From the Principal:
Dear Parents and Carers,
We had a pleasing roll up of parents to the class information sessions on Tuesday afternoon. Class teachers are always happy to discuss your child’s progress or answer any queries or concerns about your child out of school hours. Please book an appointment at the school office first.

The students are really enjoying the Dance 2B Fit classes on Thursday mornings. Thanks to the P&C for sponsoring this activity.

If you have a spare hour next Monday afternoon, please come along and help us tidy up our gardens and grounds for “Clean Up Australia Day”.

Mrs Susan Sims,
Principal.

**Facebook and the Internet**
Many people use the internet and programs such as Facebook to discuss issues and often air grievances. While the Department of Education can do little to stop comments on these types of public forums it can act on behalf of staff, students and schools that are being maligned or vilified through legal channels such as defamation charges.

From time to time, there are issues that do cause parents concern, however the most effective and worthwhile way to address these problems is to come to school and discuss the matter with the Principal.

On the flip side of the coin, thank you to the vast majority of families that comment positively about our school and the various programs that we put in place to support and extend our students learning opportunities.

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.

Parents are reminded:
**that parking at the front of the school is rear to kerb. Please park as directed only and not across parking area when dropping off or collecting children.**

**at shop gate all students are to cross at pedestrian crossing at all times. Parents waiting for children are asked to cross only at crossing and not in front of shop.**

Absences
*All student absences must be followed by a note when the student returns. Parents can email the school ellalong-school@det.nsw.edu.au or telephone the school before 9am on the morning of absence.

****Please note:
Update to School Attendance Policy - as of February 3, 2015 - ‘On this date the capacity to grant exemption for the purpose of holidays or travel outside of vacation period has been removed’.
Students will now be marked absent as ‘leave’.

*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.

Sport
Congratulations to Ashleigh Holden, Charlotte Lucas and Chloe Formosa who represented our school at the Zone Swimming Carnival. Congratulations girls!!!

Well done also to Charlotte Lucas who has been chosen to participate in the Zone Basketball Trials. Congratulations and good luck!!

Headlice
We have had a number of cases of headllice reported throughout the grades. Please check your child/childrens hair and treat if required. There are many treatments available from supermarkets and chemists.
P & C News
*P & C membership is $2.00 per family and payable at office or at P & C Meeting. The next P & C Meeting to be held Tuesday, March 10 at 3.30pm.

*The P & C will subsidise Dance Program this term. All students are participating at no cost.

*Thank you to Dominoes who sent us a $284.00 donation for our store pizza night last year.

*PLEASE REMEMBER ALL VOLUNTEERS MUST HAVE A ‘WORKING WITH CHILDREN’ CHECK completed. Please bring to office so it can be recorded. The school must sight this document each school year.

Canteen News
*Monday and Wednesday from 1pm for 30 minutes the canteen will open for the sale of drinks, icys and ice creams/blocks.

*The canteen is open each Friday for recess and lunch. A roster was sent home February 18, 2015. If you cannot do your rostered day on the canteen please contact Rachel Chapman or Natasha Kirk.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Roster</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 27</td>
<td>Mel Sills &amp; Dawn Samwell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2</td>
<td>Frith Bowmaker (30mins)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 4</td>
<td>Kirsty Formosa (30mins)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 6</td>
<td>Jill Howard &amp; Tammy Spicer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 9</td>
<td>Dawn Samwell (30mins)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 11</td>
<td>Amanda Crump (30mins)</td>
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</tbody>
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School Uniform available at office
*Red School Shirt $30 each *Red School Hat $12 each *Girls School Dress $45 each
*Red Polo Fleece Jacket $30 each *Girls Uniform Material $15 per metre

Student Belongings
Please make sure all of your child/children’s clothing including jumpers, lunch boxes, etc. are clearly marked with his /her name. Lost property box in office foyer.

Friday Assembly and Merit Awards
At Friday assembly teachers give out Merit Awards to selected students. When you child has received 5 Merit Awards please bring them to the school office and a Principal’s Award will be presented at the following assembly. If 5 Principal Awards are received a school pen is awarded. *Awards must be at the office no later than Thursday morning at 10am to be included in the next day’s assembly.

Dates for your Calendar
Dance Program Each Thursday to end of term
Easter Raffle Tickets out March 9
P & C Meeting March 10 at 3.30pm - All Welcome
Y4 3/4/5/6 Excursion March 16
School Photos March 18
State Elections Cake Stall March 28
Easter Hat Parade,
Raffle draw and
Last day Term 1      April 2
Term 2 begins for Students      April 21
Anzac Day March      April 25
Water Saving Show and
Special Canteen      April 29 (Congewai PS to visit EPS from 1pm)
Mothers Day Stall      May 8

**Assembly Awards** - Term 1 Weeks 4
**PBL Award** - Lochlen Corcoran, Jace Arthurson, Skylah Cameron and Krystal Carter.
**Reading Award** - Mack Adamson and Tyler Clark.
**Principal Award** - Olivia Pollock and Chloe Frederick.
**Pen Award** - Chloe Frederick.

**Friendships to boost your child’s learning**
If children are happy socially they tend to be more engaged in their learning. So teaching your child about the importance of making friends is as vital as learning their ABCs. Find out more: [http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/how-friendships-boost-childs-learning](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/how-friendships-boost-childs-learning)

**Assignment starters for the arts**
Videos are great resources for getting kids enthused about their assignments. These pages on cubism, percussion and critical studies provide key points to help them get started and links to useful sites to assist with further research. Find out more: [http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/other-subjects-and-projects/the-arts/assignment-starters-for-the-arts](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/other-subjects-and-projects/the-arts/assignment-starters-for-the-arts)

**Helping your Kindy kid succeed at school**
A great way to kick off your child's formal education is to understand the school culture and what your child is doing in the classroom. Find out more: [http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/helping-kindy-kids-succeed-at-school](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/helping-kindy-kids-succeed-at-school)

**Speech problems**
All kids learn how to talk and listen at different rates but did you know there’s a general pattern to your child’s language development? Find out more: [http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/health/speech-problems](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/health/speech-problems)
Community News
**bpb Construction Group Pty. Ltd. For all *earthmoving *concreting *watercart needs. Phone 0429 268 898.

**Hunter Animal Rescue Inc. - 9th Annual Pets Picnic on Sunday, March 15, 2015 at Speers Point Park 10am to 3pm. FREE Family Event ‘fun for all ages’. For more information go to www.hunteranimalrescue.com.au

**Bellbird Junior Football Club 2015 Registrations
Further details are on website www.bellbirdjuniorfootballclub.com Please phone Belinda on 0412 971 479 for more information. Meet and Greet Day and Registration Day March 8, 2015 at Carmichael Park 9am to 2pm.

Barbara Petchenik Children’s Map Competition 2015
Competition’s theme is “My place in today’s world”. Entries can be nominated in four age groups: under 6 years, 6-8 years, 9-12 years and 13-15 years. The deadline for participation in the contest is Thursday, 2 April 2015. For more detailed information about the competition, please visit the MSIA website http://mappingsciences.org.au.

All about apostrophes
Not knowing where to place apostrophes can haunt people for their entire lives. Here’s an easy guide to help your child understand what they mean, how to use them and get them right, now. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/english/english-a-to-z/-/english_glossary/8Qum/551/apostrophe+denoting+ownership

When older kids struggle with reading
Should you let your reluctant teen reader choose magazines over books? If your child is still struggling to read and write, and they’re heading into high school, there are ways to get them on the right page. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/english/english-tips/when-older-kids-struggle-with-reading

Multiplication times tables

Sorting fact from fiction
Help your child develop their “dodgy website” antennae when doing homework. Here are ways your child can tell a good website – or any document – from a bad one. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/sorting-fact-from-fiction