Dear Parents and Carers,

Once again Ellalong students are to be congratulated for their good behaviour and sportsmanship when Years 2-6 attended the Small Schools Swimming Carnival yesterday. A fun day was had by all.

Please be aware that dogs, even on leads, are not permitted in the school grounds.

Mrs Susan Sims, Principal.

Copies of our newsletters, notes, etc. can be found on our school website www.ellalong-ps.schools.nsw.edu.au

Safety around our school
To ensure the safety of all students parents must not drive into the school grounds to drop off or pick up students at any time.

Students must only enter school grounds through small gates and must not enter through driveway entrance.

Absences
*All student absences must be followed by a note when the student returns. Parents can email the school ellalong-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au or telephone the school before 9am.
*If you are taking a family holiday during any term, please come to the office at least 7 days prior and complete the appropriate form.
*Students arriving late must come to the office before going to the classroom. Parents collecting students early must come to the office before proceeding to the classroom.

P & C News
Our new committee for 2014:

President - Mrs Ellen Baker
Secretary - Mrs Annette Fisher
Treasurer - Ms Frith Bowmaker / Mrs Kirsty Formosa

Canteen Supervisors - Mrs Kirsty Formosa / Mrs Annette Fisher

Our next P & C Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at 3.30pm.

**WE INVITE ALL PARENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO COME ALONG**

Canteen News:
**Canteen will commence operating tomorrow, Friday, February 21. Our thanks to Mrs Formosa and Mrs Fisher for volunteering to be Canteen Supervisors for 2014.**

**A new Price List is with this newsletter.**

**The canteen will once again only operate each Friday.**

Your support of our P & C is greatly appreciated and we invite all parents and interested community members to come along and support our efforts on behalf of our students.

School Uniform
Red School Shirt $30 each
Red School Hat $12 each
Girls School Dress $45 each
Red Polo Fleece Jacket $30 each

Student Belongings
PLEASE make sure all of your child/children’s clothing, lunch boxes, etc. are clearly marked with his/her name. **Parents are reminded** that all students must wear laced up/closed in shoes to school each day for their own protection. Casual slip on shoes and/or sandals are not appropriate for school wear.

Merit Awards
Merit Awards are given out each week at Friday Assembly. When your child has received 5 Merit Awards please bring them to the school office and a Principal’s Award will be presented the following assembly. If 5 Principal Awards are received a School Pen is awarded.
School Photos
School Photos will be taken on Wednesday, March 5, 2013. Details and order forms were sent home earlier this week. Students are asked required to wear their full school uniform on the day. All orders with correct money must be returned to the school by Monday, March 3.

School Payments
We now have eftpos facilities at the school office. No refunds or cash out is available. Payment can be processed for all school activities and the purchase of school uniforms from the P & C.

Thank you to those families who have paid their Resource Fee for 2014. All students have been invoiced and this fee can be paid in full or part payments will be taken.

Sport
The Small Schools Swimming Carnival was held yesterday. Congratulations to all our students who participated and thank you to our staff and parents who helped on the day. The Zone Swimming Carnival will be held on Friday, February 28, 2014.

Weekly Awards
Term 1 - Weeks 2 and 3
Reading Awards - Thomas Hancock and Ari Benbow.
Principal Awards - Sanuel Broadfoot, Emme Formosa and Olivia Moss.
Pen Award - Chloe Formosa.

Communicating with your school
While it can be hard for busy parents, staying in contact with the school is important. Communication is one of the key parts of the relationship between the school and home. Watch this video to find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/communicating-with-your-school

Is your child in a new class without their friends?
At some stage in their school life your child is likely to find themselves in a class without their close friends. It's normal for them to initially feel a little anxious about this, so how should you handle it? Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/new-class-without-their-friends

Summer food safety
You can greatly reduce the risk of food poisoning during the summer period by chilling food in the fridge before packing your child’s lunch and then putting a frozen drink into their lunchbox. The food will stay about 12 degrees cooler. Have a look at more school food tips: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/food/power-foods-for-kids

Homework and study planning
Most children find planning easier to understand when they have a visual representation of their day or week in front of them. Help your child learn to manage their daily tasks and responsibilities with this weekly schedule template. Weekly schedule template: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/weekly-schedule-template
**Jargon busters**
Wanting to start the school year with clarity and wondering about the meaning of some of the school terminology? Here’s a list of common abbreviations or terms to make the world inside the school gates seem a little more familiar. School jargon buster: [http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/school-jargon-busters](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/school-jargon-busters)

**School’s back**
Life seems to go from zero to 100 during the first few weeks of school. These parents have pooled their years of experience to bring you some suggestions to make the rest of the year run more smoothly. Good luck! Back to school checklist: [http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/planning-for-the-future/back-to-school-checklist](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/planning-for-the-future/back-to-school-checklist)

**Learning to read**
Learning to read is hard work and can be frustrating at times for parents and their kids. Watch the video to hear what these public school teachers have to say to help, with quick tips on how to make it easier. Learning to read: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E5Om77mluKU&feature=share](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E5Om77mluKU&feature=share)