WATSON WINS SWIMMING SPORTS
Echuca West Primary School
Personal Best at the West

echucawestps.vic.edu.au
(03) 54822263

Newsletter No. 4 Friday 19th February 2016

Special Events Next Week

Monday 22nd February
Sporting Schools – Martial Arts 3.30-4.30pm
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

STUDENT LEADERS

Alice Davidson & Kobey Allsop
Thank you for your work as Student Leaders.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Watson House wins the Swimming Carnival
Our second Echuca West Primary School Swimming Carnival for Grade 3-6 students was held on Wednesday 17th February at the Moama Outdoor Pool. Students participated in 25 and 50 metre events, kick-board relays, noodle relays and cork scrambles. All of the students displayed excellent sportsmanship and encouraged each other to have a go, do their best and have fun. Mrs Irving, once again, did an outstanding job organising this event and was very appreciative of the parents who were able to come along and help out on the day. A group of students will now be selected to represent our school at the district swimming carnival in Echuca on Friday 26th February.

The house points were as follows:
3rd Place - Millewa – 388
2nd Place - Stratton – 488
1st Place - Watson - 512

The age group champions were:
12/13 Year Old Girl Champion – Asha Gray
12/13 Year Old Boy Champion – Max Collins
11 Year Old Girl Champion – Raya Gallimore
11 Year Old Boy Champion – Kynan Baldwin
9/10 Year Old Girl Champion – Emma Judd
9/10 Year Old Boy Champion – Luke Steele

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.
EMERGENCY EVACUATION DRILL

Yesterday we practised an emergency evacuation drill at school which went well. All of the students moved quickly, safely and responsibly to our evacuation area.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

If anyone is interest 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 22nd February. The term of office for elected members is two years. **We have two vacant positions that need to be filled.**

SPORTING SCHOOLS PROGRAM (formerly known as Active After Schools Program)

**Sporting Schools Program in Term 1.** Our Sporting Schools Program will commence this Monday 22nd February and will run for 7 weeks. We are running sessions between 3.30pm and 4.30pm on Mondays. This term the activity is Martial Arts.

**Monday 22nd February—Martial Arts—Session 1**

Because of the late start and a long weekend this term Martial Arts will continue into next term. Interested children can pick up 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.

FIRST AID UPDATES

Over the last 3 weeks, staff at the school have been participating in workshops to update their first aid qualifications. All of our staff completed first aid, CPR, Emergency Asthma Management and Anaphylaxis training.

Parent Information Nights

Parent information nights will be held next week. 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

CLASS OF THE WEEK

This week’s Class of the Week is Grade Three: for the way they conducted themselves at their first swimming sports carnival. They participated enthusiastically and displayed excellent sportsmanship.

MY SCHOOL TOO

**Kirsty Nichol** for showing excellent sportsmanship at our swimming sports and for always displaying positive and supportive behaviour towards her fellow students.
**STAR OF THE WEEK AWARD**

**Grade Prep A — Chloe Moore** It is great to see you being such a wonderful role model for the new Preps in our classroom, Chloe. You have been very helpful and you have also been working really hard on your own work. Well done.

**Grade 1B — Caiden Kerber** for being a Place Value champion and a great ‘Maths Mentor’ to his peers. Thank you Caiden for working alongside your peers this week when we played place value games and for stepping up to be one of my special ‘Maths Mentors.’ You are our Star of the Week!

**Grade 2C — Abbey Collins** for her positive attitude towards learning. You enter the classroom with a huge smile on your face every morning, ready to learn and you give everything your best. Well done Abbey!

**Grade 3D — Luke Steele** for the excellent application to not only his curriculum work, in particular his handwriting and idea development, but also his determination and success as age champion in the swimming sports.

**Grade 4E — Braydyn Taylor** for the excellent attitude you are continuing to develop towards learning. I have particularly noticed the great approach you have towards maths, reading and writing. Well done Braydyn, keep up the terrific work!

**Grade 5F — Ryan Griffiths** for being a fun and vibrant student. I love the way you approach your learning. You have an excellent attitude and a fantastic work ethic. You always work to a high standard. Keep up the great work. Well done!

**Hamish Duncan** for improved classroom behaviour and outside in the playground. You have made good choices to those around you listening and being respectful. Keep up the great work. Well done!

**Grade 6G — Chloe Peterson** She always tries her best and works hard to improve her skills. I have been particularly impressed with her commitment to reading so far this year. She also pushed herself out of her comfort zone in this week’s Swimming Sports. Well done Chloe!

**Jayden Johnson** He has had a fantastic start to the year. He is extremely hard working and committed to improving his ability. I have been really impressed in the positive choices he has made in the classroom. Well done Jayden!

**SPORTS STAR OF THE WEEK**

**Kobey Allsop** for demonstrating excellent sportsmanship, teamwork and setting skills in volleyball.

**SCIENTIST OF THE WEEK**

**Olivia McKay** for completing an extensive list of items that use water. Olivia concentrated hard, applied herself well and produced work of a very pleasing standard. Well done Olivia!

**GARDEN GURU OF THE WEEK**

**Seth Blade** for making a great contribution to our garden. Your effort and enthusiasm was commendable. A mighty fine effort Seth!
CONVEYANCE
Families who transport their children to school may be eligible for a conveyance allowance. To receive this students must attend their nearest government school and must reside more than 4.8km from that school or 4.8km from the nearest bus stop to 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 24th February is the last PREP rest day.

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.

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.
We would like to wish a happy birthday to Lucas Hewish who is celebrating his birthday this week. We hope he has 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

**Thursday 17th March**

- Regional Swimming Carnival—Swan Hill

**Friday 18th March**

- Family BBQ

**Wednesday 23rd March**

- Grade 6 Leadership Day at Moama Bowling Club

**Thursday 24th March**

- School Photos
- Last Day Term 1

**FUTURE DATES**

- **Tuesday 1st March**– Monday 7th March
  - 5/6 Swimming Program
  - **Friday 4th March**
  - Geelong Footballers visit
  - **Wednesday 9th March**
  - School Council Annual General Meeting 7.00pm

**GRADE REPORTS**

**Grade Prep A:** The weeks seem to fly by and the Preps continue to be so settled. They now have a Sound Song book in their reader pouch and it would be great to practice this with them a few nights per week. Library is on Thursday morning each week and please send the library books back each week. We continue to practice our counting in maths and are making sure we are counting carefully and not too fast. We explored measurement and measured each other with lots of items such as scissors, blocks, books and so on. We traced around our hands and went outside to measure objects in the playground. We looked at the sound/letter ‘m’ and ‘f’ this week as well as practicing ‘s’ and ‘t’. We have been looking at Dishy Washy and working on what happens next and our predicting skills. We had a practice Fire Drill yesterday and that went well. One more Wednesday day off for the Preps and again, a big thank you for making time to see me for the Prep Interviews. Enjoy your weekend.
**Grade 1B:** The visit from Hockey Victoria was definitely a highlight for the class this week. All the students were engaged and enthusiastically tried out their best hockey skills during a games based focus session. Hooking in to Hockey starts on Tuesday 23rd February and is being run by the Echuca Moama Hockey Club. In Literacy, we enjoyed reading Warranyarra the Rainbow Snake and learning about dream time stories handed down from generation to generation. We are wondering if he is still sleeping at the bottom of Nongra Lake. Place Value has been our main focus in maths as we learn that numbers are made up of tens and ones. We also enjoyed making 2D shape creatures with our Grade 2 buddies. Today we enjoyed playing partner and team oriented games with our Grade 6 Buddies. Prep / One / Two are holding their Information Evening this coming Monday 22nd February. The evening will commence at 7:00pm and run for about 30 minutes in the Grade One classroom. We hope to see you there. Have a great weekend, Mrs Bourke and her Fabulous First Graders.

**Grade 2C:** I can’t believe we are already at the end of week 4. Time is just flying by! This week our big book focus, along with the grade ones has been Warnayarra the Rainbow Snake. Everyone has really enjoyed reading this story each morning while we work on our CAFE skills. We are also doing a fantastic job with our Daily 5 literacy rotations and it is running wonderfully every morning. We have been enjoying our new reward system ‘Class Dojo’, where we can gain points by following the classroom rules and by making good choices everyday. In Maths we have continued with working on Place Value and were introduced to a Place Value game that has had everyone hooked! During our “All about me” inquiry unit we have been learning more about one another by making paper houses with drawings of our families inside. We have also made some paper “All about me” cubes containing information about ourselves to be displayed in the classroom. Looking forward to another fantastic week. Have a great weekend everybody.

**Grade 3D:** Hi everyone, what an action packed week for grade 3! With students subjected to their first on demand testing units at Echuca West Primary, in the areas of Spelling and Reading. Students took on both tests with determination and positivity and all gave it their best efforts. I am personally beginning to see each student’s own flair and personality coming out in the work they are doing in the classroom, especially in their writing. Between Grades 3 and 4 our team teaching model is beginning to take place and structure, with groupings now established in Maths, Reading and Spelling. In Literacy, we have continued with our ‘Readers Voice’ model, and implemented our sticky notes system to label our current text we are reading. We have begun to look at personal narratives and incorporating our own personal memories into creating ideas for writing tasks. In Maths we have turned our focus to odd/even numbers and the relationship they have with our operations. Finally, I would like to congratulate all at EWP for a fantastic swimming sports, particularly the organisers, parent helpers and obviously the children for a fantastic display of swimming, sportsmanship and team work. What a full on week, well done Grade 3!

**Grade 4E:** In Literacy this week Grade 4 have been working so hard on using sticky notes to record their “reader’s voice” that they are becoming experts! Well done everyone. We have also been busy writing and looking at the way we can use an interesting sentence right at the beginning of a story to grab the reader’s attention. In Maths, we have been learning about odd and even numbers and investigating rules around adding and multiplying them. In our Grade 3/4 rotations we have been looking at the website “Skoolville” in Computers and in Art we are learning how to use wool top to dry felt a picture. Just a reminder that we have our Information Night next Wednesday at 7pm in the Grade 4 classroom. Looking forward to seeing you there. Have a lovely weekend.
Grade 5F & 6G—Grade 5/6 have had another jam packed week. The hockey clinic on Monday was a great success and was enjoyed by all students. Wednesdays Swimming Sports was a fantastic day. The sportsmanship that all the Grade 5/6 showed was fantastic along with the level of participation by all students. Back in the classroom we have also been busy learning. Our personal narratives are coming along well as we learn to use more descriptive writing and add WOW words to our work. We are still working on paragraphs in our writing along with punctuation. Our Daily 5 sessions are going well and Literacy Planet is working well, extending our comprehension skills. In Maths, we looked at multiplication and division. We are all working on different goals from Times Tables through to Long Multiplication and Division. Our mixed media portraits in Art are looking fantastic and are adding some fantastic colour to the classroom. Passion projects are coming along as students learn to manage their time wisely. A reminder that our Information Evening is next Tuesday the 23rd at 7pm in the Grade 6 classroom. We hope everyone has a lovely weekend.

COMMUNITY NEWS

ZEN DO KAI
Martial Arts
including Muay Thai, MMA, Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu

NO MONTHLY FEES
Anglican Church Hall
Mondays and Thursdays
Kids 5.30pm-6.30pm $7
Adults 6.30pm – 8.00pm $10
Opposite McDonalds
(500 High Street, Echuca)
Enquiries to 0429 407 361

Stuck during study? Get unstuck.
Thanks to your local library, you have FREE access to YourTutor.
This means you can be your best in school this year. No more afternoon homework battles, no appointments necessary. Just log in online for one-to-one, expert help, from the library computer or from home.
A real-life local tutor is ready online to help you get back on track and feel more confident, when you get stuck on a homework question.
This is also great for parents and families (because sometimes, study can be stressful for the whole household). Students can ask for help with a question in maths, English, science, study skills and more.
The best part? The service is entirely free, thanks to your local library.
So why not try it out next time you get stuck?
Get unstuck, with YourTutor.

FAQ for parents
Who are the online tutors?
The online tutors are Australian teachers or university experts, located across the country. The online staff must go through all necessary checks and a long application process, to make sure only the best are allowed in the network. The tutors will not 'give' answers, students are taught to think for themselves and reach their own answers ethically.
How does it work?
Students sign in online using their library card, from a library computer or from home. They're connected to an expert tutor in a one-to-one session, and can ask their question using a live chat function, interactive whiteboards to demonstrate problems like maths equations, and can also browse the web or attach documents for tutor feedback.

FREE with a library card member
Mon - Fri 8am – 8pm
Get to yourtutor.com.au | Click log in and find your library – Campaspe Regional Library