Upcoming Events

Term 1 Week 6
- Athletics Skills Program Years 3-6: Wed 2/3
- Athletics Skills Program Years 3-6: Thur 3/3
- Infants Assembly – 2C: Fri 4/3

Term 1 Week 7
- Kinder – Hunter Valley Gardens: Wed 9/3
- Excursion: Wed 9/3
- Athletics Skills Program Years 3-6: Thur 10/3
- Selective High School Tests: Thur 10/3
- Athletics Skills Program Years 3-6: Thur 10/3
- Primary Assembly - 6S: Fri 11/3

Term 1 Week 8
- Parent-Student Glendale Technology High School Tour: Tue 15/3
- Athletics Skills Program Years 3-6: Wed 16/3
- Parent-Student Glendale Technology High School Tour: Wed 16/3
- Athletics Skills Program Years 3-6: Thur 17/3
- Stage 3 Blackbutt Incursion: Thur 17/3
- Infants Assembly – 1/2P: Fri 18/3

Preschool Assessment and Rating

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Preschool Teacher, Louise Dittberner, and our Preschool Learning Support Office, Jo Morgan, on their outstanding work as part of the two day Assessment and Rating process our school has been involved in. All feedback provided thus far has been extremely positive, highlighting the fantastic achievements of our preschool. The final results of the Assessment and Rating process will be made available to parents and families when it is received by the school.

The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey

I am delighted that this term our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 14 March and 8 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students in Years 4-6 today. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the consent form to school by Friday 11th March 2016. The FAQs and copies of the consent form, including translated consent forms, are available from the website above.

Attendance

We have been back at school now for some short 22 days! And can you believe in that time our absences are sitting at 401 days? What does this mean? Overall, it means that our students are attending school on average 95% of the time. Whilst this may sound good, over the course of a child’s education, it means that a child is having a ‘Rostered Day Off’ once a month. This adds up over the years and means that a child effectively loses 130 days of education and technically reaches only the end of Year 11. Some absences are completely unavoidable, and we understand this, however there are many absences that can be avoided. Included at the end of this newsletter is an article from Michael Grose titled, ‘It’s not okay to be away…nor to be late to school’. It’s makes for some interesting reading...
Positive Behaviour for Learning
This week we are going to focus on how to be respectful and take pride in our appearance by wearing our school uniform. This means that we wear our correct uniform, including our hat every day. This also means we wear our sports uniform on Fridays. Wearing our school uniform develops a sense of belonging to show that we are part of the whole school community. It enhances student pride in our school and makes the identification of students easy.

Our onsite After School Care will be starting Monday 29th February (Week 6). If you are interested in placing your child in After School Care at Elermore Vale Public School, for either permanent or casual days, please head online to complete the registration process: https://www.campaustralia.com.au/Schools/ElermoreValePublicSchool/7244

School Disco
Thank you to all the families who came out on such a hot evening to attend our Term 1 Beach Party Disco. I would like to thank the Lewsam Family for kindly donating the decorations for the evening. Also, huge thanks to all the parents and teachers who volunteered their time to help make the Disco a huge success. Without your help this event would not be possible. Lastly, a big thanks to Robert Coombes for being our schools disco man for the past 30 years. You are amazing!

Tracey Thomas
Coordinator

P & C Annual General Meeting (AGM)
The P&C are holding their AGM on Tuesday, 13th March at 7pm in the school staffroom. All positions in the P&C will be declared vacant at this meeting. If you are interested in filling one of these positions or wish to nominate someone to fill a position, you will need to complete the nomination form at the end of this newsletter, and return it to the school office by 3.00pm Tuesday, 13th March. Additional nomination forms can be obtained from the office if required.

Only members who are financial and in attendance at the meeting are eligible to vote. The only positions that will be filled from the floor are positions where there are no nominations submitted.

The positions include President, Vice President (2), Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Sub-Committees (Canteen Convener, Canteen Treasurer, Canteen Secretary, Fundraising Convener, Uniform Convener, Publicity and Promotions Officer and Band Convener.

Details of these positions can be found by accessing: http://www.elermoreva-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/our-school/p-c

Canteen Roster

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<th>Mon 29/2</th>
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<th>Wed 2/3</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ronda Hipwell (11-2)</td>
<td>Thomas Moore (11-2)</td>
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<td>Di Ramsey</td>
<td>Griffiths Baker</td>
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Online Ordering at the Canteen
www.ouronlinecanteen.com.au Helpline 1300 116 637

Thank you to all who have supported the Online Ordering service. We now have over 100 families who have registered and using this service. Please make sure your child’s classroom is selected from the drop down menu in your child’s profile. If you are using a mobile device, it would be best to select “NO” when it pops up and use the website directly to set up your child’s profile. Our Online canteen has advised that not all things are available on the mobile app. Topping up your Online Credit is free when using direct deposit and there are no restrictions on the amount you can transfer. Be mindful that is may take up to 2 working days for the bank transfer to be completed.

Special Meal Deals
Thursday 17th March – Milkshake Day/St Patrick’s Day (Green theme)
Monday 21st March – Harmony Day
Thursday 24th March – Easter Hat Parade - Order forms will be sent home closer to the dates.

E Books
Entertainment Books will be arriving in March 2016. More information will be available when they arrive.
2T is a class of poets

Look at our fabulous rhymes that we created after reading *Wombat Stew* by Marcia K. Vaughan and Pamela Lofts!

*Mia, Isabel and Justyn*
My lunchy,
My lunchy,
Needs to be,
Crunchy and munchy,
For my lunchy in my tummy.

*Elly and Sophie D.*
My breaky,
My breaky,
Needs to be,
Yummy and cheeky,
For my heady.

*Macey and Milla*
My smoothy,
My smoothy,
Is nice and fruity,
For my mouthy.

*Grace and Hayley*
My lunchy,
My lunchy,
Needs to be,
Munchy and funky,
For my tummy.
### PART 1: COMPLETED BY NOMINATOR AND SECONDER

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<th>Name of person nominated</th>
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<td>Full Name Mr / Mrs / Ms</td>
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| Full Name Mr / Mrs / Ms  | (Seconder) | Child in Class  | ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….|
|                          |            | Signature       | ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….|

### PART B: TO BE COMPLETED BY THE CANDIDATE

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<td>Child in Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>I accept nomination for position of</td>
<td>…………………………………………………………………………………………………. on Elmermore Vale P &amp; C Committee.</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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Please supply the information below and any other which you feel will assist in your election. Use the reverse side of page if necessary.

**Personal qualifications and interests** - 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Parenting Insights

Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose

It’s not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day—and gets there on time.

It sounds simple, but it’s true. The correlation between school attendance and children’s achievement levels is well-established. The more time kids spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success.

Conversely, according to a report from the Victorian Auditor General, students who are regularly absent from school are at the greatest risk of dropping out of school early and of experiencing long-term unemployment.

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Also, many teachers tell me it’s often the kids who can least afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absentees.

Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-condoned.

It’s hard to get an accurate picture across the country, but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young, primary-aged children.

That adds up to a year’s lost schooling over the school-life of a child. In today’s highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage.

That’s not a reason to be away! It’s now common for families to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling’s birthday; being absent because they stayed up late watching television; going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend; and kids not wanting to take part in a sports day or special school event.

This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don’t really value learning or their children’s school experiences.

Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time.

Being late is not okay either

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continuously late.

Current research shows that mornings are the most productive time of the day, with 10:00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.

more on page 2

Stay one step ahead of your kids with great ideas & expert advice from Michael Grose. Join Michael’s NSW Parenting Ideas Club today at parentingideasclub.com.au. You’ll be so glad you did.

parentingideas.com.au

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Working Together for Children
... It's not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school...

It takes strong parenting...

As a parent myself I know how persuasive children of all ages can be when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear, particularly if they play the guilt card with comments such as “It’s not fair that I have to go to school today because Aunty is coming to visit!” Not so. But the answer should be “Not!”

As parents we need to make a commitment that our kids make the most of their precious time at school. That means that we send them to school every day, on time and ready to make the most of the school day.

Of course, there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances, when kids should be away. But these need to be a rarity rather than the norm.

It’s reassuring to know that you increase their chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day. And of course regular school attendance also helps kids prepare for the workforce, where it will be expected that they turn up, each day, work ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with NO EXCUSE.

---

AS A PARENT:

- Commit to sending kids to school every day.
- Make sure kids arrive at school and class on time.
- Inform the school when they are away, sending medical certificates and other evidence of genuine absence.
- Consider catching up on missed work.
- Make kids who are away stay in their bedroom – that is where ill kids should be.

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parentingideas.com.au
Working together for children