From the Principal:
Dear Parents and Carers,
We really value and appreciate the support we get from so many people in our greater school community. Thank you to the parents, grandparents, carers and local residents who volunteer on canteen, help with reading, contribute to fundraisers and to our P&C who organise and run fundraisers and events for the benefit of our children.
Thank you also to Austar Coal Mine who recently donated $2,000.00 and to the Ellalong Hotel Social Club who regularly make donations from the money they raise on Thursday nights from ‘Jag the Joker’. I was amazed at the number of prizes in last year’s Easter raffle, all from donated Easter goodies. This year’s raffle will be drawn at the Easter Hat Parade next Thursday afternoon, so make sure you have some tickets.
Mrs Susan Sims,
Principal.

**Please read ‘Ellalong Extra’ Student News attached to this newsletter.

Safety around our school
To ensure the safety of all students parents must not drive into or park in the school grounds to drop off or pick up students at any time. This is for all school days including Friday afternoons when assembly is held. The safety of our students is most important!!

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-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au or telephone the school before 9am on the morning of absence.
*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
*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, April 21 at 3.30pm. All Welcome!!!!

*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.

**Don’t forget cake donations for Cake Stall on Saturday, March 28. Cakes can be sent in this Friday afternoon or brought to the school on Saturday morning from 8am. Thank you to all families who have indicated that they will donate baked goods and to those parents who have offered to help on the stall.

**Please send in Easter egg donations to the school office, we are hoping once again to have many prizes to give out. Raffle tickets should be returned no later than Thursday, April 2 at 9am. Raffle will be drawn after the Hat Parade. Thank you for your support.

**Thank you for your child/children's mothers day orders - we look forward to receiving the products and having them wrapped by Class 5/6O on May 8, 2015. **Only children with orders will have gifts available for wrapping on the day. All profits from this activity will go to Yr 6 School Fundraising.

Canteen News
Safety issue: PARENT HELPERS are reminded that pre-schoolers and school students are not allowed in the canteen when they are rostered on, for any reason. This is a directive from the Department of Education and Community. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.
*The canteen is open each Friday for recess and lunch. If you cannot do your rostered day on the canteen please contact Rachel Chapman or Natasha Kirk.

March 27  Tessa Phillip and Amanda Crump
March 30  Tammie Spicer (30mins)
April 1   Rachel Chapman (30mins)
Term 2
April 22  Rachel Chapman (30mins)
April 24  Rachel Chapman and Natasha Kirk
April 27  Dawn Samwell (30mins)
April 29  Special Canteen Day  
(order form sent home yesterday)
May 1    Kristy Quinton and Rebecca Elliott

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 a 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
Gold Star Assembly            March 27  2.30pm
State Elections Cake Stall   March 28
Congewai Harvest Festival    March 29 **see poster
Easter Hat Parade 2pm
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
Naplan Testing Yrs 3 and 5   May 12, 13 and 14

Assembly Awards - Term 1 Weeks 7 and 8
Merit Award - Alex Crump, Charlotte Thomas, Taj O’Hearn, Caitlin Thomas, Riley Rees, Aiden Chaffey, Rhys Lambie, Aleeyah Koop, Ryder Impey, Gracie Swanbrough, Ryan Watters, Tyler Clark, Thomas Page, Yacob Moore, Riley Souter Mack Adamson, Lily Bridger-Darling and Braithen Wiseman.

PBL Award - Paris Kime, Aleeyah Koop, Jordanna Ratcliffe, Guy Armstrong-Willis, Nikkita Griffith, Olivia Bailey, Felicity Lucas, Nicholas McGivern, Sean Chant. Tame Karaitiana-Tua, Dan Langley, Lilly Bridge and Ethan Scrivens.
**Reading Award** - Skylah Cameron, Paris Kime, Noah Anderson, Alex Crump, Macy Langworthy, Zachery Elliott, Jed Swan, Hailey Corcoran, Ryder Impey, Gracie Swanbrough, Thomas Hancock, Aari Benbow, Aiden Chaffey, Riley Souter, Jordyn O’Hearn, Charli Regent, Olivia Pollock and Archie Sills.

**Principal Award** - Olivia Bailey, Tully Chapman, Olivia Shakespeare, Charli Regent, Lily Bridger-Darling, Thomas Hancock and Sam Baker.

**Pen Award** - Olivia Shakespeare and Hollie Moore.

**Facts about fractions**
If you’ve forgotten 3/5 of primary school maths and 7/8 of high school maths, what’s left? Ah ha! Kids need help learning how to add fractions too. The only thing left is to print these fact sheets. Find our more: [https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/eppcontent/glossary/app/resource/factsheet/4013.pdf](https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/eppcontent/glossary/app/resource/factsheet/4013.pdf)

**Amazing art**
Autumn’s the perfect season to take a trip to a gallery. The popular ArtExpress exhibition connects us to the inner lives and self-expression of high school students. Amazing works are on show throughout NSW. Check out the calendar. Find out more: [http://artexpress.artsunit.nsw.edu.au/](http://artexpress.artsunit.nsw.edu.au/)

**Sounding out aloud**

**Fitness for the family**

**Crunch&Sip Hints**
*Avocados are one of the few fruits to contain fat. They are a source of ‘good fats’, the type that helps to keep you healthy. Mash it up into a dip that you can dip other veggie sticks into.*

*When packing grapes for Crunch&Sip it can be an idea to put them in a small container or the lunchbox so they don’t get squashed. Grapes are a popular fruit with kids. There’s something about putting them whole in your mouth and bursting them by biting!*  

*Some people love to crunch on a whole stick of celery, but generally kids prefer it cut up into sticks. A variety bag of vegetable sticks (e.g. celery, carrot, cucumber) is great for Crunch&Sip. Chewing on celery can help clean your teeth!*

*Kids love watermelon because it is sweet and juicy. Pack a container of chunks with a fork or spoon for your child to eat during Crunch&Sip. A melon medley of different types and colours can be fun and appealing too.*
Carrots can be one of the easiest vegetable options for Crunch&Sip. Kids generally love them, they can last for a while in your refrigerator and are easy to prepare. Smaller carrots tend to be sweeter. Give them a wash or scrub and pack whole or cut into sticks.

A few raw button mushrooms are a novel veg to take for Crunch&Sip. Make sure you wash and dry them before packing. You can team them up with another crunchy vegetable so your child has contrasting veg in terms of taste and texture.

Blueberries are little super fruit bombs of juiciness. They are rich in antioxidants and their benefits are said to outweigh all other berries combined!

Did you know the smaller the pod of the snow pea the sweeter it will taste? Snow peas can be washed and eaten raw so pop them in your child’s bag for Crunch & Sip.

Children are more likely to enjoy their Crunch & Sip if their produce is fresh and delicious. Choose fruit and veg that are currently in season and that feel firm, smell nice and look appealing.

Practise to be a journalist
This website could definitely make practising writing and spelling more interesting for all of us. Make a newspaper clipping with your own headline and story. Your child may even start imagining themselves as a publisher or journalist. http://www.fodey.com/generators/newspaper/snippet.asp

Safetytown website – A road safety education program
This innovative website reinforces the road safety messages that children are learning at school. It provides practical strategies to help families learn how to be safer pedestrians and road users. The seven key road safety messages cover pedestrian safety, car passenger safety, bus passenger safety and safety on wheels (bicycles, foot scooters, skateboards and rollerblades). For further details, visit https://www.safetytown.com.au

Back by popular demand
Mention head lice and most of us instantly develop an itch. While head lice and nits, (the eggs of head lice) are certainly annoying and persistent, they're not dangerous. Here's everything you need to know to rid your kids of head lice and nits. http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/headlice/Pages/nitbusters.aspx

Thinking on your feet
This week’s most common question on the School A to Z parent website:
Q: What’s a surd? A: A number that can’t be simplified to remove a square root (or cube root etc). :eg: \(3\sqrt{11}\) Here’s some help sheets on surds. https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/eppcontent/glossary/app/resource/factsheet/4056.pdf

Bullying knows no bounds
When cyberbullying hits home - what one mum wishes she’d done differently. Because most cyberbullying happens in the home, parents need to be aware of the technology that young people are using. http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/technology/cyberbullying/when-cyberbullying-hits-home