



# Elphinstone Primary School

www.elphinstoneps.vic.edu.au 26 Wright St, Elphinstone 03 5473 3285

CARE – RESILIENCE – CREATIVITY

## Important Dates 2025:

### December

**Thur 4** School Concert

**Mon 8** Assembly

**Tue 9** State-wide  
Orientation Day (new  
preps and Grade 6)

**Thur 18** **End of school  
Year for Students.**

Farewell Assembly  
2.45pm

**Fri 19** **Curriculum Day  
(no students)** End of  
year (for staff)

### January 2026

**Wed 28** **Start Up Day**

Students start 2026  
school year.

**Thur 29** Formal Classes  
Commence

### February

**Mon 9** Assembly 3pm

**Mon 16** School Council  
5pm

**Tue 17** The Resilience  
Project Parent  
Webinar 6.30pm

**Wed 18** Gym Session  
Bendigo (also on 25/2,  
4/3, 18/3 and 1/4)

### March

**Mon 2** Assembly

**Wed 11** NAPLAN  
begins

**Mon 16** School Council

**Tue 24** Castlemaine  
State Festival (for  
schools)

**Mon 23** School  
Assembly

**Fri 27** AFL and Netball  
Castlemaine

### April

**Thur 2** Term 1 finish  
2.30pm

## NEWSLETTER No.18 27th November 2025

Dear parents carers and the wider school community

It's hard to believe that we're writing the second last newsletter for the year, where has the term gone? It's always a very busy time of the year for schools as there is so much happening. Teachers are concluding formal assessments and planning for the following school year. One new inclusion in our end of Semester Reports I would like to mention is the statement about your child's wellbeing, particularly focussing on the check in data we gather every morning. It lets us quickly know students that are not quite ready to learn and we have been collating the results throughout the semester. It will also form part of our discussion when we have our StartUp meetings on Wednesday 28th January, the day before formal classes begin.

Last week we held our bi-annual Shelter in Place emergency drill and the students performed their roles very well. The continuous ringing bell signals some type of emergency and everyone was ushered into the 'Big Room' where we discussed a possible scenario of a bush or grass fire. **Have you discussed your fire plans with your children?** Students were encouraged to talk to their parents about their family's plans on a Catastrophic Fire Day Rating (FDR).

Please note that our school will close on any day that is declared a Catastrophic FDR in our Fire Region. The department will be advised of the potential for Catastrophic FDR conditions through the Bureau of Meteorology forecasts. The department will:

- wherever possible, provide schools and early childhood services with 4 to 7 days' notice of a possible Catastrophic FDR day closure to enable schools to forewarn their school and parent/carer community
- confirm the final decision to close a school by 1 pm the day before the Catastrophic FDR day closure.



The Castlemaine Old Boys Association dropped by earlier this week to donate a package of new books which were selected from a range of award winning texts at Stonemans Castlemaine. Each and every year we look forward to the occasion and our collection is becoming a significant part of our own library. Pictured left, Isabella and Bill said some kind words demonstrating their gratitude on behalf of all of our students.



Elphinstone Primary School - Like us on Facebook!

We care for and respect our school, and acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we learn and play, the Dja Dja Wurrung People.







OUR SCHOOL VALUES		
<b>Care</b> We show kindness and empathy when we care for ourselves, others and country.	<b>Resilience</b> When things are tricky, we bounce back from the challenges we face.	<b>Creativity</b> We are all unique, imaginative and can think outside the box.

## ASSEMBLY

Thank you parents and families for joining us for our Assembly. This time we celebrated Sylvia. Sylvia is an absolute pleasure to teach. Her creativity is endless and she always takes great pride in her work. We are grateful that Sylvia is a member of our school and so do the chickens!

Our last recognition Assembly will be held on Monday 8th November, where we will feature Elijah and Tommy

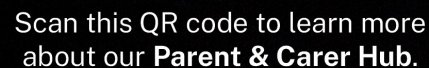


## SLEEPOVER

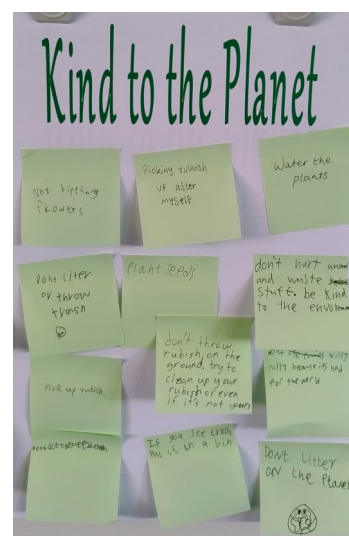
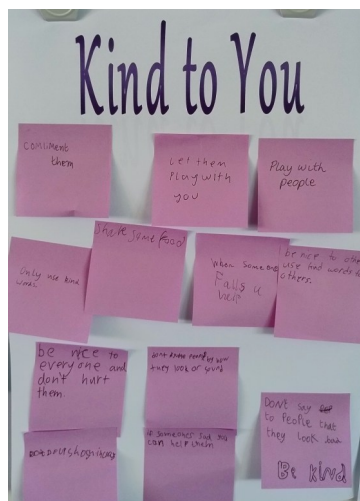




### Understanding how other people feel

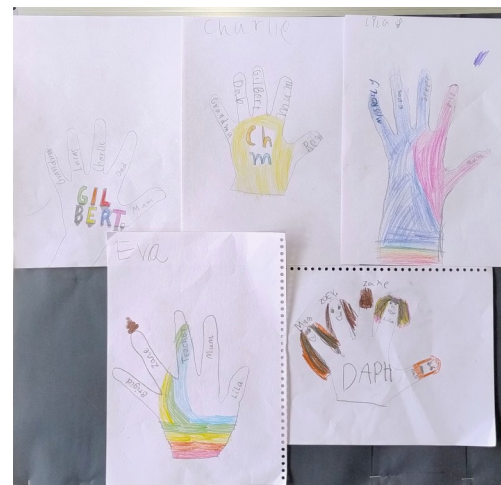


# Kind to Me



# A message about consent.

Student's learnt that whenever they feel unsafe or uncomfortable they must tell someone they trust. Students created their 'Helper Hands' to identify who they can talk to at home, school or in the community.





# Miss Leehane's Class

## Integrated Studies

This term our topic is 'Topsy Turvy Tales' and we have focussed on fairy tales. In small groups we have chosen a fairy tale, created a backdrop and puppets and over the next couple of weeks we will present a short play of a modified version of our chosen fairy tale.



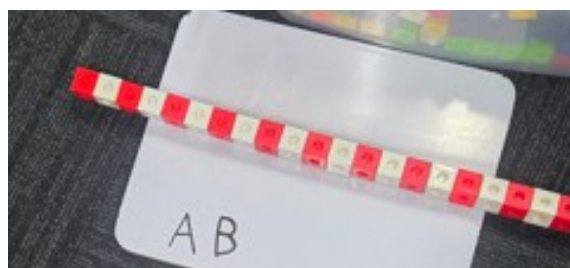
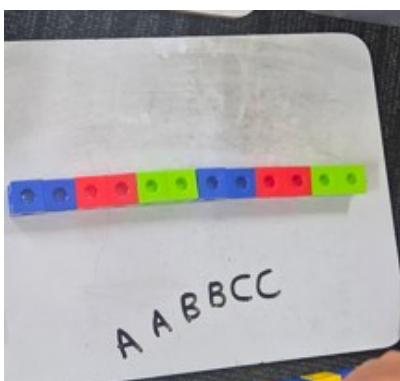
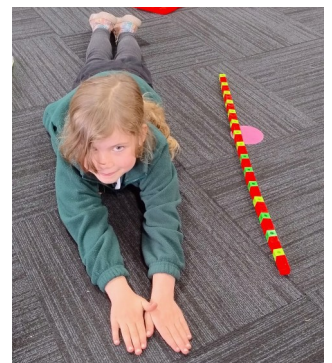
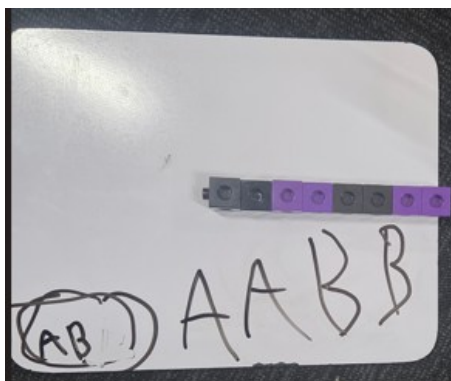
## Transition

Our transition sessions have been going well and the prep/two students have done a great job helping the kinder kids settle in to our classroom. This week, we read *The Monsters Party* and drew our own monster. Then we sang *5 Little Monkeys* and practised our numbers to 5. We look forward to another transition morning next week followed by a full day transition on Tuesday the 9th of December .



## Maths

In Maths we have been revising patterns and practising making them, labelling them, continuing them as well as finding the missing elements in patterns. We've had great fun making our own patterns using blocks, counters and numbers.





# Mrs Rollinson's Class



## Writing

Students have been completing their narrative assessment pieces this week. The theme was 'mystery'. Here's one of the creative stories written by Brigid:

### The catnapper

"Squirrelpaw! Help, I can't find squirrelpaw!" yelled sandstorm. Firestar ran up to Sandstorm, meowing. "I looked everywhere but I couldn't find her!" Sandstorm yelled as she ran through the camp. Soon there was a patrol and all the elders were searching through the camp. But it was no use. Where could Squirrelpaw be? Who took her?

"I smelled Tigerstar in thunderclan territory! Yowled one of the warriors. "And I bet he took squirrelpaw, too! Said Firestar running back into camp.

Firestar took some of his best warriors and Sandstorm to go find him. Even though it could take days, they would do it for the clan.

Two days later, they knew they were on the right track. They found a scent of Tigerstar. The day after they had found Tigerstar and Squirrelpaw far from the forest. They snuck up from behind some rocks and attacked Tigerstar whilst Sandstorm tried to grab Squirrelpaw but there were too many bad cats and they had to retreat.

They needed a plan. "I have an idea!" said Firestar with excitement. "We can ask the other clans for help!". They all ran back to camp to ask the other clans for help and they all agreed. That night they attacked Tigerstar and the other bad cats. They were fighting for hours but the good cats still won and saved Squirrelpaw. Tigerstar was captured and taken prisoner. The end.

By Brigid Wood

## Gratitude

I am grateful to all of our students being quiet and considerate while their peers were sleeping during camp. I was also proud of the beautiful manners students used during eating times.



## FUN FRIDAY

Loving the creativity of drawing our own Pigeons. The writing that came with it was funny. Some Pigeons ate students, others ate baked beans or Sour Cream so they'd fart and even KFC and Tanks were on the menu.





## WRITING

# MATHS

**Fun Park Attractions Design**

William has decided a swimming pool is not sustainable or environmentally friendly as the upkeep costs are through the roof. A wave pool is no longer required, however he needs to know what your ideas are! As part of the future fun park facilities, you need to incorporate an environmentally friendly attraction into the park. You must consider what kinds of attractions will be sensitive to the environment while still being appealing, inviting, engaging and fun. Also think about what would encourage people to pay a small amount for the experience. Use the boxes to design some nature fun park attractions. In the description, you must cover:

- how it is sensitive to the environment
- why it would attract people to the park
- how much people might pay for this activity

Design 3 different attractions and then find out which is the most popular and best meets William's criteria when you survey your peers.

**Sketch**

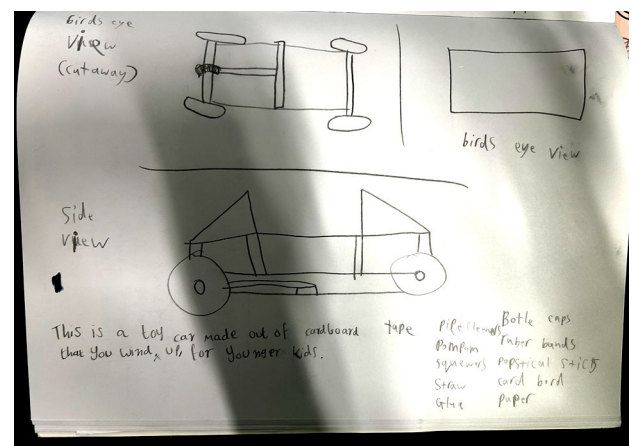
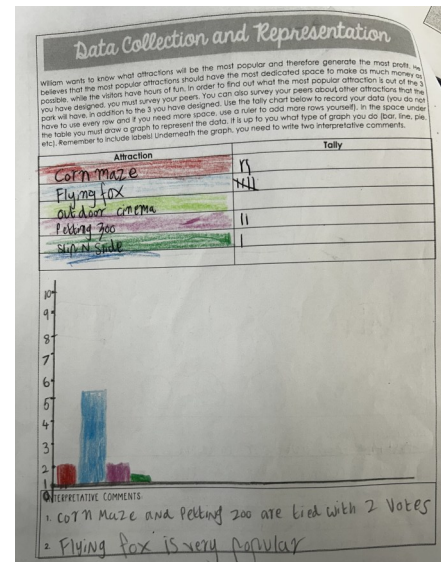
**Description of Design**

Hedge Maze, trimmed beautifully and helps out the environment by not being planted with all 5 feelings for a change to give a free Popcorn ticket. \$7 for 10 min in the maze.

## Budget and Costing

Now that you have decided what types of attractions your nature fun park will have, it's time to start deciding what needs to be purchased for the rest of the park. Wilton has given you a budget of \$1m so it is important that in your plan you stick to it. Budgeting and costing sheets help us to keep track of everything we're spending money on, what we need to buy and quantities of what we're purchasing and ensure we don't overspend. Fill out the table below with Wilton's required facilities, adding in your own extra ones. Your environmental friendly nature park attraction will cost \$250,000 to build/purchase/implement/create.

FACILITY	COST PER ITEM	NUMBER OF ITEMS	TOTAL COST
Drinking fountain	\$2,000	3	6000
Bike rack (for 10 bikes)	\$2,200	1	2200
Bikes	\$500	4	2000
Seats/park benches	\$750	10	7500
Table (seats 8)	\$3,000	2	6000
Paddle boats	\$2,500	3	7500
Toilet block	\$50,000	2	100000
Covered picnic area with tables and seats	\$9,950	3	29850
Walking/bike trail	\$350 per meter	200	70000
Cafe/ticket office	\$200,000	1	200000
Parking area for 50 cars	\$100,000	1	100000
Playground	\$200,000	1	200000
3 Attractions	\$250,000		250000
Grand Total		231	973550





# 3-6 Puzzle Page



## Christmas Cookies Logic Puzzle



Name \_\_\_\_\_

		Cookie Shape					Cookie Flavor				
		Angel	Circle	Square	Star	Tree	Chocolate	Cinnamon	Red velvet	Sugar	Vanilla
Baker's Name	Charlotte										
	Ethan										
	Emma										
	Mason										
	Olivia										
Cookie Flavor	Chocolate										
	Cinnamon										
	Red Velvet										
	Sugar										
	Vanilla										

### Baking Quiz

Mason and his friends all made and decorated cookies. They each got to make their own batch. They made chocolate, cinnamon, red velvet, sugar, and vanilla cookies.

Now, they're testing Mason's mom to guess who made what cookie. Help Mason's mother guess the baker!

### CLUES

- Charlotte didn't make the sugar or red velvet cookie.
- Ethan made a chocolate cookie.
- Mason made the cinnamon cookie.
- Emma did not make the tree cookie.
- Olivia did not make the red velvet cookie.
- The star cookie was not sugar flavor.
- The angel was the cinnamon cookie.
- The cookie with four sides was red velvet flavor.
- The cookie with no sharp corners is a sugar cookie.
- The vanilla cookie was not shaped like a tree.



## MILK AND COOKIES: A PERFECT PAIR



Milk and cookies go so well together because milk fat enhances the flavor of cookies, while its cold temperature balances out the sweetness. It's the ultimate food chemistry win!

## Cookie Word Search

F B H O M E M A D E D Z  
B B B T T C N U T H U U  
W A A J C H I P J P F T  
L K E F R O S T I N G E  
A I V H W C C J H Q K Q  
U N U H H O R J X J F M  
N G Z G S L I S O A Y A  
T J U S X A S U V X Y C  
K O Z U E T P G E K Z H  
D O C I I E P A N O O E  
T Z D E S S E R T N R W  
X S P R I N K L E H H Y

DOUGH CHOCOLATE CHIP  
BAKING OVEN SUGAR  
CHEWY CRISP HOMEMADE  
FROSTING SPRINKLE DESSERT

## THE MAGIC OF BROWN SUGAR



Why do some cookies turn out chewy and soft while others are crisp? It's all in the brown sugar! Brown sugar has more moisture than white sugar, keeping cookies extra soft and chewy.

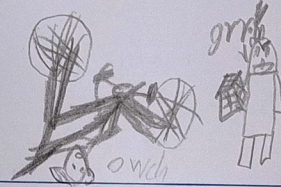


# Pip's Adventures





# Dinner's Adventures



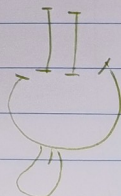
On the weekend Me and Dinner rode the bikes and I tried to do wheelies but I kept going back too much and flipping over. I also tried to teach dinner how to solve a Rubik's cube, it did not go well.

by Gil



On the Weekend Dinner and I went to <sup>Echuca</sup> ~~achua~~ <sup>Moorabool</sup> and raced and I helped <sup>Grandpa</sup> ~~him~~ in the pits by changing the tyres, washing the car, making <sup>sure</sup> ~~that~~ grandpa was strapped in and checking the tyre pressures on the car. Then got home at 4:30 in the morning. Then on Sunday Dad and I moved all the cars in the back paddock and moved them ~~as~~ neatly in a line on the back fence.

by Riley 05/11





# Notice for the Fridge!

Here is a list of optional Out of Uniform days we are participating in this year.  
There may be others that pop up but these are the usual ones.

**Thursday 18th December - Last day of School 2025 - Casual Dress day. Gold Coin donation for Police Blue Ribbon Foundation.**

**\*Remember you need to be sun smart so no singlet tops**



## ELPHINSTONE PLAYGROUP



**TUESDAYS**  
**9:15-11:15am**  
**During School Terms**

**ELPHINSTONE RECREATIONAL HALL**  
**Olivers Lane**

**Everyone welcome!**  
**Just bring \$3 and a piece of fruit to share**

**For more information contact**  
**Tara on 0478 809 621**  
**Or join the 'Elphinstone Playgroup' Facebook page**

## English Tutor

**Local English Tutoring –**

**Helping Students Thrive**

Hello, my name is Tallaya, and I am an experienced English tutor with a background in secondary teaching and a genuine passion for helping students succeed. I specialise in building confidence and improving reading, writing, and communication skills for students of all levels.

Each hour-long session is tailored to suit the student's individual learning needs. Whether it's developing stronger essay-writing skills, preparing for VCE exams, or filling knowledge gaps, my aim is to make English engaging, accessible, and rewarding for all students wherever they are on their learning journey.

One on one and small group tutoring available here in Elphinstone.

For information regarding session times, fees or to book a trial session please contact

Tallaya Maher on one of the following,

[taymaher@hotmail.com](mailto:taymaher@hotmail.com)

0424790788

Join us for a free

# Community Christmas Lunch

Thursday 25 December 2025

Hosted by Castlemaine Community House and friends

12.30pm to 2.30pm  
Castlemaine Town Hall, 25 Lyttleton Street  
(entry via Frederick Street)

Quiet seating available at the Senior Citizens Centre  
Share a delicious meal with good company  
on Christmas Day.

Come alone or bring your family and friends.  
Everyone welcome for music, activities and festivities.

To RSVP, book transport or find out more,  
call 5472 4842 or email [reception@cch.org.au](mailto:reception@cch.org.au)  
You can also volunteer your time or make a donation.



For more information  
scan the QR code.



# SENIOR PERFORMANCE 2025



A diverse showcase of dance from  
Over the Moon's senior dancers.



PHEE BROADWAY THEATRE *Castlemaine*

Dec

Sat 6  
Sun 7

2:30 PM AND 6:30 PM  
2:30 PM

Book  
NOW



# IMAGINE THE FUN



## Join Woolworths Cricket Blast

Designed for kids to learn skills, exercise, and make friends.

### TARADALE CRICKET CLUB

- Thurs nights 4:30 - 5:30 @ Taradale Recreation Reserve
- 20th Nov, 27th Nov, 4th Dec, 11th Dec, 5th Feb, 12th Feb, 19th Feb and 26th Feb
- Ages 5-10



**SIGN UP TODAY!**

Q Play Cricket

PROUDLY  
PRESENTED BY

