



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 3, Term 2, 14th May, 2020

IN THIS ISSUE

From the Principal	1
School News	2-7
Community News	7
OSHC News	8-9

DIARY DATES

Monday 19th May—
6.00pm Governing Council
Meeting

Monday 8th June —
Queen's Birthday Public
Holiday

Tues 16th June—6:00pm
Governing Council Meeting

Friday 26th June—Pupil
Free Day

View the newsletter on
our website at
www.echungaps.sa.edu.au

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

What a whirlwind we have been living through! How lucky are we to be living in South Australia? I can't think of anywhere else I would rather be living right now. The end of last term and the holidays were pretty hectic for teachers and we all faced some challenging times as we learned new skills and came well out of our comfort zones. The learning was rapid and we were planning for the unknown but I am proud to say that Echunga PS staff rose to the challenge and planned for both students learning at school and learning from home. We have all heard the word 'unprecedented' bandied about a lot over the last couple of months but it is true to say that the experience of planning and implementing a home learning program certainly was unprecedented. We have a wonderful staff team at EPS and I am very proud to be a part of it. I have even heard a few parents say they have a whole new appreciation for teachers and what they do. 😊 I haven't heard of anyone fancying a career change yet though! Thank you to all of the parents who have supported us and their children through this challenging time.

Whilst we have started Term 2 a little differently from what we had thought it is good to be getting almost back to normal. We now have the majority of our students back at school, with only a few still accessing learning at home. We are doing the best we can to accommodate both of these groups. Students are all returning to school with big smiles and are happy to be reuniting with their teachers and friends. We also have 3 new children join us this term. Welcome to Jarvis & Brooklyn who are joining the Ibis class and Eva-Louise who is joining the Kingfisher class.

I will keep you updated on any changes from the Department as they come in.

We are planning a student free day on Friday 26th June when we will be attending a workshop on maths with the teachers from Macclesfield and Callington Primary Schools.

Stay safe.

Pam

SCHOOL NEWS

PRESCHOOL NEWS

We have had a very busy start to Term 2. The children are enjoying the new digging patch, and is providing many learning opportunities involving numeracy. As the children dig, create and construct with a range of resources, they are exploring quantity, measurement, space and shape. It also provides the opportunity to problem solve, use trial and error and reflective thinking, along with developing social and gross motor skills.

We have met and learnt about Confident Chrissy, explored our emotions, practised our counting as we completed many laps of the climbing circuit, worked with buttons and tweezers, read Mem Fox stories, talked about autumn, learnt some new songs, explored the horse small world play and produced many beautiful marble paintings and interesting junk construction masterpieces. We are looking forward to our Crazy Hair Day.

We have commenced our outdoor redevelopment. Last week the children helped to tidy the butterfly garden in preparation for some additional replanting. Our keen and eager gardeners loved planting some additional herbs. They also planted some pansies and seaside daisy in our new pots on the paved area alongside the sandpit. Children assisted with the placement of the fabric and flags on the sandpit shelter and posts.

Each Tuesday we visit the school library. The children are very excited to have their own library bag and to be able to borrow their own book to take home for the week. These visits form part of the ongoing transition to school programme.



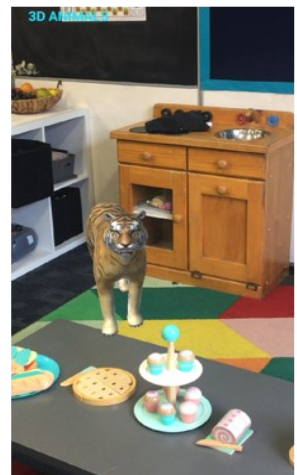
SCHOOL NEWS

What's Been Happening in Rosella in Term 2?

We've had Eddy's stick insects visit, as we start our learning on living things.



We also had a tiger come for tea!!



This certainly hooked us into to our new Talk for Writing Text



We made cubbies in the classroom



SCHOOL NEWS



We have been exploring shapes and their properties through lots of different play-based activities.



We were excited to see our classmates on the big screen



This week we are spending time each day reflecting on things that make us feel happy and good. We are currently engaging in the Growing with Gratitude Program online.



SCHOOL NEWS

PASTORAL CARE WORKER NEWS

Hi Everyone,

Well it certainly is odd times. From the end of last term where we were all planning to stay at home for the next few months, to now where restrictions are easing, life is certainly going at 100 miles an hour. While normally I would write about wellbeing in the newsletter I thought because I am sending out the weekly Wellbeing Update 'Well-being from afar', I would take the opportunity this term to share with you some of the things I am doing at school with your wonderful kids.



One of the new things I have begun is a lunch time program, now in the Library as it's cold and wet, both Tuesdays and Thursdays. On Tuesdays we have the opportunity to do a wellbeing focused activity. This can be the one from 'Well-being from afar' or may be something different. On Thursdays we tend to do more craft, games and fun activities. Both are a great chance for me to connect with students and provide a space to chill out and relax for those who don't have excess energy to burn.



I am also really loving getting to know our new Kindy kids as I lend support on most Tuesday mornings. It is such a joy to connect, play and create with these little imagination machines each week. I love that I never know what I will be doing, baking playdough cupcakes, creating new pieces of art out of wood and nails, chatting to kids as we wait our turn on the swings, or building the most amazing train track you have ever seen. Connecting and getting to know these new students is a joy and I look forward to seeing how they continue to learn and grow with Tia Libby and Tia Amanda's guidance.

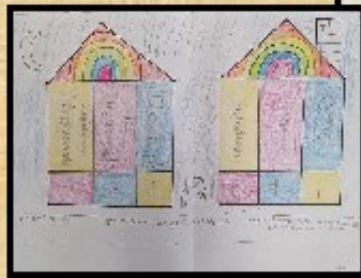
I have also really enjoyed connecting with a few more parents who have reached out to get support, chat about their kids or just check in. I love that in my job I get to support not only students and teachers but caregivers too. This time has been so intense and we all need a break now and then. So if you ever want to catch up, now that restrictions are easing, know you can send me an email or leave a note with Merridee for me to call you back, coffee on me. I can't wait to see what the rest of the term will bring and we journey this road together, see you around on Tuesdays and Thursdays.



From Rach, your Pastoral Care Worker

Ibis News

In Maths we are focusing on Place Value. Here are some of our 'Place Value Apartments'. We represented our number in standard form, word form and expanded form.



In English we are focusing on setting. Here are some of the settings we have created for our narratives.



My setting is going to be a haunted house. It is stinky, it has a creaky floor and it is very scary.
- William



My setting is going to be a dragon's nest by a creek. The nest is made of sharp branches that dig into nearby trees and there are dead fish inside.
- Archer



My setting is a quiet town with a few houses. New people come to the town and cause problems.
- Abbey

SCHOOL NEWS

From the Library...

Premiers Reading Challenge

Congratulations to the following children who have completed the Challenge:

Max V, Ava, Caleb D, Noah, Charles, Kym, Samara, Alice T, Archie K, Ruby T, Tyler, Tristan, Ruby K, Lilly, Gemma, Hayley, Daniel, Lucinda, Poppy, Abbey, Chiara, Ella.

More information can be found at:-

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

Scholastic Book Fair

The Book Fair will now be held in the first 2 weeks of September.

More information closer to the date.

Scholastic Book Club

Thank you to everyone who has ordered from the digital online catalogue. Scholastic has advised that the next catalogue will be back in paper form, as so many of the children have missed not being able to circle their choice of books to buy.

Book Week 2020

Has now been rescheduled for October 19th-23rd (week 2, term 4) so there's plenty of time to be creative and make your costume.

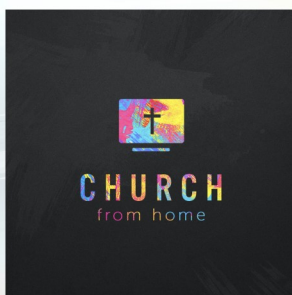
This year's theme is 'Curious Creatures, Wild Minds'.

Until next time, Happy Reading

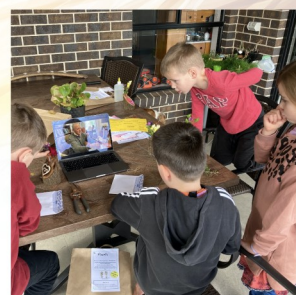
Sue



COMMUNITY NEWS



ECHUNGA UNITING CHURCH



Online Services 10:00am Sundays at echunga.online.church

Weekly Kids Church activities also available at echunga.ucasa.org.au/activities

Feeling isolated or need to chat? Contact Rev Matthew Carratt

0438 856 167 or minister@echunga.ucasa.org.au

Office now open at various times during the week – look for the sign out the front

Website: echunga.ucasa.org.au Facebook: facebook.com/echungauniting

OSHC NEWS

2020 Term 2 Enrolments and Bookings

OSHC is currently running single staff at the moment, due to low bookings. We may be able get in a second staff person (if available) if we know of your care requirements in advance. If you book in on the day, there may not be room. Priority of access is given to children of essential workers, vulnerable and disadvantaged children, and previously enrolled children.

School children waiting to get in will have priority over Preschool children in accordance with our school age care licence.

You must be pre-enrolled to attend OSHC. If you are not enrolled and call up to book in at the last minute you will not be able to attend, due to the Government's laws and requirements. Please see Jodie if you wish to enrol.

OSHC staff for Term 2

Our qualified staff

Jodie will be working BSC and ASC Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays with her administration time on those days and Amanda will be working BSC and ASC on Thursdays.

Our unqualified staff

Either Rachel or Rosie will be working through the week with both Jodie and Amanda when required.

Signing children in and out

Staff will sign children in and out for the time being, however it is still a legal requirement that you bring your children in to OSHC and pick them up from OSHC. Please do not drop them off at the gate.

Cancelling your children

Please call OSHC on 83888563 or the school office on 83888306 if your children are not going to attend OSHC because you are able to pick them up on time from school or because they are ill. We spend a lot of time looking for children who are booked in and do not turn up, and we also have other families call up on the day who want to book in, but can't. When OSHC starts at 3:20pm we find out that we would have had space for more children, if only families had cancelled.

Invoices and accounts

We still have several unpaid invoices (prior to Covid-19). To ensure that ALL INVOICES have been paid in full please log in to Fully Booked and click on View All (this is next to Latest Invoice on the home screen). This will show a list of all your invoices and what you owe. Please ensure that all of the invoices have been paid in full. Some families have been skipping invoices and only paying the latest ones. Please ensure you review all your invoice balances. If you have not logged in to Fully Booked or if you are having issues with your account please come in and see Jodie, so she can help sort it out for you.

Please pay the actual amount on the invoice (not less or extra) and quote the invoice number and your family name when paying by EFT.

Activities and experiences at OSHC

Due to Covid-19 some activities/toys may not be available at times. This is due to the cleaning of items we are required to do, but staff are working hard to minimise the impact for children by offering different activities and experiences. We have recently made family pots of ikea heat beads so children who absolutely love this activity can continue to enjoy it and we have moved our room around to better suit our current environment.

Food and Drinks at OSHC

Please ensure that your child has a drink bottle each day to use at OSHC. We can fill it up in our room if needed. Even though we have more food again, and we try very hard to accommodate to all our children's likes and dislikes, we can't always guarantee their first choices are available at Woolworths when the shopping is done, so please provide an extra little snack for afternoon tea in case what we offer may not be to your child's liking.

OSHC NEWS

Services Australia is asking parents to update income estimates for 2020-21

If you are eligible to receive payments from Centrelink, such as Child Care Subsidy (CCS) and Family Tax Benefit (FTB), you may be asked to provide your family income estimate for the 2020-21 financial year. You need to do this even though you aren't currently paying child care fees. This is because Centrelink will use this estimate to work out how much CCS and FTB you will get **next financial year**. There's more information about [updating your family income estimate for the 2020-21 financial year](#) on the Services Australia website.

Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package

The Government's relief package for OSHC runs from April 6th to June 28th. We must adhere to the following guidelines until June 28th.

What are the Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package payments?

The payments under the Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package support child care services (including Centre Based Day Care, Family Day Care, Outside School Hours Care and In Home Care). Due to the impact of COVID-19, the early childhood education and care sector has reported significant decreases in attendance and enrolments. These payments will ensure services can remain open, and families who need it can access care.

The payments are made in lieu of any Child Care Subsidy and Additional Child Care Subsidy.

What conditions must be met by services to receive payments?

The service must meet a number of conditions to continue to receive these payments.

These conditions include:

- that the service remains open and provides sessions of care to at least one child, unless closed on public health advice or advice of a state regulatory authority for COVID-19 health and safety reasons
- families and carers are not charged fees relating to sessions of care provided to children during the period the service receives the payments
- priority of access is given to children of essential workers, vulnerable and disadvantaged children, and previously enrolled children
- the service must comply with all other Family Assistance Law and National Law obligations.

It should be noted that Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package payments are discretionary payments under Family Assistance Law, and failure to comply with the conditions can result in the payments being reduced or suspended.

Do services have to accept new enrolments and increased attendance where parents request it?

Services are required to prioritise care to children of essential workers, vulnerable and disadvantaged children and children with existing enrolments as part of the conditions of the Relief Package. Where services choose to accept new enrolments and increase attendance where parents request it, they are able to apply for Exceptional Circumstance Supplementary Payments to meet the demand for child care up to their service's full capacity taking into account staff, resources and health and safety issues.

Families and services can report concerns about services not adhering with the conditions of the Relief Package to the department by phoning [1800 664 231](tel:1800664231) or by emailing tipoffline@dese.gov.au.

Do both parents/carers need to be essential workers to be given priority access?

No. As long as one parent is an essential worker their child/ren should be prioritised for care.

What do we do about families who had previously taken their children out of care for health and safety reasons deciding to come back as child care is now free?

Under the Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package, services must prioritise care to children of essential workers, vulnerable and disadvantaged children, and children who were previously enrolled.