Rules and Values

Week 2
Rule: Be safe; Work safely, play safely
Value: Integrity

Week 3
Rule: Be responsible; Respect the rights and property of the school and others
Value: Excellence

— DATES TO REMEMBER —
Please also check our school’s on-line calendar at:

2014: Term 1
20 March “African Beat” Harmony Day performance
31 March Cross-country carnival
1 April Zone Soccer
8 April Parent-Teacher-Student Interviews

Term 2
9 May Stewart House Donation Drive
20 May ICAS Computer Skills Competition
4 June ICAS Science Competition
16 June ICAS Writing Competition
17 June ICAS Spelling Competition
29 July ICAS English Competition
12 August ICAS Mathematics Competition

— NOTES CURRENTLY IN CIRCULATION —
Please also check our school’s on-line calendar at:

Note | Due Date | Target Group
--- | --- | ---
Voluntary Contributions | End Term One | All families
Parent Technology Survey | Monday 10 March | All families
Harmony Day | Friday 14 March | All families
ICAS Competitions | Wednesday 2 April | Years 2-6 (English, Maths, Science)
| | | Years 3-6 (all competitions)
Parent-Teacher-Student Interviews | Tuesday 8 April | All families

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Parent Forum
We had just over twenty families represented on Tuesday 11 March at the parent’s forum and discussion centered around personalised learning and the role students, teachers and parents play in ensuring all students achieve educational outcomes. Technology was also discussed and as a school we are working towards ensuring technology is used effectively in our learning programs.

Reporting progress to parents so the necessary steps can be taken at home was an item of great interest. As a result of the Australian Curriculum, school reports will be reviewed by teachers, parents and students early in Term Two. If you are interested in joining this working party please contact the office either by telephone, in person or via email.

Excellence, diversity and opportunity in a caring school
Discussions regarding homework allow us as a school to gauge the needs of our families and students. Over the past term, teachers have received feedback about how home learning is structured, the complexity of the tasks, and concerns as to how to balance this against the demands of extracurricular activities.

In response to these discussions, we will be trialing a new model of home learning from the start of Term Two. On Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 3:00pm – 4:00pm, teachers will lead an afternoon session to allow students to work in small groups, individually with a teacher, or via technology. It is not compulsory for your child to attend this session, nor do they have to attend each week to be involved.

*This time is in replacement of structured, formal homework tasks.*

We believe this is model will allow us to provide targeted support or extension to individual students. If your child does not attend the afternoon session and you wish for your child to have a home learning program established, please contact your child’s teacher who will provide you with tasks aligned to your child’s educational goals.

Reading
Reading at home is an essential skill for life and should not be viewed as ‘work’. It is important that all children develop a love of reading and a thirst for knowledge. Parents play an active role in this through being a role model in reading, reading aloud to your children and encouraging your child to be curious about the world in which we live.

Defining Reading Fluency
A good analogy for understanding reading fluency comes from public speaking. Fluent public speakers embed in their voices those same elements that are associated with reading fluency: accuracy in speech, appropriate speed, and phrasing and expression.

The speaker’s use of these aspects of fluency facilitates the listener’s comprehension. Speaking in appropriate phrases, emphasizing certain words, raising and lowering volume, and varying intonation help the listener understand what the speaker is trying to communicate.

Contrast a fluent speaker with one who is less fluent, who is anxious about speaking in public and renders a presentation in a slow, word-by-word monotone. This less fluent speaker makes it considerably more difficult for listeners to comprehend the presentation. They have fewer verbal cues to use and will have to listen more closely and intensely to make sense of the speech.

Indeed, listeners may find themselves drifting away from the presentation altogether if the effort required to understand is too great. This analogy seems to apply fairly well to reading. Reading fluency certainly affects reading comprehension. Scientifically-based research reviews have established that reading fluency is a critical component of learning to read and therefore of an effective reading program.

To summarise, listen to your child read aloud. Their reading should sound like a conversation, with pauses for emphasis, loud and soft; high and low; fast and slow phrases to convey meaning. This is more important than what level of reader your child brings home and gives you a good indication of their position in the journey to independent reading.

Newsletter
Thank you to the families who returned their notes regarding the newsletter. The school newsletter is an important avenue of sharing information and celebrating learning.

There are three ways to access this:

- Elect to have a paper copy sent home. This will be delivered to your child every second Wednesday.
- Through our Twitter account: @ermington_west

If you have photos from school events that are suitable for the newsletter, please email to ermingtonw-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences
On Tuesday 8 April from 2:00pm-7:00pm we will be holding conferences to inform you of learning progress. The inclusion of students in this process is a fundamental element of students taking responsibility for their learning. Please complete the request form and return to the class teacher as soon as possible. We will endeavor to allocate times nearest to your request, and to provide continuity for families with more than one student at the school.

End of Term Celebration
On Friday 11 April we will have our Easter Eggstravaganza. This day will include the Easter Hat Parade, the world’s biggest treasure hunt and an eggssibition of Eggoramas. A separate note detailing this will be sent home detailing this day. We understand many families do not celebrate Easter for religious reasons and have made provision for students to enjoy the day, regardless of their religious denomination.

K-2 students will need to make a hat, decorated at home and brought to school on Thursday 10 April. Years 3-4 will make a mask, decorated at home and brought to school on Thursday 10 April.

Years 5-6 will create an Eggorama, an Easter diorama which will be placed on display on the day.
It will need to be brought to school on Thursday 10 April to enable us to set up the display. More detail about these items will accompany the note.

**Technology Levy**
Many thanks to the parents who have contributed to the technology levy. Last year’s levy raised $550.00 and contributed to the purchasing of iPads. This year we will utilise the funds in purchasing a school subscription to Reading Eggs and Reading Eggspress and to assist us in creating a technology hub in the connected classroom.

**Revised Procedures for Collection of Money**
Starting from next Monday, all envelopes containing notes and money will now come directly to the office, where a locked box will be located. Parents and/or students will need to place the envelope into the box with the correct money. Receipting will be done on Monday and Wednesday morning before recess so it would be appreciated if all money could be handed in before 9:00am. Any money handed in on Thursday or Friday will be receipted the following week. If you require change, this process will occur at the time of receipting.

**Stewart House Donation Drive**
Envelopes are being sent home today for the 2014 donation drive. Each year 1,800 public school children in need attend Stewart House from many parts of NSW and the ACT. During their stay, children are provided with optometric, dental and medical treatment as well as emotional support. This is balanced with health and educational programs and out of school activities to boost their self-esteem and to promote a healthier lifestyle.

Children in the care of Stewart House attend a specific purpose school onsite for 8 days of their 12-day stay. The NSW Department of Education and Communities provides infrastructure and staffing support for this school. All other costs associated with the childrens' stay are met from charitable donations.

Your support of this worthwhile cause is greatly appreciated.

**Car Park**
The car park is for the use of staff from Ermington West PS, including the itinerant vision team; Ermington West OOSH; students attending our school who have a disability; and for deliveries. *Under no other circumstances is the car park to be used as a pathway to get to and from Vignes St, or by parents to park in to collect their child.* If you believe you have circumstances which mean you should be able to use the car park, please come and see me so we can make appropriate arrangements. The safety of our students will not be compromised because it is easier for parents to walk through the car park. I apologise if this sounds harsh, but I will not compromise on the safety of your child.

**In appreciation**
Sincere thanks to Tracy Connors for her organisation of the bingo afternoon, to Mrs Simic and Miss Isaacs for representing the staff and to community for their participation. We are fortunate to have such a wonderful community working together.

**Administration Building**
The administration building will be painted over the next two weeks. The tradespeople will commence work at 3:00pm of a weekday and work over the weekend in order to minimise interruptions to our working environment. It will look refreshed and inviting for the beginning of Term Two!

**Technology Hub Update**
We have been most fortunate in gaining approval by the Department of Education for the furniture required to establish the computer lab in the connected classroom. The tender process for the wiring and electrical work has commenced. We are all very excited about this upcoming facility.

_Shannan Judge_
Principal

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**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>
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<tr>
<th>Merit Certificates:</th>
<th>KE</th>
<th>1-2D</th>
<th>1-2H</th>
<th>2-3P</th>
<th>4-5S</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>Infants</th>
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**Student of the Week:** Value: “Cooperation” Primary: Michelle L. Infants: Sienna J.

**Bronze Striver:** Thomas M, Elizabeth F, Jay L, Simran K, Jay L, Nirav P, Bilal R, Reuben K.

**Silver Striver:** Andrew H, Nirav P.

**Gold Striver:** Warren B, Issa M, Saja Z, Nirav P, Issa M.

**Principal’s Banner:** Matthew J.

**Sport Awards:** Joshua T, Saja Z, Neda P, Molly W, Elliott C, Emma S, Manulevu T, Mitchell E, Benjamin V.
Our active and engaged learners
Ermington West P&C
Fundraising Cake Stall

Saturday 29 March at Rydalmere Bunnings

We are seeking the assistance of our Ermington West families and friends with this fundraiser and we were wondering

**Could you please bake for us?**

- Slab, bar or round cakes
- Muffins
- Pop cakes
- Cup cakes
- Slices (in packs of 6-10 pieces)
- Cookies

Cakes and slices can be left in the canteen on Friday 28th or dropped off (already wrapped or packaged) at the new Bunnings store from 8.30am on Saturday 29 March.

Please ensure you include a list of the ingredients with your cakes or slices.

Free cake boxes are available if needed. We also need volunteers to assist on the day (Please see Anne van Uden or Rachel Evans if you require boxes or can assist).

*More information is available on the Parents of Ermington West Facebook page*
P&C News

Ermington West Public School P&C Contacts:
Email: ewpspc@optusnet.com.au
Phone: 0413 928 126 – Anne van Uden (President 2014)

Executive P&C Members for 2014:
President: Anne van Uden
Secretary: Jodie Visagie
Treasurer: Soula Carlson
Vice President: Rachel Evans, Tracy Connors

Bunnings Cake Stall

Please see attached note.

An apology to Barbara Britten for an error in her name last Newsletter! Without Barbara’s commitment to our school and Bunnings this would not be possible, so a very big THANK YOU!

I’m sure you will all support our new Bunnings store anyway, but I hear there is a great coffee shop, amazing playground and an opportunity to book children’s workshops involving “hands on” interaction! Call Bunnings if you are interested.

Bingo Afternoon

Thank you to all the children, families, friends and teachers who came along to support our Bingo afternoon. Tracy Connors did a great job running the afternoon with the help of some families arriving early to help with the set up.

It was a relaxed, fun afternoon that saw everyone getting involved. Many people commented that the afternoon could have gone on for another hour or so as no one wanted to go home!

The profit made from the afternoon was a fantastic $526.00.

Canteen

Once again, please let us know if you are available to help out with any volunteer shifts.

EWPS Parents Facebook page

Thank you to all our new members!! We hope you are finding our Facebook page useful.

Just a reminder that if you have not joined, it may be a useful tool to catch up on things and keep in the loop of conversations happening.

The page 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.

P&C – “a very special thank you to all of our new members for your interest and support”

The P&C meets on the second Tuesday of the month in the school library. 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 next meeting is Tuesday 8th April 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
EWPS P&C
President 2014
COMMUNITY NEWS

FREE KIDS FITNESS SESSIONS

Diploma of Fitness students need primary school aged children to participate in fitness sessions designed to develop fitness and fundamental skills in children. No sport or fitness experience necessary. Sessions held at Meadowbank TAFE campus Health and Fitness Department with qualified staff.

WHEN: Wednesday Afternoons 3:30—4:15pm starting 26th March – 4th June 2014.

There will be three weeks of sessions then a two week break for the school holidays, followed by a further 5 weeks in Term 4.

For more information contact Melissa on 99423056 or email on Melissa.Baker10@det.nsw.edu.au

ERMINGTON WEST CANTEEN

The Ermington West Public School canteen can only operate with the help of volunteers.

The canteen is currently open for recess and lunch on Mondays and Thursdays - these are both full lunch order days.

We also aim to open the canteen during Terms 1 & 4 for lunch time only to sell snacks, ice blocks, drinks etc (no lunch orders) and we are desperately in need of volunteers especially on these days.

Two people are required for each shift so you won’t be alone and training will be provided.

If you can spare some time to help keep our canteen going please fill out the availability survey attached and return it to school at your earliest convenience.

Your help will be very much appreciated.

Canteen Availability Survey

PLEASE TICK DAYS AVAILABLE

or contact Alison Minter on 0402202788 for more information or to discuss availability

- Mondays (lunch order day) 9am- 1:45pm
- Tuesdays 1pm - 1:45
- Wednesdays 1pm - 1:45
- Thursdays (lunch order day) 9am – 1:45pm
- Fridays 1pm – 1:45

Thanks again for your support.

Name:__________________________
Contact phone number:______________
or e-mail address__________________

LIQUID CINEMA

7pm every Friday from 21 March until 11 April
Boat and Zorb hire 4pm until 7pm

FREE MOVIES BY THE RIVER

Barramatta River foreshore, between Barry Wilde Bridge and Elizabeth Street Footbridge

Bring along your cushions and blankets and take in a family-friendly movie sure to satisfy all tastes.

Pack a picnic, grab some delicious food at the many restaurants nearby or at the food stall set up especially for the screenings. Come along early and hire a boat or Zorb for some fun along the river.

21 March 7:00pm Finding Nemo (G)
28 March 7:00pm Babe (G)
4 April 7:00pm Toy Story (G)
11 April 7:00pm WALL·E (G)

This event is weather dependent. Any cancellations will be listed on Council’s website, parramatta.com.au on the day of the event or call the weather information line on 9834 8506.

For further information contact Parramatta Heritage and Visitor Information Centre on 8007 3011.