

# EMU CREEK STATE SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER



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*Emu Creek*  
*A great place to grow*



Tuckshop— Return Monday  
4th March

### General Information

Office Hours 8:30am—3pm

Instrumental—Monday

RI—Monday

Parade - Wednesday  
2:45pm

PE—Thursday

Library - Friday



Friday morning 9-10am  
Starts Fri 9th February

Term 1

Monday 26th February

We have hit the half-way mark of Term 1, and it is wonderful to see our students focused on their learning. In last week's email to parents, I attached a small sample of the "WOW" writing at our school. This was a celebration of some of the great student efforts at Emu Creek. If you haven't already, please take a look. Some students were surprised when they heard their writing was in a special newsletter.

Over the last two weeks, I have been monitoring our Literacy Rotations. These rotations are a very busy and important time of morning where we cover oral language, phonics, spelling, handwriting, reading, phonemic awareness, morphology, vocabulary and literacy support for students. Each aspect of our literacy rotations is aligned with the latest research and evidence in the teaching of reading, and is the 'good first teaching' that all learners need to be successful readers, including those with dyslexia. Not all students will progress at the same rate, and we find that students who read their homework reader every day, are experiencing more success! One of the great success stories of these rotations is when students are moving ahead in leaps and bounds, and we can move them up to the next level or group. Please celebrate these moments with your child.

This week I'd like to acknowledge the hard work of Mrs Donnelly, Mrs Morris and Mrs Cahill, our teacher aides. Without their support and dedication, we would not be able to implement our literacy rotations or provide support for all students. Our teacher aides have developed a toolkit of programs so that we are able to provide your child with the right tool at the right time, and support them in their learning journey. Thank you Mrs Donnelly, Mrs Morris and Mrs Cahill for the amazing job you do every day, especially during our literacy rotations and intervention.

### Homework

Students in Y1, Y2 and some Y3 have a short decodable text that should be read aloud to an adult every night. As stated above, we find that students who read their homework reader every night are experiencing more success. These readers have been picked and match the letter-sound combination taught the week before, and provide the best amount of practice for your child to develop fluency.

We are aware that some students are not reading this every night. How do we know? When homework is handed in, we check in with different students. We have had students say, "I read to myself because Mum/Dad is too busy to listen", "I only do it once a week" or those who don't do it at all. I strongly encourage you to support your child at this age by listening to them read every night.

Whilst we are on the topic of Homework, we have a growing issue with parents doing Homework Hound for the students, or perhaps giving too much help. Again, how do we know? We have had students tell us, "Mum did my Homework Hound" or "Mummy tells me the answers." And another issue is students telling us they couldn't complete Homework Hound because they are banned from devices, but then talk about playing Xbox/PlayStation with their mates, or about all the videos they saw on YouTube. Both Mrs Middleton and myself set tasks in Homework Hound that match what we are teaching in class. **We do not expect every student to get 100%.** We check the results each week, so that we can reinforce the areas where students need help. If your child gets 100%, that indicates to us that they don't need help and are ready to move to the next concept. Please support your child to develop homework routines by providing a time and place for them to do homework, encouraging them to do their homework, and then allowing them to complete Homework Hound independently. Homework Hound was specifically chosen to support busy parents. There is even a speaker symbol in the top right hand corner—if you press this, it will read the question aloud. Thank you for your co-operation with these Homework.



### **Congratulations to our Student Awardees W4-5**

Madie P, Marnie, Carmi, Vincent, Max W, Annabelle, Fin, Luke, Arly, Hudson, Bobbie, Lillyth, Jackson, Kit, Braxton, Theo, Madie S, Immanuel Mackenzie, Max J, Keira, Nisi, Ava, Moriah, Isabelle, Carter, Harry J, Shamilla



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## Chappy

This week, Chappy Andy will join us for the remainder of Term 1 whilst Chappy Annette continues her personal leave. We look forward to working with Chappy Andy, and he looks forward to meeting our students and community. Chappy Andy has been asked to work with students in the playground on playing fairly, and playing sports by the rules.

## Year 6 Leadership Conference

Our Year 6 students attended the Year 6 GRIP Leadership Conference in Highfields last Thursday. Whilst this is a fun, exciting day with lots of 'loud noise', it is also a day for our Y6 students to learn about the characteristics of leadership and discuss their goals and plans as leaders for the school year.

The theme of this year's conference was "STEPS". Good leaders:

- ♦ **Step up** and use their talents.
- ♦ **Step in** and help when they spot a need.
- ♦ **Step out** and try new things.
- ♦ **Step closer** and take actions to befriend and include others.

Leadership can be hard. It takes a community, the parents and school working together to make good leaders. Wouldn't it be great if every person in our community stepped in and helped when there was a need? If they stepped out and tried something new? If they stepped closer to befriend and include others? I encourage all parents to start working with their children on these "Steps" to leadership.

## Playground and After School Sport

At Emu Creek, we have a staff member on duty at all times, and a staff member also volunteers their time to attend after school sport. It is part of our school expectations that students report any problems to this staff member when they happen, so that we are able to investigate and deal with any concerns immediately.

## School Improvement Training

This year, our school has been nominated by the School Supervisor to have an out-of-cycle school lead review. We were chosen for the excellent progress and work that our school has undertaken over the last 3 years. Every school must undertake a school review every 4 years. Our next review was set for Term 3 2025, and it has now been moved forward 12 months to the end of Term 3 2024. As part of this, we have also been nominated to be a 'school lead' review. This means, that rather than 3 unknown educators coming in to ask questions and investigate everything, our school team will be consulting with the students, staff and community to hear your thoughts and ideas about the next step for school improvement at Emu Creek.

To support us in our work, Mrs Schmidt will attend SIT (School Improvement Training) in Brisbane on Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th March. Mrs Middleton will attend SIT on Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th March. Mrs Harris will be the teacher in those classes whilst staff are away. A special reminder—students must have the high standard of behaviour for all teachers, including relief teachers, to get an A for behaviour on their report card.

## P&C News

We look forward to meeting parents at our upcoming P&C Welcome BBQ—tomorrow night, starting 5pm. This will be followed by the P&C AGM.

### **Calendar of Upcoming Events:**

**Tuesday 27th February at 5:00pm** - P&C Welcome BBQ and AGM

**Friday 8th March at 3:15pm at Emu Creek SS** - 150th Fundraising Committee Meeting & AGM (2 meeting times to suit more community members)

**Friday 8th March at 6:30pm at Get Chopped Pub Greenmount** - 150th Fundraising Committee Meeting & AGM (2 meeting times to suit more community members)

**Saturday 15-17th March**—Cambooya Camp Draft

**Saturday 16th March at Emu Creek SS** - Election Day BBQ (for Whole School Excursions Committee)

**Saturday 16th March at Emu Creek SS** - Selling Easter Raffle Tickets at Election Day (for P&C)

**Saturday 16th March at Emu Creek SS** - Election Day Bake Sale (for 150th Fundraising Committee)

**Saturday 11th May at 6:00pm at Greenmount Hall** - Trivia Night (Hosted by Emu Creek SS 150th Fundraising Committee)

Emma  
P&C Secretary

