Dear Parents and Caregivers,

What a fabulous week of weather we have had for our Water Familiarisation program this week! In this warm weather, in the pool is a great place to be.

The program has kicked off really well with all students showing confidence and giving their personal best. Staff from both schools have been sensational and have supported students’ enjoyment of the program. Several parents have provided positive feedback already about the way the program has run this year in conjunction with OLSH, and there will be a formal opportunity to provide feedback in next week’s Newsletter. One of the obvious benefits is for students to have the opportunity to work with other teachers and receive support and positive feedback from new sources.

Thank you to those parents who have supported the program with bag pick ups and drop offs, helping to stop traffic on the highway so we can safely cross over and generally helping out with whatever needs to be done, including mowing the grass at the pool! You have made a huge impact in the smooth running of our program.

Next week we have Getting-to-know-you interviews. Thank you for returning forms to teachers. You will receive a note from your child’s teacher informing you of your allocated time before the end of this week. Please contact them if you do not.

Enjoy your weekend,
Michelle.
griffiths.michelle.j@edumail.vic.gov.au
**Term One 2014 Calendar**

* Please note some dates will change from week to week due to updates

| 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.)  
* Book covering morning tea / catch up Tuesday 18th Feb  
* 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 |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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  
* KidsMatter Action Team meeting in Grade P-2 room 3:30pm; Parents and Friends meeting 2:45pm in the Library; SRC meeting 1:30pm in the Grade P-2 room – Thursday 27th Feb |
| Week 6: March 3rd – 7th | * Responsible pet ownership incursion Monday 3rd March  
* Finance Committee meeting Thursday 6th March 8am.  
* 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 | * 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 9: March 24th – 28th | * Final day of term Friday 4th April. 2:30pm finish.  
* Crazy Hair Day—gold coin donation |
| Week 10: March 31st – April 4th | **Book Covering Catch Up Morning—Tuesday 18th February 9am**

Come along and help me cover our lovely new books with contact! Kari Giffin and I have been trying to get through it but it is such a slow job and we would love to have some help!

No special skills required! I’m thinking coffee, nibbles (I will provide these!), chocolate, radio, having a chat / catch up (a good change for an informal exchange of ideas/thoughts) —Sounds like fun, right? (Ha ha!) Toddlers/babies very welcome! Just let me know if you can come along. 😊
**Silly Picture of the Week:**

**Quote of the Week:** “Why worry? If you’ve done the very best you can, worrying won’t make it any better.” Walt Disney.

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**Principal’s Award**

**Blair Broadhurst**

For Settling into our school so very well and for always being such a friendly, kind and caring student.

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**Numeracy Award:**

Letisha Mountjoy for her wonderful work with 2D and 3D shapes. Fantastic effort Letisha!

**Literacy Award:**

Emily Giffin for her excellent recount writing, spelling, reading and her positive behaviour in class.

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**House Swimming Sports—Thursday 20th February, Elmore Swimming Pool, Whole School.**

On Thursday 20th February we will all walk down to the pool for a 12:00pm start. We will finish in time to return to school for bus students, or parents are welcome to sign out their child(ren) at the pool and take them home from there at the end of the day. Parents and families are encouraged to come along on the day to support and cheer our students on and may like to dress in their child’s house colours. You might even like to walk down to the pool with us or volunteer to drive their bags down.

Students will participate in three rotations and will be grouped by teachers according to the level they have been working at during our Water Familiarisation week. There will also be a House Relay and the fabulous Mintie Toss! (I think some parents might want to get into the water for that one too!)

Students will need to bring along on the day: bathers (or change of underwear if wearing their bathers to school), water bottle, a packed lunch, hat, rashi (or other protective top), towel, goggles if required and school uniform to change into. Please ensure that all clothes are clearly named—you would be surprised how many homeless socks and undies we find!

Please contact me if you have any questions about this day.

Michelle.
**School Hours 2014**

A reminder to all parents/carers of our school hours:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>School day begins. Session 1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00—11:30am</td>
<td>Recess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30—1:00pm</td>
<td>Session 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00—1:50pm</td>
<td>Lunch play</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:50—3:20pm</td>
<td>Session 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:20pm</td>
<td>Students dismissed</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

At the start of the day and at the end of each play time we have two bells. The first one means stop, pack up, get a drink and go to the toilet. By the second bell all students should be lined up and ready for learning.

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**Supervision of students before school.**

Please note that students are not supervised at school until 8:45am when staff begin yard duty outside. Time prior to this is used by staff for preparation should they be at school, and should be free of supervisory duties. **Students should not be inside the school buildings at all until the bell rings at 9:00am.**

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**Can I Help? 😊**

Parents often want to help out at school and there are many different ways to suit different abilities. We will never turn down an offer of assistance! Some ways you might like to consider are: listening to reading (both grades), helping with math work, covering books in the Library, re-shelving books in the Library, sorting out reader boxes, laminating activities and signs in the office, watering the orchard, pulling weeds, mowing the lawn, cutting branches back, removing green waste, joining a sub-committee (Parents and Friends always has a long list of jobs to do and always welcomes assistance, however small. So does Buildings and Grounds!) or joining school council. The list goes on. Staff and other parents will always be willing to support people who are willing to take on jobs they haven’t done before, so it’s not that scary really. Just let us know if you’d like to help out.

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**Crossing the Highway**

Last week I received a call from our local Police Officer, Dave Rowland. He wanted to inform me that he had been monitoring traffic along the highway in front of our school and had observed several parents crossing the road with their children and not using the crossing.

Dave wanted to remind us that it is very important to show children the safest way to cross such a busy road, and using the crossing is a priority. Please discuss this with your child and show them where they should cross so that we can ensure we are doing everything we can to keep them safe at all times.

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

Please remember your water bottle too.

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**KidsMatter Morning Tea**

**Friday 21st February.** Bring a plate for a shared morning tea. Dads, mums, grandparents, siblings—all welcome! Catch up from 11:00—11:30. There will also be an opportunity to complete online survey in library. Action team members will be present to chat with you about the KidsMatter program. Component 1 is all about valuing diversity in our community and making sure everyone feels welcome.
**Prep/1/2 News**

Thank you to everyone in Grade 1 and 2 for handing in their interview times – your confirmation notes went home on Wednesday so please check your child’s bag. I look forward to catching up with you next week. Prep parents I look forward to meeting up with you in week 7 for your interviews.

Swimming has been fun with our students this week. They have been very enthusiastic and excellent listeners. Thank you to Tanya, Jen and Tina for transporting bags and children in the heat and to Tina for walking to and from the pool with me and to all of the wonderful parents who have helped out – your time and efforts are greatly appreciated!

Prep – 6 House swimming sports are next Thursday at the pool. We will enjoy a normal morning of literacy at school, followed by recess and will walk down to the pool at 11:30 for a 12 noon start. Students will require a cut lunch, plenty to drink and keep an eye on the weather to dress accordingly. Students will have an opportunity to make red and blue streamers, banners, etc. at school for their respective houses. More information is attached to the newsletter. If you are unsure of which house your child is in or would like clarification on any other points please don’t hesitate to ask.

**Reading** – Children read daily at school. It is a good idea to hear your child read daily at home as well and please make sure it is placed in their bag and returned to school please.

**Writing** – Prep – Journals daily and Grade 1/2 – Persuasive pieces and journals. I have been very impressed with the

**Literature** – interpreting what will happen, analysing the story line and evaluating the books we read throughout the week

**Letter** – Jj and adding to our word wall with Jj words

**Mathematics** – Number, Place Value, 2 dimensional and 3 dimensional shapes

**Homework: Gr 1/2** – Words have been sent home for homework please check the inside cover of the homework book for activities. Next week will be to make words using play dough and take a photo. Print and stick in your book or place on a memory stick please and send to school for printing. The making of the words can be done each night and the picture once please.

Thank you to those families who have sent family photos in – we are still hoping for each student to bring one in please.

Enjoy your weekend!

Cheers,

Andrea Bacon

**Thank you**

Thank you to Jen and Tina for mowing the lawns at the pool this week. Well and truly above and beyond the call of duty!!

Thank you also for the work you have been doing in the garden tidying, watering, potting, etc. it is looking very loved. Also a huge thank you to Tim and Jen for installing a dripper system around the fruit trees over the holidays. I know you asked me not to but we are really very grateful and would like to express this publicly. Thank you!!
3/4/5/6 News

This week the students have been practicing their swimming skills and techniques for the Cluster Swimming and House Swimming Sports that will be held over the next couple of weeks. They have shown great energy and enthusiasm and I am sure they will all do their personal best on the day.

Next week we are covering the following:

**Literacy**

**Spelling**- Inventory Spelling Word lists and activities.

**Language**- Text Structure and Organisation- Students will write a recount looking at the language and structure of what a recount piece should look like. Students will be assessed against a recount rubric for language and structure.

**Literature** – Examining Literature – Students will look at examples of what recounts look like, newspapers, reports, journals, informative pieces etc and summarize them in guided reading.

**Literacy** – Interpreting, Analysing, Evaluating (text) – Students will work on comprehension and making inferences relating to the multimodal texts in guided reading.

**Grammar** – Verbs- Students write interesting sentences with different types of verbs.

**Writing** Recount/Journal Writing.

**Numeracy**

**Number and Algebra**- Number and place value – Addition and Subtraction of 2,3,4, and 5 digit numbers.

**Measurement and Geometry** – Shape- 3D objects

**Component One: Every Face Has A Place.**

Target areas and goals for this component include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target areas</th>
<th>Goals</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A school community that promotes mental health and wellbeing</td>
<td>a. School staff understand the importance of mental health and wellbeing, its impact on learning and the significant contributions schools can make to improving student mental health.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. School staff have an understanding of their school community</td>
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<tr>
<td>Respectful relationships, belonging and inclusion</td>
<td>c. School staff expect and model respectful and responsive relationships within the school community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>d. Belonging and inclusion for all school community members is specifically addressed in school strategic planning, policies and practices</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>e. The school environment and communication reflects the diversity of the school community</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>f. School leadership and staff create opportunities for students, staff, families and the wider community to be involved in a range of school activities and contribute to school planning.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Student Safety / Early Dismissal / Collecting Students  (re-run from last week)

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

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**B & S Ball Volunteers Needed Please!!**

It’s that time again and we are on the hunt for volunteers to help with Breakfast on Sunday March 9th, from 6am till 10am. The jobs range from serving food to customers to cooking out the back. You don’t need to stay for the whole time if that is too hard—just tell us the hours you can manage. The last few years we have had some fantastic volunteers who have given up their long weekend Sunday to help raise much needed funds for our school. (Every year I have sworn that I will never eat eggs or bacon again after cooking them all morning!) Although it is an early start, the time really flies and we all head home early enough to still enjoy the day.

If you are able to help out please either fill out the form below and return it to school, or speak with Anna Trewick, the convenor of our Parents and Friends sub-committee, and she will add your name to our list, or let either Bek, in the office, or myself know, and we will pass that on for you.

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**B & S Ball Volunteer Form—Sunday 9th March**

Name _____________________________________________________

I will be happy to help out on Saturday March 8th.

Contact number ____________________________________________________

Signed _____________________________________________________

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![March Long Weekend](image)

![ELMORE summer send off ball](image)