



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 3, 6th August, 2020

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REMINDER

Friday 7th August is a Pupil Free Day.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Term 3 is well underway and the students have settled well into their learning routines and play. I have thoroughly enjoyed watching the variety of games they create in the mornings - the day begins with boundless energy and lots of movement!

In the past 3 weeks I have had the great pleasure of taking a number of families on tours of our Preschool and School. There have been many comments about the friendliness and manners of students and teachers and the great levels of engagement and concentration the children have displayed. It almost goes without saying that our beautiful grounds have also been a highlight.



Earlier in the year the school engaged Professor Stephen Heppell. Stephen has worked all over the world; his significant area of expertise is learning spaces. In making evaluations and recommendations, Stephen considers things we may not usually think about. These include light, sound, colour and carbon dioxide levels in classrooms. All of these factors have an impact on learning. One of Stephen's recommendations leads me to an unusual request...to increase the levels of oxygen in classrooms throughout the day (especially in winter when windows and doors are often closed), he has recommended we have leafy indoor plants, preferably one for each child so the children are able to enjoy the responsibility of naming and caring for their plants. I know we would normally ask for a box of tissues at this time of year - or something like that - this time we are asking for donations of leafy plants - if you have an excess at home or enjoy an excuse to get to the nursery or Bunnings we would love to take care of them, I'm sure they could return to you for holidays if you wish. Please send a potted leafy plant (preferably with a water catching base) along with your child if you're able. They will be greatly appreciated!



DIARY DATES

Friday 7th August—Pupil
Free Day

Tues 1—Tues 8 Sept—
Scholastic Book Fair

Mon 7 Sept—School and
Preschool Photos

Tues 8 Sept—6:00pm
Governing Council Meeting

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

SCHOOL NEWS

This next note seems a strange one to write right now, especially given I've just mentioned winter in the above paragraph! It's that time again. Our Sun Smart policy requires students to begin wearing hats again in Term 3 - at this stage we are looking at the UV each day and determining the need but it is essential that hats come to school so the children are prepared and can enjoy their play fully. Please send hats to school, clearly labelled, so they are at the ready as we warm up throughout the term.

A number of families have expressed concern about COVID and the potential for impact on our schools here again. I will keep you updated immediately with any information or directive received from the Department. Please accept this information as it comes from me as the true source of information rather than relying on social media or carpark conversations. I can assure you our staff are well-prepared to ensure there is minimal disruption to learning should our situation change. At this stage there are no new recommendations. We are asked to maintain our social distancing for adults and to keep records of visitors to the school, along with our hygiene routines. I would like to thank you, as a community, for the respectful way you are working with us. Whilst we would all enjoy a catch up, the priority remains keeping our children and school community safe and healthy. Please be in contact if you would like to talk further about this.

Kind regards
Chan

FROM GOVERNING COUNCIL



Hi, my name is Luke Gray and I'm the Chairperson for the Governing Council and am also responsible for the Building and Grounds Committee.

This is my second year at the school, with my eldest son William in the Rosella class, with my youngest son Harvey set to start preschool next year.

I live and work locally and feel very lucky to do so. This is my first year with the Governing Council and look forward to assisting in refreshing our strategic plan with the input of our whole school community, which is essential to guiding our investment in coming years. I see great opportunities for our school to expand on what it already does well, continuing to provide a school that delivers a brilliant springboard for our children. I'm happy to chat to anyone who has any thoughts or ideas about our school.

SCHOOL NEWS

PRESCHOOL NEWS

This term technology is one of our focus learning areas. The children have been learning how to use a hot glue tool. We completed a risk assessment together, and the children have been very careful whilst using the tool. They are becoming very creative with their work, and have already produced an amazing array of constructions. During the term, the children will also have the opportunity to sew, deconstruct unused goods and explore at the light table.

We are seeking donations of bottle tops, lids of any size, ice-cream and small and large yoghurt containers. They can be left at the front office or brought to the preschool.



What's been happening lately in...

Rosella

The Rosella's have begun exploring Maker's Empire (our 3D printer software). It has tested some students' patience, required lots of problem solving and persistence, and supported collaboration and sharing of ideas and experiences. We are currently familiarising ourselves with the tools and how to use the software.



This term, we have also commenced shared experiences with the Preschool class. We will be having fortnightly buddy visits, which is a part of our transition process to EPS.



It was heartwarming to see our youngest students at school show such kindness and consideration to their younger peers as they engaged in play and shared activities. Each Rosella came back to school having learnt at least 1 new name of a preschooler.

Kingfisher

The class enjoyed cooking pumpkin scones for everyone last week, using pumpkins from the school vegetable garden. Cooking is always a fun activity and the children love every opportunity to create in the kitchen.



We also took advantage of the recent sunshine and spent an afternoon exploring the creek; discovering animal bones and water bugs and working together to build with sticks and branches. The energy was high and cooperation and inclusion were evident in all of the children's interactions.



Lorikeet Colour Study



SCHOOL NEWS

PASTORAL CARE WORKER NEWS

Hi Everyone,

I hope you are all doing well. In case you missed my Well Being Update I wanted to share some important details here:

- My hours will return to normal after being boosted for last term. From week 3 I will be working :
 - Tuesdays 8:45am - 3:30pm
 - Thursdays 8:45am - 3:30pm
- If you wish to speak with me on a different day, simply call the front office and leave me a message or send me an email: rachel.stevens842@schools.sa.edu.au
- Due to this work change the Well Being Updates will now be fortnightly on the even weeks. If you do not currently receive these but would like to, please e-mail me with the email address you would like to receive them on and I will sign you up.



There is a survey I would love parents and carers to fill out. Thank you to those who already have. The aim of the survey is to help these updates be more useful and relevant and also provide a space for you to comment on how I can better support parents and carers at Echunga Primary School. It will take 3 minutes to complete and your participation would be greatly appreciated. Click here to fill it in: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TDZJK89>



Secondly I wanted to remind everyone about Echunga's Got Talent this term! A sign-up sheet can be collected from the front office. Here is what you need to know:



When will the performance be?

- Friday the 22nd of September, Week 10

Who can participate and what acts can you do?

- Anyone who wants to, you can go solo or perform in a group.
- You can do a drama, dance, song, magic or comedy show. You can display a talent, show us a trick or play an instrument. The only limit is your imagination.

Are there any limits or rules?

- One solo act and one group act per person.
- Acts must be appropriate for all ages.
- Acts must be 3mins or less, if singing or dancing this may be negotiated.

How and when can I register my act?

- All acts must be registered by Monday 10th of August, Week 4.
- To participate you need to fill in a registration form.
- Each person in a group needs to submit a registration form.
- Registration forms are available at the front office and require parental signatures.

SCHOOL/OSHC NEWS

From the Library...

Premiers Reading Challenge

Congratulations to the following children who have completed the challenge: Layla, Cameron, Katya, Levi, Izzy, Tara, Daisy, Ruby H, Poppie, Bennett, Ellie-May, Cyra, Emily T, Alex M, Archer, Henley, Alex F.

Our whole school has now completed the challenge and we look forward to receiving our certificates and medals in Term 4.

Scholastic Book Fair

It's back for 2020! September 1st to 8th. Days & times available soon.

Fair to be held in the Alluvial Hall.



Book Covering

Would you have any time to spare that you could help cover some of our new books? It doesn't have to be a regular commitment and we can negotiate it being done at home. If you can help in any way, please contact me on 8388 8306.

Until next time, Happy Reading

Sue



OSHC NEWS

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.

Invoices and accounts

We will be invoicing our families every second Friday (even weeks of this term).

I have sent out an email to families regarding statements and invoices, explaining the difference between them and asking families to pay on their invoices and not their statements. If you are having issues with your account, or if you would like your invoices printed out ready for you to collect from OSHC, please see Jodie, so she can help sort it out for you.

Families can also set up direct debit through their financial institution to help keep on top of their OSHC account.

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.

No jab, no play' rules tighten again - 1 June 2020

"From August, children who are not fully vaccinated cannot attend early childhood services in SA, this includes OSHC."

The Government has now reversed the decision in regard to OSHC only. Children will still be able to attend OSHC even if not fully vaccinated.

For more information, see the SA Health website.

Vacation Care October, December and January

Children and staff are currently planning the October and December/January Holiday programs. We are always looking for fun, new activities to do. If you have any suggestions, please let us know.

Pupil Free Day

Due to insufficient bookings we will be closed on the Pupil Free Day Friday August 7th.

Wool for pom poms for Dementia Awareness Month 2-30th September

The Hahndorf Academy will be celebrating dementia awareness by displaying 1000's of POM POMS on their gallery walls. Echunga OSHC will be helping to make some POM POMS to add to their collection.

Why POM POMS? They are bright and colourful, positive and a great sensory experience for people living with dementia.

We are looking for donations of small (left over) balls of wool you no longer need to help with this wonderful community activity.