TEACHING AND LEARNING

The teaching staff at EPS spend much time researching, planning and attending professional development in order to provide the quality programs that your children enjoy.

We have a number of committees that focus on keeping our school at the forefront of learning. The Teaching and Learning Committee consists of Professional Learning Team (PLT) leaders, Specialists, Principal, Assistant Principal and is chaired by myself, the Leading Teacher - Curriculum. The English PLT is facilitated by Deb Ostojic, Maths by Margaret Mendoza, ICT by Amanda Scafidi and Inquiry Based Learning by Barb Sharp. In future weeks each of these leaders will be writing articles outlining the programs they are running.

Teachers recognise the importance of Oral Language in today’s society and as a result we have focused on the development of oral language skills in our Teaching and Learning program. This has been facilitated by Lyn Watts, an Educational Consultant who has been working with us throughout the year. We have initiated a program which involves students participating in activities, such as Circle Time, where they learn not only the protocols of ‘social talk’ but also develop their oral language vocabulary and their ability to discuss feelings and recognise emotions in others. Lyn is also assisting us to keep up to date with the latest questioning techniques. These techniques enable teachers to develop higher order thinking in students. Students learn to question what they read and think: “What do you see that makes you say so? What difference does that make? How can you use what you learned?”

Lyn is also following up on the Restorative Justice PD we attended last term. She is extending our knowledge of the techniques of conflict resolution, so that we can support students and help them to manage their own emotions and life’s challenges in a positive way.

Staff have also participated in PD sessions which support our Maths, ICT and Inquiry Based Learning programs. The knowledge gained from this professional development is disseminated throughout the rest of the staff at regular school based PD sessions held fortnightly, specially convened ICT workshops, and through Area and PLT meetings.

We are exceptionally lucky to have an enthusiastic staff who take on board new ideas and plan exciting and educationally rewarding programs for your children.

Karen Laurent
Leading Teacher - Curriculum

STUDENT WELLBEING REPORT

The “friendliness” of our students is always praised and commented on by visitors and newcomers to our school. It is lovely to hear these positive remarks and, I believe, is reflective of all our friendly parents and staff members at EPS.

The programs we work with to promote students engagement, wellbeing and connectedness at school include:

Bounce Back. A values education program focusing on personal development, resilience, strengths, positive reinforcement and associated social competency based stories.

Restorative Justice practices. A process focusing on relationships, whereby students are encouraged to “work things through” and “make things better” (i.e. restore relationships), rather than follow punitive processes when issues arise. Their personal involvement in discussing responsibility, making good choices and sharing feelings, (i.e. developing empathy), is integral to the program.

Family Friendly Schools is a program that addresses bullying and coincides with our anti-bullying policy and guidelines. Children are taught protective behaviours and strategies for dealing with confrontational situations and acceptable behaviours through the development of positive self-esteem and confidence.

Friendly Kids, Friendly Classrooms is another favourite where social skill development is the focus and the children are asked to participate in a variety of role-plays and activities that engender positive behaviours and encourage all students’ acceptance, good manners and friendship towards others.

Each area of the school has a teacher represented on the Student Wellbeing team who meet regularly and address any concerns regarding social, emotional, behavioural and welfare issues of students.

It is important to us that at any time you have concerns about your child that you let us know and we can then ensure your child’s wellbeing whilst at school.

We’re here to listen and help resolve any issues or concerns with you.

Janice Lawrence,
on behalf of the Student Wellbeing Team.
As part of our Prep Mathematics program, the students are involved in Maths groups each week.

These sessions cater for each student's individual needs, giving them the opportunity to work with Prep students from different grades.

The Prep students enjoy these number-based activities and some students have even

**CONCERT TICKETS**

Parents are reminded that they can book and collect their tickets on Friday Aug. 1st from 8:45 to 9:45 in the hall. If you are unable to come at this time please send a note with your child and we will allocate your tickets for you. Each family is allocated 2 tickets. We also have a very limited number of tickets which can be purchased for $5.00 each.

**WALK IN YOUR SHOES**

A big thank you to everyone who has donated shoes. Friday August 1st is the last day for collection. So if you have any unwanted shoes please send them in tomorrow.

Brittany Baker.
A couple of important items to mention:

1. On Tuesday 12th August, the canteen will be closed due to the all day practice of classes performing the Footsteps concert that night.
2. A special lunch menu will be organised for Friday 22nd August, in line with the Closing Ceremony of the Edithvale Olympic Games.
3. Forms will be sent home next week, and to be returned by Monday 18th August.

Many thanks to my parent helpers for this week

Diane

INDOOR SOCCER
REGISTER NOW

For BOYS GIRLS MENS WOMENS
Teams/Clinics
Enter as a team or as an individual
U8S,10S,12S 14S 16s youth

New season starting at
MENTONE
In OCTOBER

Registrations forms or more information can be obtained by contacting Sally on 0409 764 165
OR sally@vikingsfutsal.com

ROSSDALE

Rossdale Golf Club, Your Local Club has finally opened its Dining Room Doors to their Neighbours.
Come & be our guest at Melbourne’s Friendliest Golf Club.
All Welcome
Friday, 15th August 2008
3 Course “Italian” Dinner
Cost: $35 Per person
Bookings between

Chelsea & District Netball Association
Sturdee St Chelsea
New Players Coaches Umpires all welcome.
Girls all ages & Boys (U14yrs)
Competitions: *Saturday*
12pm start Junior through to Open Section *
Tues Night* - Junior Ladies & Mixed indoor competition
Net Set Go! Program for beginners –
Sat 10.30-11.30 5-6yrs & 7-8yrs boys & girls