



ETTALONG
PUBLIC SCHOOL

HOMENOTE

KARINGI ST ETTALONG BEACH NSW 2257

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| www.ettalongps.nsw.edu.au

Term 1 Week 8

17 March 2020

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thur 19 Mar	Leaders visit local veterans sub branch POSTPONED
Fri 20 Mar	Harmony Day and Anti Bullying Day in classrooms
Fri 27 Mar	Sydney North swimming POSTPONED; Earth Hour in classrooms
Mon 30 Mar	Parent/Teacher interviews commence
Thur 2 Apr	Autism Day

Dear Parents and Carers

Congratulations to our Zone Carnival swimmers last week. We had nine placegetters out of twenty-five swimmers representing our school, who were among a total of fourteen schools, so this really is a wonderful effort! The good sportsmanship of our swimmers did not go unnoticed which made Mrs Robertson and Mrs Jager, our school's officials, extremely proud. Special mention is made of Harry, Tam, Zara, Ethan and Matt for their fabulous results but also to all our swimming representatives for their terrific efforts.

This Friday we celebrate Harmony Day and National Day of Action Against Bullying. Students are invited to wear 'muffi' for a gold coin donation to the P&C, who will use this to prepare the Easter baskets raffle. All students will receive a free wristband as a reminder to be a good friend and stand up to bullies. Last Friday it was necessary to remind a very small number of students that our core values of Respect, Responsibility and Ready to Learn are for everyone, and that disobedience and insolence will not be tolerated. Children who persist with this behaviour will be suspended from school.

Our Disco last week was a huge success with almost all the food sold out! The children had a terrific evening and I thank everyone involved for ensuring it was an enjoyable evening for our students.

School captains, vice captains and prefects were due to visit the Ettalong sub branch of Returned Servicemen this week to meet with returned soldiers and view their interesting display in their cherished museum. Unfortunately we have had to postpone this excursion but we hope to arrange it for a later date.

Congratulations to the new P&C committee who were elected at the P&C AGM last Wednesday evening. There are still some positions vacant so please contact the P&C or leave your name at the office if you are interested in joining the fabulous team who support our school and your children. See inside for further details please.

Our Year Six students and teachers send their thanks for supporting their Spider drink fundraiser last Friday. With soft drinks not normally allowed to be sold in schools on a regular basis, the children loved being able to purchase this treat.

All public schools in NSW will follow government instructions for the COVID19 virus. We are extremely fortunate, unlike many metropolitan schools, to have a large playground area. Yesterday, students remained in classrooms due to wet weather. Today we have been able to further extend 'social distancing' by dividing the playground, with bunting, therefore reducing the number of students in any one area. Yesterday, over 100 students were absent which further reduced students in any area. Teachers have been requested to open windows instead of using air conditioning. Children are to work at desks, not in groups whenever possible. Classrooms have been provided with hand sanitiser but this is now very difficult to replace with suppliers advising of a six week delay. I, personally, have visited supermarkets and large hardware stores in an attempt to purchase more but as you have probably realised yourselves, there is none to be bought.

The Department of Education is supplying regular updates which are available for all to view on the DoE website. Our school will comply with all government requirements. We take very seriously our duty of care for your children. Our school will remain open for as long as possible to allow working parents to fulfil their employment obligations. We will only close if instructed to. We fully understand if you choose to keep your child at home during this difficult time. Please advise the office so you don't receive a phone call about excessive absences. School assemblies have also been cancelled until this threat diminishes.

Principal Awards will be continue to be presented to individual students and will continue to be acknowledged in our Homenote. Let's all stay alert but not alarmed. The Dep't of Education has provided the following link to obtain schoolwork for those children not attending school during this period.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-from-home/teaching-and-learning-resources/k-6-resources>

Lynn Balfour

Principal

3R's AWARDS

Congratulations to these students who have been

Consistently demonstrating the 3Rs

Respect, Responsibility, Ready to Learn

Class	Name	Class	Name
3/4R	Ruby H	3S	Gabe F
	Marcus A		Amelia-Rose M
	Ben J		Tyden T
3J	Bentley E	3T	Ethan T
	Henry C		Bastian C
	Emilia F		Rose K
4J	Tyla C	4S	Alister B-W
	Eliza P		Connor P
	Rory M		Keisha R-B
5B	Malachi F	5J	Addison F
	George C		Izabelle M
	Mina T		Chelsea C
5L	Kiara P	6H	Elle W-L
	Josh W		Sophie G
	Hadil A		Blake A
6D	Ellie B	6R	Mehak C
	Zach b		Leilani McM
	Djanaya W		Jake P
K/6S	Jaxx O'B		

PLAYGROUND POSITIVE WINNER

Landan H 1F



GENERAL INFORMATION

All students have now been reminded of correct hand washing and sneezing technique in an attempt to minimise exposure to germs. Following directions from the federal and state governments and Department of Education, in consultation with NSW Health, Ettalong Public School will remain operational. The situation is however, constantly being monitored and re-evaluated.

Every recommendation given by the Dep't of Education has been implemented at our school. If your child is unwell, please keep them at home. Any student or staff member displaying any sign of illness will be sent home.

Until further notice, students are to line up with their bag outside their classroom on the 8.55am bell instead of congregating in assembly areas. Alternative measures have been implemented to accommodate break times.

We appreciate and understand parents' concern and are doing everything in our power to keep you informed and most importantly, keep your children safe while in our care.

Parent Information sessions

Online bookings for Parent Teacher interviews will open today (Tuesday, 17 March) at 5pm. Parent Teacher interviews will operate from 30 March - 6 April 2020.

To book an interview online:

- Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au
- Enter the code: x5yhz and press GO
- Enter an active email address, your name, select the number of children you have at Ettalong Public School and enter their name/s
- Select your child's class / teacher
- Select your preferred interview day and time from the available options
- Finalise your selection.

A step by step 'how to' guide and a note to arrange a phone interview or alternative time went home today. Spare notes are on the Facebook page and available from the office.

Class 1F

Yesterday at the excursion I went to see the sharks and stingrays. I swam in the water. I touched stingrays and sharks.
By Mi Yeon K

On the excursion I looked at the stingrays and I fed the stingrays. By Dakota T

I fed a shark and some stingrays. The stingrays were tickling my feet. By Max G

P & C NEWS

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday 11 March 2020. The following positions were appointed for 2020:

Executive positions:

- President – Kerry McMorrow
- Vice President – Vacant
- Vice President – Vacant
- Secretary – Vacant
- Treasurer – Cathie Kelly

Non-executive positions:

- Uniform Shop Co-ordinator – Vacancy

We would like to thank the outgoing executives, Barbara O'Reilly and Nicole Clarke for their service over the years. If you are interested in any of the vacant positions and would like further information regarding these roles and responsibilities, please email epsandc@gmail.com.

Thank you to all those that volunteered for the disco dinner and afternoon tea. It was a huge success and we had lots of help which made it easier on the day. A shout out to Domino's Umina and South Street Fruit Market for donating items for the day



PARENTING TIPS

Acceptance for differences begins at home

It's often said that a civil society can be determined by the way it treats its most vulnerable members, including the young, the old and minority groups. Most Australians like to think that we do pretty well on these measures, but I suspect the imminent postal survey on same-sex marriage may challenge this comfortable view. Thanks to saturation media coverage, virtually all Australians, kids included, are aware of the survey (aka plebiscite). We have all been exposed to the debate over the pros and cons of using a postal survey, and, of course, to the debate over its central question. Many, again including kids, will have heard some of the more vitriolic commentary that is part of the surrounding debate. You'd have to be living under a rock not to have noticed it. If it relates to you personally, you are likely deeply affected by it. While the debate rages on, it's worth considering what place children and young people have amongst all this noise. As a parent, how are you approaching the issue with your children and/or young people at home? There are many ways to approach this topic within your family, but perhaps it's most appropriate to view it through the lens of acceptance and respect for diversity.

The conversation starts at home

Kids learn acceptance from those around them. Children in primary school usually reflect the attitudes of their parents, and while adolescents are also strongly influenced by their peers, parental attitudes still have a significant impact on their acceptance, or otherwise, of people who are 'different'. In short, if you want your child to embrace differences – whether they relate to race, culture, behaviour, sexuality or anything else – then you need to work hard to make acceptance and respect a family trait.

Tackling tough issues head on

By looking at the same-sex marriage survey through the acceptance lens we may be able to steer conversations and discussions into relatively safe areas that kids can relate to. But that doesn't alter the fact that children and young people will have questions about human sexuality, which includes sexual orientation. Anecdotal evidence suggests that most parents struggle to talk to their children about human sexuality, with many happy leaving the topic to schools to tackle.

The current debate offers an opportunity for parents to have genuine discussions with their children about a broad palette of human sexuality topics that is truly reflective of the community in which we live. That means parents need to be informed and also feel comfortable with their own views and attitudes. The latter may call for an examination of your own attitudes toward sexual orientation to prevent conversations and discussions being flavoured by any insensitivity or insecurity you may have. It's worth remembering that research shows that providing young people with a thorough knowledge about sex and sexuality does not lead to an increase in promiscuity or teen pregnancy. On the contrary, it's widely accepted that a better understanding of human sexuality amongst teens is associated with a lower incidence of teen pregnancy and less likelihood of first intercourse at a young age. Similarly, informed, adult discussions of different sexual orientation do not increase the likelihood that a young person will identify as homosexual or lesbian. Explaining LGBTIQ does not influence a child's sexual identity, orientation or expression. Importantly, it does decrease shame and harm for young people who are LGBTIQ – including those who have not yet 'come out' – and it models how to be respectful to those who are.

Being matter-of-fact

Kids are naturally curious. Questions such as "Where do babies come from?" and "Why does he have two mums?" can be asked by both a five-year-old and a fifteen-year-old, albeit in very different ways. Your responses as a parent to questions like these need to differ in complexity and depth as your kids reach different developmental stages. Regardless of a child's age, it also helps to use language that is objective and factual such as, "Families come in many different shapes and sizes", "All families are equal", and "There are many ways to make a family, adoption and IVF being just two examples".

Challenge prejudice and narrow-minded views

Sometimes children and young people will say the cruellest things about others, particularly if those others are part of a minority group. As a parent, remind your child or young person about the impact that narrow views can have on others. We shouldn't underestimate the long-term impact that intolerance by the majority can have on the wellbeing and mental health of a minority. Most Australians like to pride ourselves on the fact that we've embraced people from a variety of ethnic and cultural backgrounds. I hope that when the same-sex marriage survey is finished, regardless of the result, we can also say that we are a nation that is accepting of diversity in all forms and whose citizens are truly respectful of each other. That's the type of country that most reasonable-minded adults want our children to inherit.

Michael Grose Presentations.

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www.parentingideas.com.au