Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to Elmore Primary School for the 2014 school year! A special welcome to families who are new to the school. I hope you and your children enjoy a long and positive association with our very successful and happy little school. It was lovely to see so many parents at our Assembly today, on the first morning of the school year. I enjoyed catching up with new families and touching base with all those familiar faces too! A special congratulations to the families with new babies! The Worme’s have welcomed baby Charlie and Tanya Goodear welcomes baby Dawn. Lovely to see everyone looking so healthy and well.

A hearty thank you to all of those families who turned up on Saturday 25th January to help out at the working bee. The school looked really well cared for this morning!

Our Preps have settled in so well, having a fantastic day, and it is clear that our transition program has played a big part in this success. There is a great feeling of enthusiasm and happiness around the school which is lovely to see. Prep parents, a reminder—Preps do not attend on Wednesdays during February with March 5th being their first Wednesday. This is because the adjustment to being at school all day is a very big one and students need a break in the week to rest and recover, even more so in this extremely hot weather.

I’m also looking forward to having the chance to catch up with many families on Thursday evening at our Welcome Tea and Parent Forum. More information on that is included further on in the Newsletter. It is a lovely informal opportunity to speak with teachers and myself and ask any questions you might have.

As always, however, if there is anything you would like to discuss or something I need to know please pop in, call or email me. I am always happy to chat with parents.

Michelle.

Newsletters come home on Thursdays! Information for Newsletter to Bek on Wednesday by 11:30am please. You can email her at elmore.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

School and House Captains will be announced at next week’s Assembly.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January 2014</th>
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<td>Mon</td>
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<td>13</td>
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<td>20</td>
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<td>27</td>
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**Term One 2014 Calendar**

* Please note some dates have been changed from the original sent out over the holidays.

* All students, including Preps, return on Wed January 29th  
* Parent Forum and Welcome BBQ tea on Thurs January 30th, 5:30pm – 7:00pm |
|---|---|
| Week 2: February 3rd – 7th | * Preps do not attend Wednesday 5th February  
* Whole staff First Aid training at 3:30pm. Parents welcome to attend also. Cost $100.00. See Michelle if interested. |
| Week 3: February 10th – 14th | * Water Familiarisation Program each day this week  
* Preps do not attend Wednesday 12th February  
* Final School Council meeting Thursday 13th February.  
* Active After Schools starts this week. Application forms in the foyer. |
| Week 4: February 17th – 21st | * Call for nominations for School Council Monday 17th February  
* Getting to Know You Interviews all week (School will send information home regarding making a time. This is Grade 1—6 only. Grade Preps will be later in term once assessment completed.)  
* Preps do not attend Wednesday 19th February  
* KidsMatter morning Tea February 21st All welcome  
* House swimming sports Thursday 20th Feb, Elmore Pool. See Newsletter for further info closer to the date. |
| Week 5: February 24th – 28th | * Closure of nominations for school council Monday 24th February  
* Buildings and Grounds meeting Tuesday 25th February, 7:00pm in the staff room  
* Preps do not attend Wednesday 26th February  
* Finance Committee meeting 8:00am; KidsMatter Action Team meeting in Grade P-2 room 3:30pm; Parents and Friends meeting 2:45pm in the Library; Education and Policy meeting 4:30pm in the Grade P-2 room; SRC meeting 1:30pm in the Grade P-2 room – Thursday March 27th February |
| Week 6: March 3rd – 7th | * Responsible pet ownership incursion Monday 3rd March  
* Prep’s first Wednesday – 5th March. Full time attendance from now on.  
* Pupil Free Day #2 – Staff attending Cluster Professional Development Day |
| Week 7: March 10th – 14th | * School Council AGM Thursday 13th March, 7:00pm.  
* Prep interviews this week. |
| Week 8: March 17th – 21st | |
| Week 9: March 24th – 28th | * Finance Committee meeting 8:00am; KidsMatter Action Team meeting in Grade P-2 room 3:30pm; Parents and Friends meeting 2:45pm in the Library; Education and Policy meeting 4:30pm in the Grade P-2 room; SRC meeting 1:30pm in the Grade P-2 room – Thursday March 27th. |
| Week 10: March 31st – April 4th | * Final day of term Friday 4th April. 2:30pm finish.  
* Crazy Hair Day—gold coin donation |
The first award will happen next week!

**Quote of the week:** “Education is the kindling of a flame not the filling of a vessel.” Socrates.

**Principal’s Award**

**The Communication Pocket**

Today your child(ren) will bring home their Newsletter in their red Communication Pocket. These are a great way to easily locate any information sent home such as permission forms, Newsletters, letters home and so on. Students may also choose to use them to keep their Homework safe travelling to and from school, as papers will be protected from condensation from lunch box ice packs and drinks.

The Communication Pocket is also useful if parents need to ensure information is handed in to school too such as permission forms, letters and so on—it works well both ways.

The eldest child in each family will be the one to receive the Newsletter each week, so look for it in their bag, although all students have a Communication Pocket. The Communication Pocket should stay in their bag at all times and should not be removed unless putting something into it or taking something out of it. This will reduce the chance of it becoming misplaced or forgotten. Reminding your child(ren) to check their Communication Pocket and pass on information is a great way to support their developing independence and responsibility.

**Numeracy Award:**
Not yet—next week! Keep doing your best math work!

**Literacy Award:**
Not yet—next week! Keep doing your best reading, writing and spelling!
It’s that time again!

The 2014 water familiarisation program will begin on Monday February 10th until Friday February 14th. This year we are trialling a change of times. We will be attending at the same time as OLSH so that all students from the same grades can swim together.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 3-6:</th>
<th>Grade P-2:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leave EPS at 12:00. Walk to the pool. Change.</td>
<td>Lunch at 1:00 (normal time)</td>
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<tr>
<td>In pool by 12:30</td>
<td>Leave EPS at 1:30. Walk to the pool.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out at 1:30. Change.</td>
<td>In the water by 2:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Have lunch there. Walk back. At school by 2:00pm.</td>
<td>Out around 2:30/2:45 depending on how tired they are</td>
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<td>Change and head back to school in time for 3:30pm dismissal.</td>
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This means that we will have minimal disruption to our curriculum and ensures the morning Literacy block is uninterrupted. It also allows students to have some social interaction with OLSH students which is particularly useful for the seniors training for the Cluster Swimming day. They will have more intensive training because they will have the whole pool to themselves.

House Sports Day will be on the following Thursday, February 20th. Further information regarding times for the day etc will be sent home in the coming Newsletters.

Cluster Swimming Sports Day at Rochester swimming pool where our Grade 3—6 students compete against other schools in our cluster is on Friday 28th February. Further information regarding this day will also come home in subsequent Newsletters.

Students will need to bring their bathers, a towel, a rashi or t-shirt, underwear to change into after, a bag to put their wet things into and a water bottle. It is very hot at this time of year so all students are expected to wear a rashi or other appropriate top whilst at the pool. No top, no swim. Parents, Guardians and family/friends are very welcome to attend. Students who leave straight from the pool must be accompanied by their parent or legal guardian unless previous permission has been sought from me to allow them to leave with another adult. Please ensure they are signed out with their teacher or myself before taking them away from the pool.

Families who have a swimming pool pass will not need to make any payment. Those families who do not will need to pay $3.50 per day to cover the cost of entry to the pool and this payment is required to be paid by all persons entering the pool enclosure. Payment, whether for a membership or for the week, should be made directly to the pool, not to the school. School does not charge families for the cost of the swimming lessons but requests that the pool pass be presented at the office to either Michelle or Bek so that families can be ticked off the list. Otherwise their name will be passed onto the pool as part of the list of families paying daily, which the pool will follow up.

On the first day we will organise students into groups based on observations of their abilities and knowledge from last year. These groupings are fluid and may change as teachers become aware of student needs and capabilities. Taking the most capable swimming students this year in both grades will be Katie Brown. Katie worked with us for last year’s program too. Katie has a great deal of experience teaching swimming privately in Bendigo and is Auswim qualified. Teachers from both schools will be in the water with students. There is a life guard on duty at all times and I will be present as an emergency and first aid person.

If you have any questions about this program please do not hesitate to speak with me.
Student Safety / Early Dismissal / Collecting Students

There may be occasions when you need to collect your child from school early. If this is the case please ensure that you sign them out in the book at the office. For security reasons, students will not be allowed to leave the school with anyone other than those persons listed on their enrolment form as parents/guardians or emergency contacts. If you require someone else to collect your child you should provide the office with written permission beforehand. If there are any custodial issues please keep the school up to date and ensure the school holds a copy of any Court Orders as we cannot act upon them unless we have them in our possession.

When collecting your child from a sporting activity or any activity off the school grounds it is a legal requirement that you sign them out on the roll held by their classroom teacher. Similarly, please also sign for them when collecting out the front after an excursion or camp.

Tedious as these requirements may seem at times, they are essential in keeping your children safe, which is everyone’s priority. Thank you for your support with these matters,

Michelle

Pool Kiosk Roster

Please help out the community by adding your name to the pool kiosk roster to help out. You can always share the timeslot with another person if it is too long.

Thanks to those families who have already committed to helping.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat Feb 1</td>
<td>2—7 pm</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun Feb 2</td>
<td>2—7 pm</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon Feb 3</td>
<td>4—7 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue Feb 4</td>
<td>4—7 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed Feb 5</td>
<td>4—7 pm</td>
<td>Claire Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu Feb 6</td>
<td>4—7 pm</td>
<td>Nicole Hayes</td>
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<td>Fri Feb 7</td>
<td>4—7 pm</td>
<td>Tanya Czuczman</td>
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Getting-to-know-you-interviews

Our first interviews will take place for parents of students in Grades 1—6 in the week beginning Monday 17th February. A note will come home soon for you to fill out your preferred times to meet with your child’s teacher.

The purpose of these interviews is for you to tell us anything we might need to know about your child in order to ensure their experiences at school are as successful as they can be. It is a good time to talk about friendships, whether they are eating their lunch, checking on classroom routines and expectations and sharing any information that teachers might need to know about their abilities, significant events in their lives and so on.

Prep interviews will be held the week beginning Tuesday 11th March to allow time for staff to complete initial assessments in Literacy and Numeracy and to have an opportunity to begin to get to know students a little better.

Further information will come home soon but please contact me if you have any questions.

Michelle
Welcome BBQ and Parent Forum—January 30th

Come along on Thursday January 30th at 6pm for a quick tea at 5:30pm before our Parent Forum at 6:00pm. During this time staff will explain how the day and week works and speak briefly about such things as work expectations, homework, specialist programs, ICT use, and so on.

It is a great opportunity for parents to ask questions about anything they are not sure about to do with curriculum and classroom organisation or arrangements. Please note that if you have more detailed, lengthy or personal matters to enquire about, it may be more appropriate to make an appointment.

Although Bek is still working two half-days, one of her days will always be Tuesday this term so administration-based queries may be best directed to her on those days.

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**Welcome to all of our new students at Elmore Primary:**

Cody, Samantha, Darcy, Jordan, Riley, Isabella, Paige, Kaitlyn, Stephany and Blair.

We are very happy to have you here!
**Student Accident Insurance Arrangements**

Please be aware, the DEECD does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents and guardians are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs, unless the injury is caused by the negligence (carelessness) of a Department or school council employee or volunteer.

Students’ accident insurance policies are available from the private insurance market. These cover a range of medical expenses not covered by Medicare. They can be obtained by parents for individual students.

Parents of students at Elmore Primary School are reminded that Elmore Primary School does not have a whole of school policy.

**Food Sharing**

Due to the increasing incidence in the general community of food allergies we ask that students do not share their food with others, and we ask you for your support in this matter.

**Anaphylaxis and Asthma**

*Action Plans* for **Anaphylaxis** and also for **Asthma** are required for all children who suffer from either, and **must be obtained from the family doctor**. Please ensure that your child has an updated plan if they suffer from asthma or are at risk of experiencing anaphylaxis. A copy of this plan must be provided to the school immediately. It is also recommended that students with a medical condition wear an **Alert Wrist Band** which is available from a pharmacy. See Bek in the school office if you require further information. Similarly, if you child has any medical condition please let us know so we can make sure appropriate measures are taken to keep them safe at school and when on excursions / camps / sports days.

**Remember** — Terms 1 & 4 students must wear a wide-brimmed or Legionnaire-style hat when outside. No hat = no play!

**Hot Weather considerations:**

Lunches: If your child’s lunch contains meat or dairy products such as yoghurt, you might like to encourage them to place it in the fridge in the cooking area. They are welcome to do this themselves.

During these weeks of extreme heat we monitor the temperature and keep students inside at play times with quiet and relaxing activities to do, when it is deemed appropriate to do so.
Student Absences (including late arrivals & early departures)

It is important for parents to realise that absences do impact on a child’s capacity to maximise their learning. The following is worth noting:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days absent per semester (Two terms)</th>
<th>Days absent per semester (Two terms)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 – 6 days</td>
<td>This is the normal range for school absence</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 – 10 days</td>
<td>This attendance is below average. This student could miss over one year of schooling from Prep to Year 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 – 20 days</td>
<td>This attendance rate is poor. This student could miss over two years of schooling from Prep to Year 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20+ Days</td>
<td>This attendance rate is very poor. This student could miss over two and a half years of schooling from Prep to Year 10</td>
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If you are aware in advance that your child is going to be absent please send a note to the school or phone the school. If the absence is unexpected the school should be advised either via a phone call on the morning of the absence or by a note when your child returns to school. Calls to the school can be made after 8.30am. Calls to the school or notes must be provided by parent/carer. In the case where your child has a number of unexplained absences you will receive a letter asking for an explanation of the absences.

We ask you in advance for your cooperation in this matter, as it is very important that we work together to establish good attendance patterns for your child/ren.

**Lunch orders**

At Elmore Primary we have lunch orders from Oasis Café every Tuesday and Thursday. Please find a lunch order list attached. It is the 2013 list. An updated one will be provided as soon as we receive one. It is also on the notice board in the foyer.

Please place the correct money in an envelope and write on it the order and the child’s name and grade. Students then place them in the blue esky which will be collected from school.