It’s great to have you with us
2016 Preps
**Echuca West Primary School**

**Personal Best at the West**

echucawestps.vic.edu.au.

(03) 54822263

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**Newsletter No. 2 Friday 5th February 2016**

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**PRINCIPAL’S REPORT**

**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 22nd February. The term of office for elected members is two years.

We currently have two parent positions that need 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 5th February
- Close of Nominations…………………………………………………………….Monday 22nd February
- Display list of candidates, nominator and seconder..............Wednesday 24th February
- Prepare ballot papers and distribute (if necessary) ..................Monday 1st March
- Close of ballot.......................................................................................Friday 5th March
- Count votes and declare ballot.........................................................Friday 5th March

**Parent Information Nights**

Parent information nights will be held in Week 5. They will be conducted by the classroom teachers and are designed to provide you with specific class information and ways that you can best support your child’s education at home.

The dates and times of sessions are as follows:

- Grade Prep/One/Two – Monday 22nd February at 7:00pm
- Grade 5/6 – Tuesday 23rd February at 7:00pm
- Grade 3/4 – Wednesday 24th February at 7:00pm
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 first P & F meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 10th Feb at 2.15p.m. in the EWPS staff room.

House Swimming Sports

Our House Swimming Sports for Grade 3-6 students will be held on Wednesday 17th 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 26th February at the Echuca Pool.

STAR OF THE WEEK AWARD

Grade Prep A—Freddy Kenna. Well done Freddy. You have started Preps so well and you have been a great help in the classroom. I love the way you are ready to learn and always organised. Excellent effort.

Grade 1B—Christopher Scott. Welcome to Echuca West Primary School Chris. We are delighted to have you join our classroom and I am proud of the way you have settled quickly into school life with us. Keep up the great effort.

Grade 2C—Lila Rix for the way you enthusiastically approach all classroom activities. I was also very impressed with how engaged you were with all our writing this week.

Grade 3D—Charli Griffiths for the positivity and effort you have made to start the new school year. With a respectful attitude and willingness to listen, you have attempted and accomplished every task set. Well done.

Grade 4E—Shyloh Chique for the great work you did on creating your own learning goals. You gave your work a lot of thought and came up with really good goals which are just right for your learning. Well done Shyloh!

Grade 5F—Dael Buntine for making an excellent start to the year and being a happy and friendly classroom member to those around her in Grade 5.

Grade 6G—Jarryd Taylor for an excellent start to the year. He has really stepped up as a leader of the school and is trying his best to be a positive role model for others. He has been looking for different ways he can help out around the school. Well done Jarryd. Keep up the fantastic work!

CLASS OF THE WEEK

This week’s Class of the Week is Grade Six: for starting the year in a very positive way and setting a good example for everyone else to follow.

MY SCHOOL TOO

Jarryd Taylor for making really great decisions out in the yard and for being an excellent role model for all our students.

SPORTS STAR OF THE WEEK

Brodie Spedding for listening carefully to instructions, excellent jumping and for being a good sport.
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 26th.

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.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund will ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities.

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance will be paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions, or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student will be: $125 for primary school students.

How to Apply: Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef. You should lodge a CSEF application form at the school by 26th February 2016. Healthcare/pension cards will need to be sighted by the school office. For more information about the CSEF visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

PREP REST DAY

Next Wednesday 10th February is PREP rest day. Preps will have a rest day each Wednesday during February.

SCHOOL CONCERT DVD’S

We have DVD’s of our School Concert from last year for sale in the office for $10 each. If you would like to purchase a copy please see the office staff. We would like to thank Shaun Irving for videoing and producing the DVD for us.
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.

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 bottles.

Just a reminder:

- basketball shorts and netball skirts are not part of our school uniform.

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

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 Fred Kenna who are celebrating their birthdays this week. We hope they have a great day.

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.

TERM DATES FOR 2016

Term 1—Thursday 28th January to Thursday 24th March
Term 2—Monday 11th April to Friday 24th June
Term 3—Monday 11th July to Friday 16th September
Term 4—Monday 3rd October to Tuesday 20th December
FUTURE DATES

Monday 15th February
Whole School Hockey Clinic

Wednesday 17th February
Prep Rest Day
School Swimming Sports Gr 3-6

Monday 22nd February
Prep/One/Two Information Night

Tuesday 23rd February
Grade 5/6 Information Night

Wednesday 24th February
Prep Rest Day
Grade 3/4 Information Night

Friday 26th February
Interschool Swimming Sports

Tuesday 1st March– Monday 7th March
5/6 Swimming Program

Friday 4th March
Geelong Footballers visit

Wednesday 9th March
School Council Meeting 7.00pm
**GRADE REPORTS**

**Grade Prep A:** I am a little spoilt with this lovely little grade of Preps. They have leapt into their schooling and routines so fast and are just so keen to learn. Thank you all so much for the wonderful transition they have had to school. No doubt they will get wise to the fact that school goes for many years and we might have a few tears and grumpy little people, but so far so good. We have started our readers and at this stage if you read the book to them and help them by pointing to words and pictures at night, that would be great. In Maths we have started with shapes and are looking at the numbers one to five. The Preps have experienced all Specialist areas - Science, Health, Phys Ed and Music / Indo and are coping well with the different teachers and room changes. The Home School Journal has a few notes in it this week so please read and sign notes where necessary. Thank you for your help with reading in the morning also and remember if you have any concerns, just let us know. Enjoy your weekend.

**Grade 1B:** Welcome to Grade One 2016, we are very excited to have you join our classroom community and our journey of learning for this year. As you would have noticed, our classroom had some simple modifications over the holiday break to create a warm, welcoming, open space between the two rooms. We view ourselves as a community of engaged learners, and it has been lovely to see how quickly our students have settled into life with one another in this positive atmosphere. Already, daily routines have started with morning read to self, CAFÉ shared reading and our Daily 5 Literacy model. We have Maths after recess, followed by Inquiry. Our learning program also encompasses Art, Library and the specialist areas of Music/Indo; Science; Health & PE. Students this week have particularly enjoyed sharing their “All About Me’ paper bags with the four items (no more or no less) that gave a glimpse into the passions and interests of the students in our room. Thank you for making this such a successful mini project. Our rooms are open in the morning for morning reading help, please pop in and hear a child or two if you are able to assist. Happy weekend. Mrs Bourke and her Fabulous First Graders.

**Grade 2C:** The grade two’s have made Mr Minchin feel very welcome here at Echuca West. I have been enjoying getting to know the wonderful grade twos. This week we have been learning a lot about one another with our “All about me” unit. Students have been bringing along four things to share with the class that tells us about their interests. The tricky part was, it all had to fit into a brown paper bag! We have enjoyed listening to and learning about one another every day with this activity. We have been spending time setting up our routines and getting the students into their Daily Five activities in Literacy, which is already looking great. Our focus in Maths this week has been skip counting backwards and forwards and looking at number patterns. We are really enjoying our time joining in activities with the grade ones and working together at times. Thank you very much for your help already with reading at home and helping to read in the classroom. It is great having you join us each morning. We are all looking forward to a fantastic year in grade 2!

**Grade 3D:** Welcome back everyone past and also those new to the school, including myself! We are all looking forward to a fantastic year in Grade 3. Our first week and a half of the school year has begun like a flash. I am pleased to see everyone coming in each morning with a great smile on their face, and a friendly greeting. I have been ecstatic with the reception that I have been given by not only the staff and children, but also the parents that I have met. You all have made these first few days a treat. As a class we have spent time getting to know each other more, and ensure that we have a great classroom environment for 2016. In Literacy, we have revised how to choose a just right book and we have been improving our reading stamina on a day to day basis while focusing on our academic and personal goals for the 2016 school year. It has been great to see so many students reading at home every night and marking it in their reading log, keep it going. In Maths we have been looking at ourselves, beginning with number facts on ourselves and also looking at length and measurement, with a focus on our height. We have also welcomed new students into our classroom: Bessie Duncan and Zoey Marr. What a great start to the year. Well done Grade 3!
**Grade 4E:** Welcome back everyone! We are all looking forward to a fantastic year in Grade 4. 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. The Grade 3/4 classrooms are looking wonderful with their new open-plan layout, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Lenne family for their help painting the Grade 4 room. This week in Literacy, we started reading our class novel “Cool!” by Michael Morpurgo. We used this book to practice our visualising skills. It has also been good to see so many students reading at home every night and marking it in their reading log. Keep it up! In Maths, we have been creating and finding mathematical facts about ourselves; for example on Tuesday and Wednesday we were ‘tailors’ and learned how to accurately use measuring tapes to measure ourselves. We have also been learning how to play dominoes and are having a class competition. So far, Tegan, Harley and Saraiah are in the lead. Finally, we would like to extend a warm welcome to Rebekah Duncan, who is a new student in our grade. What a great start to the year; well done Grade 4!

**Grade 5F & 6G**—Grade 5/6 have had a fantastic start the year. We have been working hard to get to know everyone and working as a 5/6 team. We have established classroom rules and routines. The highlight for the Grade 5 has been getting a chance to explore their laptops. We have been completing a few tests so we can work on finding out students levels and establish appropriate learning goals for the year. We are working on improving our reading stamina which means concentrating on our reading every night and marking it in their reading log. Keep it up! In Writing we have had great fun writing ‘Bio Poems’. In Maths we have been working on place value and have had fun learning a few new warm up games. We learnt about the different parts of the brain and created a brain helmet in class which proved to be a challenge! We started brainstorming some ideas for our passion projects and are looking forward to starting these. In Art, we looked at types of media and are creating a mixed media portrait. Have a fabulous weekend.

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**Echuca Junior Football Club**

**MEET, GREET & INFO NIGHT**

U12, U14, U16 & GIRLS

Wednesday, February 17, 2016
4.00 – 5.30PM

Haw Pavillion, Vic Park Follow us on Facebook

All Players are required to register on-line
Enquiries to Jacqui Rosendale 0415 567 499

**U14 & U12 TRAINING COMMENCES**

Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at Vic Park,
4.00 – 5.30PM

Enquiries to David Bruns ph 0418 597 330

**U16 TRAINING COMMENCES**

Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at Vic Park, 4.00PM.

Enquiries to Rob Morris 0400 512 021

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**River Voices**

River Voices kids' singing groups, ‘Piccolo’ (primary) and ‘Allegro’ (secondary) will start up the 2016 season on Tuesday, February 9th @ 5pm & 5.45pm respectively. Come along, invite a friend and we hope to see LOTS of young singers join our fantastic ensembles!! For more info or to register, email rivervoiceechuca@gmail.com.
2016 Enrollments now being taken!!
Kyabram & Echuca Studios

- 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)
- Performing arts/drama (prep-yr9)
- Dance (ages 5-18 yr old)

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

- Katunga Primary
- 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 Angels Nathalia
- St.Pat’s Tongala
- Tatura Primary School
- Tongala Primary
- Merrigum Primary

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Moama - Echuca Border Raiders
Soccer Association

2016 TRAINING STARTS
Wednesday 10th February

Time:
Under 7s: 4.30pm to 5.30 pm
Under 9s: 5.00pm to 6.00 pm
Under 11/13s: 5.30pm to 6.30 pm
Under 15/16s: 6.00pm to 7.00 pm

Place: Jack Eddy Oval, Moama.

New Players Welcome!

For further information contact
DAVE COWARD - M: 0407 715 747
Email:dcccoaching@hotmail.com
www.borderraiders.com.au
Lunch Order Menu: Mon, Wed and Friday

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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.