

Edithvale Primary School Weekly Newsletter

Education at Edithvale
Engagement, Excitement, Expertise, Excellence

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Term 1—Week 2

12 February 2009

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

This last week has been one where we all have been confronted by the tragic events of the bushfires in Victoria, where so many lives and properties have been destroyed. Our hearts go out to those who have lost family members, neighbours and friends - the hardship being experienced by so many is extraordinary. On a more positive note, it is heart warming to be part of a wider community which bands together to support those in need. Edithvale Primary School students will be doing their part to support the 'Victorian Bushfire Appeal' by having a free dress day on Friday - students are asked to bring along a gold coin for the coin trail. The funds raised will be deposited in a DEECD account at the Westpac Bank and which will then directed to assist families in need.

I have also included in this newsletter an article by Michael Grose which gives some valuable advice to parents about how to help their children make some sort of sense of this natural disaster.

Information packages from each level will go out to parents this week and will give an outline of some of the programs and activities that relate your child this year. Teachers will also be available next Tuesday 17th February, for a 'Meet the Teacher' afternoon from 3.30pm till 5.00pm. It would be great if you could take the opportunity to drop in to have a look around your child's classroom and meet their teacher. If you cannot make this time and you have concerns which need discussing, please ring to make arrangements for a meeting.

Edithvale Primary School students and their families are invited to participate in our Twilight Sports, to be held on Thursday 26th February. More details will be sent home early next week.

Denise Webster

HELP YOUR CHILDREN MAKE SENSE OF NATURAL DISASTERS by Michael Grose

The Queensland floods and the Victorian bushfires continue to wreak incredible havoc on so many people's lives and will no doubt leave an indelible imprint on our collective psyches. These two natural disasters will be brought into our living rooms via the media over the coming days and weeks.

As adults we all want our children to live carefree lives and keep them from the pain and even horror of tragedies such as natural disasters. In reality we can't do this.

So what is a parent, teacher, or other caring adult to do when the natural disasters fills the airwaves and the consciousness of society? Here are some ideas:

1. **Reassure children that they are safe.** The consistency of the images can be frightening for young children who don't understand the notion of distance and have difficulty distinguishing between reality and fiction. Let them know

that while this event is indeed happening it will not affect them directly.

2. **Be available and 'askable'.** Let kids know that it is okay to talk about the unpleasant events. Listen to what they think and feel. By listening, you can find out if they have misunderstandings, and you can learn more about the support that they need. You do not need to explain more than they are ready to hear, but be willing to answer their questions.
3. **Help children process what they see and hear, particularly through television.** Children are good observers but can be poor interpreters of events that are out of their level of understanding. Sit with them. Ask them questions to ascertain their understanding.
4. **Support children's concerns for others.** They may have genuine concerns for the suffering that will occur and they may need an outlet for those concerns. It is heart-warming to see this empathy in children for the concerns of others.
5. **Let them explore feelings beyond fear.** Many children may feel sad or even angry with these events so let them express the full range of emotions. They may feel sadder for the loss of wildlife, than for loss of human life, which is impersonal for them.
6. **Help children and young people find a legitimate course of action if they wish.** Action is a great antidote to stress and anxiety so finding simple ways to help, including donating some pocket money can assist kids to cope and teaches them to contribute.
7. **Avoid keeping the television on all the time.** The visual nature of the media means that images are repeated over and over, which can be both distressing to some and desensitizing to others.
8. **Be aware of your own actions.** Children will take their cues from you and if they see you focusing on it in an unhealthy way then they will focus on it too. Let them know that it is happening but it should not dominate their lives.

Take action yourself. Children who know their parents, teachers, or other significant caregivers are working to make a difference feel hope. They feel safer and more positive about the future. So do something. It will make you feel more hopeful, too. And hope is one of the most valuable gifts we can give children and ourselves.

Children's worlds can be affected in ways that we can't even conceive of so adults need to be both sensitive to children's needs and mindful of what they say and how they act in front of children.

In difficult times, it is worth remembering what adults and children need most are each other.

Michael Grose is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. For more parenting information and resources visit www.parentingideas.com.au

PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

Once again our school has chosen to participate in the Victorian Premier's Reading Challenge.

The challenge runs between February and August. Each student from Prep to Year 6 will have the opportunity to participate. A form will be sent home in the next week or so that must be filled in and returned to your class teacher if you wish your child to participate.

Further details about the number of books to be read, how to fill in the reading list etc; will be included. Prep, Grade 1 and 2 parents do not worry; you can read the books to your child.

We hope to have 100% participation this year as it is a fun way to encourage your child to read. Certificates from the Premier are awarded to all students who complete the Challenge.



HAPPY READING EVERYONE!!!

THE YEAR AHEAD FOR 2-14

I'm going to try my best with helping my friends.
(Seth)

This year I am excited about meeting new friends.
(Jackson)

By the end of the year I want to be able to do hard maths.
(Josh B)

When I'm in the playground I will play nicely.
(Teagan)

I'm going to try my best with my maths.
(Trinity)

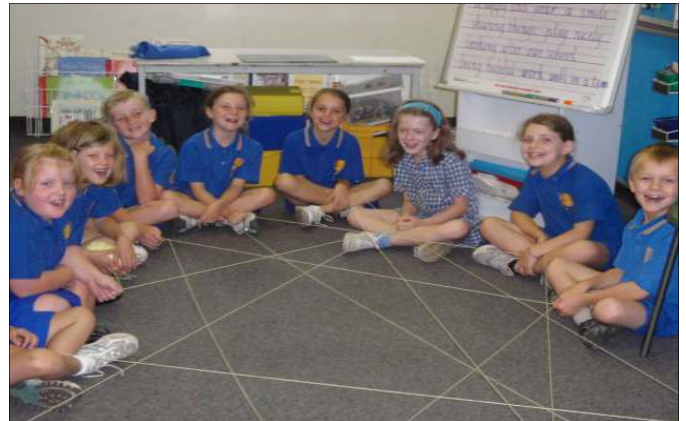
This year I am excited about times and plus sums.
(Samuel)

By the end of the year I want to be able to make new friends.
(Christopher)

When I'm in the playground I will play with my friends nicely.
(Josephine)

I'm going to try my best with maths.
(Alex)

This year I am excited about going to different excursions.
(William)



By the end of the year I want to get onto brown dot readers.
(Adam)

When I'm in the playground I will play nicely with my friends.
(Joshua Y)

I'm going to try my best with maths.
(Samson)

This year I am excited about learning hard maths.
(Mac)

By the end of the year I want to be able to be a good sensible student.
(Liam)

When I'm in the playground I will help people when they are hurt.
(Amy)

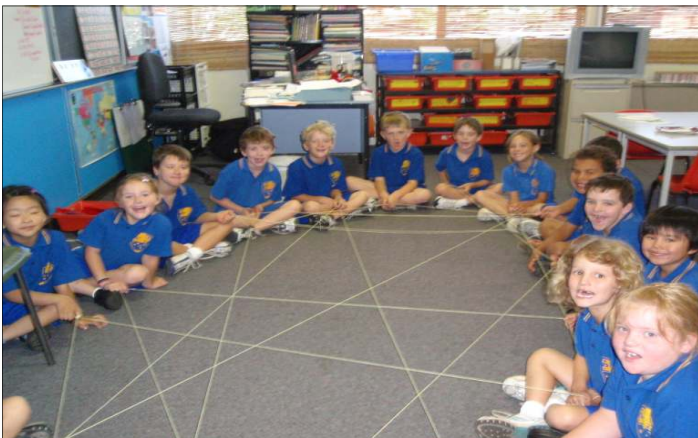
I'm going to try my best with reading.
(Hannah)

This year I am excited about doing my best handwriting.
(Camille)

By the end of the year I want to be able to do my maths.
(Amelia)

When I'm in the playground I will help my friends.
(Alyssa)

I'm going to try my best with my spelling.
(Lily)



SCHOOL SUNGLASSES

In the last few years, awareness of the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays has grown. We are well aware that they can damage our skin but they can also be harmful to our eyes. In the 80s, the Cancer Council encouraged us to 'Slip, Slop, Slap' to prevent skin cancer. This health campaign was extended in later years to 'wrap' on some sunglasses as we realised our eyes also needed protection.



Edithvale Primary School recognise that children's eyes are very important and have been looking at quality sunglasses for our children to wear while at school.

We have found sunglasses that comply to all the mandatory Australian/New Zealand Sunglasses Standards: ASNZS 1067:2003 and match with our school uniform, which we think fit the bill.

All sunglasses are packaged and provided with a section for parents to write their child's name as well as a protective PVC pouch and are priced at only \$10.00.

We have some samples of these glasses at the school office. If you are interested please come in to have a look and try them on to decide on a size before you place your order. Order forms will be available from the school office.

IMPORTANT DATES—TERM 1

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 17th	Meet the Teacher 3:30–5:00pm
Tuesday 24th	Connex Visit Gr 5 & 6, 9:30–10:15am–Hall
Thursday 26th	Pulleys & Lever Gr 3&4, 9:00am-1:30pm–Hall
Friday 27th	EMA Applications Close.

MARCH

Monday 2nd	Swimming Sports 10:00am–2:30pm
Wednesday 4th - Friday 6th	Year 6 Camp
Monday 9th	Labour Day
Friday 13th	Puppet Show—P-2—Hall 9:30am-11:00am

FIRST BOOK CLUB FOR 2009

REMINDER

The first Book Club orders for 2009 are due in by Friday 13 February .

Don't forget to place your orders now.

Late orders cannot be accepted.

Jenny Glavis—Book Club Co-ordinator



PAYMENT PROCEDURES

Sandie Wishart—Business Manager



To assist us in our receipting processes, parents are asked that when they bring money to the office, they complete a **DEPOSIT SLIP**. If a deposit slip is not included on your excursion form, then please complete the form below and return with your payment (these slips will also be available at the office). Also, if you would please complete excursions forms, have the correct money in the envelope, and all details on the front completed before arriving at the office, that will help us immensely. Thank you.

EDITHVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL - DEPOSIT SLIP

All payments must be accompanied by a deposit slip. If a deposit slip is not provided on your excursion form, please complete this form before handing any money into the office. Thank you.

Child's Name:		Grade:	
Payment For:		Amount:	
Payment Type:	CASH CHQ EFTPOS	Date:	
Your Name:		Signature:	

Grade 4/4 Picasso Portraits



This week our class made Picasso Portraits. We looked at different Picasso faces and covered each half of the face with our hands and discovered that there were two faces

together.

We then started to make our own. First we drew from the top of the head to the tip of the nose looking sideways, then our mouth and chin.



Then we drew the other half of our face facing forward. We

added the eyes nose and mouth facing the front.



We outlined our face in black paint and then filled in the face and background with fluoro paint. It was interesting and we were pleased with how it turned out.

By Jemima, Laird,

Scott and Samantha
W



CANTEEN NEWS

This has been a busy week with delivery of canteen stock, re-shuffling shelves/freezers and welcoming new and existing helpers.

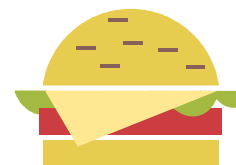
All items on the menu are now in stock and new window items will be available in the next week or so.

If any parents have concerns about menu items, please come and see me at the canteen.

Remember the canteen is not open on Wednesday.

Thanks to my helpers for this week

Diane



Monday 16th

Lara Sinclair

Thursday 19th

Debbie Bond
Deb Wall

Tuesday 17th

Sharyn McIntosh

Friday 20th

Chris Topham
Lissa Lawson

HELP NEEDED FOR DISTRIBUTING FRUIT

We need parent helpers to help us to distribute fruit to the grades for "Fresh Fruit Friday".

If you have a spare hour or so on a Friday morning, please give us a call in the office and leave your name; or just come along to the staffroom on the day.

Any help will be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks

PFA



Edithvale Primary School
Garden Watering Roster
 Please help keep our gardens growing

Fill in your family name, phone number, child's name and grade against the days you can assist with watering of school gardens.

(Tuesdays & Saturdays 6am - 8am only).

Return this sheet to the school office as soon as possible and further details will follow re: areas to water and access to the shed.

Many thanks from the Buildings and Grounds Committee

Month/Week	Saturday	Tuesday
February	14th	17th
February	21st	24th
February	28th	
March		3rd
March	7th	10th
March	14th	17th
March	21st	24th
March	28th	31st

Thanks to those families who have volunteered to water so far.
 Further information regarding watering will be distributed to you.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

SANDIE WISHART—BUSINESS MANAGER

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not provide personal accident insurance for students.

Parents are reminded that they are generally responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs.

However, **EBM Insurance Brokers** offer a StudentCover policy for just \$29.00 per annum.

To apply online, simply go to **www.studentcover.com.au**
 and click APPLY NOW.

