



# Edithvale Primary School Weekly Newsletter

Education at Edithvale  
Engagement, Excitement, Expertise, Excellence

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Term 2—Week 1

23 April 2009

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Welcome back to all students and their families - I hope that you had a wonderful break and that you had the opportunity to do many of those things we never seem to make time for during the term. The weather treated us very kindly indeed which made it very easy to get out and about.

This term we welcome Mr Jim Griffin as our new PE teacher and wish him well as he begins his work at Edithvale Primary School.

We are also looking forward to working with a few student teachers this term - we are able to assist them with our knowledge and expertise and they too, bring with, them new ideas to share.

Today we had a special assembly to commemorate Anzac Day. We were delighted that Mr Jim Rankin from Aspendale/Edithvale RSL was able speak with students about the meaning of Anzac and he was very pleased to again receive a book that represented the Edithvale Primary School community.

*Denise Webster*



**THANK YOU**  
War Service Information



Thank you to the families who have sent in their War Service Information. Your response has been wonderful.

Philip Jones

## WORKING BEE

The Buildings and Grounds Committee will be holding its first Working Bee for Term 2 on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May, from 8:00am to 12:00pm. As with any school, there are regular maintenance jobs that need to be continually addressed, so if you can spare an hour or two please come along and lend a hand.



## PARENT FORUM

As EPS is in the process of a school review with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, you are invited to participate in a forum to discuss such issues as:

- School improvement
- Student learning
- Student engagement and wellbeing
- Transitions

**WHEN:** Monday 27th April at 9:20am

**WHERE:** Staffroom

If you are unable to attend but wish to have input, please send us your written comments.

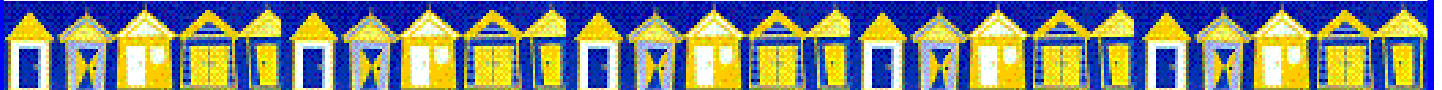
Your feedback will then become an important part of our reflection process (2006 ~ 2009). Students, staff and school council members will also be involved in similar forums.

Denise and Janice



## IMPORTANT DATES TERM 2—2009

APRIL Monday 27th	Parent Forum, Staffroom, 9:20am
MAY Saturday 9th	Working Bee ~ 8:00am—12:00pm
Thursday 14th	Art Show Opening 6:00pm in the hall
Monday 18th ~ Friday 22nd	Education Week



# Homework Survey Results

## Teaching and Learning Committee

Thanks to everyone who returned the Parent Homework Survey. We had an amazing response with the vast majority of families returning a response. We appreciate all responses and the Teaching and Learning Committee spent quite a while reading each reply and noting responses. The following is a summary of these results:

The positives of homework were generally seen to be - reviewing and reinforcing school work, preparation for secondary college, helping to create good working habits, parent involvement in learning. There were families who also believed that in primary school children should be outside playing etc. Time spent on homework was seen to be a product of the grade level of the student and ranged from an average of 10 mins in Prep to 30-45 mins per day in grade 6.

The majority of parents believed there should be a mix of independent work and work that involved some parent input. Once again the majority of parents monitor their children's homework and talk to their child about it. Parents also felt able to help with the homework but would like information on strategies that could be used to help with homework. Parents were sometimes unclear about homework expectations and the dates for homework to be returned.

There were a number of varying responses regarding the consequences if homework was not returned - no consequences, encouragement, counselling to determine reasons, contacting parents and having them deal with the problem, lunchtime detention, completing tasks while others have a privilege, losing marks for each day late, rewards for those who complete the tasks. Most parents believed that homework should be marked and commented upon and the compulsory subjects were seen to be Maths, English and Spelling.

There were a vast range of additional comments made. We have tried to summarise them as follows:

- Homework tasks should be linked to class work and it should reinforce and review learning
- They should not be a chore but fun, quick, easy tasks that students are motivated to do and could involve problem solving.
- Tasks should reflect the fact families are involved in other activities and lead busy lives. Perhaps should be done on only 3 nights to allow for extra curricula activities. There needs to be a happy medium between homework and play.
- Homework should be reading, tables, spelling only. Perhaps an A4 revision sheet with one side Maths and one side English.
- Like the "Grid" idea that a number of grades have trialled as they give students choice and outside activities are recognised
- Students should be taught homework strategies and have timelines for completion of tasks especially in upper grades eg: research completed by ....., pictures obtained by....., draft copy by....., etc.
- Large construction/projects are mainly completed by parents and are seen as a not appropriate for homework. Limit the number of projects
- There should be no pressure for Prep and Grade 1.
- Need to communicate to parents with handy tips eg: fun spelling and tables activities.
- Some parents who have students in secondary school felt that the students need to be more prepared for the large increase in homework that occurs.
- Life skills should be highlighted instead of homework.
- The results of the student survey were also very interesting.
- All students filled out a survey and the results were as follows.
- The vast majority of students saw homework as important to their learning. They believed that homework should be fun and were happy to complete projects.
- A lot of students said that homework should be easy and there should not be too much.
- The students were asked if they preferred homework which involved working with nature; singing and dancing; writing stories and poems; drawing, painting and making; solving puzzles; physical exercise, working with friends or writing a diary. There was a wide spread of answers with the top 5 being drawing and making, nature activities, physical activity, singing and writing stories.
- They believed that the best homework was making things - these activities ranged from cooking to making models, board games etc. The students saw these as fun as well as a learning opportunity.
- Teachers were also surveyed and the majority saw homework as a good preparation for later life both in and out of school and believed that homework helps with organisational and time management skills. They believe that students should enjoy doing the homework activities and that enjoyment reduces the incidence of unfinished homework. Most teachers speak to parents if homework is not completed. All teachers keep records of homework received and mark it accordingly. Many teachers send out explanatory letters to accompany homework tasks.

As a result of these surveys the Teaching and Learning Committee have drafted a new homework policy and this will be presented to School Council and staff at their next meetings and will be published once it has been accepted. A copy of the draft will be available at the school office if you would like to have a look. If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to ask. Once again thanks to the whole school community for their informative input.

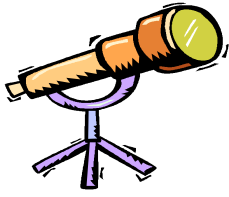
# Astronomical Art Show

2 school weeks to go

14<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> of May

Opening Night 14<sup>th</sup> May, 5:00-7:00pm

Official Opening at 6:00pm in hall



Have you walked around the school lately and looked into your children's classrooms. Classes are starting to prepare their rooms with their Astronomy theme. There are rockets, aliens and solar systems to be seen.

We have some great pieces of work donated to be auctioned on opening night, but we have room for more. The teachers have created some inspirational masterpieces for the auction.



If you or any one you know would like to donate, display, or privately sell a piece of work it can be dropped into the office at your earliest convenience.



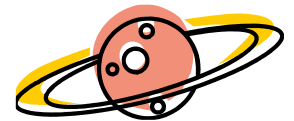
Ticket sales for the opening night will be available from the office from Friday 24<sup>th</sup> of April until 10.00am each day. Alternatively you can fill out the order form that will be sent home tomorrow. Prices are \$10.00 per family (2 adults, 3 children) or \$3.00 each. Tickets will also be available on the night.

Activities on opening night will include: Art displays from children, staff members and local artists, face painting and splatter art.

From May 15<sup>th</sup> through Education Week to May 22<sup>nd</sup> students will be involved with art workshops. These will include jewellery making, charcoal drawings, painting, computer design, cartooning and sock puppets. Thank you to the members of the Edithvale school community who are donating their valuable time for these workshops. The children will benefit greatly.

Raffle tickets for the holiday to Queensland have been sent home with your children. This will be drawn on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May during the closing ceremony at 3:00pm. More tickets are available at the office if you need them.

The next meeting of the Art Show committee will be in the staff room on Thursday the 30th April at 3:45.



## INSTRUMENTAL NEWS

Mark McGurgan  
Jack In The Box Music

Instrumental music will continue this term on the same day as last term unless otherwise notified. Please remember that lessons always commence in the second week of term. There will be a mid-year performance for every child on a date to be announced.

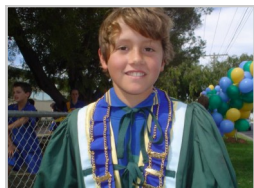
Jack In The Box Music is offering Casio keyboards at \$110 each to anyone interested. There is however a limited number, so please be quick!

Finally if you miss information placed in the newsletter please check the website [www.jackintheboxmusic.com.au](http://www.jackintheboxmusic.com.au) for any upcoming events, and have a great term 2!



## LACHLAN BOURNE OUR OWN JUNIOR MAYOR OF KINGSTON

For those of you who missed Lachlan Bourne's winning Mayoral speech, here it is again.



As Dr Seuss famously said:  
'Congratulations!  
Today is your day.  
You're off to great places!  
You're off and away!'  
Mr Mayor, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

I am here in a great place, Kingston. and I believe I could make a difference to our city as its Junior Mayor. I am concerned about the safety of kids at our beaches. I'm a nipper at Bonbeach Life Saving Club and I have been for 7 years. I want to spread the word. Kids listen to kids.

I want to lead discussions with kids about the need to swim between the flags.

I would tell them not to swim alone and let them know that we need to work as a team .

Hopefully, I would inspire some kids to join the nippers program and with any luck some might end up volunteering to be Life Savers, just like I will be in a few short years.

I would be letting everyone see that we can all add something of value to our community, as a leader, as a team member, or as a role model.

Just as I want to help. My school has truly helped me.

Edithvale Primary School's motto is Engagement, Excitement, Expertise, Excellence!

Wow! Does it achieve all of these things?

Yes, it does.

I could spend a lot of time talking about our

- water saving program
- our big classrooms with air conditioners
- our healthy options canteen
- our ICT program
- or our walking track
- or the anti-bullying program that runs at our school.

But I am not.

I am going to talk about our greatest asset.

**OUR TEACHERS!**

They are simply the best!

Mrs Johnson, my Grade 6 teacher, for example, just wants us all to do well. She takes every step with us and sometimes it can be a little scary. But she is always positive and leads us to be the best we can be.

I love the way she calls everyone 'dar!' and is always there to help. I hope I have made her proud of me today.

And you know, all of our teachers care. They all want us to be the best we can be.

Our teachers make us the best school in Kingston.

And I finish just as I started,

'Today is your day!'

Your mountain is waiting.

So...get on your way!'

Actions speak louder than words and if I have inspired you to contribute to the city of Kingston I am truly on 'my way' today.

## CANTEEN NEWS

With a sunny start to Term 2, I will continue to seel Icy Poles, Callipo's and Moo Ice-Creams for the next two weeks.

Term 2 menu was sent out at the end of Term 1. If you have not received yours, you may collect one at the office.

The printed lunch bags have been a great success. A new order has been delivered so all bag orders have been filled. For anyone wishing to order these bags, I will continue to sell them this term.

Diane  
Canteen Manager



TERM 2  
CANTEEN ROSTER

Monday 27th  
Lara Sinclair

Thursday 30th  
Kellie Kingsley

Tuesday 28th  
Sharon MacIntosh

Friday 1st May  
Chris Topham

### FROM THE OFFICE EXCURSION—MOTHER'S DAY MONEY etc.

Just a reminder to parents that all monies need to be put through the class cash books and not via the front office—so send through the classroom teacher.

### EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

Education Maintenance Allowance cheques are now available for collection from the school office.

All unclaimed cheques must be returned to the Department.

### LOST PROPERTY

Parents should check the lost property box (at the office) if their child has misplaced an item of clothing. There are a number of unnamed items in the lost property box. Please remember to name all items



### HELPERS NEEDED FOR FRESH FRUIT FRIDAY TERM 2

We are in desperate need of a couple of parent helpers to assist us in distributing fruit to the children on Fridays. It doesn't take long. If you are able to spare an hour on a Friday morning right after the bell at 9:00 and please give us a call at the office. Many thanks.

### UNIFORM SHOP

The Uniform is open every Tuesday from 3:00pm-approx 4:15pm. Order forms are available from the school office to fill out (and leave the correct money). The orders will be filled out on the Tuesday and sent along to your child's classroom.