Cooper

Wednesday 12th February

Hope you have a fantastic day!

149 Patons Road, Axe Creek Vic 3551
Telephone: 5439 6366
Email: eppalock.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
Website: http://www.eppalockps.vic.edu.au

February 11th Issue 2/2014

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

Students have had another great week, settling well into the routines of school and enjoying the many varied experiences provided by all classroom teachers. We have had an extremely hot start to the school year and we encourage students to bring a water bottle to school each day to have on their desks to ensure they stay hydrated in the heat.

Yesterday saw the beginning of our Confucius Classroom program delivered by our two Hanban teachers Jing and Hui. The children had a great time being introduced to the Chinese Culture and learning about Chinese New Year traditions. This term will see our students learning basic greetings in Chinese and also being exposed to the Chinese number system. Hopefully your child/children will be able to teach you some new Chinese language over the coming months that they have learnt at school.

Swimming began today and will continue on Tuesdays for the next three weeks. This is a great chance for all students to develop their skills at their individual level and have a chance to cool off at the same time!

This term is extremely busy with extra curricula activities so please keep an close eye on the newsletter calendar to keep up to date with the many opportunities the students will be provided with.

Today is Safer Internet Day which is a global event held annually to promote the safe and responsible use of digital technologies, for children and young people. The theme for Safer Internet Day 2014 was ‘Let's Create a Better Internet Together’. To help celebrate the grade 4-6 students took part in a Web Conference on Cybersafety this morning. This was a fantastic session with over 18,000 students participating in Victoria alone. These types of events are important to take part in to ensure our students know how to stay safe in the fast moving cyber world.

This week is International Random Acts of Kindness Week. We encourage all members of our school community to take this week to step out of their normal routine or comfort zone and attempt a new random act of kindness each day of the week. Attached to this newsletter are 10 kindness ideas you may like to try. Please let us know the great things you are doing for others by dropping a note in our Random Acts of Kindness box.

Our school photos are scheduled to be taken on Monday 24th February. Students are required to be in full school uniform on photo day. Further information and photo slips will be sent home shortly.
CODE RED BUSH FIRE DAY

Please be aware that our School, the school bus route and after hours care has been deemed to be of high-risk of fire and is included on the Department’s Bushfire At-Risk Register and therefore will be closed on days when the Fire Danger Rating is declared by fire authorities as being Code Red (as per National Framework for Fire Warnings). On Code Red days, closure advice will be provided by the respective DEECD regional office and parents will be notified by the school. The DEECD website will also list all potential and actual closures of schools and children’s services.

Students will be taking part in the Responsible Pet Ownership incursion next Monday, 17th February. This is a wonderful program that is free to all students, helping to teach them what it means to be a responsible pet owner and is conducted by trained Pet Educators and their temperament-tested pet. The program also educates the children on issues such as choosing an appropriate pet for the family, basic animal husbandry, pet health, confinement and the importance of registration and identification.

School Council meets for the first time next Thursday night, 20th February and information about School Council Elections is included in today’s newsletter. I would encourage parents to consider joining this very important group of interested parents. If you would like to nominate yourself or another parent for school council please fill in a nomination form and return to school. These can be obtained from the office. If we have more nominations than positions available we will hold an election.

I hope everyone has a wonderful, fun filled, learning week….. 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.

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.

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.

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.

ATTACHED TO THIS NEWSLETTER ....

⇒ ASHTMA FOUNDATION VICTORIA newsletter
⇒ SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB catalogues and order forms
⇒ CENTACARE FAMILY newsletter
## IMPORTANT DATES

### FEBRUARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>11th</td>
<td>Active After School Care (each Tuesday, soccer, &amp; Thursday, netball, for 7 weeks)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>12th</td>
<td>P/1 Testing (individual times)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Drama / Music</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>13th</td>
<td>Living Green Clubs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>17th</td>
<td>Responsible Pet Ownership Confucius Classroom Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>18th</td>
<td>Swimming Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>19th</td>
<td>P/1 Testing (individual times)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Drama / Music</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Scholastic Book Club orders and money due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>20th</td>
<td>MARC Library</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>School Council - 6pm start</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>21st</td>
<td>Living Green Clubs</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Community Night 6.00 pm start</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>24th</td>
<td>School Photos Confucius Classroom Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>25th</td>
<td>Swimming Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>26th</td>
<td>Drama / Music</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>28th</td>
<td>Living Green Clubs</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Special Lunch Day—Pizza &amp; Cookies</td>
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### MARCH

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

**LAST DAY TERM 1—1.30 pm finish**

### TUESDAY APRIL 22nd

**FIRST DAY TERM 2**
School Awards - Congratulations to the following students;

- Tilly—for settling in well to her new school
- Ellie—for working well in class
- Abby—for working hard in class and trying her best

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

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

- Emma pushed April’s chair in when she was on the computer (from Mackenzie C)
- Jack for thinking to lock the sports shed without being asked
- Hannah picked up Pippa’s cooler bag and gave it to her when she left it in the eating area

PARENT CLUB NEWS

COMMUNITY NIGHT

FRIDAY 21ST FEBRUARY commencing at 6.00 pm

- BYO shared meal, plates, cutlery, drinks and chairs

Families are asked to bring a main dish to share eg casserole, quiche, cold meat, sausage rolls, roast chicken, spaghetti bol etc and a salad or dessert (families with surname A-L a salad and surname M-Z dessert)

As part of our evening we are having our ‘very famous’ crazy bingo—great fun for all ages. If every family could bring two small gifts for each person in their family—gifts should not be more than $1 to $2 in value and can be anything from a chocolate bar, a bouncy ball, water pistol, can of baked beans etc.

This is a great opportunity for our school community to come together for a social evening, get to know each other and share in lots of fun and activities.

- PARENT CLUB MEETING—The AGM of our Parent Club will be held on Monday 3rd March at 9.15 am. Come along and have a cuppa—all welcome.

- SPECIAL LUNCH- PIZZA AND COOKIES—The parents club will be preparing a pizza and cookie lunch for Friday 28th February. There will be 3 pizza options and 2 cookie options available. Children can order 1 pizza and 1 cookie for $3. Order forms will be sent home next week.
School Council Elections 2014

The Annual General meeting for Eppalock Primary School will be held on Thursday 20th March 2014 at 6.00 pm followed by the first meeting of the new council. Our current school council make up is as below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Term Ends</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emily Ryan</td>
<td>Principal Treasurer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wendy Ratcliffe</td>
<td>President Parent Member</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Gallagher</td>
<td>Vice President Parent Member</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karen Green</td>
<td>Secretary DEECD / Parent Member</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Gallagher</td>
<td>Parent Member</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brendan Wild</td>
<td>Parent Member</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shane Hodson</td>
<td>Parent Member</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diane Lindhe</td>
<td>DEECD Staff Member</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Reade</td>
<td>Community Member</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackie Hebble</td>
<td>Parent Member</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danielle Couch</td>
<td>Parent Member</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neil Bowe</td>
<td>Parent Member</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Any interested parents are urged to nominate for School Council. The school benefits from a variety and diversity of opinions on Council, and the value of fresh ideas and enthusiasm should not be underestimated. Nomination forms for the parent member category can be collected at the office and need to be lodged by Friday 28th February 2014.

What is a school council and what does it do? All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council? There are three possible categories of membership:

- A mandated elected Parent category. More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not employed at the school.
- A mandated elected DEECD employee category. Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- An optional Community member category. Its members are appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members. The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important? Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved? The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

Do I need special experience to be on school council? No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.
STRATHFIELDSAYE STORM 2014 REGISTRATION DAY

**When** - Sunday 16th February - 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

**Where** - Strathfieldsaye Recreational Reserve, Tannery Lane

**Fees** - Under 9 - $100, Under 10 - $100, Under 12 - $120, Under 14 - $140, Under 16 - $140, Youth Girls (age 13-18) - $120

If a family has 3 or more children playing then each child will receive $10 off per fee.

For enquiries email Angela at sjfregistrar@bigpond.com or Ph: 0409 304 654
COMMUNITY NEWS

BENDIGO BANK SCHOOL BANKING

The staff from Bendigo Bank’s Strath Hill branch visit Eppalock Primary School each TUESDAY MORNING providing a school banking service for students.

Participants in the program will use a Bendigo Piggy Bank Passbook Account and moneybox to learn about the process and the benefits of saving.

With no account keeping fees, no transaction or government fees, no penalties and no deposit restrictions—plus a lot of fun games and rewards—a Piggy Bank Passbook Account makes saving fun.

Please note—the school banking program provides a deposit service only, however, withdrawals can be made at the Strath Hill branch.

Further information is available from the school office or by calling into the Bendigo Bank Strath Hill branch.

Tennis Victoria Mum’s Program

**Mums’ Program**

Only $35 for five weeks of group tennis coaching*

Tennis Victoria’s Mums’ Program is run by a Tennis Australia qualified coach which means that you will be in good hands to develop your tennis skills. In addition, save time and money on childcare by enrolling your child(ren) in the Tiny Tots program** for just $15 for the same five weeks. Open to beginners and those who would like to resume playing tennis, the Mum’s Program allows you to take some time out for yourself and get fit and active whilst socialising with other mums in your area.

**Benefits of the Mums’ Program:**

- Improve your health, have fun and get fit
- No need to find or pay for childcare to participate
- Receive expert tennis coaching
- Save money as you don’t have to purchase any equipment to participate
- Get a great taste of Cardio Tennis and get involved with your local tennis club for a minimal cost

**Tiny Tots Program**

Enrol your child in our Tiny Tots Program**

The Tiny Tots Program is targeted at children aged 3–5 and helps them develop fundamental motor skills whilst allowing you to participate in tennis, without the burden of having to find childcare.

**Program Registration**

To register for the Mums’ Program (and the Tiny Tots Program**), please contact your nearest venue. Places are limited so please register early.

For further information please contact Tennis Victoria on (03) 8420 8420 or visit: tennis.com.au/vic/play-tennis/getting-started.

* This program is open to new participants only.
** Subject to coach availability and mums must be participating in the Mums Program for their child to participate in the Tiny Tots Program.