Dear Parents and Caregivers,

The weather has really hit us hard this week with temperatures up around the 40s. It is fortunate that we have air conditioning in most of our rooms which provides some respite. Despite this warm weather, the water in the pool was still a bit chilly!

Students and staff have been heading off to water familiarisation sessions and having a fantastic time. There are some photos further on.

Grade 3—6 students went out to Lake Eppalock (or what remains of it at the moment—it is below 50%) to participate in the Open Water session run by Surf Lifesaving Victoria. From all reports it was a fantastic day and very worthwhile. Thanks to Mrs B for getting us on to this one. I think it might become part of our annual calendar. In case you didn’t know, they were on WIN news last night, looking very impressive, and there was even a quote from our own Mr Wridgway! A star in his first fortnight!

It’s a HUGE Newsletter this week! There is lots of the usual info and great pictures but please be sure to read the boring stuff too—it might be important for you. 😊

Thank you to all those families who have been up to the school for interviews this week. I have managed to catch up with quite a few of you too. It is such an important opportunity for you to meet with your child’s teacher, even if you know them, and spend some time setting goals for your child’s semester. It provides students with greater chances of achieving success when schools and families work together as a team.

Enjoy your weekend,

Michelle Griffiths
Principal
griffiths.michelle.j@edumail.vic.gov.au

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

Bek will be at school on Mondays and Fridays from now on as she is working at Rushworth P-12 the rest of the week. She will be here for the full days.
| Week 2 Feb—6 Feb | Tuesday—Parent Information Evening, 6:00pm  
Wednesday—No Preps required today  
Thursday—Finance meeting #1, 8.00 am; KidsMatter meeting #1, 3:45pm  
Friday—Parents and Friends meeting in the staff room, 9:00am—All Welcome! Come and have a coffee and catch up. |
|---|---|
| Week 3 9 Feb—13 Feb | Water Familiarisation week #1 of 2—see information in next week's Newsletter. This will run for two weeks.  
Getting to Know You Interviews—all this week. Grades 1—6 only. Preps are after assessment is completed. Further information will be sent out for Prep students.  
Monday—Michelle at Regional Director’s Meeting, Bendigo  
Wednesday—No Preps required  
Thursday—Grade 3—6 to attend Open Water excursion to Lake Eppalock |
| Week 4 16 Feb—20 Feb | Water Familiarisation week #2 of 2.  
Wednesday—No Preps required  
Thursday—School Council #1. 7:00pm  
Friday—House Swimming Sports at the Elmore Pool, all grades. Parents / families welcomed. Parents and Frriends meeting at 9:00am |
| Week 5 23 Feb—27 Feb | Tuesday—Centacare Parent Information Session—further information to be provided  
Wednesday—No Preps required  
Friday—Cluster Swimming Sports day at Rochester, Grades 3—6 only. |
| Week 6 2 Mar—6 Mar | Monday—Andrea attending Literacy Coordinator’s Day  
Tuesday—Responsible Pet Ownership incursion. Both Grades  
Wednesday—No Preps  
Thursday—Finance meeting #2, 8:00am; KidsMatter, meeting #2, 3:45pm  
Friday—Parents and Friends meeting, 9:00am, staff room. |
| Week 7 9 Mar—0 13 Mar | Prep Interviews this week.  
Monday—Labour Day Public Holiday! - No students required at school this day.  
Tuesday—Parent Literacy Evening with Pauline Cleary  
Wednesday—Preps’ first Wednesday at school |
| Week 8 16 Mar—20 Mar | Thursday—School Council #2, 7:00pm  
Saturday—Car Boot Sale |
| Week 9 23 Mar—27 Mar | Tuesday—Parent Numeracy Evening with Kim Kirkpatrick  
Thursday—Finance meeting #3, 8:00am; KidsMatter meeting #3, 3:45pm  
Friday—Crazy Hair Day; Parents and Friends meeting, 9:00am, staff room; Last Day Term 1—2:30pm finish for students. |
Congratulations to our **Student Representative Committee** members! Their first meeting is Thursday 26th March. They are:

6 - Mal & Em
5 - Kodi
4 - Lachlan first 1/2 yr & Steph second 1/2
3 - Cody Mc 1st 1/2 & Zara 2nd 1/2
2 - Della 1st 1/2 & Brigid 2nd 1/2
1 - Darcy 1st term
P - Hamish 1st term

**Numeracy Award:**
Zara Ciise for always putting in 110%.

**Literacy Award:**
Tom Drust for an inspiring start to his life of forming the written word and excellent reading too. I am very impressed with your work Tom, congratulations!

**Quote of the week:** “The optimist is often as wrong as the pessimist but he is far happier.”

**Principal’s Award**
**Patrick Henry**
For demonstrating our school values of Resilience and Independence catching the bus to school for the very first time.

**Silly picture of the week...**

Ango-the-Mango Giffin.

**Congratulations to Malachie Connally and Emily Giffin, who are our School Captains, and Heavenly Ohar (red house) and Kodi Czuczman (blue house) who are our House Captains.**

You will be hearing from these four people regularly this year in the Newsletter so watch out for their contributions! Remember that you can also speak to them if you have any concerns or would like something raised at SRC meetings.
Prep/1/2 News

Well done to everyone for surviving our first week of swimming, yes we have one more week to go concluding with our House Swimming sports for preps to Grade 6 in Blue and Red House. A timetable of events is included in the newsletter.

English

**Guided Reading:** Takes place daily with students in smaller groups. The chosen text has multiple copies and each student is required to read a word, line, paragraph or page each. The focus of learning includes punctuation, nouns, rhyming, high frequency words, etc. Therefore, if you haven’t seen my name in your child’s reading log book each day please feel at ease that I am hearing your child read in many varied situations, e.g. Guided Reading, regular Running Records, BURT reading tests, etc. Please feel free to catch up with me if you have any queries.

**Writing:** Gr 1 & 2 - Journal/Recount Writing will continue throughout the term with Persuasive Writing covered later in the term. Preps – Journal writing each day and ongoing throughout the year.

**Handwriting:** Downward stroke letters such as Ll, Tt, Ii and Jj moving into downward stroke, lower case, body only letters such as Nn, Mm and Rr focusing on correct starting points, formation and writing on the line with each.

**Mathematics:** Shape – 2 dimensional and 3 dimensional shapes, sorting, recognition, describing and drawing. Number and Algebra – Preps – numbers to 20 and beyond, Grade 1 – numbers in the 100s and beyond and skip counting by 2s, 5s and 10s and Grade 2 – numbers to 1000 and beyond and skip counting by 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s.

**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. Spelling words have just been organised and I have given students until next Friday to hand in. There will also be a mathematics sheet to complete after swimming finishes. These activities are consolidation of what we have been learning in class. Please feel free to discuss any concerns or queries you may have.

**Interviews:** Thank you to everyone who has attended the interviews, it has been great to catch up and share with you the great work your children have been doing already. Prep parents I look forward to sharing with you your child’s achievements in week 7 from Tuesday, 10th March to Friday, 13th March.

Have a lovely weekend!

Cheers,
Andrea Bacon
**Grade 3-6 News**

What an intense, taxing and lively week we have had!!

First of all I would like to thank the parents who attended the getting to know you interviews, it was delightful to meet you all.

Swimming has been going superbly with all the students more than willing to parade their skills and work hard to continually improve!

**Reading:** It’s marvellous to see that ALL students are reading at home! Over the past three weeks I have noticed a major increase in students’ skills, knowledge and confidence. This is a huge credit to the work and effort by the students and parents at home, AWESOME EFFORT!

**Homework:** Don’t forget that EVERY Friday spelling homework is due in. We have a spelling test each Friday morning and a new list for that week will be sent home that afternoon.

Cheers,
Daniel Wridgway

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**Responsible Pet Ownership P-6**

**When:** Monday, 3rd March 2014

**Where:** Elmore PS respective classrooms

**Time:** Prep -2:- 1:50pm – 2:30pm
    Gr 3-6:- 2:35pm – 3:20pm

**Cost:** Free

**Program:** We have the pleasure of a presenter and his/her dog with sensible information on how to care for your pets (cats too) and how to approach other people’s pets safely. This is an annual event and parents and siblings are welcome to attend. Please let Michelle, Daniel or myself know if there are any children with fears, phobias or allergies that may impact on their attendance and we will cater for them as required.

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**Invitation to Past and Present Students of Elmore Primary School**

**Date:** Sunday 22nd February

**Time:** 10am to 12noon

We would like to invite past and present students and interested community members of Elmore to come to the school to place their painted hand prints on our bollards as a sign of our community strength and solidarity.

More information can be sought from Andrea Bacon at Elmore PS on 5432 6247
KidsMatter Primary has 3 major aims:
To improve the mental health & wellbeing of primary school students,
To reduce mental health problems among students and
To achieve greater support for those students experiencing mental health problems.
Statistic: 1 in 7 Australian children have mental health problems – KidsMatter Primary aims to reduce this

The 4 Components:
- A Positive School Community
- Social & Emotional Learning for Students
- Parenting Support & Education
- Early Intervention for Students who are Experiencing Mental Health Difficulties

New members are welcome and we have folders available - please catch up with Andrea.
Members include: Michelle Simmie, Jane Worme, Tanya Goodear, Tanya Czuczman, Sam Taylor, Michelle Griffiths and Andrea Bacon.

Date, times and frequency of meetings – One per month. Next meeting Wednesday, 4th March at 3:45pm. If new members are unable to make this day and time we can negotiate. Please contact Andrea.

Surveys - What we have done as a result of the surveys E.g. parenting sessions, a library of parenting books in the front foyer, weekly tips in the newsletter or KidsMatter page, Parent coffee/tea/milo and chat morning once a month, etc.

Umbrella display in front foyer - Kids Matter is a framework that encompasses the following programs we already have in our school or have implemented as a result of:
- Health and Wellbeing Team
- eSmart
- You Can Do It
- Active After Schools
- School Values
- Transition/Cluster activities/Grade 6 day at Nanneella
- Education & Policy
- Speech Therapy & Counsellors

School Wide Positive Behaviour Framewor
SHROVE TUESDAY AT ELMORE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Come along to Elmore Primary School and enjoy a pancake with the school children for morning tea as part of Shrove Tuesday.

Date: Tuesday 24th March 2014  Time: 10:55- 11:30am  Cost: Gold coin donation  R.S.V.P: Friday 20th February,

To Tanya Czuczman at ajandtc@bigpond.com or 0427 336 240
Voluntary fees

Each year, School Council sets a Voluntary Fee. This fee is used to cover essential education items which students consume such as text books, stationery, printing, incursions, school sports and so on. The payment of these fees allows us to maintain our current high standard of resources both inside and outside of the school which we would not be able to maintain otherwise. We greatly appreciate this support from our families.

Student Absences

If parents choose to keep their child home from school they are required to provide the school with an explanation for the child’s absence. This year we are going to use a text message to alert parents that they have a child/children absent from school without an explanation. The message asks that they contact the school to provide a reason why. A reply text is fine or parents can call the school on 5432 6247 and either leave a message or let us know. Hopefully this will assist us in keeping students safe and ensuring their whereabouts is always known. We also hope it will assist in decreasing the number of days students are absent from school per year.

The number of times students are absent from school must be reported and it is very important that parents realise the impact absences have on their child’s ability to experience success at school.

Per Semester:
- 0-6 days: This is the normal range
- 7—10 days: This is below average attendance. By Year 10, this student could have missed the equivalent of one whole year of learning
- 11—20 days: This is a poor attendance rate. By Year 10, this student could have missed the equivalent of two years of learning
- 20+ days: This rate is very poor. By Year 10, this student could have missed more than two and a half years of schooling.

Other effects we see as a result of high absenteeism besides a drop in achievement are issues with socialising and low self esteem.

In the case where a student has a high number of unexplained absences a letter will be sent home asking for an explanation for the absences. If you are aware that your child will be away from school in advance, please let us know after 8:30am.

Thank you for supporting us in this matter and helping to establish strong attendance habits with your child.

Food sharing

Due to allergies in our community we ask that students do not share their food with others and for your support with this matter. With regards to birthday celebrations we ask that no food items be sent in to share with other students. Birthdays should be celebrated, however, so perhaps you would like to consider some other ideas such as miniature bubble blowers, party hats, stickers, pencils and so on. If you are not sure come and have a chat with one of our friendly staff members.

Anaphylaxis

Anaphylaxis is the most severe form of allergic reaction and is potentially life threatening. It must be treated as a medical emergency, requiring immediate treatment and urgent medical attention. Given that we have a student at school with anaphylaxis we ask that, if students bring in nuts or products containing nuts, that they let their teacher know. Students will be asked to wash their hands after eating. Touching door handles or shared classroom resources after eating nuts or nut products can be hazardous.

Please be aware that packaging from products containing nuts such as cereals or muesli bars, for example, should not be sent to school for construction purposes please.

Action Plans for Anaphylaxis and Asthma are required for all children who suffer from either and must be obtained from a family doctor and be current. A copy of this plan must be provided to the school immediately.
School Council Elections

The Annual General Meeting for Elmore Primary School Council will be held on Thursday, March 19th at 7:30pm. This meeting will follow the Annual Reporting Meeting when the school’s Annual Report will be presented. There are three parent vacancies, one community vacancy and one DET vacancy by rotation for a two year term and any interested parties are urged to nominate for School Council. The whole school benefits from a variety and diversity of opinion on Council, and the value of fresh ideas and enthusiasm is not underestimated. The current School Council is as follows:

Retiring this year: Parents: Nicole Hayes, Troy Holmberg, Kari Giffin, Community: Helen O’Sullivan
DET: Andrea Bacon

Retiring next year: Tim Giffin (President)

We thank retiring members who have made valuable contributions to School Council. Retiring councillors, who meet eligibility criteria, are welcome to nominate for further tenure on School Council.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR 1ST EVER

Car Boot Sale!

SATURDAY MARCH 21ST
9:00AM—1:00PM
SITE COST IS ONLY $20.00!

ELMORE PRIMARY SCHOOL, HERVEY STREET
ENTRANCE.

PLENTY OF KIDS’ ENTERTAINMENT

YUMMY BBQ BREKKY AND LUNCH

ALL FUNDS RAISED WILL DIRECTLY SUPPORT OUR
PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAM.

CONTACT MICHELLE GRIFFITHS FOR
FURTHER INFORMATION: 5432 6247

Water Familiarisation
Sessions at the Elmore Pool
## Term One 2015 Planner

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<td>Thu 19 – School Council</td>
<td>Thurs 26 – SRC Meeting</td>
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<td>Fri 20 - House Swimming sports &amp; party</td>
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<td>Wed 11 – Preps;</td>
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<td>26 - Kids Matter, Edn &amp; Policy, SRC meetings</td>
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<td>Wed 10 – Parent Literacy Mtg</td>
<td>Fri 27 – Crazy Hair Day</td>
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Our School Values and how they look in action...a good one for the fridge.
Yoga Meditation
Started Monday 2nd February 2015
9.30—10.45am
Chevalier Centre at OLSH enter via Childers Street Elmore
Running for the school term
$13 per session or a 10% discount if paid in full at the start of the term.
Bookings preferred please contact Leanne Holmberg
0429978310

Runnymede Junior Football Club
Under 12 and Under 14 Registration Night
When – Friday 13th February 2015
Where – Colbinabbin Swimming Pool
Time – 5.00pm – 7.00pm
BBQ tea will be provided – All boys and girls welcome to come along.
Any queries please contact;
Dea Brown 0418 333 177 or David Trewick 0425 710 481

Moama—Echuca Border Raiders Soccer Association
Training Times Border Raiders Junior (Saturday Morning Competition)
U-7 4.30pm – 5.30pm
U-9 5.00pm - 6.00pm
U-11 / 13 5.30pm – 6.30pm
U-16 6.00pm - 7.30pm
ALL SESSIONS ARE AT JACK EDDY OVAL ON WEDNESDAYS
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
NEW PLAYERS WELCOME
COACHES ALSO REQUIRED FOR THESE SESSIONS
For additional information please contact;
Head Coach Dave Coward dcoward@footballfedvic.com.au or 0400 266 571 / 0407 715 747

Rochester Basketball Association
Will be holding their AGM and General meeting on Tuesday the 24th Of February, 7pm at the Cri Hotel Rochester.
All committee positions will be open, if you are interested in a position and cant make the meeting please contact Veronica on 0427 381 384, or brayjella4@bigpond.com.
Apologies and RSVP to Veronica.

Rochester Show, 27TH & 28TH February 2015
Friday Night Carnival from 6pm
Carnival rides, Segway bikes
Fun for the kids
Bar for the adults (ID required)
Heaps of other fun activities.
FIREWORKS
Saturday from 8.30am
Featuring Competitions for Horses, Cattle, Sheep, Goats, Dogs, Chooks, Cookery, Crafts, Horticulture, Photography & Art.
Unveiling Mural Fest Finalists at 11am
Family Picnic on Moon Oval 11am
Free; Face painting,
Spray on tattoos
Fairy floss
Photo booth pics.
Ultimate Frisbee Competition & Demo.
Peppa Pig, Alex the Lion, Big Bird, Smurf and Smurfette.
Sun smart gazebo!
So pack a rug, chair, hat & picnic basket or take advantage of the many food stall holders that will tempt your taste buds.
Tiny Tots, Baby & Junior Show Girl Judging to commence at 11:30am in the Agriculture Pavilion on the East side.
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE GATE; PATRONS TICKETS $27 (TWO ADULTS & CHILDREN UNDER 16, 2 DAYS)
ADULT FRIDAY NIGHT ENTRY $12 ADULT SATURDAY ENTRY $10
Connecting With Kids
Rochester

Emotional Intelligence is the ability to identify your emotions, understand them and be in control of the way we express them.

- Do you often wonder why children do what they do?
- Would you like to learn how to help children manage feelings such as worry, frustration and anger?

Come along to this 2 hour workshop and find out more about how to use emotional intelligence to teach children about managing their feelings.

Term 1, 2015

When: Thursday 5th March
Time: Arrival and registration 12.45pm
       Sessions 1.00pm - 3.00pm
Where: Rochester Community House, 43 Mackay Street Rochester
Cost: Free
Child Care: Sorry, child care is not provided
Facilitators: Ev Holzer (CatholicCare Sandhurst)
RSVP: Monday 26th February 2015

For bookings phone 5484 3600

Groups are subject to maximum and minimum numbers. Early registration is encouraged.
Crossing the Highway

This week I received a visit 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 and children crossing the road and not using the school 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.

Dave also asked me to remind everyone that we cannot park within 25 metres of the crossing.

Get Well Soon

You will have noticed that our Groundsman, Barry Douglas, has been missing from the school yard lately. Barry suffered a mild stroke. He plans to be back at work as soon as he has the say so from his medical experts. We all miss him and wish him a speedy recovery.

Parents and Friends Meeting—
Friday February 20th, 9:00am

Please join us to discuss the Car Boot Sale organisation and delegate roles. We need as many hands on deck as we can get. If you are not able to attend the meeting please let me know if you are happy to help by taking on a role. I will be glad to speak with you about this further at another time which is convenient for you.

Book Club

A huge Thank you to Tanya Czuczman who has kindly offered to take on the organisation of Book Club. Tanya will be organising your order forms and putting your books together. Money and orders should still come to the office as usual.

Congratulations!

Congratulation to Jamie-Lee Martin and Raaman Ebery on the birth of their baby daughter, Chloe Grace, a little sister for Ben. Mum and bub both doing very well and even came in to school today for a visit.

Head Lice Alert!

We have already had our first case of head lice reported at school. This is a timely reminder to check your own child(ren)’s hair and treat it if required. Students cannot attend school with live lice in their hair. We have treatments and combs available at the office if you need them.

Please let school know if you are treating your child for lice so that we can alert the community that it is present. Your information will be help in confidence.

Congratulations!

Congratulation to Jamie-Lee Martin and Raaman Ebery on the birth of their baby daughter, Chloe Grace, a little sister for Ben. Mum and bub both doing very well and even came in to school today for a visit.
Every year we help out at the B&S Ball with cooking of food, serving and general assistance. The two time slots we have to fill are 6am—10am or 9am—11am. We need to get 10 volunteers. All funds raised will be donated to our Performing Arts program. Please come along and help us out so that we can raise more money to provide great resources for our kids. Even if you can’t do the whole time slot, and assistance that morning would be greatly appreciated.

Please complete and return the form below or call the office (5432 6247) and we will put your name on the list.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Michelle and Parents and Friends.

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**B & S Ball Volunteer Form—Sunday 8th March**

Name _____________________________________________________

I will be happy to help out on Sunday 8th March

Contact number ____________________________________________________

Signed _____________________________________________________

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**Canberra Camp for Grade 5 & 6 Student Expression of Interest**

This year our Grade 5 & 6 students head off to Canberra with our cluster schools for their camp. We have not got final costs yet but we anticipate that it will be a similar price to last year which was $420.00.

Bek will organise a payment system for any families who would prefer to pay that way.

The camp dates are November 23—27th.

Please return the form below along with a $50.00 non-refundable deposit if you are interested in your child(ren) attending so we can organise numbers and therefore a final cost.

Michelle

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**Canberra Camp for Grade 5 & 6 Student Expression of Interest**

Student’s name: _______________________________________________ Grade: __________

I understand that I am required to pay a $50.00 deposit to secure a place on the camp which is non-refundable.

Signed: _____________________________________________________