



ETTALONG
PUBLIC SCHOOL

HOMENOTE

KARINGI ST ETTALONG BEACH NSW 2257

02 4341 3655

| www.ettalongps.nsw.edu.au

Term 1 Week 1

2 February 2021

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 1 Feb	Life Ed van arrives at EPS
Wed 3 Feb	Swimming carnival competitors only
Wed 10 Feb	P & C meeting 9.15am

Hello Parents and Carers

Welcome to all our wonderful families, new and 'old'. If your child is returning to our school, you already know what a fabulous place it is because our families and staff are what make it fabulous. If you are new to our school, welcome! We are thrilled to have you join our EPS family.

This year we welcome Mrs Kath Kennedy (4K) and Miss Zoe Pardey (1P). We are also excited to add Mrs Anna Brown and Mrs Danielle Withford to our RFF teaching staff. Miss Alicia Kelly will return part time while Mrs Richards will take maternity leave, later in this semester. Mr Boutland returns as a married man and Mrs Zammit as a grandmother.

All public schools in NSW have been supplied with a QR code for visitors on school grounds. They have been copied and placed for your convenience, should you need to visit the school office. Masks are preferred for entry to the office please. Parents of younger students (K – 2 only) are permitted to bring their child into school grounds until Friday 5 February, providing they log in via the QR code. This is great news as we navigate our way safely into 2021, COVID style. The new K-2 covered area outside the canteen has been designated the place for K-2 drop offs. In the afternoons, *all children* (except Kindergarten) will exit the school through the gate chosen by yourself, where you will be able to meet your child without needing to enter and log in. Kindergarten teachers will take Kindergarten children to their gate at 2.30pm, for pick up. KS and KT Kindergarten children will exit via the Karingi Street gate and KL and KZ will exit via the Uligandi Street gate. Kindergarten will, for the first two weeks until Fri Feb 12, finish their school day at 2.30pm.

Last Wednesday, staff returned to school to complete two days of mandatory professional learning in addition to the professional development required to continue their teacher registration, which must be renewed and paid, annually. At the end of this year, there will only be one Staff Development Day instead of the two we had in previous years. Having them at the beginning of the year is much more productive, in my opinion.

Teachers are very keen to improve all results and achievements but good literacy skills are vital to function in today's ever changing world. We can get by without knowing some things because we can always research the information we need but if we cannot read or comprehend properly, then we are at risk of missing out on opportunities or being duped by unscrupulous individuals who seek to profit from those less literate. This year, we have established two classes in an effort to further improve the achievements of our students. These classes, in Stages One and Two, will have a smaller number of students and are called our Aspire classes. I encourage everyone to set ten minutes aside each afternoon or evening for their child to read. You may be surprised at the difference this small amount of time each day will make to your child's future. While schools have two weeks to form classes, our students were placed in their new classes today, after recess.

Teachers will soon send home information about your child's class but, in general, all students will be required to purchase a designated maths text book; students in Years K – 2 have most items supplied in their room; and students in Years 3 - 6 will need a sensibly stocked pencil case. I say sensibly because some pencil cases are so big and full they could supply the whole class! Don't forget to label clearly, everything that your child brings to school, including and especially, lunch boxes, drink bottles, school jackets and hats, please.

Lynn Balfour

Principal

1800 RESPECT

Lifeline 13 11 14

Men's Line 1300 78 99 78

GENERAL INFORMATION

Life Education Van Visit 2021

The Life Education Van looks forward to visiting the children at Ettalong Public School every second year. The visit has been scheduled for a ten day session from Monday 1 February to Friday 12 February. It is important that all children attend.

The valuable Life Education Program promotes smart and safe living, including Cyber safety and provides engaging teaching / learning lessons linked with the Personal Development and Health Syllabus.

We are very fortunate to have the Life Education Van on site so early in the term to ensure the students commence the year with such valuable lessons and at a much reduced price. If we chose a later time the price increases significantly. The van has arrived at our school. The cost is \$7:00. Please send your child's permission note which has been sent home, signed, to the classroom teacher and pay either online or in cash ASAP. Thank you so much for your support in this program.

P & C NEWS

Welcome to 2021! We are looking forward to bringing you lots of exciting, fun events and ways to support our incredible school.

Our next P&C meeting is being held on Wednesday 10th of February at 09h30 at Ettalong Diggers. We would love for you to join us.

Also, our AGM will be held on Wednesday the 10th of March at 19h00. Don't forget to pop the date in your diary! In Zippies news, as of the 1st of February there will be a price increase on some items. Hats will now be \$12 and are available through the school office at any time. You can order uniforms through MySchoolConnect (MSC) at anytime and our wonderful volunteers will fill them on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. You can specify on MSC if you would like to collect your order from the front office or sent to your child's class. Once all the new classes are known please don't forget to update your child's class for this year in MSC.

As always, we are available at epsandc@gmail.com if you have any questions or suggestions.

CANTEEN NEWS

Welcome back for 2021. Online ordering will commence Monday 08/02/21.

Please let me know if you would like to Volunteer. Due to Covid this might be limited.

There will be a small price rise on some items.



We are seeking boys & girls to come join Your local club for season 2021 and represent our beautiful home town of Umina Beach and wear the Red & Green with pride for our community.

Minis + Mods

Boys & Girls - U/5s to U/12s

International

Boys - U/13s to U/17s

Girls - U/13s, U/15s & U/17s (Tag or Tackle)



Contact: Cae Burgess ☎ 0410 433 112

✉ Cae.burgess64@optusnet.com.au



Physie and Dance at Ettalong is back for 2021

CLASSES FROM 3 YEARS TO LADIES

All Classes \$5

ACTIVE KIDS AND CREATIVE KIDS PROVIDERS

Open Day - Monday 8th February 2021

Contact Fiona on 0401769985 for more information

