Ermington West Public School

NEWSLETTER

Vignes Street  
Ermington 2115  
Email: ermingtonw-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au  
Website: www.ermingtonw-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

Issue 12/14  
20 August 2014

RULES AND VALUES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Rule:</th>
<th>Value:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Be safe: Be in the right place at the right time, doing the right thing.</td>
<td>Responsibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Be responsible: Always be polite</td>
<td>Democracy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

— DATES TO REMEMBER —

Please also check our school's on-line calendar at:

Term 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Target Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 18 August</td>
<td>Book Week - activities</td>
<td>All students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 18 August</td>
<td>After school learning centres <strong>cancelled</strong> for today</td>
<td>All students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 19 August</td>
<td>Moran Arts Foundation photography workshop</td>
<td>Years 3-6 (limited to 30 students)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 19 August</td>
<td>Australian Girls Youth Choir visit @ 10.45am</td>
<td>Girls Grades 1-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21, 25, 27 August</td>
<td>Zone Athletics Carnivals</td>
<td>Selected representatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 August</td>
<td>Premiers Reading Challenge closes</td>
<td>All students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 26 August</td>
<td>Fathers’ Day Mufti</td>
<td>All students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 2 September</td>
<td>Celebrating the Arts</td>
<td>Junior Dance Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 2 September</td>
<td>Fathers’ Day stall</td>
<td>All students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 8 September</td>
<td>After school learning centres <strong>cancelled</strong> for today</td>
<td>All students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 9 September</td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting (7:00pm)</td>
<td>All families invited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 11 September</td>
<td>Commbank Start Smart Workshops</td>
<td>Years 1-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 15- Tue 16 Sept.</td>
<td>ZooSnooz at Taronga Zoo</td>
<td>Years 4, 5 and 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 8- Fri 19 Sept.</td>
<td>Special Swimming Scheme</td>
<td>Years 1-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 19 September</td>
<td>Last day of Term Three</td>
<td>All students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**20 September – 5 October**

School Holidays

Staff and Students

Term 4

Tuesday 7 October  
Term Four commences – NO Staff Development Day at the beginning of Term Four  
All students

— NOTES CURRENTLY IN CIRCULATION —

Please also check our school’s on-line calendar at:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Target Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ZooSnooz Overnight Camp</td>
<td>Overdue</td>
<td>Years 4-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology levy</td>
<td>Overdue</td>
<td>All families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uniform Shop Mid-Season Sale</td>
<td>Until 29 August unless sold out prior</td>
<td>All students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent Survey – After school learning</td>
<td>By Friday 22 August</td>
<td>Parents whose children (Years 3-6) attend after school learning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Excellence, diversity and opportunity in a caring school
Dear Parents,

**Independence**

Over the weekend I watched the ABC documentary ‘Life at 9 - Independence’. This series is part of the Life Series, which aims to unlock the secrets of child development by following a very specially selected group of children from their first year of life. It examines how children grow and develop in ordinary and extraordinary circumstances, including the impact of family relationships, finances, work, health, and education. It considers the interplay of nature and nurture, conducts experiments and speaks to experts about how the latest science on child development may be playing out in these families.

The Life Series is made in conjunction with a long-term study - The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (‘Growing Up in Australia’) - in which 10,000 children have been placed under a sociological and scientific microscope. This particular episode looked at the role of parenting in fostering children’s independence.

I would highly recommend this series to parents and children and encourage you to watch it together, as the conversation around family rules and values would be very interesting. ‘The Life Series’ is the name of the Facebook page and you can watch the episodes on ABC iView until August 28.

How independent is your child? Do you have high expectations of what they can achieve? Are you worried about what age you should expect your child to complete tasks independently? Here are some helpful tips from [www.parenting-ed.org](http://www.parenting-ed.org):

* Let your children do things for themselves. Even very young children show an interest in doing things for themselves.
* Let your children help with challenging tasks. Parents should encourage their children to try to do new things and to face new challenges.
* Encourage your children to make decisions. Parents should start encouraging decision-making while their children are young.
* Learn to model responsibility and independence. Children learn by watching their parents.
* Help and encourage your children to solve their own problems. Problem-solving is a skill that must be learned. The ability to problem-solve is a skill that will be useful throughout children's lives. It will also aid in the development of confidence.
* Encourage your children to take risks. Taking risks involves facing potential failure. Many parents try to shield their children from the disappointment of failure. Such parents may be doing their children a disservice. Children need to take risks to grow. Children must experience failure in order to learn how to cope with it.
* Be there to provide support, when needed. Even the most independent-minded children need to lean on their parents from time to time.

*Provide adequate discipline. Children need structure in their lives to feel secure. Appropriate discipline provides this structure. Consistent discipline helps children learn about what's expected of them. Children who know what to expect feel more in control of their lives and are thus more likely to behave in responsible and independent ways.

* Praise your children.
* Give your children responsibilities. Most children want to help their parents and to feel needed.

Your child’s independence impacts greatly upon their learning. Students who are learners in the 21 century are required to be innovative, problem solvers and analysts of information.

**Uniform**

Last week at the P&C meeting, a motion was put forward to investigate current attitudes about the options for altering the current EWPS school uniform. This does not mean that the uniform will change, but that parents and students will be given the opportunity to express their thoughts about the current school uniform.

The sale on at the uniform shop is due to excess stock, not because the uniform will be changing next year. Altering a school uniform is a length process, with many checks and balances for ensuring the decisions embrace the needs of all families.

I encourage parents to take advantage of the current sale at the uniform shop, as the discounted prices are only for the month of August.

The new (if any) school uniform will not commence until 2016. Parents and community members are invited to attend a forum regarding uniform on Tuesday 9 September at 6:00pm in the library. The P&C meeting will follow on at 7:00pm.

**Presentation Day 2014 - Save the Date**

The annual celebration of learning will be held on Monday 8 December, starting at 9:30am. This ceremony will see academic, cultural and sporting achievements being recognised. All families are invited to attend this event. Parents of award recipients will be notified by letter prior to the assembly.

**Kindergarten Orientation**

At present we are experiencing a flurry of activity in the office with families enquiring about enrolling their child at EWPS in 2015. Our Kindergarten Orientation program is to be held on Monday 3 November, Monday 10 November and Monday 17 November. If you, or a friend or relative has a child starting school next year, please drop by the office and request an enrolment form. All out-of-area applicants will be required to complete a separate form which will go before the enrolment panel.
Trivia Night
On Saturday 16 August the P&C held their annual Trivia Night. Congratulations to Vanessa Julien and Tracy Connors for organising such a successful night. The trivia night was very well supported by the members of our P&C and the team worked incredibly hard to have so many prizes donated. They also brought quite a few friends and family members along to support the school. I would like to remind all of our EWPS families that events such as the Trivia Night should be supported across the school. The P&C have made many contributions to all of the students at this school. In the last 12 months the P&C have organised events leading to the installation of the new playground and supporting the technology program through financial contributions. These contributions allowed us to install a new IWB in 4/5S, protect our iPads, create a new computer room and have XO laptops in the hands of every child at the school. Without the organisation, time and dedication of the P&C as a parent body, and its members as individuals we would not benefit from having a uniform shop or canteen on site. When these services are outsourced, prices usually rise, impacting on all families. It would be fabulous to see new families represented at the P&C meetings and the planned events for 2014.

OSHC Tender
Our Out of School Hours Care service is currently going through the tender process. The current service, EWOOSH is a not-for-profit service which is managed by parent volunteers. The day to day care of students is managed by Kate Lindsay, who, along with the staff at EWOOSH, provides excellent care for students attending the centre. At the end of the year, our OSHC will no longer incorporate a bus which services other schools. Other schools may of course utilise the OSHC, (if the numbers allow), however transport will be organised by these schools. It is anticipated that the tender process will allow our students to continue to experience high quality care, with a reduced fee structure to parents.

The tender closes on 3 September, with the panel meeting on 4 September to determine the successful tender. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me to clarify. The current license is due to expire on 28 January 2015. EWOOSH will operate as usual up until this time.

MaPLES Concert
The senior and junior dance groups are to perform tonight at the MaPLES concert at Marsden HS. All families are welcome to attend, and entry is by donation of a gold coin which will be donated to charity. I would like to congratulate the junior dance group and the senior dance group on their commitment to attending the concert. In organising and planning for the concert, Miss Haynes, Miss Elias and Mrs McKenzie have spent numerous hours choreographing, rehearsing and sewing in order for EWPS students to have the opportunity to perform. I am sure all of our families appreciate their dedication. It is through the goodwill of our teachers and families that we are able to offer a multitude of extra-curricular events.

The New School Plan
The new school plan will allow schools to strengthen partnerships with community. It will focus on transformational school leadership with improved delivery of quality teaching, learning and leadership outcomes for all schools.

In order to allow this to occur, EWPS will be working closely with students and their families to determine the strategic direction of the school over the next five years. On Tuesday 14 October, from 5:30-7:00pm parents, carers and interested community members are invited to form a working party to contribute to this process. We look forward to seeing many of you there. A separate note will be sent home with further information.

Shannan Judge
Principal
Book Week Activities
Introducing... our students
Each fortnight, our budding journalist and writer, Neda P, will interview four EWPS students. Watch this space for your child!

**Student: Emma 4/5S**

Neda: What is your favourite subject at school?
Emma: Art
Neda: How did you feel when you started at EWPS?
Emma: Shy, because I didn’t know anybody.
Neda: What differences do you notice between your school in England and our school?
Emma: It is more sunny here, less people, bigger fields and it is colourful.
Neda: How do you feel about having all these friends?
Emma: Happy.
Neda: And what about our principal?
Emma: Mrs Judge is the best principal any school can have!
Neda: What are your favourite hobbies?
Emma: Running, PSSA, netball and swimming.

**Student: Callan 6l**

Neda: What are your favourite subjects?
Callan: Sport and CAPA.
Neda: Why do you like those activities and school?
Callan: Because of the freedom in the activities. I like school because I get to socialise with people and learn new skills to help me endeavour in life.
Neda: If the school could improve something, what would it be?
Callan: Nothing really at the moment.
Neda: How is your lovely teacher, Miss Isaacs?
Callan: She is really good because she gets in with the students and works really well with them, understanding their skills and knowledge.
Neda: Do you enjoy PSSA and why?
Callan: I enjoy PSSA because I get to meet other people and compete with them in a friendly manner.
Neda: What do you think about buddies?
Callan: I think ‘buddies’ is a great opportunity to interact and work with Kindergarten especially with my buddy Tyson.
Neda: What experience have you had from all these seven years at EWPS?
Callan: Learning and making new friends.

**Student: Elizabeth**

Neda: What do you like about school?
Elizabeth: Learning, Miss Elias and friends.
Neda: What is your favourite subject?
Elizabeth: Reading because Miss Elias helps us read the words.
Neda: Do you have fun with your friends?
Elizabeth: Yes.
Neda: What are your favourite activities?
Elizabeth: I like playing games. I like playing on the new equipment.
Neda: How did you feel at the beginning of school?
Elizabeth: Shy.
Neda: Do you like buddies?
Elizabeth: Yes because we do some art like making chicks with Cora.
Neda: Do you enjoy time with Miss Elias?
Elizabeth: Yes, because I love Miss Elias!!!!

**Student: Elliott**

Neda: What do you like about school?
Elliott: I like playing at lunch times and doing work.
Neda: What is your favourite subject?
Elliott: I pretty much like all subjects but my favourite is sport.
Neda: Do you enjoy playing with your friends?
Elliott: Yes.
Neda: Do you enjoy time with Mrs Dixon?
Elliott: Yes.
Neda: Why?
Elliott: Because she is a nice teacher and she makes us do fun work.
Neda: What are your favourite hobbies?
Elliott: Exercising and work.
Neda: If you could make any changes to the school, what would they be?
Elliott: I feel like planting more trees.
MERIT CERTIFICATES

Merit Certificates and recognition of other special achievements are awarded to students each week and presented at the weekly assembly. Congratulations to the following students who recently attained awards:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Merit Certificates</th>
<th>KE</th>
<th>Thomas M, Lucas W, Mariam L, Jia Y.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-2D</td>
<td>Xavier H, Emeline K, Tiarna S, Chloe B.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2H</td>
<td>Tre C, Sophie C, Sienna J, Blake B.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4P</td>
<td>Jemimah K, Bahaa D, Leandré P, Julie K.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-5S</td>
<td>Ani N, Amelia H, Emma S, Carl N.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6I</td>
<td>Lehla N, Tiymika L, Olivia V, Lara F.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student of the Week:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>Infants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“Care”</td>
<td>Neda P.</td>
<td>Mine U.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Fairness”</td>
<td>Tyrone M.</td>
<td>Tre C.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bronze Striver:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Emma S, Saja Z, Jay L, Mya D.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Silver Striver:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yousef K, Rhys M, Lara D, Emma S, Yasmin K.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Gold Striver:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lara D, Reuben K.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Principal’s Banner:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Callan M, Jay L, Mohammed R.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Sport Awards:


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Do you want to be an Aboriginal Foster Carer?

Anyone can apply to become a foster carer if they are:

- 18 years and above
- An Australian citizen or permanent resident
- In good physical and emotional health without any medical condition that may affect their ability to care for a child or young person

You can be:

- Single, married, in a de facto or same sex relationship
- Renting, buying or you may own your home
- Working or not working
- From any culture and with a diverse range of life experience
- A parent or someone who has a strong interest in helping children and young people

As an authorised carer of a child or young person, you may be entitled to a carer allowance to assist you with providing care. Refer to the following chart for details:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2014–15 Allowance Rates per Fortnight</th>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th>Standard Care</th>
<th>Care +1</th>
<th>Care +2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0-4</td>
<td>$455</td>
<td>$683</td>
<td>$903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6-13</td>
<td>$513</td>
<td>$709</td>
<td>$1,012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14-15</td>
<td>$688</td>
<td>$1,031</td>
<td>$1,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16-17</td>
<td>$459</td>
<td>$801</td>
<td>$1,133</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information on becoming a foster carer please don’t hesitate to contact a staff member in the Aboriginal Foster Care Recruitment Team based at the Mt Druitt Community Services Centre on (02) 8887 7400.
**Trivia Night**

On Saturday 16 August we had a ball – with laughing and screams coming from the EWPS hall. Games and giggles started at 7 – with Vanessa and Tracy and Chuck in fundraising heaven. Tables were full, and we had VIP’s – there were drinks and chips and cheeses to please. Some of us were smart and some were crazy – we even had a guest called “Ice Ice Baby”.

What an amazing night! THANK YOU to Vanessa and Tracy who pulled out all the stops to ensure we all had a great night of fun and cognitive stimulation! There were some fun incidental games along the way involving pantyhose, golf balls, smarties and straws – you will have to come along next time to work that one out. The final amount raised for the night was $875.00

**Thank you to our 2014 Supporters**

The following companies have very generously helped us with donations for our P&C initiatives including Mothers’/Fathers’ Day raffles, trivia night, family games afternoon and our technology hub.

- Adora Handmade Chocolates
- Aston Medispa
- Barilla
- Brentwood Interiors
- Brush Park Bowling Club
- Bunnings Carlingford
- Captain Cook Cruises
- Cup & Spoon Café Rydalmere
- DFO Homebush
- Ermington Dental
- Event Cinemas
- Hosome Gingerbread
- Nepean Belle Paddlewheeler
- Noshu
- Penrith Whitewater Stadium
- Random House Australia
- Riverside Theatres
- Ryde Eastood Leagues Golden Hawke Restaurant
- Scholastic Australia
- School Specs Australia
- Strike Bowling
- Sydney Living Museums
- Sydney Observatory
- Taronga Western Plains Zoo
- Tempin City
- Unilever Australia
- WEW Events

**Upcoming Fathers’ Day Raffle**

Books of 10 x $1.00 tickets will be going out next week for our Fathers’ Day raffle. Any UNSOLD tickets must be returned by Friday 5 September. Prizes include:

- * guided whitewater rafting session for one adult donated by Penrith Whitewater Stadium
- * one hour Aroma Massage donated by Aston Medispa
- * hamper of skincare and household products donated by Unilever
- * river cruise for a family of four donated by Nepean Belle Paddlewheeler.

**Chocolate Drive Money**

Thank you to the families who helped with this fundraiser. Regardless of one box sold or in some cases 8 boxes sold, it all comes back to the kids. Thank you also to the P&C Committee for organising, collating and banking! We can proudly announce that the amount raised in our Chocolate Fundraiser was $2209.00

**Uniform Store**

As you would have noticed, we are having a mid-season August only sale. We are inundated with stock and therefore are offering some great prices to the community for school uniform purchases. Please let me stress THIS IS NOT because we are changing our uniform (as mentioned by Mrs Judge). There has been talk that there is a change imminent and that is not the case. Our uniform is still the yellow polo’s, skorts and shorts, jumpers, jackets and hats that are available in the store.

We welcome Surmin, a Kindy mum, as our new Uniform Store volunteer. She has kindly offered to open the store on Wednesday and Friday mornings for the month of August, and afterwards reverting to Fridays only.

Our outgoing Uniform Store volunteer, Linda Prosser, undertook this role for many years (in addition to her hectic schedule) with reliability, dedication and always a smile. We sincerely thank Linda for her time and know that Surmin inherits a very well organised position.

**Anne van Uden**

President (2014)

EWPS P&C
Fathers’ Day Mufti – Tuesday 26 September

All children can come to school on Tuesday 26 August dressed in mufti. This is a non-school uniform day where children can choose to make a gold coin donation or donate an appropriate gift for the Father’s Day stall …. suggested value $5-$12

The Fathers’ Day Gift Stall – Tuesday 2 September
The P&C will be holding the Fathers’ Day Gift Stall on Tuesday 2 September. A large range of gifts will be on offer to all students, ranging from $2 to $12. Students may purchase gifts with their class teacher. If you would like your child to have the opportunity to purchase a Fathers’ Day gift from the stall, please provide them with money on the day.

Volunteers needed on …
(1) Tuesday 26 August, from 9:30am (Mufti Day) to assist with the wrapping of gifts
(2) Tuesday 2 September, from 9:30am in the connected classroom to assist with the Gift Stall.

If you can help, please contact me for details.
Enquiries Tina Pandoulis 0433 061 350
Ermington West Public School
Uniform Shop
Mid-Season Sale
August Only*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Sale Price</th>
<th>Discount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Printed Polo Long Sleeve Shirts</td>
<td>$14.00</td>
<td>(35% off)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweatshirts (Jumpers)</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td>(30% off)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zip Jackets</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td>(25% off)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys Long Pants</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td>(25% off)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls Long Pants</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td>(25% off)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Track Pants (sizes 12, 14 &amp; 16 only left)</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>(50% off)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slouch Hats (Old style material only)</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>(50% off)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5/6 Hats (Old style material only)</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>(50% off)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All stock is on sale until the 29th August, unless sold out prior.

*Open every Wednesday and Friday mornings from 8:30am–9:00am for the month of August only.

*Order form orders will be accepted for the sale items. Please ensure you forward the correct money by the 29th August.