Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Our cluster school staff will all be meeting at Stanhope Primary School during tomorrow’s curriculum day to participate in Professional Development on the use of Curriculum Organiser, a new planning tool for teachers. Curriculum Organiser draws upon the AusVELS curriculum and assists teachers with planning by bringing many useful resources together making it easier to plan and be compliant with curriculum expectations.

Last week I attended the Principals as Literacy Leaders program in Melbourne and it has provided some very interesting learning about how we can help our students become literate. I have now attended two of the five modules, the rest to take place over the course of the year, and will be sharing my learning with staff and supporting them in implementing this learning to their programs for the benefit of all of our students. I look forward to sharing more information with you about this as it develops.

It has been a busy few weeks. I have also attended the Regional Director’s meeting for Principals in the Bendigo Network. One of the important messages to come out of that meeting for Principals to take back to schools is the importance of student attendance at school. Last week in our Newsletter you would have seen the DEECD information page about this entitled ‘Every Day Counts’. The other area of significant change which we need to ensure families are aware of is the regulations around suspension and expulsion. The Loddon Mallee Area has some of the lowest data in terms of expelling or suspending students, which is something for us all to be proud of because it shows that our systems are strong and supportive, but in the interests of transparency and communication, I am attaching the DEECD information sheet regarding these changes to today’s newsletter so everyone can be familiar with them.

During these last two weeks with my being away from school for various reasons, Andrea Bacon has been in the role of Teacher in Charge. I wish to acknowledge the effort and professionalism she has brought to this role.

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 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| * Final day of term Friday 4th April. 2:30pm finish.  
* Crazy Hair Day—gold coin donation |

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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.
Quote of the week:  “The trouble is, you think you have time.” Buddha.

Numeracy Award:  Koby Bacon for his excellent work in long multiplication and helping other students in math. Well done Koby and keep up the good work.

Literacy Award:  Samantha Lacey for the sentences she has been writing by herself this week. Fantastic effort by a prep in her first term!

Emily Giffin
For great tennis playing with Steve the other morning!

Silly Picture of the Week:

Wendy’s Farewell
This term Wendy retired from teaching at Elmore Primary School in true Wendy style...quietly, no fuss, a simple morning tea with the students whom she adored so much...

However, there were many parents and friends of Wendy who also wanted the opportunity to say thank you and good luck. Wendy has agreed to an evening of celebration without any formal proceedings and all parents, caregivers and friends of the school are invited to attend;

When: Friday the 21st of March

Dinner: Bunja Thai Restaurant at 6pm

A movie will follow with details to be advised.

A bus will be running from the school at 5pm and will return approximately 11pm.

Please contact Nicole Hayes on 0438563308 or 54326393 to RSVP for this event and to book a place on the bus.

Bookings must be made by Friday the 14th of March.

Wendy has strongly expressed a casual night, no gifts or accolades, just a pleasant evening sharing two of her favourite things...Thai food and movies!!!
Prep/1/2 News

Last Friday the children looked fantastic in their costumes and had a great time with Miss M. I’m sorry that I couldn’t share the first dress up day with them, but we will have more ‘special’ days together throughout the year.

English

English will be a continuation and extension of topics from last week in writing and guided reading.

Grammar: Proper nouns – Names of places and people and start with a capital letter.

Handwriting: ‘Rr’ concentrating on correct starting points and writing on the line and making our Rr chart of words staring with this letter. Just a hint, when parents are discussing letters with their children could they please concentrate on the sound of the letter rather than its name. This will help them a great deal when learning to read and sound out or chunk a word. I am more than happy to discuss this further with any people wanting more information.

Mathematics: Will be a continuation and extension of topics from last week.

Early Years Numeracy testing will continue next week as well. These tests are incredibly time consuming but valuable to our collection of information so that I can be fully informed when teaching your child. I will be discussing this information with you at your interviews.

Homework Prep – 2: Reading of readers daily please. This will help to establish good routines and assist your child in developing a passion for books and begin their life long journey of learning from the written word.

Homework/Spelling/Mathematics Gr 1 & 2: Spelling words are sent home each Monday with an activity to follow. There will also be a mathematics sheet or times tables to complete. These activities are consolidation of what we have been learning in class. Please feel free to discuss any concerns or queries you may have.

Prep Interviews: Begin next week. Please check your child’s bag for the note to confirm your time and let me know if there are any changes to be made.

Enjoy your long weekend!

Cheers,
Andrea Bacon

Thank you

To David and Anna Trewick for taking away the rubbish in the yard, getting the tyre fixed on the mower and for the lovely job they did with the Connally’s at beautifying our yard. The mowing roster will be amended to fortnightly as it doesn’t require mowing each week. We greatly appreciate everyone’s time and effort in making our school grounds look neat and tidy for our children to enjoy!

Student Representative Council (SRC)

The first meeting for SRC has been held with great enthusiasm from our members. Already there have been some excellent ideas raised for fundraisers next term and what the proceeds could be spent on. More information will follow as these events develop further. Congratulations SRC team!

Andrea Bacon
Student Banking

The Elmore/Lockington/Rochester Community Bank® is delighted to be continuing to support the community by providing the new primary school students of 2014 with a $10 voucher to open a new account or add to an existing account at our branches.

The vouchers are part of an initiative by Elmore/Lockington/Rochester Community Bank® branches to encourage savings and budgeting from an early age.

Bek is able to take the students banking to the Bendigo Bank on a Tuesday’s and Thursday’s. If you wish to be a part of this please leave banking in her draw. New students will be receiving their Bank Items very soon :-)

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 Relay For Life

**Team Name:** The Amigos – Andrea, Koby and Jay Bacon and anyone else willing to join us to walk as a relay team to raise funds for the Cancer Council

**When:** Friday, 4th and 5th of April

**Where:** Bendigo Aths Centre (where 3-6 have cluster sports)

**Times:** 6pm Friday – approx. 3pm Saturday. You don’t have to walk the entire time, but if you are keen to join us for an hour or two please let me know.

**How:** via the website [www.relayforlife.org.au](http://www.relayforlife.org.au) (Closes 28th March) Click on ‘Join – Sign up with a relay team’ and follow the prompts to find our state, year, town and team and sign up.

**Cost: $20 registration** – you receive a Relay For Life shirt and your money is a donation to help our team raise funds for the Cancer Council

**Raffle Tickets:** Relay for Life in conjunction with the Lions Club Bendigo has raffle tickets for sale again this year. Catch up with me if you would like to purchase any. The cost per ticket is $2.00. This amount goes to each team’s individual fund raising tally. Prizes are as follows:

1st prize being 7 nights accommodation in Port Douglas for up to four people (including a $500 flight voucher),

2nd prize 2 nights accommodation at Chestnut Cottage, Hepburn Springs and

3rd prize 2 nights accommodation for 4 at Kalimna Woods Cottages Lakes Entrance.

We have placed donation boxes in the front foyer, at the Supermarket and BP service station if people would like to make a donation instead thank you.

This is not a school initiative this is something my family has chosen to do privately. Michelle has kindly allowed us to place some information in the newsletter to assist with our fund raising efforts. I am happy to chat with people if they would like further information.
FRRR Grant Term 1 Garden Project
At the end of last year Buildings and Grounds were successful in an $8,500 grant for improvement and beautification of the Enviro-centre, and expansion of the garden between the enviro-centre and the sand-pit.
A working party has been formed to help manage the roll-out of this grant. We are now seeking interested parents, friends and students to help...
Current Jobs for this term include;

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<tr>
<th>Clear the site</th>
<th>Donations required: nil</th>
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<tr>
<td>Actions required: Volunteers required with earth moving equipment to clear the site at/prior to the next Working Bee – late term 1/early term 2.</td>
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<td>Contact: Andrea</td>
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<tr>
<th>Growing Cuttings</th>
<th>Donations required: Hardy plants from your own garden/ cuttings for potting up. Drought tolerant plants and native plants are preferable.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Actions required: Growing of plants.</td>
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<td>Contact: Andrea</td>
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<td>Actions required: Cutting of bollards and transportation from South Hervey St to School. Digging of holes and setting of bollards in position. Help with student decoration of bollards. Dates tba.</td>
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<td>Contact: Nicole</td>
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ALL Donations can be left in the Enviro-centre or contact Andrea to arrange a suitable time.
Many of these jobs will be a part of the next working bee late term 1/early term 2.
The working party will be meeting on Friday 28\textsuperscript{th} March at 3.30pm in the Enviro centre. All welcome.
The working party are very excited about the grant and the improvement of the outdoor learning and playing spaces for the students at EPS and look forward to working with you!
**3/4/5/6 News**

It is great to be back and healthy again and thankyou to the staff that covered for me while I was away! This week the students had a visit from the DPI on responsible pet ownership where the children learnt about the roles and responsibilities required for successful pet ownership. We also met Ka$h, the friendly German Shepard dog and were shown appropriate ways to approach strange dogs. The children really enjoyed the session which was great to see.

Next week we are covering the following:

**Literacy**

**Spelling**- Inventory Spelling Word lists and activities and level grade spelling.

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

**Literature** – Examining Literature – Students will look at examples of what persuasive articles look like, newspapers, reports, journals, informative pieces, advertisements and what their purpose is.

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

**Grammar** – Verb Tenses and Adjectives.

**Writing** Persuasive Writing/Journal Writing.

**Numeracy**

**Number and Algebra**- Money and Financial Mathematics

**Measurement and Geometry** – Probability and Statistics

**Homework**

Next week students are to do two pages of handwriting, one page of math on addition/subtraction and a spelling activity involving the students to sort their weekly spelling words into the shortest syllable to the longest syllable. Students are also encouraged to learn their times tables and read to their parents. Homework is due in each week by Friday morning.
Parents and Friends would like to warmly congratulate the following students for their efforts in the summer reading and writing challenges.

READING

Gold Level
Sam, Summer, Max, Lachlan, Rhys, Ned, Della, Zara, Hayden, Cody Mc, Darcy, Peter, Xavier, Joe and Lilly

Bronze Level
Kodi C, Angus, Paige and Letisha

STORY WRITING
Max, Peter, Jay, Xavier, Sam, Lachlan, Rhys, Blair and Zara

POEM WRITING
Peter, Ned, Joe, Blair and Xavier

Awards and Prizes will be handed out at Assembly. Stories and Poems will be published in the Newsletter and the EPA.

The Summer Reading and Writing Program is proudly sponsored by Parents and Friends and is an important initiative in encouraging student learning...even in the holidays!

This year we will be incorporating a Numeracy challenge as well....stay tuned for the launch later in the year!