Dear Parents,

The curriculum day on Monday was very productive and the staff learnt a lot of new information.

Next Thursday 28th March is the last day of term. Children will be dismissed at 2.30pm and there will be a short assembly at 2.15pm.

Last week I put some information in the newsletter in recognition of the National Day Against Bullying and mentioned that at Epsom we do not have an environment where bullying is prevalent. Please find below some additional information from the DEECD website as promised:

“Unacceptable behaviour in the school environment refers to a wide range of behaviours that are not acceptable or appropriate, as outlined in a school’s Student Engagement Policy but are not necessarily bullying. This includes harassment, discrimination and a threat or act of violence.

Parents and carers play an essential role in identifying and responding to bullying and unacceptable behaviour. It is important to recognise if bullying may be occurring and to establish if the behaviour is in fact bullying or unacceptable behaviour.

What parents/carers can do if their child is being bullied or targeted by unacceptable behaviour

There are a range of suggested actions that parents/carers can utilise when their children are being bullied or are bullying or harming others.

Listening and understanding

If a parent/carer thinks their child is being bullied or targeted, they can ask them directly about it or initiate a discussion about bullying and behaviour at the school in general. Parents/carers can talk about whether there are any students at school who bully or harm others. It is important for parents/carers to listen carefully to what their child has to say without interrupting, and to show concern and support by letting their child know that they understand how distressing it is for them to be in this situation. Parents/carers can congratulate their child for having the courage to confide in them and emphasise to their child that all students at school have the right to be treated with respect and to be safe from bullying and unacceptable behaviour.

Parents/carers can ask questions such as ‘What have you tried so far to stop the bullying/behaviour?’ and ‘How well do you think these actions have worked so far’.

Parents/carers should not encourage children to fight back or to make inappropriate comments as it may increase the level and duration of the bullying or unacceptable behaviour, lead to the involvement of more students and result in injuries and repercussions.

At home, parents/carers can help their child to develop these positive strategies:

• practise saying ‘Leave me alone’ and then calmly walking away
• problem-solve ways to avoid people or situations that might expose them to further bullying or unacceptable behaviour
• discuss ways in which they can make new friends.

Parents/carers should encourage their child to continue to talk with them or the school about incidents of bullying or unacceptable behaviour. They should also stay calm and focus on solving the problem with their child. Discovering their child is being bullied or harmed is very stressful and upsetting and most parents/carers initially experience anger, confusion and guilt. Trying to keep an open mind is important; parents/carers should remember they are hearing only one part of the story. Parents/carers should avoid directly approaching any student who they believe may have been involved in the bullying or unacceptable behaviour toward their child. Parents/carers should also avoid trying to sort out the issues with the family involved. This usually does not work and makes the situation much worse.”

I hope this information is helpful.
Kerry McGuffie

THANK YOU

A huge thank you to the D’Arcy family for picking up the HUGE book stand for the library. It was heavy and awkward, but our library is looking better for their efforts.
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

WEEK 8
Friday 22nd March: Ride to School Day
Breakfast at school at the end of the ride from 8.30A.M.

WEEK 9
Mon 25th March: Last 3-6 AASC session—N.B. Pick up time 5.15pm from school
Wed 27th March: Last P-2 AASC session— N.B. Pick up time 5.15pm from school
Thur 28th March: Grade 1 to launch of the “Dragon Play Space” in Hargreaves Mall
Thur 28th March: Casual Dress Day—Gold coin donation
Last day of Term 1—EASTER RAFFLE DRAWN
2.30pm FINISH

TERM 2
Mon 15th April: First day of Term 2
MARKET PLACE COMPETITION STARTS
Friday 19th April: Breakfast at school (Money from Book Sales)
Saturday 20th April: Netball competition starts

WEEK 2
Tues 23rd April: BOOK FAIR—Monday to Friday
Thurs 25th April: Incursion—Tony Bones Puppet Show— A Fractured Fairytale
ANZAC DAY HOLIDAY

Tues 7th May: Fundraising Meeting @ 2.30pm
Friday 10th May: Mothers Day Stall
Thurs 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
Mon 12th August: Fundraising Meeting @ 9.30am
Thurs 15th August: Soup Day
Friday 6th Sept: Fathers Day Stall
Friday 20th Sept: Footy/Pie Day

TERM 4
7TH OCTOBER-20TH DECEMBER

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.
I will be sending up to date family statements home early next week.

ICY POLES WILL BE ON SALE TOMORROW AT LUNCH TIME FOR 50CENTS

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.
ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL COMMUNITIES
As a fun way to conclude this term’s Hockey program we will be taking the children to the Ashley Street Hockey Complex for their final hockey session, Monday Grades 3-6 and Wednesday, Prep—Grade 2. We have arranged for the children to travel by bus to the complex, leaving school at 3:45pm and returning to school at 5:15pm. There is no cost involved.

Parents are asked to note the later pick up time of 5:15pm at school.
Jake Saddlier

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 Caleb W, Samuel and Cody. 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.

Any parents who arrive early to collect their children are welcome to do a bit of a tidy up/sweep around the place. The Green Bin is in the gardening shed to use for the green waste.

Next weeks keys will be going home with the Holiday Gardeners
Deanne Hendy – Environmental Coordinator

NATIONAL RIDE TO SCHOOL DAY
—TOMORROW FRI 22ND MARCH
This event is tomorrow. Ride, scoot, skate or walk! There will be a staff member or 2 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. We had some bread donated by a family, thankyou and there are some baked beans and spaghetti (also donated), so breakfast should be a feast.

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

OUR JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCILLORS 2013
CONGRATULATIONS
GRADE 1 EXCURSION
Our Grade 1 students have been invited to the launch of the “Dargan Play Space” in Har- greaves Mall on Thursday 28th March. The City of Greater Bendigo has organised a range of activities along with a healthy snack and some keepsakes. A short song has been written for the students, who will all sing together on the day. Buses have been provided to pick up students and bring them back to school. They will need to wear their uniform. There is no cost involved.

Leanne O’Connor
Junior Learning Community

CASUAL CLOTHES DAY
On the 28th of March, the Junior school council will be hosting a gold coin donation to buy a “foosball table” for the children’s entertainment. Your child is recommended to wear casual clothes for this occasion and bring a gold coin.

By Junior School Council President
Caitlin

EASTER RAFFLE—ONE WEEK TO GO
The raffle 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.

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

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.

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.

TODAY’S BOOK SALE / BOOK FAIR
Thankyou to everyone who supported this…...it was a great success. I will operate another one on Monday morning before school. Today we made $51! This money will go towards another breakfast on the first Friday back at school.

Our Scholastic Book Fair will be held in the second week of second term. The fair will be open before and after school for the week. Our school receives a percentage of sales which we take in the form of new books.

The Epsom Soccer Club are having their MEET THE COACHES DAY
When: Sunday 24th March 2013
Place: Epsom Huntly Recreation Reserve
Time: 5.00pm
Any further information please contact the Junior Coordinator:
Robyn Braszell 0488393788 robynbras@gmail.com