Dear Parents,

We had a great time on Tuesday night at the Prep Basket Tea and information session. Thank you to those parents who were able to come and to the Junior Learning Community teachers for organising it. Please keep your eye out for a note regarding Literacy Sessions that Sue Hinton is organising over the next few weeks.

A reminder that March 18th will be a curriculum day. Students are not required at school on this day and the staff will be working with the CASEA team.

Yesterday we had Tony Richards working with the students, staff and parents on Cybersafety. Tony is an expert on technology and cybersafety and we all learnt a lot from his sessions. Thank you Tony. This day was funded by a grant as part of our work towards being an eSmart School.

Friday evening students from 5/6F are looking forward to participating in a 24 hour skype around the world. This is the second activity of this type that Jenny Ashby has organised and it is a great opportunity for our students. Thank you to Jenny as well.

As you can see this week has been a very busy one for students and staff providing a broad range of activities. We are very fortunate to have such a committed group of teacher working for our students.

Enjoy the rest of the week
Kerry McGuffie

Royal Children’s Hospital Appeal

This year we won’t be handing out fundraising envelopes for the Good Friday Appeal. Community members can donate on the link below. This will take you to our school’s page which will be open until January 2014.

epsom_primary_school_4

Clean Up Australia Day 2013 –
Sunday 3rd March

Meet at the Bendigo Rowing Clubrooms to register and collect your clean up equipment. Start time: 8:30am End time: 11:45am

If you would like to register your interest before the day, visit
Bendigo+Creek

and click "Join this Site" button on the right.

This is a great way to do something good for our local environment.

FOCUS ON FRANCE
Parlez Vous Francais?

Join the 3 million people in 170 countries and appreciate more about France – its culture and challenges - at the World Day of Prayer. It will be held in five locations around Bendigo this Friday featuring the country of France and the theme "I was a stranger and you welcomed me". The venues will be St. Paul’s Myer Street at 10.30am, Eaglehawk Uniting Church at 11am, St. Luke’s hall White Hills at 7pm, Holy Trinity Keck Street Flora Hill at 7.30pm and St. Monica’s Catholic Church, Kangaroo Flat at 7.30pm.

Contact: Jenny Rainsford on 5448

BOOK CLUB

A Scholastic Book Club brochure is being sent home with this newsletter. There is no obligation to buy. Any orders do need to be returned to school by Friday March 15th.
DATES TO REMEMBER:

Mondays
Active After-School Communities Gr 3-6 start 3.30-4.45pm
Tuesdays
Student Banking
Wednesdays
Active After-School Communities Gr P-2 start 3.30-4.45pm
Fridays
Subway lunch orders

TODAY
Friday 1st March
EMA applications close. No late claims can be processed
5/6 F—24 Hour Skype
Monday 1st March
Prep Questionnaire due back at school
Tues 5th March
Fundraising Meeting @ 2.30pm
Mon 11th March
NEW (AND OLD) PARENTS WELCOME
Friday 15th March
Labour Day Holiday
Monday 18th March
Book Club orders due back
Curriculum Day
Friday 22nd March
School Council Meeting—A.G.M @ 6PM
Thur 28th March
Ride to School Day
Mon 15th April
Last day of Term 1
First day of Term 2

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—If you have a Health Care Card you are probably eligible for EMA. Forms available from the Office. Applications need to be submitted TODAY.

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

Headphones available from the Office for $5.

PREP SCHOOL NURSING PROGRAM
Prep parents should return the questionnaire to the Office by Monday March 4th. The school nurse will be visiting before the end of term 1.

PREPS ON WEDNESDAYS
Yesterday was the last Wednesday for the Preps to be away from school. From next week Preps are required to attend school for the full week.

PARENT HELPERS REQUIRED
The grade 3/4 learning community students are keen to have their parents volunteer to listen to reading. Just come in on a day that suits you from 9am - there is no roster and no prior experience required!
Mrs Davey & Mr Saddlier

Active After-School Communities (AASC)—Term 1—Hockey
Monday nights will be strictly for children in grades 3-6 and Wednesday nights for children in grades Prep-2. Parent Permission forms are available from the school office and Mr. Saddlier.

Weekly Grounds Roster
I will be sending keys home today with Layla, Jess T., and Rylee. The trees are losing their leaves so there is lots of sweeping required around the place and raking along the fence lines. The Green Bin is in the gardening shed to use for the green waste.

Next weeks keys will be going home with Jesse T, Gianni and Bevan.
Deanne Hendy – Environmental Coordinator

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE MEETING
Next Tuesday, March 5th @ 2.30pm the Fundraising Committee will be holding their first meeting for the year. A warm welcome is extended to any parents, new or otherwise, who would like to contribute to the activities this committee provide.
Please come along and join in the fun!

EASTER RAFFLE
Easter is just around the corner and with that comes Epsom’s annual Easter Raffle. Families are asked to donate Easter goodies with which hampers are made up and raffled. The Easter baskets always look fantastic thanks to the contributions from families. Raffle books will be sent home with your child next week. The books are $5 each, with tickets being 50c each. Please use both sides of the tickets to write name and phone numbers on. If a winner is not from the school community they will be notified with a phone call.
Art Room
Many thanks to Brian Davey for putting up the big white-board in the Art / Music Room last week. It will be put to good use now it is safely anchored to the wall. Thanks also to Kristy Rogers for taking home the basket of art shirts and returning them washed and folded, and in a brand new basket. Much appreciated. Thanks to parents who have organised an old shirt or t-shirt for their child to wear in the Art Room. Finally, thanks to people who have sent along boxes, containers, wool, lace, ribbons and other bits and pieces for the children to use in art. I appreciate your donations.
What a surprise! In among the boxes I was unpacking, I found a lovely pair of red satin boxers, size 5. They look almost new.
Someone’s child may have "helped" them pack some stuff, but we don’t need them thanks.
Please come and retrieve them from the art room when you get a chance. Thanks.

Hilary Miller

WINTER NETBALL COMPETITION
The Golden City Netball Association have sent our school information regarding the 2013 competition. If your child (grades 3—6) is interested in playing in the Saturday morning competition please attend the meeting at school, in Mrs Brunswick’s room on Friday March 1st at 3.30pm.
Any queries, please contact the school.

ICT Fee for 2013
A yearly fee of $40 for each student will help maintain our technology and help lessen the burden with the government cutting funding for ICT in schools. 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.

QR codes
Do you have a QR code on your smart phone? i-nigma is a great free QR code reader. Shortly there will be some QR codes appearing on the 1/2 Bugs in a Jar artwork. If you use your QR code reader you will hear the 1/2’s explaining about their drawings.

Cybersafety eSmart
February has been a great month for the beginning of our cybersafety work this year. Our online session earlier by ACMI gave us the message "Connect with Respect" and yesterday Tony Richards reminded us we all need to check our privacy setting in facebook as facebook has made changes in the last few days. We all should be set to friends only. Tony also said we should not friend anyone we have never met in person f2f.

Thanks to our parents who came last night to gain some great information from Tony about online smarts. They will be able to help their children and themselves keep safe and live happier with better use of technology. It was disappointing that more parents didn’t attend as online safety is affecting all of us as we live in the 21st Century. We hope to have another night so others can be informed about cybersafety.

Our eSmart committee consists of Michelle Stone, Jenny Ashby, Kerry McGuffie, Sharon Allen and Bridgette Tuohy. We would welcome others to join and will post the date for our first meeting in March shortly. If you are interested please leave your name and email address at the office with Deanne so I can contact you.

24 Hour Skype
This Friday 5/6F are having a 24 hour skype. We begin at 9am on Friday and finish at 9am on Saturday. We’ll be speaking to these schools - Boneo Australia, Castlemaine (Campbells Creek), Melbourne (Wyndham Park PS, Frankston (Frankston East PS), Nullawil, (RCH Ed Institute - Royal Chns hospital), Rome Italy, Findon England, Wales UK, New York, USA-Denton Ave School, New York, USA-School of Columbia Uni, Bridgenorth ON Canada, Plymouth, Indiana, US, Windsor, Canada Santa Monica, CA USA, "Westborough, MA USA, Mitchellville, IA, Fort Worth, Texas (Sycamore Elementary).

The night shift will test us out to see if we can make it through the night and stay awake. If you follow the school @epsomps tweet feed on the app you will be able to follow our tweets.
Also we have created a wiki with lots more information about what we are learning about and yes we are talking about values with these classes around the world. Go to http://24hourskype2013.wikispaces.com
Many thanks from

Jenny Ashby
ICT Specialist
Purpose:

- The health and welfare of all members of our school community is important. All children and school staff have the right to feel safe at school.
- Parents/caregivers play a formative role in the development of your child’s sense of justice, equity, and the dignity and worth of all members of our school community.
- Parents/caregivers act as one of the most influential role-models within a child’s life.
- The responsibility for upholding the values of the school in this matter must fall on those with the greatest capacity to reason and control their actions. As such the adult community of our school is expected to model courteous behaviour and treat all members of the school community with respect and consideration.

Guidelines:

- There may be times when it is felt the actions of a member of the school community have infringed the rights of a child. Under no circumstances is a parent or guardian to approach another child, whilst they are in the care of our school, to discuss or chastise them because of their actions. Such an approach to the child may be seen to be an assault on the child and may have legal consequences. In addition to this, direct parent/parent contact should be avoided when there has been an incident at the school involving their child/children.
- It is appropriate to approach the class teacher in the first instance to seek their intervention in bringing about an equitable and peaceful solution to the situation. If the situation remains unresolved, an approach should be made to the school Principal.
- Bullying has no place within our community and as such will not be tolerated. This is as true for adult-to-adult interaction as it is for child-to-child. All interactions between members of our community must be in keeping with the values espoused by the school through our values, strategic plan and school policies. Instances of bullying must quickly be brought to the attention of the classroom teacher and Principal in line with our policy so that justice may be achieved for all involved.
- In order to help protect peoples’ good name, problems, differences of opinion and personality clashes are not resolved by involving other people in a disagreement or by taking sides in the argument. Attempt to resolve these issues through calm dialogue between the parties directly involved whilst respecting the dignity of each and every person.
- There is an expectation that people working within the school as “volunteers” avoid forming opinions on other students or sharing their opinions with the broader community.

Implementation:

- Respect and dignity will be accorded to all members of the school community, staff and all children at Epsom Primary School.
- Any conflict on school grounds will be dealt with in a mature and appropriate manner in accordance with existing school and DEECD procedures. Where students are concerned an approach to the school will be made in the first instance.
- Every effort will be made to listen to the grievances of all parties in a calm and rational manner without recourse to involvement to outside parties who are not directly involved.
- This policy will be distributed to the school community at the beginning of each school year.

Ratified by School Council December 2011