Dear Parents and Carers,

The past fortnight has been a very busy time for students. Last week Grade 3 and 5 students undertook NAPLAN testing in the areas of Reading, Writing, Language Conventions and Numeracy. These tests not only give students the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of specific concepts, but allows us to gauge strengths and areas for future teaching and learning. Students know that although these tests are valuable, they are only one of many assessment methods that are utilised at Evandale Primary. Modified timetables for the week ensured that students did not miss specialist lessons and provided the opportunity for students to learn in both composite and grade level combinations.

Our Daily Fitness Program has commenced for this term enhancing student fitness levels, flexibility, co-ordination, sportsmanship and teamwork. A big thank you to Mrs Binns and our Sports Leaders who plan and co-ordinate this whole school program.

As a school we are continually maximising opportunities to promote health and wellbeing. Our school garden and orchard are heavily utilised by students guided by Mrs Davson-Galle's wealth of knowledge and expertise. Sustainability encompasses many curriculum areas where children of all ages learn about germination, plant growth, harvesting, cooking and tasting dishes from our school produce. For any families planning to cook pumpkin soup, Kye, Lucah, Michael and Harmony-Rose have made some beautiful posters advertising our school grown pumpkins for sale at very reasonable prices. Proceeds from sales will be spent purchasing seeds and plants for future learning.

As the temperature drops it is important that students do not arrive at school before 8.40. Teachers are involved in preparation and meetings and therefore playground duty and access to classrooms is not possible until that time.

Our Gumnuts (birth to 4 year olds) Program is well supported this year and therefore after monitoring attendance throughout Term 1 it was necessary to make the move to locate in the Flexible Learning Room. This has proven very popular with extension to learning areas, more room for parent interaction and a wider variety of planned activities. A parent lending library is available at no cost, as well as a child lending library of books and games. We are hoping to continue to build upon this library with hand puppets and toys for younger children to promote social interaction and language. Thank you to Mrs Janine Lucas and Mrs Janette Larissey for their enthusiasm and additional voluntary hours spent preparing and planning the transition.

Regards

Di

From Di's Desk