

# Emu Plains School News

Emu Plains School Newsletter is available on the school website  
Web: <http://www.emuplains-p.schools.nsw.edu.au>

Term 3

Week 8

11<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Be Learners

Be Respectful

Be Safe

Be Responsible

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Term 3 - 2018			
Wed	12	Sep	Stage 1 Excursion - Featherdale
Fri	14	Sep	SRC/Environment Cmttee – Dress as a Farmer
Fri	14	Sep	Year 6 @ Nepean CAPA – Sports Day
Wed	19	Sep	Year 6 Fundraising Disco – K-6
Thu	20	Sep	NSWJ Chess Tournament @ EPPS
Fri	28	Sep	K-2 Sports Day @ School
Term 4 - 2018			
Mon	15	Oct	Staff & Students return
Tue	23	Oct	Kinder Orientation (Parent Evening) @ 7:00pm
Tue	23	Oct	Kinder Orientation (Students) @ 9:15 – 11:00am
Wed	24	Oct	Grandparents Assembly
Fri	26	Oct	Group Photos
Tue	30	Oct	Year 4 CARES
Tue	30	Oct	Kinder Orientation
Wed	31	Oct	Year 4 CARES
Fri	2	Nov	Year 6 Fun Day
Tue	6	Nov	Kinder Orientation
Tue	13	Nov	Kinder Orientation
Thu - Fri	15 - 16	Nov	Year 3 Camp –Mowbray Park
Thu	13	Dec	Yr 6 Graduation & Farewell Dinner
Mon	17	Dec	Party Day
Wed	19	Dec	End of Term – Guard of Honour for Yr 6

**While no school can be a totally nut free environment please be considerate of the many students here who have life threatening allergies.**

For more information check out [www.anaphylaxis101.com.au](http://www.anaphylaxis101.com.au) or [www.foodallergyaware.com.au](http://www.foodallergyaware.com.au)

If a child misses	that equals...	which is...	and over 13 years of school that's...
1 day per fortnight (90% attendance)	19 days per year	≈ 4 weeks per year	Nearly 1½ years
1 day per week (80% attendance)	38 days per year	≈ 8 weeks per year	Over 2½ years
2 days per week (60% attendance)	76 days per year	≈ 16 weeks per year	Over 5 years
3 days per week (40% attendance)	days per year	≈ 24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years

## **BLUE MOUNTAINS NEPEAN DANCE FESTIVAL**

Last week many of our students performed at the Blue Mountains Nepean Dance Festival. Two amazing dance groups represented EPPS with our Junior group performing a fabulous dance to 'Happy' and our senior group performing to 'A Little Party Never Killed Nobody'. Our students presented polished and professional performances. Thank you to both Ms Hill and Mrs Puri who have given up many many hours to ensure our students are able to practise with Miss Emma Timbs. Well done to all and congratulations on your fine work.

## **SASS RECOGNITION WEEK**

Last week was SASS Recognition Week. This is a week where we recognise the hard work of every single staff member in our school who may be in the role of administration, student learning support officers and general assistants. At EPPS we are so incredibly fortunate to have a team of highly dedicated SAS Staff who support the work of our teaching staff. I would like to publicly acknowledge and thank each of our SASS team for what they do for our students and families each and every day. Thank you!

## **EXTERNAL VALIDATION**

This Thursday our school is undergoing a process known as External Validation. Throughout 2018 our staff have been focusing on producing bodies of evidence which demonstrate the amazing work which takes place here at our school. What has been developed is something which we should truly be proud of. The staff have developed seven comprehensive evidence sets which showcase the work of the students, teachers and our broader school community. I shared this work with our school community at last night's P&C meeting. Two leaders from within the Department of Education will sit with our External Validation team on Thursday between 10am-12noon and have a deep discussion about our work and how our work sits alongside the School Excellence Framework. I would like to thank the teachers who have committed significant amounts of time to produce such amazing, high quality work.

## **P&C WORKING BEE**

Our P&C continue their tireless efforts to ensure EPPS always looks beautiful! If you have an hour or two to spare on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, come along to the P&C working bee. The working bee hours are between 8am and 12noon. It's a great time of year to freshen up the school ready for the summer sunshine. Thank you to our P&C for arranging this.

## **SHARE OUR SPACE**

These holidays, EPPS will be taking part in the Share our Space initiative. This involves having a section of our school playground open to the community for use over the holiday period. Posters and signage will be up over the holiday break providing more information. Please feel free to come in with your children and use our designated spaces. Participation in this awards our school a \$5000 grant which we will be putting towards our multi—purpose court fund. The program comes with security and cleaners who will ensure the safety and cleanliness of our school over the break.

Jodi Bennett  
Principal

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School Security No. 1300 880 021

## **PROCESS OF REFERRAL**

Students requiring additional support at school may be identified by teachers and/or parents. Through teacher and parent consultation these students may be referred to the school's Learning Support Team. The committee then discusses the most appropriate form of support and intervention for the student and communicates this outcome to parents/carers.

In some cases a referral to the Learning Support Team may result in a referral to the school counsellor. In these cases, written permission will be sought from parents/carers. All referrals to the school counsellor are prioritised by the committee according to level of need at school. Following intervention by the school counsellor, parents will be invited to discuss the outcome of this intervention with the counsellor and be provided, in many cases, with a written report.

Should there be a counsellor recommendation for further intervention through a non-DoE service provider (e.g. paediatrician) then this report may be used to provide information to inform additional assessment. The school counsellor, with parent/carer permission, will liaise with outside service providers, as required/requested.

As the school counsellor is employed by The Department of Education they work in response to referrals from the Learning Support Team and are not in a position to respond to requests for assessment from outside service providers.

Parents/carers however, may feel free to discuss any issue affecting their child with the classroom teacher in order to determine whether a referral to the Learning Support Team may be appropriate. The Learning Support Team will then discuss what intervention is appropriate.

## **REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION FROM NON-DoE SERVICE PROVIDERS**

Parents may choose to independently seek intervention through a non-DoE service provider instead of a school referral to the Learning Support Team. In some cases, outside professionals will then provide parents with questionnaires to hand to the class teacher, or may request other forms of information from the school. All such requests **MUST** be made through the principal.

Due to issues of privacy and confidentiality surrounding the release of information, in addition to considerations of teacher workload, parents/carers are kindly requested to ensure that the following protocols are observed:

- The service provider is requested to forward a letter addressed to the principal outlining what information and who is required to complete the information. When particular forms are required to be completed these need to be included in the letter of request and not handed to the classroom teacher
- The parent/legal carer must provide written permission for the release of information
- A return name and address of the service provider is required for confidential return of information through the principal.



### What is bullying?

Bullying has three key features. It:

- involves a misuse of power in a relationship
- is ongoing and repeated, and
- involves behaviours that can cause harm.

Bullying can also occur online. This is known as cyberbullying, which is using technology such as the internet or mobile devices to bully someone. It can include sending abusive texts and emails, posting hurtful messages and putting inappropriate comments on pictures of others.

Bullying of any kind is not acceptable in NSW schools, whatever the reason. Schools are committed to working with parents, staff and students to prevent bullying and respond quickly and effectively if it does occur.

### What can you do if your child has been bullied?

#### **Listen calmly and get the full story**

Your child needs to know that they are being heard. Their feelings matter and their concerns should be taken seriously. Encourage your child to talk about what happened. Explain to your child that reporting the bullying is okay.

After listening to their concerns, ask questions to get more details if needed: who, what, where, when.

#### **Reassure your child that they are not to blame**

Children may blame themselves and this can make them feel even worse. Say supportive things like, 'That sounds really hard to deal with', or 'I'm so glad you told me. You should feel safe at school'.

#### **Ask your child what they want to do – and what they want you to do**

It is important to help your child to find their own solution as this will help them feel that they have some control over the situation.

If your child is not in any immediate danger and they feel confident, they could try these strategies:

- Ignore the bullying.
- Turn their back and walk away.
- Act unimpressed or pretend they don't care.
- Say "No" or "Just stop!" firmly.

If the bullying happened at school, support your child to tell a teacher. If your child wants to talk to someone other than the school or you think added support would help, you could tell them to go to the Kids Helpline website. They can also call for free on 1800 55 1800.

#### **When do I contact the school?**

Your child may be reluctant for you to speak to school staff. Discuss the idea and reassure them that the school would want to know and is able to help.

If needed, make an appointment to meet with your child's teacher. You could also ask to talk with the principal.

Contact the school immediately if you have a concern about your child's safety.

#### **Support for parents and carers**

Kids Helpline also has a parent line with trained teams who provide support, information and counselling for parents of children aged 0-18 years. You can call them for the cost of a local call from 9am to 9pm Monday to Friday and 4pm to 9pm on weekends on 1300 1300 52.

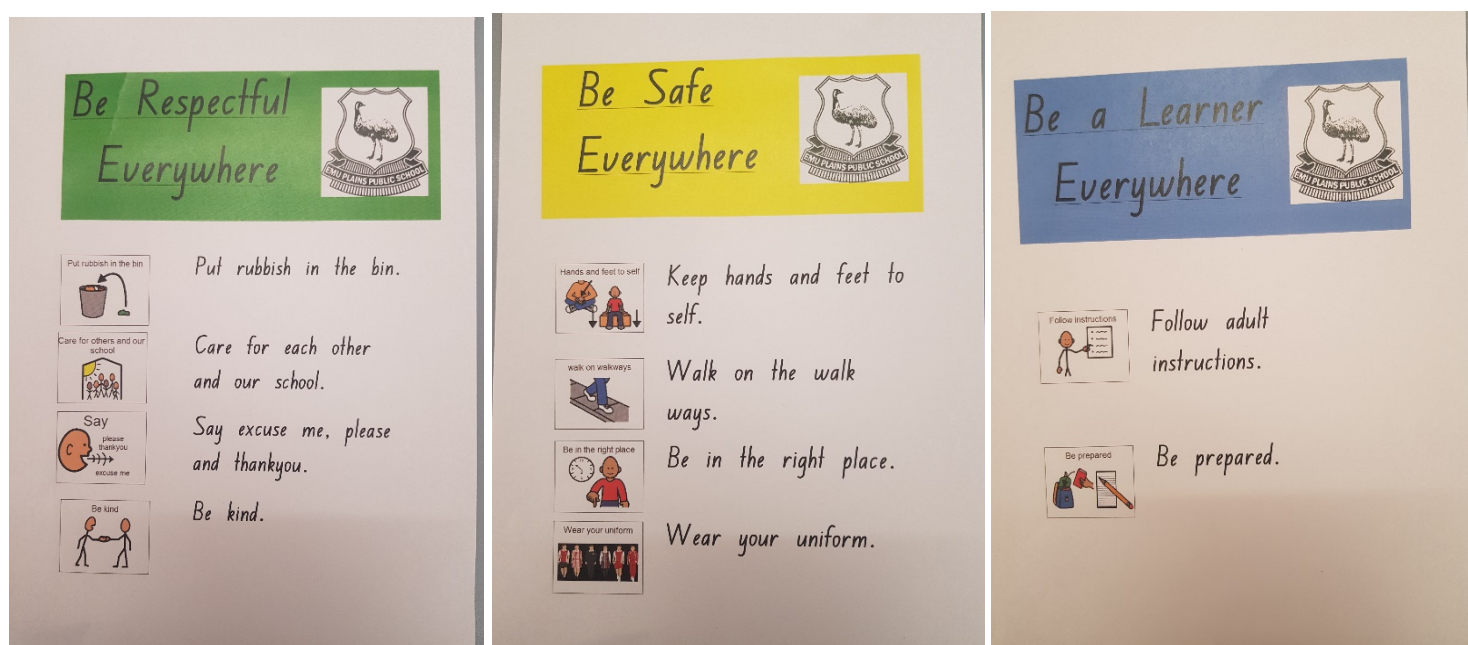
#### **Telephone interpreter service**

If you would like to contact the school or Parent Line NSW and need assistance with English please call the telephone interpreter service on 131 450, tell them what language you need and ask the operator to make the call. The operator will get an interpreter on the line to assist you with your conversation. You will not be charged for this service.

## **PBL UPDATE**

The PBL team has been working hard this term at developing a set of expectations for our students to adopt. Each of these expectations has been broken down into a matrix of skill based lessons and will be explicitly taught to the students using a variety of teaching strategies. The PBL team has developed posters shown below to support students learning the PBL expectations. We look forward to sharing our progress with the whole school community.

PBL Team



## **TELL THEM FROM ME SURVEY**

Our annual Tell Them From Me survey helps us to track our progress as a school. Please add your feedback by going to the link

<https://nsw.tellthemfromme.com/2750d>

## **PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE**

Emu Plains Public School is proud of the 112 students who completed the Premier's Reading Challenge this year! This is a wonderful effort and each of those students is now eligible for a Premier's Reading Challenge certificate to be presented in term 4. While the competition has now closed for 2018, any books that are read after the closing date can now be counted towards next year's challenge. It is wonderful to see so many of our students enjoying their reading - congratulations!

Mrs Koutzas, Mr Botham and Mrs Willett-Foye

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## **ANNUAL PRIMARY ATHLETICS CARNIVAL**

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> August Years 3-6 participated in our Annual Athletics Carnival. We would like to congratulate all participants on their amazing effort across all the carnival's events. The final house points are as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Lennox 448
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Dawes 389
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Mitchell 347
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place – Cox 296

We would like to make special mention of the following students, who set new Emu Plains Public School records on the day:

- Kaaren H – 10 year Girls 100m Dash 14.47 seconds (previously 15.22s set in 1990)
- Emma M – Senior Girls Shot Put 10.17 metres (previously 8.18m set in 1996)
- Emma M – Senior Girls Long Jump 4.31 metres (previously 3.80m set in 1990)

Our Emu Plains Public School team went on to compete in the Penrith Zone Carnival on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> August and Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

## **ZONE CARNIVAL**

The Penrith Zone Athletics Carnival was held on 29<sup>th</sup> August and 30<sup>th</sup> August 2018. Emu Plains Public School was proudly represented by 33 athletes, across the two days, in all track and field events. I would like to thank all our competitors for their efforts and sportsmanship. They were fantastic representatives for our school.

As a result of their outstanding efforts, the 2018 Emu Plains Public School team won the Group B schools competition.



Whilst all our athletes performed at their very best, I would like to congratulate the following students for placing in their respective events. These students will receive a certificate in recognition of this achievement during the Primary Assembly on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September.

- Cohen M - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place 8 years Boys 100m Dash
- Georgie Z - 1<sup>st</sup> Place Junior Girls Discus Throw  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Junior Girls Shot Put
- Kaaren H - 1<sup>st</sup> Place 10 years Girls 100m Dash  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Junior Girls 200m Run  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Junior Girls Long Jump
- Harrison P - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place 11 years Boys High Jump
- Emma M - 1<sup>st</sup> Place Senior Girls Discus Throw  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Senior Girls Shot Put  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Senior Girls Long Jump  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Senior Girls High Jump  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Senior Girls 200m Run
- Joel J - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place 13 years Boys 100m Dash
- Bella S, Imogen J, Ava H & Kaaren H – 1<sup>st</sup> Place Junior Girls 4x100m Relay
- Brayton B, Cooper C, Brayden H & Jake McC – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Junior Boys 4x100m Relay

I would also like to recognise the following students for their selection in the Penrith Zone team, competing at the Sydney West Carnival on 19<sup>th</sup> September.

- Cohen M - 8 years 100m Dash
- Georgie Z - Junior Girls Shot Put  
Junior Girls Discus Throw
- Kaaren H - 10 years 100m Dash  
10 years 200m
- Emma M - Senior Girls Shot Put  
Senior Girls Long Jump  
Senior Girls Discus Throw
- Joel J - 13 years 100m Dash
- Bella S, Imogen J, Ava H & Kaaren H – 1<sup>st</sup> Place Junior Girls 4x100m Relay

Additionally, on behalf of the staff and students of Emu Plains Public School, I am proud to formally congratulate Emma M, who set two new Penrith Zone records and was awarded Penrith Zone Senior Girls Champion.

New Penrith Zone Records:

Senior Girls Shot Put – 10.30 metres

Senior Girls Discus Throw – 31.54 metres

We wish all our athletes luck in the upcoming Sydney West Carnival.

MS M SWEENEY  
Organising Teacher

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## **FABULOUS STAGE 3 WRITING**

### **Idioms**

After I failed my test my mum told me to get my act together which was only really adding fuel to the fire. What she said sounded like mumbo jumbo to me but I could fill in the blanks!

***Finn F 5PH***

### **The Animal's Swamp**

The bright blue birds singing in harmony in the tall black trees, giving the creatures below shade. The brown dead leaves piled into nests for the snakes. The creek slowly swishing as it trails down to the waterfall's edge, where salmon lay their eggs and on the other side the bears are waiting to catch food for them and their young. The fish desperately try to stay safe.

It was a busy day for the creatures living in animal's swamp. The ants collecting food, the frogs directing the fish down stream, the birds singing for the crabs that sit happily on the sandbanks bordering the creek until BANG everything changed but not necessarily for the worst.... A human walking through the swamp came across the now close to empty creek. His voice echoed into nothingness as he gently yelled "hello". He heard a faint hello coming from the edge of the creek gushing at the same rhythm as the wind, wild but soft. He gently calls "hello" again expecting to hear nothing but he hears a soft and sweet hello coming from the sandbanks.

### **The Golem City**

THUMP!!! There I was in the Golem City. There were millions of golems and one came over to me.

"Hi little fella, what's your name?" I asked.

"My name is Jeff", he replied.

"There's an army on the other side of the portal," I told him.

"Why?" Said the golem.

"Apparently you have a tower of gold".

"That's true, come with me", he said.

"And do you have an army because you might need one?"

"Of course we do," I replied. "Do you have gold to spare?"

"Maybe, I'll see when we get back".

"Get back to where?" I asked.

"You'll see", he said.

There I was in the room full of gold and guns. There were RPG's, Scars, Sniper, Grenades and tanks.

"Take what you want," he said.

"Really? I'll take it all".

"Sweet".

BANG!!! The sound of war is starting. My new best friends and I were the last ones standing. The God of all golems showed up and started reviving all the rock golems.

"Now we're talking". I said.



My scar was running out of ammunition so I used my tank instead and this was awesome. It was taking all the tanks out.

Then my friend started smashing all the helicopters together, ending the war between humans and the Golem City.

**Ethan 5J**

### **Schools should not have tests!**

I believe that schools should not test. This has been going for a long time now, but it has to stop! As you may have heard schools have been having lots of children that suffer from stress, it is extremely worrying to see what is happening to these children.

Have you ever given up on something because it is way too much to organise? Well then why do teachers have to suffer, it's a catastrophe.

In addition to this it is NOT helping the environment all those poor trees are getting chopped down just for a test that is not important. I CANNOT believe this shocking waste, it's just a waste of money!

Did you know tests build up stress and anxiety? I surveyed 50 people, 48 of them said tests are stressful. Please don't make this go on any longer, you don't want to be guilty for all the 500 people in this school getting anxiety.

Now think of the time when you did a test and got a bad score, what about all the thousands of kids who are sad and may now suffer from depression, think of the impact.

I hope you consider my opinions carefully and make this important step to improve our fantastic children and schools. I believe this is an extremely important issue and I urge you to take immediate action.

**Jessica 5J**

They came across a room with a purple and white glowing crystal ball, sitting on a small, square table in the middle of the room. After Aaron and Robin refused to go any closer to the ball, Nia's curiosity got the better of her. As she approached, slowly dragging Aaron and Robin behind her, the face of a woman suddenly appeared, scaring them. The woman in the ball looked about 30, with short curly hair that was just above her shoulders. She also wore glasses. The woman spoke, "My name is Jess. I've also been trapped within this house, permanently, but there is a way for you to escape. You must find the tomb that sees, what is hidden inside will set you free."

The three kids looked at each other, then back to the ball.

"Where is the tomb?" said Aaron shakily.

"Yeah, and one that sees?" Robin stuttered.

The woman's face faded from the ball, being replaced by what looked like a graveyard behind the house.

"Really?" they all exclaimed, as Jess reappeared back in the ball.

"Listen, I don't make the rules here, I just tell you them" Jess replied, with a hint of sass. Nia rolled her eyes, walked over to the ball and picked it up.

"What are you doing? No, no, no! Put me down!" yelled Jess.

Nia just laughed, looked back at the boys and walked out of the room. "No," she replied, "You're going to take us there."

**Dakota M 6J** - Excerpt from "The Tomb",

Amazing as a shooting star  
Aquatic like the ocean waves  
Florescent like a glow stick  
Beautiful as the sunrise  
Colourful as a rainbow lorikeet  
You are..., coral

**Ava F 6R**

Legs as strong as an elephant's trunk  
Smart like a dog  
As gold as a piece of blond hair  
Majestic like a king on a throne  
You are a..., lion

**Emerson C 6R**

Claws as sharp as knives  
Tail curved like a snake  
Fur as soft as silk  
Whiskers thin like paper  
I am a..., cat

**Ella D 6R**

Spotted like a lady bug  
Climbs like a monkey  
Strong as a WWE super star  
Faster than Usain bolt  
I am a..., cheetah

**Georgina P 6R**

I have fur as soft as a lambs fleece  
I run as fast as a race car  
I have a brain like Einstein  
I have eyes as big as a giant's foot  
I am as cute as a button  
I am an otter

**Madeline B 6R**

As orange as the sun  
As strong as a boxer  
Jump like a rabbit  
A tail as long as a snake  
As big as an emu  
As fast as a football player  
Big feet like an elephant  
I am a kangaroo

**Jacob N 6R**

## **REGIONAL SPELLING BEE**

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September the Regional Spelling Bee was held at Emu Plains Public School.

80 Students from a variety of schools in the region participated in the competition.

Rhys B (6R), Finn F (5PH), Jeremy W (4M) and Grace W (3W) represented Emu Plains and were determined to do their very best, they were eliminated in the early rounds.

All of these students were awarded certificates of achievement. Congratulations to the winners.

MRS N SPRY  
Organising Teacher

## **ABORIGINAL EDUCATION**

For the remainder of the year our students will be revising and learning words from the Dharug language.

Dharug is our local Aboriginal language.

Word of the Week - Week 7

- Warami - Hello

Word of the Week - Week 8

- Ngani - How are you?

The link below will take you to Jacinta Tobin teaching the pronunciation of the word.

<http://education.abc.net.au/home#!/media/2454638/say-hello-in-dharug>

Please note that you may see different spellings of the words - this is due to the language being oral and the spellings being descriptive.

MRS R DELBRIDGE  
Organising Teacher

## LIBRARY NEWS

*There is more treasure in books than in all the pirates loot on Treasure Island*

*Walt Disney*































Our library is **FULL** of treasure! Come along to the library at lunchtime this week or next to discover what that treasure is.

This week (week 8), each grade is invited to come along on a particular day to participate in a scavenger hunt. We will be searching for many different kinds of books and discovering all the sorts of information that can be found in our library.

Next week, (week 9) I will be hosting **book tastings** in the library at lunchtime. I have compiled a group of books that were on the notables list this year for students to come and sample. Each grade will be welcome to come into the library on a particular lunch time to sample some books that they might not have chosen to read themselves. Reading a broad selection of books is very good for us, it opens our minds to new ideas, challenges our current thinking about different topics and helps us to develop empathy and compassion.

I encourage all students to come and sample some exceptional books.

**Congratulations** to the final group of students to complete the **Premier's Reading Challenge** for 2018:

 Daniel L	KC	 Marial T	3S
		 Caitlyn C	3W
		 Amelia C	3W
		 Imogen J	3W
 Beatricia C	1E		
 George H	1E		
 Max M	1H	 Cody Z	4B
 Dylan S	1H	 Patrick L	4M
 Neel T	1LD		
		 Katie E	5D
 Eva B	2B	 Charlotte G	5D
 Elise H	2D	 Joshua K	5D
 Logan B	2L	 Rachael I	5D
 Jed H	2L	 Sienna B	5J
 Piper L	2L	 Cooper C	5J
 Hayley O	2L	 Lachlan H	5J
		 Ziggy M	5PH
 Madison H	SK		
		 Ella L	6J
		 Kayla S	6J
		 Ryan L	6R

The great news is that any books you read from now on count towards next year's PRC, so keep reading!

Alison Koutzas  
*Teacher/Librarian (Relieving)*

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## **SAVE THE DATE**

On Thursday 8th November, Emu Plains Public School will be hosting an evening with Collett Smart in the school hall. Collett Smart is a psychologist, qualified teacher and author. She has more than 20 years experience working in private and public schools, as well as in private practice and she appears regularly on national television and radio, as an expert in teen and family issues. Collett has taught and delivered psychology workshops and seminars around the world. She will offer a 90 minute interactive presentation with discussion, videos and visuals and she will be tailoring her presentation to our school. She will include concepts like resilience and the foundations of resilience and the role that parents can play to develop this. She will also touch on the topic of parenting anxious children. Collett is currently on a speaking tour in Africa and then continuing on a speaking tour throughout the USA sharing her knowledge on these very important topics.

This exciting opportunity is for all Emu Plains Public School parents.

Please keep an eye out for more information as we finalise the details.



**MS A GRIFFITH**  
Organising Teacher

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## **TRANSITION TO SCHOOL PLAYGROUP AND ORIENTATION FOR KINDERGARTEN 2019**

We would like to invite you and your child to a “Starting School Playgroup” that will commence on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2018 at Emu Plains Public School.

The playgroup will be run by an Early Childhood Teacher, supplied by Penrith City Council. Starting school can be daunting for some children and the “starting school playgroup” will be able to develop and refine your child’s skills to help them make a smooth transition into the classroom in 2019.

The dates for playgroup and orientation this year are:

<b>Term 3</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Wk 6	28/8	Playgroup
Wk 7	4/9	Playgroup
Wk 8	11/9	Playgroup
Wk 9	18/9	Playgroup
Wk 10	25/9	Playgroup
<b>Term 4</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Wk 1	16/10	Playgroup
Wk 2	23/10	Kindergarten Orientation – Parent Information Evening 7pm in the Hall & <b>Kindergarten Orientation – Classroom visits with parents (day).</b>
Wk 3	30/10	Kindergarten Orientation – Classroom visits – <b>children only</b>
Wk 4	6/11	Kindergarten Orientation – Classroom visits – <b>children only</b>
Wk 5	13/11	Kindergarten Orientation – Classroom visits – <b>children only</b>
Wk 6	20/11	Playgroup & Computer Room and Library visits
Wk 7	27/11	Playgroup Picnic Day

Come along, have some fun and get to know all about starting school at Emu Plains Public School. Drop in when you can. The play group will run on Tuesday mornings in the school hall from **9:15 – 11am and is free.**

# Have you downloaded our SkoolBag App?

The Skoolbag App is one of our main forms of communication with our school community.

In the event of an emergency, this will be our main tool to keep you informed. If you don't already use the app, it would be a great idea to download it today.

