**Excellent Extracurricular Activities at EPS**

Extracurricular activities are an essential part of the learning process and in developing the whole child. Participating in extracurricular activities, actually bring with them many benefits. Allowing your child to get involved in extracurricular activities at school is a positive choice, and it can be very important in helping them to develop many skills inclusive of leadership, teamwork, organisation and problem solving. These skills can be transferred into other areas of learning. Extracurricular activities also help children learn to juggle many tasks at once, it allows them to discover their talents, improve their academic performance and behaviour.

At EPS we enhance student learning by providing some extracurricular activities within school time. We encourage all our students to take part in these activities as they provide experiences that are not usually included in academic areas of study. In terms 2 and 3 our extracurricular activities include the Dancesport Challenge, Debating, PSSA Soccer and Showcase and over the years EPS students have achieved great success in these activities.

**Dancesport Challenge** lessons have started with a professional dance teacher and supervised by Mrs Sippel. Students participating in this activity have the opportunity to perform at the most spectacular event in September at the Homebush Sports Centre. In 2013, two of our students achieved 4th place in the Salsa dance from 29 other school and over 700 students. This activity is for Year 5 and Year 4 students with some places made available to Year 6. There are still some places left so if your child is in Year 4, 5 or 6 see Mrs Sippel to join this group as soon as possible.

**Debating** is led and coordinated by Ms Roth. It is an extracurricular activity offered to Stage 3 but this year Ms Roth has opened it to Year 4 students who are keen to develop their skills. In 2013 the EPS debating team were a force to be reckoned with, winning a place in the finals. This past week the Arts Unit ran a workshop at Matraville PS to begin the debating season in which our students attended and demonstrated excellent debating/public speaking skills. They are looking forward to some very competitive debating rounds.

**PSSA Soccer** is an interschool competition held each Friday at Tempe. Ms Santopietro coordinates this activity. Last year EPS were the PSSA Junior Soccer Champions and we hope to build on our successes this year. This activity is open to Years 3, 4,5 and 6 students.

**Showcase** is an extracurricular activity that is offered to students in Years 1, 2, 3 and 6. Ms Martin supervises this activity and Ms Vicki Hunt is choreographing our performance for this year. Students will perform with other schools in the Botany Bay Network at South Sydney Juniors.

*If you require financial assistance to meet or partially meet the cost of a school activity please contact the office.*
**Mother’s Day Assembly**
What a fantastic turnout from our mums and grandmothers at our annual Mother’s Day Assembly! A big thank you to 2-1V who did an outstanding job in hosting as well as performing that fabulous dance. 1S and 2SH recited beautiful poems for the mums in the audience who had big smiles on their faces. We hope all our beautiful EPS mothers and grandmothers enjoyed Mother’s Day with their loved ones.

**Mother’s Day Stall**
Thank you to the P&C for coordinating and running the Mother’s Day Stall and to all the lovely mums who helped with the wrapping and selling of the gifts at the Mother’s Day Stall. All students had the opportunity to purchase something special to give mum on Mother’s Day.

**Cross Country**
We had our cross-country school carnival with all students turning the ages 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 taking part in their age event. A small group of students from each age group who ran the best times around the course will be given the opportunity to attend the Zone Cross Country to compete against other schools on May 20.
School Plan 2015-2017
Our school plan has been endorsed by Susan Shelley, Botany Bay Network Director Public Schools NSW, and our strategic directions for 2015-2017 are Quality Learning and Teaching; Quality Relationships and High Expectations and Quality Practices. The school plan will be on the school website for your perusal. We look forward to working with the whole school community in implementing these strategic directions.

Annual School Report 2014
The annual school report is a record of the school’s self evaluation process and provides information on:
- Staff and student cohort
- Student performance outcomes in national and state-wide tests
- Student achievement in the arts and sport
- Significant programs and initiatives offered by the school
- School self-evaluation of performance and progress on targets; and
- Targets for improvement for the coming year.
Our annual school report 2014 has now been published on the school’s website

National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy – NAPLAN
NAPLAN is an annual assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN tests the sort of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar, punctuation) and numeracy. NAPLAN is one aspect of the school’s assessment and reporting process; they do not replace the extensive ongoing assessments made by teachers about each student’s performance.
NAPLAN assess literacy and numeracy skills that students have already been learning through the school curriculum.
The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to reassure them that NAPLAN tests are just one part of their school program, and to urge them to simply do the best they can on the day. The use of services by coaching providers is not recommended.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAPLAN timetable</th>
<th>Tuesday 12 May -</th>
<th>Wednesday 13 May</th>
<th>Thursday 14 May</th>
<th>Friday 15 May</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Language Conventions - 40 Minutes Writing - 40 minutes</td>
<td>Reading - 45 minutes</td>
<td>Numeracy - 45 Minutes</td>
<td>Catch up for any students who are absent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Language Conventions - 40 Minutes Writing - 40 Minutes</td>
<td>Reading - 50 minutes</td>
<td>Numeracy - 50 Minutes</td>
<td>Catch up for any students who are absent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OC Applications
Online applications opened on Monday 27 April 2015 and close 10 pm Friday 15 May 2015. Late applications will not be accepted. All applications must be made online at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ocplacement.
In Maths this term we have been:

1. Making angles with our bodies

2. Drawing and labelling angles

3. Learning to measure length and perimeter

4. Learning to measure area

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Do you want to make a difference in the life of a child?

Local foster carers needed

Family and Community Services are seeking people in the local area to provide short term and crisis foster care for children and young people 0-18 years that are unable to live with their own families.

Individuals, couples and families from varied backgrounds and cultural groups are required. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are encouraged to apply.

All carers receive training, ongoing support and financial assistance.

If you are interested in making a difference and helping children reach their full potential, please call 02 9765 5000 or email fosteringwithfacs@facs.nsw.gov.au
**Premier’s Reading Challenge Online entry**

This week instructions for submitting your child’s Reading Challenge entry together with your child’s username and password have been sent home. In order to complete the Challenge your child’s books will need to be entered online.

Any parents who are uncertain or are having difficulty with doing this are welcome to drop into the library on Monday or Tuesday at 3pm for assistance and/or clarification.

Congratulations to Salma from 4/3S who is our first Eastlakes student to finish the 2015 Challenge. Here is her favourite book:

*Wheelnuts! Craziest Race on Earth!*

This book was about a race that involved scary things, weird things and there were no rules so that the competitors could do anything to win it! I enjoyed reading this story because it was a bit funny and I love the parts when the competitors used their amazing tools to try to make others lose because the tools were awesome!

All students who complete the Challenge will have the opportunity to share their favourite book in our newsletter. There is no hurry to finish as the Challenge does not have to be completed until the middle of August.

It is not too late to start the Challenge! Any students who would like to participate should see Ms Eaton for a permission slip.

**Number of books**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Premiers reading Challenge books</th>
<th>Free choice books (any books may be read here)</th>
<th>Total number of books</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K-2</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-6</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Congratulations to all our K-6 Students of Weeks 2 & 3**

- KM Arisha
- 1/KCW Selim
- 1S Ahnaf
- 2/1V Maria
- 2SH Aryan
- 4/3S Amira
- 5/4R Catalina
- 6/5M James
- KM Alejandro
- 1/KCW Aathira
- 1S Zoe
- 2/1V Naomi
- 2SH Daniel
- 4/3S Jeffrey
- 5/4R Heidi
- 6/5M Humayra
How to enter your books for the Premier’s Reading Challenge

2. Login – click on Login at top of screen, enter username and password
3. Locate the **Learning** tab then click “More”
4. Locate the Premier’s Reading Challenge link

4b. You may need to login again (on the left-hand side of the screen) **OR**
5. Click on Student Reading Records then **enter the book title** the rest will be auto-generated. Click adds to save the book. Click on **Add choice book** if adding a free choice book

6. Or Enter the book ID: This can be found by looking up the book in the **BOOKLISTS** option which is on the left side of the screen (you may find this option easier for some books)