Welcome back to what will be a busy year of learning and playing at Ermington West PS. It has been a pleasure to commence the year greeted by such enthusiasm and warmth from the Ermington West community.

Staff News
Congratulations to Miss Pasfield who is expecting her first child. We welcome Mrs Carol Dixon to the school. Mrs Dixon has been permanently appointed to the school and will be teaching 1/2D this year. We also welcome Miss Jaimee Pickrell. Miss Pickrell will be teaching 3/4P on Monday and Tuesday until Miss Pasfield goes off to have her baby and then will take on the full teaching load. Miss Pickrell will also teach RFF on Thursday and Friday this term.

Class Structures
Many parents have enquired about the formation of classes at EWPS. Thank you for your questions as it highlights a need for information to the community to further clarify this process. Essentially, schools are staffed based on the number of students enrolled at the school. We then look at the number of students in each year or stage of learning to make the best decision for all of the learners at the school. This year we have composite classes from Year 1 – Year 5 but as you will see in the table below, every class is a composite class based on the age of students, regardless of whether it is in fact a “straight” class. For example, children commencing Kindergarten at the beginning of the year could be four, five or even six years old.

Stages of learning
In NSW public schools the curriculum is broken down into learning stages, each spread across approximately two years of school:

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### Stages of learning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Typical age</th>
<th>Year of school</th>
<th>Stage of learning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 - 6</td>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>Early Stage 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 - 8</td>
<td>Years 1 - 2</td>
<td>Stage 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 - 10</td>
<td>Years 3 - 4</td>
<td>Stage 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 - 12</td>
<td>Years 5 - 6</td>
<td>Stage 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 - 14</td>
<td>Years 7 - 8</td>
<td>Stage 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 - 16</td>
<td>Years 9 - 10</td>
<td>Stage 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 - 18</td>
<td>Years 11 - 12</td>
<td>Stage 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Your child may be in a composite class, for example, a combined Year 5 and Year 6 class. The teacher will be working with them at a Stage 3 level, but as in any classroom (combined or not) students will be on a wide spectrum of ability, with different depths of understanding. Even if your child is in a single year class, (say, Year 6), the teacher will carefully create programs of work for a broad range of abilities. Children in combined classes aren’t at a disadvantage - in fact some parents find it gives their child more opportunities to extend themselves.

How the syllabus works
As always, the staff of Ermington West PS continue on their professional learning journey to improve the educational, social and personal
outcomes for all students. This year one of our focus areas will be on the new English syllabus as all schools are in their first year of planning, teaching, assessing and reporting under this syllabus.

The NSW Board of Studies develops a syllabus for each of the learning areas. The syllabus is like a framework that defines the knowledge and understandings, skills, values and attitudes students should have achieved by the end of each learning stage. It doesn't dictate the content of lessons. It's up to teachers to decide how to best achieve the objectives and outcomes set out in the syllabus.

For more information visit: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/

Professional Learning @ EWPS
In Week Three, all teachers will hold student – teacher conferences to create a personalised learning plan for the learners in their class. During this time, students will reflect upon their learning style, set goals for future growth and have the opportunity to share their interests and strengths with their class teacher.

The following week, teachers will be involved in planning days. The information from the student-teacher conference will assist teachers in catering for the needs, strengths and interests of all learners across the school.

In Week Five, the Learning Support team will be involved in a two-day planning conference so we can ensure the learning goals for all students are communicated across the school.

Educational Reforms
The education revolution has been a topic of discussion in the media, with NSW leading the way in educational reforms in Australia. In each newsletter I will share information on these reforms so you can better understand policy and decision making at state and school level.

Resource Allocation Model:
In 2012, the NSW Government announced its Local Schools, Local Decisions (LSLD) reform for NSW public schools. This reform places students at the centre of school decision making. It gives principals and school communities a greater say over how they allocate and use the available resources to best meet the needs of their students. To enable the shift of resources to the school level, a new Resource Allocation Model (RAM) has been developed. The RAM is designed to achieve a simpler, fairer and more transparent distribution of government school funding and change the way resources (Staff and Finances) are managed in our school system.

The RAM provides many benefits to schools by:

- Allocating most funding on a per student basis
- The new RAM will ensure funding is provided to schools based on the characteristics of those schools and the students within them. This will result in additional schools receiving funding to support students with identified needs. In addition, schools identified as having students with the highest need will be funded at a higher rate.
- Reducing big changes in a school’s resources, e.g. losing a teacher or admin staff member, which can accompany small changes in the reduction in enrolments. Under the current system, a small change in circumstances can mean a school drops out of a program and loses a significant amount, or a whole teacher or school executive position.
- Providing increased funding that goes directly to schools. This will make school planning easier from year to year.
- Shifting from the current funding model where schools manage 10% of the total public school education budget to more than 70% being managed by schools.
- Allowing for more flexibility, innovation and decision-making in schools to meet student needs.
- In 2014, all schools will receive funding based on the first two components of the RAM: the targeted (individual student) funding and the equity funding (Low level adjustment for disability, Aboriginal background, English language proficiency and socio-economic background).

Annual Swimming Carnival
On Tuesday 18 February we will be holding our annual school swimming carnival at Granville Swimming Centre, Enid Avenue, Granville. All students in years 3 to 6 are expected to attend. In addition any children who turn 8 in 2014 and who are competent swimmers are invited to attend. A separate note with full details of the day will be sent home with this newsletter. The note will also be posted on the school website. Please ensure that a separate permission note is completed for each child.

Shannan Judge
Principal
EWPS students on their first day of school
MERIT CERTIFICATES

Merit Certificates are awarded to students each week by their teachers and presented at the weekly assembly. Congratulations to these recipients who recently attained the following awards:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Merit Certificates</th>
<th>KE</th>
<th>Benjamin V, Hunter S.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1-2D</td>
<td>Kirra B, Rabie D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1-2H</td>
<td>Sienna J, Tahlia L.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3-4P</td>
<td>Charlotte G, Moe D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4-5S</td>
<td>Mustafa R, Luis T.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6I</td>
<td>Charlotte E, Olivia V.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special Merit: Jay L.

Sport Awards: Cooper H, Cora A, Amelia H, Kate L.

SCHOOL BANKING

Welcome to another year of Student Banking. School Banking is also a great fundraiser for our school. The school receives $5 for every NEW activated account via the school banking program (i.e. for each student who banks through the school’s program for the very first time) plus a 5% commission on every deposit made through the school banking program.

Last year the school received $975.85 in commission payments from the Commonwealth Bank.

If your child would like to take part in School Banking, it is easy. If your child has an existing Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account they can start banking straight away. They just need to bring their deposit in every week in their Dollarmites deposit wallet. If your child does not have a Youthsaver account, you can open one at any Commonwealth Bank branch – no forms to fill in! Alternatively, if you are an existing Commonwealth Bank customer with access to NetBank you can apply online, over the phone or download the application form. For more information visit: http://www.commbank.com.au/personal/youth-students/school-banking.html

An information pack will be sent home with your child during the week.

Check out these new & exciting rewards for 2014:
- Handball
- Scented Pencils (watermelon & popcorn scents)
- Penguin or shark plush keyring
- Whale shark pencil case
- Dollarmites moneybox
- Swimming bag
- Projector cup
- Sea streamers

DON’T FORGET: EVERY WEDNESDAY is our school banking day.

Looking forward to another strong year of banking. We appreciate your support.

Tina Pandoulis (0433.061.350)
Soula Carlson (0410.499.292)
School Banking Coordinators
Welcome
Hi everyone and welcome back to another year at EWPS. It was so lovely being welcomed back by familiar faces of the staff, children and families from last year.

It was also fabulous to be greeted by our new faces. Welcome to Mrs Dixon who is teaching 1/2D, and to Mrs Judge our new Principal, who greeted us all at the school gate and in the playground with a lovely smile and much enthusiasm about the year ahead. We are very excited.

Welcome also to our new students and families. Obviously there are our very cute Kindy children who have started and will I’m sure grow to love our school, and also some new children in different year levels who started this year.

To the families and friends of our school children, we hope you feel welcomed and enjoy your time at EWPS. I would encourage you at any time to approach the P&C members OR any parent for that matter in the playground with questions you may have about settling in. Please note however if your concerns have anything to do with your child in a learning capacity it should be directed to the teaching staff and/or Mrs Judge.

Canteen
At the end of last year the Canteen was only open on Monday and Thursday for lunch and recess and unfortunately in the final weeks had to be shut. Due to a lack of volunteers we were unable to carry the load of having the Canteen open for five days a week. This was unfortunate, but will remain that way unless we can get some more interested parties to volunteering some of their time.

I would also like to point out that the canteen is a good income stream for our school, in which ALL profits are injected back into the classrooms and school environment for our children’s education. The closure of the canteen will reduce the amount we can give back to the school for the foreseeable future.

In saying that, Alison Minter (Canteen Manager) opened the canteen on Monday 3 February and it will open again on Thursday 6 February for lunch orders. If you can help out, even if for a couple of hours a week or month, please contact Alison on 0402 202 788 OR email Alison at: alison.minter@optusnet.com.au

Please find attached the 2014 Summer Munch Box menu.

Fundraising
The current fundraising committee has met to discuss some upcoming events within the next month or two and has mapped out the year for our fundraising events. At this point our fundraising efforts are streamed into purchasing a Smart Board for the current 4/5 classroom.

Our first date to note is our Valentines Disco – February 14th. It will be held in the school hall from 6pm with a Sausage Sizzle starting from 5pm (more information will come shortly). A more in-depth view of the year will be issued after it has been viewed by P&C.

Again, we would love to see some fresh faces joining the ranks of fundraising and volunteering, please contact anyone on the above email or chat to us in the playground to express your interest in coming along to add some “fresh blood”

Just to clarify with our fundraising events, when we call for volunteers it does not mean you need to be at an event for the whole time. For example with the Disco, we would need people helping with setting up, cooking the BBQ, doing the hairspray and temporary tattoos, and packing away. We understand people are busy and we appreciate any help we can get. Please find below a tear off slip, so if you are wanting to be a volunteer, we can call on for various events, please fill out the details and put in an envelope sent back to school marked P&C Volunteers. This way we can create an up to date spreadsheet with details required to contact people.

EWPS Parents’ Facebook Page
Just a reminder that we have a Parent’s Facebook page. This is for sharing information and putting out notices and reminders. We are NOT able to post photos however as this breaches many issues regarding confidentiality. Please request to join and the administrators will accept your request.
The P&C meets on the second Tuesday of the month in the Staffroom from 7pm. We very much welcome new members joining our passionate group to help make a difference to our school for the children.

If you want to come along and see what we do and how we do it, our first meeting is Tuesday 11th February at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to come along and see how we work together to benefit the children’s learning experience at EWPS.

If you want to “join” the P&C, it is a gold coin donation which then at the next meeting you attend gives you voting rights on issues voted on.

Anne van Uden
President

VOLUNTEER INTEREST

Name: ____________________________________________
Phn: _________________ / ____________________________
Email: ____________________________________________
Child’s Class: ____________________________________________

Please note this does not mean you are required for all events or for the entirety of an event, just able to help out where you can. Your information will ONLY be available to the P&C member running an event and is NOT shared information.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Ermington United Sports And Recreation Club
Sunday 2 February
10:00am – 2:00pm
Cowells Lane Tennis Courts, Ermington
Contacts: Anne van Uden 0413 928 126
Joseph Moses 0414 641 641
Peter Panas 0422 089 434

Dundas Valley Junior Rugby Union Football Club
Saturday 1 and 8 February - 9:00am – 1:00pm
Cox Park, Evans Road Dundas
and Ermington shops
Betty Cuthbert Avenue, Ermington
Contact: Margaret Myhill 0406106621 / 96315369

PCYC
Balmain PCYC RLFC
Sunday 9th February from 10am
Blackmore Oval, Canal Rd, Blacktown
Contact: Caroline Arve
balmainpcycolleague@gmail.com
0409 778 116

Carlingford Cougars RLFC
1st and 8th February 10am - 2pm
Birchgrove Oval, Birchgrove
Contact: Melissa Kelly
info@carlingfordcougars.com.au
0407 294 373

Enfield Federales RLFC
2nd February 9am – 2pm
Cook Park, Park St, Ermington
Contact: Nellie Hage
enfieldfeds@hotmail.com
0410 338 214

Five Dock RSL RLFC
Sunday 3rd February 10am – 12pm
Five Dock, Park, Five Dock
Contact: Penny Chalk
pduckworth7@optusnet.com.au
0417 416 982

Holy Cross Rhinos RLFC
Sunday 9th February 10am – 2pm
Cox Park, Evans Road Dundas
Contact: Marg Belcastro
margbelcastro@yahoo.com.au
0402 954 688

North Ryde Hawks RLFC
Sunday 9th February
10am – 2pm
ELS Hall, Kent Rd, North Ryde
Contact: Warwick Hilder
info@northrydehawks.com.au
0412 339 976

Strathfield Raiders RLFC
Friday 9th February 10am – 2pm
Blackmore Oval, Canal Rd, Blacktown
Contact: Michelle Meadham
secretary@strathfieldraiders.com.au
0431 449 387

Concord Burwood RLFC
Sunday 9th February 1pm – 3pm
Goddard Park, Broughton Street, Concord
Contact: Aida Catalano
secretary@cbowolves.org.au
0419 697 445

Dundas Shamrocks RFLC
Sunday 9th February 10am – 2pm
King George Park, Roseville
Contact: Daniela Mulo
secretary@shamrocksdundastics.com.au
0402 250 204

Leichhardt Juniors RLFC
Saturday 8th and 15th
22nd February 2pm – 4pm
20th March 11am – 12noon
Holy Cross College, Park St, Ryde
Contact: Mark Belcastro
markbelcastro@yahoo.com.au
0402 954 688

Leichhardt Wanderers RLFC
Sunday 2nd and 9th February
10am – 1pm
Blackmore Oval, Canal Rd, Leichhardt
Contact: Leoni Barnett
leoni.barnett@optusnet.com.au
0438 288 734

Dundas Valley Junior Rugby Union Football Club
Saturday 1 and 8 February - 9:00am – 1:00pm
Cox Park, Evans Road Dundas
and Ermington shops
Betty Cuthbert Avenue, Ermington
Contact: Margaret Myhill 0406106621 / 96315369

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Anne van Uden
President
MUNCH BOX SUMMER MENU 2014

Please contact Alison on 0402 202 788 if you are free to volunteer some of your time to assist in the canteen. New helpers are welcomed and will be trained.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOT FOOD</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fried Rice</td>
<td>$3.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lasagne</td>
<td>$3.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spaghetti</td>
<td>$3.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macaroni Cheese</td>
<td>$3.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nacho Dippers</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pizza</td>
<td>$3.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Ham and Pineapple, Cheese and Bacon)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicken Burger (with lettuce &amp; mayo)</td>
<td>$3.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aussie Beef Burger</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(with lettuce, beetroot, tomato, cheese and sauce)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hot Dog (with tomato sauce)</td>
<td>$2.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicken Nugget/Fish fingers</td>
<td>$0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lean Meat Pie/Sausage Roll</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicken Pie</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noodles – Chicken or Beef</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn Cobs (butter if requested)</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potato Hash Brown Triangles</td>
<td>$0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sauce – tomato, BBQ, sweet &amp; sour</td>
<td>$0.20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SNACKS</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homemade muffins</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit Cups</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit slices (watermelon etc)</td>
<td>$0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Popcorn</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gummy Bears (1 scoop)</td>
<td>$0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yoghurt frogs (1 scoop)</td>
<td>$0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eucalyptus Drops</td>
<td>$0.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mamee Noodles</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large Cookie</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Cookie</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheese sticks</td>
<td>$0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honey Soy chips</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JJ’s Chicken Crackers</td>
<td>$1.20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FRESH FOOD</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wraps with various fillings</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandwiches:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salad</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicken or Ham</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomato</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheese</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegemite</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salad Tub</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(lettuce, tomato, grated carrot, cucumber, shredded cheese)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summer Pack</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salad tub/sandwich with popper</td>
<td>$3.80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Addition of meat or tuna to sandwich or salad tub $1.00

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DRINKS &amp; ICE BLOCKS</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100% Just Juice Poppers</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Apple &amp; Blackcurrant, Orange, Apple, Tropical)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plain Milk (30mls)</td>
<td>$1.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk with Sippah Straw</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Chocolate, Strawberry)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up &amp; Go</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Chocolate, Strawberry, Vanilla)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aroona Mineral Water</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Raspberry, Cola, Blue)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juice Bombs</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small</td>
<td>$0.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moosies – dairy ice blocks</td>
<td>$1.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Chocolate, Blue Moon, Strawberry, Banana)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zooper Doopers – water ice blocks</td>
<td>$0.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TNT – water ice blocks</td>
<td>$0.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunny Boys</td>
<td>$0.60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Remember: Lunches must be ordered on a brown paper bag (found in supermarkets), otherwise a 10c fee will be charged for the use of one of our bags. Please ensure your child’s name and class is clearly marked. Correct money is appreciated, otherwise change is returned in the corner of the bag.