Dear Students, Parents and Carers
Welcome back, everyone, and a special welcome to our new students (and their families) who have started this term. Term 2 has a focus on reporting and accountability, with the next 11 weeks including NAPLAN, Three-Way-Conferences and Learning Journeys, Progress Packs and Semester Reports. Along with Bookfair, PEAC/TAGS, incursions and assemblies, it is a busy term, and through all this - fantastic learning and teaching outcomes occur.

A term planner is attached to this newsletter to help you keep up with your child’s engagements.

Term 2 Staffing
A sincere thank you to Mrs Tanya Mumme for working as an education assistant with our Pre-Primary and Kindergarten students since 2014. We wish Tanya well in her future career. Mrs Clare Martin is now working Fridays in Blue Haven 5.

Our staffing team remains relatively stable this term, with students continuing to learn with their teachers and assistants. I always endeavour to provide consistency for your child, however, with some staff required to clear their long service leave, we do have short-term relief teachers at times (periods ranging from 1 to 10 days). Where possible, we aim to have the same teacher throughout a staff member’s period of absence to minimise any interruptions to the teaching and learning program.

NAPLAN WEEK 4
The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 and has been implemented since 2008 (previously WALNA by our State). On Tuesday 12, Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14 May, students will undertake the 2015 NAPLAN tests. NAPLAN is made up of tests in the four domains of Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation) and Numeracy. NAPLAN assesses skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time, through the school curriculum. NAPLAN is not a pass or fail type test, but rather shows how individual students are progressing in numeracy and literacy skills against national standards for all Australian children. All students are encouraged to participate in the tests. An individual student NAPLAN report will be issued later this year, typically at the end of Term 3.

More information is available at [www.nap.edu.au](http://www.nap.edu.au).

Suspension of the School Timetable for Three-Way-Conferences (Learning Journeys for Pre-Primary and Kindergarten)
Look out for the information next week (Tuesday) about how to make a booking for your child.
- Years 1-6 have a Three-Way-Conference
- Kindergarten and Pre-Primary have a Learning Journey

Please note this will be a whole day timetable suspension.
ANZAC DAY 100 Year Remembrance

Huge appreciations to everyone for the respectful and engaging way in which our students were provided with opportunities to acknowledge ANZAC Day. I found the activities up to and including Friday were a powerful example of realistic learning of the Australian Curriculum – History. Thank you, especially Liz and Matt, for the learning opportunity and for engaging parents and carers (help, dress up, etc).

Ms Liz Ellett and Mr Matt Colquhoun, thank you so much for your leadership and your write up below, and to all parents and carers who joined us in acknowledging ANZAC Day – 100 years.

ON the 25 April 1915, Australian troops arrived at ANZAC Cove in Gallipoli, in what is now considered an ill-fated campaign in which 8709 soldiers lost their lives in 8 months. One hundred years later, Esperance Primary School remembered those brave men and women with a very moving ANZAC Service, a free dress in ANZAC clothes day and a variety of ANZAC activities.

The Councillors organised a free dress day where students were encouraged to dress up as a soldier, nurse or citizen from that period. There was a great range of costumes and all money raised went to the RSL (Returned Services League). We raised $337.90.

The Councillors conducted a very formal and thoughtful service, followed by a moving rendition of ‘And the Band Played Waltzing Matilda’ by the Senior Choir. This is an epic 5 minute song and the choir not only sung tunefully but articulated the words so well that we could really make meaning of the lyrics. An amazing effort by Ms Kinson and all her beautiful singers.

Following recess, the whole school participated in ANZAC activities. These included making a red poppy, making dog tag neck-laces, writing a post-card from the battle-front and having an ANZAC morning tea of black tea, bully-beef ( Spam!) and ANZAC biscuits. Michelle Clarke (parent), also supplied home-made hard tuck and red jam for Twilight Cove. The students were truly engaged with all of the activities and there was real, authentic learning happening in every Learning Area.

Merv Andre, our guest speaker and a member of the RSL, summed it up well when he commented on the fact that he no longer needed to teach the younger generations about ANZAC Day, that they were well educated in its importance in Australia, and instead he made some pertinent comments about the importance of peace. As teachers, we feel proud of the interest and understanding the students have in what is an important part of Australia’s history.

ANZAC Display by Dolphin Cove 4

I encourage you to read some of the work proudly displayed in the school foyer “What does ANZAC Day mean to me” by Mr Colquhoun and Mrs Wolfenden’s DC4 students. The responses by students reinforce their learnings and appreciation for others.

I also had the pleasure of reading Blue Haven 5’s “booklet” – wow!

AUSTRALIAN EARLY DEVELOPMENT CENSUS:
A Snap shot of Children in our Community

In 2009, a nationwide program called the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) was completed for the first time. It collected information on 261,000 children across Australia in their first year of full-time school. In recognition of the value of knowing how whole communities of young children are developing before they start school, AEDI data will be collected every three years. AEDI data collection took place in Term 2 2012.

Now known as the AUSTRALIAN EARLY DEVELOPMENT CENSUS, we will again be collecting information on Pre-Primary children in Western Australia between May and July. Pre-Primary teachers will complete a checklist for each child in their class and enter information into a secure web-based system that protects the privacy of all students Information is based on teachers’ knowledge and observations of their students. Students are not required to be present while data is entered.

AEDC results are reported back to the community, based on the suburb or locality where children live. Reports are not produced on individual children. AEDC results help whole communities understand how their children are developing and where improvements can be made to give children the best start in life.

Parents of Pre-Primary children received a letter today about our involvement in coming weeks. You can find out more about this national program at www.aedc.gov.au
We now have funding for a Chaplain 2015-2016

The Education Minister Peter Collier announced that the State is providing an additional $7.75 million funding for the School Chaplaincy Program. This means all public schools who applied for funding for an In School Chaplain will now receive funding for 2015 and 2016.

In November 2014, our school applied for funding through the National School Chaplaincy programme and was unsuccessful. As a result of the additional State commitment our school will now be funded for Terms 2, 3 and 4 2015 and the 2016 school year to purchase the services of an In School Chaplain. Esperance PS will again use YouthCARE as the service provider, with Mrs Chris Blair being our chaplain. Thank you to everyone who helps support a chaplaincy program in our school.

Some updates....

• Loading Zone: Finally we have the loading zone out the front of the school marked. Parents and carers, as much as it looks like a drop off zone, this was designed by architects in consultation with traffic management personnel to be a loading zone. As the size is too small and its location unable to maintain traffic flow, it cannot be used as a “kiss and drop”. Sorry!

• New website: Esperance Primary School has upgraded its website! I find the interface more contemporary and easier to use, however.... please be patient as we transfer/update our information. Our aim is to have the site up-to-date by mid May.

• Play spaces: Miss Kylie Green was busy in the holidays painting the hopscotch and organising the blackboard behind the undercover area (pictures in this newsletter). Thanks for increasing play choices for our younger students, Kylie.

We have a busy fortnight ahead, with Years 3 and 5 students participating in NAPLAN and all students and staff focusing on their learning and teaching goals. I like the way students are strengthening their ability to take responsibility for their learning and striving for their personal best.

Hope you can join us for Twilight Cove 2 and Mrs Ashleigh Sharpe’s assembly this Friday.

Lisa Helenius  Principal

Chaplain’s News

Earlier this year I took a trip to Cambodia. Thanks to the generosity of our community, I was privileged enough to take some gifts and a blanket knitted by the Esperance Primary School Knitting Group over to one of the Transform Cambodia school centres in Phnom Penh. Spending time with the students as well as being in the centre skyping our students was an exciting and memorable experience. I love this photo as these students are a part of Cambodia’s future.

With the successful application for funding, I am looking forward to continuing my role as chaplain. Programs such as Zumba and the Knitting Group will continue later this term.

Chris Blair – Chaplain

THREE-WAY-CONFERENCES (Years 1-6) and LEARNING JOURNEY (Years K-P) Friday 22 May 2015

The school timetable will be suspended on Friday 22 May so that parent/student/teacher interviews can be conducted seamlessly throughout the day. The decision to suspend the whole day comes after much consultation within the school community by the School Board. Your verbal and written survey feedback in past years contributed to this decision. 2008 was the first year Esperance Primary conducted these three-way interviews – which proved to be popular amongst parents and teachers. A survey by the then School Council found that almost 94 percent of parents/carers and students participated in the 10 minute in-class meetings with their teachers.

From the survey, it was discovered that nearly all parents liked the way the 2008 interviews were conducted, however, their biggest issue for that year was the early (11am) closure of the school. Therefore in 2009, the school timetable was suspended for the entire day.

The feedback from parents/carers for 2009 was again very pleasing and positive. The process attendance rate was over 95 percent and the change in confidence and participation that the students had developed from the 2008 meetings to the 2009 meetings was greatly improved and very pleasing to see. Your feedback since has further strengthened these gains, with 98% of students sharing their learning with their parents and carers last year through either a Three-Way-Conference (Yrs 1-7) or a Learning Journey (K-P).

As discussed at the last P&C Meeting, our 2015 Three-Way-Conferences will be conducted on Friday 22 May 2015.

Thank you to all parents and carers and staff for the continued support and feedback on this process and we anticipate the 2015 meetings will prove to be the outstanding success they have over the last seven years.

School Board Parent/Carer, P&C and Staff Representatives
If you have any spare SQUARE Ice Cream containers with LIDS, could you please drop them into Blue Haven 3 and 4. We need them to store our collage bits and pieces in. THANKS in advance. Mrs Vermeij

The K-2 teachers at Esperance Primary School have been very busy taking part in professional for the National Quality Standards. From this professional learning the Year 1 and 2 students outside play areas have had new and exciting games and equipment added to ensure all students are able to access quality play during recess and lunch! Kylie Green Year 2 Teacher Oliver drawing on the new outside blackboard. Will and Josh building together with the sand toys! Lotte Andrew playing hopscotch. Vaughn Neve enjoying the dress ups.

Welcome back to a new term! We have a new winter menu for Terms 2 and 3. Our new items are **Spaghetti Bolognaise** **Cheesy Bean Bowl** **Soup and a bun**, this week is Pumpkin, Week 3 and 4 is Potato and Bacon.

The new prepaid sticker sheets have been selling well and from the feedback they are very easy to use and take the hassle out of having money in the mornings. These have $32.00 worth of $2, $1, 50c, 20c and 10c values for you to use in place of money on the front of your lunch order bags. They are available from the canteen or the school office.

If you have spare time this term we are looking out for new volunteers. This could be a morning or an hour. A new email has gone out this week with the next round of donations. A Canteen Handbook will be going home this week. Please take the time to check this out as it includes lots of valuable information about the canteen.

Crunch and Sip – The canteen has a selection of fruit and vegetables that can be purchased for 80c a piece before school for Crunch and Sip if you have run out at home.

The lunch order prize this week is a Coffee Cat voucher. It will be drawn on Friday during assembly so get your lunch orders in to be in the running to win this fantastic prize.

Thanks to everyone again if there are any queries please feel free to email Gemma philandgem@bigpond.com

Thanks Gemma, Billie, Megan, Brooke and Tash. P&C Canteen Committee

P&C News

UNIFORMS ORDERS As the weather is getting cooler and before chilly winter arrives, the uniform ladies would like you all to place your trackpant wishlist order for 2015. This is to ensure they have enough stock from suppliers to fill orders as required.

Esperance Primary School P & C Easter Egg Raffle raised $3911. Thank you to everyone who donated eggs and sold tickets. A big thank you must go to a special few who went above and beyond the call of duty – the IGA ticket selling team, Megan Luxton and her marvellous wrapping team and Kelly Buttle (who is generously giving her time next year to coordinate the raffle). A special mention to David Rigney for his annual dedication to this great P & C Fundraiser, and last but not least, a massive thank you to Esperance Primary School Community for their continued support. Easter Raffle Coordinator - Sharon Barber

WOW! 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize baskets

Community Notices

Invitation to an Information Evening

The principals of the Education Support Centre would like to invite all interested parents and carers to join us for coffee and cake. We would love to share information with you regarding the wonderful educational opportunities we can provide to a child with a disability in the secondary years of schooling. We are happy to answer any questions you may have as you begin to consider the educational options available for your child.

Venue: Esperance SHS Education Support Centre  
(Shared campus – Esperance Senior High School)  
Time: 5:30pm  
Date: Wednesday 13 May 2015  
RSVP: 9071 9560