this year your child’s best year ever at school:

1. Commit to your child going to school every day on time. One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day – and gets there on time. Kids spend more time asleep than at school, so we need to maximise every day to get full value.

2. Help kids start each day well. A good night’s sleep, a healthy breakfast and some words of encouragement from you will help set a positive tone for a day of learning. This may mean that you adjust your morning routine so that kids have plenty of time get up, eat and get ready for the day.

3. Establish work & study habits. The most successful students are those that develop regular study habits that suit their lifestyle, their study style and their school’s expectations. Find out the work expectations from your child’s or young person’s school and help them establish a work routine that matches.

4. Make sure your child gets enough sleep. Many children and young people are sleep-deprived, which impacts on their well-being and their learning. A good night’s sleep consolidates learning, as well as assist future learning. Children need between 10-12 hours of sleep each day, while teens need a minimum of nine hours. Help kids get sufficient sleep by having a regular bed-time and get-up time each day. Have 45 minute wind-down time each night, and remove screens and mobile phones from bedrooms.

5. Encourage kids to exercise. Kids today get less exercise than those of past generations, which is an impediment to learning and mental health. Health professionals recommend a minimum of 60 minutes of exercise per day for kids of all ages. Encourage kids to play sport; promote free and active play and look for ways to make moving part of their daily lives.

6. Focus on being friendly. Schools are very social places requiring kids to negotiate many different social situations each day. Encourage kids to be open and tolerant; to be friendly; to be involved in plenty of activities and to be social risk-takers.

7. Develop self-help skills. Successful students are often well-organised, self-directed and self-motivated. You can foster organisational skills and self-direction by developing simple, age-appropriate self-help skills related to their every day lives. Such skills as making lunches, packing school bags, and organising after school schedules can be great lessons that impact on how kids perform at school.

At the start of the school year kids are more likely to adopt changes than at any other time. Make the most of the opportunity by focusing on two or three areas to really focus on and you’ll find that the rest will fall into place.