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Happy Mother’s Day

Principal : Hendrika Green

On Sunday we celebrate our Mothers—who are our main carers. In some families the person who fulfills the role of mother may not be the natural mother, it may be a carer, or a grandparent, or even a father. We recognise the significant role these “mothers” play in the lives of the children in our school.

We share this special poem for all who are mothers.

“Love that has no measure, shelter from the harms, I could live forever, In my mother’s arms. Ever understanding, sharing all her charms, I know my safe haven, is in my mother’s arms. If I could say what she means to me, I’m sure it would take an eternity, She showed me how to be all that I can be, and weather all the storms. She’s always there, she’s my best friend, taught me how to stand and when to bend, I could stay forever, in my mother’s arms. Her gentle caring eases my pain, mysteries of life, she can explain, gave me the wisdom to come out of the rain, how my heart she warms. And I’ll be grateful eternally for the life and breath she gave to me, I will forever be, in my mother’s arms.”

NAPLAN

The National Assessment Program—Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) for Year 3 and 5 students will be conducted over the three days Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 12-14 May. It is important to remember that these assessments are just a “snapshot” of a student’s performance on each particular day. Even though students have been familiarised with the requirements of NAPLAN, for some this is a trying time, as they feel pressure to perform well. For Year 3 students, this is their introduction to “formal” testing. Some find testing more stressful than others, and it is important to encourage them to have a healthy attitude towards tests. NAPLAN are just one of many tests that they will complete in their educational journey. Remember that no test is able to give a full measure of what a person knows or is able to do. Tests should not be used to judge someone’s worth as a student or person. Encouraging children to do their personal best is a worthy goal in whatever they do. Promising rewards or gifts for high results reinforces the message that only high results are good enough.

NAPLAN does not measure the effort, work habits or attitude of students. While it may tell teachers and parents a lot, it does not tell them about equally important facets of children as learners. Other predictors of potential success include sociability, punctuality, conscientiousness and an ability to get along with others.

Developing balanced, well-rounded students is what we, as a school, aim for. Skills such as being able to manage time, interact well with a range of people in differing situations, commitment and coping gracefully with disappointment and successes are life skills which help to make people more desirable to potential employers and allow them to make the most of abilities and talents they may have.

Helping children to keep perspective around the NAPLAN tests (and any others they may sit) is important. Finding the balance between encouraging your child and placing pressure on them can be challenging—what may be intended as a message from a well meaning adult is not always what is felt by a child. It can even be that some students already place a high expectation upon themselves—creating their own pressure—despite their parents’ best efforts to reassure them and lessen that pressure.

At Engadine Public School we wish all students success, and encourage them to do the best that they can—as we will certainly be very happy with that!
School News Cont’d

Notes and Money Due

Zone Cross Country - Monday 25 May
Heathcote Oval

2nd Hand Uniform Shop Sale
11-15 May 9:00am-9:30am outside Canteen

Canteen Hot Dog Day Wednesday 20 May
Orders due by Friday 15 May

Yr 4 COSOTP Sustainability Camp
Monday 18 May - Tuesday 19 May

Yr 4 Students Opportunity Class Placement online applications close 15 May.

Create East 2015 Workshops close 8 May

Health Care Plan Updates

Working With Children Check for Volunteers

Due Dates

Parents and carers are advised due dates are established to ensure money is processed and numbers advised to service providers in time for all required planning.

The school is strict on close off dates.

We do not want our students, your children to miss out on valuable opportunities—and hence we ask you to help us with this.

Please ensure you pay by close off dates, or if you are experiencing difficulties, please advise the Office prior to the close off date so alternate arrangements can be negotiated, if appropriate.

It is TOO late after close off dates as commitments have already been made by this time.

NAPLAN—Save the Date (YEARS 3 and 5 STUDENTS)

12 May : Language Conventions and Writing
13 May : Reading
14 May : Numeracy (See our School Notes on Website)

Key Value : Excellence (Personal Award)

A 2010 study by the University of Sydney has confirmed the importance of school students setting and pursuing 'personal bests' in achieving success. The results of the study showed that students who pursued academic 'personal bests', were significantly more likely to achieve at a higher level, complete homework, participate in class, enjoy school, hold positive educational aspirations, and persist at school tasks longer.

The results of the study confirm the benefits of 'personal bests' over time - that pursuing 'personal bests' in one year can have significant and positive reach into a student’s academic life today and also one year later. These results are a timely reminder that genuine educational progress is when individual students strive to reach and attain personal excellence. Both girls and boys benefit from positively adjusting their expectations of success based on their previous personal best, and motivating themselves by attempting to beat that prior personal best.

There is real educational merit in encouraging students to compete with themselves - more than compete with others. The energising properties of competition can be retained, but we eliminate the often counterproductive and dispiriting process of excessive comparisons with others.

At Engadine Public School we hope to use these personal bests for students to determine goals for their achievement and to help give all students a more effective and inspiring way of doing well at school. This is relevant to both high achievers who often outperform lots of other students but who might not be working to personal potential or capacity, and lower achievers who feel they are unable to achieve.

We hope all teachers and families can support us in this. It is important because those who actively instil and sustain this focus of personal bests will not only be assisting outcomes, but also teaching a valuable orientation to life more generally.

What more can we ask of a student than to strive for personal excellence?

From the Office

Please return underwear and other clothing provided to your child when they have had an “accident”. We have a very limited supply of items to use for this purpose and when these items have not been returned we find we are unable to help the next child with the correct size.
Throughout the school year, teachers focus on developing skills to building positive relationships among peers—some children learn these through experience and others need to be taught these skills specifically in order to apply them. The focus of our teaching points will last for blocks of two weeks, and will be placed in the newsletter.

Social Skills Topic 4: Playing Fairly

Do’s
- Comment on other player’s good moves!
- Wait for your turn.
- Get started and pay attention.
- Have your go reasonably quickly when it’s your turn.

Don’ts
- Don’t comment on other people’s bad moves or bad luck.
- Don’t play when it’s not your turn.
- Don’t muck around before you start.
- Don’t put too long and hold up the game.
- Don’t put unfair pressure on people to hurry when it’s their turn.
- Don’t cheat.
- Don’t grizzle or complain if you have bad luck.

Parents, we ask that you too go through these skills with your children, and discuss the dos and don’ts. Perhaps you can ask them if they have tried some of the strategies and what the result was. Children learn best when they are supported from both school and home with a consistent message. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Advertising

Now taking advertising for Term 2.

Rates are $60 per term for advertising on the front page of this newsletter. Please contact the office for further details.

Canteen News - Hot Dog Day Wednesday 20 May

The Canteen is having a Hot Dog Day on Wednesday 20 May. The children have an opportunity to order a hot dog and drink for $5.00. Orders will need to be placed in the canteen by Friday 15 May to avoid missing out, as the food will need to be pre ordered.
The Crunch & Sip program is an easy way to help kids stay healthy and happy! Our students enjoy their “Crunch and Sip” time daily, as you can see.

Crunch & Sip is a set break to eat fruit or salad vegetables and drink water in the classroom. Students re-fuel with fruit or vegetables during the morning or afternoon, assisting physical and mental performance and concentration in the classroom. This gives kids a chance to refuel, a bit like putting petrol in a car. Each day students bring fruit or salad vegetables to school to eat in the classroom at a set time. We promote items which are easy to eat, and non-messy. Bananas and small items of cut up fruits, vegetables or even frozen peas are quite popular with the children. Each child has a small clear bottle of water in the classroom to drink throughout the day to prevent dehydration.

Through Crunch & Sip, schools demonstrate their commitment to nutrition education in the classroom, by making links with the curriculum and creating a supportive school environment. The Crunch & Sip break gives children the opportunity to eat the piece of fruit that might otherwise be left in their lunchbox or not be eaten at all.

The objectives of the Crunch & Sip break are to:
- increase awareness of the importance of eating fruit or vegetables and drinking water every day
- enable students, teachers and staff to eat fruit or vegetables during their Crunch&Sip break in the classroom
- encourage students, teachers and staff to drink water throughout the day in the classroom, during break times and at sports, excursions and camps

Zone Cross Country Rescheduled

Please note the changes to the Zone Cross Country.

Venue: Heathcote Oval
Date: Monday 25 May 2015
Time: Be at school by 8:15am for 8:30am departure.
School News - Cont'd

Canteen Open Times

New Opening Times  Wednesday, Thursday & Friday  
ONLY — Closed Monday & Tuesday

Canteen Roster - Term 2 2015

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<th>Week Starting</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<tr>
<td>11-May</td>
<td>Kellie Caspersonn</td>
<td>Suzanne Dymond</td>
<td>Bec Bullock</td>
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<tr>
<td>18-May</td>
<td>Erin Hick</td>
<td>Jasmin Barnes</td>
<td>Lyndal Carter</td>
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<td>25-May</td>
<td>Jody Mielke</td>
<td>Kirsty Merrill</td>
<td>Kirsten Spry</td>
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<td>1-June</td>
<td>Carla Kovacs</td>
<td>Lee Johnston</td>
<td>Kristin Buckley</td>
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<td>8-June</td>
<td>Tamara Johns</td>
<td>Donna Webb</td>
<td>Karen McGowen</td>
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<tr>
<td>15-June</td>
<td>Kellie Caspersonn</td>
<td>Vanessa Collinson</td>
<td>Sharon Reynolds</td>
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<tr>
<td>22-June</td>
<td>Kelly-Ann Ottaway</td>
<td>Megan Hall</td>
<td>Allison Emanuel</td>
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If you cannot make it on your day please organise to swap with somebody else. If this is not possible please leave a message for Deidre at the school or contact her on 0412 212 750.

Thanks for your continuing support of the canteen, the children love to see you there.

Community News

Relating as Stepfamilies

This one day workshop assists couples to manage the demands of life as a stepfamily.

It will assist parents to:
- examine the challenges and positives of stepfamilies
- examine personal beliefs and the effects of holding onto these
- highlight the losses stepfamilies have suffered
- recognise the importance of developing stepfamily rituals
- compare different communication styles

Saturday 16 May 2015
9:30am to 4:30pm
$75 per couple

Venue: Family Relationship Centre
383 Port Hacking Road South, Caringbah 2229

Bookings essential – Phone 8522 4450

Morning tea & afternoon included.
One hour lunch break provided.
We would like to notify our school community, in particular pregnant mothers and families who’s children that have not been immunised against Chicken Pox that there have been a few cases of Chicken Pox outbreaks within the school community. Please look out for signs and symptoms (cold and flu like symptoms, fever and itchy blisters that appear afterwards).

School News - Cont’d - Chicken Pox

Banking News

Please bring your deposit books into your class on Thursday. Banking will processed and the deposit books will be returned to classes on Fridays.

Uniform Shop News

Opening Hours: 8.45am to 9.30am

The Uniform Shop will open Wk 1 & 5 of each Term. Week 5 Friday 22nd May

Orders can be left at the Office anytime with payment. Cash or cheque only. Cheques to be made out to Engadine Public School P & C Uniform Shop.

Second Hand Uniforms WANTED

The Uniform Shop is always happy to accept donations of second hand items in good condition. If you have any items you wish to donate, please bring them into the Office or direct to the Uniform Shop when it is next open.

Uniform Shop - UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

As of Term 2, Mrs Cody from the Canteen will be overseeing the running of the Uniform Shop. Orders will still be placed in the Office money box and be filled fortnightly.

Please direct all enquiries to Mrs Cody on Wednesday to Friday from 9.30—11.00am. Please be aware she is also running the Canteen and not all orders/enquiries can be dealt with immediately.

Please help us support the transition with our volunteers and Mrs Cody.

Winter Uniform Orders

All Winter orders that were in by due date have now been filled except the microfibre jacket and trackpants which will arrive early Term 2. Orders that were received after the deadline are being filled now but some stock items cannot be guaranteed.

Change-over to Winter Uniform

This year the date for all students to change over to winter uniforms is Monday, 11 May 2015.

Second Hand Uniform Sale

Monday 11 May to Friday 15 May outside the Canteen from 9.00am-9.30am each day. A great chance to buy some winter uniform items. Please support Year 6 Students who are fundraising for their Year 6 Farewell. Clothing items $5.00 each or 3 for $10.00.