Grade 2/3 had great fun at the pool...
Monday 2nd November

Monday 2nd November is not a pupil free day for our students. School will operate as normal except for country bus services which have been cancelled. This is the first time this has happened and I apologise for any inconvenience this may cause. I was informed on Tuesday that the country buses would not be running because most of the other schools in the area were closed. Also, there will be NO LUNCH ORDERS on this day. Sporting Schools Cricket will still be going ahead.

Change to Town Bus for Monday 2nd November only

Students travelling from Moama, East & South will need to catch the 8am bus which will take them to the Old Echuca Post Office, students will then be picked up at 8:30am from the Post Office and will travel via Echuca College, Jamieson Drive and Fehring Lane to Echuca West Primary School. After school the bus will run the opposite route from the morning.

Tuesday 3rd November is a pupil free day.

Our next pupil free day is Monday 30th November. This will be a report writing day.

New SMS Communication Service

Last week our school administration software (CASES) was upgraded and we now have the ability to send SMS messages to parents for a variety of communication purposes. At the moment we are sending messages with Echuca West Primary School as the sign off, however, due to the limited number of characters we can send this will eventually be changed to EWPS.

School Dresses

It has recently been brought to my attention that white and blue checked school dresses are very difficult to find in Echuca. Once upon a time you could find them at Target, Big W or Best and Less but unfortunately they do not always carry enough stock and Big W has now stopped supplying them altogether. To help alleviate this problem the school will order and stock a small number of dresses through LW Reid. The dresses will cost approximately $20.

Somers Camp

On the 3rd November, four of our students will be departing for Somers Camp. I would like to wish them all the best and encourage them to make the most of this exciting opportunity. The students attending are Tyler Williams, Natalia Williams, Sean Tuckerman and Erin Blachford.
**STAR OF THE WEEK AWARD**

**Grade Prep A - Taylor Clarke** for writing a terrific story about being caught in a whirlpool. Your story was exciting and had lots of characters. You also wrote it in a swirly, whirly way. It was a great story to read. Well done.

**Grade 1B – Tarni Chalmers** Tarni, your handwriting continues to improve every day and I can see how hard you focus and do your best to ensure that it is neat and legible. Keep up your fantastic handwriting efforts!

**Grade 2/3 C – Shyloh Chique** for the amazing effort you put into everything you do. You have a terrific attitude towards learning and have given your personal best to everything you have done this year. Well done Shyloh!

**Grade 4D - Blake Harding** for the extra effort you put into finding out about your ancestors for homework. Your report was detailed and very well presented. Congratulations Blake.

**Grade 5E - Jayden Johnson** for improving his organisation skills. He has made an increased effort to ensure he is organised with logging his nightly reading and making sure his diary is in each day. Well done Jayden.

**Grade 6F - Bailey Harding** for your positive attitude in the classroom. I love the way you were willing to change your ‘Think it, Make it, Market it’ business plan without a fuss. Your logo and slogan are spot on too!

**CLASS OF THE WEEK**

This week’s Class of the Week is **Grade Prep**: for smiling a lot and displaying a positive attitude in the yard.

**HOUSE OF THE WEEK**

Stratton is House of the Week. Well done.

Points:

- Stratton: 4940
- Millewa: 3360
- Watson: 3781

**MY SCHOOL TOO**

**Nemesha Collins** and **Bailey Harding** for helping two younger students negotiate a positive outcome in the yard by reminding them about our school values.

**Dael Buntine, Dakota Monigatti, Halle Gray** and **Alicia Callander**: for not being a bystander on the bus and in the yard and standing up for someone who was being treated unfairly.

**MUSIC/INDONESIAN WORKER OF THE WEEK**

**Abbey Collins** for the way you looked after your buddy from the Special School on Thursday. You made him feel very welcome and safe. Great work.
SPORST STAR OF THE WEEK

Moana Broughton for showing us your great putting skills and always listening in PE and trying hard to improve your technique.

SCIENTIST OF THE WEEK

Sophie Peterson who is always prepared for her science lessons, uses her time productively and completes everything that is asked of her to the best of her ability. Great work Sophie!

GARDEN GURU OF THE WEEK

Tegan Lenne for always putting 100% into watering and tending to our garden. She demonstrates initiative, is always well mannered and praises the efforts of others. You are a pleasure to have in our garden Tegan!

SPORTING SCHOOLS PROGRAM

Sporting Schools Program in Term 4. Our Sporting Schools Program has begun. We are running sessions between 3.30pm and 4.30pm on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Activities include:
Monday 2nd November—Cricket—Session 3
Wednesday 4th November—Basketball—Session 3

Interested children can get 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.

ECHUCA MOAMA SHOW

SHOW ENTRIES: Just a reminder to those wishing to enter items in the Echuca Moama Show next weekend that they must have their entries to Mrs Mathers by next Thursday. Names need to be included on the back of items.

CRAZY CAMEL ART FUNDRAISER

Order forms have been given out to each child and are also available in the office. You may also order and pay online. If you wish to view your child’s artwork before ordering, please see your child’s class teacher. Orders and money are due back at school next Friday November 6th.
PREP TRANSITION 2016

Not long now for all those preschool children waiting to start school. As part of our transition program we email the weekly newsletter to new families. This will help you keep up to date with what’s happening.

**Birth Certificate and Immunisation Details.** If you have not already done so please bring to the school on the first orientation day a copy of your child’s Birth Certificate and Immunisation details. These are a requirement for enrolment.

All new families are invited to attend any programs that are planned in term 4. Transition sessions will be held for children who are enrolled in Prep for 2016 on the following days:

**Day 1: Tuesday 17th November 9am-11am**

Students will spend this time participating in normal classroom activities and parents are welcome to stay until children are settled. It is useful to gently ease children into staying at school on their own and gradually becoming more independent. Parents can pick their children up in the classroom before 11.00am.

**Day 2: Monday 23rd November 9am-11.30am**

On this morning students will be in class from 9.00 to 11.00 and then spend recess with the rest of the school. They can bring along a snack for morning tea. Parents can pick up their children from the playground any time between 11.00 and 11.30 a.m.

**Day 3: Wednesday 2nd December 1.30pm-3.10pm**

On the third day students will be in the class for the whole afternoon. They will need to bring some lunch. They will eat lunch in the undercover area and then have a short play before going back into class. Parents can pick up their children at 3.10 pm.

**Day 4: Tuesday 8th December 9am-3.10pm**

On the fourth day students will be in the class for the whole day. They will need to bring a small snack for morning tea and some lunch. They will eat lunch in the undercover area. Parents can then pick up their children at the end of the day at 3.10 pm.

**WHOLE SCHOOL CONCERT**

Hi everyone. In Music we have already begun practicing for our grand concert at the end of the year. The children are very excited. It is in the same venue as last year; Rich River Golf Club, Tatalla Room, on Thursday 17th December at 6:30pm for a 7pm start. If your child is not able to participate please let me know as soon as possible. At the moment I am looking for some props. If anyone is able to lend me anything from the list below it would be great. I will send grade notes home as I finalise details for each act.

*Pirate gear:* Jolly Roger flag, treasure chest (or large wooden box), thick rope, large anchor etc

*Children’s Ukulele.* I need about 4 of these. Apparently Aldi sold them a few years ago.

**REMEMBRANCE DAY POPPIES FOR SALE**

We have various Remembrance Day Poppies for sale in the school office for $1, $2 and $3 if you or your children would like to purchase one.
**FUTURE DATES**

**Monday 9th November—Friday 13th November**
- Prep/1 Swimming 2-3pm
- **Monday 9th November**
  - Sporting Schools—Cricket—Session 4

**Wednesday 11th November**
- Remembrance Day Service

**School Council Meeting**

**Thursday 12th November**
- Echuca Kanga 8’s Grade 3/4

**Friday 13th November**
- Echuca Kanga 8’s Grade 5/6

**Monday 16th November—Friday 20th November**
- Prep/1 Swimming 2-3pm
- **Monday 16th November**
  - Sporting Schools—Cricket—Session 5

**Tuesday 17th November**
- Prep Transition Day 1—9am-11am
  - Tennis Grade 2-6

**Wednesday 18th November**
- **Grade 2/3/4 Melbourne Excursion**
  - Sporting Schools—Basketball—Session 5

**Monday 23rd November**
- Prep Transition Day 2—9am-11.30am
  - Sporting Schools—Cricket—Session 6

**Wednesday 25th November**
- **Grade 5/6 Market Day**

**Sporting Schools—Basketball—Session 6**
- **Monday 30th November**
  - Pupil Free Day—Report Writing Day

**Wednesday 2nd December**
- Prep Transition Day 3—1.30pm-3.10pm

**Sporting Schools—Basketball—Session 7 (last session)**
- **Monday 7th December**
  - Sporting Schools—Cricket—Session 7 (last session)

**Tuesday 8th December**
- Prep Transition Day 4—9.00am-3.10pm
  - Orientation Day—Grade 6

**Wednesday 9th December**
- School Council Meeting

**Monday 14th December**
- **Prep/1 Celebration Day Out**

**Tuesday 15th December**
- **Grade 6 Graduation**

**Wednesday 16th December**
- **Grade 2/3/4 End of Year Excursion**
  - Grade 5/6 Celebration Day

**Thursday 17th December**
- **Whole School Concert—6.30pm for 7pm start**

**Friday 18th December**
- **Last day of Term 4**

**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.
Grade Prep A: The Preps wrote magnificent stories yesterday about being caught in a whirlpool. Not only were they exciting to read, they were written in a swirling whirlpool so the Preps had to keep turning their paper in a circle to write their stories. I was dizzy just reading them. We added our origami boats to a painted background in Art. We played cricket, co-operative games and Bush dancing for Phys Ed this week. Everyone enjoyed the “Count Us In’ nationwide sing-a-long on Thursday. The school watched it live from Sydney and there were even children singing on top of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. In Maths we have revisited subtraction, this time using a counting frame. Monday is a school day but Tuesday the school will be closed. Enjoy your weekend and we hope you enjoy the Melbourne Cup atmosphere.

Grade 1B: What a busy and productive week we have had, yet again in Grade One. Our transport focus shifted to the waterways this week with us researching and learning all about boats. We enjoyed a hint of Halloween fun through creative story writing and exploring the techniques of Picasso via creating our own Frankenstein portrait. We reviewed ill / ell / all word families in spelling. Maths has seen us continue to explore multiplication. We learned about simple arrays and how it doesn’t matter whether we use groups or rows, the answer will still be the same. It was lots of fun singing along with Mrs Devlin on Thursday as part of the nationally streamed ‘Count Us In’ day where students and teachers across Australia were all singing the same song at the same time. Remember we are open for school on Monday (Nov 2nd) but there will be no school on Tuesday 3rd November (Melbourne Cup Day). Have a great weekend, Mrs Bourke and her fabulous First Graders.

Grade 2/3C: What an interesting start we had to the week when we found out all the different countries our ancestors came from. Next week, everyone will get a chance to share their research in front of the class. On Monday we also learnt how to “tut” in our dance class with Colleen. It was lots of fun. In Literacy, we have been learning about poetry and the features that can be used to create a poem such as alliteration and onomatopoeia. In Art we have finished our patterned fish that will be used for the Crazy Camel calendars. Everyone has done a really great job, as you can see from the example. Just a reminder that orders for the calendars need to be returned to school by next Friday. Please pop into our classroom if you would like to see your child’s work. If you need a new form you can pick one up at the office.

Grade 4D: It has been really interesting listening to everyone’s family research and finding out which countries our ancestors originally came from. We are working towards recording this information on our large world map. We continued to focus on Poetry in Literacy. We read and performed lots of different poems and followed a new model to write poetry on the topic ‘Spring’. We have finished our creations for the crazy camel fundraiser and they look really great. These will be sent away soon, but families are invited to come and have a look at our artwork before making a decision on their order. This week in Maths we have worked hard finishing the George Booker Maths test. Once again we really enjoyed our tennis lesson with David on Tuesday and many of us also had fun participating in a cricket clinic, run by some of the Grade 6 students, at lunchtime on Wednesday. The highlight of the week was ‘Count us in,’ yesterday. This was when students all around Australia, including us, sang the song ‘Gold’ at the same time. We were also joined by some students from Echuca Specialist School. It was really fun.
Grade 5E & 6F: Grade 5/6 have had another busy week of learning. This week we have looked at writing better sentences. We are using the term action chain to extend our simple sentences into more complex sentences. We are continuing to enjoy reading our class novel ‘The Hatchet’. In Writing, our information reports are coming together nicely and we have created a checklist to ensure we have included all the relevant parts. In Maths, we have looked at ratios and how these relate to real life situations. We discovered ratios relate a lot to food and cooking. We particularly enjoyed working out the ratio of coloured smarties in a pack as it meant we got a treat at the end. Our Think it, Make it and Market it businesses have all been approved by the sharks (Mrs Irving and Mr Watson). We are now busy writing advertisements that include slogans and logos. We are really looking forward to our market day on the 25th of November!

On Tuesday, we had tennis with David and it is really great to see the progress everyone has made over the past year. On Thursday we had a visit from the Special School and we enjoyed singing together and watching the live stream from the national sing-a-long ‘count us in’. Our crazy camel pictures are finished and ready to order by the end of next week. Grade 5 had a fantastic game of La Crosse. We hope everyone has a great weekend and we look forward to seeing everyone again on Monday!

COMMUNITY NEWS

world diabetes day

SUGAR – becoming our biggest killer

280 Australians develop diabetes every day. That’s one person every five minutes! Stop the epidemic.

Free Information Evening, including free food samples
Open to all in the community
Thursday 12th November
6:30pm
Echuca Moama Family Medical Practice, Echuca

Come along and learn about healthy eating to prevent or manage Pre-Diabetes, Gestational Diabetes and Type 2 Diabetes with the key focus on sugar!

Practice staff will be present on the night with activities to test your knowledge, information to surprise you, food to try and a movie to watch.

In conjunction with:

Contacts for the Event:
Amy Burrowes – Dietitian
Echuca Moama Family Medical Practice
Phone 03 54806001

Sarah Phillips – Diabetes Educator
Echuca Moama Family Medical Practice
Phone 03 54806001
Parenting ideas

INSIGHTS

Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose

Developing your child’s social media scripts

It’s important to start conversations with children about using social media at a young age to prepare them to be savvy users when we’re not around.

"If a job's worth doing, it's worth doing well."

This mantra always pops into mind whenever I’m about to cut some corners or do a rushed job in any endeavour. As a result I double-check every article I write for mistakes. I over prepare every talk I give. And I continually edit and re-edit my books. This message keeps me at the top of my game.

I can thank, or blame, my mother for inserting this mantra in my mind as she repeated it whenever I did a rushed job as a youngster making my bed, doing homework or cleaning up my bathroom mess.

Parents of every generation have always found ways to frame messages of safety and success for their children to remember. Parents of past generations who only had to contend with the offline or real world intuitively knew that they needed to teach child important lessons about safety and manners rather than assume they’ll be understood.

The same maxim holds true for the world of social media that children now inhabit from an increasingly young age. Even though our children are growing up with technology as a part of their every day lives, they will still make plenty of mistakes while using it. This means we need to have direct conversations with our kids about the comments and posts that are okay to make using social media of all forms.

As parents we teach our kids to talk politely and clearly so that they know how to speak to others when we're not around. In effect, we give our kids social scripts to fall back on when they talk to friends, teachers and relatives. There's no guarantee they'll look an adult in the eye when they speak to them, but our discussions, reminders and lessons about manners will hopefully hold up when we're not around.

The same applies to social media. Our conversations and lessons will prepare them to be savvy users when we're not around. Here are some ideas to get you started:

1 “Is this worth posting?”

The relatively impersonal nature of social media means that we can post information and pictures with relative immunity. Also its immediacy means that we can do so without much thought. This means that kids need to be very critical about what they see online. 'Is this accurate?' and 'Is this worth posting?' are two valid questions children can ask when they read posts placed by others.

2 “Have you taken a big breath?”

A child who blurts out everything that comes into his mind without thinking is sure to put plenty of people offside. ‘Think before you speak’ is the type of message that every child should have in mind.

more on page 2

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... Developing your child's social media scripts ...

The same applies to social media. Just because they think something doesn't mean they post it. "Take a big breath' may just about be the most important message to give your kids about social media.

3 "Do you want the principal to see this?"
An invitation to a teenage birthday party posted on social media is one way to get more attendees than you bargained for! The viral nature of social media means that kids should only post messages and photos that they want to be spread and read by a large audience.

3 "How does this post make you feel?"
We need to teach kids that not every post needs to be commented upon and not every thought needs to be shared, particularly when they are angry. Teaching them to walk away and then to step back in when they've calmed down is perhaps the most important communication lesson of all. It is very relevant to social media as emotions are often the last thing on many people's minds when they haphazardly post a message.

3 "How will you fix this?"
Social media just like any social space requires kids to behave ethically and with kindness. When kids overstep the mark and post hurtful things then it's fair that they fix their mistakes, and apologise. It's reasonable that we teach our children to act with tolerance and with empathy online, and if mean things are posted then they should be expected to try to repair relationships through social media, just as they should offline.

I agree with Galit Breen author of Kindness Wins who says that parents should have conversations with children around social media before they reach the teenage years. Starting these conversations when they are younger means that they are more open to our parenting opinions, as well as being a little more amenable to the messages of tolerance, kindness and empathy that we need to encourage.

Michael Grose