



# Elphinstone Primary School

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

CARE – RESILIENCE – CREATIVITY

## Important Dates 2025:

### December

**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.19 11th December 2025

Dear parents carers and the wider school community

We've made it to the final newsletter for the year and what a year it has been. Welcoming Jess to the team, excursions, camps, building of the shed, concerts and mini expos, and a whole lot of learning and fun in there too. We end the year saying our farewells to Scott, Trinity and Jamie. We are very grateful for all of their contributions to our school and community. We wish them all the best for their future endeavours.

On Tuesday, we had our State-wide Orientation Day and the classrooms were buzzing with Christmas creations and getting to know you activities. We are very excited for 2026 and are already preparing with our Start Up interviews being booked in already.

As part of our whole school approach to wellbeing we will continue to share valuable resources with our families and the community. This newsletter includes advice regarding setting boundaries with children. We use these strategies within our classrooms and they are quite effective - consistency is key!

Newshounds awards afternoon tea is on this Friday 12th December at the Library in Castlemaine at 4pm. We would love to have some of our students there representing our school, so if you can please join me.

Tomorrow is the start of our activities week which the students are very excited for. There's been a slight change of plan to the riding activity tomorrow due to Mr Stewart being unwell, so the bike riders will have action packed bike challenges in the morning at school and then join in the crafting/cooking. It is these moments when students are practising empathy and resilience as they adjust to change.

Reminder, next Thursday 18th at 2.45 - 3.30pm is the final assembly for the year. Grade 6 students will present their slide shows and various school awards will be presented. We hope you can attend. We wish all of our Grade 6's the best as they step up into High School.

Thank you to all of our staff for their hard work and dedication throughout the year and to our families for supporting their children and our school.

We wish everybody a safe and relaxing holiday break and look forward to seeing you all next year.

Thank you, Pam.



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 Elijah and Tommy. Elijah showed his Rubik's cubes which are very special to him. He especially likes it when he challenges Gilbert to solve them; which he does in record time. Unfortunately, Tommy was unable to attend. However, he will receive his special letters and pictures very soon. During assembly we also presented students with their much deserved reading awards.



# SETTING BOUNDARIES

## WHAT ARE BOUNDARIES?

Personal boundaries are healthy limits we set to keep ourselves safe and comfortable. They help protect our feelings, our space, and our minds from being hurt or taken over by others.

## WHY ARE BOUNDARIES IMPORTANT?

Parenting can be a struggle sometimes on so many aspects - financially, emotionally, mentally, and/or physically. Setting healthy boundaries can make things easier and help parents feel more in control.

## HOW DOES IT HELP?

- ▶ Help us feel closer to our kids.
- ▶ Create a respectful and calm home.
- ▶ Give parents healthy control without being harsh.
- ▶ Support children's mental and emotional growth.
- ▶ Make life more predictable and less stressful.
- ▶ Help kids feel safe and secure.
- ▶ Teach kids how to handle emotions, solve problems, and care about others.





## PRACTICAL STRATEGIES FOR SETTING BOUNDARIES FOR CHILDREN

- ▶ Establish predictable routines so children know what to expect, e.g. "First we take a bath, then breakfast."
- ▶ Offer limited choices like "Would you like to do Math or Science?" to give them control within boundaries.
- ▶ Use clear, simple language such as "Dishes go in the sink" to set easy-to-follow rules.
- ▶ Set age-appropriate expectations based on your child's stage of development.
- ▶ Stay calm and consistent - avoid shouting or changing rules often to build trust and security.
- ▶ Acknowledge emotions, not misbehaviour: "I know you're upset, but the rule is one treat after dinner."
- ▶ Use praise and positive reinforcement to encourage good behaviour.
- ▶ Model respect, patience, and calm problem-solving - children learn best by example.



The Children's Health and Wellbeing Local is jointly funded by the Victorian Government and the Australian Government through the Head to Health Kids Initiative.

Scan the QR code  
to know more





Students will practice being resilient when faced with change which includes changing grade and starting new schools. We will support all of our students as they navigate their way through these changes. In 2026, through The Resilience Project we will continue to teach students how to improve their wellbeing through Mindfulness, Empathy, Gratitude and Emotional Literacy.



Scan this QR code to learn more about our **Parent & Carer Hub**.

## School Concert

What an absolutely fantastic night we all had. It was so wonderful to have all of our families attend. Thank you to Scott for teaching the students the songs and Katie for the props. Congratulations to the girls for their dance number. The amount of time and effort the girls put in to make it perfect is commendable.

Here are some photos from the evening followed by 2 of the thoughtful speeches the grade 6 students made on the night. We are so grateful to have had the opportunity to teach our grade 6 students.



# Speeches

Good evening, everyone.

It's hard to believe that we're at the end of primary school. It feels like just yesterday I was the smallest kid in the yard starting at the end of prep, looking up at the big kids and wondering when I'd be that tall or that smart. Now look at us! We are the big kids, and we made it to the finish line.



I have so many great memories: the school camps where we barely slept, the swimming lessons where the water was always freezing cold and the fun excursions.

To our fantastic teachers: thank you Mr Stewart for being the best principal and for helping the school be a better place and to Miss Saunders for being my grade six teacher. You have helped me so much with my school work and made my last year here so fun. I've loved being in your class. To Mrs Rolly, thank you for helping me learn to spell. You made spelling so fun just being able to go up to you and show you my spelling and seeing your smile made me love spelling and made me want to improve my hand writing. And Nicole for starting the garden kitchen program. It has been so fun making all that yummy food. Miss Leehane - thank you for teaching Auslan. Lastly to all the specialist teachers - Thank you. To family: Thank you for packing my lunches, and always giving me a hug when I needed one.

By Isabella



Hi. Thank you for coming to our school concert.

My name is Riley. I'm a grade six student at awesome Elphinstone Primary School. This is my seventh and final year here. My journey has been great with lots of memories of friends and teachers that will last a lifetime.

My first memory of the school is when I was in 4-year-old Kinder, and we visited the school as part of orientation. It was about half way through the day and I walked into the grade 3-6 class doing coding with Mr Izzacs and they were working with really cool robots that they had to code. I remember thinking : THIS IS AWESOME!

I started Prep in 2019, there were only 13 students in the whole school. I was the only prep until term three, when Isabella joined our school. My teacher for that year was Mrs Perry and she was the P-2 class teacher and the Italian teacher.

In March 2020 Mrs Perry left and covid lockdown started. Miss Dickson's first day at EPS was our first day of home learning. We had to stay home from school and would have a zoom meeting every day and we would get sent worksheets to do at home.

Somers Camp was a huge highlight for me. I am very grateful that I got to go. I made lots of new friends and tried lots of new activities. I even learnt to surf!

This school is awesome because I've been able to bring my grandad's race car, AND my racecar for show and tell, and I've never ever heard of a school that allowed a student to do that.

Thank you to all my teachers: Scott, Katie, and Trinity for teaching us music, art and P.E.

**Miss Leehane:** It's been really nice getting to know you over the last year. I can't wait to hear about your new baby girl when she arrives.

**Nicole:** Your cooking classes are great fun. And Wednesday brekky club is everyone's favourite. Thank you for being a calm space and a wonderful listener. You always help me when I need it. I will miss you.

**Miss Saunders:** Thank you for being my grade 6 teacher and teacher to end my Primary school era, you are kind and funny and calm. If I was struggling in class, you would change the scenario to something car related to help me understand it better. Thank you for letting me talk your ear off about racecars all year, and an even bigger thank you for listening and pretending to love them as much as I do.

**Mrs Rolly:** Where do I start? It feels like you've been here forever. You love Groot, and Fun Fridays, and all of your students. You've looked after me for 3 years and I've enjoyed those 3 years a lot. Thank you for making learning fun by making it CAR THEMED whenever possible. I'm grateful for everything you've done for me. I will miss you.

**Mr Stewart:** Thank you for putting up with me for such a looooong time!

You have been my teacher from prep to grade 6.

I love the way you teach us different strategies because they'd be funny and useful at the same time, like to remember  $8 \times 8$  he says " i ate and i ate and i was sick on the floor"

My favourite memories of Mr Stewart both involve him falling over and mud.

One time, we were on the oval and it was raining and really muddy. He was chasing someone and tripped and fell backwards onto his back and was covered in mud. He had stains on his blue jacket for months hehe

Another time, we were playing soccer, I dove for the ball but Mr Stewart was right behind me and didn't have time to stop and landed on top of me.

I'm excited for high school, especially mechanics and woodworks. It'll be fun to meet some new people.

I will miss my wonderful teachers and younger friends. And I'll miss the smallness of our school, and how easy it is to get around without getting lost.

I couldn't imagine a better school than Elphinstone primary.

Thank you to all of my friends at Elpho - Gabe, Levi, Giltaco, Charlie, and Eli. And a special thanks to Bill, Luna and Lucas, they've helped me through a lot of tough times and been there when I've needed it the most.

Thank you to Mum and Dad for putting up with me everyday, getting me to school vaguely on time and reminding me everyday to bring home my lunchbox and jumper. Thank you to Nan for our Wednesday afternoon treats. And thank you to Nan and Grandad, Chelsey, Ethan, Kyle and Sarah for the hugs and helping me throughout the years. Thanks to the teachers for another awesome school concert, and thank you to everyone for being here. I hope you all have a happy Christmas



# Miss Leehane's Class

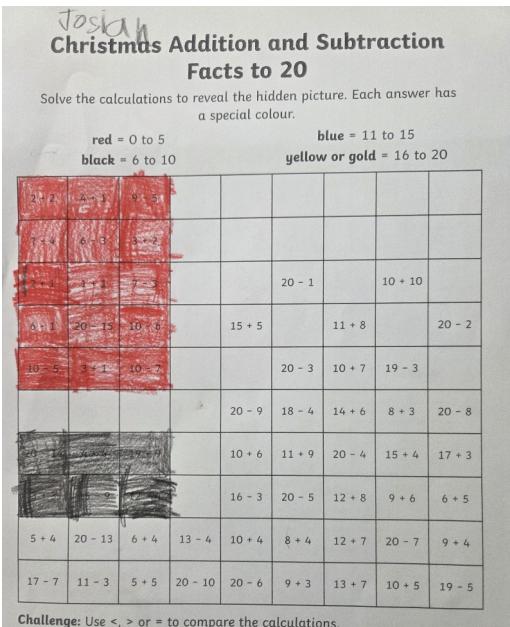


## Writing

This week we are finishing up our narratives. With support, the students have drafted, edited, published and illustrated their own story and they have done a fantastic job. Like last time, I will send home a copy of all the stories in one book for you and your children to enjoy.

## Transition

Our transition day on Tuesday went wonderfully! We read Christmas stories, played maths games, shared all about ourselves and made a Christmas paper plate craft with Miss Saunders to finish the day.



## Maths

In Maths this week we have been completing a range of Christmas themed activities and have played a Christmas board game practising our addition and subtraction skills.

## THANK YOU!



As we get ready to sign off for the year, I would like to say a massive thank you to everyone for making my first year at Elphinstone Primary School so great. Your kindness has not gone unnoticed and I appreciate it so much.

# Mrs Rollinson's Class



## Passion Projects

Congratulations to all of my students for completing and presenting their Passion Projects. It can be a bit intimidating getting up in front of everyone but each student gave it a go. We also practised giving constructive feedback which was given and received very well. Thank you to my students for sharing their passions with us.



## A Special Message from Mrs Rolly to All.

Thank you to my wonderful students across the school for a fantastic year. I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching you all and celebrating your achievements throughout the year.

I hope you all have a fantastic Christmas holiday break and I look forward to hearing all about it next year.

Happy Grootmas Everyone!!

## Maths

We ended the year with Christmas themed revision activities. Students drew sleighs using a set amount of various 2D shapes; some had areas to nap in, and of course spots for the presents. We made 3D shape objects with the current Grade 2's when they joined us for Orientation Day. Our final Math lesson for the year had an escape room challenge - I loved the persistence and critical thinking skills in action.

Congratulations to Brigid and Lucy for cracking the code and unlocking the vault to

Santa's presents. You both saved Christmas!



# Miss Saunders' Class

## Writing

Students finally completed their narratives, writing in first person and focusing on the theme of adventure. Students focused on using a lot of description to make the readers visualise. Once finished, they created their final writing piece with a passion project. Below is a snippet from two stories.

### Dino

Saturday afternoon was the day my life changed ... My friends and I were walking out of Dino laughing about a joke that Billie said. She's always the one that is funny and curious. As we are walking down the road Seren stops and says, "guys look!" She pulls out her sketch book and draws the creepy tunnel.

Billie says "Lets go inside it!"

Greta replies "uh guys I don't know about this. It looks like a trap." Greta is always scared every time we do something fun. She's always worried about something.

The tunnel was so big it was the size of a classroom. The grey walls felt very welcoming and it smelled like red roses. We all start heading towards the tunnel and we notice that there's heaps of lanterns inside. As we are all walking inside I freeze as I notice something ahead. "What's that? Is that a door?" asks Seren curiously.

"Yes, that is a door, Seren. The door is very big though, like the size of 3 elephants". I replied back as I approached the big black door. I turn the warm handle to open the door and then I see over one 10,000 tunnels. They all look creepy- some of them are pitch black and doesn't look safe, some we can see the inside but they are cold and wet, one tunnel has burning flames and we also notice one with tnt as we approached a tunnel we hear giant footsteps stomping closer each time, so we start running out as the walls start crumbling we can't see the monster at all because it's too dark, so as we just run out, the whole place explodes.

BOOM!!!!!!

By Isabella

## Integrated Studies

Students in their groups finished designing their product. Students worked extremely hard to not only design their product but come up with a company name, a logo and a price. They reflected on what makes a product appealing to customers and how they can persuade customers to buy the product. Students collaborated well with each other to cooperate in deciding their product.



### Crash!

By Bill

Crash! I could hear the rimels getting closer and closer. Crash! They were almost directly beneath me. Crash!! I had to jump now! I jumped down from the trees expecting to land directly on the lead rimel, but I had jumped too early and I instead landed just in front of the lead rimel! Smack! The rimel hit me straight on, throwing me into the jungle, my head collided with something hard and I lost consciousness.

3 days earlier.

Today was the day! I couldn't wait! I was finally old enough to travel into the jungle by myself, and I was planning a big hunting trip. I sprung out of bed and raced out of the hut. My parents were already up and were probably either foraging for berries or working at The Pot. The Pot was a massive mettle pot where we made berry stew for the village. I ran over to The Pot and saw my mum string viciously at the stew. "Hey mum!" I called out. She stopped stirring and looked up at me. "Hey Mill." She said. "Are you ready for your big trip?" "Yes." I said. "Have you seen dad anywhere?"

"I think I saw him picking berries over by the stream." She replied. "Oh I packed a bag of supplies for you and left it by the front door."

"Thankes." I said "I will see you in a week." I ran back to our hut. It wasn't a big hut, simple 4 room design made with blue wood harvested from the edges of the jungle. I ran inside and grabbed the bag, I must have missed it in my rush to get out of the house. Inside the bag was a map, food for a week, some healing plants, a small knife and a flint and steel. Everything I would need for a week in the jungle, well almost everything. I dashed over to the armoury to receive my hunting spear. Now I had everything I needed and can start my trek into the jungle.

## Maths

Students finished designing their Nature Fun Park design in Maths, as they focused on creating a budget for their park, designing map keys and using the scale to design their map, and also understanding what profit is and how to make profit. Students did a marvellous job in their design.

# 3-6 Puzzle Page



## CHRISTMAS WORDSEARCH



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



### WORD LIST

CANDY CANE  
COOKIE  
ELF  
HOLLY  
LIGHTS

MISTLETOE  
PRESENT  
REINDEER  
SANTA  
TREE



What is a Christmas tree's favorite candy?

ORNA-MINTS!

TODAY



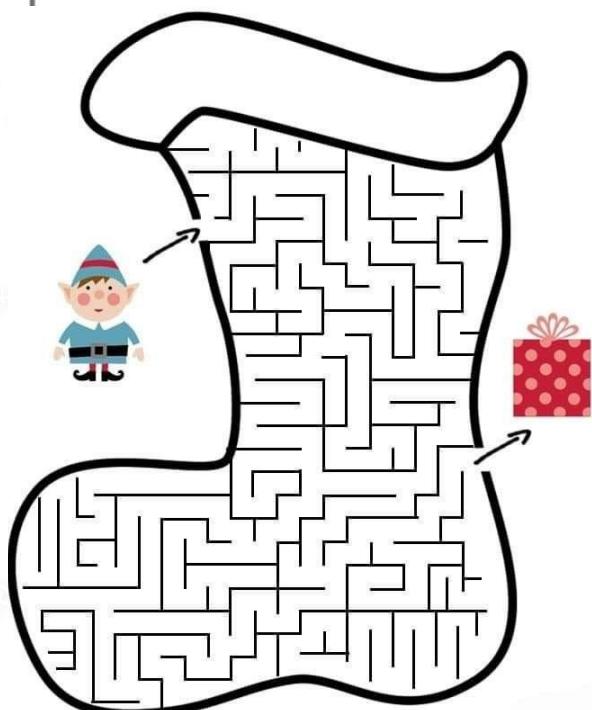
What did one Christmas tree say to another?  
Lighten up!

womans day

## FIND 10 DIFFERENCES



Adobe Stock | #538607240



# Pip's Adventures



This fortnight, Pip stayed with Eli and Daphne. He went for a ride in the excavator with Eli and on a trip to Geelong with Daphne and her elves.



# 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

A flyer for a Community Christmas Lunch. The background features a red pattern of white Christmas trees on the left and right sides, and a white area in the center with blue and red diagonal stripes at the bottom. The text is centered in the white area. The title 'Community Christmas Lunch' is in large, bold, black font. The date 'Thursday 25 December 2025' is below it. The text 'Hosted by Castlemaine Community House and friends' is followed by '12.30pm to 2.30pm' and the location 'Castlemaine Town Hall, 25 Lyttleton Street (entry via Frederick Street)'. It also mentions 'Quiet seating available at the Senior Citizens Centre' and 'Share a delicious meal with good company on Christmas Day.' Below this, it says 'Come alone or bring your family and friends. Everyone welcome for music, activities and festivities.' It provides instructions for RSVPing ('To RSVP, book transport or find out more, call 5472 4842 or email reception@cch.org.au') and volunteering ('You can also volunteer your time or make a donation.'). At the bottom, there is a QR code with the text 'For more information scan the QR code.' and a list of sponsors: Castlemaine Community House, HALT, Community Bank Melton & District, Bendigo Bank, Mount Alexander Shire Council, Rotary Castlemaine, and Dhelkaya Health.

# Castlemaine Swimming Club



# PROTECT

## Protecting children & young people from abuse is our responsibility