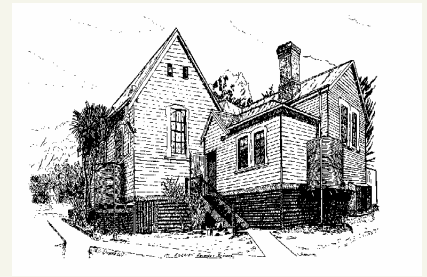


Mount Egerton Primary School

Newsletter

School Phone: 5368 9357 School Mobile: 0417 514 426
School Fax: 5368 9611



L I V I N G & L E A R N I N G T O G E T H E R S I N C E 1 8 5 6

CALENDAR DATES:

- **February 12th**
Parent Welcome BBQ
- **February 13th**
Swimming Carnival
(Parents Welcome)
- **February 13th**
School Council Meeting
7:00pm
- **February 14th**
Visit Ballarat Library
- **February 15th**
Final Day of swimming
program
- **February 22nd**
Regional Big Day Out
- **March 19th**
School Photos

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK:

Junior Classroom:
Luke Dobler

Senior Classroom:
RikeeTriance

POSITIVE BEHAVIOURS AWARD:

We are pleased to announce that the Positive Behaviours Award for this week goes to:

Tom Oliver

Birthday Book:

The staff and students of Mount Egerton Primary School would like to send a very big Happy Birthday wish to:

No Birthdays this Week.

Principal's Message:

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,
The swimming program has been proceeding well this week. All the children have willingly gotten into the pool with their respective groups and their instructors, despite the sometimes cold conditions. Personally, despite reassurances from the pool management that the water is heated to 31 degrees, I'm not sure I could do it. The staff and parents attending each day, have been extremely proud and pleased with the children's levels of enthusiasm, co-operation and behaviour, in the same way that I have been.

The **Parent Welcome BBQ** next **Tuesday** is an extremely important event in the life of our school and it is therefore important for all families (parents, children and extended school community members) to attend the evening. It is my hope that we can further enhance the 'Learning Community' of Mount Egerton through the further strengthening of school, home and community partnerships on the night.

While at the Regional Director's Principal meeting in Ararat on Tuesday, it was again brought home to us that, '***It takes a whole community to raise a child***' and when we think about it; in an ideal world children develop best when they have close contact with their mother, father, grandparents, uncles, aunts, others with similar interests and

list goes on, so-on and so-on... At the meeting we heard from Dr Goldfeld, who is an expert in the field of childhood development. She showed us scans of children's brains at their various stages of development and it was clear from these scans that the most developed of children's brains, where those who have a well rounded range of influences and stimulations, particularly in the 0—8 year range and of those who have maintain that high level of stimulation up to age 15. After this point the parts of the brain which have not been as highly stimulated, start to close down. Naturally at this point I became concerned for my own well-being and thought I'm glad that they don't have a scan of my brain up there. Homeless children, as you would imagine have very little stimulation and it was frightening to see how little brain activity there was in comparison to children who had experienced being raised by a whole community. Dr Goldfeld was extremely impressive and made me sit up and listen even though I'd just had lunch and really just wanted to sleep. This why we must all accept responsibility for our role in the development of all children and become active members of the Mount Egerton Jigsaw and the 'Learning Community'.

School Council, Parent's Club, Working Bees and other school activities are just some of the way that you can be an active member of our 'Learning Community'. School Council elections will take place soon and the Parent's Club invites new members to be a part of their efforts to make our school a better place. So get involved and you want have any regrets.

Regards, Gary White.

News from the Parent's Club:

Parent's Club still has for sale some of the Sunscreen fundraiser roll-ons. If you need sunscreen for your child during the swimming program please contact either Natalie Waterhouse, Liz Murphy or the school.

Members of the Parent's Club will be assisting with the setting up of the Welcome BBQ on Tuesday. Please contact Natalie Waterhouse for times etc. 'Many hands make light work.'

New parents are reminded that new ideas and input into the success of the school is always welcome and being a member of the Parent's Club is just one way to help.

Parent's Club Meeting:

The next Parent's Club meeting will be held at the school on **Monday, February 18th at 9:00am.**

All new and existing parents are welcome to attend these meetings and will be made most welcome. Simply bring along your past experiences, new ideas and join in on the planning for the coming year.

Parents will also have the opportunity to meet with the Principal and have their questions answered while enjoying a relaxing tea / coffee etc.

**A N N O U N C E M E N T S****School Council Meeting:**

The next School Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday, February 13th** at 7:00pm. All parents are welcome to attend School Council meetings, however only School Council members are able to vote.

Nominations and elections for vacant School Council positions will take place during March so keep an eye out for notices coming home with the children.

After School Care:

Reminder: After school care can be accessed through the YMCA and is delivered as St Patricks PS in Gordon. Currently we have one child using after school care during the week and is collected from the school by the YMCA staff and taken to After School Care. If you have need of this service on a casual or permanent basis contact the school.

Healthy Eating Healthy Living:

Remember we are what we eat! Parents are requested to ensure that healthy food is provided on a daily basis for playlunch and lunch.

School Promotion:

If any of our existing family become aware of new family moving into the community, encourage them to make contact with the school. Even current families of Mount Egerton with pre-school age children make contact with them and offer them a newsletter or the opportunity to visit and spend some time in the school. We are very keen to support the growth all of our local children by assisting them to take their first steps down the path of life-long learning.

Please remember:

Mount Egerton Primary
School
Welcomes you to
Mt Egerton

'Living and Learning Together Since 1856'

'Small Schools Are Great Schools'
Call us and find out why! Phone:
(03) 5368 9357

Education Maintenance**Allowance:**

The EMA application forms are available from the school office and all families with Health Care Cards are invited to request a form. A copy of your current Health Care Card will need to be supplied with the completed application.

Applications close on the **29th of February**. Remember late application can not be processed.

Parenting:

We all know that parenting is not a easy job and comes with some real challenges. Well **don't cope alone**: Parentline provides a 7 day a week telephone counselling, information and referral service for parents with children from birth to 18 years.

Parentline is a confidential and anonymous service available to all families in Victoria.

Professional counsellors are available to discuss issues and a wide range of Positive Parenting Tips sheets can be provided.

www.parentline.vic.gov.au

IMPORTANT

Bullying: Cruel, not Cool:

Bullying includes these actions: teasing, pushing & shoving, name calling, hitting & kicking, gossiping, starting and spreading rumours, excluding, mean tricks, insulting someone's family, insulting someone's intelligence, tripping, theft and other types of physical violence.

It's Not OK to be Away'

In the event of an unavoidable absence please phone: 5368 9357

Note: Parents are requested to make non-urgent doctor and dentist appointments at times outside school hours *where possible*.

Our School Purpose

To provide a friendly and caring learning environment that engages students to work toward achieving their personal best in an atmosphere of mutual respect and cooperation while assisting them to become valued members of the community.

Our School Values

Remember our school values of **respect, learning, commitment, perseverance** and **honesty & trustworthiness** are important everyday of our lives.
Let's live by these values in 2008 and beyond.

FEBRUARY 2008

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1 <i>Day 1 of Swimming Program</i>	2	3
4 <i>Day 2 + Aboriginal Culture Centre visit</i>	5 <i>Day 3 Swimming / Gary; Ararat meeting</i>	6 <i>Day 4 & return to school</i>	7 <i>Day 5 & return to school</i>	8 <i>Day 6 + Sovereign Hill visit</i>	9	10
11 <i>Day 7 & return to school</i>	12 <i>Day 8 & return to school 5:30 Parent BBQ</i>	13 <i>Swimming Carnival + School Council 7:00pm</i>	14 <i>Day 9 + Ballarat Library Visit</i>	15 <i>Day 10 + Ballarat Wildlife Park visit</i>	16	17
18 <i>Gary: Moorabool Collegiate meeting</i>	19	20	21	22 <i>Gary: Regional Big Day Out</i>	23	24
25	26 <i>Parent / Teacher meetings (10 mins)</i>	27	28 <i>Census Day</i>	29		