Dear Parents,

As I move around the school it is terrific to hear the students, staff and parents referring to our school values. They are listed at the top of the newsletter and are being demonstrated by positive behaviour right across the school.

At Epsom, we are fortunate to have a small and supportive school community. We would like to celebrate our “community mindedness” next Wednesday 20th February with a community get together at 6.00pm. On the evening there will be a free sausage sizzle in bread, a storyteller and games on the oval. We would love everyone to come and join in the fun. In order to assist with planning could you please complete the attached form and send it back to school asap. We look forward to seeing you all.

On Monday 18th March there will be a curriculum day. On this day the teachers will be developing their professional knowledge by working with the CASEA team. As you know we are participating in this program next term and this day will be invaluable in building the teacher’s skills and knowledge. We realise that this Monday follows a long weekend the previous week and apologise for this. Unfortunately this was the most suitable available date this term.

Please take note of the information regarding School Council. I would encourage everyone to consider nominating for a position.

Enjoy the rest of the week
Kerry McGuffie

School Council

School Council Elections – Nominations
Retiring members are eligible to renominate. Nominations are open today Wednesday 13th February. Nomination forms are available from the office.

The completed form must be returned to the Principal by 4pm the following Wednesday, 20th February.

We have 6 vacancies in the ‘parent’ category and 1 vacancy in the ‘Department of Education employee’ category. These comprise of 5 two year positions and 1 one year position.

Our annual elections for School Council will be conducted according to the following timeline:
Wednesday, 13th February - Notice of election and call for nominations. (Nomination forms can be collected from the school office.)
Wednesday, 20th February - close of nominations at 4.00pm.
Friday 22nd February – Nominees displayed on noticeboard.
By Wednesday 27th February - post out ballot papers (if nominations exceed number of vacancies).
Thursday 6th March - close of ballot at 4pm.
Friday 7th March - count votes & declare poll.
If nominees equal the number of vacancies there is no need for an election and the new executive will be elected at our March council meeting (18th March).

Harrison at the cycling where he competes
**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mondays</th>
<th>Active After-School Communities Gr 3-6 start 3.30-4.45pm</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesdays</td>
<td>Student Banking</td>
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<td>Wednesdays</td>
<td>Active After-School Communities Gr P-2 start 3.30-4.45pm</td>
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<td>Fridays</td>
<td>Subway lunch orders</td>
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<td>Mon 18th Feb</td>
<td>School Council Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 19th Feb</td>
<td>SCHOOL PHOTOS BEING TAKEN</td>
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<td>Wed 20th Feb</td>
<td>School Community Get Together</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 28th Feb</td>
<td>EMA applications close. No late claims can be processed</td>
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<td>Mon 11th March</td>
<td>Labour Day Holiday</td>
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<td>Monday 18th March</td>
<td>School Council Meeting</td>
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<td>Curriculum Day</td>
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<td>Friday 22nd March</td>
<td>Ride to School Day</td>
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<td>Thur 28th March</td>
<td>Last day of Term 1</td>
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<td>Mon 15th April</td>
<td>First day of Term 2</td>
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**OFFICE NEWS**

Please ensure you have the correct money when paying for things at the Office.

*If you would like your newsletter emailed to you please advise the Office.*

**Education Maintenance Allowance**—Forms available from the Office. If you’re not sure what this is….please come and see me. Applications need to be submitted by 28th Feb.

**Subject Contributions $80 per student**-
This fee covers the students requisites for the whole year. ie: Pencils, pens, books, art materials, printing, readers etc. Please pay at the Office A.S.A.P.

**Working With Children Check**
Application forms are available from the Office.

**Subway Lunch Orders**—New Order forms
Please use the new order form which is available from the Office. An order form must be completed and correct money is required with order. Please remember lunch orders have to be in the Office before school on Fridays.

**SCHOOL PHOTOS**
Order envelopes are being sent home with today’s newsletter. Orders will need to be returned with money by Feb. 19th.

**Weekly Grounds Roster**
*I will be sending keys home today with Amber S, Lowndes and Shanequa.*
Lots of sweeping required around the place. It sure brightens our school up.

**Art Room**
It’s time to start collecting items from home for the children to use in the Art Room. We would like cardboard boxes, any size, clean plastic containers, wool, fabric, ribbons, wrapping paper, anything you think we might be able to use. If you are not sure either send it along anyway, or drop in to the Art Room and see me about it. Last year we had happy mums and grandmas who had cleaned out craft cupboards, sewing boxes and kitchen cupboards. Some children even brought along craft items they no longer wanted. We cannot use toilet roll centres or used wool and fabric, and I really don’t need sauce bottles or glass jars. If the room is locked, please leave items on the verandah outside the Art Room.
Thank you in advance for your help.
Hilary Miller

**Library news**
Thank you to Michelle and Narelle for covering books …… some great new reads about to hit the shelves.
Thanks to Mr and Mrs. Davey for having a keen eye which has picked up some pre loved book display shelves. One in the library/MPR and one for her room.
Thank you to Mr Saddlier and Mr Pock for the use of their muscles in moving them to their new locations!

**HEADPHONES**
Headphones are now available from the Office for $5.
Active After-Schools Communities (AASC) – Free Program
In Term 1 we will be conducting Hockey sessions. Monday nights will be strictly for children in grades 3-6 and Wednesday nights for children in grades Prep-2. We understand our Preps do not attend school on Wednesdays until March, however prep children are most welcome to commence mid-term once they begin full weeks of school. Parent Permission forms are available from the school office and Mr. Saddlier.

COMMUNITY NOTICES
Please check Noticeboard for more information.

- Epsom Soccer Club registration day Sunday 17th Feb @ Epsom Huntly Recreation Reserve 3pm-5pm.
- Bendigo East Baseball Club Come and Try night for all ages of boys, girls and adults @ Ken Wust Oval, Quarry Hill tonight 4.30-6pm. Registration night for 2013 Competition will be held on Friday Feb. 15th from 4.30pm
- Eaglehawk Junior Football Club Registration Day Sunday Feb 17th from 11am-1pm for all players from U/9 to U/16 and the Youth Girls Team @ Eaglehawk FC Simpsons Road.
- Bendigo Monday Ladies Netball...phone Marge 54437379
- Bendigo Family Nature Club—Sunday Feb 17th from 4-5pm. For registration and information bendigonatureclub@gmail.com This is a free event.

Fundraiser for School Chaplaincy:
Thursday 21st Feb.
Film - Les Miserables at Star Cinema Eaglehawk, 6pm light refreshments; 6.30pm screening. $16. Bookings & Payment to School Chaplaincy c/- 175 Station St. Epsom 3551 by Mon. 18 February (Phone 5448 3912).

Weekly Grounds Roster
I will be sending keys home today with Amber S, Lowndes and Shanequa.
Lots of sweeping required around the place. It sure brightens our school up.
Next weeks keys will be going home with Tayla S., Dacota T., and Daniel T..
**ICT Fee for 2013**
The $100 a year fee for ICT will be discontinued with a new voluntary fee of $1 a week being asked for all children in 2013. That means the yearly fee if paid yearly will be $40 for each student. This can be paid half yearly at $20 per half year due now and then in third term. The contribution will help maintain our technology and help lessen the burden with the government cutting funding for ICT in schools. Our technology is more evenly distributed this year with all children having access to iPads, Netbooks, Laptops and iPods in all classes and Preps also desktops. So it will not be a 1:1 program but a many:many program. I believe the children should be able to use the correct tool for different jobs and be able to select a different tool when there is need. We are now living in a 4 screen world. Please support our use of technology this year as we need to stay up to date and your $1 a week will ensure we can. ICT equipment is not being sent home with students at the moment.

**24 Hour skype**
Grade 5/6F this year will be taking on the 24 hour skype challenge on Friday March 1st. The students are busily creating wiki pages for our global classroom to add information about their school and values. As we get closer we will have more information for you so you can follow who we are skyping with throughout the 24 hours. A permission note will be sent home to all 5/6F students and it is not compulsory for students to attend after school. Some may stay until after dinner and then go home. Others will stay all night. The cost will be $6.

**Thank you**
Jenny Ashby ICT Specialist

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**Cybersafety and a Competition**
As has been announced at assembly and on our school website [http://epsomps.global2.vic.edu.au/](http://epsomps.global2.vic.edu.au/) and elearning blog, we have been given some great metal drink bottles by ACMA (*Australian Communications and Media Authority*). To go in the draw the children need to submit a cybersafety tip onto the blog. We have a cybersafety expert coming to work with children, teachers and parents (yes there will be an evening session, time to be announced shortly) Tony Richards has some great activities for the children to learn more about cybersafety and lots of information for teachers and parents to know about. Tony Richards is coming on Wednesday February 27th February so mark that date on your calendar and we will get back to you with the times.

**Music Lessons Available**
**Guitar (Grades 3-6)**
We are offering private tuition in guitar during lunchtimes for students in grades 3-6. Lessons are for 30 minutes and cost $10 per lesson. **If your grade 3-6 child would like to learn to play guitar in 2013 please complete the expression of interest form and return it to school asap. Lessons will be starting next week.**

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**Music Lessons – Guitar**

**Guitar Lessons – Expression of Interest**
I wish to express an interest in my grade 3-6 child/ren

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receiving private guitar lessons at the school.

Signed _____________________

Name _____________________