Welcome

Eastwood Primary School extends a very warm welcome to members of our school community.

In 2014 we launch into the first stage of rebuilding our entire school. Careful planning has been undertaken to minimise disruption and we anticipate operating smoothly in our temporary locations.

At Eastwood we actively promote a school/home partnership. Parents are encouraged to communicate regularly with us with regard to their children and opportunities for school community feedback are provided. We appreciate the fact that parents support us by reinforcing the values and skills which are promoted and developed at Eastwood. This alignment with the school assists in ensuring that children value their education and get the most out of their school experience.

At Eastwood we welcome and value parents’ participation in the life of our school, it is an important factor in making sure that the best possible learning outcomes are achieved by children. It also makes it possible to greatly increase the range of worthwhile activities we do at school. You can participate both formally and informally through:

- Parent helpers in classrooms
- assistance with sport or athletics
- participation in school excursions or whole school activity days
- joining a School Council or a School Council Sub-Committee
- attending working bees to assist with ground improvement or help in the Community Garden
- supporting social/fundraising events.
- or simply just staying up to date with news about what is happening at school.

We are confident that you will enjoy your time at Eastwood and look forward to a long and happy association with you.

Meriden James

Principal, on behalf of the Staff and School Council
General Info

Office Hours
8:30am – 4:30pm Monday to Friday.
9870 6103 - Message bank is available outside these hours to report absences and to leave a message during school holidays.

Term Dates
Term 1: First day of term, Wed 29th January, Foundation (Prep) students start Thurs 30th Jan
Last day of term, Fri 4th April
(2.30 PM finish)
Term 2: First day of term, Wed 23rd April
Last day of term, Fri 27th June
(2.30 PM finish)
Term 3: First day of term, Mon 14th July
Last day of term, Fri 19th Sept
(2.30 PM finish)
Term 4: First day of term, Mon 6th October
Last day of term, Fri 19th Dec
(1.30 PM finish)
Pupil free days approved by School Council are: Tues April 22, Tues June 24th and another TBA.

School Times
8:45 Yard supervised by school staff
8:57 Children assemble
9:00 Session 1 & 2
10:40 Morning recess
11:20 Session 3 & 4
1:00 Lunch eating
1:10 Lunch recess
1:50 Session 5 & 6
3:30 Dismissal of school
Foundation Students do not attend school on Wednesdays during the month of February.

Days to Remember
Tuesday - School Banking
Thursday Fortnightly - Newsletter (Epsilon) available via subscription on the school website. Please print this at home for easy reference.
Fridays 3:00pm — School Assembly is held in the Ray Symons Centre.

Keeping in Touch
Epsilon, the fortnightly newsletter, contains important dates and interesting items of school and community news. It is available by subscription through the schools website, limited hard copies are available for those unable to access the internet.
The school’s website has up to date information with all events, notices and permission forms on the calendar www.eastwood.vic.edu.au.

Community Contacts
Principal: Meriden James 9870 6103
Deaf Facility: Simon Shepherd 9870 6105
Class Teachers: Send a note or ring the school office for an appointment. Teachers will be pleased to discuss any school issues and provide assistance.
School Council: A contact list of council members is in each issue of Epsilon.
Class Parent Representatives: Listed in Epsilon at the commencement of each year.
School email: eastwood.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
School website: www.eastwood.vic.edu.au

Out of School Hours Care Program
The School offers an Out of School Hours Care Program run by OSH Care4KIDS from:
7:00 — 8.45am and 3.30 — 6.00pm throughout the school term.
Child care is also available on Pupil Free Days from 7.00am — 6.00pm numbers permitting.
For all enrolment and booking information, please contact OSH Care4KIDS on 98710344 or http://www.oshcare4kids.com.au.
Student Learning

Teaching teams work closely together to plan and deliver curriculum. Term planning of Literacy, Numeracy and Integrated Units of work along with weekly level planning meetings enable teachers to meet the learning needs of all children. Teaching approaches, strategies and assessments are comprehensively planned at team level to maximise student learning.

Teachers often teach in teams sharing responsibilities for a range of student groups both within and across classes. Students benefit from a range of support and expertise so where possible in the school we open up learning spaces to enable team teaching.

Australian Curriculum & Victorian Essential Learning Standards (AusVELS)

AusVELS outlines the curriculum for all students from Prep to Year 10 in all Victorian schools. AusVELS describe what students are expected to know and be able to do at different stages of learning.

In order to implement the standards an integrated approach is used with teachers planning programs and units of work which address one or more areas of the curriculum. Learning within these units of work is planned for using real life linking of activities.

The AusVELS English Curriculum includes the sequential development of age appropriate investigations of sound and letter knowledge, concepts of print and screen, language variation and change, language for interaction, text structure and organisation, expressing and developing ideas, literature and context, and responding to literature.

The AusVELS Mathematics Curriculum outlines learning in the areas of number and algebra, measurement and geometry, and statistics and probability.

Literacy and Numeracy

Literacy and Numeracy are the foundations of all learning, and so the Early Years Literacy and Numeracy Programs are a high priority at Eastwood.

All children entering school are assessed by their class teachers early in the school year. The Foundation (Prep) Entry Assessment Procedure helps to determine each child’s literacy and numeracy needs and ensures that plans are made to meet the individual learning needs of all children.

While in Foundation (Prep) to Year 4, your child will participate in the Early Years Literacy and Numeracy Programs. These programs feature ongoing assessment of all children, using a range of procedures, which enable teachers to closely monitor each child’s learning.

A daily Literacy session is timetabled to provide maximum opportunity for children to master the basics of speaking and listening, reading and writing during the early years of primary school. In our structured classroom program, literacy skills are taught according to the learning needs and readiness of the children.

The Literacy progress of children is monitored continuously, to ensure that learning tasks are planned to meet individual needs, and that children who require additional assistance are identified.

The Early Years Numeracy Program has been based on the model of the Early Years Literacy Program. The Numeracy Interview, (Foundation to Year 4), administered at the start of the year, enables teachers to plan for the learning needs of all children in areas of number. Features of the structured classroom program include a daily one hour numeracy block, grouping students for effective instruction and continuous monitoring and assessment of students.

The Senior School Literacy and Numeracy programs, in place for students in years five and six, have an emphasis on developmental learning with small group teaching. Continual monitoring of students’ progress ensures literacy and numeracy programs are accurately planned and relevant for all students.

Senior School Literacy develops students’ higher order literacy skills and emphasises the need for students to develop self-management strategies. Numeracy in the senior years involves core mathematical knowledge, the capacity to
critically apply what is known in a particular context and the actual processes and strategies needed to communicate what is done and why.

**Foundation**

Eastwood recognises that children’s learning and development takes place in the context of their families, and that families are children’s first and most important educators. Building relationships with families from the very beginning of their time at Eastwood is vital to a successful seven year partnership.

We know that most effective learning is promoted when children are highly engaged. Play is essential to stimulate children’s intellectual, physical, social and creative abilities. The Foundation (Prep) program at Eastwood is planned to provide opportunities for active play that is child directed, play that is teacher guided and explicit teaching to extend children’s knowledge, skills and understandings.

**Assessment and Reporting**

Assessment and Reporting are essential elements of the learning and teaching process and are vital to the way students think about themselves and are engaged in the process of learning.

Assessment is the ongoing process of gathering, analysing and reflecting on evidence to make informed and consistent judgements to improve future student learning.

Reporting is the process by which information on student achievement, including plans for their future learning, is communicated to students, parents and other teachers.

The Assessment and Reporting program enables parents to be fully informed of their child’s progress.

Elements of the program are:

- Informal afternoon tea sessions early in the school year to come and visit classrooms and meet your child’s teacher
- Written reports at the end of terms two and four.
- Parents are invited to request a meeting in February.
- Three Way Conferences (Parent, Teacher & Student) meetings held in June and December to discuss student progress, areas for development and goal setting.

Students in years 3 & 5 participate in NAPLAN the National Assessment Program: Literacy and Numeracy in Term 2 with results available for parents at the end of Term 3.

**Specialist Programs**

At Eastwood Specialist Programs are provided in:

- Visual Arts
- Performing Arts
- LOTE Auslan (Australian Sign Language)

The Physical Education program will be planned and taught by class teachers

**1:1 Tablet Program**

In 2013 we introduced an ‘opt in’ 1:1 Tablet Program in years prep, five and six. The program is being extended across the school over the next two years.

In 2014 Students in Junior Classes, Years 1 & 2 and Senior Classes, Years 5 & 6 will be involved in the 1:1 Tablet Program from the start of Term 1. Foundation students will commence their involvement from the beginning of Term 2.

**Homework**

Eastwood’s Homework Policy is designed so that over seven years children develop home study skills, practise their school work and keep parents in touch with their children’s educational programs.

The aims of homework outlined in school policy are:

- To build the partnership between teachers and parents in promoting children’s learning
- To provide children with the opportunity to demonstrate their learning to parents
- To provide children with the opportunity to practise skills and complete classroom tasks
- To develop and encourage in children responsibility for managing their out of school time through self-motivation and self-discipline

You can help your child with homework by:

- Taking an active interest in their homework – discuss homework tasks
- Providing a dedicated place for homework if possible
- Supporting your child’s home reading by, where appropriate, listening to them read aloud, discussing texts with them and reading to them

- Encouraging your child to balance the time spent between homework and other activities.

**Library Books**

Students will be able to borrow books from school to share at home.

Students are responsible for the care and return of borrowed books which are to be kept in a protective library bag.

If a book is damaged or lost whilst on loan to your child you will be asked to contribute to the repair or replacement of the stock to ensure it remains available for others to borrow. If your child has an overdue book a note will be sent home by the class teacher; your prompt attention would be appreciated so your child can resume borrowing privileges.

Please ensure books are kept in a safe and highly visible place in your home so they don’t get mixed amongst your child’s own books.

**Eastwood Deaf Facility**

Eastwood Deaf Facility has been part of Eastwood Primary School since 1992, the first Primary Deaf Facility of its kind established in Victoria.

Our deaf and hearing impaired students are actively involved in all aspects of the school curriculum, participating fully in classroom and specialist programs. We have a range of oral, sign support and Auslan students at our Facility currently.

Students are supported in their learning by Teachers of the Deaf, who work alongside classroom teachers to provide rich, diverse learning experiences for all students.

All Facility students have an Individual Learning Plan provided by their Teacher of the Deaf and participate in withdrawal time daily to reinforce and extending the students’ knowledge in a range of curriculum areas as well as access to a qualified Speech Therapist and regular visits by Australian Hearing Service.

Facility students are afforded the same opportunities as their hearing peers and are encouraged to apply for a range of leadership positions that the school offers.

Auslan is provided as our LOTE, which all Eastwood students have been enthusiastically learning. This has strengthened the connections between the Facility and mainstream students.

**Individual Needs**

Every child is treated as unique at Eastwood where we provide learning programs which aim to cater for all of the individual needs of our students. Specific individual needs include gifted students, children with particular talents, Deaf and Hearing-Impaired students, students who require additional assistance, refugee students, students who speak languages other than English, and students with Disabilities and Impairments.

Teachers use a variety of methods to cater for the varying abilities of students. As part of the classroom program, children may work in learning groups based on their ability in a particular subject area eg in guided reading activities and maths rotations. Teachers plan for different student needs using a variety of methods. These include catering for different learning styles; using graphic organisers, developing higher order thinking, using questioning to develop creative thinking; as well as incorporating thinking tools.

A variety of opportunities are provided for gifted and talented students at Eastwood. Students are invited to participate in externally run programs like GATEways, Tournament of Minds, Maths Talent Quest, Maths Olympiad and the National History Challenge.

EAL (English as an Additional Language) students are provided with additional support to assist in gaining an understanding of our community, developing social competencies, promoting English language skills and supporting academic development.

The student sport services program provides access to specialist learning and health support in all Victorian Government Schools. Specialist staff include educational psychologists, social workers, school nurses, student welfare coordinators, speech pathologists, visiting teachers and curriculum consultants.
The school nurse conducts health assessments of Foundation (Prep) children, the nurse also responds to referrals from school staff regarding identified health issues for students at any year level and provide referrals to relevant health practitioners.

Services for Koorie Students

Victorian schools are committed to delivering the best possible education to Koorie students. The Wannik Strategy, Learning Together - Journey to Our Future includes more Koorie support workers in schools and the redesign of roles and responsibilities to ensure high level support for individual Koorie students and their families.

Extracurricular Options

A wide range of optional extracurricular programs are available for students. Each term a range of programs is offered during the second half of each lunch recess. These include activities like signing and singing choir, Glee Club, cartooning, ICT, games and reading, knitting, gardening, skipping, chalk drawing, table tennis, and indoor play in the Oasis.

Additional programs incurring costs include tennis and instrumental music lessons.

Classroom Helpers

Parents are encouraged to assist in classrooms helping teachers and students in many very practical ways. These can include, but are not limited to hearing children read, helping in the classroom with small group or individual activities, making and / or organising resources, helping on excursions, assisting in the running of sports programs etc. See your child’s teacher to find out how you can assist.

Religious Education

Christian Religious Education runs throughout the school depending on availability of CRE teachers. Parents may elect for their child not to participate if they wish this must be provided in writing to the school office. Bahai Classes are also available by request if families wish their child to participate.

Ideas to Support your Child

- accept his/her ideas and suggestions with respect
- accept his/her individuality
- answer questions clearly and honestly
- be open to new things
- develop a questioning mind
- encourage clear speech
- encourage daily routines
- encourage independence
- encourage him/her to be responsible for household chores
- explain appropriate behaviours
- give positive praise as rewards
- let him/her initiate his/her own activities
- let him/her see he/she can be happy away from home
- listen intelligently to his/her comments
- model the use of manners
- pose problems
- provide him/her with experiences to talk about
- provide opportunity to play with other children
- provided materials for constructions
- read or tell a goodnight story
- recognise his/her ‘time line’ for growing and developing
- refrain from criticising others in front of him/her
- respect his/her property
- safeguard his/her physical health with adequate rest, proper diet and periodic dental and health examinations
- set the example - children will imitate
- share ideas and knowledge
- show him/her you are a good listener
- show patience and wait for him/her to finish
- show tolerance
- take him/her to libraries, parks, museums, zoos and other places of interest
- talk about school activities with him/her
- teach him/her a comprehensive safety code
- teach him/her to be a good loser and that games are for enjoyment
- teach him/her to listen to others when they speak
- teach him/her to respect the rights of others
- use the correct names of things

Student Wellbeing and Engagement
Within the school structure we have a clearly articulated Student Wellbeing and Engagement practice. Our approach includes whole school, small groups of children and individual students. It is broken into Primary Prevention and Early Intervention and Restoration. In each of these areas we have a number of strategies.

**Primary Prevention, Early Intervention and Restoration**

Programs which are directed at the whole school include:

- PATHS, A social and emotional literacy program from Foundation to Year 6
- Circle Time
- Restorative approach to relationships within the school
- Intervention

Programs which are for small groups of children and include:

- The Oasis program
- Restorative chats
- Social Intervention programs
- Intervention and Restoration

Support services designed for individuals include:

- School Wellbeing Coordinator
- Chaplaincy
- Social workers
- Kids Hope Mentors
- Guidance Officer/Educational Psychologist

There is a sliding scale of consequences depending on the severity and frequency of the behaviour. A leaflet detailing Eastwood Behaviour Management and Expectations is distributed at the beginning of the year. Classroom expectations specific to your child’s level are contained in this leaflet.

**Code of Practice**

The Eastwood Primary School community has an established Code of Practice which sets out expectations for students and adults which guides the development of learning, respect for others and self responsibility.

The Code of Practice states that:

All members of our school community have the right to:

- be treated with respect and kindness
- grow in their understandings and abilities
- achieve success as an individual
- be safe while learning, playing and working
- enjoy their teaching and learning

All members of the school community have the responsibility to:

- respect the rights of others
- learn to grow from their duties and learning activities
- be cooperative and join in school activities
- be supportive and encouraging
- respect themselves, property and the environment.

**Behaviour Management**

Behaviour Management at Eastwood includes:

- support to assist students in making more positive choices for themselves
- involvement of parents in the discipline process
- clearly stated rights and responsibilities.
Mobile phones/Media players

Children are discouraged from bringing expensive items like mobile phones and hand held games etc to school. Any such items brought along should be deposited at the office for safe keeping until the end of the day. The school cannot be held responsible for loss or damage to items brought to school and not placed in secure care.

There are times when students bring their own media to school, for example the completing digital work at home, Signing Idol and performances. If students need to bring their devises to school for these purposes they must check it in with their teacher for safe keeping.

Tablets used in the 1:1 Program are an exception. Facilities are provided for these devices to be locked securely in classrooms when not in use.

Payments and Forms

Parent Payments

At Eastwood we ensure that all communication with parents is clear and payments are fair and reasonable. Payment requests, letters or invoices for student materials and services charges are accompanied by the following information:

• parent/guardians are required to provide essential education items for their children, and they have the option of purchasing these through the school or through a local supplier, where appropriate.

• the availability of alternative payment options by negotiation with the school

Education Maintenance Allowance

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children. These include the cost of books and stationery, camps and excursions, and other educational costs.

To be eligible for receipt of the EMA you must:

• be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and

• you must hold a valid Health Care Card, Pension Card or you must be a temporary foster parent

The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of Term 1 and Term 3. The EMA application must be submitted to the school once, at the beginning of the year by 28 February, for the first payment to be received. A second payment is made to eligible families in Term 3.

Families with children in primary school will receive $200.00 for Foundation (Prep) students and $150.00 per student for those in Years 1 to 6. Schools no longer receive EMA payments on behalf of parents.

The EMA provides an annual amount for students and is paid in two instalments. Parents have the opportunity of signing over the payment to the school.

Parents with continuing eligibility, who are paid the first instalment of the year through this school, will not be required to complete a new application for the second instalment.

Parents, who transfer children to another school must reapply at the new school for the second instalment.

Application forms are available from the school office. Please bring your Health Care card or designated evidence of eligibility when you submit your application through the school office.

Payments

Please place money and permission / reply forms in a secure envelope. This envelope needs to be clearly marked with the reason for payment, your child’s name and their room number.

We ask that parents/guardians send all payments with their child. Students then hand it directly to their teacher on arrival to class. Teachers record this payment and forward it to the office for processing. This procedure has been implemented to assist in the security of all payments made.
Excursions and Extra-Curricular Activities

A Term Learning Activity Fee form is sent home with each student at the beginning of every term. This form outlines the specific activities for that term and the cost involved. It is important that parents ensure payment is made by the due date noted on the Term Learning Activity form. This will enable your child to participate in all of the activities.

Support for Families

If you are having difficulties meeting the costs of uniforms, excursions and term learning activity fees please speak to the Assistant Principal, as we may be able to assist in some way. The school may also be able to provide practical assistance (e.g., casseroles, transport to school) for a short period of time.

Permission Forms / Notices

Permission forms / notices give information regarding specific activities and are sent home with students prior to the activity or excursion taking place. Students cannot participate without the written permission of their parent or guardian. Please ensure these forms are returned to the class teacher by the due date listed on the permission slip to avoid your child being unable to participate.

Lost Notices, Forms or Newsletters

Copies of notices are on the school website, simply click on the calendar event for a copy. Spare printed copies are available from the notice rack at the school office, please feel free to help yourself.

Absence, Punctuality and Illness

It is important that parents notify the school of absences which occur. This can be done by either phoning the school on the day of the absence or sending a note when your child returns to school. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development requires that all absences are explained, this is a legal requirement.

Punctuality is a social value to be developed and encouraged. It is a school expectation that your child will arrive between 8.45 AM and 9 AM and will be ready to commence the first lesson which begins promptly at 9 AM.

Accidents and Illness whilst at School

Children are supervised in the school grounds from 8.45 AM until 3:45 PM each day. It is unwise to deliver children to school at a time when they will not be under supervision in the playground.

At the end of the day students are expected to leave the school ground and go straight home.

At Eastwood every effort is made to avoid accidents, however, in the event of an accident we provide necessary first aid for the child’s welfare. If further medical assistance is required every endeavour will be made to contact you.

You can help in this regard by ensuring that we always have up to date telephone contact details for both parents and an emergency contact person. Please inform the office when changes occur in employment and/or telephone numbers.

Illness

Whenever a child becomes ill at school, he/she will be cared for while a parent or emergency person is being contacted to take charge of him/her.

Where any medical conditions which are relevant to the child’s welfare and comfort at school exist, please pass on such information to the teachers concerned.

Parents are asked to leave any medication to be taken during the day at the office and complete a
medication plan. All medications should be placed in a sealed envelope with the child’s name, date and dosage written on it.

It is expected that no child will be sent to school while suffering from contagious diseases, vomiting, diarrhoea, fever etc. Please keep children home until they are well enough to participate in learning programs.

Children’s Health

If your child has any of the following illnesses please contact the school office as soon as possible. Children should stay away from school if they have contracted:

- Chicken Pox: Until recovered. Some remaining scabs are not an indication for continued exclusion.
- Mumps: Until fully recovered.
- Rubella: Until fully recovered and at least four days from onset of the rash.
- Impetigo: Until treated and covered.
- Measles: For at least seven days from the appearance of the rash or until a medical certificate of recovery is produced.
- Head Lice and Nits: Unfortunately lice and nits are very prevalent in schools at times and affect all children. Be ever vigilant and please notify the school if your child does become infected.

Head lice Procedures:

- Inspect your child’s hair regularly, at least weekly
- If needed, purchase and apply treatments according to the directions
- Remove eggs (with fine comb or fingernails)
- Parents must verify that children have been treated before the child is able to be re-admitted to school

More information is available from the school office or through the Department of Human Services website.

Immunisation Certificate

Children who begin school require an Immunisation Certificate. Children who are not immunised should be excluded from school if there be an outbreak of measles, diphtheria, polio or whooping cough.

State and Federal immunisation programs are conducted by the Maroondah City Council Health Department. All personal records of immunisation are kept with the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register. For further assistance or to obtain a school entry immunisation status certificate please call 1800 653 809. Parents are encouraged to allow their children to receive these treatments.

Physical / Medical Conditions

Please notify the school immediately of any physical defects in sight, hearing etc or conditions such as anaphylaxis, diabetes, asthma or epilepsy, so that adequate safeguards may be taken to protect the health of your child. Specific medical plans are required for some illnesses eg: anaphylaxis, diabetes & asthma.

School Injuries and Insurance

Parents and guardians are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any ambulance / transport costs. Most medical costs will be refundable by Medicare. If you are a member of an ambulance or health fund, you may also be able to claim transport or other expenses from the fund.

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not hold accident insurance for school students.

Other insurance cover is available. The Department is aware of two insurers, JUA Underwriting Agency Pty. Ltd. and Willis Australia Ltd. that provide accident insurance policies for students. These policies provide specific benefits for students who are injured in accidents for a reasonably low cost.

Lost Property

We encourage children to take personal responsibility for their own clothing and property. All lost property is placed in the cupboard in the office foyer, named items will be returned to the owner.

At the end of each term lost property is displayed so parents and students have a final opportunity to acquire items they may have lost.
Healthy Lifestyles

Eastwood Primary School has a dedicated commitment to promoting a healthy lifestyle within our school community. This encompasses physical activity, healthy eating, care and concern for others and respect for cultural differences. Health is incorporated into the curriculum across all year levels in the school, our physical education program and as a part of special celebrations in the school. Eastwood is involved in the Sustainable Schools program, which aims to decrease our use of all resources and promote recycling and reuse of resources whenever possible.

Research has shown that good nutrition is essential for optimal learning, concentration and focus and normal growth and development.

Our healthy living advice is:

- Keep active every day – walk to school, ride your bike, play a sport, fly a kite, playing with the family pet, kick the footy, get outside and be active
- Eat good food, follow the 2 fruit/5 veg. rule, choose foods low in fat, salt and sugar
- Treat chips, lollies, soft drinks, cakes and sweet biscuits as only occasional foods
- Know what is in your food – learn about reading labels for fat and salt content, artificial colours and flavours, and so on
- Go natural and eat less processed and packaged foods
- Stay happy, and care about other people.

Some good resources to look at for advice about healthy living include:

- Nutrition Australia www.nutritionaustralia.org They have pamphlets and booklets as well. 9650 5165
- Your local library
- Your local Maternal & Child Health nurse is a great resource for info, as is your local doctor.

Canteen

Arrangements for canteen lunch orders in 2014 will be advised the beginning of Term 1.

Volunteers at School

Under the Working with Children Act 2005 school volunteers, including classroom helpers, require a current Working With Children Check (WWCC).

Please contact the school office for more information regarding WWCCs or to provide a file copy of your current card.

Walking to School

We encourage all children to walk to school, and for the younger children to do so with an adult where practical. Not only are there health benefits from this, but it reduces traffic congestion around the school. The school also organizes “Walk to School Days” on a regular basis, and we encourage you to be involved.

Riding to School

At Eastwood children aged nine years and above may ride a bicycle to/from school after written authority from their parents/guardians is provided to the Principal. This is to avoid students riding to/from school without their parents’ knowledge. Students who ride to school must wear an approved bicycle helmet and follow road safety rules.

Rubbish Free Lunches

In our effort to reduce litter around the school and use sustainable practices we are Rubbish Free! We ask families to use lunchboxes with compartments to separate food so wrappings are not needed. Wrappings, fruit peelings and uneaten food will be returned home. Lots of great ideas for rubbish free lunches will be published throughout the year in Epsilon.
• engaging the local community in the life of the school
• setting the vision, strategic direction and identity of the school
• ensuring sound governance of the school
• reporting annually to the school community on the activities of the school.

Elected Members of School Council are expected to attend one evening meeting of the whole council each month. In addition they attend at least one meeting of a particular sub-committee per month, or as necessary. School Council membership brings with it a responsibility to work in the interests of all students in our school community. Council membership is a rewarding way to share expertise and participate in an important aspect of school life.

Sub-Committees

Sub-Committees are convened by a member of School Council and rely on parent and teacher involvement to be effective.

COMMUNICATION & COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS - This sub-committee is responsible for strengthening relationships and seeking new partnerships with local community organisations. It also develops a communication strategy to promote Eastwood in the broader community and updates/populates the school image on printed, digital and promotional material.

EDUCATION - This sub-committee provides a forum for members of the school community to be involved in activities and projects which support the school curriculum. This may include communicating the progress of the strategic plan to the community and planning special events or activities which complement the whole school program for both parents and students. The Education Sub Committee also writes and reviews school policies. It provides information about policies to the community and seeks community input as policies come up for review.

ENVIRONMENT - This sub-committee oversees the maintenance and development of the built and natural school environment (play spaces, buildings), to make it safe, clean and fun.

EP&F (Eastwood Parents and Friends) - This sub-committee’s role is to strengthen links between parents, staff, students and the broader community so people feel they are a part of a supportive and enjoyable school community.

The primary focus is on activities such as social events, parent information sessions, school community events, celebrations and practical help for families. Classroom Reps are members of EP&F.

EP&F raises money above what is provided by the Government and School Levies, to assist with the development of school activities and projects. This may be done through fundraising events (such as fetes, raffles, food stalls, trivia nights) and donations of goods/services/money.

FINANCE - The Finance Committee oversees the school finances and provides recommendations to School Council.

FUTURES - This sub-committee is responsible for developing major strategies and plans for the mid to long term for consideration by School Council. It also seeks funding by applying for specific projects. The sub-committee oversees the process of exploring funding through Grants/Trusts and Foundations, engaging other subcommittees where necessary.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION - This sub-committee promotes a whole school approach to healthy eating and an active lifestyle. This is done through various activities such as the Walk to School Weeks, development of a Food and Nutrition Policy, working closely with community groups such as Nutrition Australia. The group also considers any issues related to traffic management around the school to ensure safety of the whole community, particularly children. This may include proper use of drop off zones, school crossings, footpaths, and traffic signs. There is a strong emphasis on encouraging children/parents to walk to and from school.

Uniform

Eastwood Primary School and Deaf Facility has a compulsory school uniform policy which requires that all students wear the uniform and attire appropriate for scheduled special activities such as sport, physical education, swimming etc. It is very important that all children comply with this requirement and that all parents are actively supportive. School uniform provides identity, is economical, and helps to develop pride in our school.

A compulsory Sports Top is being introduced in 2014 for all students from Year 3 to 6 to wear during PE / Sport sessions and special activities such as interschool sport, cross country and athletics.
In accordance with our Sun Smart Policy all students are required to wear an approved school hat during all outdoor activities from September through April.

New Eastwood uniforms can be purchased from Primary School Wear (PSW), Railway Avenue, Ringwood East. Items of second hand uniform can be purchased, at very reasonable prices, from the School Uniform Shop. Opening dates and times are advertised in Epsilon.

Donations of preloved second hand uniform items, in good condition, are welcomed to provide stock for our uniform shop.

It is important that our students present their uniforms in a manner that reflects positively on themselves and their school. Teachers are vigilant in monitoring this important area.

Specifically, any uniform items defaced or modified will be regarded as non-compliant and a replacement will be required. It is absolutely essential that we get 100 percent parent endorsement of this requirement. This should support our students, your children, to develop an understanding of what demonstrating a respect for themselves and a pride in their school means. Our students are regularly on show to a variety of visitors, when on excursions and whilst travelling to and from school. We want to be proud of their presentation on all occasions.

Parents will be notified in writing when a student is out of uniform and asked to ensure that their child is attired in accordance with the Eastwood Primary School and Deaf Facility uniform policy.

All clothing and the school bag should be clearly marked with your child’s name.

UNIFORM:

Boys
- Black track pants or slacks, emerald green school windcheater / jacket and school polo shirt
- Cool Weather—Black track pants or slacks, emerald green windcheater / jacket and long or short sleeved school polo shirt
- Warm Weather—Black shorts, school polo shirt and school hat.
- Sport - Years 3 to 6 – black shorts and emerald green and black micromesh Eastwood logo sports top

Girls
- School dress or tunic, black track pants or slacks, emerald green windcheater / jacket, school polo shirt
- Cool Weather—Black track pants or slacks or school tunic with black tights, emerald green windcheater / jacket, black or white skivvy or long or short sleeve school polo shirt.
- Warm Weather—School dress, or Black shorts and school polo shirt, school hat.
- Sport - Years 3 to 6 – black shorts and emerald green and black micromesh Eastwood logo sports top

Footwear: Students are required to wear sturdy, supportive footwear to protect their feet during vigorous physical activity which is part of daily school life.

Black school shoes or black or white athletic runners are the school uniform (please note that thongs, very light sandals or shoes with heels are not to be worn on free dress days).

If you are having difficulty meeting the costs of uniforms please contact the Assistant Principal as we may be able to assist.

During Term 4 arrangements are made for Year 5 students to purchase a commemorative Year 6 windcheater.