Welcome back to the 2014 school year. A very special welcome to all our new families and students. It has been a very settled start to the school year, with all of our students returning as expected and our new Kindergarten students each settling into school and the routines very quickly. We thank you for your patience and understanding with the children returning to the 2013 classes and teachers last week, to allow us the time to make sure all enrolments had been accounted for and be sure of our staffing allocation to cover the classes for 2014.

CLASS STRUCTURE
A great deal of time and deliberation goes into the organisation and structure of the classes for a new school year, and I must say our parent community have become very understanding and accepting of the professional decisions we make in placing students in their class groupings. The Executive dedicate many hours and call upon a great deal of information whilst they move through the process of forming the class lists each year. They use information which includes academic progress, learning needs, social groupings, data and input from the 2013 class teachers, combinations of students who work well together, and consideration towards students who don’t work well together, just to name a few. I like the community to know up front, that these decisions are not made lightly, so they understand that requests to move children to other classes cannot be made, as it has a domino effect and creates other situations that will create greater issues across the school.

The issue of composite (Multi-age) classes is another concern for some parents, so I would like to offer some information on multi-age classes to remove some of the uncertainties. We currently have 293 students in the school and we have been allocated 12 classroom teachers to look after those classes.

All classes are formed with the educational belief that the individual child is important, learns at his/her own pace and should not have their learning restricted to a confined grade or period of twelve months. Legislation allows students to start school between 4½ yrs and 6 yrs (so children have always been in multi-aged classes). This range of ages continues to be reflected throughout the schooling process.

The key to understanding composite classes is realising that growth is determined in stages and not magically by ages.

Children also develop positive attitudes to other children of different age groups and relate well to them, similar to the way they do in 'out of school' situations. We agree this is more natural for them. It also allows smaller class sizes across the school.
Strengths:

- The syllabus documents (by which we teach) are in stages (and have been for 20 years). Unfortunately publishing companies print their workbooks in ‘years’, which gives the community a false impression of teaching.
- No ‘one’ group is seen to be disadvantaged – all classes in each stage will be given the same opportunities, expectations and strategies.
- It acknowledges that there are significant individual differences in each child to be addressed regardless of age. The formation of classes can reflect and cater for these individual differences.
- Board of Studies documents refer to “stages” of development and reflect the developmental nature of learning in young children. The organisation of classes should take into account current research on learning and best practice in teaching and learning.
- The DET published the report Multi-Age Classes in NSW – 1997 which found that these classes based on educational principles do not disadvantage students academically and actually benefit them socially and emotionally (p 23).
- It makes sense then to group children who are going through the similar stage so they can relate, help and experience together. Even within the same class, children will be at different levels. Teachers recognise this and usually extend the work of those who learn more quickly and give more attention to those who are slower. The class then becomes outcome based rather than competition based.
- This multi-age philosophy places each learner at the centre of the considerations of curriculum and classroom practice. Children are able to progress at their own rate without regard for restrictive ‘grade’ expectations.
- Overseas research has shown that children become more confident, can operate better as part of a group, are more assertive, become more independent learners and better problem-solvers. They also make friends outside of their standard age groups, develop tolerance & diversity.
- Multi-age grouping creates an environment at school similar to that of home, resulting in greater continuity, thereby easing the transition to the school environment.
- The fundamental difference between multi-age grades and straight age grades is in the way the curriculum is planned and delivered. In our multi-age learning groups we accept that different children learn at different rates. Our integrated curriculum is planned to reflect the developmental stages of the children.
- Research shows that children in multi-age learning groups appear to be more caring and cooperative with each other. Diverse social groups provide opportunities for the older children to reflect on the needs of the younger ones and they are more likely to see the younger children to be in need of their care and help. Older children provide valuable role models for the younger children both socially and academically. Year by year as the classroom structure changes, all children gradually find more opportunities to develop and practice their own leadership skills.
- Remember: any class of more than 1 student is technically a ‘composite’, so the terminology is no longer appropriate.
- Straight-age grades originated in the 1850’s in America and were then adopted by many countries around the world. This factory model for schooling was intended to prepare workers for the industrial society of the time.
Lines of Communication
Schools are very busy places and along with ‘Learning’ being our priority, we also value being able to build a relationship with our parents and community. Throughout the year we arrange opportunities for parents to meet with the teachers, and have an opportunity to formally discuss the learning progress of the students. We also encourage parents to discuss any issues of concern, by first making an appointment to see your child's class teacher. Please remember that the role of our class teachers is to provide direct supervision and learning opportunities to the students, so they cannot be interrupted during class time, nor can they be held up in the mornings, when they need to be moving into class for the day. Making an appointment allows the teacher to give you the time and attention you deserve as the parent of our students. Appointments should be made directly with the teacher. If you have on-going concerns that you wish to have further support with, please make an appointment with the supervisor of the stage, which is listed in the table on Page 4 of this newsletter.

School Contributions
This year we will be asking our families to contribute towards the educational programs in our school. For the past two years our school has received additional funding which we used for this purpose, and we have not asked for families to contribute to our funds. However, as this grant has been decreased this year, we ask that you pay according to the following schedule.

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<td>One Child</td>
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<td>Family</td>
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We will be sending accounts to each family in the next week or two. Your cooperation with the payment of this amount will be very much appreciated.

Approaching Students Policy
I would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents, that our school has a strict policy on parents not approaching other students about issues. If you have a problem or a concern that involves a student other than your own, you are not permitted to approach them, you must report you concern to a member of the executive team, and leave it in their hands to deal with. On most occasions you will receive feedback on the outcome.

Kiss and Drop Zone
For parents who pick their children up from the Kiss and Drop Zone in Gwandalan Road, you will notice a slight change in the process of the children moving to your car. All children who are waiting to be picked up, will sit under the awning under the supervision of one of our staff. A member of the executive team will be at the front school gate, and as you approach the Kiss and Drop Zone, they will call your child to the gate and ensure they approach your car in a safe manner. Please remember the Kiss and Drop Zone is not for parking. You must not park your car in this area under any circumstance. The rules for this area require that you to pull up into the area, assist your child in or out of the car, and then drive out of the area in a safe and cautious manner. Large fines apply to people who park their cars in this area, and these fines cannot be over-turned by the school Principal, so please do not ask.
New Security Door
As mentioned in elsewhere in this newsletter, we have had some changes to the front office. To improve security for the students and staff, the Department of Education has installed a coded security door in the front foyer. There will be no longer be access through the Administration block beyond the front foyer. All parents are asked to enter the main school grounds via the walkway down the side of the Administration block, and also use the same walkway when leaving the school. During school hours all parents and members of the community must report to the front office to gain access to the school, as the external and internal gates will be closed. Once you have reported to the front office the ladies will assist you with your request.

Uniforms and School Pride
It is wonderful to see so many students dressed nicely in their school uniforms. It is a very important part of school life to be dressed in uniform and experience that sense of pride in who we are and where we belong. It is also an expectation that all students will wear their school uniform each day of the school week. Please make sure students are wearing the appropriate uniform for the weather type each day, and of course their sports uniform on a Friday. Our senior students need to make sure they have appropriate fitting uniforms at the beginning of the school year, so they last the four terms. Some of our students have worn the same uniform for many years and they become very worn out and embarrassing for the students to wear. Please be fair to your children and check the size and condition of their uniforms regularly.

I encourage all parents to make sure their children have good quality closed in shoes to wear to school. Primary aged students are going through a very important growth phase in their life and their feet need the most support and protection possible. Black leather, or firm fitting shoes are the best for growing feet. Please do not send your children to school in shoes that are ill fitting, bright coloured, loose fitting, slippery soled or open toed, as this is not part of the agreed uniform. We will be reminding our students, of the requirement to present in a neat and clean uniform each day.

Meet The Teacher
Please keep Thursday 20th February free as we will be holding our Meet the Teacher sessions for 2014. You will receive more information closer to the time with regards to times and rooms. This is the first great opportunity for you to meet your child’s teacher, and hear some of the plans, expectations and routines for 2014.

K. de Falco
Principal
<table>
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<tr>
<th>CLASS</th>
<th>TEACHER</th>
<th>SUPERVISOR</th>
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<tr>
<td>K/1 Red</td>
<td>Ms Cox</td>
<td>Mrs McCosker</td>
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<td>K Blue</td>
<td>Miss Najdovski</td>
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<td>1M</td>
<td>Mrs McCosker</td>
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<td>1W</td>
<td>Mrs Watson</td>
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<td>1/2C</td>
<td>Mrs Curcio</td>
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<td>2K</td>
<td>Mr Kelly</td>
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<td>2/3L</td>
<td>Ms Lyon</td>
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<td>3H</td>
<td>Mrs Hayes</td>
<td>&amp; Mrs Keys</td>
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<td>3/4D</td>
<td>Miss Dragicevich</td>
<td>Miss Moisidis</td>
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<td>4/5N</td>
<td>Mrs Newans/Mrs Keys</td>
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<td>5R</td>
<td>Mr Ramirez</td>
<td>Miss Moisidis</td>
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<td>6M</td>
<td>Miss Moisidis</td>
<td>Miss Moisidis</td>
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<td>Italian</td>
<td>Mrs Wiecek</td>
<td>Miss Moisidis</td>
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<td>Vietnamese</td>
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<td>ESL</td>
<td>Mr Cootes</td>
<td>Mrs McCosker</td>
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<td>ESL/Reading Recovery</td>
<td>Mrs Spaller</td>
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<td>RFF</td>
<td>Mrs Henry, Miss Eav</td>
<td>Mrs McCosker</td>
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<td>Learning Support</td>
<td>Miss Aboui, Miss Bourke,</td>
<td>Mrs McCosker</td>
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<td>Mr de Falco, Mrs Moreno</td>
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<td>Library</td>
<td>Mrs Bendit</td>
<td>Miss Moisidis</td>
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<td>SLSO</td>
<td>Mrs Strati, Mrs Zammit</td>
<td>Mrs McCosker</td>
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<td>PRINCIPAL</td>
<td>Mrs de Falco</td>
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<td>Asst Principals</td>
<td>Mrs McCosker, Miss Moisidis</td>
<td>Mrs de Falco</td>
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<td>Mrs Keys, Mrs Curcio,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mrs Newans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Admin Manager</td>
<td>Mrs Boyce</td>
<td>Mrs de Falco</td>
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<td>Admin Officer</td>
<td>Mrs Dumbrell</td>
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<td>Counsellor</td>
<td>Miss Sissons</td>
<td>Mrs de Falco</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Asst</td>
<td>Mr Martin</td>
<td>Mrs de Falco</td>
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**Boys**

**Summer**
- Bottle green shorts with pale green shirt
  - or
  - Sport uniform

**Winter**
- Long bottle green blocker trousers with pale green shirt
  - or
  - Bottle green fleecy tracksuit pants with pale green shirt

**Girls**

**Summer**
- Green & white check uniform with green collar
  - or
  - Sport Uniform

**Winter**
- Bottle green check trousers or tunic
  - with pale green blouse
  - White socks or black stockings
  - or
  - Bottle green fleecy tracksuit pants with pale green blouse
Uniforms

Essential Extras...
Bottle green fleecy zip jacket or jumper with school emblem
Bottle green Legionnaire or slouch hat with school emblem
Black shoes and white socks

At Edensor Park School we are proud of our image and we expect our students to promote it by wearing the correct school uniform at all times. In 2014 we are making a focus point of this and will be reminding you throughout the year to keep up the standard.

Uniforms are available from the office every day. The only items that are not stocked are shoes, socks and school bags.
LIBRARY NEWS

Welcome back everyone! I hope that you’ve been reading lots of books during the holidays like I have.

Borrowing will begin next week for Years 1-6. Please make sure that you bring your library bag to help protect our books. There are so many lovely new ones to choose from as well as our old favourites.

Please send Book club orders to the office.
The last day for payment is Friday 14th February.

Thank you,
Mrs Bendit—Librarian
Edensor Park
School Readiness Program

- We will be starting up a school readiness program in the next few weeks for all children who will be starting kindergarten at Edensor Park Public School in 2015.

- It will run each Wednesday morning from 9-10am in 1W’s classroom.

- We will be focusing on social skills, cutting, pasting, colouring, colours, shapes, sounds and numbers as well as having a lot of fun along the way.

- Your child will get a chance to get to know the teachers, the school, make some friends and learn some skills that will help prepare them for Kindergarten next year.

- If you are interested in your child attending our School Readiness Program could you please see the ladies at the front office to sign up and we will contact you as soon as we have a start date.

Places will be limited so get in quick.

Mrs Watson
School Readiness Program
Messages from the office...

OFFICE HOURS
Office hours are 8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m., and although we are often here before and after these times, we ask that you try to make any purchases before 2 p.m. This enables us to finalise banking and complete other end of day procedures on time. We appreciate that it may be difficult sometimes to adhere to these hours, and we are happy to ‘break the rules’ if necessary, but we would appreciate your cooperation wherever possible.

LOST PROPERTY
A LOST PROPERTY bin is located outside the end of the office block. This is sorted on a regular basis and named articles are returned to their owners. All other unclaimed clothing is bagged and sent to Stewart House. We do not have the space to store lost property.

Please take the time to ensure that your children come home wearing everything they had on when they left in the morning! It is quite astounding to see the amount of unclaimed items overflowing the bin.

SPARE CLOTHING
Lack of storage space prevents us from keeping a stock of used clothing for use in cases of ‘emergencies’. Please ensure that your child has a complete change of clothing in his/her school bag to change into if the need arises. This will save embarrassment to the child and prevent us from having to call you up to the school to bring dry clothes if accidents happen.

PAYING FOR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES
- Money envelopes are provided for payment of school activities. Please be sure to put your child’s FULL NAME and class on the front, before depositing it in the security box at the front office. It becomes time consuming if we have to work out who the payment is for if only the Christian name is provided!
- Deadlines are set for payment and must be adhered to. Late payments will not be accepted.
- We do not hold cash overnight so are unable to give change. Please put the correct money in your envelope.

PARKING
The start of school always brings problems with traffic and parking around our school. It is important for ALL parents to follow the requirements of the law by obeying road rules, speed restrictions, road signs and the use of ADULT common sense to keep our students safe.

- Do not double park around the school,
- Do not sit and blast your car horn and have your children run across the road to you.
- Do not park in the school car park.

Be responsible please. We care about our students and we ask you to do the same. We will be in contact with our local area command to request random police patrols again, to assist those parents who are still having difficulty understanding what is required.
MEDICATION AT SCHOOL
If your child requires medication during the day, it must be handed in at the office at the beginning of the day, with a note containing the following information:

- Child’s name
- Full details of the medication
- Dose required
- Time of administration

Medication must be brought in, in its original packaging and not in unnamed containers. Medication must not be kept in the classroom, with the exception of puffers for those children who are affected by asthma.

Although we do our best to ensure that medication is given at the correct time, it is the children’s responsibility to come to the office without having to be reminded.

EPIPENS
A reminder to parents of children with allergies, which may involve the use of an ‘epipen’ – we require those parents to fill in appropriate information from their doctor, which informs the school of the possible allergic reaction and the required medical treatment. Those parents are also required to supply an epipen to the school to be used in such an emergency. If your child has a severe allergic reaction to anything and may require an epipen to be administered, please contact the office to complete the necessary paperwork.

SCHOOL TIMES
8:30 am Teachers are on duty in the playground at 8.30. Students should not arrive before this time as there is no supervision.
8:55 am Lessons commence at 8.55 am.
2:55 pm End of day

Children who are late for school, even by a minute, must report to the office where they will be given a late card to give to their teacher. Their time of arrival will be entered on the computer and becomes part of their permanent record, and this is monitored by the Department of Education—Home Liaison Officers. It is very important that students are at the classroom when the bell goes at 8.55 am, ready to commence lessons. Latecomers are disruptive to the rest of the class, and can miss out on important notices or instructions.

SECURITY DOORS
We feel that we are in a new office, now that security doors have been installed, our windows tinted and our doors painted bright blue.

We hope that you like the new look and that you appreciate that the locked doors and STOP signs are for security reasons only.

We are here to help you and look forward to your cooperation with the new arrangement as outlined earlier in this newsletter.
Don't forget.....

14th February    Book Club orders due
19th & 20th February    Meet the Teacher Sessions
11th March         School Photos
13th March         Selective High School Test

Edensor Park Public School
Cnr Swan & Gwandalan Roads, Edensor Park, NSW 2176
Ph: 9823 5111        * Fax: 9823 7828
Website: www.edensorpk-p.schools.nsw.edu.au
Email: edensorpk-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

PLEASE PHONE
1300 880 021
TO REPORT ANY SECURITY INCIDENTS IN OUR SCHOOL