NEWSLETTER NO.11
APRIL 23, 2014

FROM THE ACTING PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Carers

Ready or not, it’s time to make sure your children are geared up ready for Term 2. They need the basics—lunchboxes, backpacks, notebooks, pencils, and pens. Then there are other back-to-school items. There are those that don’t make the usual shopping lists but which are much more important for your children than any multi-subject notebook, scientific calculator, or smart pen. I’ve narrowed down this list to three. Unlike the lists you receive from your children’s teacher, my list is made up of things you already have and that are grounded in scientific research for improving children’s learning. Take that, glue stick and washable markers.

1. Praise Children for Their Effort, Not Their Intelligence
Most of us parents praise our children for their smarts. We do it constantly. I know I do. We do it because our children are bright and we think that telling them so makes them feel good and gives them the confidence to attack their schoolwork with gusto. We do it when we say “You’re SO smart, buddy,” when we boast about their brain power to their grandparents, and when we wear our “I’m With Smarty Pants” tee-shirts to back-to-school night.

This is good parenting, right? Wrong. Telling children they’re smart does not give them the confidence to take on new challenges or the self-esteem to persevere when they fail. Research suggests that telling children they’re smart might actually interfere with their ability to learn.

“What?” you’re thinking. “How can telling junior that he is smart do any harm?” It’s because repeated praise for being intelligent sends the message that intelligence is an innate and fixed trait. This leads children to discount the importance of effort. They reason, “I’m smart, so I don’t need to try hard” and they often believe that putting forth effort is only something that “not so smart” kids have to do. Children who are praised for their intelligence also become less likely to take intellectual risks and are more likely to give up when the going gets tough. It is more important for them to appear smart than to chance making mistakes and getting labelled as “not so smart.”
Praising children for their intelligence also stymies their ability to deal with failure. When you tell your daughter, “You got an A! You’re so smart!” she also hears, “If you don’t get an A, you’re not smart.” So when children labelled as “smart” fail, they reason they’ve failed because they mustn’t have the intellectual goods to cut it. In fact, some studies show that when “smart” children struggle, they are more likely to lie about their performance than to admit that they had trouble. Too much praise can be especially troubling for children who have had an easy time in the early grades but then run into subjects in middle school that require some effort. When they begin to make errors they don’t try harder or study more diligently because they believe that talent alone and not effort creates success. So they conclude that they must have been unintelligent all along. It’s at this point that many “smart” children throw in the academic towel. I’m facing a similar battle with one of mine right now. In contrast to children who are praised for being smart, children who are encouraged for their effort come to believe that intelligence is a malleable quality that can be improved through hard work. These children feel that their success is in their control and therefore they are not thwarted by failure. They interpret failure merely as a signal to try harder or do things differently. In fact, children who are encouraged for their effort often are game to take on demanding tasks and work to develop new strategies. In short, these children tend to go at challenges eagerly, persevere when the going gets tough, and show resilience after failure.

So when you tell your children they’re smart, you’re not doing them any favours. A little “you’re such a smarty” here and there likely won’t do any lasting damage, but the key is to praise children for their effort, their hard work, their persistence, and their willingness to try. Next time your son or daughter comes home with an A, instead of telling them how smart they are, praise them for trying hard, ask them how they learnt, or talk to them about challenges for next semester. If they come home with a lower grade than expected, be honest. Don’t tell them that they deserved a better grade because they are smart. Instead, encourage them to think through ways that they could improve.

So that is item one on the back to school list. What are your thoughts? Item 2 will come next week.

David O’Connor
Acting Principal

CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM
This term our Chaplain Nicole will take up her role at our school. Thanks to the great support of our school families, local community and businesses Nicole will work two days each week supporting our students. To date we have raised over $10,800 towards our annual target of $25,000 for the Chaplaincy Program. This is a wonderful achievement and one which we plan to continue through ongoing fundraising, regular donations and one-off gifts. For more information you can email the LCC at Chaplaincy@everparkss.eq.edu.au

LIBRARY NEWS
Our library is open every day from 8.30am to 8.50am in the morning and from 3.00pm to 3.20pm each afternoon. Students can also borrow books at both break periods during the day as well as their weekly library lesson. A waterproof library bag is essential for all students. World Book Online - Students can access both at home and school http://www.worldbookonline.com/wb/Logi

CONGRATULATIONS
Molly Bell in Year 5 received third place in the ANZAC Day Writing Competition. She has flown the flag proudly for Everton Park State School and we are thrilled with this achievement.

WALK ’N TALK UPDATE
Please be advised that ‘Walk ’n Talk’ will now be held on Wednesday and Friday mornings, on the oval from 8.30am (weather permitting). So please grab a hat and get ready to have some fun as we listen to some cool tunes and get some exercise in before class. I look forward to seeing you all on the oval for more walking and talking.

ANZAC DAY CEREMONY
Thursday 24 April
Our school ANZAC Ceremomy will be held on Thursday, 24 April commencing at 9.30am at the swimming pool. It is usual for each class to make a wreath so it would be greatly appreciated if we could receive donations of flowers, leaves, palm fronds, etc to make the wreaths. These items can be brought to school on Wednesday 23 April in the afternoon or on Thursday 24 in the morning as early as possible before school. We will also need parent help with making the wreaths. Please let your class teacher know if you are able to help. Students may wear family medals but need to attach them to the right hand side. Students and the community may lay individual wreaths at the place the class wreaths have been floated.

ANZAC Day ribbons will be on sale on the day at $2.00 each.

ANZAC DAY PARADE
ANZAC Day Parade at the Gaythorne RSL - every year, EPSS students march at the Gaythorne RSL on Anzac Day. Meet Mr O’Connor at 6am in the park behind the RSL, wearing your school uniform and you can participate in this great community event. Everyone welcome!

PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS
The Everton Park School cross country will be run at our school on Monday, 28 April beginning at 9am on the oval. All age groups will start and finish their races at the same place in front of the terraces.

The cross country event will involve all pupils from Prep to Year 7. Pupils have been training for this event as part of the Smart Schools Program and you would have provided the school with a Permission to participate in School Cross Country slip. This slip also contained information from you if there was any medical condition that might affect your child’s ability to train or compete in this event. If a situation arises where your child/children cannot compete on the day due to illness or injury, he/she will be required to provide a signed note as confirmation.

The first ten pupils in each age group will receive a certificate and points for their sports houses. All pupils will receive a point for participation.

Suitable running shoes, clothing and hat will be mandatory. (The school uniform will suffice being cool and light.)

Planned order of races. (I lap around the school perimeter is approximately 1 km)
Event 1, 2 and 3 – prep girls/oval, year 4 Girls (2 km), prep boys (oval) Event 4 and 5 – year 1 girls (oval) and year 4 boys(2km) Event 6 and 7 – year 1 boys (oval) and year 5 girls(2km) Event 8 and 9 – year 2 girls (oval) and year 5 boys(2km) Event 10 and 11 – year 2 boys (oval) and year 6 girls(3km) Event 12 – Year 6 boys(3km) Event 13 - Year 3 girls(1km) Event 14 - Year 3 boys(1km) Event 15 – Year 7 girls + 13 year olds (3km) Event 16 – year 7 boys + 13year olds(3km)

The events for Year 3 to Year 7 will involve running outside the grounds for part of the circuit of the footpath of Barton Street, Deakin Street and South Pine Road will be included. Staff supervision will be provided at key points on the day of the race to ensure safety and guidance for participating pupils.

CHEERLEADING
All cheerleading teams will resume practices Week 2 Term 2. Miss R J)

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC NEWS
Keep encouraging your children to practise on the days with the letter Y in
it. The more practice your child does, the easier the instruments will be to play and sound wonderful!

For any string queries please contact Ms Keenan at akeen9@eq.edu.au (Ms Keenan teaches at our school on THURSDAYS)
For any band queries please contact Mrs Hall at phall35@eq.edu.au (Mrs Hall teaches at our school on WEDNESDAYS)
For any other musical queries please contact Mrs Crook at bcroo4@eq.edu.au (Mrs Crook teaches at our school on MONDAYS, TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS)

INTERNET BANKING
When paying via internet banking please ensure that your child’s unique EQ ID number is used as a reference. This number is 10 digits and one letter long and is on your debtor statement/invoice. Thank you to those families who are already using these numbers as a reference as it makes for accurate receipting.

MOTHER’S DAY STALL
Thursday, 8 May
We will be holding our annual Mother’s Day Stall on Thursday, 8 May in the Hall. Gifts will be valued at $5 and $7. Parent help will be required on the day before (Wednesday 7 May) with set up and also on the day of the stall. Please contact Pam Vanderkruk on 0403 321 170 or email pamelagv@optusnet.com.au

WORLD OF FUN FETE
1 JUNE 2014
Thank goodness for the Easter break, but now it’s 6 weeks to go and we are hopping along! Read the full info in our fete newsletter in the school hard copy every week. Rides are booked and ride passes will be available on flexischools very soon.
Over the break we have had a number of Fete Friends join our ranks of supporters. The latest companies to get on board are:
- Kingfisher Bay Resort
- AV Media Systems
- Bunnings (Stafford)

Thank you to all who have donated to our raffle prizes - our latest donors include the EP Hotel, Blooming Leopard, Spotlight Everton Park, Tentworld and a generous school family who donated glassware. Our prize pool is now valued at over $8000, keep your eye out for raffle tickets coming home in the next week or two.

Our class stall convenors are starting to call for items so please keep an eye out for class rep emails and the hard copy newsletter for how you can help with donations of items or baked goods. We are looking for a coordinator for the book stall, works coordinator and an entertainment coordinator. Please contact me if you can assist at karlachaffey@aapt.net.au.
Karla Chaffey
Fete Coordinator

UNIFORM SHOP
The Uniform Shop is open each Friday from 8:30 – 9:30am.

TUCKSHOP

April Roster
Thursday 24
Jo Baird

Monday 28
- 

May Roster
Thursday 3 – June Lever
Friday 2 – Misato Betts, Vicky Wilson, Greg Scott
Monday 5 – 
- 

Cross Country Special!
Monday 28th April
First break
‘Wobbly Legs’ Jelly Cups $2.00
Order online only by 9.00am tomorrow.

Order online flexischools.com.au

It’s a bit tricky finding the 2014 Tuckshop Menu on the EPSS website everparkss.eq.edu.au. Go to ‘Support & Resources’ tab on the homepage, ‘Forms & Documents’ and it is in the ‘Documents’ list.

Winter menu starts this term – soups, garlic bread and warm milo now available.

Katrina Coomber
Tuckshop Convenor

WAVELL STATE HIGH SCHOOL
OPEN DAY
SUNDAY 18 May 2014
2 – 4:30pm
Assembly Hall
Telopia Avenue, Wavell Heights

COMMUNITY NEWS

YOGA
Yoga classes will be held in the EPSS Library at 7pm. $10 casual or $50 for a 5 class pass. Contact Ursula Lovelock on 0409 708 192 or breathe-yoga@hotmail.com