



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 9, Term 1, 29th March, 2019

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DIARY DATES

Thurs 4th April—Yr 5,6,7 District Athletics

Fri 5th April—Yr 6-7 Aquatics at Murray Bridge

Fri 12th April—Lorikeet Sculpting Workshop
2:20 Early Dismissal
End of Term 1

Mon 29th April — Student Free Day

Tues 30th April—Term 2 begins

Fri 10th May—Sports Day

Monday 13th May, 3rd June—Assembly

Wed 15th May—7.00pm Governing Council Meeting

Mon 27 May—School/Preschool Photos

Mon 10th June—Queen's Birthday Public Holiday

Mon 24th June - Student Free Day

Wed 26th June—7.00pm Governing Council Meeting

Skoobag app

Have you downloaded our skoobag 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.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

What a busy term we have had. Hopefully you have had a chance to meet with your child's teacher regarding their progress this term.

Parents play a big role in helping their children to be confident and enthusiastic learners by encouraging them to believe they can do well at school, and that trying hard and doing their best is important. Parents can also assist their child with organisation, navigating challenges and solving problems.

Here are some tips and ideas about the little things families can do in their daily routines to help their child's learning.

More useful information about helping your child with their learning can be found [here](#).

Living Safely with Dogs

Our R-4 students enjoyed a visit from Deb & Tink today. They learned all about being around dogs and how to make sure they are safe.



SCHOOL NEWS

Lunch 'n Crunch

On Wednesday most of our Year 5, 6 & 7 students participated in the Lunch 'n' Crunch Volleyball at Heathfield High School. Our students were great ambassadors for our school working well as a team and showing great sportsmanship. They won 16 out of their 21 games – a great effort! Well done to everyone who participated! Thank you to Rowan for attending with the students and to the parents who helped to transport.

Student Free Day

Monday 29th April will be a student free day for both the school and the preschool. All staff will be attending a workshop on the Big 6 – the main elements of learning to read: phonological awareness; phonics; vocabulary; fluency; comprehension; and oral language.

Sports Day

Sports Day will be on Friday 10th May (Week 2). A note will come out shortly about the arrangements but we are planning on shared fruit platters and a shared lunch like last year. Please be on the lookout for the note coming home.

NAPLAN

NAPLAN tests will be in Week 3 next term. The Year 5 & 7 students participated in a national practice test yesterday and the Year 3s will also participate in a practice shortly. If you would like to see what the online environment is like there is a demonstration site that you can visit. You can find the site at:

<https://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site>

Thank You

I would like to thank all of our parents and other family members who have volunteered their time this term. We have had a great response to calls for help, including All British Day, SAPSASA events, cooking and listening to reading. We really appreciate the contributions our volunteers make to our school and to our students.

I hope you all enjoy the upcoming holidays and that the sun shines for at least some of it.

Pam

FROM THE LIBRARY...

Bookweek 2019

The shortlist of books for Bookweek has been announced by the CBCA. Checkout their website for more information <https://cbca.org.au/shortlist-2019>

Next term teachers will be reading and talking about the books with their classes, in anticipation of trying to guess which ones will be winners.

Scholastic New Books

When families buy books from the Scholastic Bookclub our library receives a percentage of the money. This term we have been able to buy lots of new Scholastic books for the Library, which will be available to borrow soon.

Keep a lookout for our BIG Scholastic Book Fair in the Library in weeks 3 and 4 next term!

Premiers Reading Challenge

With the holidays coming up, it's the perfect time for children to complete more of their Reading Challenge. Children can borrow books from the Library, to read over the school holidays.

Congratulations to Tyson, Jamie, Charles, Abbey, Jackson, Daisy, Angus B, Maddy, Kody, Ellyce, Cameron, Jayden, Kayla, Daniel, Tara, Archie W, Caleb D, Samara, Mia, Brock, Sophia, Oliver, Alice D and Lachie who have already completed the Challenge.

Further information about the Premiers Reading Challenge is available on this website

<http://www.premiersreadingchallenge.sa.edu.au>

Until next time, Happy Reading. Sue

SCHOOL NEWS

PASTORAL CARE WORKER NEWS

Hi Everyone,

Wow it has been a hectic start to the year, swimming, "What's the Buzz" training and Harmony Day! This school has so many awesome things going on all the time, it's a joy to be a part of. As I have begun to settle in I have really enjoyed the openness and kindness of the school, I can see it reflects the school environment. The teachers, support staff, and all of you provide a place of welcome and acceptance and that flows onto the kids. We got to explore these characteristics with the school as I worked with the year 6/7's to create some Harmony Day activities.

Harmony Day is a day where we celebrate diversity in Australia. This year I worked with the year 6/7's to talk about the importance of stories in helping us understand and celebrate people who are different from us. In hearing someone's story we find out who they are, what's important to them, what skills they bring to the community and what wisdom they might have to share. To explore this the year 6/7's then split into groups to look at 6 story books which explored the different feelings and experiences of a diverse group of Australians, from Refugees, to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. The Year 6/7's then wrote both open-ended and closed questions about the book they looked at to help the younger year levels explore the same ideas. Lorikeet then took these stories into the other classes, sharing with them the importance of listening to other people's stories, and helping them try out these skills as we listened to the story books and then discussed how the characters felt, what happened and how people become friends or started to feel safe. It was great to see the year 6/7's showing great leadership and public speaking skills as they facilitated conversations where younger students were able to talk about the importance of being kind, showing friendly body language, being patient with new friends, being compassionate, listening to people, playing with new people and being welcoming. We then decorated bunting with our hopes and dreams for our school community, describing and drawing the kind of place we would like it to be.

It was a great couple of days and an awesome way to start my time here as I walk alongside the school community to help it thrive. I can't wait to see what next term brings, remember if you would like to catch up with me, just contact the front office or email me on Rachel.stevens842@schools.sa.edu.au, I am always up for a cuppa.



SCHOOL NEWS

Lorikeet newsletter-by Ada, Kate, Maddi, Mia, Tab

Swimming- In week 7 the reception to year 5s went to Woodside pool to do swimming lessons. All our year 5s that went enjoyed the week of swimming and Maddy said "My favorite part was using the life jackets while jumping in".

SAPSASA - in a few weeks most of the Lorikeet students will be going to the SAPSASA district day try outs Alice who is participating in 100m, 200m sprints and long jump Alice said "I am very excited to go to SAPSASA tryouts".

Year 7 jumpers- We are very happy to announce that our year 7 jumpers are ready to wear. One of the year 7 girls Tabitha said "We are all very excited to finally get our year 7 jumpers and I think that they look amazing".

Genius hour- we have made loads of progress in genius hour some groups have even finished their goal and are now on with another goal. We are all enjoying this subject and always look forward to Wednesday when we can go on with our goal and set new ones if we have completed our old ones. Some of the topics students are investigating are macramé, coding, designing video games, succulent gardens, jewellery boxes and cooking.

SCHOOL FEES

Thank you to all families who have paid this year's school fees.

Just a reminder to families that school and preschool fees are due to be paid by the end of this term unless you have set up an instalment plan or have applied for School Card.

Please speak to Pam or Merridee if you cannot meet this deadline.