



## ESPERANCE SHS EDUCATION SUPPORT CENTRE

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ESPERANCE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL  
EDUCATION SUPPORT CENTRE

# Term 1 2009 Newsletter

### From the Principal

Happy Easter everyone! I hope your year is off to a great start. Things are certainly progressing well here at the Education Support Centre. We began the year with a full component of staff and have a few new faces to introduce to you.



### New faces...



Ms McAleese  
Teacher



Mrs Anderson  
Education Assistant



Ms Stacey  
Registrar



Ms Matic  
Education Assistant



Mr Churchland  
Education Assistant

Mrs Miles – Job Support Worker

### Staff returning to us are...



Mrs Rose  
Education Assistant



Ms Steel  
Education Assistant



Mrs Wilson  
Education Assistant



Ms Penton  
Junior School Teacher



Mrs Kilbey  
Relief Education Assistant



Mrs Bradley  
Senior School Coordinator



Ms Reed  
Principal



Mr Rodericks  
Junior School Coordinator  
Technology and Learning Support



Ms Beswick  
Education Assistant



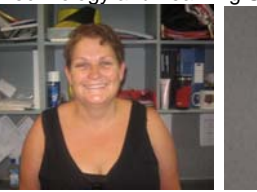
Mrs McGill  
Education Assistant



Mrs Willsher  
Education Assistant



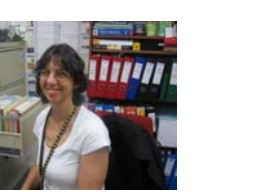
Mrs Gorst  
Education Assistant



Mrs Smith  
Education Assistant

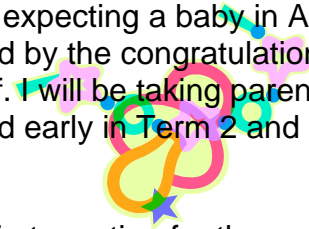


Mr Vibart  
Job Support Worker



Mrs McCleary  
Registrar

By now I am sure most of our school community is aware that I am expecting a baby in August. I am really excited about this coming event and I have been very touched by the congratulations and warm wishes that I have received from students, parents, carers and staff. I will be taking parental leave at the end of Term 2. The position of Acting Principal will be advertised early in Term 2 and I will keep you all informed regarding this process.



Our School Council is up and running again for 2009. We had our first meeting for the year on 31 March to discuss many important school issues including the approval of the 2008 Annual Reports and endorsing the 2009 School Priorities. I am pleased to announce that the School Priorities for this year are;

1. Whole School Approach to Numeracy Development
2. Health and Wellbeing
3. Whole School Approach to Living Independently
4. School Community Development

Mrs Kim Murray was elected as Chairperson of the School Council. All parents are also represented on this Council by Mrs Sue Rae, Mrs Gayle Walsh and Mr Jake Rae.

Our Year 8 and 9 students were amazing at the Esperance Senior High School Swimming Carnival. All students got involved either by swimming, participating in the fun events or cheering on their factions. Well done students. A similar level of enthusiasm was evident at the Athletics Carnival. This day is relaxed in its format to encourage participation and the staff of the Education Support Centre were really proud of the level of participation of our students.

Thank you to the students who actively got involved in projects aimed at supporting those affected by the Victorian bushfires. There were several projects held at a school level and a special mention goes to Becky Rymer who helped Employment Esperance decorate the shipping container that went laden with donations from Esperance to Victoria.

Megan Reed

### **Lunch Orders**

A survey of our students' feelings of safety in the school environment has revealed that the Education Support students do not always feel safe in the canteen area. We have discussed this issue at the School Council meeting and believe that this is because the area is very busy and noisy. Ordering lunch is often essential and also an important life skill. If you would like your child to order their lunch, we are very happy to provide them with some support to do so. Just give Miss Reed a call to let her know that your child will be ordering their lunch that day and would like an Education Assistant to help them. We also encourage you to discuss with your child what they will order at the canteen and help them to practice counting their money. It is also fine for you to write the order on a bag or envelope with the money inside. A copy of the canteen menu is attached to the newsletter.

### **Talking to Your School**

Included with this newsletter is a copy of the brochure 'Talking to Your School'. From time to time, there may be issues or a problem that you would like addressed. This brochure gives you clear advice on the process to follow in order to have these issues or problems resolved. Please contact Miss Reed if you would like any clarification regarding the process.

### **Australian Awards for Teaching Excellence**

Members of the School Community can nominate teachers, school leaders, support staff and schools for excellence awards. Nominating an educator or school for an award is an great way to recognize achievement, celebrate excellence and share best practice. A brochure on this process can be provided by Miss Reed or accessed via the internet ([www.teachingaustralia.edu.au](http://www.teachingaustralia.edu.au)). You can also call 1800-131-232 for more information. Nominations close on 19 June 2009.



## **Education Support Assemblies**

Our students have indicated that they would like to see our school hold Education Support assemblies. These assemblies will allow us to recognize the great achievements of our students. We have an assembly on 9 April to farewell our dear Shylo and to recognize some of our students who have performed particularly well this term, whether that be through leadership, excellent social skills or academic achievement. We will also be recognizing those who achieved 100% attendance in Attendance Week and our Attendance Stars for Term 1 (those who have achieved 90% attendance or above throughout the term).

## **Dress Code**

Students are encouraged to comply with our school's dress code. This term I have had some concerns that some students are not consistently wearing school dress code. As a reminder, our Dress Code is;

White, Red or green polo shirts  
Beige, grey or black shorts  
Beige, grey or black pants  
School tartan skirt  
Plain red windcheater or jumper

Red fleecy lined hooded windcheater  
School rugby jumper  
School blazer  
School tracksuit  
Black tracksuit pants



Above is a photograph of Bryce talking to the Year 8 students about Autism Spectrum Disorder. You can see from the sea of red, white and green that Dress Code is well supported in our school community.

## **Attendance**

The school is required to monitor attendance carefully. Please telephone the school on 9071-9560 or send your child to school with a note of explanation whenever they are absent. Thank you.

## **Open Night**

The Education Support Centre will be hosting an Open Night for our School Community on Wednesday, May 13. The Open Night will commence at 5.30pm and finish at 7.00pm. On this night, students will be encouraged to show their families the wonderful work they do at school. Miss Reed will inform the school community of the detail behind our School Priorities in 2009, what we achieved last year and where we are headed this year. We will also have a sausage sizzle and enjoy a 'catch up'. More information will be forwarded to you in early Term 2. We would love to see you all there!

## School Excursion

We are really looking forward to our end of term excursion. This excursion is a Behaviour Management in Schools initiative, aimed at encouraging team work among our students. Each class has a jar and a pile of marbles. When the teacher observes a demonstration of team work by the class, marbles are placed in the jar. When the jar is full, the students are eligible for the excursion. This strategy was suggested by our School Council. On our excursion, we are going to order lunch at Subway, picnic at the Grace Darling Park and watch Monsters Vs Aliens at the cinema. It will be a fun day.



## Have you ever considered being a Foster Carer?

Foster carers are urgently needed for kids in your neighbourhood, and you can help! You can be male, female, single, a couple, married with or without children, working full or part time or even retired.

There are lots of ways that you can help - looking after children for short periods or for a long term placement, or even just on the odd weekend.

As a foster carer, you play an important role in the lives of children in need.

It's not just the child's life that changes - your life will also change as you experience the rewards and challenges of fostering.

Call Fostering Services, Department for Child Protection, on freecall 1800 024 453, or visit [www.childprotection.wa.gov.au](http://www.childprotection.wa.gov.au), to find out more.



## Preventing Inappropriate Use of Mobile Phones in Schools

While it is understandable that some parents provide mobile phones to their children for safety and other reasons, we must protect the safety of all students in our care and the maintenance of good order in our schools. From time to time, mobile telephones are used inappropriately – disrupting classes and / or invading the privacy of others. For these reasons, we have a policy on the appropriate use of mobile telephones. This policy has been developed by our partner school, Esperance SHS and is implemented by the Education Support Centre to maintain consistency between Education Support and mainstream classes. It is very important that all students and parent / carers understand this policy. Please feel welcome to contact Miss Reed if you wish to discuss it further.

## Acceptable Use of Mobile Phones Policy

This policy has been developed to cater for the changing needs of students and the use of their mobile phones at school. Esperance Senior High School and Esperance SHS Education Support Centre acknowledge the need for some students to have a mobile phone, and as a result this policy is put into place for their acceptable use at school. All students and parents of Esperance Senior High School and Esperance SHS Education Support Centre are asked to abide by this policy for the safety of all.

## Acceptable Uses

- ❖ Mobile phones are to be *switched off* during all lessons.
- ❖ Exceptions may be permitted in exceptional circumstances, should the parent/guardian specifically request it. Such requests will be handled on a case-by-case basis, and should be directed to the Principal of the Education Support Centre. **Parents are reminded that in cases of emergency, the Education Support Centre office (90719560) remains a vital and appropriate point of contact and can ensure your child is reached quickly and assisted in any way.**
- ❖ Acceptable use of mobile phones includes recess and lunchtime. Students are expected to use their mobile phones responsibly during this time.

## Unacceptable Uses and Consequences

- ❖ Disruptions to lessons that are caused by a mobile phone will result in the responsible student facing disciplinary action. Mobile phones will be confiscated from the student for the remainder of the day. All confiscated mobile phones are to be collected from the Principal at the end of the day.
- ❖ Any student/s caught using a mobile phone to cheat in exams or assessments will face disciplinary action.
- ❖ Students with mobile phones may not engage in personal attacks, harass another person, or post private information about another person using SMS messages, taking/sending photos or objectionable images and through the use of phone calls. Students using mobile phones to bully other students will face disciplinary action at school and will be reported to the police.

## Theft or Damage

- ❖ Students are required to mark their mobile phone with their name.
- ❖ Mobile phones which are found in the school and whose owner cannot be located are to be handed to the Principal.
- ❖ Esperance SHS Education Support Centre accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones, this includes travelling to and from school.
- ❖ It is strongly advised that students use passwords/pins to ensure that unauthorised phone calls cannot be made on their phones (eg by other students, or if stolen). Students must keep their password/pin confidential. Mobile phones and/or passwords may not be shared. Esperance SHS Education Support Centre accepts no responsibility for unacceptable use of mobile phones, resulting from the sharing of passwords/pin.

### **Please note:**

**Confiscated mobile phones will be held in a locked area by the Principal.  
Mobile phones can be collected from the Principal at the end of the day.**



## Carers Quarterly

We keep a current copy of the magazine 'Carers Quarterly'. Please call Miss Reed if you would like to borrow this.

## Lunch Boxes

We have a student who is at risk of an anaphylactic allergic reaction to nuts and eggs. I ask that you consider this student's health needs when packing a school lunch for your child. I have taken the following 'Lunchbox Allergy Etiquette' tips from the Australian Women's Weekly.

### 1. Make your child aware

Whether your child or a classmate has the allergy, explain to your child what they can and can't take in their lunchbox and why.

### 2. Educate yourself

Talk to your child's teacher about which foods are restricted at the school and how serious the allergies are.

### 3. Learn about allergens

Allergens hide in many products under different names. Visit [www.foodstandards.gov.au](http://www.foodstandards.gov.au) and type "allergen cards" into the search field. Stick them on your fridge for easy reference.

### 4. Be mindful of what your child eats before school

If a school mate's allergy is serious (anaphylactic), the child may need only to touch or smell the allergen to have a reaction to it. If your child wishes to eat the related allergen for breakfast, ask them to wear clothes other than those she wears to school, then wash her hands and face afterwards.



## Free and Confidential Telephone Counselling Support Service

Mercy Reconnect offer free counseling for young people aged 12 to 18 and their families. Mercy Reconnect can support young people to talk about hassles at home, school or work. Additionally, they can assist parents and families to work things out and provide skills to manage family conflict. Please feel free to ring Mercy Reconnect on 1800-800-046 for further information or to make a referral.

## Attendance Stars

These students achieved 90% attendance or above by the end of Week 9, Term One.

Nadine	Josh B.	Sarah	Daniel	Ezra	Kerrienne
Daven	Shylo	Leon	Tom	Bec	Josh S.
Emma	Jessika				

These students will be receiving a prize during our assembly on Thursday.

## Attendance Week Prize Winners

These students attended every day during Attendance Week, Term One (Week 6).

Tom	Sean	Nadine	Josh S.	Ezra	Dylan
Adam	Leon	Shylo	Becky	Caleb	Bryce
Daven					

## Happy Birthday Students

### January

Leon

### February

### March

Jessika

### April

Josh  
Emma



## Important Dates

Monday	27 April	Public Holiday
Tuesday	28 April	School Development Day
Wednesday	29 April	Term 2 Commences
Wednesday	13 May	Open Night