Dates to Remember

March
21 – Student Council Movie Day
21 – P&C AGM
22 – Great Attendance Day
23 – Esk Cross Country
24 – Easter Bonnet/Crazy Hat Parade
24 – Last day Term 1

April
11 – First day Term 2
13 – Parent/Teacher interviews
21 – Anzac Day Service
22 – Lowood Cross Country
25 – Public Holiday

May
2 – Public Holiday
3-6 – Mother’s Day Stall
6 – Lockyer Cross Country

School Attendance
School Target = 95%
Last week = 95.3%
This Week = 96.4%

From the Principal’s Desk
The National Young Leaders Day

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

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

Be Safe
Be Respectful
Be a Learner

Great state. Great opportunity.
Young Leaders Day
On Monday we had a most uplifting day attending the National Young Leaders Day at the Brisbane Convention Centre. Our eight School Leaders were in fine form with over 3000 other students from northern New South Wales to Dirranbandi and the Sunshine Coast. Thank you to Mrs Wilkes and Mrs Rollston for doing the long drive.
The theme of the Day was MASTER THE LITTLE! Students heard from four amazing speakers who talked about their leadership journey, and what the little things were that they did that made a difference to the big things and people around them. A video clip which will always stay with me was hearing a top ranking military official from the US talking to his troops about the most important thing he learned in boot camp was . . . “to make your bed! At least if you have a really bad day a made bed gives you a sense of calm, that tomorrow will be a better day!” Our Leaders have written some recounts on what they gained out of the day. Read Alli’s below and the other leaders recounts can be found in the “Around the School” section of the newsletter.

On Monday, seven school leaders and I attended the Young Leaders conference in Brisbane. The teachers that came with us were Mr Crichton, Mrs Rollston and Mrs Wilkes. We travelled by car and train to get to the convention centre. There were many noteworthy speakers, but I enjoyed the panel speaker Sarah Cuslter as she had the best job; Sarah gets to travel the world and try different ice-creams every day, and the best bit – She gets paid! Her main thought is to show self-control and in doing so you are able to create the best version of yourself and you are able to achieve your goals.

By Alli D

Improvement Agenda 2016 - 2019
This year sees the start of our new Improvement Agenda. This comes about as a result of the School Review which was conducted at the end of 2015. Our two pronged, sharp and narrow Improvement Agenda is – Curriculum & Assessment Development and Writing. The work in this area is being developed by our Head of Curriculum – Mrs Larrisa Vale. Larrisa is working with teachers in teams, to work smart in planning and assessing work based on the Australian Curriculum and to implement a school program called “Seven Steps to Writing Success”. Areas on which we worked on in the last Improvement Agenda; Pedagogy, Reading and Community Involvement will continue. Our school Vision and Values remain unchanged – Ever Seeking Knowledge and Safety, Respect, Learning!

Friends for Life
Next term, for Year 5 and 6 students, we are running a Friends for Life program on Friday afternoons from 1:30pm to 2:30pm. The program is being provided by Anglicare (the same people who run the summer schools in the area). The Program seeks to teach students resilience, understanding feelings, how to relax, helpful and unhelpful self-talk, coping skills, and building teams to solve problems. The program runs for 9 to 10 weeks and will be run by 2 facilitators from Anglicare, 2 Esk State School staff and Chappy Ryan.
Friends for Life is a social skills and resilience building program that has been recognised by the World Health Organisation. The program contains over 12 years of comprehensive research and is an effective means to prevent anxiety for children. Anxiety is a common disorder, affecting over 20% of children in this age group. If left unattended anxiety can severely impact a child’s development which then creates problems later in life. Anxiety can cause constant worry about things close to a child such as homework, attending school camp and even non-local events that appear on the news such as natural disasters or pandemics. This anxiety can detract from learning and have a severe impact on development.
Friends for Life is proven to reduce anxiety and give participants the tools they need to cope in these stressful and challenging situations. Further to anxiety treatment, Friends for Life also improves a participants social skills, ability to focus, confidence, and the ability to relax and regulate emotions.
Friends for Life uses the FRIENDS acronym to help children remember the concepts they learn throughout the program.

- Feelings (talk about your feelings and care about other people’s feelings)
- I can try! (we can all try our best)
- Encourage (step plans toward a happy home)
- Nurture (quality time together doing fun activities)
- Don’t forget – be brave! (practice skills everyday with friends /family)
- Stay happy

Friends for Life teaches participants to cope with their feelings and the feelings of other by training them to think more positively and to relax and regulate their bodies. Friends for life also teaches confidence and ways to tackle problems which helps build self-esteem as participants start to solve problems they would have previously shied away from. Most important Friends for Life enables participants to be happy, smile and be brave which helps them easily transition to their teenage years.

PEACH Program
Anyone interested in this program (advertised in previous newsletters) should register by Wednesday next week.
From the Principals Desk continued…. 

**Term 1 Ends**

It is the end of term already! Thank you for all your great work in getting your children to school. We have hit our target of 95% attendance a few times this term. Next term begins on 11 April. It will be a very busy term as we have NAPLAN, Athletics practices and Carnivals, Tabloid Sports, Student Council fundraisers, the Sydney/Canberra trip and Report Cards for Semester 1 will be published.

**Great Attendance**

See the front page for our brilliant attendance rate this fortnight!! Congratulations everyone!!

**Administration**

**Update Student Details/ Media Permission Forms** – Thanks to all the parents who have returned their forms. If you haven’t already completed the forms please return to the office ASAP; or if you require a new one, please phone the Admin office on 5424 4111 and we will send another one home with your child.

**Money** - We are *STILL* getting money without envelopes dropped into the box. Please put money into an envelope (there are some provided in the foyer) and write your child’s name, amount enclosed and the purpose for the money on the outside of the envelope.

**Bookclub** - Bookclub orders have arrived and should be going home either today or next Monday.

**Easter Break** – The Admin team wishes everyone a safe & happy break.

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**Lost Lunchbag**

A grey zip up cooler-type lunch bag with a skull printed on the cover has been lost. The child’s name is clearly marked on the bag. If you find it among your collection, could you please return it to school.

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**Gotcha Award**

Sponsored by Esk Newsagency

**Congratulations**

Prep – Yr2:
Yr3 – Yr 6:
Bus and Community:

Prep – Yr 2:
Yr3 – Yr6:
Bus and Community:
Celebrations

Star Pupils

Prep  – Having a great attitude to learning
Year 1/2 K  No Award at time of printing
Year 1/2 Q  No Award at time of printing
Year 3/4 M  – Great improvement to work attitude
  – Excellent effort in Reading
Year 3/4 N  – Great effort in Accelerated Reader
Year 5/6 D  – Great work in Accelerated Reader
Year 5/6 S  – Providing a great role model for others to follow
  – Being a courteous class member

Special Award

Prep  – Showing enthusiasm for learning
Year 1/2 K  No Award at time of printing
Year 1/2 Q  No Award at time of printing
Year 3/4 M  – Excellent effort in English writing
  – Very helpful and supportive class member
Year 3/4 N  – Great work in Science
Year 5/6 D  – Wonderful paragraph writing in English
Year 5/6 S  – Always putting her best foot forward
  – Being ready to help others

Gotcha Gems

Peridot –
Garnet –
Amethyst –
Aquamarine –
Topaz –
Sapphire –
Emerald –
Ruby –
Diamond –
Diamond Peridot (220 Gotchas) –
Diamond Opal (240 Gotchas) –

Names and photographs have been removed for privacy reasons

Mathletics Award

Accelerated Reader Awards
Around the Classrooms

**Prep – Mrs Richter**
The Preps have done a fabulous job getting through their assessments and I am pleased with how they are all progressing. For English they did an oral presentation about their favourite book. We used a template to plan the talk and all preps were keen to share their likes, dislikes and their favourite part. Talking about characters and main events was a bit tricky but they all had a go. At the end of their talk they had to try to make a personal connection to the story and this was the most entertaining section. Children were keen to talk and demonstrate how they interact with pets. There were some very funny stories. In Maths we have been comparing the size and weight of objects. We have looked at height and length. Have a fantastic holiday over the Easter period. See you all afterwards ready for Term Two.

**Year 1/2 K – Mrs Kitching**
This term is fading almost as quickly as we are! The children have been so busy completing final assessment items for the term. We have spoken about characters in texts and in particular looked at images and words that convey how they are feeling. We have then related our own feelings and experiences that have been similar to the character and spoken or written about these times. In Mathematics we have continued to develop a bank of strategies to solve problems, including counting on, part, part whole and number lines. We have been practising for our Cross Country event next week and are very excited about all the other activities happening next week. These activities include, Movie Day on Monday, Great Attendance pool party on Tuesday, Cross Country on Wednesday and the Easter Hat Parade on Thursday. Whew! After all of that we will need a break! We hope everyone has a safe and relaxing Easter break.

**Year 1/2 Q – Miss Quade**
Year 1/2Q enjoyed a whole class reward last Thursday. The reward consisted of a movie and popcorn. I had an outline of a flower on the board and each time the children as a group did the correct thing I would put a small circle on one part of the flower ie: 20 children line up quickly and quietly equals 20 circles added to the flower. Once the flower was full we all received the reward. We have started a new outline of a heart on the whiteboard and the children have already earned 2 rows of hearts. We have been working really hard on our assessment pieces and are ready for our holidays. Have a happy and safe break.

**Year 3/4 M – Mrs Lougheed**
The students have been very busy with the work that Mrs McTaggart left for us to do. As the end of term is rapidly approaching we have been working on assessment tasks. In English, planning and writing an interesting story has kept us very engaged whilst in Mathematics learning to collect, understand and display data on graphs has now made way for studying Chance and Probability in everyday events. In Geography, after completing the research task, we have been learning to understand and read maps. The students were especially interested in exploring Esk on Google Maps Earth. Just a reminder that homework folders are due back each Friday, please. As Mrs McTaggart is back and my time with the class has ended, I would like to thank the students for their co-operation. I have enjoyed my time with the class.

**Year 3/4 N – Mrs Nan**
Wow! Our large pumpkins have really grown. As always the students have really enjoyed their time in the gardens this fortnight. We recently received two large trays of seedlings from Junior Landcare. We would like to thank them very much for their support. Junior Landcare will continue to support us with seedlings each term throughout the year. Next week the children will bring their Garden Journals home for you to read. Please make sure your child returns this for Term Two.

We are now well into our assessment for English. It is important that your child is at school every day so this assessment can be completed before the holidays.

Well done to all those children who have handed in their Homework Reading every Friday this term.

Some children are more than half way through their Maths book so could you please check with your child to see if they require a new book for Term Two. We use a blue lined A4 exercise book for Maths.
Year 5/6 D – Mrs Dolan
The first term is drawing to a close. We have been busy finishing our assessment items for Maths and English. In English we have been writing a character analysis based on the story ‘Forests of Silence’. It will be difficult to leave Jarred and his companions when we finish the story. Earlier in the week our school leaders attended the Youth Leadership conference in Brisbane. They came back brimming with admiration for some of the speakers at the conference – giving them inspiration for their own leadership this year. The Great Attendance Day Pool Party will be on next Tuesday from 11:30am to 12:30pm. All those attending need to remember to bring their togs. Thanks to all parents and caregivers for all your support this term. Have a great holiday and come back safe and sound next term.

Year 5/6 S – Mrs Smith
Students have been hard at work completing their English assessment item. Note that all the children are now up to the “Feedback” section of this task. They have already got Peer Feedback this week and now need to get Feedback from an adult. This could be a parent, friend, neighbour, family member or community member. English assessment items are due Monday 21 March - this includes making the changes to their draft.

If you have the honour of giving feedback to a child please read the instructions for the activity first - these can be found in the assessment booklet along with the criteria it will be marked by. Note the students were given a sample text so you might like to look at it too. Some things you might be able to give feedback on include – spelling and grammar. Does it make sense? Have they followed the correct format? Is there something that could be done to improve the work?

The final Maths assessment for this unit of Maths is called Data Decoder. Students will undertake this on Tuesday 22 March. Revision prior to testing would be beneficial for all students.

Year 5/6 D and S Technology – Mrs Rollston
In Technology lessons we are designing a maths game for children in Years One and Two. Most designs are now completed and the students are starting to construct their games. Most items are provided in class but they may bring some small items in to help individualise the game.

Year 5/6 Art
In the Art unit for this term the students in Group A have been creating some magnificent artworks using water colour and black oil pastel outlines. The pictures below are based on a print by Katsushika Hokusai – “The Great Wave of Kanazawa
All of the speakers that we listened to on Monday were inspirational. I found Josh Richards speech and Pippa Sheehan’s speech the most interesting. Josh Richards is hoping to be the first man on Mars in 2026 and start a new colony. Before becoming interested in space Josh Richards spent a lot of time in the army and was a stand-up comedian. Pippa Sheehan is a journalist on 10 Eyewitness News. These two speakers stood out the most for me because they had a lot of things that could help me when it comes to my leadership role. Josh said ‘don’t let life kick you into the adult you don’t want to be’ while Pippa was talking mainly about confidence. She made some very good points and quotes about life. The one that I paid the most interest to is ‘be the kind of leader that you would follow’ this means that when you are leading in whatever way it is that you need to lead, do it in a way that you would follow. Pippa also talked a lot about having confidence in yourself and how it will help you in your leadership role. The last thing we listened to was a panel. The main idea in their speech was to be a good role model (control yourself to show yourself) and integrity (what you do when no one’s looking). This means that what you’re doing when no one’s looking or when you think no one’s looking should be the same way you act when you know someone’s watching you.

By K F

On the 14 of March, the leaders of the school went to the Young Leader’s conference in Brisbane. We listened to many inspiring speakers. One of the speakers was Pippa Sheehan. Pippa works at 10 Eyewitness News. She started work in retail at the age of 14. To me, Pippa sounded like a really comfortable speaker, even though she didn’t believe it herself. Pippa wants everyone to have confidence in themselves and she shows us this by telling us many inspiring phrases such as “Feel the fear and do it anyway”, “be the kind of leader that you would follow” and “if you want to know how it feels when you leave your comfort zones, start by making your bed”. Pippa didn’t want us to see things as a setback, she wants us to use it, and learn from it.

By J V

On Monday all the captains went to the National young leader’s day in Brisbane. We listened to seven awesome speakers. The words that inspired me were “leaders give 110” and “be proud of what you are doing”. The main message was to “master the little”. All the speakers talked about mastering the little to be a good leader. Josh Richards is going to Mars in 2026. He showed us a video of a rocket ship blowing up because the people who built it put a switch in upside down, so the rocket ship thought the ground was space and crashed. This showed how important it is to get the little things right.

By N W

On Monday all of the School Captains went to the young leader’s conference. One of the people who talked was Ian Stewart, a police commissioner. He wants us to make sure that the school and the environment is safe. He said that we should treat people fairly and equally. He wants everyone to be proud of who you are and what you have achieved or done because no one can be perfect. He wants us to do the right thing and don’t pick the wrong choice, but remember in making some bad choices or mistakes, you can learn from it.

By S L

Commissioner Ian Stewart is the leader of Queensland Police. He said that everyone can aspire to be a good person and a good member of the community by doing your best every day. He also said “learn from your mistakes not your success” because you won’t always succeed. Commissioner Stewart asks his police officers to have courage, to be fair and to be proud of what you do. A good leader has the courage to say no, treats others fairly and is proud but not boastful about what they do. He said to choose a good leader, follow them and look at their characteristics.

By D R

Josh Richards was one of the speakers at the National Young Leaders Day. He is a combat engineer, British Commando, a comedian and is part of the Mars One programme. He is expected to be one of the first people to go to Mars and never come back to earth. Some of the things he said at the conference was “do not let life kick you into the adult you don’t want to be”, “get the small stuff right”, and “don’t start off with the big stuff first”. “Follow leaders, listen to others and support others”. Josh also said “focus on the small details and get them right”.

By J J

We listened to many inspirational speakers on Monday at the Young Leaders Conference. One person who stood out to me is Nathan Want. The main idea of his speech was working on the little things to accomplish the big things. He also mentioned that we should strive to become a person of focus and learn to say no. He helped us realise that there is more to do in leadership than just showing up and expecting everything to be done for us. The thing that Nathan said that stood out to me was, “you can make your weaknesses into your strengths”.

By S G
Student Council – Mrs Smith
The Student Council will host a Movie Day on Monday 21 March. Movie Deals can be purchased for $5 per child. A Movie Deal includes- Free Dress, a Drink and Popcorn. Or these items can be purchased for $2 each. Drinks $2.00- Soft Drink, Juice or Water, Popcorn $2.00- Salty Butter or Caramel Crunch and Free Dress $2.00. You can pre-purchase or purchase on the day.

Movies on offer include- Rodeo Girl (G), Oddball (G), Pixels (PG) or The Legend of Longwood (PG). Note that for children to be permitted to watch the PG movies they will need to have returned the PG permission form. Students will pick up their drinks and popcorn at 11:30 then head off to watch their movies.

We have invited the Year 5/6 students from Harlin State School who are going on the Sydney/Canberra Trip with us next term to attend Movie Day. This will be an opportunity for the students to start getting to know each other before camp.

The Student Council events for Term 2 are listed below. Further details about these events will be included in newsletters in Term 2.

- Week 4 -Tuesday 3 May to Friday 6 May - Mothers’ Day Stall
- Week 7- Monday 23 May - Crazy Hair Day

Sydney/Canberra Camp – Mrs Smith
Invoices for the third payment of $100 were sent home recently. These are due for payment during March. Many parents have already paid $300 for their child to attend camp but some are still outstanding. If you have not yet paid the $300 please do so before the Easter Holidays. We are now at a stage where we need to finalise the numbers for camp so we need definite commitments from those involved. If you have issues with payments please make contact with the office so we are aware of your individual situation. Only those children who are up to date with payments will be counted in our final numbers unless the office staff are aware of a special situation. Once we know final numbers we will be able to work out the exact price for camp and will let you know how much you will need to pay in Term 2.

Following watching the movies on Movie Day students in both 5/6 classes and those visiting from Harlin will be viewing photos from our previous trips to Sydney and Canberra. We will also chat about some of the places we will be going during camp.

Sport – Mrs Rollston
Cross Country
The inter-house cross country is next Wednesday starting at 9am.

Order of events:
12 / 13 years - 3km
11 years - 3km
10 years - 2km
9 years - 1km
8 years - 1km
7 years - 2 laps of oval
6 years - 2 laps of oval
5 years - 1 lap of oval

Make sure you have water, sunscreen, hat and food. Lunch will follow the running and presentations. Get ready to cheer for your house!

Tuckshop - The Tuckshop will be using the normal menu for Cross Country day, however there will only be one long break, at approx. 12:30pm after presentations. Parents are welcome to pre-order their lunch along with the children at 8:45am using the normal bag ordering system. Tea, coffee and something sweet will be available throughout the day.

Sport – Mrs Kitching
On 7 March 2016 the Lockyer District Netball trials were conducted at Lowood High School Hall. This year we had three students who went along to trials. All three were successfully selected in the Lockyer District Netball team. The girls will train every Monday afternoon until their carnival in April in Ipswich. At the carnival they are trialling for a position in the Metropolitan West squads. Mrs Kitching will be coaching alongside Mrs Williams from Lowood. Both coaches are excited by the talent on display this year. Good luck girls.
Learning Support – Mrs Oxenford

GAME ON THE GO!

Children learn language every single day and in almost everything they do! When you’re on the go, a perfect way to spend time with your child is to play a GAME ON THE GO... Here is an idea for a game that is easy to play, build language, and doesn’t cost a thing! Remember, play these games in the language you know best.

The game for this fortnight is: **Chain Game**

Take turns saying words that go together. See how long you can go without breaking the chain! For example, start by saying, “sun”. Your child then adds a word that goes with “sun”, like “summer”. You will need to come up with a word that goes with “summer”. You may end up with a very long chain of words like, “sun”-“summer”-“hot”-“beach”-“sand”-“sandcastle”-“shovel”-“pail”.

Keep going until you can’t think of any more words.

Chappy’s Chat
AGM: Monday 21 March 2016 6:30pm

P&C Meeting: Next P&C Meeting will be on Monday 21 March 2016 following the AGM in the Staffroom (D Block).

Uniform Shop: The Uniform Shop is open on Wednesday mornings 8:15 am – 8:45am. If you are unable to come at this time, you can complete an order form and leave with payment in the P&C box in the foyer and your uniform order will be completed and delivered to your child’s classroom.

Tuckshop: The Tuckshop will be using the normal menu for Cross Country day, however there will only be one long break, at approx. 12:30pm after presentations. Parents are welcome to pre-order their lunch along with the children at 8:45am using the normal bag ordering system. Tea, coffee and something sweet will be available throughout the day.

HOG Riders Morning Tea: Thanks to all our amazing bakers and volunteers who once again made the HOG morning tea a success.

Beatles Tribute Show: Don’t miss out! Get your tickets now from the Admin office or Stihl Shop Esk.

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Esk State School P&C invites you to a

**beetles**

Tribute Show
Performed by ‘Pitch Black’

All tickets must be pre-purchased from Esk Stihl Shop or- Esk State School

**SOMERSET CIVIC CENTRE**
**SATURDAY APRIL 16 2016 7PM**

**Tickets: $30**  Doors and licenced bar open from 6pm

Come dressed in 60’s style

Prizes for best dressed male and female plus a lucky door prize

Price includes supper during intermission

Any enquiries please email: beatles@chayne.net

Special Guest Performance by the ‘Esk Community Choir
Thank you for supporting this Esk State School P&C fundraising initiative
Safety on the Water - Easter Holidays

With the upcoming Easter Holidays approaching SEQ Water have their annual summer Play it safe campaign. SEQ Water has just launched an eight-week online competition called "#safety – where selfies meet safety to increase community engagement in keeping safe at our dams, lakes and parks.

The competition promotes safety near and on the water. Every week we will be awarding one GoPro camera and every fortnight a $1,000 BCF gift card to a #safety entrant. Entry into #safety is open to all Queenslanders (individuals, sporting and community groups, schools and businesses) via www.safety.com.au.

Entry is simple. People just need to submit a photo of themselves engaging in safe behaviour while at, on the way to, or preparing to visit one of our dams, lakes or parks, along with a short explanation of why it’s safe. SEQ Water are encouraging people to have fun with their entries but our primary objective is educate and encourage personal responsibility while enjoying the great outdoors. For inspiration, check out the SEQ Water #safety gallery to see some of the entries.

The competition closes 10 April, 2016.
Thinking of Buying or Selling?
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