20th March 2012

Principal’s Message

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAY
The Department of Education & Communities has set aside the first day of terms one, two and three as days when students do not attend school and teachers undertake professional learning. The dates of these days are set out on the inside back page of every newsletter.

As has been the case for the last few years, two extra days have been gazetted for the end of the year in 2012. The two extra days will be the last two days of Term Four. All staff will be at school on the 20th and 21st December, but students will finish on Wednesday 19th December.

The Term Two School Development Day is programmed for Monday 23rd April. This year our staff will combine with the teachers of Leonay and Emu Heights to attend a conference run by Mrs Willett who is a DEC expert in the area of Maths and Quality Teaching.

Students will return for Term Two on Tuesday 24th April.

NAPLAN
A reminder to parents of children in Years Three and Five that the National Tests of Literacy and Numeracy will be held early next term on the 15th, 16th and 17th May.

These tests are the National version of the BST tests which used to be held in August.

There is no special preparation for the tests except consistent effort in class, completion of homework and assignments.

EITHER END OF THE SCHOOL
After seven weeks Kinder have settled in well to “Big School” and are fast becoming fully-fledged school children. They know their way around, have friends and are getting to know all the routines. The teachers have found the “Best Start” testing has been very useful in preparing learning programs more closely matched to children’s needs and starting points. Parents of Kinder students have received a letter of the outcomes of the Best Start tests.

The senior students will attend the traditional combined schools
service at the Penrith Paceway on Tuesday 3rd of April. This service has been a part of the Penrith school community for many years and is an indicator of the importance of the occasion in our society. Most local schools are represented, the Air Force provides a catafalque party and our captains will present a tribute as part of the ceremony. There is no cost for this activity as the Penrith RSL funds the cost of the buses and the organisation of the service. It is a most important occasion in our calendar and I urge parents to return the permission slip on the note provided.

As ANZAC day falls in term this year (the day after the children return for Term 2) we will be having an ANZAC service for all children at school.

**STUDENT WELFARE BEFORE SCHOOL**

Students have been reminded recently of the school policies and expectations for students in the mornings. The school day officially starts at 8.35am when teacher supervision is provided. Students should arrive between 8.35 and 9.05 and place their bags in an orderly fashion on the verandah outside their classroom. Students should not be in classrooms or hat rooms by themselves. They should only be in classrooms or hat rooms under the supervision of a teacher.

Students who arrive before 8.35 should remain seated quietly outside the library with their bags until the 8.35 bell sounds at which time they may move to their classrooms to place their bags on the verandah.

**SCHOOL POLICIES**

**Attendance/rolls/transfers**

The Department of Education and Communities works in the legal framework of The Education Reform Act of 1990.

This act states that;

“ It is the duty of the parent of a child of or above the age of six and the age of fifteen to cause the child: To be enrolled at a government school or registered non – government school and to attend the school at all times when the school is open for the child’s instruction or participation in school activities.”

School rolls are the legal and official documents of attendance and are marked each day. If a child is absent from school, parents must notify the school, preferably with a note of explanation.

Students who arrive late or leave the school early, in the terms of the Act, are marked on the roll as “partially absent”.
In order to maintain accurate records, our policy is that parents who bring children to school after the morning bell must collect a note from the front office which is handed to the class teacher for inclusion in the day’s roll.

Parents wishing to take their child from school early must collect a release form from the front office to give to the class teacher. Teachers have been instructed not to release children without a form.

These procedures are in place to ensure all children are safe and accounted for at all times.

**Health matters**

In the interest of safety, it is preferable for students not to have medications at school. It is possible for doctors to prescribe medicines to be taken before and after school as well as at bedtime to satisfy the “three times a day” requirement of many medications including antibiotics.

Parents with students who have been prescribed schedule 8 medications (eg Ritalin or Dexamphetamine) should contact the principal regarding administration of such medications. In no circumstances should such medicines be sent to school without prior consultation.

Medications for asthma conditions (usually ventolin by inhalation) may be kept by students to be used as required. Our experience and advice from health professionals is that such medications do not present a possible danger to others and are most beneficial when taken immediately a situation arises.

Pediculosis (nits) can be a problem at this time of year. The school does not do “checks” as such, but if it comes to the attention of a member of staff that nits are evident, parents are asked to treat children with the appropriate shampoos available from chemists or the supermarket. Students are able to attend school after appropriate treatment.

**Money at school**

Students are not encouraged to bring large amounts of money to school. As a general rule, it should not be necessary to have more than $5 spending money at a time.

Payments for school activities should be made at the money window between 8.35 and 9.05am.

**Uniform**

The school's policy, with respect to uniform, is that the set uniform is to be worn every day except Friday (3-6) when the sports uniform may be worn.

It is well understood that the wearing of uniform simplifies dressing decisions in the morning, reduces unfair and unnecessary competition in clothing fashion and engenders a cohesiveness and identity within the group. We also recognise that uniforms provide an
element of safety with bonafide students and strangers easily identified. 

*The uniform is basically red, white and grey. It is available from Back to Basics in Cox Avenue Kingswood and from the school uniform shop that is open every second Thursday afternoon between 2.30 and 3.30pm in terms One and Four.*

Parents are also welcome to make phone orders directly to “Back to Basics” and the orders will be delivered to the school.

The Cancer Council approved school bucket hat is a part of the expected school uniform.

Students are not permitted to play in direct sun without an approved hat and must be in uniform to represent the EPPS at any “out of school” activities.

Coloured jackets, jumpers and trousers etc are not part of the accepted school uniform.

**PROHIBITED PERSONS DECLARATIONS**

A reminder to parents that volunteers who work in schools are required by law to complete a “Prohibited Persons” declaration form which, when completed, is kept securely in the school. Parents and community members who work with groups, teams or accompany students on activities should ensure that they have submitted a form and if not, forms are available from the front office.

A.W. Best
Principal

**2012 PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE**

The 2012 Premier’s Reading Challenge has commenced.

The challenge aims to encourage in students a love of reading for leisure and pleasure, and to enable students to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely.

All children in the school can participate in the challenge. The challenge involves children in kindergarten to year two reading thirty books and those in years three to six reading twenty books. Most of the books must be from the Premier’s Reading Challenge booklist. The challenge finishes in September and certificates are presented in December. Students who complete the challenge for four years receive a gold certificate. Further updates and information will be provided during the year.

Full details of the challenge can be found online at [www.schools.nsw.edu.au/premiersreadingchallenge](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/premiersreadingchallenge).
To access the web site and update their reading record children will need to log on with their DET username and password. Access can be from home or school during their computer lessons. Reading records must be submitted online and children are encouraged to keep a written version.

Kindergarten and Year 1 children don’t yet have usernames and passwords, these will be available later on in the year. In the meantime a written record can be kept for logging on later in the year. Challenge books are available from our school library and Mr Botham can assist children to find books from the list. Books that are read in class can also count towards the challenge. Younger grades will display a list of books from the Premier’s Reading Challenge that have been read in class. Last year one hundred and sixty two children from Emu Plains completed the challenge and received certificates. This year we are aiming to exceed this number. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents to encourage good reading habits at home.

For further information or questions regarding the Premier’s Reading Challenge please contact Mrs Thompson, Mrs Chan or Mrs Richardson.

**PARENT SESSION ON T.E.N**
A very productive session was held at school for a large number of very enthusiastic parents on Wednesday 7th March, who were keen to learn about the T.E.N Maths Program running at EPPS. Topics discussed included the stages of development children progress through in their understanding of basic number concepts and practical ways parents can assist at home, focussing on addition and subtraction. Many useful resources were modelled, including dice games, dominoes, ten frames, playing cards and arrays. Many thanks to all the parents who attended and made the afternoon session so successful.

Narelle Borgen
Assistant Principal

**ANTI BULLYING SHOW**

**“The Protectors”**

I liked the show, “The Protectors” because it was good. The main message was to not bully other people.

*Grace O’Neill 2C*

I liked the show, “The Protectors” because you learned things. The main message was that you shouldn’t do things back when someone is unkind to you.

*Stephanie Moore 2C*
I liked the show, “The Protectors” because it was cool. The main message was to “Freeze and Breathe” when you’re upset.

Chris Harrison-Profillio 2C

I liked the show, “The Protectors” because it was funny. The main message was to be kind to other people.

Sarah Laurie 2C

I liked the show, “The Protectors” because it was exciting and cool. The main message was to not be mean.

Alby Brangwin-Williams 2C

ACCOUNTS

The office from time to time will issue a Statement of Account. These accounts are purely for your information. Whenever there is an activity, excursion, text book, etc, the office will invoice ALL students. Please disregard any entries on your statement if you have already paid, (sometimes there can be a crossover) or if your child is not attending that activity or entering that competition, etc.

All text books are to be paid for and these items may be claimable on your income tax return. Invoices will be deleted from your account if they do not apply to your child. Please contact the Office if you require any further explanation about your account.

LOST PROPERTY

We have quite a lot of un-named clothing/items on our lost property stand.

Please check the stand by the end of this term.

At the end of the term all unclaimed items will be disposed of.

LIBRARY NEWS

Reading captivates you and transports you in a way no other medium can. It builds and fuels the imagination. A book is the most wondrous of devices: a parallel universe that fits in the palm of your hand.

Kate Gordon
(Tasmanian author)

Tomorrow, March 21st, is World Poetry Day. Believed to have its origin in the 1930s, World Poetry Day is now celebrated in hundreds of countries around the world. In 1999, UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) also designated March 21 as World Poetry Day. In her speech for World Poetry Day last year Irina Bokovar, Director-General of UNESCO, said: Poets convey a timeless message. They are often key witness to history’s great political and social changes. Their writings inspire us
to build lasting peace in our minds, to rethink relations between man and nature and to establish humanism founded on the uniqueness and diversity of peoples.

Reading, writing and reciting poetry is a great way to help children become familiar with the way language works and sounds. It’s also great fun to be able to play with words to fit the rhyming structure of a particular poetic style. In recent years a growing number of children’s and young adult authors have written verse novels, telling their stories in a series of consecutive free verse poems. Poetry has the ability to cover the whole gamut of human emotion, from the deeply evocative through to the outrageously humorous. I encourage you to share your favourite verse with your children in celebration of World Poetry Day. Happy reading!

Mike Botham
Teacher/Librarian

takes pleasure in donating March Smigles voucher to

JAMES SANDERSON
who has demonstrated excellence, achievement or improvement in mathematical skills.

Milnsbridge IT Voice & Data, a local Emu Plains company, is proud to encourage all students of Emu Plains Public School to shine and achieve their potential.

NEPEAN RIVERSIDE REAL ESTATE

takes pleasure in donating February book voucher to

JADE SCANLIN
who has shown improvement and enthusiasm in literacy studies.

Nepean Riverside Real Estate is proudly involved in the Nepean Community and would like to encourage all students of Emu Plains Public School to shine and achieve their potential.

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### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### Term 1 - 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon-Fri</td>
<td>19-23</td>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>Year 5 Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>Regional Swimming Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon-Wed</td>
<td>26-28</td>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>Year 4 Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>School Cross Country</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>P&amp;C Disco</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>End Term 1</td>
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#### Term 2 - 2012

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<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>First day Term 2 – <strong>Staff only</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>Students return</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Apr</td>
<td><strong>ANZAC Day – Public Holiday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed-Thu</td>
<td>9-10</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>P&amp;C Mother’s Day Stall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting @ 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue-Thu</td>
<td>15-17</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>NAPLAN Tests</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Jun</td>
<td><strong>Queen’s Birthday - Public Holiday</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Jun</td>
<td>End Term 3–Grandparents’ Day (K-2)</td>
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#### Term 3 - 2012

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Jul</td>
<td>Start Term 3 – <strong>Staff only</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Jul</td>
<td>Students return</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Jul</td>
<td>Education Week</td>
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<td>Tue-Fri</td>
<td>31-3</td>
<td>Jul-Aug</td>
<td>Year 6 Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Aug</td>
<td>School Athletics Carnival (Yrs 3-6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon-Fri</td>
<td>20-24</td>
<td>Aug</td>
<td>Children’s Book Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed-Thu</td>
<td>22-23</td>
<td>Aug</td>
<td>District Athletics Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu-Fri</td>
<td>13-14</td>
<td>Sep</td>
<td>Year 3 Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Sep</td>
<td>End Term 3 – Infants Sports Day</td>
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#### Term 4 - 2012

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<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>Start Term 4 – <strong>Staff &amp; Students</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>Last day for students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>End of School Year</td>
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