Dear Parents

Engadine West Public School is participating in the collection of nationally consistent data for students requiring learning adjustments. From 2015 this information will become a compulsory survey for all schools. The data gathered will be used by the government to fund the delivery of curriculum for all students. While some parents may decide not to participate in the survey, the information gathered will greatly assist the Department to fund our school more effectively. Please carefully read all the information available on our website and the notes being sent home. Your co-operation in this initiative will be greatly appreciated.

Biggest Morning Tea

This Tuesday 20 May, Engadine West Public School will be holding its Biggest Morning Tea commencing in the school hall from 8.30am. Students will be able to wear mufti and come with a crazy hair style and will be asked for a gold coin donation for this privilege. Both selected students and staff will be shaving their heads. There will also be a barbecue breakfast, raffles, face painting, cake stalls and an opportunity to throw a cream pie in the face of teachers. All money raised will be donated to cancer research. Come along and help support this great cause!

School Videos/Photographs

Many parents are videoing/photographing school performances on special occasions e.g. Easter Hat Parade and at school assemblies. While this is usually an acceptable practice, a number of parents are then posting them on Facebook. Unfortunately we have numerous students who, for legal and family reasons, have requested not to be posted on public media. For the safety of all students and their parents, I would strongly suggest that such information is not posted on Facebook but kept for personal use.

Stewart House

Congratulations to Engadine West Public School who last week received a Silver Award from Stewart House. Our school was recognised for raising more than $7.50 per student for the children attending Stewart House. This is a wonderful achievement for a charity that helps support children who come from families who need respite and/or medical assistance. Well done everyone!

Special Sporting Recognition

Congratulations to Aimee C who has been selected in the 2014 Acrobatics State Team which will compete from 27 May. Harry G and Blake H have also achieved selection in the Open Regional Rugby League team and will compete in the State Carnival at Kingscliffe in Queensland in June. Harry was also recently selected in the U/12 Southern District Rugby Union Representative team which will play in the NSW State Championship later in June. Well done to all our talented sportspersons!
Wakakirri

We would like to extend our appreciation to Mrs Hightett and Miss Davis, who have been working very hard on preparing for the Wakakirri performance this year. Both Mrs Hightett and Miss Davis have given many unpaid extra hours, on top of their usual work load, to plan and prepare for this valuable learning experience. The hours spent creating music, ordering costumes and managing roles often goes unseen and unrewarded, and we would like to acknowledge the work of our teachers. There is still a lot of work to go into Wakakirri, and these teachers also have student reports to write and a full class load to manage. We know that parents appreciate the efforts of the teachers and we would encourage parents to accept that the decisions made for Wakakirri are based on what is best for the whole group. We look forward to seeing what our talented teachers and students can produce.

Student Reports

Teachers are currently undertaking the complex task of writing student reports for Semester 1. Our school follows DEC policy in reporting to parents; this means that we have to give a grade A-E (excluding Kindergarten) for subjects.

In movies and TV shows involving schooling, a ‘C’ is often portrayed as not being a positive grade. We hope that some of the information below will clarify what each grade means in reality.

Grades

The grades are different from the grades you might remember from your school years. The A to E grades don’t rank your child in his or her class. Rather, the grades indicate whether your child is ‘on track’, and learning what is expected, doing better than expected or needs more help. For example, a grade of C indicates that your child is making sound progress in relation to what he or she was expected to learn over the last semester – your child is ‘on track’.

What do D and E mean?

A grade of D or E indicates that, in relation to what he or she was expected to learn, the student has demonstrated only basic or limited achievement. The student has learnt some things but not enough to be ‘on track’ in relation to syllabus standards. The grade of D or E is an alert to the student and parents that more needs to be done to keep the student ‘on track’.

A to E grades are part of the picture

While A to E grades are an important indicator of your child’s progress at school they are only part of the picture. Student reports will also include information on your child’s level of effort and teacher comments on progress in each subject. For example, your child may have received a D in a particular subject but the report will also tell you about the effort that he or she has made.

This mix of information will help you discuss with your child and his or her teacher how to provide encouragement and improve progress.

If you have a concern about your child’s progress or behaviour, or you just want to have a general discussion about your child, you don’t have to wait until you receive a written report.

Schools provide opportunities for parents to talk with teachers or the Principal. As well, you can always call the school to make a time for a special meeting. It’s best to ring the school in advance to schedule a mutually convenient time.

Ross Edwards & Hugh Hogan
Deputy Principal & Relieving Deputy Principal
Next Monday 26 May, Engadine West will be re-launching its PBL expectations, Positive Behaviour for Learning. Students have been practicing and learning about the importance of being safe, respectful learners and this day will be an opportunity to celebrate this.

We will be showcasing special performances at our Monday Morning assembly featuring the Bee Boys and Queen Bees and extend an invitation to families to attend this special assembly held at 9.30am at our school hall.

On Monday 26 May, we ask that students wear a coloured shirt, as stated below to celebrate our 3 expectations; safe, respectful, learner. We ask this as we will be taking an aerial shot of the whole school in the form of the letters P. B. L to remember this special day.

Kindergarten and Year 6 students: Please wear a green shirt
Year 1, Year 3 and Year 4 students: Please wear a blue shirt
Year 2 and Year 5: Please wear a yellow shirt

Thankyou for your ongoing support.

Miss Connor

Congratulations to Emma M (5A) who competed in the Sydney Metropolitan Band Competition on the weekend. Emma placed 3rd in solo, duet and ensemble. Well done Emma!

All children are invited to participate in the Multicultural Perspective Public Speaking Competition. This competition aims at heightening the awareness of multicultural issues among primary school students from diverse school communities across the state, while developing their interest and skills in public speaking.

Not all children will want to try out for the competition, so we will be holding an informal school final with any child who wishes to participate on Thursday 29 May at lunch time, to be judged by several teachers.

Please be aware of the speech requirements:

* All contestants are required to deliver two speeches at every level of the competition: a prepared speech (unlimited preparation time); and an impromptu speech (5 minutes preparation time).
* Each contestant is required to select from the list of topics provided for their division.
* The prepared topic must have a multicultural content.
* The use of external aids, such as props, is not allowed.
* Children in Years 3 and 4 will be required to prepare a 3 minute speech on a multicultural topic and present an impromptu speech.
* Children in Years 5 and 6 will be required to prepare a 4 minute speech on a multicultural topic and present an impromptu speech.

Students selected from the informal school final will be representing the school in a local area final to be held on Wednesday 18 June 2014 at Padstow Park PS. Years 3 and 4 from 10.00am to 12.00pm; Years 5 and 6 from 12.30pm to 3.00pm. Parents will need to arrange private transport to and from the venue.

Unfortunately, the Multicultural Public Speaking topics are unable to be presented for the Southern Sydney Schools Public Speaking competition. The two competitions are separate and require different topic choices.

If interested, please collect an information sheet and consent form from the school office or contact Mr Murphy.

Vince Murphy
Assistant Principal
Mother’s Day
On Sunday it was Mother’s Day. To start the day off, my mum went on a treasure hunt to find her presents. After that we went to the National Park.

At the National Park we got milkshakes and bacon and eggs. Next we hired three row boats for an hour. Then we hit the road and went home for a party at our house.

At last my visitors went home and the day was over. I thought Mother’s Day was great! By Blake W, 2J

On Mother’s Day my family and I stayed at home. My big brother mowed the lawn and after a little while he didn’t want to do it. So Mummy got out of bed and had to do it. Next, Mummy went back to bed and read her book.

Lastly, my sister and I made a little salon on the verandah. We had a foot spa, nail polish and lots of other things for Mummy. Mummy enjoyed her Mother’s Day. By Chloe D, 2M

On Mother’s Day my family and I stayed in my mum and dads bed for about half an hour. Then after that my mum had a shower. Then mum opened the presents that we bought her. Mum had a great Mother’s Day. By Archie F, 2D

On Mother’s Day my mum got to have sleep in. After a while she wanted to see our gift that we got her. When she saw the “Coffee Machine” we got her she was so surprised. She loved it a lot!

After breakfast we went out to the Bowling Club for lunch. Later we went to our friends’ house for dinner. I had a little hot dog and it was funny. Mum loved the day a lot and I did too. By Hayley W, 2T

On Sunday I went to the club for dinner with my family. My dad booked a table for my mum. We surprised her! I had garlic chicken and prawns. I had a drink of lemonade too.

In the middle of the day we went to the park and made water bombs. It was fun. Then Amber, Billy and I went on the flying fox together. My little sister, Daisy, had a big box of water bombs. We had the best day ever! By Grace 2B

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**Walk Safely to School Day - Friday 23 May 2014**

Friday 23 May is Walk Safely to School Day. Walk Safely to School Day (WSTSD) is an annual, national event when all Primary School children will be encouraged to walk and commute safely to school. This community event aims to promote Road Safety, Health, Public Transport and the Environment. Many schools conduct various activities on this day.

Here at Engadine West Public School, we will be conducting a “Walking Bus” on Friday 23 May beginning at Cooper Street Park (corner of Cooper St and Old Princes Hwy) and walking along Woronora Rd to Engadine West Public School. It is a distance of 1.5km. It is not a compulsory activity, however, parents are encouraged to join their children and assist in escorting the students safely to school. Students and parents can join the “Walking Bus” at any point along Woronora Rd, however, we cannot guarantee specific times. The “Walking Bus” will leave Cooper St Park at 8.30am with the aim of reaching Engadine West at around 9.00am. Unfortunately, any student who participates in PSSA will not be able to participate due to time restrictions.

The “Walking Bus” may be accompanied by a representative from the local Police Command, depending on their duties at the time.

Please complete the permission note sent home last week if you wish to join us on the morning walk.

Vince Murphy
Assistant Principal
TOMORROW!!

Biggest Morning Tea
Shave for a Cure

On Tuesday 20 May 2014 (beginning at 8:30 am and finishing at 9:30 am), we will be holding our yearly event to raise much needed funds to support the Cancer Council. This year, we hope to raise more money than ever before!

Students are able to wear mufti and come with a crazy hairstyle, for a gold coin donation. Students are not able to shave their heads without first gaining approval from Mr Royston.

There will be many activities and stalls on the morning including;

- **Face painting** - 50c
- **Cake Stall** - 50c - $1.00
- **Lolly pop pick** - $1.00 (you could win a $10.00 iTunes card)
- **School lost property sales - gold coin donation**
  - (grab a jumper/jacket or piece of Tupperware, for a bargain!)
- **Chocolate toss** - 50c
- **Tea cup toss** - 50c
- **Breakfast BBQ** - various prices, so get here early for breakfast at school!
- **Raffles** - $2.00 each or 3 for $5.00 (win some fantastic prizes)
  - **Raffle tickets available prior to the event.**

And the big one...

**Throw a cream pie in the face of a teacher!**

($5.00 per throw but it’s worth it)

Can you convince your teacher to be a target?

This year, Ms Barrow is prepared to shave her head and Mrs Winton will be having a 10 inch trim!!! However you will need to be prepared to pay for this. So if you want to see this happen, bring in your money to either Ms Barrow or to the front office.

On the day, donations of cakes, slices, muffins, biscuits etc would be greatly appreciated. If these items could be brought in on the morning (or Monday if they are non-perishable), and delivered to the hall, it would be greatly appreciated. Please remember, NO NUTS.

Your ongoing support of this worthwhile charity is appreciated and we hope to reach our best result ever. So start working around the house to earn some money to come and spend on the day.

Karen Wepple, Tracey Stevenson and Rebecca Barrow
Cancer Council Fundraising Committee

*SPECIAL NOTE: Please be advised that this event will go ahead even if it is raining, so there is no need to call the office and check.*
For Your Diary

Monday 19 May
- Yr 4 COSOtP Camp

Tuesday 20 May
- Canteen Closed
- Student Banking
- Yr 4 COSOtP Camp
- **Biggest Morning Tea**
  Commencing 8.30am
  (Mufti & Crazy Hair
  Gold Coin Donation)

Wednesday 21 May

Thursday 22 May
- 3/4D, 3E, 3S & 3B Wattamolla Excursion

Friday 23 May
- Walk Safely to School Day
- Zone Cross Country Carnival
- PSSA
- K-2 Assembly 12.00pm
- 3-6 Assembly 2.30pm

Monday 26 May
- PBL Re-launch Assembly 9.30am
- Socceroos Match/March Past

Tuesday 27 May
- Canteen Closed
- Student Banking
- 2B & 2M Powerhouse Museum Excursion
- Yr 6 Meeting 4.00-5.00pm in the Staffroom

Wednesday 28 May
- Uniform Shop Open 9.15am
- 4WP, 4C & 4G Wattamolla Excursion

Thursday 29 May
- 2J, 2T & 2D Powerhouse Museum Excursion
- Multicultural Perspective Public Speaking Competition

Friday 30 May
- PSSA

Excursions and Payments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Excursion or Payment</th>
<th>Please pay by</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Zone Cross Country (23 May)</td>
<td>Wednesday 14 May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Years 3 and 4</td>
<td>Wattamolla Excursion (22 &amp; 28 May)</td>
<td>Friday 16 May</td>
<td>$22.00</td>
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<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Year 6 Canberra Excursion</td>
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<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Powerhouse Museum Excursion</td>
<td>Tuesday 20 May</td>
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<td>Dance Group Fees</td>
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| Band Members  | Term 2 Band Fees                              | Friday 4 April| $105.00 per term
|               |                                                |               | $420.00 per year |

PSSA Results

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<th>SCORE</th>
<th>TEAM</th>
<th>OPPONENT</th>
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<td>Won 6-3</td>
<td>Netball Jnr B</td>
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<td>Won 8-1</td>
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</table>

Please note increase in PSSA bus fare

Go to engadine.sessazones.com/ to view draws

Cost: $6.00 per week

Buses depart EWPS at 9.00am
Oz Tag at Heathcote Oval
Netball and Soccer at The Ridge
Uniform Shop News

Winter uniforms are now available and can be purchased from the Uniform Shop (located off the Basement area near the computer lab). The Uniform Shop is operated by the P & C and is open every second Wednesday from 9.15am to 10.15am. The next opening time will be:

Wednesday 28 May from 9.15-10.15am

Tracy Farquhar & Kathy Cunynghame
Uniform Shop Co-ordinators

Canteen News

Please note that lunch orders must be placed by 9.30am.

Find us on Facebook - EWPS Canteen

We Urgently Need Volunteers for Thursdays!

We are in urgent need of more volunteers for this year. Volunteers are rostered on once every 4 weeks from school drop off until approximately 3.00pm, however, we are very flexible. Whatever time you can spare is greatly appreciated.

Options to consider:
★ Once a term.
★ A few hours of a morning to prepare fresh food.
★ Serving at recess and/or lunch breaks.
★ A few hours in the afternoon.

All training is provided and we endeavour to provide a fun work place. You are welcome to drop in and have a look around and meet some of our wonderful volunteers.

Lunch Orders Specials

Banana Smoothie (Fresh) $3.00
Fruit Salad Med $3.00  Large $4.00
Yoghurt + .50c
Potato $3.00
Sour cream and sweet chilli
Bolognaise and cheese
Baked beans or spaghetti and cheese
Tuna and corn

Loftus Pie Fundraiser

Loftus Pie order forms will be sent home this week. Please return order forms to the canteen by Wednesday 11 June and delivery will be on Thursday 19 June. If paying by cheque, please make it payable to Engadine West P & C Canteen. Thank you for supporting this fundraiser.

If anyone has any questions regarding the canteen, please come in and see me.

Leanne Best
Canteen Supervisor

This Week’s Roster

Tuesday - 20 May
CANTEEN CLOSED

Wednesday - 21 May
N Grove, T Huntly, S Mason

Thursday - 22 May
K Allbon, L Blaikie, M Healey

Friday - 23 May
A Pillington, D Osmond, K Holmes, A Bolton, R Maguire

Monday - 26 May
S McFarlane, V Olguin, B Bonomy

Student Banking News

Effective from 13 May 2014, you will no longer receive tokens for your school banking deposits. However, every week you make a deposit through the school banking program, the Commonwealth Bank system will automatically add a token count to your child’s account. We will send out a reminder once you reach the 10 token amount, making it much easier for you.

So please remember, you will no longer receive physical tokens.

Cherie, Michelle and Jodie
Student Banking Co-ordinators
Dear Parents/Caregivers

Nationally consistent collection of data on school students with a disability - 2014

We are writing to all parents of our school. Our school is participating in the collection of nationally consistent data on school students requiring any adjustments to their educational programs. Whilst the term ‘disability’ may be confusing, in this instance it refers to students who have adjustments in the classroom to enable engagement in curriculum. This is something that teachers do, to cater for individual needs.

Our school will be collecting information already available in the school about support that is being provided to students with disability. Better data will help Government planning. The data collection will have no direct impact on your child and they will not be involved in any testing process.

The NSW Department of Education and Communities will provide data to the Australian Government from all NSW public schools in such a way that no individual student or school will be able to be identified. In this way, we will ensure the privacy and confidentiality of all students.

All information is protected by privacy laws which regulate the collection, storage and disclosure of personal information. Information about the Australian Government’s Privacy Policy can be found here: http://education.gov.au/condensed-privacy-policy. Information about the NSW Government’s privacy policies can be found here: http://www.ipc.nsw.gov.au/

If you do not want your child to be counted in the data collection you must complete the attached form and return it to the school before the end of Term 2, 2014. A decision to exclude your child will not affect the support they currently receive. The data collection will provide valuable information to support funding for education.


If you have any questions about your child being included in the data collection please contact the school. If you need help with English to make an enquiry contact the Telephone Interpreter Service on 131 450 and ask for an interpreter in your language. The operator will call the number you provide and get an interpreter on the line to assist you with your conversation. You will not be charged for this service.

Kind regards

Garry Royston
Principal
Collection of Data

If you **do not** want your child to be counted in the data collection, please complete the attached form and return it to the school before the end of Term 2, 2014.

________________________________________________________________________

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability – 2014

I/we ____________________________________________  Name of parent/carer

do not wish my child ________________ to be counted  Name of child

for the purposes of the collection of nationally consistent data on school students with disability.

Parent/Carer signature: __________________________  date: __________

NSW Education & Communities
Public Schools NSW
Regular School Attendance
Information for parents and carers

All children have a right to an education. Only by regular school attendance can children make the most of educational opportunities, leading to greater social and economic outcomes.

Schools play a vital role in the social and emotional development of children. Regular attendance enables students to develop a sense of belonging to a peer group and assists in building important coping and friendship skills. Confident children are less likely to engage in anti-social behaviour.

If students miss out on the basic skills in the early years of school, they may experience learning problems in later years. Ultimately, unsatisfactory attendance at school may affect the awarding of the School Certificate.

Schools, in partnership with parents, are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students. While parents are legally responsible for the regular attendance of their children, school staff, as a part of their duty of care, monitor part or whole day absences. Parents and schools have specific responsibilities concerning children’s attendance at school.

Responsibilities of the principal

Principals are legally responsible for maintaining accurate records of student attendance. When reasons for absences are provided to the school by parents, principals are accountable for their decision to record a student’s absence as justified. Principals may decline to accept as satisfactory an explanation for an absence and will record that absence as unjustified.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when absences explained as being due to illness are frequent or prolonged.

Responsibilities of parents

The Education Act 1990 requires that parents (including carers) ensure that children of compulsory school age are enrolled at and regularly attend school, or are registered with the Office of the Board of Studies NSW for home schooling. The New South Wales Department of Education and Training may take legal action against parents and carers who do not send their children to school without a valid reason.

What is a justified reason for being absent from school?

Justified reasons for absences may include the student:
- having an unavoidable medical or dental appointment (preferably, these should be made after school or during holidays)
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- being required to attend an exceptional or urgent family circumstance (such as attending a funeral)
- being sick, or having an infectious disease.
Regular School Attendance

Head lice infestations can be a common occurrence, particularly in primary schools. Parents should check their child’s hair regularly for head lice and undertake treatment where eggs or lice are identified. Information on how schools can support parents to manage and prevent the spread of head lice can be accessed from the student health section of the Department’s website at http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/studentsupport/studenthealth/conditions/headlice/index.php. Advice from NSW Health indicates that there is no need for students to be sent home or excluded from school because of head lice. Having head lice is not a justified reason for prolonged absences from school.

Absences for reasons such as some of the following may not be justified:

- Shopping
- Sleeping in
- Working around the house
- Minding younger siblings and other children
- Minor family events such as birthdays
- Hair cuts.

It is important to realise that parents (including carers) may be prosecuted if children have recurring unjustified absences from school.

Keeping the school informed

If your child has to be absent from school, it is important to tell the school and provide a reason for the absence. To explain an absence parents and carers may:

- send a note, fax or email to the school
- telephone the school, or
- visit the school.

Whenever possible, parents and carers are encouraged to provide an explanation for absences before the absences occur.

The principal of the school has the right to question parents’ requests for their child to be absent from school. They may also question an explanation given for a child’s absence from school.

Holidays

Parents and carers are encouraged not to withdraw their children from school for family holidays. If this is necessary parents should discuss these absences with the principal and may be requested to apply for a Certificate of Exemption from attendance at school. This will ensure that these absences are not permanently recorded as unjustified.

When considering applications for Certificates of Exemption, principals may consider a variety of factors. These may include compassionate reasons, family reunions, the educational merits of the holiday and agreement for the student to complete assignments while on holiday.

In some cases application for Distance Education may be more appropriate than seeking an exemption from school attendance.

Arrival on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- ensures that students don’t miss out on the important learning activities scheduled early in the day when the students are most alert
- helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- gives students time to greet their friends before class and therefore,
- reduces the opportunity for classroom disruption.

Need help?

If you are having difficulty getting your child to attend school regularly, you might like to talk to the school principal or the school counsellor. In primary school you could also approach the assistant principal and in secondary school, your child’s year adviser would be a good contact.

Home school liaison officers offer support with attendance at school. Some school areas also have Aboriginal student liaison officers who support the attendance of Aboriginal students.

Telephone your local Department of Education and Training regional office and speak to the student welfare consultant if you would like further support. A list of regional office telephone numbers can be accessed at the web site address: www.det.nsw.edu.au/contactus/index.htm or by telephoning 131 536.

Lateness is recorded as partial absence and must be explained by parents or carers in the same way as other forms of absence.

Must my child attend all activities, including sport?

YES. Sport and other physical activities help the healthy physical and mental development of children. Sports and sports carnivals are normal school activities and students must attend.