March 24th

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

A reminder to parents that children will be dismissed at 1:30 pm on Friday, the last day of Term 1. After School Care will not be available on Friday. School will resume on Monday April 13. As with tradition, students can wear casual clothes on Friday (last day of term).

Thank you to all parents who nominated for school council and especially to Andrew Gallagher who has taken on the role of President for a second term.

Other School Council Members for 2015 are: Neil Bowe, Vanessa Wild, Nikki Mannes, Sally-anne Symes, Julian Newman, Anne Hartney, Bianca Rinaldi, Jackie Hebble and Kevin Reade.

I wish to acknowledge and thank retiring member, Danielle Couch, for her time, efforts and dedication to Eppalock Primary through School Council.

I presented the Annual Report for 2014 which summarised the performance of the school for that year. Major discussion areas were the context for the school, student achievement, engagement, well-being and productivity. As you will probably be aware the school took part in a school review in 2014 and this significantly informed the Annual Report.

The dedicated efforts of teachers and the support of parents meant that the school achieved particularly well in all areas.

The productivity section of the report focuses on recommendations for 2015 and beyond with eight recommendations being proposed. These include the Supported Learning program, Words our Way (whole school approach to word study), introduction of the Grade Xpert program to maximise effective data collection, extension of the teaching of Chinese, Mindfulness, transition and further alignment of goals and priorities with budgets.

The Annual report will be available to families on the school website.

Other issues discussed included the grounds program. A landscape plan has been prepared and is available near the office with feedback welcome. Issues with water and drainage, especially at the Pump Station were also included in the discussion. The Region has been approached to help resolve the issue as a matter of urgency. The Council also approved the school participation in the Team China trip to take place in late May and also discussed the promotion and publicity program for this year.

The Council also accepted an invitation from Bendigo Legacy to send two students to the ANZAC Commemoration service on April 23rd at the Shrine of Remembrance. Students have been invited to express interest and a decision as to who all attend will be made early in Term 2.

A very busy and productive meeting.

I would like to thank the staff and school community for making me welcome during term. At this stage I have been reappointed up until May 15 should my services be required. Have a happy and safe Easter and I look forward to seeing you again on Monday April 13.

John P Jones - Acting Principal.

Note—School Council President’s Report is attached.
IMPORTANT DATES

MARCH
Thursday 26th MARC Library
Friday 27th Last Day Term 1 (1.30 pm finish)
            Parent Club—Hot Cross Bun Special Morning Tea

TERM DATES 2015
TERM 2    Monday 13th April—Friday 26th June
TERM 3    Monday 13th July—Friday 18th September
TERM 4    Monday 5th October—Friday 18th December

AWARDS
Congratulations to the following students who received awards this week ...

Kahlia—working very well in class
Tilly—for great reading
Sam for his excellent attitude towards school
Angus for his positive attitude at school

VALUES AWARD—Will for being kind, caring and thoughtful

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to ...
Levi T—yesterday 23rd March
We hope you had a great day

IMPORTANT
From 13 April 2015, smoking will be banned within four metres of an entrance to all primary and secondary schools in Victoria, and within the school grounds, under an amendment to the Tobacco Act 1987.
- A similar ban applying to the entrances and grounds of Victorian childcare centres and kindergartens will be introduced at the same time.
- While smoking was banned on the grounds of all Victorian Government schools by the Minister for Education in 2009 via a Ministerial Ban Order, the new bans are enshrined in legislation and will also apply to Catholic and independent schools in Victoria, thereby ensuring a consistent approach across the government and non-government sectors.
REPORT on 2014 school year from School Council President

What a busy and exciting year it has been for us at Eppalock Primary School.

On behalf of the school council I'd like to pass on our thanks to three groups of people;

- The staff at Eppalock PS who continually show their passion and dedication to our students.
- The Parents Committee. A dedicated bunch of parents who continually enrich the school experience and our community through the special lunches, community nights and a host of fund raising activities. They work tirelessly and the school is the better for it.
- All the parents who turn up to activities and show support for the school and their children's education. Our school needs, and values, your involvement.

As a school council we've had a busy year. Key activities include:

- Participating in the formal external review. This was an excellent result for the school and Emily and staff should be proud of their efforts and the progress.
- Working with staff to create our annual implementation plan outlining the areas we'll invest time, resources and energy over the next year and the outcomes we hope to achieve (copies can be obtained from school).
- Landscape Plan. This has been created and outlines the long term vision for the school facilities and grounds. We will use this to help us prioritise activity and support grant applications. A copy is available at school if you wish to view it.
- Our promotional efforts have been successful. The school council decided to actively promote the school in a number of forums and this has contributed to our growth from below 30 students in 2013 to over 50 this year.
- Removal of old portable buildings. This had been a significant impediment to our ongoing development.
- Commenced a review of many of the policies that help our school run smoothly.
- Worked with many in the community on a number of grounds projects. Such as watering system repairs, working to sort out issues with fire alarm systems, provision of electricity to outdoor learning area and of course our general working bees.

It has been a busy and successful year and as President I’d especially like to thank those parents, staff and community members who are members of the school council. The positive attitude and commitment you have to maximising the learning opportunities of all of our children is outstanding and makes the school council function. Thanks to all of you for the support and guidance you've provided me through our discussions.

For those who are new to our school, I’d encourage you to step forward and help us continue to build the Axe Creek/Eppalock community through the activities of our wonderful school. Be it formally as part of school council or parents committee or informally by just turning up when you can. We value and welcome your involvement.

Andrew Gallagher—President - Eppalock Primary School Council

ADVANCE NOTICE

Parent Club is planning a **HUGE Car Boot Sale** as a major fundraiser next Term.

Think about it – ask family and friends – you can have your own area or join with family or friends to set up an area to sell your goods.

The upcoming school holidays may be a great opportunity for you to clean out the shed / garage / cupboards and find lots of treasure you no longer need or use and could sell at the **Car Boot Sale**.

**Start planning and preparing now!**

**Further details early next term.**
PARENT CLUB

- **EASTER EGG HAMPER**—all tickets and money must be returned to school by Thursday of this week (26th March). There are extra books of tickets available from the office. Thank you to the families who have donated eggs etc for the hamper—if you have not and wish to, please leave your donation in the box in the school foyer.

- **HOT CROSS BUN SPECIAL MORNING TEA**—Friday 27th March (last day of term)
  Anyone who has not placed an order and wish to, please ensure order and money is at school tomorrow. There will be traditional hot cross buns, fruitless hot cross buns and chocolate chip hot cross buns available with or without butter at $1.00 each.

- **MOTHER’S DAY ACTIVITY**
  **Donations Wanted**
  We are seeking donations of large glass jars for the students to use to make terrariums as Mother’s Day gifts. The jars need to:
  - Be made from glass
  - Have a lid
  - Be at least 1.5 lt in volume
  - Have a large opening
  Please have a look in the back of your cupboards and in grandpa’s shed over the holidays. Old olive bottles, peanut jars and preserving bottles are usually suitable. This is a photo of the kind of jars we are after. There will be a box in the office foyer for your jars. Pick up can also be organised if you have a large collection. If you have any questions please contact Hilary Hall on 0422 608 303.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED
This activity will be held on Friday 1st May during the Living Green sessions. A minimum of 4 adult volunteers are needed for each session (9.30 – 11 am and 11.30 – 1 pm). Dads, if you’ve been meaning to volunteer, this is the perfect opportunity! Please let Marie or Lydia know if you are able to attend.

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 donation that is fine.
COMMUNITY NEWS

CLEARING SHED SALE!
Saturday 28th March from 1pm
at 1130 Axe Creek Road, Sedgwick

MDF sheets, pine floorboards, bench tops, chairs, roofing iron and tiles, red gum sleepers, pine posts, fencing material, wooden pellets, punching bag, caravan, water tanks, red gum sleeper benches and more. No reasonable offers refused. Great stuff for gardening projects.

Please come on the day if interested.
Mark and Bee Lovell

State Schools are Great Schools
Year 7 Information Evening at the following Colleges:
Wednesday 6th May at 7pm
Grade 2/3 have had a very busy term. Most children have done really well with their spelling tests each week. Well done!

The children have been very productive in art and have completed some great work and we are finishing up with some Easter Egg pictures today.

In maths we have been working on addition, subtraction and length.

We have completed some fantastic stories on our pets last week.

I hope everyone has a great break and don't forget to read over the holidays.

Ms Hartney

---

Term 1—Prep / Grade 1

The new prep students have settled into our school routine very well and along with the Grade s children are all working hard in class.

We have been learning sounds and blends and practising recounts in writing.

Our morning reading has been terrific, with all students learning to practise their readers daily. Thanks to all the parents who volunteer their time to help hear students read.

In maths we have been learning about number and measuring. There has been some fun real-life measuring around the classroom (including measuring the teachers!). We are learning how to tell the time—any extra practise at home would be very useful.

Children will be bringing home extra readers on Thursday. We ask that you hear these books most days in order to avoid the ‘holiday slump’ in reading levels!

Don’t forget to enjoy lots of picture story books with your child.

Have a lovely relaxing holiday time—see you next term.

Mrs Lindhe & Sue

---

It’s been busy Term 1 in Grade 4, 5 & 6!

In Literacy, we have focused on different text types and the Writing Process. Students have worked on the different stages of the writing process; plan, draft, revise, edit and publish to create some very interesting pieces of writing! Students have focused on Narrative and Recount text types. Students’ Narratives have been completed and are displayed on the ‘Publishing Wall’ in the classroom for any parents who would like to have a look.

In Numeracy, we have been looking at length and perimeter with the students completing an open ended task to help fence Mr Harvey’s paddock. We have also been working on students’ addition and subtraction with a focus on basic addition and subtraction facts.

Art this term has focused around a range of different techniques, including scratch art and ‘wash’. Students have created some amazing turtles and Easter scratch art and these are displayed around the classroom!

Students have been completing a range of homework tasks relating to the areas covered in class. Students have been doing a fantastic job, so please keep up the great work! Please make sure you are hearing your child read 3-4 nights per week and are signing their diary even over the holidays as this will help to avoid the holiday reading ‘slump’.

If you have any queries or questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me via email (harvey.ashlie.d@edumail.vic.gov.au), phone or in person at school.

Have a relaxing break with your family and I look forward to another exciting term in Term 2!

Mr Harvey