Principal’s Message

It was delightful to see many families attend the ‘Parent Information Sessions’. These sessions enable teachers to advise parents of curriculum and programs for 2016. Please remember to always contact your child’s teacher and make an appointment via the school office to discuss any concerns you may have during the school year. Areas of concern are usually rectified more quickly if addressed early.

We have an experienced and dynamic leadership team:

Rosemary Stevens – Early Stage 1 Relieving Assistant Principal
Samantha Day – Stage 1 Assistant Principal
Lee-Anne Culnane – Stage 2 (Mon-Wed) Assistant Principal
Narelle MacKenzie – Stage 2 (Thurs-Fri) Relieving Assistant Principal
Karen Sparrow – Stage 3 Relieving Assistant Principal

The Ermington community is a supportive and collaborative one. It is wonderful to be a part of such a caring and committed team. I would like to thank the P&C for coordinating the Welcome BBQ last Friday. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet new families to our school.

Parent Volunteers

We are very appreciative of all our parent volunteers in the classrooms and around the school. Please ensure the ‘Working with Children Check’ form is completed and returned to the school office. Thank you to the parents that have already submitted their forms.

Relieving Principal
Jennifer Claro

Swimming Carnival

A friendly reminder that ALL money and permission notes must be in by this Thursday, 18th February. Year 2 students that are turning 8 must be able to swim 50m to be permitted to attend the carnival. If they cannot swim 50m, these students will remain at school.

Money Days

School money collection days are from Monday – Thursday only. No money will be accepted by teachers or office staff on a Friday. Thank you for your cooperation.

Stage News

Kindy

Welcome to Week 4! Our sight words for this week are 'can', 'run', 'hop' and 'to'. Our sounds are 'p' and 'n'. Scripture classes begin on Thursday morning at 10am. Children who are not in a scripture group will be under supervision in the hall. We would like to invite you to the first K-6. Assembly for the year which will be held in the hall this Thursday, 18th February and commencing promptly at 2.05pm. Finally, please remember to send in your Internet Permission form which was in the Information Book. The children need a signed permission form in order to use the computers or iPads at school. Hope to see you at the Assembly and have a great week!
Stage 1
Stage 1 is busy working and learning. Please send in an A4 lined notebook (if you have not already done so) for your child to glue in and bring home their homework each week. Also purchase and send in any other school supplies that were on the list supplied by the school for your class. Notes for the Field of Mars excursion have gone home. Please return these ASAP to your child's teacher. Our first K-6 assembly is this Thursday, 18th February at 2.05pm. Please come along if you are available. Reading folders went home this week. Please fill the reading log out each night while your child reads to you and return the folders to school every day. Daily reading with your child is an important part of their homework each week and an excellent time for you to share with them. Please do not neglect it. Classroom parent helpers begin next week - thank you to those who have volunteered to give some time to help in the classroom.

Stage 2
Welcome to Week 4. Students enjoyed their first lesson of Life Skills last week. They learned how to be mindful and calm in all situations by learning various strategies. Students were taught different body movements that promote good posture and practised deep breathing. Thank you to the lovely P&C and volunteers for organising a wonderful welcome BBQ last Friday. We hope you all had a fantastic evening. This is a reminder that scripture will start this Thursday from 9:30-10:00. The first K-6 School Assembly for the year will commence this Thursday at 2:05pm in the hall. We hope to see you there!

Stage 3
Thank you to those parents who attended the "Meet the Teacher" night last week. Stage 3 teachers enjoyed the opportunity to meet their students' parents and begin a year of working together to educate their children. A big thanks to those parents who offered to help out in the classroom or to complete any jobs needed doing at home. Your help is invaluable! Thanks particularly to those parents who have already helped by covering books. They look great!

A reminder to parents with children in 6J that your Meet the Teacher night was rescheduled and is now on tomorrow, Wednesday, 17th February from 5.00pm-5.30pm.

Please remember to label all your children's supplies and uniform so we can return them if they are lost. 6J parents are reminded to bring in black and white wool for an upcoming craft activity and Miss Grover has asked that all students in 5G bring in their own whiteboard marker for use with the mini whiteboards.

Year 5 camp notes have gone home and there is already an excited buzz among the students as they anticipate their first school camp. The first payment is now due. Please ensure you send the payment and medical forms to school with your child (or pay online) if you have not already done so.

Around the school
School Swimming Carnival
If there are any parents who would like to assist timing or judging at next week’s swimming carnival please see Mrs MacKenzie or Mrs Clarke.

PSSA
Softball and T-ball are playing at Bill Mitchell Reserve. Cricket will be playing at Meadowbank Park. Buses leave school at 12.20pm.

Kiss and Ride Roster
At the end of 2015 we had lost some parent volunteers for the Kiss and Ride service that is provided to EPS. If you can help with this school service, please contact Colette E: colettegrundy@yahoo.com.au

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>15.2.16</td>
<td>Megan G</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>16.2.16</td>
<td>Leanne N</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>17.2.16</td>
<td>Narelle Mac</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>18.2.16</td>
<td>Kylie S</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>19.2.16</td>
<td>Robyn Max</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>22.2.16</td>
<td>Peter S</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>23.2.16</td>
<td>Megan G</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>25.2.16</td>
<td>Colette G</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
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<td>Mel H</td>
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Shoes for Planet Earth
We are again collecting second hand running shoes to be donated to various locations including, for example, homeless shelters, youth crises centres and women's refuges in Parramatta. We would like your help. If your children need new runners for this year as they have outgrown their old ones, please consider whether someone else could get some use from them and send them to school.

The shoes need to be in good condition, with no holes and good soles! Also needed are any spare inner soles and shoe laces. Please wash your runners and tie them together. We cannot take any other types of shoes – only adults or children runners.

There will be a box at the school office during the first few weeks back at school where children can deliver their unwanted runners.

You can read more about Shoes for Planet Earth at www.shoesforplanetearth.com/about-us/soul-journey/

For more information please contact Belinda Barnes on E: belinda.barnes@exploreanddevelop.com.au
VOLUNTEERS DESPERATELY NEEDED‼
We still need volunteers for Mondays and Tuesdays. Wednesdays will remain closed.

“WHY SHOULD I VOLUNTEER?”
There are many benefits to volunteering! You will make new friends, you can improve or learn new skills for future employment, you will definitely have a few laughs with a great bunch of people, and most important of all, you will be doing something very worthwhile for your school community. If you can spare a full day, or even a half day you will find that volunteering in the canteen is an enjoyable & rewarding way to help your school and your children will definitely love it!
If you can help, please contact Wendy 0412154004.

CHANGE/COINS – Don’t forget to give your children coins, no notes please!

CANTEEN ROSTER
Wednesday CLOSED
Thursday 18/2 Alison, Melinda, Louise (pm)
Friday 19/2 Wendy, Robyn M, Sonja

Monday 22/2 Wendy, Anna, Jinny
Tuesday 23/2 Nirmali, HELP NEEDED
Wednesday CLOSED
Thursday 25/2 Clarissa, Kate B, Alex (9-11.30)
Friday 26/2 Wendy, Mel, Karen

If you are unable to work your shift please try to find a replacement, if you can’t, contact Wendy wlarocca@optusnet.com.au

Newsletter Deadline
Articles should be submitted electronically to the School Office by 12 noon Monday. These should be sent to: ermington-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Subject: Newsletter Insert

The school often publishes information on behalf of community groups – parents need to decide on the appropriateness of activities involving their child. It is the responsibility of each parent to research the bona fides of any organisation in which you wish for your child to be involved. The school accepts no responsibility with regard to advertisements placed in the newsletter. Parents and guardians should make their own decision.
DMA Computers
Service since 1989
6A Marsden Road, Ermington (next to KFC car park)
Phone: 9874 8466

- Broken Screen Repair
- Screen Protection – from $3
- Mobile phone holders / chargers / cables

Samsung
Galaxy Tab
iPad
iPhone

Kids Karate at Ermington PS
Tuesday afternoons
3:15pm, 4:00pm & 4:45pm
$9 per class for beginners
boys & girls 5 - 12 years old
Register for a FREE trial class
at keymartialarts.com.au

1300 304 532
fb.com/keymartialarts.au

Dundas Valley Junior Rugby Union Club
Free Registration
Under 6’s to Under 17’s
Contact: Margaret – 0406 106 621 or 9613 5369
Email: dvjrj@hotmail.com
Registration Day – 20th February
Vikings Sports Club, Quarry Road, Dundas Valley

Ask about a healthier, whiter smile today.
Call Elite Dental on 9807 1682
www.elitedental.com.au
1/1 Maxim Street, West Ryde

CHECKLIST OF OUTDOOR CHALLENGES

1. Climb a tree
2. Roll down a really big hill
3. Camp out in the wild
4. Build a den
5. Skate some
6. Run around in the rain
7. Fly a kite
8. Catch a fish with a net
9. Eat an apple straight from a tree
10. Play conkers
11. Throw some snowballs
12. Hunt for treasure on the beach
13. Make a mud pie
14. Dam a stream
15. Go sledge
16. Bury someone in the sand
17. Set up a snail race
18. Balance on a fallen tree
19. Swing on a rope swing
20. Make a mud slide
21. Eat blackberries growing in the wild
22. Take a look inside a tree
23. Visit an island
24. Feel like you’re flying in the wind
25. Make a grasshopper
26. Hunt for fossils and bones
27. Watch the sun wake up
28. Climb a huge hill
29. Get behind a waterfall
30. Feed a bird from your hand
31. Hunt for bugs
32. Find one frogspawn
33. Catch a butterfly in a net
34. Track wild animals
35. Discover what’s in a pond
36. Call an owl
37. Check out the crazy creatures in a rock pool
38. Bring up a butterfly
39. Catch a crab
40. Go on a nature walk at night
41. Plant it, grow it, eat it
42. Go wild swimming
43. Go rafting
44. Light a fire without matches
45. Find your way with a map and compass
46. Try bouldering (a form of rock climbing)
47. Cook on a campfire
48. Try abseiling
49. Play geocaching (A hi-tech form of hide and seek using a GPS receiver to locate hidden treasure)
50. Canoe down a river

How many of the things on the list have you done?

Fiona Reynolds, director general of the National Trust, said many adults remember a time when, as children, they roamed around unsupervised all day – something unthinkable for many youngsters today.

She said: “Children today are completely unfamiliar with that feeling.

“They need to be given the confidence and the skills to go into the wood and build a den or climb a