



Personal Best at the West
echucawestps.vic.edu.au

NEWSLETTER
NO. 1 FRIDAY 6th FEBRUARY, 2009

Monday 9th February

Playgroup begins for 2009

Tuesday 10th February

School Council – 7.30pm

Tuesday 10th February

School Council Meeting 7.30p.m.

Wednesday 11th February

Uniform Shop 8.45am-9.15am

Prep Rest Day

Swimming Trials @ Moama Pool

Friday 13th February

Grade 5/6H – Tennis

Music Performance

Monday 16th February

Playgroup

East Timor Meeting 7.00p.m.

Tuesday 17th February

Grade 5/6 Swimming begins- Day 1

Grade 3/4 Swimming begins- Day 1

Parent Information Night – Prep – 7.00p.m.

Parent Information Night – Gr 1/2 - 8.00p.m.

Wednesday 18th February

Prep Rest Day

Echuca District Swimming Sports – Gr 5/6

Parent Information Night – Gr 3/4 - 7.00p.m.

Parent Information Night Gr 5/6 – 8.00p.m.

Thursday 19th February

Grade 5/6 Swimming – Day 2

Grade 3/4 Swimming - Day 2

Friday 20th February

Grade 5/6 Swimming – Day 3

Grade 3/4 Swimming - Day 3

Grade 5/6 H- Tennis

Monday 23rd February

Grade 5/6 Swimming – Day 4

Grade 3/4 Swimming - Day 4

Playgroup

Tuesday 24th February

Grade 5/6 Swimming – Last Day

Grade 3/4 Swimming – Last Day

WELCOME BACK

Welcome back for the start of a new school year. We are looking forward to a really exciting 2009. There are no class reports today as children have just been too busy settling in to their new grades to find time to write a report.

Thanks again to all the parents who worked so hard over the break to make sure that everything was ready for day 1.

Special thanks to our parents who helped water the vege garden and plants, as well as some earth moving and dead tree removal.

It is great to welcome some new families to our school: Hampton (Connor Grade 3), Valentine (Aaron – Grade 3, Case (Tyanah – Grade 5 and Mason – Grade 1) and the Tall family (Jessie – Grade 2), as well as our new prep families –

Bayley (Kale)
Blachford (Erin)
Corken (Hannah)
Draicchio (Thomas)
Gallimore (Gabriel)
Kervin (Patrick)
Millen (Caleb)
Peterson (Sophie)
Tomaszewski (Jack)
Williams (Tyler)

Please make yourself known to our new families.

We would also like to welcome two new staff members. Miss Munzel and Mr Wickham have joined our team.

PREP BEGINNING SCHOOL BAGS

Each prep has been given a Beginning School 'show bag' which contains a number of items that support their entry to school. This bag can also be used as a library bag.

Thanks also to our parents who arranged the Prep morning tea and parent show bags.

CLASS STRUCTURE & STAFFING 2009

Outlined below is our class structure and staffing for 2009.

Prep A – Mrs Engstrom

1B – Miss Keays

2 C – Mr Leersen

3/4D – Mr Wickham

3/4E – Mrs Cleary

3/4F – Mrs Chandler

5/6 G – Mrs Mathers

5/6 H – Miss Munzel

Music/Indonesian – Mrs Meakes.

Art – Mrs Martin

Reading Support – Mrs Harris

Office – Clare & Vikki

Aides – Lorraine & Jenny

PARENT PAYMENTS 2008

Please find attached a copy of our Parent Payments for 2009. Family Statements will be sent out today.

If you wish to discuss these Parent Payments please come and see me at any time.

GRADE 5/6 OPEN WATER

On Wednesday Grade 5/6 students participated in an Open Water Education Session at Moama. This is a great program provided by the Royal Life Saving Society. It provides children with an opportunity to become 'river' safe. The program is supported by the funds that you pay as part of the Extra Curricula Activities charge.

INFORMATION NIGHTS

Parent Information Evenings will be held in the third week of February.

Tuesday 17th February

7.00p.m. – Prep

8.00p.m. – Grade 1 & 2

Wednesday 18th February

7.00p.m. – Grade 3/4

8.00p.m. – Grade 5/6

Parents are encouraged to attend these sessions and find out about your child's 2009 program.

There will be babysitting available in the Resource Room (Art/Music Room).

DISTRICT SWIMMING SPORTS

The Echuca District Swimming Sports will be held at the YMCA Aquatic Centre on Wednesday 18th February. We will send along a squad of children. Trials will be held next Wednesday 11th February. We need some parent helpers on the day. If you are able to help, just see Anthea. Thanks.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our first school council meeting will be held THIS Tuesday 10th February at 7.30pm. Minutes and agenda are attached.

TOWN BUS SERVICE

The town bus service charges have increased for 2009. The new prices are:

Daily	\$1
Weekly Pass	\$8.50

E.M.A.

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist some families with the costs associated with the education of their children. To be eligible for receipt of the EMA you must:

- Be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen, and
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the *State Concessions Act 2004* or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a foster parent.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of Term 1 (28th January 2009 which is the first day for teaching staff) and Term 3 (13th July 2009).

The EMA application must be submitted to the school and present a Health Care Card by **27th February 2009** for the first payment and **7th August 2009** for the second payment. Parents with continuing eligibility, who are paid the first instalment of 2009 through this school, will not be required to complete a new application for the second instalment.

The EMA provides an annual amount of \$221 for primary students.

Application forms are available from the school office.

CONVEYANCE

Families who transport their children to school may be eligible for a conveyance allowance. To receive this all students must attend their nearest government or appropriate registered non-government school and must reside more than 4.8km from that school. Parents need to fill out an application form at the office.

Applications are due Wednesday 25th February.

Parents who have previously applied & have not changed their residence do not need to reapply.

FAMILY DETAILS

Just a reminder to parents to let the school office know if there have been any changes to family details e.g. phone numbers, address, medical information etc. This is so we are able to have up to date information for the students at school. We have attached a change of details form for your convenience. Please fill in and return to the school office asap. Thanks.

SPECIALIST DAYS

Library.

All children have the opportunity to borrow from our library. Library borrowing day will be Wednesday for all grades. In February preps will be able to borrow on Thursdays.

Art/Craft.

Mrs Martin will be running Art/Craft sessions with each grade on either Tuesday and Wednesday.

Music/Indonesian/Gardening.

Mrs Meakes will be working with all grades on either Thursday and Friday.

LUNCH ORDERS

Lunch Orders can be placed on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Orders should be written on a brown paper lunch bag with the correct money(no change will be given) included and placed in the box in each classroom BEFORE 9.00a.m. Bags need to be marked with child's name and grade – e.g. PREP A. A current price list is attached.

STUDENT BANKING

Student Banking will continue on Thursdays. Please have bank books at the office by 9a.m. at the latest. For those who would like to open an account at the Commonwealth Bank, application packs are available at the office.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

All students have been given the supplies that they will need in the classroom throughout the year. These supplies are to remain in the classroom. **Parents do not need to purchase extra items or send things from home.**

We also have class sets of art smocks. Children have been given a plastic cup for water, a reader bag, and Home School Journal (Diary in Grs 5 & 6).

The only thing that we ask that you supply from home is a bag for library book borrowing. Prep children can use their new school start bag.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Parents and students are to be congratulated for the way in which they support our school uniform policy.

Please make sure that you label all items of school uniform clearly and carefully as we don't want to end up with a box full of lost property. "Sew on" labels are best as they don't get torn off like tags. Also label lunch boxes and drink bottles.

Just a reminder that basketball shorts and netball skirts are not part of our school uniform.

Most school uniform items can be purchased at the school. Just call into the office and see Clare or Vikki for an order form.

UNIFORM SHOP.

Our uniform shop will be open on Wednesdays again this year. The shop is open from 8.45am to 9.15a.m.

GRADE 5/6 SWIMMING PROGRAM

Our Grades 3/4 and 5/6 Swimming Programs commence on Tuesday 17th February and continue on Thursday 19th, Friday 20th, Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th of February. Permission forms have been sent home this week. Cost for the program is \$30per child.

CAR PARKING

Thanks to everyone who has been so patient and safe during these first few days of school. As we all know there is limited space for parking and if we are all vigilant and cooperative then we shouldn't have any problems.

Just a couple of reminders.

- Please park as close to each other as possible leaving room for other cars.
- Students must wait at the front gate for parents to pick them up.
- After school buses start using the bus turning circle from about 3.45 pm. Please keep this area clear after 3.45pm. This is the area near the letterbox on both sides of the road.
- Note speed limits

PREP REST DAY & INTERVIEWS

Next Wednesday 11th February is PREP rest day.

SCHOOL CONFECTIONERY GUIDELINES

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has introduced a new policy in 2009 related to confectionery. The policy states that from 2009 no confectionery should be supplied through school canteens and other school food services.

Our school is a Go for Your Life Healthy School and we encourage parents not to include confectionery in children's lunches. There are lots of healthy snack options. In our future newsletters we will include examples of these healthy snacks.

PARENT HELP

We need some parents to help us out with all the tree branches that have fallen during the hot windy weather. If you can help out just let us know. Thanks.

BIRTHDAYS IN THE SCHOOL THIS WEEK



We would like to wish a happy birthday to Caitlin Case, Abby Andrews, Ben Simpson and Daniel Maher who are celebrating their birthdays this week. We hope they all have a great day.

ADVERTISING SPACE

If you would like to sponsor our newsletter and advertise your business in this space we would love to hear from you. This will cost \$20 each week to include your business card or logo in our weekly newsletter. If you are interested please contact the school on 54822263.

THIS WEEK OUR SPONSOR IS

love to dance?

Classes are just for fun and cost only \$60 per term. Bring your child to the first two lessons free of charge... only pay if you want to join up!

Saturday 7th & Saturday 14th February
Echuca South Primary School Sporting Complex
Preschool/Prep... 9:45am - 10:30am
Grade 1/2... 9:00am - 9:45am
Grade 3/4... 10:30am - 11:30am
Grade 5/6... 11:30am - 12:30am

To book your position in a class, or for more information, phone Ylana on 0400 076 525.

hype
dance school

REMINDERS

- Lunch Orders are Monday, Wednesday & Friday.
- Lost Property Box is in the Undercover area.
- Bank Day is Thursday
- Newsletter folders to be returned by Thursday.

ATTACHMENTS

- Lunch Order Menu 2009
- Aussie Hoops Flyer for 5-7 year olds
- Change of details form
- EWPS Charges 2009

FUTURE DATES

Wednesday 25th February
Conveyance Applications close
Prep Rest Day

Friday 27th February
EMA applications close

Friday 6th March
Zone Swimming Sports (Bendigo)

Monday 16th March
Young Leaders Day 2009

COMMUNITY NEWS.

TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC.

When: Friday February 13th, 2009
Where: Kerrabee Soundshell, Moama
Time: Starting at 6pm
Don't miss...Adam the Magician, The Gee Whiz Kids and Echuca College Dancers and Paddlewheel Pete.
Competition for
Flyers attached P/1/2 Grades.

ECHUCA JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

U14 & U12 TRAINING commences
Wednesday 25th of February
From 4.00-5.30PM at Vic Park.
Enquires Jim Cosgriff Ph. 0407 110 764 Or David
Brunns Ph. 0418 597 330.

ST. MARY'S ECHUCA & ST ALOYSIUS' MOAMA SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2009.

St Mary's & St Aloysius' parishes wish to extend an invitation to interested parent who would like their child to prepare for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist And Confirmation in 2009. The program begins with a Parent night in St Mary's Hall, Anstruther Street, at 7.30 on Tuesday 3rd March. For more information please contact St Mary's on 54821127.

ECHUCA CRICKET CLUB MILO IN 2 CRICKET PROGRAM.

Echuca Cricket Club Milo in 2 Cricket program continues this Sunday at Victoria Park, 9.00am to 10.15am. Contact Adam Jones on 0438299332.

JUNIOR BASKETBALL PRACTICE.

When: Tuesday afternoons from 4pm-4.45pm
Where: Echuca Basketball Centre
Cost: \$3
All boys and girls are to bring a basketball & drink.

AUSSIE HOOPS TERM 1.

For boys and girls aged 5-7. Registration on Wednesday February 11th at 4pm. Program starts on Wednesday Feb 18th at 4pm. For more details please call Adam Tarr on 54806903.

SPOCAAS (Supporting Parents of Children with Autism & Asperger's Syndrome)

For interested people SPOCAAS contact information is as below:

P.O. Box 979

Echuca, Vic 3564

Email spocaas@clrs.org.au or the website is www.clrs.org.au or call on 0428382668.

Spocaas meet on the 2nd Monday of each month from 7pm-9pm (night meeting) is on Feb 9th and daytime meetings are held on the 4th Monday between 10am-12noon on Monday 23rd Feb. Meetings are held at Moama Senior Citizen's Centre, Martin St Moama.

ECHUCA SOUTH UNDER 12 CRICKET.

Echuca South Cricket Club Under 12 cricket training commences on Wednesday 11th February from 4.30pm-6.00pm at the Echuca South Cricket Ground. The first game for the season will be on Friday 13th February. Games commence at 4.30pm. For further information please contact Craig Dyson on 0419576491.

LODDON CAMPASPE REGION 2008/09 JUNIOR MASTERS SERIES.

Tournament 4.

When: Sunday 22nd February 2009

Starting Time: 8.30am 11/U & 13/U, 1.00pm 15/U & 17/U (dependant on No. of entries)

Where: Rich River Golf Club, 24 Lane, Moama

Entries Close: Wednesday 18th February 2009

Tournament Directors: Sarah & Andrew Crossman

Entry Enquiries: Sarah Crossman (03) 54809690.

Postal Address: 19 Snowden Street, Echuca

Email: scrossman@impulse.net.au