Welcome Back to school
It's a wet and cold start to the term. Welcome to our new parents and families to our school. At the start of each newsletter a special mention is made of our students who receive an award for classwork and book work. Also, the school runs a program called STAR which stands for four principles of behaviour and expectation- Safety at all times, Teamwork, Aim High and Respect. Students receive a nomination and can eventually win school bronze, silver and gold STAR badges.

School Assemblies are held on even weeks of the term and the names are published in the following week. Hopefully your child’s name will be published in the newsletter recognising their fine achievements.

The children return to a very busy term with the start of activities for our REACH concert, sporting activities, ANZAC services, student assessments, teachers preparing the half year report, the Learning Neighbourhood Writers Competition-“Hero” and University of NSW competitions.

Well Done Tiarna
Tiarna Rakori of Year 2 has been selected to compete in the “Face the Globe” International Beauty Pageant. She will participate in the Grand Final of this pageant in London and Paris in 2016 on the 2nd to the 9th April. She will compete against girls from all over the world in the Mini Category. The “Face the Globe” pageant is a competition based on personality, fund raising and talent. Tiarna is also a member of the Parramatta Eels cheer leading squad and hopes to raise $10,000 which will be donated to the Rainbow Child Foundation which helps underprivileged children.

You can follow Tiarna’s progress in the contest at www.FaceOfTheGlobe.com

P&C Easter Activities
Thankyou to the school’s P&C for supporting the children’s Easter activities held in the last week of last term. I am sure all children enjoyed the Easter Egg hunt and the marvellous Hat and Mask Parade. The prizes and eggs were very much appreciated by the children.

ANZAC Service Assembly
This Friday in the school hall, you are invited to participate in the school’s ANZAC service starting at 9.15. This year being the 100th year since the Gallipoli landings, you are especially invited to lay your own wreath or flowers at the school’s service.

On Saturday, a contingent of school leaders, Mrs Roseman and myself will be part of the Dawn Service at Rooty Hill RSL. We are meeting at the RSL at 4.40am. The schedule 5.00am- ANZAC March starts in Westminster Street 5.20am-Dawn Service 6.05am- Wreath laying service 7.00am- Community breakfast
Stage 3 Information

The beginning of the year commenced with our Year 6 group choosing to have the same style shirt as the last 2 years. They are eagerly awaiting the arrival of their shirts and seldom has a day gone past without someone asking “Do we know when we are getting our shirts?” (They take around 8 weeks to manufacture – so we are not expecting them until the school holidays!!).

We have begun our H.S.I.E theme (Australian Identity) and our English book of interest (Boy Overboard) and children are engaging in Literacy, Numeracy and Science activities in between starting our Creative Arts and Health units. Certainly a very busy time!

We have already booked activities to support H.S.I.E themes for the rest of the year, with an excursion booked to visit the goldfields in Bathurst (31/7/15, anticipated cost of $70.00) and an incursion visit from Chris Olsen who will be sharing his Antarctica adventures with us (12/10/15, anticipated cost of $8.00). There will also be an additional cost for McDonalds on the way to/from Bathurst, further information about this will be supplied closer to the event. To assist with budgeting I have arranged with Mrs Ektoros for parents to be able to begin to pay for these excursions at any time prior to the closing dates.

With the celebrations for the 100th anniversary of the ANZAC landing at Gallipoli approaching fast there are discussions and learning activities happening in the classrooms. The Rooty Hill RSL has invited our Stage 3 students to visit for a morning tea with Returned Servicemen on Wednesday 1st April. All Stage 3 students are included and the RSL is paying for the transport to get the students to the venue. There will be a whole school community celebration on Friday 24th April (our usual assembly time) and of course, there is the public ANZAC day march on Saturday 25th April – look for further details about this in the local newspapers.

We have just had a visit from the Rooty Hill High School Student Leadership team and already our thoughts are directed towards the future. The Year 6 group had many interesting questions for the Leaders. Parents of Year 6 students should have returned the High School Expressions of Interest by now. Year 5 parents need to be talking to lots of people now to help them make this important decision – the next 12 months will positively fly!

Mrs Roseman

Commonwealth School Banking

Please enquire at the office for a Commonwealth Bank account for your children.

School Text Books

In a previous newsletter there was an attachment indicating the costs for text books, literacy and numeracy packages (teacher and parent volunteers make up teaching aids for students that will assist them to better understand elements of mathematics and literacy), digital learning programs and other costs associated with the purchasing of commercially provided equipment. The School Voluntary contribution fee, once collected is spent on other educational resources for the children.

Thank you to the parents who have already sent in their contributions and text-book fees. If you have not already done so, could you please make arrangements with the school office to do so as all of the above costs have already been paid by the school to enable students to have them available from the beginning of the year.

Please don't hesitate to contact the office if you would like to pay by instalments or to ask for assistance. EFTPOS is available at the front office.

Pre-Service Teachers at Eastern Creek PS

A welcome is extended to Kathy Popovski who will be with Mrs Creer, Daniel Woods, who will be with Mrs Jennings and Jai Webb who will be with Miss Watkins. All three are University of Western Sydney students in completing their Masters Degree in Education.

I am sure they will have a most professional and rewarding experience learning the skills of quality teaching and being part of a terrific community.

School Cross Country

Last term the school’s Swimming Team “brought home the bacon” by winning the Mt Druitt/Minchinbury District Zone Swim Carnival. This term, the big sports event is the Cross Country.
The school’s cross country tentative day is next week on Wednesday 29 April with a back up date on Tuesday 5 May. The school is attempting to have the event run prior to the NAPLAN assessments.

Part of the race will require the children from 8 years and above to run up onto the top soccer oval and then down to the back gate. A special permission note is required for the children to run out of the school. This and other signed permissions are included in this week’s newsletter. Please complete the permission note sheet and return it to the office prior to next Wednesday.

Mrs Gerges, the Cross Country Coordinator will select a team to represent the school at the Mt Druitt/Minchinbury Zone Cross Country Carnival.

Parent Teacher Interview-survey
In preparing for the term 3 Parent/Teacher Interviews it was noted that the format used for the Parent Information Night-Tell Me About Your Child, was extremely successful. The night saw over 65 parents come to the hall to meet and tell about their child/ren to the classroom teacher. The format was informal and in the hall with everyone present, relaxed and a member of the Family Support Services available for questions.

If you would like another Parent/Teacher Night to be conducted like the in term one, ie in the hall with everyone there or, if you would like it to be in the traditional way, ie, the teacher in the classroom waiting for parents to come, please indicate on the survey at the end of the newsletter.

Tree removal
The beautiful gum tree growing in front of the library and administration block will have to be removed. Over the holiday a branch fell down revealing that the tree is “on the way out” and not looking well so it is best to have the tree removed. An arborist is preparing a report for its removal so in the mean-time, the entire area around the tree has been sectioned off and is out of bounds to everyone.

Eastern Creek Working Bee
Sunday 3 May
Volunteers will be most certainly appreciated to help out at the school- weather permitting on Sunday 3rd May starting at 8.30 and concluding at 12.00.

There will be gardening, cleaning, line marking and mulching activities to do. Drinks and a sausage sizzle will be provided on the day. Please bring your gloves, shears, rakes, brooms and wheel barrows to help bring the gardens and playgrounds into good shape.

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

For your information:-
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 and 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 day will be changing to Tuesday in Term 2 and the lessons start next week.

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

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
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.

Bayliss Hardware
For all of your handy hardware needs
Shop 9-11 Rooty Hill Plaza
Rooty Hill Rd North
Rooty Hill NSW 2766
96258549

St Alban’s Church
St Alban’s church runs ESL programs for people in our community twice weekly.
Sandy Galea
St Alban’s MBM Children’s Minister
ph: 0432 592 949
sandy@mbm.org.au
www.mbm.org.au
MBM Kid’s Vision: Transforming kid’s lives through Jesus Christ to the glory of God.

School App
To connect with the school App use the web portal http://www.myauschools.com Eastern Creek Public School. The username is community and the password is easternckps.

Family Referral Service
Thank you to Karen from the Family Referral Service for attending our ‘Tell us about your child night’ last Tuesday. The balloons, pens, usb wrist bands and goodie bags were a ‘hit’. Did you know that the Family Referral Service is located at Westfield Mt Druitt above Goldmark Jewellers? The service is free and has computers, photocopiers and fax machines available to assist students to complete homework. They provide information for children, young people and their families about a range of services in our local area. The store is open Monday to Friday 8.30am-5.30pm and located near the Dawson Mall exit. Look out for the bright green sign and pop in to see if there is some way they can assist your family.

| Mon Apr 20 | School Staff Development Day |
| Tue Apr 21 | Kindergarten – Year 6 – return to school. Preschool closed. Scripture classes |
| Wed Apr 22 | Preschool returns No Mandarin Language |
| Fri Apr 24 | ANZAC day assembly 9.15 in hall Music Bus |
| Sat 25 | Dawn Service RHRL |
| Tues 28 | Scripture 11.15- Keyboard Lessons |
| Wed 29 | No Mandarin Language for Yr 5/6 Cross Country-weather permitting |
| Thurs 30 | 3.15-School Birthday Committee Meeting |

| Fri 1 | 8.00- Tennis-weather permitting 9.10- School Assembly Sport- weather permitting Music Bus |
| Mon 4 | Kindergarten – Year 6 – return to school. Preschool closed. Scripture classes |
| Tues 5 | Scripture Cross Country- Back Up Day Newsletter Day 11.15- Keyboard Lessons |
| Wed 6 | Mandarin Language Yrs 5/6 |
| Thurs 7 | P&C Mother’s Day at School Fund Raiser-MPR |
| Fri 8 | 8.00-Tennis Sport Music Bus SRC Blue for Stew Day (Stewart House fund raiser) |
| Mon 11 | NAPLAN Testing starts for the week Years 3 and 5 only |
| Tues 12 | NAPLAN Testing for Years 3 and 5 No Scripture |
| Wed 13 | NAPLAN Testing for Years 3 and 5 Mandarin for Year 6 |
| Thurs 14 | NAPLAN Testing for Years 3 and 5 |
| Fri 15 | 8.00-Tennis NAPLAN Testing for Years 3 and 5 9.10-School Assembly Sport Music Bus |
Eastern Creek Public School 150 Year Celebration
Mrs Michelle O’Toole, President of the P&C has set up a facebook page for the 150th celebration.
The link is: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Eastern-Creek-Public-School-150th-Birthday-Celebration/420861321415896

The school has had one planning session so far, a think tank on the possibilities of what can be done to celebrate the 150 years which makes Eastern Creek one of the oldest schools in NSW and the nation. So far, the laying of special named pavers is being organised and you are most welcome to call on families who once had a relationship with the school to buy a paver. Information about the pavers is available at the office.

The next School Birthday Committee meeting will be on Thursday 30th at 3.15pm in the staff room. You are welcome to attend.

Working Bee
I would love to help with the Working Bee on Sunday 3rd May.

Name:_________________________________________
Phone:______________________________________
Child’s name:_________________________________
Class:_________________________________________
Skills:_________________________________________
I can help with materials and/or supply_____
Hours available:______________________________

Parent Teacher Interview Survey Question
I would like the Parent/Teacher Interview conducted in the school hall with all teachers present. _________________ please tick

Or
I would like the Parent/Teacher Interviews conducted in the traditional way by being in the classroom.

Please return this survey to the office or ring in your opinion on 9625 8112 to tell the office staff.

Name:_________________________________________
Class:_________________________________________