Dear Parents and Caregivers,

This was a lovely short week thanks to the Labour Day Holiday on Monday! I hope you all enjoyed that long weekend.

Next week we will hold our first School Council meeting for the 2014/15 year. I would like to acknowledge the hard work, time and energy our current School Council has put into the 2013/14 year, welcome Tim Giffin back who has re-nominated for council and also acknowledge outgoing member Anna Trewick.

Anna took on the role of convener of the Parents and Friends sub-committee and has done an admirable job of that, organising agendas and minutes and maintaining strong communication between the sub-committee and the School Council. Her efforts will certainly be missed but we wish her a relaxing break from that role.

At our meeting next Thursday we will elect new office bearers. Nicole has indicated that she will not be re-nominating for the role of School Council President for the 2014/15 year, although she remains a School Council member. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Nicole for the passion and enthusiasm she has brought to her role. Nicole took this role on during a time of significant turbulence at the school when many changes were being implemented across all areas from finance to curriculum and so the scope of work was large and relentless. Nicole led School Council from a considered and informed perspective and provided me with support as we revised and implemented procedures to ensure our school was compliant and competitive, and could improve student outcomes. Together we have achieved a great deal for the benefit of the school and I thank her for her commitment. I am sure you will join with me in wishing Nicole a relaxing, well-earned break from the Presidency and our next President can relax in their role knowing that effective structures have been put in place, and the hard work is done.

Schools rely upon their School Council in several ways but it is not all around analysing data! School Council is an important opportunity to have your say in how our school operates. Thank you to all our families who give up their time to support our School Council.

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 8: March 17th – 21st | * School Council AGM and new council first sitting, Thursday 20th March at 6pm
* Wendy’s Farewell Saturday 22nd March (see info in this Newsletter for further information)
* Library Thursday 20th March |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Week 9: March 24th – 28th | * Thursday March 27th: 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 – Monday 24th March
* Library Thursday 27th March and Art Monday 24th March |
| Week 10: March 31st – April 4th | * Final day of term Friday 4th April. 2:30pm finish.
* Crazy Hair Day—gold coin donation on Friday 4th April
* Library 3rd April |

From Nicole and P&F:

Wendy’s Farewell

This term Wendy retired from teaching and 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: Saturday the 22nd of March
Dinner: Bunja Thai Restaurant at 6pm
Follow by: The Book Thief, showing at the Star Cinema Eaglehawk at 8.30pm

Please note the change of date due to the Dahlia and Arts Festival in Eaglehawk.

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!!!
Silly Picture of the Week:

**Quote of the week:** ‘Life is not about how fast you run or how high you climb but how high you bounce.’

**Numeracy Award:**
Summer Richardson for her amazing results with her On Demand test. Great effort to you and all the Grade 2s!

**Literacy Award:**
Kodi Czuczman for his excellent work in journal writing and guided reading activities.

**From the Library:**

P-2
Thank you to Rosa Monaco, the CRT who kept the Library program running along smoothly in my absence! This week we read Dr Seuss’ ‘I Can Lick 30 Tigers Today’ and ‘Hop on Pop’. Students are enjoying reading along with me during ‘Hop on Pop’ and find the nonsense element very funny. This week they discussed their favourite book we have ever shared in Library and why that is that case. Stories chosen tended towards the more humorous ones with the Pigeon book by Mo Willems still holding a place as strong favourites! Next week we will continue with Dr Seuss books. You might even have some of them at home you can share. Dr Seuss’ style relies heavily on rhyme. You might want to talk with your child about rhyming words they know and try making up silly sentences together.

3-6
Continuing on with our Natural Disasters theme, this week we revisited the book ‘Fire’ by Jackie French and Bruce Whatley, but with a specific focus on the illustrations Bruce created using watercolour paints. Drawing from the book and other stimulus pictures, students experimented with watercolour paints and paper to explore the types of techniques we could use and the effects they created, in planning for their final art piece next week. In sharing our discoveries it was interesting to hear the different ideas trialled and decisions made. Next week we will also have a visit from the Elmore CFA and will be talking about fire plans and how to stay safe. You might have an opportunity to talk as a family about what your fire safety plan is and what to do in the event of a fire to stay safe.
Prep/1/2 News

English

Preps – Writing sentences starting with “I am....” concentrating on capital letters at the start and full stops at the end.

Gr 1 and 2 – Punctuation – Capital letters, full stops, commas, etc.

Grade 2 – On Demand tests in Reading, Spelling and Writing.

Grammar: Collective nouns – Names of groups of things, e.g. flock of birds, bunch of grapes, etc.

Handwriting: Xx concentrating on correct starting points and writing on the line and making our Xx chart of words staring with this letter, wish us luck! 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.

Grade 2 – On Demand tests in Number, Measurement and Geometry.

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: I didn’t send homework home this week as we have started with On Demand tests and they can be quite draining. Spelling words will be sent home next Monday with an activity to follow which is in the front of the homework book. 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: Thank you to everyone for attending, our chats have been very positive and parents have enjoyed looking through their children’s wonderful work.

Enjoy your weekend!

Cheers,
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 :-)

**3/4/S/6 News**

I hope everyone enjoyed the long weekend and are reenergised for another exciting week of school. Students this week have been learning about the different types of forces (pushes and pulls) that act on objects and what causes them. They have been investigating what makes a plane fly and building their own plane to see how far they can fly it and what forces affect its flying.

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.
**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

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.

**We also have pens for sale for $3 each.**

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.

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**Some photos from this week...**

**Active After Schools Program -**

**Skateboarding**

Shayea Falzon showing her skills on the skateboard.

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**Responsible Pet Ownership**

Sam Trewick approaching Ka$h in a safe way
Summer Reading and Writing Challenge.

Congratulations!!!

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!
Dear Parents and Caregivers,

This year we made some changes to our water familiarisation program and I would like to invite your feedback about the program, whether it is about changes or pre-existing matters, so that we can take that into consideration when planning again for next year.

The main two changes were that we reduced the overall length of time from two weeks (spread over three last year) to one week, and that we swam together with OLSH rather than at separate times.

The thinking behind these changes, as I think I have mentioned in the past, is to a) ensure minimal disruption to our curriculum at the start of the year when establishing relationships and expectations is very important, and b) to allow students in senior grades who would be competing at the Cluster swimming event to have an opportunity to train together without juniors in the pool, and to allow students to be exposed to the additional experience of teaching staff at OLSH, broadening their learning opportunities.

I am very interested in hearing your thoughts around this area and ideas about how we can improve the program. I would also be glad to hear of any positive feedback you would like to share about the program too. This form can be placed in the mail slot in the foyer at your convenience.

Michelle.

Water Familiarisation Program Feedback From __________________________________________________.
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