Term 4 Week 3
24 October 2014

Dates to Remember

October
27 - Gymnastics
28 – DDSW Band Camp
29 – Leadership Shortlist announced
30 – Band trip to Qld Orchestra
31 – World Teacher’s Day
31 – Freaky Friday
31 – Fun Swim Years 1 – 3/4

November
5 – TSHS Orientation Day Year 7
6 - TSHS Orientation Day Year 6
6 – 2015 Leadership speeches
7 – Newsletter
7 – Fun Swim Years 4/5 - 7
21 – Arts Council

From the Principal’s Desk

Unexplained Absences
I wish to remind parents and caregivers that they must inform the school if their child is going to be absent from school for even one day. Looking at our data this week I noted that Unexplained Absences at our school are rising quite rapidly. Last year from January to September there were 781 days of unexplained absence and this year for the same period we are up to 980 days. This is alarming. I must urge you to contact us and let us know the reason why any student is not at school. This allows us to put a different code other than a “U” Code beside your child’s name. There are nearly 20 other Codes which we can use to explain types of absences. I look forward to your cooperation of this.

Proportion of Personal and Disciplinary Absences

Absence Reason

Unexplained Illness Other Holiday Disciplinary

Year 6 and Year 7 students enrolling at TSHS. Please have your enrolment forms to their office by 4 Nov.

Esk State School's Explicit Improvement Agenda
Our agenda for improvement is to improve Teaching Practice, Deliver a high quality Curriculum, Build and Foster Partnerships, and Leadership and Capability.

Esk State School
49 East Street, Esk Q 4312
Phone: 07 5424 4111 Fax: 07 5424 4100
Absentee Messages: 07 5424 4160
Email: admin@eskss.eq.edu.au
Web: www.eskss.eq.edu.au

Be Respectful
Be Safe
Be a Learner

Parents and Citizens' Association
Email: pandc@eskss.eq.edu.au
Meetings: 3rd Monday of the Month
Absences cont.....

You can see from the pie graph, on page one, that unexplained absences are making up half of all absences. The bar graph shows us that in the last two weeks we have had 95% attendance across the school on three days. This is great! We can also see that many of our students are currently suffering from Fridayitis. Parents and Caregivers please work on getting students to school and if they are unable to attend you must let us know why. Thank you!!

Responsibilities of Parents Regards Student Attendance

• ensure their child arrives at school or commences their educational program on time every day
• ensure their child attends school or their educational program every school day
• minimise disrupting their child’s school day so their child has the best opportunity to learn
• contact the school prior to any planned absences
• provide an explanation (preferably in writing) for each absence, either before or as soon as possible within 2 days of the child’s return to school. This may take the form of:
  o a medical certificate
  o a written explanation note containing the student’s name, date of absence(s) and reasons for absence(s)
  o a verbal explanation to the school through either a phone call (Student Absence Line:- 54244160) or visit to the school
  o any other form of communication agreed by the Principal.
• ensure their child follows the school’s recommended processes and procedures for late arrival and early departure.
• notify the school if their child will be late using the school’s recommended communication processes. This may take the form of:
  o accompanying the child to the school
  o phoning the school
  o providing the child with a signed and dated note.

The Move to High School
The move from primary to high school can be a time of excitement and new experiences. It can also be challenging or worrying for some students. Helping your child prepare for high school and making them feel supported will reduce the risk of disengagement from school in the future.

What to Expect

• **Relationships** – your child will meet new people, make new friends, and need to re-establish their position within a peer group.
• **School work** – your child will need to adapt to new teaching and assessment styles, cope with a wide range of subjects, adjust to having different teachers and classrooms, become more responsible for their own learning, manage a heavier study and homework load, and learn a new and more complex timetable.
• **Getting around** – your child will have to adjust to a new school site, get to class on time with the correct books and materials, and possibly cope with new transport arrangements.
• **Adolescent developmental changes** – your child will be experiencing normal developmental changes during this time (e.g. physical changes, emotional swings, and an increased desire for independence). Peers will become a greater influence in their life.

How can I help my child transition to High School?
Before your child starts:
• Attend parent information/enrolment sessions and open days.
• Take your child to school open days.
• Involve your child in selecting the appropriate school.
• Encourage your child to develop their independence (e.g. look after their own belongings, use a diary to plan their homework and activities, read a timetable).
• Ensure you child has all of the things needed to support their learning (e.g. stationery and books, uniform).
Transition to High School cont........

- Familiarise yourself with the new school’s policies and procedures so you can answer questions and support your child’s decision-making.
- Find out what transitions services and support are offered by your child’s new school which may include visiting the school prior to enrolment.
- Talk to your child before the move happens. Discuss what they’re most looking forward to and what they’re worried about. Give your child lots of reassurance.
- Emphasise the positives and highlight the new opportunities your child will have.
- Involve your child in decision-making (e.g. transport to and from school, selection of school bag and additional school materials, and subject choices if applicable).

During or after the time your child starts high school:

- Find out who your child’s form teacher or year level coordinator is and make contact or ask questions.
- Ensure your child has a suitable place to study at home, away from distractions such as the television or mobile phone. If your child has access to the internet for study, ensure they are visiting appropriate websites.
- Assist your child in developing a homework/study plan and assist with supervision of homework in the junior secondary years.
- Attend parent nights and interviews. Keep in regular contact with class teachers and support staff (email is a great way to do this).
- Encourage your child to join an extra-curricular program offered by the school.
- Discuss your child’s achievement results and reports with them and help them to set future learning goals.
- Talk to other parents to check whether your child’s experiences and feelings are similar to those of others.
- Ensure you maintain consistent routines with your child (e.g. getting ready for school).
- Celebrate milestones with your child (e.g. the first day, first week, end of term).

Graduation Slide Show – YOUR HELP URGENTLY NEEDED!!

Each year we make a slide show of our graduating students’ time at primary school. This year we will be making the “movie” for both Year 6 and 7. A vital part of the movie’s structure is the photos of the students which we pull together from our files. But we also need two photos from you; one baby photo and one first day of school photo. Please send these in urgently to the office in an envelope with your child’s name written on the front. We will scan them and return them to you. Alternatively you can scan them and email them yourself to admin@eskss.eq.edu.au – jpeg format please.

Administration

Arts Council – 21 November $6 per student. More information and payment envelopes will be in the next newsletter.

Fun Swimming - starts in Week 4 for Years 1 – 3/4 and week 5 for Years 4/5 - 7 and goes for 5 weeks. The cost is $5.00 per student (Years 1 to 7 only). Some of you may have already paid for this at the start of 2014. If you are unsure that you have paid, please call our office on 5424 4111 to check prior to sending in payment with your child. Please remember that any money coming into the Administration Office needs to be placed in a sealed envelope with the following details written on the front – student’s name, roll class, what the payment is for, and the dollar amount enclosed.

Electronic Devices, Phones etc - Please reiterate with your children that any phones, electronic devices, etc. are handed in to the Office for safekeeping, immediately upon entering the school grounds. These items may be collected after the 2:45pm bell. Toys from home are also discouraged from being brought to school at any time.

Sport – Mrs Rollston

Reminder for Term 4: Swimming in PE lessons for ALL classes will begin in week 3. Please make sure your child has all their swimming gear ready. Year 6/7 will be on Wednesdays (10:15). Year 1 (12:15), 1/2 (11:30), 2/3 (1:30), 3/4 (10:00), 4/5 (8:45) and 5/6 (9:30) classes will be on Thursdays. Preps will swim on Friday mornings after Parade. Children need to wear their swimmers, a sun shirt and a swimming cap in the pool. They also need to bring a towel and may bring goggles if required. Please make sure everything (swimming gear and school uniforms) is clearly named. If any parents/caregivers are able to help in or out of the pool it would be greatly appreciated, especially in the younger classes. Having smaller groups means more swimming for the children. If you are able to help please let your children’s teacher know. Swimming is part of the curriculum and is compulsory. The office will be notified of students who repeatedly don’t swim.

Thanks to the eight mums who helped out in the pool with the Prepies today. Your help is hugely appreciated. Each student was able to get quality swimming time.
Music – Mr Smith

Last Wednesday approximately 120 children took part in entertaining the Esk Over 50’s Club at the Esk CWA Hall, under the direction of Mr Adam Smith – Music Teacher and Mrs Andrea Oxenford who accompanied the Senior Choir on the piano. They played and sang the following items:

School Concert Band
Spirit of the Wolf, Andromedia, and Surprise Symphony.

The Junior Choir made up of students from Prep - Year 3, sang three songs – Roar, Sweetly Sings the Donkey, and Soft Kitty

The Senior Choir with students from Year 4 – Year 7 sang Al Yadil, Pat Works on the Railway and Homeward Bound, with a solo performance in Homeward Bound.

The President of the Esk Over 50’s Club presented each student with a snack made up of Chips and a drink, to thank them for their performance.

We were so proud of their presentation, behaviour and their performances. Thank You!

Literacy and Numeracy Support – Mrs Oxenford

Free access to counselling in Esk for children 11 years and under

Child ATAPS (Access To Allied Psychological Services) provides up to 18 FREE counselling sessions for children 11 years and under in Esk. The first step is to visit your GP and ask for your child to receive help from ATAPS. A psychologist regularly visits the Somerset Civic Centre here in Esk. Six free sessions are provided initially. If you require more sessions you can return to your GP and ask for more help. You can access up to 18 free sessions in total.

The same help is available for children 12 and over as well as adults however there is a waiting list for these age groups. You can still visit your GP and ask for help from ATAPS. Help can be fast-tracked depending on your situation.

Year 4 and Year 6 Project 600 update.

This week the Year 4 Project 600 students have been learning how to Skim and Scan.

• All good readers skim & scan before they read a text more closely.
• Good readers skim when they want a general idea of what a text is about.
• Good readers scan to quickly locate important information in a text.
• Skimming & scanning doesn’t take long, but leads to a lot of sound predictions about a text. They help the reader get ready to read.
• While skimming and scanning, think about what you already know about the text.

Head Lice

We have reported cases of Head Lice. Please check your child/ren’s hair regularly and treat as necessary.

Food For Thought – Mr Sanderson

PhD, MEd (Res.), BEd (E.C.), BA (Hons.)

Head Lice

We have reported cases of Head Lice. Please check your child/ren’s hair regularly and treat as necessary.
Many of the chemicals now being added to our food are recent inventions. They are almost always added for economic reasons such as prolonging product shelf-life, increasing flavour and taste, and making the product look and smell appealing. The body doesn’t know what to do with these chemicals and tries to get rid of them as it would any other foreign element it detects - by making you thirsty, vomit, go to the toilet, or through the sinuses or skin. Changes in diet can help mitigate against many chronic skin conditions such as hives, eczema, urticaria, dermatitis, and even psoriasis.

This is a story from a mum who changed the diet of her child who was suffering from eczema.

“I just want to say that I am very thankful for the Failsafe diet, all the books, groups like this and support from people near and far. I have had my family on the strict failsafe diet for 9 days now and my daughter’s eczema has reduced by about 80%!! It’s incredible as a few days ago there looked to be no improvement and it was like a switch has turned her eczema off. The only patches left are a handful of really deep ones that I am sure will disappear in another week or so. So exciting!!!

Another big win was yesterday my daughter went to a birthday party and I packed her failsafe party food and drink. On pick up time she was zooming about with her friends so I assumed just another crazy party with a meltdown to occur around dinner time. Once in the car she settled immediately and we got on with our evening with her chatting happily about the party. No tantrums, negative attitude, harsh words, nothing! It’s times like these when you eat yet another serve of only beans and potato (I miss my carrot and broccoli) that you realise time and effort well spent - Tameka from the Failsafe facebook group (http://fedup.com.au/stories/2014/1275-like-a-switch-it-turned-her-eczema-off-august-2014)

Of course, this is not medical advice and should not be taken as medical advice. You should always consult a doctor on matters of health.

### Around our School

**Student Council - Mrs Smith**

**Freaky Friday and Ice Cream Spider Day - Mrs Smith**

Freaky Friday will be on Friday 31 October. Students are encouraged to come in Freaky Dress or Free Dress for the cost of $2. Please ensure that all clothing is appropriate for school. 2 scoops of vanilla ice cream in a cup with a spoon can be purchased for $2. Children can also purchase a drink (soft drink, juice or water) and a straw for $2. If children wish to have all three items they can buy a Freaky Deal for $5. Children can pre-pay or pay on the day.

**Movie Day - Mrs Smith**

Movie Day will be held on Monday 24 November. The Movies being offered will include- The Lego Movie (PG), Rio 2 (G), Elf (G) and How to Train Your Dragon 2 (PG). Please note that children who wish to watch a PG movie will need to return a permission slip. Further details including prices will be in the next newsletter.

We have had donated 6 little Belgian d’Uccle bantams. The children are having fun learning and caring for the young chicks. These new chicks will replace our older bantams, which will be retired at the end of the year to a nearby farm.
**Star Pupils**

**Prep**
Great Maths and extra packing up.

**Year One**
Eily Hewson – Always being an engaged learner.

**Year One/Two**
Outstanding narrative writing.

**Year Two/Three**
Efficient use of time to complete his English tasks.
Always having his equipment ready to start learning.

**Year Three/Four**
Being a Learner and concentrating on her work.
Consistently setting high standards as a safe, respectful learner.

**Year Four/Five**
Well done at QEII

**Year Five/Six**
Consistently working hard in all subject areas.
Great participation in maths discussions and activities.

**Year Six/Seven**
Outstanding work with negative numbers.
Outstanding work with negative numbers.
Working hard and smiling big!

**Special Award**

**Prep**
Trying hard with handwriting.

**Year One**
Outstanding homework efforts.

**Year One/Two**
Always respecting classroom rules and great handwriting.

**Year Two/Three**
Having a go with his English speech.
Always willing to share at sharing time.

**Year Three/Four**
No Awards this fortnight.

**Year Four/Five**
Great effort in your spoken presentation.

**Year Five/Six**
A beautiful “Solo Performance” at the Esk Over 50’s event.
Great effort with homework.
Great effort with homework.

**Year Six/Seven**
Outstanding work in Geography research.
Finishing his work in a timely fashion.

**Gotcha Gem Cards**

**Peridot (20 Gotchas)**
Emily FitzGerald, Bailey Hewson, Aidan James, Kiyah Matheson, Richard Maeson, Karri Flanders, Emily Halford, Jed Hall, Connor Heath, Damien McCabe, Cody Monagle, Ayrton Werner, Blake Laycock, Aydan Forsyth

**Opal (40 Gotchas)**
Matiu Elkington, Trent Gibson, Paige Heath, Alex McLeod

**Garnet (60 Gotchas)**
Illara Jenkins, Ethan Lewis, Hayden Newell, Bradley Beddow

**Amethyst (80 Gothchas)**
Isaac Green

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**Mathletics Certificates**

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**Project 600 – Numeracy Awards**

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**Around the Classrooms**

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**Prep – Mrs Richter**
There has been one report of bullous lesions at Prep. If your child has blisters that you are concerned about, please cover and consult your Doctor.

The Prep open day is coming up on the 7th of November. I will be staying at Prep and Miss Rhonda will be taking the preps to swimming on this morning. It would be great to have some extra Prep Parents at the pool on that day.

**Year 1 – Mrs Kitching**
Year One have started the final term in brilliant fashion. We are very busy learning about traditional stories from other cultures and retelling these in drama, writing and picture form.

In Science we are learning about Sight and Sound and how we use these concepts in our daily life.

In History we are looking at the roles and relationships within our families and how these may have changed over time.

In Maths this week we have looked at doubles plus one and are trying to consolidate this information for instant recall.

We began our swimming lessons yesterday and some of us have grown quite a bit so touching the bottom of the pool with our heads out should no longer be a problem!

Finally we are all very excited to be working towards our class reward this term. If we reach 40 gotchas per person you may just see some Super heroes out and about on the second last Friday of term!

**Year 1/2 – Mr Sanderson**
Last week, a whole bunch of Little Eskies went off with the school’s senior and junior choirs to sing for the Over 50s at the CWA hall. All reports gave the entire event a big round of applause and the Little Eskies came back with various comments of enthusiasm and excitement (e.g., “There were millions of people in the audience”; “We walked a thousand miles”; and, “It was fun”).

The Little Eskies have also started their narrative writing unit and each of your budding future novelists has embraced the form with exuberance and eagerness (are you seeing an alliteration pattern forming?). Our Buddy Class-mates are assisting us develop a multimodal presentation for our narratives. This entails getting on the computer and finding images that support the text or for one group (pictured) just waiting for that one big creative burst from their Muse.

Mr Sanderson was away on professional development on Monday this week – sort of school for teachers! You’re never too old to learn something new.

**Year 2/3 – Mrs McTaggart**
Thank you to the parents that have returned their Parent Helper Forms. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. I have returned the forms home with your child with the times you have nominated highlighted. If there are any more forms that still need to be handed in please return them, as all assistance is appreciated. We still need help with changing Home Readers on Monday,
Tuesday, Thursday or Friday. Also we require assistance with listening to Sight words on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday. If you are able to help with Reading Groups on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday please let me know by returning the form. If a new form is required let the office know and they can print another one for you.

**Year 3/4 – Ms Vaughan**

In Year 3/4 we read Australian Curriculum picture books and novels and will participate in the Accelerated Reading (AR) program. We also take time to ‘read for pleasure’ as a group and individually.

For reading pleasure, we are currently reading *The 26th Storey Treehouse* by Andy Griffith and Terry Denton. We have finished reading the *13th Storey Treehouse*, which was thoroughly enjoyed by the whole class. This series is written and illustrated with very imaginative humour which is entertaining for both children and adults.

The Home Reading program is continuing this term. Students can either bring books home from school or read texts of their choice at home. 15-30 minutes reading each night is recommended.

**Year 4/5 – Mrs Nan**

We have now all completed our Spoken Presentation. Well done to all the students for a great effort. We are now working on Investigating Advertisements so children will be asked to bring in some form of advertisement during the next few weeks. We are also well into our Technology and most children have started constructing their Amazing Animal. Although I have many of the resources needed some children decided to use items not on my list. These items need to be brought from home. We usually do Technology on a Friday but this could change if we have any spare time.

**Year 5/6 – Mrs Dolan & Mr Okulov**

Mr Okulov has been working with the class on measurement in Maths and in Science the students have been learning about circuits and what is needed to make a circuit. This week they will be investigating conductors and insulators. Our Year 5 students have been busy completing their Leadership 2015 forms which were handed in on Friday last week. Now we are waiting excitedly for the Leadership 2015 Shortlist to be announced next week. Good luck everyone! Congratulations to and who have achieved a Gotcha Peridot Award and who is the first in the class to achieve his second card – a Gotcha Opal Award. Excellent work boys!

**Year 6/7 – Mrs Smith**

In Maths we are currently working on Order of Operations. Students will be tested on their knowledge with a written test on Monday 3 November. We will then start work on Division. Swimming Lessons have started this week and Fun Swim for our class will start in Week 5. Please add these new dates to your Term Calendar:


2. Science Test on Circuits will be on Wednesday 12 November.

3. History Test will be on Wednesday 19 November.

**Year 6 & Year 7 Students – Mrs Smith & Mrs Dolan**

We have started work on the Year Book with the Students in Years 6 & 7. We need a baby photo of each child, a first day of school photo (or an early year’s one) from each child and any group photos of school events.

Thanks to these children who have sent in all the required photos.

We have no photos as yet from these students.

We need baby photos from:

We need first day of school or early year’s photos from:
Tuckshop – Can you spare two hours on a Tuesday or Thursday morning? **The Tuckshop needs volunteers.** If you can help, please let the admin know or drop into the tuckshop and see Lesley or Kim. Out of our 120+ families we only have four helpers!

**Year 6 and 7 Graduation update**
Thank you to those six Year 6 and 7 parents who attended our recent P&C meeting to discuss the Year 6 and 7 Graduation Evening. It was unanimously decided not to provide a sit down dinner for the night but rather the P&C facilitate a sausage sizzle.

Jump Rope for Heart awarded a certificate to Esk State School thanking us for raising over $1000.00 for the Heart Foundation. Thank you to all the parents/caregivers who once again supported this worthy cause. A full review will be included in the next newsletter.
at second break after Graduation night followed by a pool party for the Year 6 and 7 students in third session. **Could any Year 6 and 7 parents who can either assist with the sausage sizzle or donate ingredients for the sizzle & party please contact Mel Hatch-Green, Michael Rollston or Bec FitzGerald - to date we have one parent donating goods and one parent helping with the sausage sizzle. Please let us know if you can donate or help. Thank you...**

**Aus Lotto Fundraiser**
This runs for 8 weeks - which works out to $2.25/week. Numbers are $20 each and if your number is drawn you win $40 cash. Draw to commence once all numbers are sold. Thanks to those families who have purchased numbers. Come on folks, please support this fundraiser, put your $20 in an envelope with your preferred number and pop into the P&C box in the office admin area. Thank you!

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**Community News**

**Swimming Caps** – Esk Pharmacy has a large stock of swimming caps. Swimming caps are $2.50 each but if you mention you are from Esk State School they will give you a 10% discount on the caps.

**Esk & District Junior Cricket News.**
Welcome to the new cricket season at Esk & District Junior Cricket club. A big welcome back to our players, coaches and supporters from last season. Not to mention a very special welcome to the new players and parents to the club!

Our next game is on the 25th October & 1st November at our home field of McConnel Park in Toogoolawah playing the Hatton Vale/ Mulgowie team. So come along for the morning and cheer on your local boys.
Swimming Lessons at Esk pool.
For ages 4 and onwards.
Squads also available.
Ph: 0487869486

Esk District Junior Cricket Club

Under 14 training will be held each Wednesday at Toogoolawah State School cricket practice wickets at 3:15pm. Training will commence on Wednesday 8th October, 2014.

Toogoolawah PICTURES

Sat., 25th Oct
‘Planes Fire & Rescue’ g
Doors: 7pm Movie: 7.30 – 9.15pm

Sat., 1st Nov
‘Box Trolls’ pg
Child to High School: $6
Adult: $8 Family: $25
Snack Bar. Hot Dogs & Pop Corn
Alexandra Hall, T’wah
Enquiries: 0438149954