**PRINCIPAL’S REPORT**

SOMEONE IS GOING TO WIN AN iPAD!!!

On the 9th of March there will be a lucky draw to see which family at Emerton PS wins an iPad. All you have to do is bring back a survey to go into the draw. The survey will help determine whether or not the school qualifies for significant funding to employ teachers and run programs. It’s really easy to fill in, and there is lots of help if you need it. There is more information later in the newsletter. Good luck!

This week we had some students go to the Emerton Leisure Centre to test their swimming skills. Mr Donges collected the times and will determine whether or not the times were good enough to go to the district carnival. Hopefully we can have more students attend the time trials next year.

It has been great to talk with a number of parents who have been helping with the Cooking classes. Everyone has had fun preparing, assisting and cleaning up the mess. If you would like to come along and help when your child is doing cooking you can simply ask your child’s teacher. A *cooking session for parents* will also be starting soon on a Wednesday morning from 9:30am until 10:45am. The cost will be $2 per head. Stay tuned for more details. Please send along the $10 for two term’s cooking if you have not done so already. This money helps provide the ingredients for the program.

The Books in Homes orders have now been sent off. The students’ choices of 3 books will be here towards the end of the term. We will again be holding a special presentation to which you are invited.

It was refreshing to see the sun a little more often this week. It was also good to see a lot more school hats being worn. This year a policy of ‘No hat, play in the shade’ is being adhered to. The students are being involved in competitions to see which class has the greatest percentage of hats on their heads during recess and lunchtimes. Mrs Clapham has managed to secure a year’s supply of sun cream from the Cancer Council to assist in preventing skin damage from the sun. Are you doing your part?

The Commonwealth Bank is attempting to restart a school banking program at the school. Soon there will be some information sent home outlining how the scheme will work. A representative from the bank will provide a presentation to the school in the next week or so.

I have already had a number of visits to my office by students keen to show off their excellent work. It is fantastic to begin the year on such a positive note.

Last but not least this week I have to inform you that Mr Eren will be taking leave as of next Monday and will be retiring at the completion of his leave. Mr Eren has made a huge contribution to the DEC over many years and I know that you will join me in wishing him a happy and relaxing retirement.

Enjoy the sunshine while it lasts.  
Kel Atkins
WOULD YOU LIKE TO WIN AN iPAD 2?

HOW?
On Monday, 5 March, all families will receive a survey to fill in for the Priority Schools Program (PSP). All you have to do to be in the draw is fill in this survey, place it in the sealed envelope and return it to the school office by Friday, 9 March.

WHY?
Our school currently receives Priority Schools funding, which has been used to pay for additional staff and support the purchasing of resources. The current round of funding ceases at the end of 2012, so we are required to reapply for future funding. If successful, the funding will last for another four years (2013 - 2016). It is of vital importance that we have all surveys fully completed and returned.

When students bring the survey to the office, they will receive a lollypop and a token for our morning draw and have a ticket placed in the draw for the iPAD. All surveys are confidential and will not be opened by the school office.

BE IN IT TO WIN IT - ONE LUCKY PERSON FROM OUR SCHOOL WILL WIN!!

Ms Drage

BOOKS IN HOMES

Books in Homes is back for 2012

Once again students from kindergarten to year 6 have selected their books from the Books in Homes program, funded through National Partnerships.

In week 10 of this term every student will receive three of their four chosen books in a new book bag. They will be able to take these books home to keep.

This is a fantastic program designed to help families build up a library of books at home. Research shows that children who live in homes full of books not only find learning to read easier than other children but also are more likely to be successful throughout their lives.

We urge you to read these books to and with your children. Many of the senior fiction books are so interesting they make a good adult read as well. Some of my favourite books are these books written for children and teenagers.

The program will be repeated in terms 2 and 4.

Mrs Cassidy

NATIONAL YEAR OF READING

National Year of Reading 2012
http://www.love2read.org.au

The National Year of Reading was launched this week. One of the aims is to encourage more reading in the community and raise literacy levels across the board.

The Reading Hour is a significant part of this program. It will be our call to action for the National Year of Reading. Wouldn’t it be great if everyone in our school and community was already reading for at least 1 hour a week by 25th August when it is hoped that the nation will stop everything to read for one hour? We’d be well ahead of the rest of Australia.

Try these to start with:
Share a book with your child for 10 minutes a day.
Restore some of that work-life balance by taking a break with a book at lunchtime or just before you go to sleep.
Get together with friends to read and talk about your favourite books.

Mrs Cassidy
HABITS OF MIND

The Habits of Mind are 16 dispositions possessed by effective learners and problem-solvers. These will become part of the learning in all classrooms this year. Most classes have already started implementing them.

The first disposition is Persistence, so students are being taught strategies that help them stick to it! This means they will persevere when something is a bit challenging, have a go and try new ways to solve problems. Please encourage your children to persist when they are home, too.

Mrs Cassidy

FOOTY FEVER DAY

To celebrate the 2012 season of Rugby, NRL and AFL, Emerton Public School will be having a Footy Fever Day on Friday, 2 March, 2012 (Term 1, Week 6).

All students are allowed to wear their football clothes and/or their favourite team colours to school. Students can even wear their State of Origin, Indigenous/All Stars, AFL or Rugby Union jerseys. Please note that you are NOT expected to purchase clothes for this day.

To participate students are asked to bring in a gold coin. All money raised will go towards buying school supplies for Emerton students, including the Year 6 Farewell.

All students will be able to participate in a variety of lunch time games, including some footy skills activities.

Go the Panthers!!

Mrs Clapham

SWIMMING TIME TRIALS

On Wednesday, 15 February, our swim team competed in our annual Swimming Time Trials at Emerton Leisure Centre. It was a welcome change to see some nice weather for the day following all of the rain. This year we combined with Madang, Whalan and Doonside Public Schools. This allowed our boys to swim competitively against boys from other schools of their age.

Our team consisted of Tyreece, Gerro, Jarome, Harry, Caleb and Robert. All the boys tried very hard in their respective events and there were some inspiring performances on the day. Some were willing to have a go at all of the various strokes. They represented Emerton very well and were an absolute pleasure to take away for a sporting event.

Well done boys for your great efforts and for the way in which you represented Emerton. Hopefully next year; following swim school this year, we will be able to enter a larger team.

Mr Donges

YEAR 6 NEWS

Next Tuesday, 21 February, our year 6 students are attending a High School Transition Day at Chifley College, Mount Druitt Campus, to enhance and support their transition to High School.

Students will be given the opportunity to experience high school by participating in a variety of high school subjects such as Maths, HSIE, Art, Japanese PDHP, TAS and Science. This will be a valuable and rewarding learning experience for our students and we anticipate that all students will attend, regardless of whether they are intending to attend Chifley College Mount Druitt or not.

Please return all permission notes to the office as soon as possible.

Mrs Malloy
CHILDREN AND ASTHMA

Young children with asthma

Asthma in young children is one of the most common causes of hospital admission and visits to the doctor in this age group.

However it is not easy to diagnose asthma in children under 5 years old as there are many reasons for wheezing and coughing at that age.

Once diagnosis is decided, often treatment is with trials of different doses of medication. Parents often ask about whether changes to a child’s bedding or diet is needed.

The aim of good asthma management is to ensure that children can lead a normal healthy life, while taking only as much medication as is needed to keep them well, and avoid asthma attacks.

Children can also spend periods of time away from home. It is important that the people around your child are aware if they have asthma, and know how to recognise symptoms and what to do in an emergency. Parents can provide friends and family with a copy of their child’s asthma action plan and asthma first aid information to help them be prepared.

Children’s services and schools play an important role in supporting children with asthma, and they can also access resources and training to help them.

Need more information?

Contact our Information Line to talk to a trained health professional. Call 1800 645 130

PHOTO GALLERY
P&C NEWS

P & C

We are having a “Let’s kiss goodbye to Breast Cancer” lipstick drive and order forms were sent home today. The funds from this drive will be used for air conditioning in the school and a portion will go to the Breast Cancer Cause. Please ask your family and friends if they would like to purchase a lipstick.

P & C Annual General Meeting.

Our AGM will be held 1 March Thursday morning in the Shed at 9:15am. This is an important meeting during which the existing committee will stand down and a new committee will be elected. The P & C is an integral part of the school helping with such activities as raising funds for air conditioning, Mothers Day stall, Fathers Day stall, Athletics BBQ and Breakfast Club. Members are always needed so why not come along and have a cuppa.

Breakfast Club

Do you have some free time in the mornings? Why not pop into the Community room and help butter some toast. Everyone is welcome.

Preloved Clothing and Lost Property

Please label your child’s clothing so that it can be returned to them. Lost property can be found in the Community room every morning before school. Unnamed and unclaimed clothing is washed and resold for 50c per item.
Cooking Classes

We are looking for volunteers to help with the cooking classes on Wednesday and Thursday. If you can manage a half day it would be helpful. Duties involve washing and drying utensils and assisting the teacher. If you are interested please leave your name and phone number at the office.

Mrs Lyn Steptoe Mrs Sina Vehikite
Community Liaison Officers

Canteen News

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<tr>
<th>Meal Deal</th>
<th>$4</th>
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<tr>
<td>Till 24 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hot Chicken Tender Wrap</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(2 tenders, lettuce &amp; mayo)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Flavoured Milk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Juice Cup Ice Block</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Meal Deal</th>
<th>$4</th>
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<tr>
<td>Starting Mon 24 February</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sausage Roll</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sparkling Drink</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Juice Cup Ice Block</td>
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New to the Canteen
Pineapple Stix Ice Block
$2

Absentees

If your child has been away sick or for any other reason and you have not sent a note, please fill in this form and return with your child to classroom teacher.

Absentee Note

My child____________________________Class_
_______
was absent on the following dates:
_____________________________________
____________
Because:
_____________________________________
____________

Parent/Guardian
Signed____________________Date_______
Community Announcements

Disclaimer

Advertisements are accepted for insertion in this newsletter in good faith and in the belief that the goods and /or services offered are genuine. Inclusion of business advertisements is on a payment basis, and does not, unless specifically stated, imply support for that business or their services or products. Community notices are accepted without charge, subject to space being available.

HIPPY is a FREE program for parents with 4 years olds who will be going to school in 2013.

Your home tutor brings you workbook activities to do at home with your child to help them get ready for school. It’s lots of fun and easy to do.

- HIPPY - Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters – for parents/carers who have a child who will be going to school in 2013.
- HIPPY acknowledges that you are your child’s first and best teacher.
- HIPPY parents learn how to be more involved in their child’s learning.
- Another HIPPY parent who is trained as a home tutor will support you in how to do the activities with your child at home.

To find out more about HIPPY or enrol in this free program phone Joanne Colquhoun on 9628 0897 or ask for a brochure at your school office.

W.I.R.E.S.

Thomas the Tank Engine
I South American barbeque

February 25, 2012
10 am -4 pm
Creative Spirit Centre
M Centre
40 Stirling Rd
Minchinbury
Visit the website for more information on
www.creavespiritcentre.com.au