

# Echuca Primary School

*'A School with Tradition and a Future'*

## Information Booklet



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# Introduction

## Principal's Message

Welcome to Echuca Primary School.

Echuca Primary School (208) first opened in 1858 and was relocated from its original site in 1995 to the current site in High St Echuca - nestled between the Campaspe River and the central business district.

Our students are highly motivated and enthusiastic whilst our dedicated teachers provide an excellent teaching and learning environment.

Echuca Primary School provides a warm, caring and supportive environment, where children feel happy and relaxed while learning in a modern, well equipped environment. Students have access to a range of learning technologies throughout the school, including TV, interactive whiteboards, notebooks and iPads. Students in Grades 3,4,5 & 6 are involved in a 'Bring Your Own iPad' program.

The school enjoys strong support from parents, School Council, staff and local community. Great emphasis is placed on caring for our students, staff and parents by providing an environment that is both safe and secure. The buildings and grounds were specifically designed to meet the school community's needs with active and passive play areas and provision of shade areas. We anticipate your support in maintaining our standards in education and student discipline as we build the partnership between home and school. This partnership is the keystone in your child's education.

Our aim is to ensure the healthy development of every child so that each has the knowledge, skills and resilience to be successful in a rapidly changing world. Echuca Primary School operates on the strong belief that the development of the 'whole child' is imperative, whereby self-esteem and confidence is essential for successful learning and is an integral part of our school's mission.

The school has outstanding parent and community involvement in a range of activities such as the Fete, Book Parade, Sporting Activities, Camps and Excursions.

Echuca Primary School has a reputation in the community for being 'an excellent school' that provides first class education and many additional opportunities for children.



**Andrew Judd**  
**Principal**



## Our Purpose at 208

Echuca Primary School is a community that inspires learning and nurtures well being.

## Values at 208

At Echuca Primary School these values guide interactions between all members of our school community:

### Respectful

Treat others with consideration & regard, respect another person's point of view.

### Responsible

Be accountable for one's own actions, resolve differences in constructive, non violent and peaceful ways, contribute to society and civic life, take care of the environment.

### Resilient

Always do your best. Accept consequences for your actions. Ask questions to help you learn.



# General Information

## School Hours

The school hours for students are from 8.45 am until 3.20 pm daily.

School dismisses at 2.20 p.m. on the last day of term 1,2 & 3 and at 1.20 Term 4. Should there be any variation, notice will be given to the parents at least 24 hours in advance.

## Teaching Times

<b>Students Enter Classroom:</b>	8.45 am	
<b>Morning Fitness</b>	8.50 am	— 9.00 am
<b>Session 1</b>	9.00 am	— 11.00 am
<b>Lunch</b>	11.00am	— 11:50 am
<b>Session 2</b>	11:50 am	— 1:50 pm
<b>Afternoon Recess</b>	1:50 pm	— 2.20 pm
<b>Session 3</b>	2.20 pm	— 3.20 pm

## Contact the School

Parents are welcome to contact the school and discuss any concerns they have but, to avoid undue interruptions to class, any interview with a teacher, should be arranged beforehand. Appointments can also be made to see the Principal or Assistant Principal.

## School Buses

### Bus Travellers

Students living in Moama (N.S.W.) need to apply on line with [transportnsw.info/school-students](http://transportnsw.info/school-students). Applications for the 2023 year open from the start of Term 4, 2022. All students travelling on NSW Buses need to have a bus pass.

Students living in Echuca Town area (VIC) need to contact Echuca-Moama Town Services on **5480 2181** for further details of times and bus stops.

Victorian Country Bus travellers need to contact Echuca College on **5482 1133** – and speak to the Country Bus Co-ordinator. Free bus travel is available only if the student is travelling to their nearest neighbourhood school.

Due to their age, Prep students - particularly those who use buses, may need more supervision than other students when leaving school at the end of the day. At 208 Prep children travelling on buses are 'buddied' up with an older sibling or a more senior student who travels the same bus route. These older children collect the Prep child and take them to the bus and look after them on the bus. If no other senior students travel on the same bus then a teacher will escort the child and place them on the appropriate bus.

Bus travellers are supervised at dismissal time.

If your child is registered as a country bus traveller but is not travelling on a certain day because you (or another person you have authorised) are collecting them, you must notify the class teacher and office staff.

A note will then be made in the Country Bus Roll. For safety and security reasons it is **most important** that this be done! The Bus Roll is kept at the **office**.

Should your child wish to bring somebody else home on the country bus they must give **forty eight hours** notice and pick up a **'Special Travel Permit'** form from the office to be signed.

Drivers cannot overload a bus and you must be sure that the extra guest can be accommodated. Do not simply assume the bus can carry extra passengers.

## Emergency Details

Emergency details are kept on file for each child in the school and children will only be permitted to leave the school with parents or any of their designated emergency contacts.

The emergency contact enables access in case of illness or accident. Parents are asked to advise the school without delay of any changes required to enable prompt contact at any time.

## New Enrolments

We welcome all enrolment enquiries into Echuca Primary School. We hold tours of the school for any interested families on request. Please contact the Office to make an appointment time.

The placement of students in Echuca Primary School will be consistent with Department of Education Policy.

The enrolment procedure is held at the schools general office and is a straight forward interview that generally lasts about 15 minutes. We will collect information applicable to the child/ren regarding contact names, medical information, emergency contacts etc.

### The following documentation is required at interview:

- **Original Birth Certificate** - if you do not have an original Birth Certificate you will need to apply to Births, Deaths & Marriages.
- **Proof of Residency** - Evidence such as rates notice or rental receipt.
- **Immunisation Certificate.**

There will be a charge of \$90, which is payable on the day of enrolment. This fee will be receipted to your child's essential education items for the following school year.



# General Information

## Student Charges

Echuca Primary School has a one-off Student Charge. This includes all individual stationery and related classroom materials such as pencils, exercise books, scrapbooks, pens, textas etc. In addition to the materials provided to children on an individual basis there are also 'shared' materials that are bulk purchased for use by children. These items include a variety of art/craft materials, coloured papers, cardboard, glues, paint, marking pens and other construction materials used in classroom lessons and project presentation.

Also included in Student Charges are; all swimming and sports activities, special events, visiting arts performances excursions and ICT access.

## Major Camps/Excursions

Student Charges do not cover the cost of camps for Grade 2, Grade 4 & Grade 6 or any individual student participation in activities such as representative sports. The students who participate will be invoiced with payment required before the event.

**Prep:** Kyabram Fauna Park, day excursion

**Grade 1:** Melbourne Zoo, day excursion

**Grade 2:** Swan Hill Camp—Pioneer Settlement 2 days

**Grade 4:** Cave Hill Creek/Sovereign Hill, 3 days

**Grade 6:** Anglesea Camp Wilkin, 5 days.

## Payment Options

Payment options include EFTPOS, Credit Card, BPAY, Direct Deposit, CentrePay, Cash and Cheque and can be made either at the school's office or placing the money, cheque or credit card details in an envelope and handing to the classroom teacher or directly to the office.

Payment of Student Charges can be made either by a full payment, payment per terms or by payment arrangement. Any families experiencing problems with their payment arrangement please contact the Principal.

We will assist in any way that we can as it is our goal to see all children have the necessary items and experiences required to improve their educational outcomes and maximise learning opportunities.



## Communication

Keeping the lines of communication open between home and school is extremely important and shows your child that you are interested in their learning. The Compass platform is our main form of communication along with Facebook. As a parent you will have access to the parent COMPASS portal which will enable you to do the following:

- View up-to-date class and school attendance
- Access your child's Semester Reports
- Receive information about upcoming events at the school
- View a weekly Principal Update
- View the weekly Student Awards post
- Receive a calendar of events for the whole year – once a term
- View a fortnightly post from your child's Year Level Team

The App is free and available to download for iPhone, iPad, Android phones and P.C's.

Once your child is enrolled in the school you will receive guidelines and login details for COMPASS.



## Facebook

The Echuca Primary School Facebook page is a showcase of student work, student achievement and school community events. Essentially, Facebook stories are a celebration of the learning and growth of our students, Prep to Grade 6. Through words, pictures/photographs and important links, the Facebook page tells 'the story' of 208; it is an immediate communication point for all members of the school community.

[www.facebook.com/208echucaprimaryschool/](http://www.facebook.com/208echucaprimaryschool/)



# Uniforms

	Summer	Winter
<b>Girls</b>	Green & White Gingham Dress Gold Polo Shirt Bottle Green Shorts or Skorts  Rugby Top or Bomber Jacket  Black Leather Shoes Closed Toe Sandals, Runners ( <b>no thongs, slip-on shoes</b> )	Gold Long and short sleeve Polo Shirt Black Dance Pants or Unisex Black Track Fleece Pant School Rugby Top or Bomber Jacket Bottle Green Soft Shell Jacket Black Leather Shoes, Runners Tunic
<b>Boys</b>	Gold Polo Shirt Bottle Green Shorts Rugby Top or Bomber Jacket  Black Leather Shoes, Closed Toe Sandals, Runners ( <b>no thongs, slip-on shoes</b> )	Gold Polo Shirt Unisex Black Track Fleece Pant Rugby Top or Bomber Jacket Bottle Green Soft Shell Jacket

**“Sun Smart”** - As Echuca Primary School is a ‘Sun Smart School’ all children are required to wear board brimmed hats from September to April. No hat is required between 1st May—31st August to allow the body to absorb Vitamin D.



## School Uniform Shop

The wearing of school uniform develops a feeling of recognition as a member of Echuca Primary School. Our School Council has chosen our uniform suppliers for their robust and easy to care for clothing line.

The Uniform Shop is situated directly opposite the School’s General Office.

Alternatively orders can be completed with payment and handed to the office staff and orders will be filled and sent home with your child. Order forms are available from the office.

Uniforms lists are available at the office.

## Compulsory Items

**Library Bags** — available from the Uniform Shop or any waterproof protective bag.

**Art Smocks** — Any old shirt to protect your child’s clothes whilst doing art activities.

**School Bag** — Echuca Primary School bags are available from Rex Kightly in High Street, Echuca.

## Second Hand Uniforms

A collection of pre-loved uniforms are available. Please enquire at the office.

# Student Engagement and Wellbeing

## Child Safe Standards

Ministerial Order No. 870 sets out the specific action that schools need to take to meet the child safe standards. The introduction of child safe standards form part of the Victorian Government's response to the recommendations of the Betrayal of Trust report, which found that more must be done to prevent and respond to child abuse in schools.

The standards will promote cultures where protecting children from abuse is part of everyday thinking and practice in organisations.

The Child Safe Standards set out to create safe places for children to fully and actively participate in the life of the community benefiting everyone. Echuca Primary School will ensure that the children in its care are protected to the best of its ability and in line with their duty of care and the compulsory child safe standards.

### The Standards

**To create and maintain a child safe school, we will comply with the following standards.**

**Standard 1 – Good leadership and governance in child safe school** – strategies to embed a school culture of child safety, including through effective leadership arrangements

**Standard 2 – Commitment to Child Safe Policy** – a child safe statement of commitment to child safety

**Standard 3 – Code of Conduct** – a code of conduct that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children

**Standard 4 – Human Resources Practices** – screening, supervision, training and other human resources practices that reduce the risk of child abuse by new and existing personnel

**Standard 5 – Reporting Child Abuse** – processes for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse

**Standard 6 – Identifying and Reducing Risks** – strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse

**Standard 7 – Empowering Children** – strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children

In complying with the child safe standards above, we will be mindful of the diversity of students and school communities and include the following **inclusion principles** as part of each standard:

- Promoting the cultural safety of Aboriginal children.
- Promoting the cultural safety of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds.
- Promoting the safety of children with a disability.

## Attendance

At Echuca Primary School we maintain a strong focus and high importance on attendance and the potential effects of absenteeism.

Students with poor attendance often struggle at school and the value they receive from their education is greatly diminished as a result. Whilst it is understood that there are those unavoidable circumstances that arise preventing children from attending school, we still believe a high year of attendance is achievable. If a child through their education experiences 15 days of absence a year - this equates to one full year of education lost over the course of primary and secondary education.

If your child misses the basic skills in primary school they can experience difficulty with their learning. Regular attendance is essential to make sure learning is not disrupted and provides building blocks for the future.

Schools help children to develop important social skills, such as friendship building, teamwork, communication skills, and a healthy self-esteem.

All students are expected to be in class by 8.45am.

**Parents are required to sign late students in at the office.**



## Absences

Parents are required to provide an explanation of their child's absence from school. This needs to be done before 9.30am on the day of the absence via COMPASS or a phone call to the office. If the school does not receive notification, a SMS message will be automatically sent to parents.

## Leaving School during School Hours

No child may leave the school ground during school hours, unless accompanied by a parent or an adult nominated by a parent, or with the Principal's or Assistant Principal's approval.

**Your child must be signed out at the office.**

# Student Engagement and Wellbeing

## When School is Out

Staff exercise a great deal of care when supervising children leaving the school grounds. Teachers supervise the gate areas from 3.20 – 3.35pm when all children should have left to walk home or be collected by parents. After this time, supervision is no longer available and any child remaining in the yard will be brought to the office. It is expected that children are collected as close to 3.20pm as possible.

To assist with the safety of all children in the vicinity of the school, please give particular attention to where you park, how children alight from cars and come to meet you.

Please encourage your child to cross the road at designated crossings when they are moving to your vehicle.

Our designated car park is located opposite the school in High Street.



## Parent Permission

Parents can expect to be notified in writing in advance of any proposed excursion or extra curriculum activity, and should understand that no child can be taken on an excursion requiring any form of transport (by bus, boat, car etc.) unless written permission and authority to take emergency action in case of illness or accident is received from the child's parent/guardian.

These forms are sent home for you to complete and return to school. A prompt return is appreciated. Telephone permission is not sufficient from a legal standpoint. Children cannot be permitted to participate without signed permission forms.



## School First Aid

Teachers at Echuca Primary attend annual training for First Aid, Anaphylaxis and Asthma. A First Aid Officer is on duty at recess and lunch times to attend to any injury or illness. If your child does become ill or suffers an injury during school time, you or your emergency contact will be contacted via telephone. In some cases it will be necessary to collect your child from school.

In the case of an accident parents may be contacted to seek instruction or second opinion at the attending staff member's discretion. In serious situations an ambulance may be called. Ambulance membership is at individual family's discretion, however, this will not effect the schools decision to call an ambulance if deemed necessary.

## Head Lice

Head lice are a problem in every school and all children are susceptible to them. It is NOT a cleanliness issue. Should you find infestation the school will be able to inform you of the period of absence required. Please treat with the appropriate solution and be sure to also remove the lice eggs. Report to the class teacher that you have treated your child as this warns us of possible outbreaks. Thorough attention needs also to be given to bed linen and bedroom areas. The school is not responsible for checking for head lice. Notes are sent home once the school has been notified that a child has head lice in the classroom.

## Medical Exclusion of Children from School

To reduce the risk of infection to others at the school, pupils suffering from the following infectious diseases are excluded from attendance at school for varying periods of time in accordance with the Department of Education guidelines:-

Chicken Pox	Conjunctivitis
Diphtheria	Diarrhoea
Hepatitis	Hepatitis B
Impetigo	Leprosy
Measles	Mumps
Head Lice	Ringworm
Poliomyelitis	Rubella
Scabies	Trachoma
Tuberculosis	Typhoid
Paratyphoid	Whooping Cough
Meningococcal Infection	Covid 19
Streptococcal Infection (inc. scarlet fever)	

For more information:

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/infectious-diseases>



# Student Wellbeing & Engagement

## Medication at School

Children are not permitted to keep medication in their possession to self-administer unless it is asthma medication which they have been trained to use correctly.

Written permission for office staff to administer medication must be provided **by completing the form available at the office**. All medication must be taken to the office.

The school requires medical plans for students with Asthma and Allergic/Anaphylaxis reactions. These need to be completed and signed by a medical practitioner, presented upon enrolment and kept up to date yearly. These are necessary to participate on all school camps, excursions and activities.

## Yard Supervision

All staff on duty wear orange fluorescent vests, carry up to date First Aid, Asthma Kits and a mobile phone.

Emergency Evacuation and Risk Procedures are practised and complied with.



## Morning Fitness

Our morning fitness routine is enjoyed by all children. The program involves structured fitness, Kilometre Club, skipping, games or dance. This takes place from the start of the school day at 8.50am. Parents are more than welcome to join in.

## Breakfast Club

As part of Echuca Primary School's student engagement and wellbeing philosophy, we provide breakfast for students Tuesday and Thursday.

Generally, this consists of toast with a spread and fresh fruit. On occasions, we serve other specialities such as pancakes, yoghurt and 'surprise' menus. We view Breakfast Club as an opportunity to meet the needs of students so they are ready for a full day of learning. Breakfast Club is also another valuable avenue for staff to build essential relationships with students. We do rely on generous donations from our local community and businesses.



## Library

The Library is fully computerised and houses a wide variety of resources to support teachers and school programs. Students borrow books on a weekly basis with the guidance of a trained Library Technician, who also maintains our resources, selects appropriate reading materials and promotes literacy across the school.

## Book Club

Our School's Book Club offers children good quality books at reasonable prices. Order forms are sent home with children and should be filled in and returned to school. This program earns bonuses that are used to purchase books for the school.

## Canteen

Although the Canteen operations are contracted out to a private company the school has input to menus and operations. Children may order lunches any day of the school week. Counter sales are also available at lunchtime and recess. Price lists are sent home at the end of each term or alternatively are available from the office. Orders **must** be placed by 8.30am at beginning of the day or online at [www.QuickCliq.com.au](http://www.QuickCliq.com.au) as food is prepared to order.

School lunches are eaten between 11.30am and 11.40 am under supervision.

# Student Engagement and Wellbeing

## Transition

### Pre School to Primary School

#### Term 4

Prep teachers visit all local Preschools to talk to children, parents, and kindergarten staff.

Eight transition sessions of 1 hour for Preschool children to experience part of a 'typical' school morning and become familiar with school environment.

**Tuesday 10th December:** State wide Transition, for all students, an orientation morning at school for the next year.

**February** - Parent/Teacher Interviews: Discussion on how the children have settled into school life and the progress made i.e. social, physical and educational.

### Primary School Grade 6 to Secondary School Year 7

- Information booklets from schools distributed to all Grade 6 children.
- Open nights offered at Secondary Schools.
- Visits of Grade 6 children to schools.
- Transition forms completed by Grade 6 teachers.
- Meetings with Year 7 Co-ordinators from the Secondary Schools.
- Orientation Day for all Grade 6 children in December.
- Post Primary schools frequently organise transition activities throughout the year and families are notified of these as they occur.

### Whole School Transition

**December** - 'Step Up' sessions for students to become familiar with their new environment and expectations at the next year.

### Buddy Program

To further support students to build their confidence at school, each child has a 'Buddy' whom they engage in various activities throughout the year.



## School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) at Echuca Primary School

### What is SWPBS?

School Wide Positive Behaviour Support is a system of tools and strategies for defining, teaching, acknowledging appropriate behaviour, and correcting inappropriate behaviour. It is a framework for creating customised school systems that support student outcomes and academic success. SWPBS is for the whole school, it is preventative, and switches focus from negative behaviours and exchanges, to positive expectations and interactions - leading to the promotion of social proficiency and academic success.

### Core elements of SWPBS

As a SWPBS school our objective is to provide a consistent, predictable and fair use of consequences for all students.

Staff will respond in a way that is:

- **Calm** - Using professional and composed voice tone and volume.
- **Consistent** - Respond the same way to all students who display minor behaviour errors.
- **Brief** - Short and concise response to get back to learning.
- **Immediate** - Respond within a short time after the behaviour error takes place.
- **Respectful** - A private, polite response.
- **Specific** - Tell the student exactly what they are doing incorrectly and state specifically what they should be doing.

### How we teach Positive Behaviours at Echuca Primary School

Introducing, modelling and reinforcing positive social behaviour is an important step in a child's educational experience. Explicitly teaching our behavioural expectations and acknowledging students for demonstrating them is a key to our success.

The teaching of expected behaviours is ongoing so as to achieve and maintain fluency.

### Instructional Practices to support SWPBS:

- **Tell** – introduce the expected behaviours and discuss why it is important.
- **Show** – demonstrate and model expected behaviours.
- **Practice** – role play expected behaviours in relevant contexts.
- **Monitor** – pre-correct, supervise and provide positive feedback.
- **Reteach** – practice throughout the day.

# Student Engagement and Wellbeing

## Restorative Practices are applied to support SWPBS

All school staff members follow the Restorative Practices protocols when responding to negative behaviours at school and follow a staged response of consequences. The restorative approach is used to address student behaviour to:

- re-establish significant relationships .
- ensure consequences for misbehaviour are relevant and meaningful.
- foster and develop individual responsibility and empathy.

All students are to understand the steps in the **Restorative Process** which include responding to the following questions:

1. What happened?
2. What were you thinking at the time?
3. What have you thought about since?
4. Who was affected by this behaviour? In what way?
5. What do you think you need to do to make things right?

Positive behaviours are reinforced in a variety of ways, including:

- Student of the Week
- School Values Awards - GOTCHAS
- Teacher acknowledgement and positive feedback
- Reward points/Stickers
- Positive comments in diaries
- Positive phone calls home
- Recognition at school and area assemblies
- COMPASS posts recognising achievements
- Leadership opportunities
- Comments in Student Reports
- The right to represent the school
- Awards ceremonies
- Positive references
- Scholarships and Awards at the end of Year 6



Logical consequences for inappropriate behaviour can include:

- Talking to the student and referring them to the shared expectations.
- Discussing appropriate behaviours in the classroom.
- Contact with parents-phone call/Report of misconduct form.
- Making changes to the student's learning program to better equip him/her to behave positively.
- Implement Restorative Practices.
- Conference: Apology.
- Ask the student to undertake tasks designed to better equip him/her to behave positively in the future.
- Counselling.
- Appropriate behaviours taught and agreed to.
- Payment for damage sought.
- Withdraw privileges.
- Withdraw student temporarily from class.
- Hold student support group meetings.
- Give the student detention.
- Negotiate alternative pathways or settings for student or as a matter of last resort, suspension or expulsion.

## LIVESCHOOL

Echuca Primary School uses the LiveSchool App to support the School Wide Positive Behaviour Program. LiveSchool allows staff to track, reward and improve student behaviour both in and out of the classroom.

LiveSchool provides a real time view of culture trends at an individual, class and whole school level.

LiveSchool is also used to develop school spirit by linking Gotchas to Community Groups.



# Student Engagement and Wellbeing

## Community Groups

Community Groups work in conjunction with the School Wide Positive Behaviours Framework.

All students are placed into a Community Group on enrolment for the purpose of major sporting events including Cross Country, Athletics and Swimming. Community Groups also participate in other whole school events conducted throughout the year to encourage teamwork, spirit and a sense of team pride.

Our four Community Groups are:

Pevensey	Green
Canberra	Red
Emmylou	Blue
Adelaide	Yellow



The role of the Community Leaders is to provide students with a voice and the opportunity to contribute their own ideas and initiatives within the 208 Community.

Students benefit from this role in a number of ways including: the development of leadership skills, a better understanding of responsibility and organisation, greater connectedness to school and the formulation of meaningful relationships within the team, with staff and fellow students.

Activities may include:

- School discos
- Casual dress days promoting charity events
- Lunchtime fun activities such as board games, dance and free drawing
- '208's Got Talent' variety competition
- Easter and Christmas activities
- ANZAC Services
- Healthy Breakfasts
- Footy Colours Day parade and skill-based activities
- One & All Inclusion, Orange Day
- Colour Fun Run



# Student Engagement and Wellbeing

## Welfare Officer

The role of the school welfare officer is to provide assistance to:

- families who have complex needs.
- students experiencing difficulties at school, at home or in the community.
- support parents and encourage parental participation in addressing student wellbeing issues.
- students who may be referred by teachers or parents.
- provide Care Management as needed in regards to social/emotional needs of students.
- support Crisis and Critical Incident management.
- organise and help facilitate group programs based on the needs of the cohort at any given time.
- inform parents on students' social progress, as appropriate.
- relevant staff to plan and implement strategies to resolve wellbeing issues.



## Koorie Engagement Support Officer

Echuca Primary School has a Koorie Engagement Support Officer (KESO) who is responsible for delivering support and services to Koorie children and their families.



## Circle Solutions/Respectful Relationships

Every Monday, all students across the school participate in Circle Solutions with their classroom teacher. Circle Solutions is a structured framework for group interaction and building a sense of community.

Circle Solutions focuses on developing

- self-awareness, knowledge and skills.
- knowledge and understanding of others.
- a sense of belonging and connectedness.
- a focus on the positive.
- increased resilience and wellbeing.
- collaborative decision making, conflict resolution and problem solving.

There is a clear format in which students and teachers take part in a wide range of individual, paired, small group and whole class activities.

There are three rules based on the principles of respect, safety and inclusion:

1. Everyone gets a turn – when it is someone's turn to speak, everyone else listens.
2. Individuals may pass if they wish - there is no pressure to say anything.
3. There are no put downs at any time - this means no naming, blaming or shaming.

The focus of Circle Solutions is on feeling good in a safe and supportive way. Echuca Primary School see this as a wonderful opportunity to build relationships and belonging within the class and a great way for children and staff to re-connect after the weekend.



# Curriculum

At Echuca Primary School we are constantly striving to plan and deliver curriculum that will be beneficial to student learning. Our school provides sequentially developed programs, which follow the Department of Education guidelines as set out in the Victorian Curriculum.

The Victorian Curriculum sets out what every student should learn during their first eleven years of schooling. The curriculum is the common set of knowledge and skills required by students for life-long learning, social development and active and informed citizenship.

Generally all subjects are incorporated across units of work planned by teams of teachers over the course of the year.

Digital technologies are integrated into each classroom, with the aim of ensuring that students acquire skills with iPads and the use of multi-media technology. All students from Grades 3 to 6 are expected to bring an iPad to school as part the BYOI (Bring Your Own iPad) Program.

Parent Teacher Interviews are conducted twice a year in February and June. The February interview is for the teachers to gain knowledge about your child, so they know how to cater for your child's needs. In June the teachers will be reporting on your child's progress. Student reports are available twice a year in June and December.

Echuca Primary School takes pride in the Curriculum Programs they provide. Literacy is a priority area with two hours of each day dedicated to the development of literacy skills.

These skills include: comprehending texts through listening reading and viewing; and composing texts through speaking, writing and creating. Echuca Primary School follows the Literacy Continuum as outlined by Fountas and Pinnell, 6 Traits of Writing and SMART Spelling.

Mathematics is also a priority area at our school. Students are immersed in a daily 50 minute, whole school approach dedicated to numeracy development each day.



## The Victorian Curriculum

### LEARNING AREAS

#### The Arts

- Dance
- Media Arts
- Drama
- Music
- Visual Arts

#### English

Reading & Reviewing  
Speaking & Listening  
Writing

#### Health & PE

#### Humanities

- Grade 3 –6 Civics & Citizenship
- Grade 5 –6 Economics & Business
- Prep–6 Geography
- Prep–6 History

#### Mathematics

Measurement & Geometry  
Number & Algebra  
Statistics & Probability

#### Science Technologies

Prep–6 Design & Technologies  
Prep–6 Digital Technologies

### CAPABILITIES

#### Critical & Creative Thinking

- Ethical
- Intellectual
- Personal & Social



# Curriculum

## Home Learning

Homework is a valuable aspect of the learning process. It reinforces and complements learning whilst contributing to the development of sound study habits. It also enables the students to take responsibility for their own learning.

**At Echuca Primary School we ensure that Home Learning is:**

- appropriate to the student's skill year and age.
- interesting, challenging and where appropriate, open-ended.
- purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum.
- consistent across the year.

Teachers explain the general homework expectations at the beginning of the year.

An outline of these expectations is as follows and should generally not exceed 30 minutes each school day.

**Types of home Learning may include:**

- daily reading to, with and by parents/caregivers or older siblings.
- consolidating learning that is introduced in the class room. Eg. times tables, practicing reading high frequency words (word recognition), word study.
- researching topics for class work, gathering information or materials.

Home learning is another opportunity for parents to participate in their child's education. Parents in partnership with our school, should encourage their children to establish good homework habits from early Primary School. Home learning should also be balanced alongside family commitments and extracurricular activities undertaken by their child.



# Specialist Subjects

Students attend a variety of specialist subjects during the course of the week. Each session is one hour in duration. Library however is taken by individual teachers.

## Physical Education

Physical Education encourages students to explore their environments in the context of movement. The program centres around health and fitness, performance, challenge and striving for improvement. Children are supported to work both independently and in teams. Key skills are developed through Athletics, Ball Handling, Gymnastics, Swimming and Fundamental Motor Skills. The program provides opportunities for students to be introduced to a number of sports which can then be taken to interschool competition and possibly State level. All students are encouraged to develop their talents and to further them through links into the community programs.



## Science and Technology

The area of Science and Technology will enable the students to explore the world around them by observing, describing, designing and conducting experiments.

The following areas will be covered:

- Biological Science
- Chemical Science
- Earth and Space Science
- Physical Science



## Specialist Subjects

### Language Other than English (LOTE)

Echuca Primary School provides an AUSLAN program for all students. The tutor based program provides opportunities for our students and staff to learn the basic sign language to communicate.

### Performing Arts

The Performing Arts program immerses students in dance, drama, music and media whereby they explore ways of applying arts elements, skills and techniques to express their feelings and imagination. They experiment with various ways of presenting works in a range and begin to evaluate and refine their work in response to feedback. A school concert is conducted bi-annually, with Choir and Jam Band offered throughout the year.



### Visual Arts

Learning in Visual Arts involves students making and responding to artworks, using ideas from throughout the world as a model. Students engage with and develop knowledge of visual arts, skills, techniques and processes, and use materials as they explore a range of forms, styles and contexts. A whole school Art Show will occur bi-annually to showcase the works produced.



## School Support

### Education For All

Echuca Primary school is committed to inclusive education for students with disabilities and additional needs. The diverse needs of all students' is catered for in the following ways;

- Differentiated teaching in the classrooms.
- MiniLit Literacy Intervention.
- Personalised programs assisted by Education Support Staff.
- Student, parent and staff support from the School's Welfare Officer.

If your child has any specific diagnosis please be reassured that the school will work with you to plan for the best possible learning environment to cater for their needs.



### Classroom Volunteers

Many parents like to offer their services to assist teachers in classrooms. This may mean working in the classroom with their child or assisting in another classroom. Assistance often involves listening to children read, but the interest and skills of the volunteer are a guide to the various contributions that can be made. It is widely acknowledged that children learn better when their parents are involved positively in the school. There are many ways in which you may assist your child and the school and we encourage you to share your talents with the school.

### Parent Helpers

Parents encouraged to become actively involved in the school. We appreciate every contribution that our community members make and hope to see some form of involvement – no matter how great or small by every family at some time.



# Community Involvement

## School Council

The School Council welcomes all parents and friends to Echuca Primary School. As elected representatives of parents and staff, school council members hope that your association with the school will be enjoyable and profitable for both your child/ren and yourself. The Annual General Meeting is held in March and at this time new council members are elected. We welcome all interested parents to attend meetings and be a part of our progressive school.

School Councils play a vital role in Victorian government Schools and positively influence the quality of education provided. Both parent and employee interests are represented on the School Council via a constituting order that includes 8 parent representatives, 4 Department representatives, the Principal and 2 community representatives.

Councils approve educational and operational policies and, through the Principal, ensure that these policies are satisfactorily implemented.

## Parents & Friends Association

This is a group of parents and friends who meet regularly at school to organise a variety of fundraising activities and contribute to the wellbeing of the school community through positive interaction & support. The Parents & Friends Association provide an opportunity for parents to not only become more involved in school life, but to also build friendships with people who share common interests and concerns. This committee is a highly valued organisation.



## Working With Children Check

The Working with Children Check is a minimum checking standard set by the Working with children Act 2005 for those who work with children. To be a volunteer at the School a Working with Children Card provided by the Department of Justice is required. The card is valid for 5 years & free of charge for volunteers.

The process for gaining a working with children check is quite simple and free for all volunteers and can be done online.

<https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/>

## Community Involvement

The school is very proud of its links with the broader Echuca Community. The school strives to enhance learning through experiences outside of the regular classroom. We believe in building strong community relationships by bringing the community into Echuca Primary School and taking Echuca Primary School out to the community. We take great pride in our involvement with events such as the 'Purple Day–Epilepsy Awareness' Day, Super Hero Day and ANZAC Day Service. Our biennial School Fete is also a great community event.



Out of School Hours Care operates in the Echuca Neighbourhood House, Anstruther Street.

# 208 Echuca Primary School Song

## **Chorus**

*Have a guess, have a guess,  
Which school is the best?  
Of course it would have to be,  
208, 208, it really is great.  
It's the perfect school for me.*

## **Verse 1**

*208, 208, the best school in town  
With helpful teachers all around.  
Whenever we're in trouble,  
They'll be there on the double.  
To lift us up on our way down.*

## **Verse 2**

*208, 208, the best in the State,  
This school is really great.  
We're so proud of our school,  
And where-ever we're seen.  
It's great to be dressed in gold and green.*

## **Final Chorus**

*Now you know, now you know,  
Which school we all love so,  
And I hope you'll also agree.  
208, 208, the best in the State.  
It's the perfect school for me.*

**Composed by Anne Brown**





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