



Government of South Australia  
Department for Education and  
Child Development

# Echunga Primary School

Together we will strive for academic, social, emotional and personal achievement, working within a positive culture that promotes the pursuit of excellence and the understanding of others



Week 10, Term 2, 7th July, 2016

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## DIARY DATES

**Fri 8/7—End of Term 2**  
**2.20 Early dismissal**

Mon 25/7—Term 3 begins

Mon 8/8—7.00pm  
Governing Council Meeting

Tues 30/8—Fri 2/9 Year  
6/7 Canberra Camp

Mon 12/9—7.00pm  
Governing Council Meeting

Tues 13/9—School Photos

View the newsletter on our website at  
[www.echungaps.sa.edu.au](http://www.echungaps.sa.edu.au)

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### Term 2

What a term it's been. Besides all the usual things that schools do as part of their core business, we've had lots of other events. Lorikeet went to Mt Barker High School for a visit, we had NAPLAN of course, Fairy Wren (Preschool) had a series of art events with a local artist and we had a very successful book fair. That's not all. A group of students went to town to play in a table tennis tournament, the cross country team performed at the district cross country event, we had a National Simultaneous Story Telling event, National Reconciliation activity, Kingfisher went to the State Library, we had two Pupil Free Days (Student Voice and Maths), a mobile science event, Lapathon, The Crows visit and a pizza lunch day thrown in for good measure.

Wishing everyone some sort of break at least and see you all next term.

### NAPLAN Online – Getting ready for 2017

The Australian Government is committed to delivering NAPLAN online from 2017, with all schools across the nation transitioning over a 2 to 3 year period (SA will begin online testing from next year).

This change will provide each child with a more personalised learning experience and a better assessment. It also means that the results will be returned to you and your child's teachers within a few weeks, rather than several months.

Our school will be participating in a trial of the new online system in August 2016. This trial is not a 'test' of content; it is a test of how the new online system will work in a real-life classroom environment. You may hear this trial referred to as the NAPLAN Online Readiness Trial.

As part of the trial, students in Years 3, 5, 7 will undertake 2 online readiness tests. Each test will take approximately 45 minutes to complete.

It is important that we participate in this trial before the system is officially in use in 2017 to enable familiarisation with the system in a classroom setting. Participation will allow us to confirm that every school is ready and that our teachers are confident that their students will be able to participate fully.

This trial will help our site to be well prepared to complete NAPLAN online in 2017 and provide feedback into final changes at a statewide level.

# SCHOOL NEWS

## **NAPLAN Online – answering your questions**

### **What is NAPLAN online?**

NAPLAN online is an initiative of the Australian Government and involves the transition of NAPLAN from pen and paper to a computer-based assessment.

### **Why is NAPLAN going online?**

Moving NAPLAN online allows for better and more varied assessment tasks and a personalised test experience. It also means your child's results will be more precise and available to you within a couple of weeks, rather than several months.

### **When is it happening and who is doing it?**

The Education Council, comprising state, territory and commonwealth education ministers, has agreed that NAPLAN online will be implemented from 2017 over a 2-to 3 year period.

DECD is encouraging as many schools as possible to move to NAPLAN Online from 2017.

### **Who is managing the move online?**

Education Services Australia (ESA) have been commissioned to develop and trial the platform which will deliver NAPLAN online.

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) will continue to be responsible for all aspects of development of the NAPLAN tests.

In South Australia, DECD is responsible for preparing schools to move online.

### **What is the NAPLAN Online Readiness Trial?**

The NAPLAN Online Readiness Trial is a practice run of the NAPLAN online platform. Schools will complete as many test sessions as they need to develop their understanding of the system and their readiness for the 2017 implementation. It is also an opportunity for schools to provide detailed feedback on their experiences and readiness.

Students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are asked to trial the online system and new question style. As part of this trial all students will log in with an anonymous student code so they cannot be identified.

The trial will involve students completing 2 assessments

- a test for each year level containing sample NAPLAN online questions based on reading, numeracy and convention of languages (spelling, grammar and punctuation)
- 
- a separate writing test for each year level.
- 

Across Australia, the test is called the Platform Test Readiness Trial (PTRT).

### **Why is the NAPLAN Online Readiness Trial important?**

The trial will provide information about the school's internet capabilities and confirm that there are sufficient devices to run the test successfully. It will also allow staff to 'test drive' the new processes and trial classroom logistics.

# SCHOOL NEWS

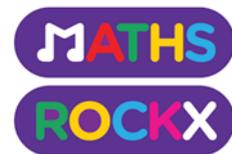
## What about schools that do not have the necessary bandwidth to undertake online assessment?

The Australian Government is developing a 'low bandwidth' solution for schools that are experiencing issues with internet connectivity. This will ensure that all students are also able to experience the online test.

## IBIS NEWS

We have seen some eager learning happen in the Ibis class over the past few weeks. With a lot of effort not only being put into achieving our individual goals, but effort and dedication put into our projects on Australian Animals, as well as great pride in publishing our poetry pieces.

Some of you might of had the privilege to see and hear our learning of our times tables, using a different method. We have begun utilising the app "Maths Rockx, which uses modern pop songs to teach times tables. The enthusiasm and enjoyment in practicing the song has been fantastic, and I can honestly say they get stuck in your head... I've attached a link for the website for those interested in downloading the app. <http://www.mathsrockx.com/>



Another app that we have been using in class to support our Pos Ed and Health curriculum is the "Smiling Mind" app for our mindfulness activities. When we are in our class after lunch, we are engaging with a variety of mindfulness experiences, with students now requesting their favourite activities, such as mindful drawing, guided meditation and Jelly Belly breathing. Our mindfulness program aims to increase our being within the present moment allowing us to become less reactive and more aware of our thoughts. The "Smiling Mind" App provides a variety of resources and activities. <http://smilingmind.com.au/>



Hope you enjoy your holidays and I look forward to seeing you all in Term 3.

## PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

Congratulations to Archer, Kym, Ruby H, Opal and Zoe (Kingfisher); Liam D, Savannah H and Tristan (Ibis); Edward and Javre (Lorikeet) who have all completed the challenge.

The closing date for this year is approaching (9th September). However, there is still time to complete the challenge.

The school holidays will be an ideal time to catch up on some reading. Students are welcome to borrow books from the Library over the holidays .



# SCHOOL NEWS

## CAR BOOT SALE

Echunga Primary School are planning a Car Boot Sale later in the year (date TBA).

Start thinking about all the Xmas money you could make by clearing out your cupboards/sheds/ potting some plants/selling your crafty goods etc.

If you don't want to book your own space, the school will have a few stalls of their own, so when the time comes, we would be happy to sell your "stuff"!

Date will be advised early next term, so start de-cluttering!!!!



## LAPATHON

Thank you to those families who donated and have returned their Lapathon donations already.

The school holidays will be a good time to collect any outstanding donations from family and friends.

Please return any money collected by the end of the first week back next term.



## DANCIFY



Just a reminder to Reception to Year 5 families that Dancify sessions will be starting in Week 1 next term.

If you have not returned a signed Commitment to Pay, or payment, by the first session your child will not be able to attend the sessions. The cost is \$16.

Merridee is working in the holidays if you would like to drop the form or payment in to the Office.

# COMMUNITY & OSHC NEWS

## ECHUNGA UNITING CHURCH NEWS

### Messy Church Friday

Welcome the school holidays with an afternoon of craft and activity, song and story, plus a yummy tea.

Family friendly for all ages!

4:00-6:00pm in Wandeeen (Echunga Uniting Church)

Find us on Facebook—[www.facebook.com/echungamessychurch](http://www.facebook.com/echungamessychurch)



### Coming Week 1 Term 3:

\* MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) - Thursday July 28 9:30-11:30am

\* Youth Group @ Marion Aquatic Centre—Friday July 29 6:30-10:00pm

See the full events calendar at [www.echunga.unitingchurchsa.org.au](http://www.echunga.unitingchurchsa.org.au)

## OSHC NEWS

### OSHC Awards Term 2 2016

And the OSHC Awards go to...

9. Poppie P

10. Liam D

### Last day of Term (Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July)

Just a reminder that OSHC will be open at 2:20pm and **will close at 5:30pm** instead of 6:30pm.

We will be watching Zootopia and having popcorn and milo's for afternoon tea.

### July Vacation Care Program

The July Program is out now and there is still some space available. Some days are booked out already.

All families need to fill in the booking form for Vacation Care. If you have not filled in a booking form and returned it to OSHC, then you are not booked in for any sessions.

### OSHC Fee Increase from July 11<sup>th</sup> 2016

As per the budget recommendations and as ratified by Governing Council all our fees will go up as follows from July 11<sup>th</sup> 2016 (the first day of the July Holidays).

This is for both Preschool and School age children.

	Current Fee	Fee from 11/07/16	New Fee with Child Care Rebate
BSC	\$14.50	\$14.50	\$7.25
ASC	\$24.00	\$24.50	\$12.25
VAC	\$50.50	\$51.00	\$25.50