Principal’s Report

Orientation Morning
We had a lovely morning with our grades for 2015. All children worked beautifully with their new group of friends and had a great time. Enrolments for the 2015 school year sit at 50.

Grade 6 Graduation Dinner
The Grade 6 Graduation Dinner is on next Tuesday night at the National Hotel. To parents of Grade 6 students and School Councils please RSVP by the end of the week so we can provide the National with final numbers. Thank You.

MARC Van
We still have a number of MARC Van books that haven’t been returned. Please check at home for any outstanding books and return them to school ASAP. Books that are not returned will need to be paid for and MARC will send you an invoice for their replacement value.

Community Night
Our annual Community Christmas Night is on this Friday 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 5pm with the Christmas Concert Performance commencing at 5.30pm. All students need to meet in the project space as soon as they arrive please. This will be followed by Parents Club presentations and then dinner at approximately 6.30pm.

Random Acts of Kindness
Attached to last week’s newsletter was a December Calendar of ‘Random Acts of Christmas Kindness’ for all students. We have had a lot of students doing kind and caring things for others both at home and at school and this is wonderful to see. Please continue to encourage and support your child/children to do one ‘Random Act of Kindness’ each and every day leading up to Christmas.

School Accounts
Just a reminder that all 2014 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. Banking Details below (please add your name)
Commonwealth Bank—Eppalock Primary School Council Official Account
BSB 063-506 Account Number 10152204

End of Semester Reports
End of Semester Two reports will be distributed next Thursday 18th December.
Last Day of 2014 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 NEXT FRIDAY.
Children are allowed to wear casual clothes next Friday (no gold coin donation required)

Next week’s newsletter
Please be aware that next week’s newsletter will go home on Wednesday afternoon NOT Tuesday as normal.

Have a great week .............Mrs Ryan

**INVITATION**

The staff would like to extend an invitation to parents to join them for **Morning Tea** on Wednesday 17th December at 10.30 am. This is our way to say thank you for all the work and assistance you have given us during the year.

Please come along and join us for a cuppa.

**LIVING GREEN—MANGO FUNDRAISER**

Don’t forget to pick up your mango tray this week.
Located in the old school house at 149 Patons Rd Axe Creek

**Pick up times are:**
Tuesday 9th December between 3-5.30pm
Wednesday 10th December between 8.30-10.30am

**PARENT CLUB NEWS**

END OF YEAR COMMUNITY NIGHT

**THIS FRIDAY, 12TH DECEMBER COMMENCING AT 5:00 PM**

**CHRISTMAS HAMPER**— as part of our end of year Community Night we will have a Christmas Hamper. We ask families for a donation or two of non-perishable goods (please check use-by dates) for this hamper. Items can be left in the box in the school foyer.

**Raffle Tickets are attached—please return with money by Friday of this week**
(12th December)
**IMPORTANT DATES**

**DECEMBER**

- **Thursday 11th**: Active After School—Basketball—last session for Term 4
- **Friday 12th**: End of Year COMMUNITY NIGHT
  - 5.00 pm start — Concert 5.30 pm—Community Tea 6.30 pm
- **Tuesday 16th**: Grade 6 Graduation Dinner
- **Wednesday 17th**: Morning Tea for all parent helpers 10.30 am
- **Friday 19th**: Last Day of Term—1.30 pm finish

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**FRESH EGGS FOR SALE** (from our school chickens)

$1.50 per half dozen

See Marie or Ronda if you would like some

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**AWARDS**

Congratulations to the following students who received awards this week:

- Tilly for being a good friend
- Ellie for her great reading
- Jazz for always doing her best

The Values Awards—*BANJO*

RESPECT—Treat others with consideration and regard: respect another person's point of view
33 Gifts Your Children Will Never Forget and won't cost you a cent this Christmas:

1. **Affirmation.** Sometimes one simple word of affirmation can change an entire life. So make sure your children know how much you appreciate them. And then, remind them every chance you get.
2. **Art.** With the advent of the Internet, everyone who wants to create... can. The world just needs more people who want to...
3. **Challenge.** Encourage your child to dream big dreams. In turn, they will accomplish more than they thought possible... and probably even more than you thought possible.
4. **Compassion/Justice.** Life isn’t fair. It never will be – there are just too many variables. But when a wrong has been committed or a playing field can be leveled, I want my child to be active in helping to level it.
5. **Contentment.** The need for more is contagious. Therefore, one of the greatest gifts you can give your children is an appreciation for being content with what they have... but not with who they are.
6. **Curiosity.** Teach your children to ask questions about who, what, where, how, why, and why not. “Stop asking so many questions” are words that should never leave a parents’ mouth.
7. **Determination.** One of the greatest determining factors in one’s success is the size of their will. How can you help grow your child’s today?
8. **Discipline.** Children need to learn everything from the ground-up including appropriate behaviors, how to get along with others, how to get results, and how to achieve their dreams. Discipline should not be avoided or withheld. Instead, it should be consistent and positive.
9. **Encouragement.** Words are powerful. They can create or they can destroy. The simple words that you choose to speak today can offer encouragement and positive thoughts to another child. Or your words can send them further into despair. So choose them carefully.
10. **Finding Beauty.** Help your children find beauty in everything they see... and in everyone they meet.
11. **Generosity.** Teach your children to be generous with your stuff so that they will become generous with theirs.
12. **Honesty/Integrity.** Children who learn the value and importance of honesty at a young age have a far greater opportunity to become honest adults. And honest adults who deal truthfully with others tend to feel better about themselves, enjoy their lives more, and sleep better at night.
13. **Hope.** Hope is knowing and believing that things will get better and improve. It creates strength, endurance, and resolve. And in the desperately difficult times of life, it calls us to press onward.
14. **Hugs and Kisses.** I once heard the story of a man who told his 7-year old son that he had grown too old for kisses. I tear up every time I think of it. Know that your children are never too old to receive physical affirmation of your love for them.
15. **Imagination.** If we’ve learned anything over the past 20 years, it’s that life is changing faster and faster with every passing day. The world tomorrow looks nothing like the world today. And the people with imagination are the ones not just living it, they are creating it.
16. **Intentionality.** I believe strongly in intentional living and intentional parenting. Slow down, consider who you are, where you are going, and how to get there. And do the same for each of your children.
17. **Your Lap.** It’s the best place in the entire world for a book, story, or conversation. And it’s been right in front of you the whole time.
18. **Lifelong Learning.** A passion for learning is different from just studying to earn a grade or please teachers. It begins in the home. So read, ask questions, analyze, and expose. In other words, learn to love learning yourself.
19. **Love.** ...but the greatest of these is love.
20. **Meals Together.** Meals provide unparalleled opportunity for relationship, the likes of which can not be found anywhere else. So much so, that a family that does not eat together does not grow together.
21. **Nature.** Children who learn to appreciate the world around them take care of the world around them. As a parent, I am frequently asking my kids to keep their rooms inside the house neat, clean, and orderly. Shouldn’t we also be teaching them to keep their world outside neat, clean, and orderly?
22. **Opportunity.** Kids need opportunities to experience new things so they can find out what they enjoy and what they are good at. And contrary to popular belief, this doesn’t have to require much money.
23. **Optimism.** Pessimists don’t change the world. Optimists do.
24. **Peace.** On a worldwide scale, you may think this is out of our hands. But in relation to the people around you, this is completely within your hands... and that’s a darn good place to start.
25. **Pride.** Celebrate the little things in life. After all, it is the little accomplishments in life that become the big accomplishments.
26. **Room to Make mistakes.** Kids are kids. That’s what makes them so much fun... and so desperately in need of your patience. Give them room to experiment, explore, and make mistakes.
27. **Self-Esteem.** People who learn to value themselves are more likely to have self-confidence, self-esteem, and self-worth. As a result, they are more likely to become adults who respect their values and stick to them... even when no one else is.
28. **Sense of Humor.** Laugh with your children everyday... for your sake and theirs.
29. Stability. A stable home becomes the foundation on which children build the rest of their lives. They need to know their place in the family, who they can trust, and who is going to be there for them. Don’t keep changing those things.

30. Time. The gift of time is the one gift you can never get back or take back. So think carefully about who (or what) is getting yours.

31. Undivided Attention. Maybe this imagery will be helpful: Disconnect to Connect.

32. Uniqueness. What makes us different is what makes us special. Uniqueness should not be hidden. It should be proudly displayed for all the world to see, appreciate, and enjoy.

33. A Welcoming Home. To know that you can always come home is among the sweetest and most life-giving assurances in all the world. Is your home breathing life into your child?

By Joshua Becker

Writer. Inspiring others to live more by owning less. Bestselling author of Simplify & Clutterfree with Kids
COMMUNITY NEWS

CHRISTMAS
FUN Language holiday program

Monday 22nd December 9am - 4pm
Tuesday 23rd December 9am – 4pm
Wednesday 24th December 9am – 12noon

Are your kids finishing school & you still have to work?
We have an exciting holiday option for the kids

A super fun, Christmas-themed language experience!
Kid’s cooking, cultural dress ups, games, craft, role-play &
learning about Christmas festivities in another country – all
in another language! Beginners & intermediate welcome.

CHOOSE: French, Mandarin or Italian program

$85 per child per day ($50 for half day Wednesday)

Play-based fun language programs designed especially 4 children

Be quick – only 15 places available per session (min numbers apply)

Semi-immersion. Complements in-school LOTE (any language)
Different program daily so kids can do all 3 sessions.

** ALSO - REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN for our 2015 IMMERSION
3yr/4yro PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAMS.
Small group, personalised, play-based language learning. It's a weekly 2hr
(like 3yro kinder) program in another language.
Choose immersion French or immersion Mandarin in Bendigo.
Ask our 2014 parents about the amazing results for their pre-schoolers!

Enquiries to Sally-Anne m: 0418 390 824
e: sally-anne.symes@lcfclubs.com.au
www.lcfclubs.com.au (2-5yrs) (5-12yrs)
Ask us about our term-time Fun Language Clubs 4 Kids for 2015
Thompson & Co. Castlemaine
Founders & Engineers

“Steaming Out” 1914 - 2014

• Come along and celebrate, 100 years since the “Steaming Out” of the first steam locomotive made at Thompson & Co. & the 10th Anniversary of VGR Trains from Maldon to Castlemaine
  • A re-enactment using D3 639 “Steaming Out” of the VGR Carriage Shed in Castlemaine at 4:30pm.
  • Thompson & Co. Historical Photo & Nameplate displays

Saturday December 13

Celebratory train - Departs Maldon - 2.45pm
“Steaming Out” of Thompson’s D3 Loco re-enactment
(Steam Rail’s D3 639 will be used for the event)
3.30pm – Castlemaine Rly Stn – Platform 3

Re-enactment Platform Ticket - $5 : Period Costume & Chn - Free

Celebratory Train from Maldon - Includes re-enactment ticket & light supper on return to Maldon.

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

PH: 54706658 Email: marketing@vgr.com.au
First Class: Ad $55 Con $50 Ch $25 Fam $125
Excursion: Ad $35 Con $30 Ch $10 Fam $90

Email contact for bookings is convenient

Music on the Day by Thompsons Foundry Band