This morning I watched the Year 7 Graduation rehearsal. I listened carefully to the speeches which I would like to summarise and share with all our community.

The Year 7 students talked about the East Para Primary School community as a welcoming, loving and caring community. They talked about learning, not just academic learning but learning that comes from participation in all that the school has to offer such as music, sports and through community service, to name just three.

The Year 7’s saw their primary school education as part of a journey and one which has helped them to develop a sense of self. The students valued and appreciated the opportunities afforded to them at E.P.P.S.

Congratulations Year 7’s, we are all very proud of you and wish you all the best for your Graduation next Thursday.

I also spoke to the School Captains who talked about saying goodbye but they also are ready and excited for the next part of their learning journey. Their advice – you are all leaders, try your best, be open minded and enjoy all that E.P.P.S. has to offer.

Ros Frost

As you may be aware earlier this term our Year Six and Seven students participated in the DECD – Middle Years Survey of Wellbeing and Student Engagement.

The results from that survey were emailed to the school earlier this week. The data indicates that students at EPPS are in line with the rest of the state when it comes to their levels of wellbeing and engagement in and outside of school. Two domains in the support and engagement section which dramatically stood out were:

- Firstly, 94% of our students indicated they feel they have a medium or high level of connectedness to the adults at the school.
- Secondly, 97% of our students indicated they feel they have medium or high emotional engagement with their teachers.

As we plan for 2017 and students are being placed in their new classes, this data highlights the value we place on student – teacher relationships and the connection these relationships have to their wellbeing and learning outcomes.

Aaron McPherson

Negotiated Education Plans

Negotiated Education Plans are specific plans developed for students who have been identified by DECD Psychologists or Speech Pathologists as having a disability which affects their ability to access the curriculum in the same way as other students.

The process for reviewing these plans usually occurs in Term 3 of each year, however this year due to a number of factors the NEP process has been delayed by a term. Throughout this term I have been sending home copies of student’s Negotiated Education Plans (NEP) for parents to read and make comment on where appropriate.

The end of the year is coming upon us quickly and there are still some NEPs that have not been returned signed. If you have received a copy of your child’s NEP, and are yet to return it, could you do so by the end of the year so our student records can be updated.

If you would like to discuss your child’s plan, please feel free to contact me through the Front Office.

Deb Gustainis
EAST PARA INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

A message to parents from the Department for Education and Child Development

Our public education system has a very strong and proud history of delivering high-quality music education in South Australia. This will be strengthened as new music focus schools open in 2017, expanding the network to 19 across South Australia. The state government is also investing an extra $879,000 in instrumental music, bringing the total budget to more than $11 million in 2016-17. You may be aware that a Consent Order was issued in the Industrial Relations Commission earlier this year to apply ‘best practice guidelines’ for the engagement of music teachers and instructors in public schools. We wish to assure all members of your school community that it is our priority to continue to meet the learning needs of students. That includes ensuring that school programs continue so students who have been learning a musical instrument can continue to do so in 2017. The department is working with individual schools to ensure this happens, within the context of decisions made by schools every year about their curriculum offerings, staffing and budget in consultation with their Personnel Advisory Committees and Governing Councils. Parents with questions about what this means for their child are encouraged to speak with their school principal in the first instance or visit www.decd.sa.gov.au for more information.

At East Para the music program will continue with our present instrumental music teachers, however, we will see some changes to make sure that we comply with the above agreement and ensure that our program continues in 2017 and beyond.

Lessons that were previously individual will now be paired (every lesson will have 2 students at a time) and duration will be 45 minutes to retain the individual nature of the teaching and to fit into the school teaching timetable. The second option of group lessons will take up to 4 students at a time in a lesson (every lesson will have at least 2 students at a time).

Change to cost: Recommended costs will be Paired Lessons $18.00/45 minute lesson, Group lessons $14.00/45 minute lesson. Please see Sue for any further information. Payment will still be made as per agreement with your Instrumental teacher.

While we are working towards this compliance, if you have any questions or concerns about the 2017 program, please contact me in the school office by dropping in or phoning 82643944.

Farewell Mrs Munro

Thank you to all of our students and staff at EPPS who gave Mrs Munro a wonderful send off into the world of retirement.

Reception Transition Visit

East Para Primary School welcomed a visit from our 2017 Reception students.

The student had their first transition day last Thursday, with their second visit today and one more next Thursday.

Thank you to the students in Rooms 25 and 26 for helping our future students feel welcome.

Netball News

Matches Played 2/12/16

Netta 2  Loreto defeated East Para 15-3
         Good try by everybody
Netta 3  East Para defeated St Joseph Memorial 9-8
         Great game by everyone.
Netta 7  East Para defeated East Marden 7-2
         Great team effort.
Primary 6 Had a bye
Primary 8 East Marden defeated East Para
         The whole team never stopped trying.
Sub Junior 2 Gems defeated East Adelaide 19-14
         Fantastic team game by all.
Sub Junior 6 East Para defeated St Joseph Tran 21-2
         Excellent game by the whole team.

Marie Moores: Netball Coordinator  0407197417
In Weeks 5-7 upper primary students have been learning and playing the Swiss game called Hornussen. In essence it is a game of golf played with defenders holding a large wooden board (called a shingle) attempting to block the ball (hornet) from advancing down field.

Congratulations to Latarlia and Hayden from Room 21 and Lacey from Room 26 for their outstanding reflection poster of our recent PE Week.

At East Para Primary School we run a number of sporting opportunities for our students: Football, Netball, Pedal Prix, SAPSASA Sport just to name a few. We also know our students are very active outside of these programs too. If you have a sporting picture of yourself and you’d like it included in the newsletter, email to me peter.waller227@schools.sa.edu.au

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

All our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them. – Walt Disney

Room 11 Star Dome Incursion

On Friday December 2nd Room 11 had a visit from Star Dome. The class were very excited to share their experience with us.

I saw lots of stars and there were lots of different coloured stars.
I felt amazed at the stars.
I heard echoes coming from the teacher.
I wondered how long it would take the sun to blow up?

I saw twinkling stars in the big Star Dome and first it was dark but suddenly I saw the twinkling stars.
I felt weird when I was in the Star Dome.
I heard the lady talking about the Star Dome.
I wondered what it would feel like to be a star?

I saw the bright coloured stars and the interesting scorpion picture.
I felt the freezing cold breeze against my body and I was a bit dizzy.
I heard the other kids screaming.
I wondered if I would faint.

Joshua
Hosna
Jason

Physical Education with Mr Waller

East Para Sports Stars
Don’t miss out!
VACSWIM enrolments closing soon!

Registrations for SA Water’s summer school holiday VACSWIM program are closing fast and families are reminded to book now before it’s too late! More than 13,000 primary school aged children are expected to take part in the summer water safety program at more than 130 pool and beach locations this January. Described as the best value-for-money holiday program with enrolment starting at $30/child, VACSWIM provides children with the opportunity to develop skills and positive experiences in the areas of water safety, confidence and competence in the water, personal survival activities and basic aquatic emergency procedures. Enrolments close December 19 (which is very soon!). Don’t miss out, visit www.vacswimsa.com.au

Call for VACSWIM instructors

Are you an accredited swimming instructor? Are you available from 3-17 January? VACSWIM needs you! VACSWIM is seeking applications from eligible instructors for its regional water safety programs, running from 3-17 January. VACSWIM has been providing water awareness and skills to SA primary school children for more than 50 years, at more than 130 beach and pool locations statewide. And they can’t do it without you!

Find out more and sign up today at http://www.vacswimsa.com.au/employment/

All VACSWIM instructors must hold AUSTSWIM accreditation and a First Aid certificate, as well as DSCI clearance, Child Safe Environments certificate and Child Related Employment

The inaugural Santa’s Wonderland at the showgrounds December 9-18 is a unique event unlike any other that has been created especially for the Adelaide market.

An all-inclusive ticket price of $26.50 each for a family of four or more includes unlimited access to a host of activities including ice skating, toboggan slides and amusement rides. Also included in the ticket prices is a series of non-stop stage performances, a reindeer corral (take a ride on a reindeer with Rudolph and friends) and in an exclusive partnership with the Credit Union Christmas Pageant, 9 of the floats will be on display at Santa’s Wonderland.

A fun filled activity trail (including a free ‘activity trail’ showbag filled with things for the kids to make, do and take home such as DIY Xmas stickers, a colouring set and a DIY Xmas bauble to decorate) will provide hours of enjoyment for kids of all ages. With 6 different event zones (Traditional Family Christmas Zone, Ice Wonderland, Candyland, Activity Trail and Christmas Live) – each specially designed to offer a host of fun activities to see and do, Santa’s Wonderland will provide a memorable experience for the entire family. Bookings at www.santaswonderland.com.au

Some Artwork from Room 14