PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Well this is the last newsletter for the 2013 school year and what a hugely successful year it has been. Throughout the year there has been provision for many learning activities, excursions and incursion across all year levels, providing many enjoyable moments for our students, staff and parents. All of our students – the reason we are here - have grown and developed over the year and we are extremely grateful for the opportunity to join with parents in impacting their lives.

I would like to thank all members of the school community – staff, students and families, for their hard work, committed and ongoing support. Without each member of our community we would not have the great school that we enjoy nor would we be able to celebrate together another successful year.

GRADE 6 GRADUATION

Our Grade 6 Graduation last Tuesday night was absolutely wonderful. This is always a very special evening and it was fantastic to share this occasion with Harmony, Jordan, Nikiah, Kobi and Riley, their parents, staff and members of the school council. Special thanks must go to Michele who did another magnificent job on the memento the students received on the tonight. A huge thank you also to Ash Harvey who worked with the students throughout the year to create their video presentation for the night. We were very lucky to be able to present a couple of special awards on the evening. Harmony won the Academic Excellence award for her outstanding effort and commitment to her learning throughout her 7 years at Eppalock PS. This award consisted of a $300 scholarship and certificate and was kindly donated by the Masonic Lodge in Bendigo. Riley won the Citizenship/Values Award for always being a kind, caring, respectful member of our school community and an outstanding role model for others in our school. This award was sponsored by the Strathfieldsaye & District Community Enterprise and consisted of a $200 scholarship and certificate. Riley also won a special award presented by Sport Victoria in acknowledgement of his outstanding effort and achievement in sport throughout the year. We would like to sincerely thank our sponsors for their ongoing support of our school. Thank you so much.

STRATHFIELDSAYE COMMUNITY CAROLS

A huge congratulations to the students who performed at the Strathfieldsaye Community Carols last Wednesday night. Your performance was energetic, vibrant and entertaining and you were wonderful ambassadors for our school. Thank you also to Mrs Tonzing for all her hard work in preparing the performance and to the parents for bringing their children along to represent the school. Your continued support for our great school is really appreciated.
COMMUNITY NIGHT - THIS THURSDAY NIGHT
Our annual Community Christmas Night is on this Thursday night. This is a great way to finish the year and acknowledge the support and contributions of all members of our wonderful school community. Please come along and enjoy a relaxing evening. The evening will begin at 6pm with the Christmas Concert Performance commencing at 6.15pm. All students need to meet in the project space as soon as they arrive please. This will be followed by Parents Clubs presentations and then dinner at approximately 7pm.

WATERING ROSTER
We have a selection of fruit trees and flowers in our Sensory Garden area that will need some water and tender loving care over the holidays to ensure that they are still alive and well when we return to school next year. We have attached a Watering Roster for the holidays to today’s newsletter. We would greatly appreciate the help and support of our families. Please pop your name down on the roster when you are around and available to water the plants and return it to the office ASAP so that we can send a completed roster out before the end of the week.

END OF SEMESTER REPORTS
End of Semester Two reports will be distributed on Thursday. Thank you to all the teachers for the many hours of work that have gone into these reports, your continued commitment to ensuring our students receive the very best education possible is greatly appreciated.

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL YEAR
Just a reminder to all families that students will be dismissed at 1.30pm on Friday and the school bus will depart at that time for the afternoon run. Parents are advised that they may need to make alternative arrangements for picking up your children, particularly if they are bus travellers. Also please be aware the AFTER SCHOOL CARE WILL NOT RUN ON FRIDAY.

Children are allowed to wear casual clothes on Friday (no gold coin donation required)

On behalf of the staff and myself I wish all our families a safe and happy holiday.
If you need to make contact with me over the holidays, my number is 0407 863 819

Mrs Ryan

SCHOOL ACCOUNTS
Just a reminder that all 2013 school accounts should have been finalised to ensure all accounting is completed for the end of year roll over. Thank you to families who have already finalised their account - if you have not, it would be appreciated if you could do so as soon as possible. If you wish to discuss your account or organise a payment plan, please see myself or Marie. Banking Details below (please add your name)
Commonwealth Bank—Eppalock Primary School Council Official Account
BSB 063-506 Account Number 10152204

PARENT CLUB NEWS

- CHRISTMAS HAMPER—We are finalising our Christmas Hamper and would like to remind families if you have not already made a donation, could you please do so tomorrow. The hamper is looking good, but could still do with some extras. Please check ‘use-by’ dates on items and ensure there are no perishable food items. Raffle tickets ($1.00 each) and money must be returned to school by Thursday morning.

- HELP NEEDED FOR COMMUNITY NIGHT— Our Community night is next Thursday, 19th December starting at 6.00 pm. We need assistance on Thursday afternoon to help set up for the night. If you can help, please just come along.

- GOLD COAST RESORT VOUCHERS—$20.00 EACH—Various Resorts & Deals - eg. $169 to pay for 2 Adults, 4 nights (children $15 extra, per night). Fully Transferable and would make a great gift for family and friends! See Marie for details.
IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday 19th End of Year COMMUNITY NIGHT
Friday 20th Last Day Term 4—1.30 pm dismissal

2014
January
Wednesday 29th First Day of School 2014

- BOOK LIST INFORMATION AND EMA FORMS ARE ATTACHED

AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students who received awards this week:
Mac L—for working hard
Angus—for being a happy class member
The Grade 6 students for a great year at school

Our Value for Term 4 is Respect - treat others with consideration and regard; respect another person’s point of view.

The Respect Award for this week is awarded to JESSE

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS ...
Harmony for caring for me when I was sad
Jessica put my pillow away for me in silent reading (Kobi)
Levi played with me and was kind when I was sad (Mac L)
Graduating Class of 2013

Harmony, Nikiah, Jordan, Riley & Kobi

Operation Christmas Child 2013
Christmas shoe boxes donated by our school families for Operation Christmas Child

Riley & Jordan presenting their final assembly at Eppalock PS
Prep, 1, 2 Stay Back

12th December 2013 at White Hills Botanical Gardens
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!
COMMUNITY NIGHT
EPPALOCK PRIMARY SCHOOL
THURSDAY 19TH DECEMBER – 6.00 PM
Picnic Tea (shared)
Drama Performance by students
Presentation to Graduating Students
Visit by a very special person
Disco for all ‘young-at-heart’

All families are asked to bring a ‘meat’ dish to share (enough for your own family) eg casserole, cold meat platter, quiche, sausage rolls etc as well as:

- Salad (families with surname A-M)
- Slice/Cake families with surname N-Z
- BYO plates, cutlery, drinks and chair
FOR SALE

Crazy Catch Upstart. Excellent condition. Perfect Christmas present. Helps improve hand/eye co-ordination and reflex skills. $50 (RRP $100). Please see Mrs Ryan if interested.

Watering Roster Availability for Summer Holidays

We have a selection of fruit trees and flowers in our Sensory Garden area that will need some water and tender loving care over the holidays to ensure that they are still alive and well when we return to school next year. We would greatly appreciate the help and support of our families.

Please circle the weeks which you are around and available to water the plants and return it to the office by Thursday 19th December at the latest, so that we can send a completed roster out before the end of the week.

The watering will involve watering the plants & flowers in the Sensory Garden which should only take 15-20mins and we hope to do this 3 times a week to ensure that our lovely Sensory Garden continues to thrive over Summer.

Thank you in advance for your support!

Watering Roster Return Slip

Name - ..........................................................

Our family are around and available to water on the following weeks;

Please circle:

Week 1 - beginning 22nd December
Week 2 - beginning 29th December
Week 3 - beginning 5th January
Week 4 - beginning 12th January
Week 5 - beginning 19th January