Term 1 Week 4
Tuesday 18 February 2014

Support Teachers are the staff who assist children with special needs regarding their ability to access the curriculum.

English Language Support  Mrs Sheldon
Learning Assistance-Yrs 1-6 Mr. Parker
Learning Assistance-P-K Mrs Flores
Library/Technology Mrs Mead
Science Mrs Bullen
Support Teacher Aides Mrs van Dyk
Mrs Cross
Mrs Ward
Mrs Lovegrove

Preschool Teacher Mrs Lucas
Mrs I. Wallace

Eastern Creek’s enrolment dictates how classes are structured for the year. You may have read in the papers articles about so-called composite classes and how parents can be confused as to why schools have them.

The children enrolled determine the class structure, so if there are not enough enrolments in one grade students from the next grade are used to fill the class. This obviously has a “flow on” effect for subsequent classes.

The teaching of the curriculum is not affected as teachers are required to implement the NSW Board of Studies Syllabus. In some smaller schools, such as my previous school composite classes could be made up of K, 1 and 2 or a 4,5 and 6. That is because the school is small and the enrolments require children to be grouped accordingly as teacher are allocated to a school by a total enrolment number, not a grade number.

Updating Contact Details
Please inform the office of changes to phone numbers, addresses or other details such as a list of responsible adults who will be
contacted or will be picking up your children from school. Already this year, the school has experienced some difficulty in contacting parents as the mobile phone numbers have changed. The school will send out an update information sheet for you to complete.

Council Car Park and Play Area
This is a reminder that parents have the responsibility for their children’s safety when in the council park. Teachers at the school will be on duty at the school gate and will return children who have not been picked up to the school office in order that parents are contacted.

There has been a report too, of children from our school urinating on the back fence behind the park. This behaviour, unhygienic and anti-social as it is, may affect other children who sit and play on the grass. Please remind your children of personal responsibility and the need to consider others.

I ask that parents remind their children to be aware of strangers and of the time when they are playing unsupervised at the council play park. Children should be instructed to return home if and when they find themselves alone at the park. I also ask parents to be extremely careful when driving in the car park. Please be very responsible and to be extremely alert for children in the car park. It would so distressing if one of our children were hit by a vehicle as has been the case reported on the news in other communities. Last year a little one was hit and killed by a four wheel drive doing a three point turn outside a school.

I have been informed that some parents are parking in spaces, “nose to the kerb” which means when they reverse out of the place there may be a child behind the vehicle and they could be run over by the reversing car.

School uniform and the school hat
I have had a few discussions with parents over the past week over the use and request of school broad brimmed hats and the colour-pointing out that as long as the hat is broad brimmed that’s what counts.

Just to explain the school policy- the wearing of the school uniform is very strongly encouraged as it not only aids to instil school pride, culture and identity but also safety as well. The green and white colour of the uniform stands out clearly in the playground and when the children are on excursions. It makes “head counting” and checking children easier on the supervising teacher. One just has to count and look at the colour to ensure the children belong to the school. In the back playground, when on duty, the green and white reassures the teacher that all the children are in the playground.

Conversely, if a stranger, either adult or another child enters the playground and is not in green makes them extremely visible to the supervising teacher. Last year, the supervising teacher was able to spot the stranger-because he was wearing other coloured clothing- and engage him almost immediately. Children who do not have the broad brimmed school hat can still play but they need to play under to COLA-the big shade area.

The move away from the “baseball” school cap is a necessary safety precaution due to the risk of our children getting skin cancer. The broad brimmed hat greatly increases the amount of protection over our children’s face. In the media this week, it has been reported that cancer is now the biggest killer of people and that skin cancer is on the increase. As responsible carers we should all do our utmost to protect our children from getting skin cancer- it’s one cancer that can be prevented just by better protection from UV rays from the sun.

Black School Shoes- part of the school uniform
I would also like to remind parents that the school uniform policy also asks children to have black shoes.

I thought black shoes were expensive when compared to coloured joggers, but looking at the shoes at Big W, Target or Mathers, (yes I do shop) they are no different, price wise, to joggers- in facts some of the joggers are way more expensive. So please encourage your children to wear the black shoes/joggers Monday to Thursday and then the children can wear their joggers on Friday. I mention this only because I have heard that some children are taking a change of clothing and shoes in their school bags and then getting changed when they leave home, so parents may not even know what their child is wearing.
Special Badge Assembly 2014
This Friday, the first of the 2014 school assemblies is a special one. Students who have been elected School Leaders and Captains are presented with their badge. This includes the school captains, the sport house captains and the school representative council leaders. Letters have been sent home to all families where their child is to receive a badge.

Class Book and Resource Contribution
Attached to this week’s newsletter is the list of resources each student receives for their learning throughout the year. Text books, online learning access for maths and reading and stationery are listed. Please pay for these items as the school does not discriminate children because of money. All children receive these items so that the teaching/learning process can begin asap and no child misses out. The school relies on parents to pay for these as everything is paid up front by the school.

There is school fee attached to the itemised list but a reminder to parents that this is a voluntary contribution, unlike private schools where this is compulsory. The amount collected from the voluntary fees is used to pay for school resources and activities- so the fee is certainly not a superfluous additional cost. All dollars are used to value at Eastern Creek.

Insights- Michael Grose
“When kids bend the Truth” is this week’s article by Michael Grose. This article is little different to what I would normally select- usually about aspects on learning and social interaction. Children “bending the truth” is a behaviour parents and teachers alike often face. Michael’s article informs of ways that we can deal with incidents when they occur.

Educational Assessment Australia
University of New South Wales
In this newsletter is a permission note for parents to use if they would like their child/ren to participate in these annual competitions which involve children “having a go” at fairly challenging tasks in Computer Education, science, English and Mathematics. For the first time, Year Two students can participate in these assessments but only for English and Mathematics.

School Banking
Stay Cool at School this Summer- by completing three deposits into your Youth Saver account through School Banking between 28th of January and the 11th of April you can help the school win a 3m x 3m marquee. You will also go in for a draw to win one of two $50 deposits into your own school account. WOW. What a prize.- Great things happen when you save.

Eastern Creek Pioneers Netball Club
The Pioneers are looking for girls turning 6,7,8,12 and 13 years of age who would be interested in playing netball this year. Please see Kate Fitzgerald or Michelle Mackey in the Uniform Shop for details on how to get involved in this great sport.

Your Child at Eastern Creek Public School “Tell us about your Child Evening”
Tuesday 4th March
This year, the school is asking parents to come up and tell their child’s teacher about the interests, the special abilities, skills, thoughts about learning, academic abilities or anything about their child that would help both parents and teachers work together for 2014. There is a form at the back that you can complete and drop in to the office or to the classroom teacher prior to the meeting.

On Tuesday 4 March classroom teachers will be available to see you and sit down to have a chat. No appointment is necessary just come along. There are two sessions, 3.15pm to 5.00pm and 6.00pm to 7.00pm. Still parents have the opportunity to meet their child’s teachers.

Eastern Creek PS District Swimming Team
Congratulations to the following boys and girls whose times have enabled them to enter the Mt Druitt District Swimming Carnival.

Bailey McLoynes Logan Cross
Cayln Strong Blake Schofield
Aaron Cazier Riley Fitzgerald
Koro Sinapti Shazim Siddique
Joshua O’Neill Chad Zahra
Nathan Ritchie Mitchell Grosvenor
Phoebe Stephenson Emma O’Toole
Alyse McCutcheon Nicole Chua
Tahlia Rademaker Amira Osborne
Caitlin Carriglio Ava Roser
Vithushan Muraleetheran
Tauren Boole van Lente
Kiana-Lee Strong

Swimming Carnival Appreciation
Thank you to the many parent helpers who made the swimming carnival run so smoothly.
last week. The carnival could not have been run without your invaluable assistance. Thank you to the staff and the boys and girls. I hope all of us wish our swimming team the very best as they participate in the Mt Druitt Zone Swimming Carnival on March 5th at the Emerton Leisure Centre. Please parents, read the swim carnival note coming home with your child.

Mrs Gerges
PSSA Sports Coordinator

Western Sydney Speech Pathology
Western Sydney Speech Pathology is able to offer Speech Pathology Services at Eastern Creek Public School. Doctor referrals are not necessary. Appointments are essential. To make an appointment or enquire about our services call our office on 9622 1616. Any of our therapists Julie, Georgina, Annemarie or Celine will be happy to talk to you and answer any questions you may have.

Western Sydney OT Services
At Eastern Creek the services of the Western Sydney Occupational Therapy Service is open for business on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 8.30am to 9.15am and on Thursday 2.30pm to 3.00pm.

Commonwealth School Banking
Mr Loeckenhoff is the temporary P&C banking officer and manages all of the student banking. Please enquire at the office for a Commonwealth Bank account for your children. The school thanks Mrs Gundy for her effort in managing the student banking last year.

What is the School Voluntary Contribution Fee?
The Voluntary Contribution Fee of $20 a child or $40 per family is used to purchase school resources such as reading books, maths equipment, sport equipment, music instruments and many other educational items. The fee as you can see is a most valuable contribution. Please consider supporting the school through this fee.

Staff Car Park
Please do not use the staff car park to drop off and pick up students. The more vehicle going in and out of the entrance will lead to an accident. The Before and After School Care bus from St Anthony’s has reported that they have difficulty dropping off the children in the morning because parents are exiting and entering the school driveway. Please use the car park in Cawarra St.

Rooty Hill RSL Baton Twirlers classes.
If you would like your child to participate in learning the very special sport program of marching and baton twirling please contact Mrs Kristine Ross on 0414781631. The Rooty Hill RSL Baton Twirlers meet on Monday evenings 5.00pm to 8.00pm and on Saturday afternoon from 1.30pm.

Taekwondo Classes
David Adlam, from Nepean Wolves Taekwondo instructs Taekwondo classes on Friday afternoon. If you are interested in your children participating in the class please Contact David on - Tel:47513494 Mobile:0408609464
Email: nwtkd@exemail.com.au
Website: nwtkd.com.au

Before and After School Care
Families in our school have one provider available for before and after school care.
It is:
“St Anthony’s Early Learning Centre” at 46-48 Eskdale St, Minchinbury. The telephone number is 9832 7477.

School Tennis lessons
Mr Elton Stoney, the school’s tennis coach, is available for lessons both private or group and can be contacted on- 0412 122 976. Currently lessons are on Friday morning only.
Places are available for two sessions 8.00 and 8.30 at $7 a session.

J & E Piano Music Centre
Some of our children participate in keyboard lessons during the week and are instructed by trained teachers of piano and keyboard.
Keyboards are provided for the children to use. If you would like your child to participate please ring Johnny Young on 9651 4892 or 0411 884408

The Music Bus
If you are interested in your child learning drums, guitar or singing, please contact Kristy Ph: 1300 168 742 Fax: (02) 9527 0631
P.O. Box 2675, Taren Point NSW 2229
www.themusicbus.com.au

Wes Chia
Principal
### February 2013

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| Tues 18 | Scripture starts  
Newsletter                          |
| Fri 21  | 9.10am- School Assembly  
Sport                                               |
| Mon 24  | Panthers on the Prowl- Anti-Bullying Program                        |
| Tues 25 | Scripture  
"Tell me About your Child" evening  
3.1pm- 5.00pm- 6.00pm-7.00pm                          |

### March 2013

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| Tues 4 | Scripture  
Newsletter  
School Director visit                     |
| Fri 7  | 9.10am- School Assembly  
Sport  
Tennis  
Music Bus                                   |
| Mon 10 | RHHS Student Leader visit                                           |
| Tues 11| Scripture                                                            |
| Fri 14 | Harmony Day-RHHS  
Sport  
Tennis  
Music Bus                                   |