Dear Parents and Carers

EPSS Participation in Metropolitan Regional Initiative
Everton Park State School has signed up to participate in a Brisbane regional initiative involving author and researcher Lyn Sharratt. The region has employed the services of Lyn for the next three years to work with small school teams around making better use of student performance data to improve outcomes for our students. The EPSS team working with Lyn Sharratt includes myself, Jo Campbell, Graham Nunn, Danielle O’Reily and James Wren. We commenced with our first session on Tuesday 3 of March. The strategies obtained from these sessions will be fed back to the teachers to assist them in identifying and addressing individual students learning needs, as well as inform whole school decision making.

Greater Results Guarantee Agreement
The state government has committed to providing schools with funding over a three year period to ensure that schools can plan, implement and fund high yield strategies to improve all student outcomes. The main focus area for our guarantee this year is around Literacy, in particular, improvement in the area Reading. Our strategy is mostly focused around building teacher capacity through increasing the support of the Master Teacher to a full time position to work alongside classroom teachers. Through this work, student outcomes can improve by support teacher in implementing high quality teaching and learning. Additional teacher and teacher aides have also be employed to provide targeted intervention for groups and individual students.

On a personal note, I have received confirmation that I am now permanently appointed to Everton Park State School. I am delighted to be here and look forward to working with this terrific community to get the best results for our kids. Exciting times ahead!

Anita Bond
Principal
 libraries

FROM THE DEPUTY
PRINCIPAL

We need our Children to be resilient

While adulthood is filled with serious responsibilities, childhood isn’t exactly stress-free. Children take tests, learn new information, change schools, change neighbourhoods, get sick, get braces, encounter bullies, make new friends and occasionally get hurt by those friends – and that can all happen in just one week! What helps children in navigating these kinds of challenges is resilience. Resilient children are problem solvers. They face unfamiliar or tough situations and strive to find good solutions.

When they step into a situation, resilient children have a sense they can figure out what they need to do and can handle what is thrown at them with a sense of confidence. This doesn’t mean that children have to do everything on their own. Rather, they know how to ask for help and are able to problem-solve their next steps.

Now resilience isn’t a birthright, it can be taught. I encourage parents to equip their children with the skills to handle the unexpected, which actually contrasts our current world cultural approach. We have become a culture of trying to make sure our children are comfortable. We as parents are trying to stay one step ahead of everything our children are going to run into. The problem? Life doesn’t work that way.

Another fact is anxious people have an especially hard time helping their children tolerate uncertainty, simply because they have a hard time tolerating it themselves. The idea of putting your child through the same pain that you went through is intolerable for some parents. So anxious parents try to protect their children and shield them from worst-case scenarios.

However, a parent’s job isn’t to be there all the time for their children. It’s to teach them to handle uncertainty and to problem-solve. Here are some strategies I use with my children:

1. Don’t accommodate every need – they can carry their own plate to the sink!
2. Avoid eliminating all risk - Giving children age-appropriate freedom helps then learn their own limits. Your child will need to sit their own driving test one day.
3. Teach them to problem-solve – “what can we do to stop the dog chewing your toys next time?”
4. Teach your children concrete skills – How to answer the phone or doorbell is a good one.
5. Avoid “why” questions – Argh! Try “how” questions.
6. Don’t provide all the answers – encourage problem solving!
7. Avoid talking in catastrophic terms - instead of saying “It’s really important for you to learn how to swim because if you drowned,” say, “It’s really important for you to learn how to swim.”
8. Let your children make mistakes - let your children see the consequences of their actions.
9. Help them manage their emotions - you might tell your child, “I understand that you feel that way. I’d feel the same way if I were in your shoes, but now you have to figure out what the next step is.”
10. Finally, model resiliency - Of course, children also learn from observing their parents’ behaviours and actions. Try to be calm and consistent. You cannot say to a child you want them to control their emotions, while you yourself are flipping out.

Resiliency helps children navigate the inevitable trials, triumphs and tribulations of childhood and adolescence. Resilient children also become resilient adults, able to survive and thrive in the face of life’s unavoidable stressors, challenges and things that make you go argh!!

David O’Connor
Deputy Principal

LIBRARY NEWS

It’s been great to see so many students bringing in library bags, especially with all this wet weather. Many students also need reminders about borrowing day and returning books on time. Morning Reading Club is held before school from 8.20am in the library. We are looking for volunteers to listen to students read. If you can spare some time now and again it would be much appreciated. Take a look at the ABC Splash website. It’s packed with high quality digital educational resources – videos, games, audio and interactive games. http://splash.abc.net.au/home/l/games
Ms Lukey Teacher/Librarian
bluke1@eq.edu.au

Being on TV by Sarah 4L

Wednesday last week was one of the best days we’ve had at school. There were jumping castles, stalls and even a giant puppy dog! The shiny red Channel 7 helicopter was amazing. It looked like it was going to crash into us. The giant puppy dog was so funny doing bunny ears to the news reporters. The camera man did a great job. He had to move really fast and when he was on the helicopter he had to film and hang on at the same time. Tony the weather man from Channel 7 was awesome and looked very gentleman-like in his suit. I have to say that the Year 6’s and teachers did a fantastic job at putting us in our places to make the EP. You could see the EP letters very clearly and if we had had enough students we could have done the SS. Everyone made a great effort to get to school early. Thankyou parents for working hard to get us to school.

Channel 7 visit – drawings from 4L

ACTIVE SCHOOL TRAVEL

* Don’t forget to actively travel EVERY Tuesday (Terrific Traveller Tuesday) and/or Friday (Fun Fit Friday) on assembly. One will be awarded to the greatest percentage of active school travellers in Prep – Year 2 and the other will be awarded to the greatest percentage of active school travellers in Years 3 – 6 (based on previous Friday’s stats). Work
with your class mates and teacher to make your class #1.

*This Friday we will have some very special guests visiting for assembly. Roadstar and his Active Travel crew are BACK! Don’t miss their special AST show at next week’s assembly.

* On Friday, 13 March, our school will celebrate ‘National Ride to School Day’, with a FREE breakfast. Not only will you get a FREE breakfast but if you actively travel to school on this day, you’ll receive DOUBLE STAMPS ON YOUR AST PASSPORTS/CARD. Don’t miss this GREAT EVENT.

CHEERLEADING
It is great to see everyone attending Cheer practice, but a few reminders for safety.
1) Please remember to bring a drink bottle (it is hot work!).
2) Please DO NOT drop children off in the staff car park. They should be dropped off in Deakin Street and walk through to the hall.
3) When walking through to the hall - stay on the footpaths, DO NOT cross through the car park.
4) Parents are not allowed to sit in and watch the session as this is distracting to all of the children.
5) There is to be no filming of the children as they are practising.

If you have any questions, please commene and see me
Miss Rogers ;)

STUDENT ABSENCE NOTIFICATION
To leave notification of student absences please call our hot line on 3550 2277 at any time, day or night. Absences can also be emailed to:
absences@everparkss.eq.edu.au

PHYSICAL EDUCATION
North District trials are coming up for 12&U boys and girls hockey as well as 12&U boys soccer. If you are in Year 5 or 6 and want to join and wish to try out please come and see Mr Crawford for further information. Hockey trials are being held at McDowall SS on Tuesday, 10 March. Boys’ soccer trials will be held at the South Pine Sports Complex in Brendale on Thursday, 19 March. Only students born in 2003 and 2004 are eligible to trial.

NO DOGS ON PREMISES
For the safety of all our students could parents please not bring their dogs to school, even though they may be on a lead. Your dog may be familiar with members of your family but may not react the same way to strangers. Thank you for your understanding.

BOOK CLUB 2015 ISSUE #2
The Issue #2 catalogues for Book Club are now out and orders close on FRIDAY, 13 MARCH 2015. This will give plenty of time for the books to be received before school holidays! Please note that orders after this date cannot be accepted.

Scholastic has recently launched their new ordering platform called LOOP (Linked Ordering and Online Payment) and EPSS is now fully registered for it. LOOP enables parents to order and pay for their child’s Book Club selections online. It’s completely paperless so there’s no need to return paper order forms or payment receipt details back to the school! It’s very simple to use, just go to http://mybookclubs.scholastic.com.au/ and follow the steps to order and pay for your child’s books.

Alternatively, you can still complete the order form and payment details on the back of the book club catalogue, and return it to the “Book Club” box located in the library. Please make cheques payable to Scholastic Australia. If paying by credit card (but not ordering via LOOP), please record the receipt number only on the back of the book order form. Do not write your credit card number on this coupon.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to leave a message for me at the office and I will contact you as soon as possible.
Caroll Morrison
(Book Club Coordinator)

LEARN TO PLAY CHESS
Leap to Success is a dedicated group who is keen to teach our students (during the lunch break) how to play chess.

If you would like your child (from Prep – Year 6) to learn to play chess please drop in to the office to find out more and pick up a registration form. The cost would be $8.00 per class.

EMAIL INFORMATION UPDATE
Class information/news is sent home each week by teachers via parents email. If you do not receive emails from your child’s class teacher could you please call the office or contact the teacher directly so the necessary updates/changes to emails can be made.

Uniform Shop
The Uniform Shop is open each Friday morning from 8.30am – 9.30am.

SECOND HAND UNIFORMS NEEDED
Do you have uniforms lying around the kids that have grown out of? Bring them into us!! We need your second hand uniforms.

Bring them to the Uniform Shop on Friday between 8.15-9.30am and we’ll
P&C Easter
Raffle
Easter Egg donations are being asked for to fill our Easter baskets for the annual school raffle. Please leave all donated eggs in the box inside the library. Tickets will come home in the next couple of weeks. Thank you for your support.

Kim

Stock update!!
We are still out of stock of size 4 Polo’s.

Jeanette Jenkinson
Uniform Shop Convenor

Tuckshop News

Tuckshop is open Monday, Thursday and Friday.

March Roster
Thursday 5
Jenny Sewell, Megan Limpus
Friday 6
Jo Hennessey, Ann Jabas, Misato Betts
Thursday 12
Jennifer Congram
Friday 13
Genevieve Moller, Nikki Clur, Dana Haack

Volunteer Roster Full
Thank you to the wonderful ladies who have volunteered to help on Tuckshop this year. Both Thursday and Friday are full to overflowing, with plenty of emergency backup.

The Flexischools online menu is kept up to date and the best way to order your child’s tuckshop. If you are new to the school, please login and set up an account at www.flexischools.com.au. The printed Menu is very similar to last years and can be downloaded from the school website.

Mamma Mia!
Pizza is back this term!
Ham & Pineapple $3.00. First break only. Yum!

There are some small price increases this year –

Popcorn 0.60c
Cheesymite Scrolls $1.60
Cob of Corn $1.10

Please remember, children in Prep to Grade 2 are not permitted to bring money to school to spend at the Tuckshop. All food items need to be pre-ordered either online or over the counter.

Have a great week.
Katrina
Tuckshop Convenor