



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

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 6, Term 2, 7th June, 2019

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REMINDER

Monday 24th June is a Student Free Day
for the School and Preschool.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Can you believe we've passed the halfway mark already this term? It has gone so quickly! Well, you know what they say about time flying when you're having fun.😊

Visible Learning

We are also continuing our focus on formative assessment and giving effective feedback to students to help them move forward with their learning. All teachers are committed to trying a variety of formative feedback strategies in their classrooms. You may even have been told that students don't put hands up in their classroom anymore! Research shows that many students say very little in the classroom, whilst others are desperate to answer the teacher's questions, and importantly, students learn more when the teacher chooses students randomly to answer questions. Choosing students randomly means that **all** students need to think about the answers, not just a few. We acknowledge that this may be difficult for students at the start but we hope that this will lead to students being more engaged. We will be reviewing how this is going at our next staff meeting.

Art Expo

Did you manage to get in to see our students' art work in the Alluvial Hall. There was an amazing variety of art work on display, showcasing our students' learning in the Arts. Thank you to Georgie who spent many hours putting the exhibition together. This year there were awards for some of the art work:

Student Choice Awards:

Liam W for his 'wave' sculpture
Katya for her mandala painting

People's Choice Awards:

Maddy D for her leaf sculpture
Archie W for his T-Rex art

Teachers' Choice Award:

Cameron for his Elmer the Elephant art

DIARY DATES

Mon 10th June—Queen's Birthday
Public Holiday

Tues 11 June—Deadly Australians
visit

Tues 18, 25 June & 2 July—Touch
Rugby

**Mon 24th June - Student Free
Day**

Tues 18th June—7.00pm
Governing Council Meeting

Monday 1st July—Assembly

Friday 5th July—End of Term 2
2:20 Early Dismissal. OSHC
closes at 5:30

Skoolbag app

Have you downloaded our skoolbag app yet? It's a great way to quickly get alerts, reminders, news-letters and other school info. Search Echunga Primary School in the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store.

SCHOOL NEWS

Rosella Class Award: **Henley** for his T-Rex art

Kingfisher Class Award: **Charles** for his sculpture

Ibis Class Award: **Kym** for his pinch pot

Lorikeet Class Award: **Maddison P & Samara** for their Worldmap art

Congratulations to the award winners, and to all of our students for their wonderful achievements!

Casual Day

Our making a difference group has voted to have a PJ Day on Friday 28th June to raise money for the Lions Cancer Institute. The Lions Cancer Institute provides mobile cancer screening and organises Big Days Out for children with cancer and terminal illnesses. Students are asked to bring a gold coin donation on the day.

Car Park

I would like to remind everyone of the importance of safety considerations when dropping off and picking up your children. We have had reports of some cars driving too fast in the car park and others stopping in the middle of the carpark, making visibility, especially of small children, a problem. Please be considerate of others and aware of the presence of small children, who can be quick moving and unpredictable. Have a lovely long weekend – stay warm. ☺

Pam

DEBT COLLECTION

At the Governing Council Meeting held on the 29th May the Debt Collection Policy for 2019 was approved.

This means that for any debts that have not been paid for by the end of Term 1 the school can send out a Final Notice and statement notifying debtors that if payment is not received the debt will then be passed on to a debt collection agency. The debt collection agency approved is Mercantile Credit Management Pty Ltd.

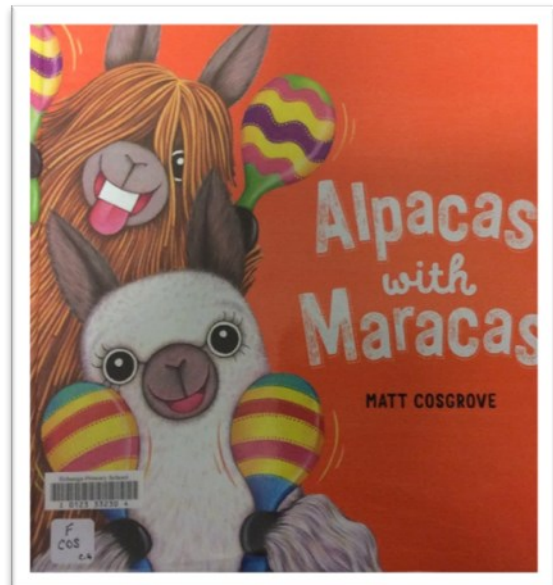
For those families who still owe school fees and have not set up a Direct Debit payment a Final Notice and statement will be sent home early next week seeking payment. If payment is not received by the date listed or families have not spoken to Pam or Merridee the debt will be passed on to Mercantile Credit Management Pty Ltd for them to chase the debt.

Kingfisher

This year's text for National Simultaneous Storytelling was Matt Cosgrove's *Alpacas with Maracas*.

It is a cute rhyming story of two alpaca friends who enter a talent show. After many attempts to try to find their talent, they discover that they are amazing at playing maracas!

After reading the book, Lorikeet and Kingfisher classes combined to help each other create a clay alpaca each, which have been decorated in the style of Mexican folk art.





EPS ART EXHIBITION



SCHOOL NEWS

PASTORAL CARE WORKER NEWS

Hi Everyone,

I hope you had a good week, I can't believe it's week 6 already! I had the opportunity to go to the Resilient Kids Conference on the weekend which was so great. I was able to hear from people such as Melinda Tankard Reist creator of Collective Shout and advocate for girls against the over sexualisation of women in our media, Hugh Van Cuylenberg the creator of The Resilience Project and Dr Michael Carr-Gregg who is a psychologist, author and parenting specialist along with others.

I was overloaded with super helpful information around cyber safety, supporting children and youth with mental illness, and how to have hard conversations with your kids, along with many other topics, so I decided to buy some great resources for the Family Library at school which captured much of their wisdom. Did you know that we have a great part of the library specifically stocked with picture books, dvds and resource books, for you as well as the students? The resources cover things from grief and loss, to parenting tough kids, to navigating online media and much more all of which can be borrowed through the Library.



I really enjoyed the conference and hope to be sharing bits and pieces with you as the year goes on, but one of the best snippets was from Hugh, creator of The Resilience Project. He spoke about 3 key traits which are shown to increase resilience and mental health outcomes in people which is critical as 49% of Australians will have a mental illness at some point in their life. The acronym is GEM which stands for Gratitude, the ability to be thankful for what we have, Empathy, the ability to care for and understand someone else's feelings and circumstances and Mindfulness, the ability to be calm and present in the moment. These three things seem so simple but I know for myself it is all too easy to focus on what I don't have, the new car, or puppy I want, to only think about a situation from my perspective and to spend my whole time catching up with a friend worrying about what I'm going to do for dinner that night.

Hugh gave some really simple ways to build these three traits into our lives more. Below is a list of some:

Gratitude:

- * Ask yourself, your kids, your partner, parents or friends when you see them: "What are three things that went well for you today?"

Empathy:

- * Do something kind for someone you know is having a hard day.
- * In a conversation try asking your friend 3 follow up questions before you switch back to talking yourself, to gain a deeper understanding of their feelings and situation.

SCHOOL NEWS

Mindfulness:

- * Use a grate app like Smiling Mind (free), The Resilience Project (\$5), or Headspace (subscription) to do some simple, 5 min meditation exercises.
- * Take some time at the beginning of your day to do some deep breathing exercises. For example breath in for 2 sec and then out for 4 sec ten times. As you do so take time to focus on how your body feels filling with air and then expelling the air, if you get distracted that's ok just bring the attention back to the breath.

These are some simple ways to implement GEM into your day but I wonder if you already do some, or if you could think of some others? I would love to fill up one of the panels of my glass door with suggestions on how to implement GEM in your everyday life. Drop your suggestions into the front office and I will work on getting them up over the coming weeks so we can continue to find ways to strengthen the mental health and resilience of our community.

Rachel Pastoral Care Worker

From the Library...

Scholastic Book Fair

Thankyou to all our families that supported the Book Fair.

We were able to buy many popular new books with the \$314.00 commission we received.

Premiers Reading Challenge

We are over half way to completing the Premiers Reading Challenge and the children are all doing well to complete their reading in time.

Congratulations to the following children who have already completed the Challenge
Gemma, Archie K, Charlie B, Liam W, Bailey, Alex M, Rhyse, Katya, Savannah B, Tyler, Poppie, Alex F, Noah, Eddy, Archer, Ruby T, Jayden S, Levi, Ruby H, Stephanos, Jorja, Lucy, Ada, Max B, Maddison, Savannah H, Katelyn, Alice T.

New items in the Library

Children can now borrow Magazines from the Library. We have copies of Double Helix and National Geographic Kids.

As part of updating our fiction collection, we have new books by David Walliams, Isla Fisher, Dav Pilkey and Anh Do. We have also started a collection of Graphic Novels, Seek and Find Books and Joke books.

Children are welcome to suggest books for the Library, through the Suggestion Box at the desk.

Until next time, Happy Reading

Sue



COMMUNITY NEWS

ENCOURAGING A LOVE FOR THE ARTS



PROVIDING AFTER SCHOOL AND HOLIDAY
THEATRE WORKSHOPS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
5-13 YRS WANTING TO HAVE FUN, LEARN,
DEVELOP AND ENHANCE SKILLS IN
PERFORMANCE & THEATRE MAKING



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GIVING BLOOD FEELS GOOD

Every donation can save three lives.

The Blood Service Mobile Blood Donor
Centre will be visiting:

Mount Barker

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
35 Hampden Road

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| Tuesday 2 July | 10:30 am – 5:30 pm |
| Wednesday 3 July | 12:00 pm – 7:00 pm |
| Thursday 4 July | 11:30 am – 7:00 pm |
| Friday 5 July | 8:00 am – 3:00 pm |

To make a group booking call **1300 886 524**

To make an appointment call **13 14 95**
or visit donateblood.com.au

 Australian Red Cross
BLOOD SERVICE