Principal: Aaron Taylor
36 MICHIE ST, ELMORE 3558
54 326 247
elmore.ps@education.vic.gov.au

THE GATEWAY Thursday 28th May, 2026

FROM THE PRINCIPAL
AARON TAYLOR

With winter fast approaching, we've certainly felt the drop in temperature over the past week. As always during this time of year, we see a rise in common colds and seasonal bugs. We encourage families to ensure students are dressed warmly—especially with a jumper or jacket for outdoor play— and to keep children home if they are unwell. This helps keep our school community healthy and supports everyone to stay well and learning through the colder months. Thank you for your continued support.

EDUCATION SUPPORT DAY

Education Support Day is celebrated today, Thursday 28th May at EPS. The school is marking this event and thanking our Education Support (ES) staff for the work that they do.

We are fortunate to have both Ali and Lesley in 2 very different ES roles at EPS. Ali has become a real asset to our school, working within the P-2s space supporting individual and small groups of learners. Lesley has for over 10-years run our front office space, ensuring finances are in order and school communications are received on time.

I'd like to thank Lesley and Ali for the tireless and often unseen work they do. I encourage all families to thank our Education Support staff in some small way.

EDUCATION WEEK

Thanks, to all the families that turned out for our education week events. This included our Walk to School Day and our student showcase afternoon. We had several new families tour the school during our Open Morning on Tuesday, with potential 2027 Foundation enrolments.

NATIONAL SORRY DAY

May 26th

National Sorry Day is the day to remember and acknowledge the hurt and damage caused in the past by our governments when they forcibly removed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families, communities, and cultures.

National Sorry Day marks the anniversary of the tabling of the Bringing them Home report in the Australian Parliament in 1997. The report detailed the history of the forced removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families,

EPS VALUES

RESPECT

We are thoughtful and socially responsible. We are considerate of others, our environment and ourselves

RESILIENCE

We understand the importance of having high expectations and striving to achieve our personal best.

CITIZENSHIP

We strive to build meaningful connections and contribute to the collective success of our school and the wider community.

INTEGRITY

We are honest with ourselves and with others.

We acknowledge the traditional land owners of Australia and we welcome all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to our service.

often referred to as the Stolen Generations, under laws enacted by Australian governments.

GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS PRINCIPALS CONFERENCE – MAY 28 & 29

Today and tomorrow, I will be attending the Government Schools Principals Conference in Melbourne. This annual event brings together school leaders from across the state to explore the latest research, share best practices, and strengthen leadership capabilities to support students, staff and school communities. I look forward to engaging with system leaders and bringing back fresh ideas to continue improving outcomes here at Elmore.

STUDENT-FREE DAY Community of Practice (Tuesday June 9th)

A reminder that Tuesday June 9th is a student-free day. Staff will be joining teachers from 8 other small schools to build knowledge and understanding in Mathematics.

This follows the Kings Birthday public holiday on Monday 8th June.

National Reconciliation Week

National Reconciliation Week – **27 May to 3 June** – is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia. The theme for National Reconciliation Week 2026 is ***All In***, a call for all Australians to commit wholeheartedly to reconciliation every single day. ***All In*** makes clear that reconciliation is not a spectator sport and that all of us must step away from the sidelines and take action to make change. Reconciliation will not happen by itself, and it will not happen without all of us.

For more information on Reconciliation Week visit the website:

https://www.reconciliation.org.au/

AEU INDUSTRIAL ACTION

The Victorian Government and the Australian Education Union (AEU) and Australian Principal's Federation (APF) have come to an 'in-principle' agreement. While it is yet to be voted on by the unions, any scheduled action has been suspended pending an outcome.

WEDNESDAY WARM UPS

From Wednesday 10th June, each Wednesday, children will be able to bring something for their lunch that can be warmed in the oven. The lunch item will need to be wrapped in foil and the **child's name clearly written on it**. They will be placed in the oven at recess. This replaces 'HOT FOOD FRIDAY'

Due to the high number participating last year, we won't be unwrapping from the foil.

NO glad wrap, lunch wrap or plastic containers. Due to the safety concerns, we strongly discourage 2-minute noodle cups.

In addition, students are able to bring a toasty and are supervised to cook these themselves on other days of the week.

WINTER WOOD RAFFLE

Tickets are coming home tonight for our winter wood raffle. Please support our school by selling these to friends and neighbours. We'll also be calling for some volunteers to sell tickets at the IGA on the morning of Saturday 20th June 9am – 12pm.

We'll be calling on some labour to help cut, split and load the wood. If you can help, let me know and we can organise the details.

****

If you have any questions or feedback, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Aaron

DATES TO REMEMBER — 2026		
June		
Tuesday 2nd	10.10—10.50	**Richmond AFLW Player Visit**
Wednesday 3rd		**Peppergreen Farm, Prep—Gr 6**
Friday 5th		**World Environment Day "pick up" Rubbish**
Tuesday 9th		**CURRICULUM DAY**
Tuesday 16th	9.15—3.00	**Rochester SC Transition Day—Grade 5's & 6's**
Thursday 18th		**Templestowe College Performance**
Wednesday 24th		**Active Schools Incursion**
Friday 26th		**PJ DAY—Wear your PJ's** **END OF TERM 2**

Prep- Grade 2—The Quirky Quokkas

Hello families,

It's been wonderful having Miss McLean our student teacher with us for the last three weeks. We say goodbye to Jess tomorrow after successfully completing her teaching rounds with us. We thank her for her enthusiasm and energy and wish her well with the rest of her degree and teaching career.

What's been happening?

It's been a busy few weeks for our Quirky Quokka's, yesterday we met with OLSH and kinder to partake in The Simultaneous Story Time exploring the book Luna Roo the Kangaroo Baller.

Thanks to all those who came along to our student showcase, it was wonderful to see our students sharing their hard work to the winder community.

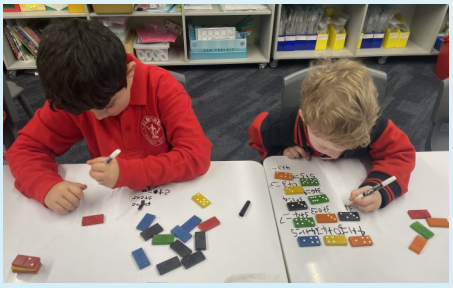
Nick, Sam and I attended the first two days of our Berry Street Discover Education Model, where we began our leaning around trauma-informed, strengths-based strategies for engaging all students with learning. We will have the final two training days in term 3.

What are we learning?

We have finished our informative writing unit, the published informative posters look fantastic. We are now moving into an imaginative writing focus – looking to build on ideas by bringing detail and a sense of adventure within our pieces.

In Maths, we have been exploring addition using split strategy as well as building on our automatic recall of 10s facts.

We are looking forward to implementing whole school number fluency – using Times tables Rockstars for our seniors students and NumBots for our junior class. Each day students will spend 5 minutes engaging in the program with the aim to increase our automatic recall of addition and multiplication facts.



What's coming up?

Week 7 – we continue Songroom on Monday and our whole school excursion to Peppergreen Farm on Wednesday.

Week 8 – sees a short week with a day off for Monday long weekend followed by a student free day on Tuesday 9th as staff attend a Community of Practice learning day.

Have a great week and if you have any queries or concerns, please feel free to contact us via uEducateUs or contact the school.

Cheers

Nick and Daisy

The Wacky Wombats! Grade 3–6

Hi everyone,

It has been a busy and exciting few weeks in our classroom! Thank you to all the families who joined us for the Student Showcase last Friday. The students have worked incredibly hard publishing and presenting their projects, and it was wonderful to celebrate their efforts with the community.

As part of our inquiry topic, *"What Elmore Needs,"* students explored a range of creative and thoughtful ideas including a skyscraper, new park, BMX track, horror restaurant, marketplace, toy shop, clothes shop, KFC, McDonald's, kayaking pontoon, Mitre 10 store and even a chocolate factory! We are hopeful that some of these fantastic articles will be published in the EPA over the coming weeks for the wider community to enjoy.

Last week, I travelled to Bendigo alongside Mrs A and Mr Gibbs to participate in Berry Street professional learning. The training focused on strategies to keep students engaged in learning through brain breaks, mindfulness activities and trauma-informed teaching practices. It was a valuable opportunity to further strengthen our classroom practices and support positive learning environments for all students.

Yesterday, students attended the "Cluster Winter Sports" day in Colbinabbin, where they participated in AFL, soccer or netball. All students represented our school beautifully, demonstrating teamwork, enthusiasm and excellent sportsmanship throughout the day. Students enjoyed developing their skills through drills and activities before finishing with games against other schools. It is always fantastic to come together with our cluster schools for these events.

Song Room Update

Students have been enthusiastically preparing for their Week 9 performance during Song Room sessions. They are enjoying learning songs, playing instruments, and exploring movement and dance. It has been wonderful to see students grow in confidence, express themselves creatively and develop new performing arts skills.

In the Classroom

Literacy

Students have been developing their nonfiction comprehension skills by exploring a range of informative texts. We have been practising strategies such as identifying key information, summarising ideas, asking questions and making connections. In writing, students are learning how to write informative pieces about topics that interest them, using clear facts, headings and detailed explanations.

Mathematics

In Mathematics, students have been focusing on strengthening their number facts and developing confidence with multiplication. Through games, problem-solving activities and hands-on learning, students are building fluency and applying their skills in different mathematical situations.

Inquiry – Sustainability

As part of our Inquiry unit on Sustainability, students have been investigating ways we can care for our environment and make sustainable choices in our everyday lives. We have explored topics such as reducing waste, recycling, conserving energy and protecting natural resources.

Spelling (Spellex)

Students are learning about prefixes and suffixes to strengthen their spelling, vocabulary and understanding of word meanings. They are exploring how adding prefixes and suffixes can change the meaning of words and help them become more confident readers and writers.

Through our Respectful Relationships learning, we have been focusing on empathy through the strategy of putting ourselves in someone else's shoes and how our words can hurt others.

In acknowledging 'Reconciliation Week' and this year's theme 'all in' we have been exploring indigenous heritage, culture, stories and art throughout our daily learning.

Please feel free to reach out if there is anything you need .

Cheers

Sam

WELLBEING @ EPS

Parent Forum

The next parent forum is to be held this week, Friday, May 29th at 2.30 (before Assembly) to give parents the opportunity to meet and discuss any topics of interest to the school they may have.

Please feel welcome to attend. This week we'll be talking about the SWPB Values Rewards program and any items of interest. Dates are Fridays, 2.30-3.10pm – May29th and June 12th.

School Wide Positive Behaviours Program

Currently we are finalising a place to house the rewards that the students are able to exchange for their value stamps. We hope to do a session of exchanging stamps this week or next week.

Junior School Council

At our last meeting a number of items were discussed-

Upcoming events -

Clean Up Australia Day. To be re-scheduled and to coincide with **World Environment Day on Friday, June 5th**

Friday, June 26th (last day of Term 2)- PJ Day- wear your pyjamas to school for the day!

JSC will meet again shortly

Premiers Reading Challenge

The challenge underway and the aim is to read as many books as you can up to Friday September 4th. All students have their Log ins and can log in books read both at home and at school. The theme this year is 'Stories to Discover. Hopefully students have already logged some the books and novels they have read this term

Science

Science last week for the P-Grade 2 class centred around malleable materials as part of the Unit on Physically Changing Materials. We made salt dough that they then stamped into shapes that will be dried and decorated in this week's Science session. The Grade 3-6 class investigated the freezing point of water using an experiment with ice cubes and salt. Predictions and outcomes were discussed. This was linked to the exploration of solids, liquids, and gases. The Grade 3-6 begin a new Science topic this week around 'the Journey to Discovery'

If parents have any concerns please see me, or make contact through uEducateUs.

Cheers Helen

Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge 2026

Dear parent/carer,

The Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge is now open and we're excited to be taking part!

All children from birth to Year 10 are welcome to join in.

This year's Challenge theme is 'Stories to discover. Stories to tell'. Stories can inspire and challenge us and help us grow. They open our eyes to new worlds and new ways of thinking.

The number of books read can be varied for everyone's needs.

All children who complete the Challenge will receive a certificate of achievement signed by the Victorian Premier and former premiers.

To learn more about the Challenge, visit [Premiers' Reading Challenge | vic.gov.au]

You can also contact our Challenge Coordinator, Helen Tuohey with any questions.

Happy reading!

Helen Tuohey

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES 2026

MONDAY	
12:30 – 3:20pm	**MACC – ART** Alternating fortnight with Sue Cowan
TUESDAY	
12:30 – 3:20pm	**MARC – Library** Alternating fortnight with Sue Gentry
1:30pm	**Lunch orders – Elmore Bakery** Orders placed at school in sealed envelope.
2:20pm	**Living Well** P-2s with Helen Tuohey
WEDNESDAY	
8:20am – 8:45am	**Breakfast Club** Multipurpose room with Aaron Taylor
2:20pm	**AUSLAN** Weekly sessions, Tim Pitts visits fortnightly
THURSDAY	
8:20am – 8:45am	**Breakfast Club** Multipurpose room with Lesley
1:30pm	**Lunch orders – Elmore Bakery** Orders placed at school in sealed envelope.
11:30pm – 1:30pm	**Specialist Classes** PE – Natalie Pelly STEM – Helen Tuohey
FRIDAY	
2:20pm	**Living Well** 3-6s with Helen Tuohey
3:05pm	**School Assembly**

Rochester's

Love our River Day

Adventure Awaits!

Join us for a community day by the river as we come together to help care for and celebrate our beautiful Campaspe River.

Saturday, 6th June 2026

Activities:

- Help clean up along the river
- Learn about the local environment
- Explore the newly replaced river signage
- Community activities for all ages
- Sausage sizzle & drinks - available to purchase

Starting near the blue tree

North Central CMA

LANDCARE VICTORIA

LIONS INTERNATIONAL

1st Rochester Scout Group

RBN ROCHESTER BUSINESS NETWORK