

# EPSOM PALM PRESS



**Strive for Excellence  
Take Pride  
Act Responsibly  
Respect Our Community**



## ***EPSOM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER NO 1- 28/01/16***

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### ***Principal's Report***

Welcome back to the 2016 school year. I hope everyone had an enjoyable break. It was fantastic to visit each classroom and see so many excited children who are very happy to be back. We welcome all our new preps. We have many new families joining us this year so welcome to you all. We have a busy term with; swimming sports, Prep picnic tea, elections junior school council, 52 Story Tree house at the Ulumbarra Theatre, Yachting Clinic and so much more. Please watch out for notes.

### ***Mrs Nevinson***

For people who are not aware Mrs Nevinson was involved in a serious car accident over the holidays and will be on extended leave. She is now home and continuing to recover. At this stage we do not know when she will be able to return to work.

When I visited Glenda she was as usual, thinking of all the children and missing them very much. I assured her we will take good care of all her "kids".

We all wish Glenda the speediest recovery and return to good health.

### ***Student Materials Fee***

In 2016 the student materials and requisites fee is \$85 per child. The ICT charge is \$40 per student or \$100 a family of 3 or more. These are compulsory payments that ensure that your children have the best possible resources. These amounts are due for payment before the end of Term 1 at the Office.

School Council has also set a voluntary levy of \$30 per family to maintain and improve our grounds.

### ***Student absences during February***

It is important for the school to have accurate information regarding student absences. Absences that are 'unexplained' can reduce funding that the school receives as part of the February Census. If students have significant unexplained absences during February then they can be taken off the funding schedule. I would remind parents to either contact Deanne in the office or to inform their class teacher if their child has been absent. A note to the class teacher upon the child's return will be acceptable also.

### ***Prep non-attendance days for February***

Prep students are not required at school on Wednesdays for the first 6 weeks. They will commence full weeks after the Labour Day Holiday on Tuesday March 14<sup>th</sup>. The prep teachers will be conducting the prep assessments during these days and parents will be notified when they are required to bring their child to school for their child's assessment. The assessments help the teachers with starting points for the children and this helps inform their teaching.

### ***Staffing Update***

This year Ms FitzGerald will be working as our Maths Specialist across the school. This is a DET initiative across the state. She will work closely with 3 other cluster schools to improve numeracy outcomes for all our students.

Mr Mayes has joined our staff as our music teacher and will also be teaching with Ms Fitz in Grade 5/6.

Mrs Fitzpatrick will be returning to school and teaching Wednesday and Thursday afternoons for Mrs Tuohey in Grade 1/2T.

Ms Pentreath has re-joined us and will support students in the infant area in literacy for 15 hours per week.

Miss Tobin and Mr Watcher will be supporting teachers in the 3/4 grades.

### ***Contact details***

I would like to remind parents to inform the school of any update family information. Contact, medical and family status (including Family Law Court Orders) information is held by the school to provide as safe and supportive environment for students. When information changes it is important that the school has the latest information. Parents may wish to check the emergency contact information and change of mobile numbers, as these are often forgotten.

### ***School Council***

Our School Council meeting is on Monday 15th February at 6.00pm. I will be calling for nominations for the vacancies on School Council shortly. If you are interested being part of improving our school and want to know more: There is a Power point available at: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/involve/Pages/schoolcouncilguide.aspx>

***Lyn Coulter***

# February 2016

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu Minecraft	Fri Subway
1 <i>Week 2</i>	2	3 <i>No Preps</i>	4	5
8 <i>Week 3</i>	9	10 <i>No Preps</i>	11	12 <i>Gr3-6 Hockey Clinics</i>
15 <i>Week 4 School Council Meeting 6pm</i>	16	17 <i>No Preps</i>	18	19
22 <i>Week 5</i>	23	24 <i>No Preps</i>	25 <i>Schweppes F/R for Team China</i>	26
29 <i>Week 6</i>				

# March 2016

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu Minecraft	Fri Subway
<i>Week 6</i>	1 <i>School Photos</i>	2 <i>No Preps</i>	3 <i>Swimming Carnival</i>	4
7 <i>Week 7 Gr 3-4 Camp Billabong</i>	8 <i>Gr 3-4 Camp Billabong</i>	9 <i>No Preps Gr 3-4 Camp Billabong</i>	10	11
14 <i>Week 8 Labour Day Holiday</i>	15	16	17 <i>P-6 Visual Arts Excursion</i>	18
21 <i>Week 9</i>	22	23	24 <i>Jump Rope- Jump Off</i>  <i>Last Day of T1</i>	25 <i>Easter</i>
28	29	30	31	

## 2016 SCHOOL TIMES

Session 1	9.00– 11.00am
Recess	11.00 am - 11.30 am
Session 2	11.30– 1.30pm
Eat Lunch	1.30—1.40pm (in rooms)
Lunch Play	1.40 – 2.20 pm
Session 3	2.20—3.30pm

Children need to be at school early enough to allow time to unpack bags and change reader/library books **ie: 8:50 am**

**Children should not be at school prior to 8:30am.**

A warning bell will be sounded before school, after recess and lunch time, two minutes before the above times.

## HATS—BE SUNSMART

Children are expected to wear broad-brimmed or legionnaire-style hats for sun protection. Baseball caps are not acceptable, as they provide inadequate protection. The school has a 'no hat, no play' policy. A copy of the policy is available at the office upon request. Children who do not have a hat will be directed to remain under the shelter area. We appreciate your support with the promotion of sunsmart behaviours.

## SUPPLIES TO BE PROVIDED BY PARENTS

The school supplies most materials that your child will need.

The only things parents are asked to supply are:

- Smock or old shirt for Art and Craft.
- Large box of tissues. Please send to your child's class teacher.
- School bag large enough to hold a lunch box, reader cover and general belongings.
- Library book bag for Grades 1-6.

Please ensure you name clothing, bags, drinking containers, lunch boxes and other personal items. Small children often fail to recognise their belongings.

## ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER DELIVERY

Let's save some trees and some money! How, you might ask? You can access our newsletter via an app, the Epsom PS web page or I can email it to you...hot off the press. There are several advantages when you access the newsletter electronically, one being that the photos are in colour and a much better quality. Please use the slip on the last page to indicate how you would like to receive your newsletter.

## HATS AND UNIFORMS

Hats and uniforms are available from Centavic Clothing, 1 Whip Court, Long Gully.

## SUBWAY LUNCHES—FRIDAYS

If your child is having a lunch order, please write your child's name, grade and order items on the form and forward the correct money in a named & sealed envelope. Your child then needs to place his/her lunch order in the slot at the general office before 9am on a FRIDAY MORNING. Subway lunch order forms are available from the Office.

## HEADLICE INSPECTION PROGRAM

Our school conducts an effective headlice inspection program that minimises headlice infestation.

All children will be screened **unless parents have requested that they be excluded.**

If you return the form asking to be excluded from the program, you are agreeing to carry out your own inspections to coincide with school inspections and you will be expected to return a form the following day stating that you have carried out an examination of your children.

(Form can be found on last page.)

## LUNCH TIME GUITAR LESSONS

We are asking for expressions of interest from students who would like to participate in private guitar lessons at school. These are held once a week, on a Wednesday, for half an hour at lunch time. Children will need their own guitar and payment is made directly to the guitar teacher. Please return the form on last page if your child would like to learn guitar.

## PARENT HELPERS

We invite parents of children in all grades to come into our classrooms to hear reading any morning you are available. Our preference this year is for reading to begin at 9:00am through to approximately 9:30am. We also require parents to assist cleaning the tables.

This could happen any morning before 9.00am or any afternoon after 3.30pm. **A reminder that all volunteers need to obtain a Working with Children's Check.**

## WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS

School Council have ratified that all school volunteers are required to have a current Working With Children's Check. Application forms can be obtained online.

A parent register will be maintained at the office so please let us know when you have submitted your application and bring your card in to Deanne to be photocopied when it arrives. Please ensure this is finalised prior to the end of Term 1. We look forward to your cooperation with this as it is a measure to ensure the health and safety of all students.

## WORKING BEE 9-11AM THIS SATURDAY

**Please help tidy up our school this Saturday.**

Please bring along any gardening equipment that you might think will be useful in tidying up the grounds.

*The more helpers the better and very much appreciated.*



### Code Red Days – Bushfire at Risk Schools

Schools, kindergartens and licensed child care centres that have been identified as being at high fire risk and on the Department's [Bushfire At-Risk Register](#) will close on days declared Code Red. **Epsom Primary School has been included on the Bushfire At-Risk Register as therefore will be closed on Code Red declared days.** Schools and services not on the Department's Bushfire At-Risk Register will remain open, unless directly threatened by fire or another emergency. Where possible, up to 3-days notice of a planned closure will be provided; parents and carers should, however, expect that in some instances fewer than 3-days notice may be provided. Once the final decision to close is confirmed at 12 noon the day prior, this decision will not change – regardless of any changes in the weather forecast. This will help limit confusion and help your family plan for how your children will be cared for when their school, kindergarten or child care centre is closed.

Advice will be provided to you directly by the school.

When a school or children's service is closed for bushfire, no staff will remain on site and all out-of-school care programs (including vacation, before and after school programs) will not operate.

### Student Accident Insurance & Ambulance Cover

Parents are strongly encouraged to have up-to-date ambulance cover as parents are responsible for any medical expenses such as ambulance costs incurred if their child is injured or requires an ambulance at school, or whilst participating in a school activity.

Parents are liable for all medical expenses incurred as a result of student injury. Parents are advised that a number of companies provide insurance for accidents to children that occur whilst they are at school if they wish to have cover for their child or children.

### Victorian Government School Term Dates for 2016

Term 1: 28th January (school teachers start) to 24th March \*

Term 2: 11th April to 24th June\*\*

Term 3: 11th July to 16th September

Term 4: 3rd October to 20th December

\* The first day of Term 1 was a student-free day in all government schools to allow for appropriate planning to take place for the arrival of students.

Each year government schools are provided with four student-free days for professional development, school planning and administration, curriculum development, and student assessment and reporting purposes. The remaining three student-free days are determined by each individual school and these will be communicated to the school community in a timely manner.

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### **CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)**

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is: \$125 for primary school students/ \$225 for secondary students.

### **HOW TO APPLY**

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from [www.education.vic.gov.au/csef](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/csef)

**MORE INFORMATION** For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit [www.education.vic.gov.au/csef](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/csef)

**NEWSLETTER DELIVERY**

I would like to receive the newsletter electronically.

EMAIL

My email address is:

\_\_\_\_\_

**2016 HEAD LICE EXCLUSION RETURN**

I wish to have my child/children

.....

excluded from the Epsom Primary School Parent Head Lice Inspection Program. I agree to carry out an inspection of my own child/children at the time of the school's inspection and return the inspection sheet to the school on the following day.

Signed

.....

Family Name

.....

**VOLUNTARY GROUNDS LEVY**

**FAMILY NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

I choose to pay the Grounds Levy of \$30.

**FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE**

I would love to assist with fundraising activities but cannot attend meetings.

Please contact me:

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE NO.** \_\_\_\_\_

**MUSIC LESSONS—GUITAR**

***Guitar Lessons—Expression of Interest***

I wish to express an interest in my grade 3-6 child/ren

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

Receiving private guitar lessons at the school.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

***Open letter from King family***

Dear Parents

Our son Harry King has a severe allergy (anaphylaxis) to peanuts and is allergic to several other types of nuts.

Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening. Harry has to have an 'Epipen' with him at all times in case he is exposed to nuts or products containing nuts. An 'Epipen' is a single dose injection of adrenaline for administration in an emergency.

Harry's allergy is not just if he eats nuts or products containing nuts. He also can, and has, reacted to touch exposure. Because of this, our concern is the potential for Harry to become exposed to nuts at school from all children not necessarily just children in his grade. For example if he touches a ball a grade 6 child was playing with who has eaten nuts very recently, he could potentially have an anaphylactic reaction.

Nut products include such things as peanut butter, muesli bars, chocolate bars, biscuits, and cakes containing nuts.

From our point of view we would like to see all nuts banned from the school.

We are asking all parents to support us in making the school nut free so we can be sure our son will return home to us each day from school. It's NOT a case of, if Harry becomes in contact with nuts he could get an itch or a rash, he COULD DIE.

Your help in this would be greatly appreciated.

Rebecca and Danny King