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

Well done to everyone for coping so well with the warm weather and continuing to show care and compassion for others. The heat can get very draining after a while but students are dealing really well and should be congratulated on their great behaviour and attitude. Hopefully the cooler days we have experienced over the last couple of days will continue over the coming weeks.

MARC Van begins this week, although there will be no individual borrowing for students this week as we continue to wait for the new MARC Van teacher to take up her position. Students will be able to borrow books from next fortnight on.

Students took part in the Responsible Pet Ownership incursion yesterday. 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 educated our 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.

Next Tuesday, 25th February, we will be visiting the newly refurbished Bendigo Library for a guided tour of the brand new facilities. This excursion will occur prior to Swimming on Tuesday afternoon and we will have a picnic lunch in Canterbury Park between our Library visit and Swimming lesson at the Eaglehawk Aquatic Centre. (Permission for this excursion is covered under the Local Excursions Permissions Form). The cost is $2.00 per child.

All students are really enjoying the Confucius Classroom Program that began last week and have had fun learning general greetings in Chinese and developing their ability to pronounce various Chinese words correctly. If you are interested in your child/children becoming more fluent in Mandarin we are offering an after school ‘Fun Language Club’ on Wednesday afternoons straight after school. This will be provided by ‘Fun Languages for Kids’ a business owned and operated by one of our prep mums Sally-Anne Symes. The Mandarin program on offer is a fun, play-based program presented by trained linguists. The cost of this program is $80 for Term 1 (5 weeks) and $160 for future terms (10 weeks). There is also a 10% discount for families registering more than 1 child. If you are interested in your child taking part please fill in the attached expression of interest form and return to the office.
School council is on this Thursday night at 6pm in the staff room. If you are thinking about joining school council but are not sure what is involved please come along and see how a normal School Council meeting runs. All welcome.

Just a reminder that Playgroup is running twice a week this year—Mondays 9.30am – 11.00am and Fridays 9.00am – 10.30am in the old school building. All parents and 0-5 children are welcome to come along and enjoy the fun. Morning tea will be provided and the cost is a gold coin donation to cover supplies etc. Please pass this information on to anyone outside the Eppalock PS community who might be interested — the more the merrier!

Our school photos are scheduled to be taken next Monday 24th February. Photos will begin at 9am so please ensure all students arrive at school on time, in full uniform and looking spick and span for the photos. Richard Gibbs from the Loft Studio Bendigo is our photographer and has several packages on offer for families. Order envelopes are being sent home today and you are asked to please mark your order and enclose the CORRECT money (cash or cheque—cheques made payable to The Loft Studio Bendigo). School Photo envelopes and money must be returned to school by Monday.

Please be aware that there is an Ideas/Feedback box on the table in the foyer next to the Random Acts of Kindness box. If you have any ideas to improve the school, feedback on what we are doing well or thoughts you would like to share please feel free to jot them down and pop them in the box. As always my door is always open if you would like to discuss anything about your child/children and the school but this is just another easy way that you can be involved and we can all work together to continually develop and improve Eppalock Primary School.

Have a great week everyone ..... Mrs Ryan 😊

EXCURSION—VISIT TO BENDIGO LIBRARY—as stated earlier in this newsletter we have arranged a visit to the Bendigo Library next Tuesday 25th February. This will be a wonderful opportunity to explore the recently opened redeveloped facility. We will leave school around 9.30 am, visit the Library and then continue onto Canterbury Park, Eaglehawk for lunch before our swimming session at the Eaglehawk YMCA Pool. Students will need to take their playlunch, lunch and swimming gear with them. The cost of this excursion is $2.00 per student—money needs to be sent to school in an envelope with your child’s name on the outside.

VALUABLES BEING BROUGHT TO SCHOOL—Please be aware that students bring valuables to school at their own risk and that the school is unable to take responsibility for them if anything happens to them.

SCHOOL CENSUS DAY—Friday February 28th is School Census Day. Our budget is based on the number of children who attend school on this date and enrolment numbers and information required at time of enrolment will be subject to audit. If your child is not at school on this date please ensure a note is sent with them on their return.

CAN YOU HELP? Does anyone have a tree on their property that has blown down in the past 12 months that we could cut into 30-40 cm lengths (approximately 30cms diameter) to use for seating in the vegie garden area. If you can help, please let us know.

PREPS—NON SCHOOL DAYS FOR FEBURARY—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 - 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.
IMPORTANT DATES

FEBRUARY

Wednesday 19th P/1 Testing (individual times)
MARC Library
Scholastic Book Club orders and money due

Thursday 20th Drama / Music
School Council - 6pm start

Friday 21st Living Green
Clubs
Community Night
6.00 pm start

Monday 24th School Photos
Confucius Classroom Program

Tuesday 25th Visit to Bendigo Library
Swimming Program

Wednesday 26th Drama / Music

Friday 28th Living Green
Clubs
Special Lunch Day—Pizza & Cookies

MARCH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Parent Club AGM</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Swimming Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Drama / Music</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>MARC Library</td>
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<td>7th</td>
<td>Living Green Clubs</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10th</td>
<td>Public Holiday – Labour Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Interviews (12 noon – 6.00 pm)</td>
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<tr>
<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

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

_Sienna_— for her wonderful attitude to work.
_River_— for working well in school.
_Henry_ - for working hard in class and showing great leadership skills.

**Care & Compassion Award** this week is awarded to;

_Jack_ for being kind, caring and thoughtful.

Random Acts of Kindness

- Reuben, for when he was at my house in the holidays he took a boy to get a glow stick who was upset because he didn’t have one. Jessica, Nicole & Indi for helping serve pizzas to my party guests - Donna B.
- Hamish picked up my shoes when I left them in the central space—Jack
- Asher went and put Hamish’s bag on the deck for him in AASC.

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 (wrapped) 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 attached. **Completed forms and money must be returned to school by next Wednesday, 26th.**
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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<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>
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<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>
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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.
COMMUNITY NEWS

AXE CREEK COMMUNITY FRESH PRODUCE SWAP

Do you have excess vegetables, fruit, eggs or herbs from your garden?
Not sure what to do with them?
Bring them to the Axe Creek Community Fresh Produce Swap at Eppalock Primary School.

If you have excess vegetables, fresh fruit, eggs, herbs or any other items, please bring them along and be part of our Fresh Produce Swap program. There are baskets on the bench in the school foyer and the process is that you can swap your produce for other produce.

If you do not have produce to swap that’s OK, just help yourself to the fresh produce displayed. You do not need to pay for any of the produce, however if you wish to make a monetary donation for anything it will be put towards our Living Green Program.

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.
Making Stepfamilies Work
a course for couples
Evening Program
Developed by the Stepfamily Association of Victoria

This six week program explores various aspects of stepfamily life and covers unique and often complex issues associated with stepfamily relationships. It is offered for those planning or already in a stepfamily.

Come and meet couples like yourselves and share experiences.
Learn some strategies on how to make your stepfamily work better.

When: Wednesdays, 19th February to 28th March 2011
Time: Registration and welcome: 6.45pm
Session times: 7pm-9pm
Where: Centacare Function Room,
176-178 McCrae Street Bendigo
Cost: $20 for entire program
Facilitators: Peta Robertson and Janine Stewart

For bookings and enquiries contact [name] on ph. [phone number]
Early registration is encouraged

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NEW Fun Language Clubs for Kids
HELD HERE AT EPPALOCK PRIMARY SCHOOL
FUN, PLAY BASED PROGRAMS
AFTERSCHOOL

Expression of Interest
I am interested in my child taking part in Mandarin classes on Wednesday afternoons (after school).

Child/Children's Name:

Signed:

Everyone welcome
Affordable pricing & family discounts
The FUN way to learn another language
Great preparation for taking languages in Secondary School

Play-based programs: Games, craft, songs, puppets, plays and fun activities to get your child using the language naturally and quickly.

We can help your child become bilingual....

Enquiries to Sally-Anne mob: 0418 390 824
email: sally-anne.symes@lcfclubs.com.au
www.lcfclubs.com.au
JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERS
Nicole, Henry, Jesse, Chloe, Jack

CONFUCIUS CLASSROOM

RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP