



Epping Heights Public School

"Quality education in a caring environment"
Values for this term: Responsibility and Cooperation

128 Kent Street, Epping 2121 Phone: 98762791 Fax: 98766872 Email: eppinghts-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Web: www.eppinghts-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

Term 1 Week 3

9 February 2010

Coming events

9 February	Sport in Schools program begins
10 February	7.30pm - P&C Meeting
12 February	10.20am K-2 Assembly (2J)
15 February	1.00pm Chess Club starts
18 February	Parent/Teacher Information Sessions

Deadline for Newsletter articles is Friday

BER Update

Tomorrow I will have a site inspection with the Project Manager. I will also discuss progress and forecast date for completion of the works. Hopefully we won't have to wait too much longer to use our new facilities.



Dear Parents,

Last Thursday we **welcomed** our 44 **kindergarten** children. This year ran a little bit differently to previous years, as each of the children had already visited the school and spent time with their class teacher completing the Best Start Assessment. This time spent with their new teacher was of great benefit and all children settled very quickly and smoothly into their new classes. We had the first whole school morning assembly after recess last Thursday and the kindergarten children capably lined up in their new classes assisted by their buddies. The Year 6 buddies take their role very seriously and will continue to help the children before school, at morning tea time and lunchtime for the next few weeks.

I'd like to thank our **Community Relations Committee** for assisting with the enrolments on Thursday and Mrs McAlpine, one of our parents, for hosting the morning tea for new kindergarten parents at her home. I'm sure some long-lasting friendships will be made during the early weeks of this year as parents who share a common interest, get to know each other.

For those who are new to our school community, I wish you all a very long and happy association with the Epping Heights PS community.

Today we began a **FICT (Families In Cultural Transition)** Course for parents from non-English speaking backgrounds. The course has been organised by Mrs Parfett and will be presented by the region's Community

Liaison Officer Qeefa An. I would like to encourage more parents to attend these worthwhile sessions which will take place in the Tech Centre from 9.30- 12.30 for 6 weeks. I would like to thank Mrs Parfett for organising the program for parents.

Tomorrow evening the first meeting of the **P&C** Association will be held at 7.30pm in the Tech Centre. I would encourage all parents and especially those new to our school to attend this meeting. By getting involved in the P&C you can have your say and assist in supporting the school to achieve its goals. One of the main functions of the P&C is to provide financial support to the school through fundraising. The P&C is always keen to have fresh ideas for fundraising activities. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting tomorrow evening.

Today, the **Sport in Schools** program commenced for all children. This excellent program involves children in fitness activities using a range of interesting equipment led by fully qualified PE teachers and supervised by one of our staff members. The program is paid for by parents. Later this week, you will receive a term invoice which includes the costs associated with this program and other activities during the term.

On **Thursday 18 February** we will hold **information sessions** for parents. These sessions will be presented by class teachers, who will explain their class programs, expectations and other relevant matters. They will also discuss ways you can support your child at home and may request your assistance in the classroom. It is important that you attend these sessions so as to be fully informed. An invitation to these sessions is included later in the newsletter.

During future newsletters, I would like to explain some of the programs, organisation and other matters of interest at school. I understand the importance of good communication and would like to ensure that the school community is well informed. If you would like me to explain a specific aspect of the school via the newsletter, please complete the tear-off at the end of the newsletter and I will endeavour to cover the topic.

This week all families should receive the **term invoice**. I appreciate that this is an expensive time for parents, but would appreciate prompt payment of the invoice if



possible. I have tried to explain in detail the various costs included on the invoice.

Last year the government introduced the '**Education Tax Refund**'. This refund of 50% of education expenses up to \$750 per child is available for expenses including textbooks, associated learning materials and stationery. You will also be able to claim costs associated with your home computers. Receipts need to be kept in order to make the claim at the end of the tax year. This government initiative means that you will get 50% back for your child's textbook, literacy and stationery levy payments. Visit: www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au/ for more information.

Another benefit available to parents utilising approved childcare services is the **Childcare Benefit (CCB)**. This benefit significantly reduces the cost of care at our OOSH centre for most children. You can ask for an assessment which will calculate the benefit available to you. For more information visit www.dest.gov.au/ - follow links to Early childhood – Childcare mainpage – Childcare benefit.

We still have **student chairs and desks** in various sizes **available** for any families who would like them. We are giving them away to release some storage space under the school buildings as the DET furniture department will no longer accept return of the furniture. If you are interested please visit the office and they will direct you to where you can see what's on offer. Please then let the office know what you would like and take at your convenience.

Teachers have begun their class programs. I am looking forward to a very successful 2010 with Epping Heights continuing to deliver a high quality education for the children.

Best wishes,
Julie Hanley
Principal

Parent Information Sessions Thursday 18 February

- Find out about the teachers' plans and expectations for the year.
- Find out about the programs and activities your child will participate in this year.
- Learn how you can support the education of your child.

K-2: 4.00- 4.40pm
3S, 3-4C, 4K: 4.40- 5.20pm
4-5S, 5G, 6G, 6D: 5.20- 6.00pm

All sessions will take place in classrooms.
Sessions are designed to provide information. Teachers will not be able to discuss individual children.

13 February - Apology to Indigenous People 2008

On this day in 2008, Mr Rudd, Prime Minister of Australia, on behalf of the Australian Government made a public apology to all indigenous Australians. The formal apology to all Aborigines and the Stolen Generations acknowledged 'their profound grief, suffering and loss'. The Apology also looked forward, heralding a renewed and united effort to close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians in 'life expectancy, educational achievement and economic opportunity'.

14 February – Lunar New Year (Year of the Tiger)

There are many rituals and traditions associated with Lunar New Year. Sacrificing to ancestors is an important New Year's tradition followed by a dinner for the ancestors shared by the living family. Fifteen days of celebration follow, each with a different significance. In Sydney Chinese-Australians enjoy a range of festivities including dragon boat races and a grand parade.

14 February – Tet (Vietnamese New Year)

Tet means the first morning of the first day of the new year. Celebrations last for seven days. Events on New Year's Day are believed to determine people's luck for the rest of the year. Family members exchange gifts and pay homage to the Kitchen God. They also visit temples to pray for prosperity and good health.

Reminder - Families in Cultural Transition (FICT) Course

Today we began the **Families In Cultural Transition (FICT) Course**. The course is run by Qeefaa An, a Community Information Officer.

FICT Courses support parents from language backgrounds other than English (LBOTE). These courses enable families to gain knowledge and awareness of different issues, helping them fit in to Australian society. The course covers topics related to the Australian way of life and our school system.

Do you want ideas to help you support your children at school? Are there any problems or concerns that you would like information about?

It's not too late to come along.

This is a **free six-week course** and morning tea will be provided. Interpreters will also be available.

9.30am – 12.30pm
Tuesdays
9 February – 16 March
Technology Centre
Epping Heights P.S.

Please fill in the form at the end of the newsletter and place in the box in the office foyer or simply come along.

Anne Parfett – ESL teacher

Students' Representative Council (SRC)

Congratulations to the following students who have been elected by their peers to be **Class Captains** and members of the **SRC** in Semester 1.

CLASS CAPTAINS

2J	Sophie Melhuish & Luka Houze
2M	Bella McKie & Leo Apollonov
3S	Holly Ure & Patrick Oates
3_4C	Celia Jahani & Tom Russell
4K	Saba Fathieh & Luke Keevers
4_5S	Keira Dixon & Zakee Qasim
5G	Amber Argent & Matt Chung
6D	Nicole Uren & Gary Guan
6G	Chelsea Book & Aden Ure

SRC

2J	Syan Liem & Ben Tsuei
2M	Tori Rallings & Charlie Workman
3S	Victoria Gore & Arden Read
3_4C	Alice Day & Sam Collins
4K	Hannah Rhee & Andrew Kim
4_5S	Ishka Hussain & Rohan Shankar
5G	Ellie Jongma & Brayden Dilley
6D	Alice Rhee & James Rowe
6G	Chloe Singleton & Hannah Chin

The students will be presented with their badges at the next **K-6 Assembly on Friday 26 February 2010**.

Miss McKeown & Miss Smith – SRC Coordinators

Book Club

The first issue of **Book Club** has been distributed to your child's classroom today.

Book Club is run by the P & C Association to help raise funds for new books and resources for the classrooms. When you order books, your child's teacher gets bonus coupons to spend for their classroom and we also receive bonus coupons that allow Mrs Andrews to purchase new books for our library.

The orders will be returned to school and distributed to your child's classroom within approximately 2 weeks of ordering.

To order, simply place the order form with your child's name on it and the correct money in an envelope and place it in the box in the office foyer. Payment can be made by cash, cheque or credit card. If you are paying by credit card you need to follow the instructions on the bottom of the order form. Please have your orders returned to the box no later than **Tuesday 19th February 2009**. Late orders will not be accepted.

If you do not want your orders sent to your child's class (ie Christmas, birthday presents etc.) please let me know either by ringing or leaving a note with your order form and I will arrange an alternative pick up.

Thank you for supporting Book Club and helping to provide additional classroom resources.

Sue Cale, Book Club Coordinator
9869 7383 or 0401 001 545

Chess Club

The chess club will be meeting on Mondays in the library at 1pm (lunchtime).

The first meeting will be on Monday the 15th of February. Children wishing to play a friendly game of chess are welcome to come and play.

In term 2 and early term 3, there will be an inter school chess competition with home and away games, with parent support, played on Friday afternoons after school. Information about the competition will be provided in the chess club.

Children wishing to play in the competition can hone their chess skills in the Monday chess club meetings.

Miriam Blaskovic
Chess Coordinator

Zone and Area Sporting Trials

During the year students who are talented in a particular sport may be invited to attend zone and area trials. At these trials the students may be selected to join a zone or area team and compete against other zones/areas. Those of a very high standard may even be selected to join state teams.

Over the next few terms I will start to receive information about these trials for the following sports: cricket (girls), AFL (boys), tennis (boys and girls), basketball (boys and girls), Rugby League (boys), soccer (boys and girls), hockey (boys and girls), netball, (girls), Rugby Union, (boys), touch football (boys and girls), golf (boys and girls) and softball (boys and girls)



If your child plays one or more of these sports at a competitive or representative standard, please fill out the tear off slip at the end of this newsletter. I will then be able to pass on the information when it arrives.

Please note that parents are required to transport their children to and from these events. Filling out a tear-off slip does not necessarily mean that your child will be invited to attend.

Heather Gerard
PSSA Contact

Uniform Shop

The **Uniform Shop is open every Wednesday morning from 8.45am to approx 9.30am**. We sell both new and second hand uniforms. If you need new school uniforms and are unable to come at this time, please feel free to

place an order by completing an order form (available from the office foyer) and leaving it in the collection box in the office foyer. Orders will be filled the following Wednesday and sent to your child's classroom.

If you would like to volunteer to help me on Wednesday mornings, please complete the tear-off at the end of this newsletter and return it to the collection box. I will make up a roster and send it to you. Small children are most welcome to come with you.

Cheers, Cate Grunsell

Canteen News

Canteen Roster – Friday February 12 – Ping Xiao, Nicola Keevers, Lena Loh

Tuesday February 16 – Megan Cornell, Ling Wang, Jamie Kim, Deanne Cini, Catriona Workman

CLASSIFIEDS

Please note that as we have no means of checking the bona fides of advertisers, Epping Heights Public School will not accept responsibility for any advertisements.

Update on Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza (swine flu)

Swine flu activity has dropped significantly in NSW over recent months, but continues to have a heavy impact in many Northern Hemisphere countries.

NSW Health is encouraging everyone to obtain a free vaccination. The Panvax® vaccine is available free from most general practitioners and some community health centres and council immunisation clinics. Call ahead to confirm the health service is vaccinating on the day you wish to visit.

Immunising a high percentage of the school not only protects those individuals who receive the vaccine, but also reduces the chance that any students or staff with a weakened immune system (for whom the vaccine may not work as effectively) will be exposed to the infection.

NSW Health: information about the vaccine: <http://www.emergency.health.nsw.gov.au/swineflu/vaccination/index.asp>

Free Help with Reading, Writing, Spelling, Maths and Computer for Adults at Meadowbank College TAFE

Our classes are for adults who want to start with the basics – to return to work, to get a job, to become more confident, to help children with their schoolwork.

Our classes are free if you are an Australian citizen or permanent resident. Our teachers are friendly and the teaching is relaxed and informal. We have day and evening classes. If you want to find out more, please phone: Debra Brand on 9942 3573 (you can leave a message) or the Literacy/Numeracy Centre 9942 3567 to make an appointment for an interview.

Keep Lunches Cool

A recent survey by the NSW Food Authority of primary school lunch boxes has found that more than 70 percent of students could be at a higher risk of food poisoning for failing to keep their lunches cool enough. Simply placing an ice block or frozen drink in your child's lunch box will help keep their lunch safe from harmful bacteria.

Here are more ways to minimise the risk of food poisoning:

- Buy an insulated lunch box to keep foods cold until lunchtime
- Freeze water bottles or drinks overnight and place them in the lunch pack. The water or drinks will thaw by lunchtime, but will still be cold and will help keep the rest of the lunch cold
- Some food is safe without a cold source this includes whole fruits, vegetables, hard cheeses, meat and fish in cans, bread, crackers, pickles and some spreads
- Ask children to keep packed lunches out of direct sunlight and away from heat sources. A cool, dark place like a locker is best
- If lunches are made the night before, keep them in the refrigerator overnight.

For more information on the lunch box survey and food safety tips go to: www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au



epping twilight markets
FARMERS PRODUCE, GOURMET FOODS & GIFTS

The next Epping Twilight Market is on **12 February 2010 5-9pm**. You will find high-quality gifts, fresh produce, gourmet foods, gifts & delicious hot food in a safe friendly, family atmosphere.

The markets are in the grounds of Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School, Epping: Entrance via 6-8 Cambridge Street or 29 Oxford Street. See www.eppingmarkets.com.au.

Individual Piano Lessons

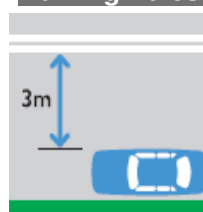
Spaces for next year are filling up!

- 10 yr experienced classical teacher
- Makes lessons fun
- Loves children
- AMEB exams
- \$25 per ½ hour lesson



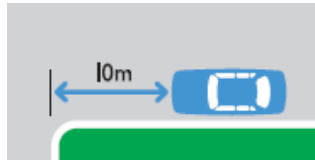
Call Lindsey on 0432 429 084

Parking Rules from the RTA Road Users Handbook



*You must not stop your vehicle within 3 metres of any double centre lines (for example, in Wycombe St opposite the school gate). **Offence Fine - \$189***

You must not stop your vehicle within 10 metres of an intersecting road (for example, Wycombe St and Kent St intersection).



Offence Fine - \$189

These rules mean that NO ONE should be parking in Wycombe Street near the corner of Kent Street.

We have had a number of complaints from local residents about the dangerous and illegal parking habits of some of our parents. Please consider your child's safety and also that of our local residents and DO NOT PARK illegally outside our school.

The Fine is increased when it relates to a school zone.

Disobey 'No Stopping' sign - Fine \$243 and loss of 2 demerit points

Disobey 'No Parking' sign - Fine \$135 and loss of 2 demerit points

Double park - Fine \$243 - loss of 2 demerit points

✂-----

UNIFORM SHOP VOLUNTEERS

(Please return to collection box in office foyer)

I am available Wednesday mornings and am happy to help with the uniform shop.

Name

Phone No/s

Email

Child's Name & Class

✂-----

Zone and Area Sporting Trials

(Please return to Miss Gerard)

Child's name & Class

Sport

Position (if applicable)

Playing history

.....

Parent's Name

Parent's Phone

✂-----

FICT COURSE

(Please return to collection box in office foyer)

I would like to attend the FICT Course.

Parent's name

Phone no

Child's name & Class

Number of people attending

Interpreter required

Language required

✂-----

Newsletter Topics

(Please complete, if desired, and return to the collection box in the office foyer)

Topics about school matters which I would like covered in the school newsletter are -

.....

.....

Name

✂-----