Dear Parents,

Tomorrow is the “National Day Against Bullying” and it is an opportune time to put some information on the newsletter about this topic. At Epsom we are fortunate that the incidences of bullying are rare but when they do occur and are reported they are not tolerated and are dealt with by staff immediately and proactively.

On occasion, the term ‘bullying’ is used by students or members of the community for what really is conflict between students. Therefore, to clarify please see this information from DEECD.

“Bullying is when someone, or a group of people, deliberately upset or hurt another person or damage their property, reputation or social acceptance on more than one occasion. There is an imbalance of power in incidents of bullying with the bully or bullies having more power at the time due to age, size, status or other reasons.

What bullying is not
Many distressing behaviours are not examples of bullying even though they are unpleasant and often require teacher intervention and management.

Mutual conflict: involves an argument or disagreement between people but not an imbalance of power. Both parties are upset and usually both want a resolution. Unresolved mutual conflict can develop into bullying if one of the parties targets the other repeatedly in retaliation.

Social rejection or dislike: is not bullying unless it involves deliberate and repeated attempts to cause distress, exclude or create dislike by others.

Single-episode acts: of nastiness or physical aggression are not the same as bullying. If someone is verbally abused or pushed on one occasion they are not being bullied. Nastiness or physical aggression that is directed towards many different people is not the same as bullying. However, this does not mean that single episodes of nastiness or physical aggression should be ignored or condoned as these are unacceptable behaviours. “

For your information, I will place some additional information on next week’s newsletter. Our school’s Student Engagement & Wellbeing Policy can be found on the school website. This includes the school’s approach to instances of bullying.

Thank you
Kerry McGuffie

School Council Annual General Meeting
Next Monday 18th at 6pm is the School Council Annual General Meeting. This is a public meeting where the 2012 Annual Report will be presented. All are welcome. The AGM will be followed by the March General Meeting at 6.30pm.

REMINDER—MONDAY IS A PUPIL FREE DAY

SPECIAL ASSEMBLY –TOMORROW
Tomorrow there will be a special assembly at 9am to present the badges to the school leaders. The elected school leaders are: Damon, Caitlin B, Darcy G, Bevan, Jack B, Prue, Zoe, Jarrod, Lachlan G, Jess, Chloe, Lachlan H. Please come! More information and photos on next week’s newsletter.

EASTER RAFFLE
Donations of goodies for the raffle are coming in slowly. Thank you, the prizes are going to be great. Don’t forget to get your raffle books back to school. 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. More tickets for sale at the Office.

REQUEST FOR HELP!!!
We have the opportunity to pick up a rather large and heavy book display unit for FREE! In order to get this unit we are putting out a call for anyone who has a tandem trailer (or something suitably large) to pick it up for us and deliver it to school. Anyone who can help please ring the Office for details of the pick up point. Can be picked up at anytime and dropped off at school anytime.

Respect, Pride, Cooperation, Fairness, Caring

See the awards soon!!
DATES TO REMEMBER:

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<tr>
<th>Mondays</th>
<th>Active After-School Communities Gr 3-6 start 3.30-4.45pm</th>
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<td>Tuesdays</td>
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<td>Wednesdays</td>
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WEEK 7
Friday 15th March | Special Assembly @ 9am  
Book Club orders due back

WEEK 8
Monday 18th March | School Council Meeting—A.G.M @ 6PM  
CURRICULUM DAY—NO STUDENTS REQUIRED
Tuesday 19th March | Netball Chat with teams 3.30-4pm
Thursday 21st March | Book Sale—8.30a.m. in Welfare Room
Friday 22nd March | Ride to School Day  
Breakfast at school at the end of the ride from 8.30A.M.

WEEK 9
Thur 28th March | Last day of Term 1—EASTER RAFFLE DRAWN

TERM 2  
15TH APRIL—28TH JUNE
Mon 15th April | First day of Term 2  
MARKET PLACE COMPETITION STARTS
Saturday 20th April | Netball competition starts

Mon 23rd April -  
Friday 26th April | BOOK FAIR
Tuesday 7th May | Fundraising Meeting @ 2.30pm
Friday 10th May | Mothers Day Stall
Thursday 23rd May | Soup Day
Sunday 26th May | Market Place Competition Finishes
Friday 31st May | Curriculum Day
Saturday 1st June | Bunnings BBQ (Fundraiser—BBQ’ers required)

TERM 3  
15TH JULY—20TH SEPTEMBER
Mon 12th August | Fundraising Meeting @ 9.30am
Thursday 15th August | Soup Day
Friday 6th Sept | Fathers Day Stall
Friday 20th Sept | Footy/Pie Day

TERM 4  
7TH OCTOBER-20TH DECEMBER
November (Dates TBA) | Swimming program

OFFICE NEWS
Subject Contributions $80 per student—  
This fee covers the students requisites for the whole year. ie: Pencils, pens, books, art materials, printing, readers etc. This money can be paid in instalments. Please pay at the Office A.S.A.P.

Headphones available from the Office for $5.

ICY POLES WILL BE ON SALE  
TOMORROW AT LUNCH TIME  
FOR 50CENCTS  
(AND NEXT FRIDAY LUNCH)

ICT Fee for 2013
This year we have asked that parents pay a voluntary payment of $40 per year towards the maintenance of our ICT equipment. As we no longer have an allocation in the school budget for ICT from the government this will assist greatly in maintaining a high quality program for your children. Thank you to those families who have already made a contribution.

EPSOM CHOOKS
Please remember to save your vegie scraps for the chooks. Eggs—Please buy some eggs from the school office. $4 per dozen.
**NATIONAL RIDE TO SCHOOL DAY**
--- **FRI 22ND MARCH**
This event is next Friday. Ride, scoot, skate or walk! There will be a staff member at the (White Hills Oval) end of the bike path at 8a.m. to supervise your child’s ride to school. So start planning now to get your child to the path with their bike, scooter, skates or runners.
A breakfast of toast and fruit will be available when children arrive at school.

**RUN AROUND AUSTRALIA**
--- **IT’S ON AGAIN!!!!!!**
Bendigo Marketplace is running this competition again and the prizes are BIGGER!
It starts on Monday 15th April and will run for 6 weeks ending on Sunday 26th May, 2013.
Remember it starts next term……..

**WOOLLIES GOODIES**
The goods that were ordered via the collection of Woolworths dockets have arrived! Staff and students were very excited unpacking boxes...24 of them! Thankyou to all families for collecting dockets for this.

**BRUMBY’S AND DONUT KING LOYALTY CARDS**
Does anyone have a loyalty card for these shops? Once your card is completed and dropped off at school we’re able to get free bread from Brumby’s.
We’re not quite sure of the finer details but we are hoping we might be able to collect enough cards to cater for our Bunnings BBQ in June!

**PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS**
**Online Parent Interview Bookings**
Parents can book their parent teacher interviews using our online booking form.
Go to http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au and use the code **BL6QU**. Anyone who doesn’t have internet access is very welcome to call into the school and use one of our computers.
You will notice that teachers are available on different days and at different times.

**VARIOUS CARDS FOR SALE AT THE OFFICE— 50c EACH**

**HELPING YOUR CHILDREN AT HOME**
Do you want some ideas on how to help your children at home with reading and writing? Come along and learn how.
When: Wednesdays 2.30-3.30 p.m.
13th, 20th and 27th March
Where: The new portable
Who: Anyone!!
**Sue Hinton**

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**HELPING YOUR CHILDREN AT HOME**
**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**
Yes, I’d like to attend these sessions.
**NAME:** __________________________
**CHILD/RENS NAMES AND GRADES** ______________________________________

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**HOLIDAY GARDENERS WANTED**
If you are around on the holidays and would like to maintain the school grounds and look in on the chooks, please come and see me in the Office or send a note in and I will send a gardening key home.

**Weekly Grounds Roster**
*I will be sending keys home today with Chloe, Darcy and Bree.*
Gardening keys are sent home once a year (at the most) to families, in alphabetical order. One hour of gardening per year is a great contribution to our school and keeps it looking tidy. Some families contribute more time, which all our families should be thankful for. Any parents who arrive early to collect their children are welcome to do a bit of a tidy up/sweep around the place.
The trees are losing their leaves so there is lots of sweeping required 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 Caleb W, Samuel and Cody.*
**Deanne Hendy – Environmental Coordinator**
NETBALL NEWS
The winter competition is approaching and our teams are well on the way to being organised and ready for a great year of netball.
Our school will enter one team in the 13/ Under competition and one team in the Grade 3 Clinic.
Thank you to Bridget Green, Leanne Veale (13/ Under) and Marijke Harrison (Gr 3 Clinic) for volunteering to assist as coaches/managers. Thank you to Josie Geddes for looking into the cost of new uniforms for the 13/ Under team. Details of the new uniform have gone home to those players.
Grade 3 Clinic players require a red skirt and red school shirt and white socks. Don’t rush out and buy a red skirt just yet as the school and past players may have spare ones. The season commences April 20th. A meeting will be held at Sky Lounge Bendigo Stadium on Monday March 25th at 7.30pm. It is compulsory for at least one parent to attend as a representative for our teams.
Additional information will be sent home as more details are finalised.
Any queries, please contact me.
Jan Brunswick
PE Coordinator

NETBALL CHAT
Bridget would like to meet with all netballers for a brief chat next Tuesday from 3.30pm to 4pm.

BOOK SALE
Next Thursday March 21st, I will be holding a book sale. Nothing over 50c and the money raised will go towards breakfast on our “Ride to School day”
There will be something for everybody. Will start at 8.30a.m. and if there’s anything left will open again at recess.
ONE DAY ONLY! - Deanne Hendy

Trivia Night Monday March 18th Supporting: Bendigo State School Chaplaincy (Access Ministry) – part of Eaglehawk Dahlia & Arts Friday 13 to Sunday 24 March 2013 (Pay on night) Admission: $12.00 each. BYO Nibbles, drinks (non alcoholic) & glasses Tea & Coffee available during the evening
BOOKINGS Ph/Fax 5448 3912
Email: bj rains@bigpond.com by FRIDAY 15th MARCH

The Bendigo YWCA is once again running their School Holiday Program. The YWCA is a not-for-profit organisation and the program has a focus on having fun, meeting new people and learning new things. We are a small program with a maximum of 30 children attending each day emphasising the safety, security and value of each child.
For more information, or to make a booking, please contact us through our website at www.ywca.net or directly on 5443 5465. There are also copies of the Program available to pick up from the school office.

HUNTYL FOOTBALL CLUB
Registrations being taken at Strauch Reserve 4.30pm Wednesday nights. Visit website for further information www.huntlyjfc.sportingpulse.net or see notice board for information.

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.

EXPERIENCE ANOTHER CULTURE IN 2013 AND IMPROVE YOUR LANGUAGE STUDIES AT HOME
In June-July students from over 20 countries around the world will be arriving in Australia to study at local high schools for 5 or 10 months. Opportunities exist for families to act as a host family, in a volunteer capacity. Hosting can be on a temporary, short or long term basis. Host families help provide international students with the chance to study and experience life in Australia. This is a great way to learn about another country and culture, establish a lifelong link to a family in another country and contribute to international goodwill.
If your family can offer a friendly, supportive and caring home environment, contact us today.
To hear more about this wonderful opportunity or our student exchange programs out of Australia Call Student Exchange Australia New Zealand on 1300 135 331 or visit www.studentexchange.org.au/host-a-student

WANTED Primary School Students for Netball
The White Hills Football Netball Club seeks 2-3 Primary School students (girls or boys) to play in their Primary Grade throughout the 2013 season. Our season commences on Saturday 13th April. Should you have any questions or have a child interested in playing in the Primary Grade team please feel free to contact: Claire Flood – Primary Grade Coach on 0408 469 493 or; Melissa Harrington – Netball President on 0423 801 869.