THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:  You reap what you sow.

OUR SCHOOL FOCUSES:
- Reading, at or above grade level (Reading Links and Rotary Reader programs)
- Improving the number strand in Maths
- Attendance: Maintaining a target of 96%
- Extending our top students in the upper two bands (U2B) of NAPLAN

DARE I SAY IT?
Welcome back to what is already shaping up to be a very busy term! I don’t think there is any other kind of term these days!

A special welcome to our new students and their families. We say “Hello” to Amity in Prep, Mackenzie and Tayla in Year 5 and Cy in Year 6. We hope you and your families all enjoy a long and happy relationship with Elliott Heads State School.

I hope you all enjoyed a lovely holiday with your children and managed a break yourself, if you are a working parent. I enjoyed some very wet, but quality time with my parents, who live in the Snowy Mountains in NSW. The rain did give me an opportunity to read a few books, so it wasn’t all bad!

NAPLAN SUCCESS
I would like to share with you, now that the data is out in the public domain, the fact that over the last 8 years, Elliott Heads has slowly been improving in NAPLAN. We have now reached the stage where Elliott Heads State School has improved their results in NAPLAN, at a rate greater than the whole nation, in 9 out of the 10 NAPLAN test domains, in Years 3 & 5. I am very proud of our teachers and teacher aides, and they are very proud of our students. We have also stabilised our student population. A few years ago, only 26% of students who sat the test at EHHSS in Year 3, were still here to sit the Year 5 test. Now that figure is at 85%, which is a fantastic retention rate! That is truly a whole of school and community effort! Well done!

MATERNITY LEAVE FOR CHAPPY JESS
Great news for Chappy Jess, but sad news for us, is that Chappy Jess will be on Maternity leave from 28th November, and for the whole of the 2017 school year. Her last day with us will be Thursday 24th November. We wish her and hubby Phil all the best for the birth of their child, and the beautiful moments ahead of them as they guide their child through that all important first year. Enjoy!

RETIREMENT
As many of you know, I am retiring at the end of this year. I have been teaching for 40 years, 25 years in NSW and the last 10+ at Elliott Heads State School. These last 10 years or so have been amongst the happiest of my career, but it’s time for me to hang up my chalk and keyboard, call it a day and join my husband, who has been retired now for about 10 years. We do not yet know who will be replacing me, but it seems likely that there will be an Acting Principal for first term next year, and then a permanent replacement from Term 2. I did try to ensure there would be a permanent arrangement in place from the beginning of the year, but the Department works more slowly...

ON A BRIGHTER NOTE....
NUMBERS FOR NEXT YEAR ARE LOOKING GOOD!
At this stage of the year, we have 106 students. If we retain 105 students by Day 8 next year, we will have 5 classes next year instead of 4, which will go a long way to alleviating the high number of students and the number of year levels in each class. An extra class will mean fewer students in each class and a maximum of 2 year levels in each class. I have notified the department of the possibility

ARE YOU LEAVING?
In the light of the possibility of 5 classes, I need to be very sure of our numbers before we go too far down the track of getting that extra room ready for a new class. We know family circumstances change from year to year, and that some families will move away at the end of the year and others will come in. Please let us know, as soon as possible, if you believe your children will no longer be at EHHSS in 2017.
ARE YOU LEAVING? Cont. 

The difference between 4 classes and 5 classes makes a big difference to our planning and we'd appreciate you being up front with us, if you are going to leave by the end of the year.

CONGRATULATIONS 

We offer our congratulations to Tanya Eizenberg (Miss E) and her new husband Andrew, who were married during the school holidays and are currently enjoying their honeymoon. We welcome Mrs Daly back next Monday!

SWIMMING PROGRAM 

Our Water Safety (P-3) and Swimming (4-6) programs begin next Monday. Notes and invoices were sent home on Tuesday. Some parents get their invoices sent home via email, so if you didn’t receive an invoice, please check mail. Money can be paid in bulk ($40) or weekly ($5). Please ensure all notes are back by tomorrow, or Monday at the latest. We use our own teachers and aides to run this program, as using qualified swim instructors doubles the cost of the program. Most of our teachers and aides have been teaching swimming and water safety successfully, as part of this program, for many years.

CONCERT 

Although it was quite a while ago, I did want to thank you all most sincerely for the support you all showed for our school concert. The move to Kepnock SHS hall was a great success in terms of the room and facilities, and except in a very few cases, all students and their families were represented. I’d like to thank the P&C once again for their efforts in putting on dinner before the show. They always support us very well.

I’d like to make special mention of three senior students who spent several hours with staff, before the concert, helping with the set up. You didn’t see them on the night, because they were working behind the scenes, but as you know, the show can’t go on without them! Thanks to Joel, Ryan and Casey for all their hard work!

PUPIL FREE DAY 

Just a reminder that Monday 17th October is now the State’s only Pupil Free Day during the school term. Your help in making other arrangements for your children on this day, is appreciated.

THE GREAT CAMP-OUT 

Students from grade 3 to 6 are going to enjoy a Great Camp-Out at school on Friday, November 4. We are planning an overnight camp in the school grounds, where we will enjoy dinner, campfire songs, skits and lots of fun. We will be looking for some tents, which we will set up on the Friday morning. Students will work on camp tasks throughout the day, hopefully with some parent help, and will go home as normal in the afternoon. Students will then return after they have showered and are ready for the Great Camp-Out. Keep your eyes open for more information in the coming weeks.

P&C PICKINGS 

Next Meeting: Thursday 15th Sept, 9:00 a.m., in the library.
Email: pdc@elliottheadssss.eq.edu.au

President: Bianca Emerson
Vice President: Lyn Barton
Secretary: Monica Ale
Treasurer: Belinda Biggs
Funding: Toni Ellis

FACEBOOK PAGE: Please ask to join!
Elliott Heads Parents and Staff-
It’s a great way for us to keep in touch with you!

FACEBOOK PAGE 

We encourage our new parents to join our school FB page (see above). It is a closed group, for staff, parents and carers of EHSS students only. We use it regularly for updates and notices in between newsletters which come out fortnightly.

INSECT INVASION 

HEADLICE: Please check your children tonight for headlice. We already have a reported case at school. Please ask in the office if you are not familiar with alternative treatment methods.

MOZZIES: We have huge mosquitoes at the moment. I believe Scotch Grays are all over Bundaberg.

SANDFLIES: The warmer weather has seen the return of sandflies. If you’re new to the area you are likely to have a reaction. You do build up an immunity over time, but the first season can be torrid. Please have your children wear insect repellent to school. We do have insect repellent sunscreen at school which students are most welcome to use. It lives on the Prep/1 port rack. Your children are also welcome to bring insect repellent cream or roll on, but it is for their use only. As some students are allergic to certain brands, repellent shouldn’t be shared.

WHAT’S HAPPENING AT EHSS THIS TERM? 

10 Oct Mrs Daly returns 
10 Oct Swimming begins-notes and money to office 
11 Oct Tuckshop Special: Sweet Chilli Tender Wraps 
11 Oct Last Kepnock SHS enrolment evening 
13 Oct Assembly 2:30 pm 
14 Oct Level Reward Afternoon 
17 Oct PUPIL FREE DAY 
18 Oct Tuckshop Special: Spring Rolls 
20 Oct P&C Meeting Assembly 2:30 pm 
24 Oct Swimming 
25 Oct Tuckshop Special: Fish’n’chips 
27 Oct Assembly 2:30 pm 
31 Oct Swimming 
01 Nov Tuckshop Special: Hamburgers 
03 Nov Assembly 2:30 pm 
04 Nov Grade 4-6 Great Camp Out 
07 Nov Swimming 
08 Nov Tuckshop Special: Cheesy bacon & potato cups 
10 Nov Assembly 2:30 pm 
14 Nov swimming 
15 Nov Tuckshop Special: Dim Sims 
17 Nov Assembly 2:30 pm 
21 Nov Swimming 
22 Nov Tuckshop Special: Fried Rice 
24 Nov Chappy Jess’ last day Assembly 2:30 pm 
27 Nov Carols in the Park: Innes Park 
28 Nov Swimming 
29 Nov Tuckshop Special: Fruit Salad 
31 Nov Assembly 2:30 pm 
5 Dec Swimming 
6 Dec NO TUCKSHOP Grade 6 Graduation 
07 Dec Kepnock SHS Orientation Day 
08 Dec Final presentation assembly & class parties 
09 Dec Last day of Term 4 
12 Dec PFD-Teachers only 
13 Dec PFD Teachers only 
18 Jan PFD All staff 
19 Jan PFD All staff 
20 Jan PFD All staff 
23 Jan Students return to school 
26 Jan Australia Day holiday
Healthy snacks need to be placed on our ‘Healthy Snack’ table before school each day. We still have students who are forgetting to do this or have someone else do it for them!

Library borrowing is still Tuesday afternoons — thank you to everyone who managed to return outstanding books. LIZ

THE BUZZ FROM YEAR 3/4

We are off and running in term 4. Our classroom is already bustling with energy.

In maths we have begun working on multiplication facts. Year 3s are perfecting their strategies for recalling multiplication facts involving 2, 3, 5 and 10. Year 4s have been working on their recall of all multiplication facts and related facts.

In Science we have been busy learning about natural and processed materials and biodegradability. We are planning an experiment where we can test the biodegradability of various materials. We had a very interesting discussion about the materials used in building our homes. Your child might want to check it out by having a look in the manhole.

In Geography, students have demonstrated their knowledge of the states and territories of Australia, compass directions and natural and human features around Australia.

We will be starting our new English unit soon. We will be comprehending letters and writing our own to various different audiences.

Homework was sent home on Tuesday. Please make sure it is back by Monday. Spelling testing is still done on Fridays.

KELLY

HOT GOSS from 4/5/6

It is great to be back! We hope you had a great holiday with the children, and that everyone has returned to school refreshed for the new term.

In English, we have already started on this term’s unit, where we will become film critics and review a movie.

In Maths we have done a little pre-test, and already discovered a general class weakness in being able to write a word problem to go with a number sentence, so this has become the focus of our warm ups, each day. Groups working with Mrs G this term are working on problem solving, which ties in nicely.

GRADUATION: Before you know it, Grade 6 will have arrived at Graduation night. Can I ask you to start getting photos to me, for the Graduation photostory, as soon as possible? Each student can have between 10-15 school photos that cover their school story from Prep to year 6. These can come from any school your child has attended during that time. It may also include a baby photo and one other toddler/preschool photo.

This term in Science students are learning about reversible and irreversible changes of materials. At the beginning of the term students are investigating rusting, cooking and burning as well as decomposition. Further into the term students will be exploring recycling processes.

In Geography students will be looking at how places, people and cultures differ across the world. At the beginning of the term students will be looking at diversity. Further into the term students will be looking at aspects of our Asian neighbours and comparing the cultural diversity of Australia and the Asia-Pacific region.

Two weeks’ worth of homework, and the term’s spelling homework booklet were all given out last Tuesday. TEENY & LORI

NEWSLETTER READER SLIP

I TOOK MY NEWSLETTER HOME

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Signed -
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