School Values

- **Care and Compassion** – Care for self and others
- **Honesty and Trustworthiness** – Be honest, sincere and seek the truth
- **Respect** – Treat others with consideration and regard: respect another person’s point of view
- **Responsibility**—Be accountable for one's own actions, resolve differences in constructive, non violent and peaceful ways; contribute to society and civic life, take care of the environment

Principal’s Report

Welcome back to the 2014 school year. What a fantastic start to the year we have had! All the children have settled in beautifully to their new grades and all teachers have commented on how happy they have been and how well they are working. Congratulations and well done to all. Thank you also to all the parents for supporting their children and preparing them so well for the school. Our eight little prep students – Banjo, Pippa, Hamish, Asher, April, Hannah, Cooper and Sienna have settled in to school routines with ease and it is wonderful to see all the other children, from grade 1-6, looking out for them and making sure they feel happy and safe at school – it is a pleasure to see! We also wish to welcome Emma and Tilly in grade 1, Bridie and Amelia in grade 2, Bella in grade 3 and Levi in grade 4 and their families to Eppalock PS community which means we have begun the year with an enrolment of 39 students.

Communication between home and school is vitally important to ensure the best possible learning for all children and I encourage families to please talk to their child’s teacher if you have any concerns or if you have any positive feedback you would like to share – it’s great to hear when things are going really well as well as when something might need to be addressed. Teachers, as always, will try and touch base with you all in the next week or so to let you know how your children are travelling.

I have attached a copy of the school timetable to this week’s newsletter for your reference. As you will see we are continuing with the specialist subjects of LOTE, Music and Drama this year as well as MARC VAN every second week. LOTE will be taken on Monday afternoons, commencing week 3 by our Chinese Hanban Teachers. This program will be provided to all students and will provide a very comprehensive Chinese curriculum, including cultural awareness as well as language development. We are very lucky to have Mrs Tonzing again every Tuesday this year providing both Music and Drama to the students over 1.5 hours every week. Children will also take part in our Environmental Program run by Lydia Fehring every Friday.

Our values focus for Term 1 is ‘Care & Compassion’. At assembly each week we will be acknowledging students who are working hard to be caring and kind towards others. To go along with this we will continue with our ‘Random Acts of Kindness Box’ that can be found on the green table in the foyer. The idea is for students, teachers and parents to write about Random Acts of Kindness that they have witnessed and place in the box. Some of these will be shared every Monday at assembly and will also be placed in the newsletter. We are really encouraging students to show kindness and empathy towards others and to do good deeds without needing to get anything back in return.
Swimming starts next week on TUESDAY and will run for four weeks. Active After School begins next week on Tuesdays (Soccer) and Thursdays (Netball). The term is certainly shaping up to be very busy already! We have decided to offer some alternative programs at recess for those children who would like something quieter to do. Ronda will be opening the Library every recess from 11.15-11.30am allowing children to come inside and read or draw quietly. It has been fantastic to see the children playing so well together in the yard, well done.

PLAYGROUP
Playgroup will be on again this year. A survey was sent home requesting preferred days and times. If you are interested in Playgroup please fill out asap and return it to the office so we can get things up and running as soon as possible. Also if you know of anyone who may be interested in joining playgroup please get them to contact the office and leave their details so we can let them know when it’s on.

Have a great week everyone. Mrs Ryan 😊

PREPS—NON SCHOOL DAYS FOR FEBRURARY
Parents of Prep children are reminded that for the month of February Prep children do not attend school on a Wednesday.
Prep teachers will be conducting assessment interviews on these days. Parents have been informed of the time their child is scheduled to attend for their interview. Prep students start full time the week beginning Monday, 3rd March.

STUDENT MEDICATION
On occasions it is necessary for children to take medication while they are at school. In line with Department Guidelines, we keep a Medications Book at the office. If your child requires medication to be administered during school hours, a signed medication request form needs to accompany the medicine, and this medicine is to be left at the office. For safety reasons, it is not advisable for medication to be sent along with your child or left in school bags. The student will come to the office for the medication at the designated time, and may collect the medication at the end of the day. Only asthma medication can be kept in classrooms or schoolbags.

STUDENTS ABSENT FROM SCHOOL
A reminder to parents to please notify the school when children are absent from school (a phone call on the day or a note when the child returns).
If parents know in advance of a child’s absence from school on a particular day/s, then a note prior to the absence will suffice.

LATE ARRIVALS
If your child does arrive late we ask that you come via the office and sign a late note. This is necessary as class rolls are marked first thing each morning and if your child is not in class at this time they will be marked as absent. By signing the late note we are able to adjust our records so your child is then marked as late rather than absent.

LEAVING EARLY
If for some reason your child needs to be collected during school hours it is our responsibility to ensure that procedures are in place for the collection of your child. The procedures determined by the Department of Education & Early Childhood Development are as follows:
Students must only be collected by their parents (subject to any specific court orders) or by a person who has been authorized by you to pick up your child. We will record when the student has been collected early from school, the reason for the collection, the person who received the child (including signature), and, if the person is not known to the school, verification of identity using suitable photo identification (eg. Driver’s licence).
We ask that you come, or the person authorized by you, to the office and complete the sign out slip form. These requirements are necessary to comply with Department regulations, minimize legal liabilities, and assist with emergency management and to provide adequate duty of care.

NEWSLETTER
Parents are asked to ensure that they read the information contained in the newsletter which is produced each Tuesday as it is the main form of communication between school and parents. We encourage all our parents to receive the newsletter electronically as this helps the environment by saving paper and also keeps the school cost down. We are aware that some families have speed/download issues with their internet service so we are happy to send home a hard copy if you experience difficulties, please notify the office if you require this.
Today we are sending a hard-copy home to each family, but from next week we will use the electronic media for most families.
Spare copies will be available from the office and an electronic version is available on the school web site.

MONEY SENT TO SCHOOL
All money sent to school should be in a sealed envelope with child’s name, grade, name of activity being paid for and the amount enclosed, written on the front of the envelope. Receipts will be sent home.
SCHOOL TIMES
A reminder that school times are:
9.00 am School starts for the day
11.00 am – 11.30 am Recess
1.30 pm – 2.15 pm Lunch
3.15 pm Dismissal

EDUCATION MAINTENENCE ALLOWANCE (EMA) 2014
The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible 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 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 1st Term (28th January 2014) (which is the first day for teaching staff) for the first instalment and the first day of 3rd Term (14th July 2014) for the second instalment. EMA application forms are available from the office and parents will need to have their card with them to complete an application form. Applications must be submitted by Friday, 28th February 2014.

UNIFORM POLICY
Footwear should be chosen so that your child is appropriately and safely prepared to engage in a range of school activities e.g. sport. Sandals may be worn in summer provided that the foot is securely held and toes and heels are protected. Scuffs, massage sandals, thongs, shoes with high heels or platform soles, clogs and Ugg boots are not acceptable. Stud earrings or sleepers worn in the ears, and watches, are the only acceptable jewellery. Cosmetics and nail polish should not be worn at school. Hair that is shoulder length or longer should be tied back for safety reasons and to reduce the risk of infestation with head lice.

PERSONAL GOODS BROUGHT TO SCHOOL AT OWNER’s RISK
Personal property is often brought to school by students, staff and visitors. This can include mobile phones, electronic devices, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it will generally not pay for any loss or damage to such property. Therefore, bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school is discouraged.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE
As a school we do as much as we can to protect and care for injured students including first aid, notifying parents and emergency contacts if students are injured or hurt, and if necessary, an ambulance is called. Parents and guardians are generally responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. Most medical costs will be refunded by Medicare. If you are a member of an ambulance or health insurance fund, you may also be able to claim transport or other expenses from that fund. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not hold accident insurance for school students. Reasonably low cost accident insurance policies are available from the commercial insurance sector and these can be obtained by parents for their children.

MEDICAL INFORMATION
In order to provide a safe and secure school environment, it is very important for you, as parents or guardians, to inform the school of any medical issues relating to your child, or children, that you feel we should know about. Thank you to those who have already done so. If there are any changes, or new medical conditions arise throughout the year, the school should be informed.
If your child suffers from asthma, we do require an up to date Asthma Plan specific to your child.
If your child carries their Asthma medication with them each day, their classroom teacher needs to be informed.
If your child suffers from any allergies we do require specific information and action as required.
All Anaphylactic students need to provide an up to date Anaphylaxis Action Plan and relevant medication to be kept at school. All staff are trained in the use of Epi-Pens each year.
If you require any information about medical issues please see us.

CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE
The conveyance allowance is a form of financial assistance for parents/carers to transport children to and from school in rural and regional Victoria. Allowances are available for public transport, private car and private bus. In some locations, students are unable to access free school buses. In these instances, students may receive a conveyance allowance to assist with travel costs. For further information re this allowance, please see Marie in the office.
THANK YOU
We would like to give a big thank you to Jason Speechley for all his hard work laying the pavers in the Sensory Garden last weekend. They look fantastic! These pavers are located outside the Grade 2,3,4 classroom if you would like to have a look.
Also a big thank you to the Coman, Bowe, Mannes, Barker & Gallagher families who watered the plants and fruit trees around the school over the holidays.

LIBRARY NOTICE
Many thanks to the families who have returned books borrowed over the holidays or during 2013. Please check your book shelves for any school books and return ASAP - especially those which are part of a series.

WANTED
We are looking for some strips of ribbon at least 1m long. If you have some that you no longer require and would be happy to donate to the school, could you please drop them into the office.

SWIMMING PROGRAM
Our swimming program runs over a four week period in both Term 1 and Term 4 and is conducted by qualified instructors at the YMCA Eaglehawk Pool. Term 1 program will run each Tuesday from 11th February until 4th March commencing at 1.00 pm. Students need to bring their bathers and towel in a plastic bag and will change at school before leaving for the pool. It is recommended that they bring extra food for recess and lunch on these day.
Transport to and from the pool is via bus. This program is part of our school curriculum and with so many water

NUDE FOOD
Now that I have your attention.... Eppalock PS is going to implement a nude food policy for the new school year which is in line with our Living Green learning in the classroom. We strongly encourage children and parents to pack as little rubbish in lunch boxes as possible. This includes soft plastics such as glad wrap, packaged snacks such as yoghurt, chips and muesli bars. Every day they children are able to go into the draw to win the golden lunch box award, just by having nude food. Prizes will be highly sought after in the school community.
I understand that this may be a difficult change for some families, but sit with your children and calculate the cost effectiveness of buying snacks in bulk, and remember that many fruits and vegetables come with their own edible packaging, it makes economic as well as environmental sense to be as nude as possible!
I am happy to talk with any families who would like nude packaging ideas.

LIVING GREEN
I am very excited to be a part of the Eppalock community and I am really looking forward to teaching the Living Green program every Friday. I have lots of plans for the program in the coming 12 months and I wanted to let you know what is happening in the classroom.
I will be running a sustainability, garden and cooking program with all grades over the coming year on a rotational basis. For example the prep-grade 2's will garden and cook one Friday from 9.30-11am and the grade 3-6's will engage in a sustainability unit from 11.30-1.30pm. The following Friday will see the prep-2's learning about sustainability 9.30-11am and the 3-6's gardening and cooking from 11.30-1.30pm.
In time I will be looking for volunteers to help out with the gardening and cooking in particular. I will let you know when this will begin as we need to get some basics in place both in and out of the classroom before these activities can begin in earnest!
The school has been successful in obtaining a grant from the City of Greater Bendigo (thanks Vanessa!) to install a watering system in the veggie garden. This will happen soon and then we can start our seasonal planting which will involve every grade.
Being new to the school it would be great to find out if you are interested in helping the program in any way. If you are interested in helping or would like to share your knowledge in or outside the classroom about a particular topic please let me know and I will fit it in.
In term 1 we will be focusing on waste, in particular 'Where is away?'. If you have the time, ask your child about what they are learning in Living Green.
I look forward to meeting you and welcome your interest, help and feedback in the program. My email address is fehring.lydia.r@edumail.vic.gov.au

Give peas a chance!
Lydia Fehring, Sustainability Teacher
## IMPORTANT DATES

### FEBRUARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 5th</td>
<td>P/1 Testing (individual times)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 7th</td>
<td>Living Green Clubs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 10th</td>
<td>Parent Club meeting—9.15 am following assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 11th</td>
<td>Swimming Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 12th</td>
<td>P/1 Testing (individual times)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 13th</td>
<td>Living Green Clubs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 17th</td>
<td>Responsible Pet Ownership</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 18th</td>
<td>Swimming Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 19th</td>
<td>P/1 Testing (individual times)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 20th</td>
<td>MARC Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 21st</td>
<td>Living Green Clubs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 24th</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 25th</td>
<td>Swimming Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 26th</td>
<td>Drama / Music</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 28th</td>
<td>Living Green Clubs</td>
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### MARCH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3rd – 7th</td>
<td>Water Science Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 3rd</td>
<td>Confucius Classroom Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 4th</td>
<td>Swimming Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 5th</td>
<td>Drama / Music</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 6th</td>
<td>MARC Library</td>
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<td>Friday 7th</td>
<td>Living Green Clubs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 10th</td>
<td>Public Holiday – Labour Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 11th</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Interviews (12 noon – 6.00 pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 12th</td>
<td>Drama / Music</td>
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### APRIL

23rd—24th  Camp—Grade 3/4/5/6 students
School Awards - Congratulations to the following students;

- **All Grade 6 Students** for their wonderful work habits & great start to the school year.
- **Bridie** - For making a great start to the year.
- **Pippa** - for working and playing so well.

**Care & Compassion Award** this week is awarded to;
Will for being kind, caring and thoughtful.

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**COMMUNITY NIGHT**
**FRIDAY 21ST FEBRUARY commencing at 6.00 pm**

- **BYO shared meal, plates, cutlery, drinks and chairs**
  families are asked to bring a ‘meat’ dish to share eg casserole, quiche, cold meat, sausage rolls etc as well as a salad or slice/cake

  *This is a great opportunity for our school community to come together for a social evening and share in lots of fun and activities.*

- **PARENT CLUB MEETING**—The first meeting for 2014 will be held on Monday 10th February at 9.15 am (following assembly).

  *All families are welcome and encouraged to attend. This is a great opportunity to be involved in our school. At this meeting we will discuss dates and times for further meeting, fundraising activities for 2014 as well as social events.*

  *Come along, meet old and new families, have a cuppa and share ideas. Pre-school children most welcome (lots of toys etc to keep them engaged).*
UNIFORMS
If any families still need to order uniforms for this year, please see Marie in the office TOMORROW.

IGA COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM
Eppalock Primary School currently participate in the IGA Community Rewards Program and as a result we receive kind donations from them each year which are used for various projects around the school. Currently, when you shop at IGA Strathfieldsaye you are able to donated 1% of your purchases to a local organisation. To do this, you need to have an IGA Community Rewards Key Tag. All you need to do is swipe this key tag at the register when completing your shopping and the 1% will be donated to the school.

There are some changes being made to this program in the future. For the month of December, when you spend over $50 at IGA Strathfieldsaye and swipe your key tag, you will receive a free green bag. More of these incentives will be implemented throughout the year.

If you do not have a key tag and would like one, please contact the office and we will supply you with one. We have plenty available, so if you have any family members who would like one you may get one for them too.

Thank you again to IGA Strathfieldsaye for their ongoing support!

CARS AND YOUNGER PEOPLE IN THE SUMMER MONTHS
Melbourne and greater Victoria will experience extremely high temperatures for the back to school period. Parents and/or guardians are reminded that on hot days it is important never to leave children alone in a car. Temperatures inside a parked car during summer can be around 20 to 30 degrees hotter than the outside temperature. Leaving children in hot cars, even for a moment, can result in serious injury or death. Young children’s smaller body size and underdeveloped nervous system places them at a much greater risk of life-threatening heatstroke, dehydration and other serious health risks.
If a parent or guardian is travelling with a child, never leave them alone in a parked car, not even for one moment.
presents

STRATHFIELDSAYE’S GOT TALENT

Fundraiser for Strathfieldsaye CFA

$1,000 Prize Pool

For

Judges’ Choice and Most Popular (by 50c vote)

If you can dance, sing, juggle, tell a few jokes, conjure.....

Then step right up!

Sunday afternoons from 2.00-5.00pm,
beginning Sunday 16\textsuperscript{th} February

$10 Entry Fee

To register call 54394255
What skills do we have as a school?

Throughout the school year, we need a variety of parent helpers for a range of activities. To ensure that we are able to offer these activities such as Clubs, We would like to know what skills you would be able to volunteer to our school.

These skills can range from helping in the Kitchen Garden Program, running a Club on a Friday afternoon, helping to remove balls from our school roof to any general yard clean up and gardening.

Everybody possesses a range of skills which can contribute to our school community and we would like to know yours and whether you would be willing to volunteer your skills or knowledge at some stage throughout the school year.

Name -

Skills -

- 
- 
- 
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- 

I am/am not (please circle) able to volunteer to help at school throughout the year.
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<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
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<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Confucious</td>
<td>Drama/Music P/I/2</td>
<td>Drama/Music 3-6</td>
<td>MARC P-2</td>
<td>Living Green P-2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classroom</td>
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<td>2:15 - 3:15</td>
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**Note:** Timetable from 2020/2/14. 
- Every second week.
- PE Reading Recovery
Eppalock students are getting active as part of the Australian Sports Commission’s (ASC) Active After School Communities (AASC) program. We use the program to encourage students to increase their physical activity levels and improve skills in a fun, safe and inclusive environment. The AASC program provides quality and structured physical activity, including sport, after school. During this year we have a variety of activities eg basketball, netball, golf, multi-skills games for life. The program gives a wonderful introduction to many different sports and activities.

(If your child is participating in this program, please write their name in the appropriate date box and return this form to school by Monday 10 February. If you wish to add or remove your child from the program at any time, please just let the office know. This form is just for an indication of numbers for the providers.)

**ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 11 February</td>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>3.30 pm – 4.30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 13 February</td>
<td>Netball</td>
<td>3.30 pm – 4.30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 18 February</td>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>3.30 pm – 4.30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 20 February</td>
<td>Netball</td>
<td>3.30 pm – 4.30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 25 February</td>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>3.30 pm – 4.30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 27 February</td>
<td>Gymnastics</td>
<td>3.30 pm – 4.30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 4 March</td>
<td>Netball</td>
<td>3.30 pm – 4.30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 6 March</td>
<td>Netball</td>
<td>3.30 pm – 4.30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 11 March</td>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>3.30 pm – 4.30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 13 March</td>
<td>Netball</td>
<td>3.30 pm – 4.30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Soccer</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 20 March</td>
<td>Netball</td>
<td>3.30 pm – 4.30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 25 March</td>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>3.30 pm – 4.30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 27 March</td>
<td>Netball</td>
<td>3.30 pm – 4.30 pm</td>
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Both these programs will be run by external providers with Ash and Michelle assisting.

All Active After School Care Programs are Free of Charge. Children who are not picked up at the end of the session will be placed in After School Care and parents will need to pay for the service.