PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

School Council Election 2016

As notified in the recent parent bulletin, we have now concluded our School Council Election process for 2016. The School Council members are;

Parent Members
David Thomas
James Douglas
Silvia Pasquote Abreu
Maria Skouteris
Anne Vythilingam Choy
Kim Huynh
Trevor Sharrock
Kristen Steer

DET Members
Melanie Boyle
Ina Kuehlich
Jessica Chan

Principal
Andrew Crossett

I wish to express appreciation to five outgoing councillors for their invaluable contribution to the Essex Heights community. Thanks to Councillors David Quinn (Policy & Planning Convenor), Nicola Sounas (PFA Representative, OHSC Representative and Carnival Committee), Darren Mattingley (Grounds Convenor) Lisa Carne (OSHC Representative) and Tanya Dolence (Minutes Secretary) for their contributions. These parent and staff volunteers have donated time and significant expertise during their term on School Council, which has been greatly appreciated.
The first School Council meeting for the new Council will take place on Thursday, March 17th at 7:30pm. At this meeting we will elect the School Council Executive and also confirm Coordinators and membership of the various sub-committees:

These sub committees are open to all members of the school community and are not limited to elected School Councillors. Following the first meeting of our new Council there will be a call for expressions of interest to join these sub-committees so please consider your interest and availability in joining a committee. The current School Council Sub-committees are:

Finance, Policy & Planning, Outside School Hours Care (OSHC), Grounds

Please talk to me if you would like to find out about what this membership entails.

Parents and Friends Association (PFA)

Last night I attended the first PFA Meeting for 2016 and it was very pleasing to see the number of parents in attendance. This very important group in our community carries out a dual function. Firstly it provides activities and events that enhance and add value to the children’s school experience. Activities such as: Welcome Picnic, Mother’s & Father’s Day Stalls, Mother’s Day & Father’s Day Breakfast, Active Travel Program, Hot Dog Days as well as supporting events throughout the year like Pink Stumps Day, Footy Colours Day, School Fun Run, Year 6 Graduation and Second Hand Uniform Sales.

Secondly, the PFA has a fundraising component to their work and this happens through various raffles, the Carnival, the Fun Run, Entertainment Book sales, Trivia Nights and so on, that raise much needed funds for the school.

Additional to these functions, I also appreciate the opportunity to regularly meet PFA members to seek their views and opinions on a range of topics that relate to Essex Heights PS. They provide another forum, like School Council, to engage and dialogue with parents.

As the Principal of Essex Heights, I see firsthand the tremendous work carried out by the PFA, and greatly appreciate their invaluable contribution to our children and the broader school community.

Soon you will receive a notice from the PFA asking for assistance with the various events throughout the year. I urge you to volunteer some time to assist with at least one event, thereby sharing the load across our community. For parents who are interested in the broader work of the PFA, the Committee meets monthly to oversee these activities and I invite you to join them at their AGM on March 9th at 7:30pm where you would be most welcome.

Parent/Guardian Information Evenings

We have scheduled a Parent Information Evening for Tuesday, March 1st. This year we are changing the format slightly and detailed information will be sent home in the next week.

We have invited an Educational Psychologist and Parent Educator, Chris Daicos, to address the first part of the evening. Chris will talk to parents on the important topic of Building Resilience in Children. This will then be followed by classroom visits, meeting with the teachers to discuss matters relating to the particular year level.

Two sessions are planned:
Prep – Yr 3  6:00 – 7:30pm
Yr 4 – Yr 6  6:45 – 8:30pm

Hong Kong Delegation Visits Essex Heights

On Monday, February 8th we hosted a visiting delegation including the Principal and some teachers of the Kau Yan School in Hong Kong. This private Prep-Yr 12 school had heard
about Essex Heights PS and the great work that we do here, so wanted to come and learn from us. During the visit and our conversations we discovered a number of similarities between the school communities with a strong focus on academic achievement equally with the childrens’ engagement, wellbeing and happiness at school. These opportunities for professional sharing are invaluable and always beneficial to both schools.

Here are the delegates from Kau Yan School presenting gifts to Essex Heights which have been housed in the Library.

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**Ashwood High School Visit**

Last week the Principal of (the newly renamed) Ashwood High School, Brett Moore, invited me for a visit. It was great to have the chance to talk to Brett about the exciting developments taking place at Ashwood High School this year and to see many of them first hand. The next stage of their building program is underway, adding to their already impressive new learning spaces opened in 2015. Brett and the teaching team have great plans for continued improvement to their school and it is certainly one that I would recommend families visit when they are considering options for secondary school.

During the visit I also had the chance to catch up with past Essex Heights students which is always enjoyable. This included Sienna (currently Yr 7) who we are very proud of as one of the first Sports Scholarship recipients.

See you around the school,

Andrew
‘Dancing Around the World’

Celebrating Harmony Week

We are looking forward to our exciting whole school incursion on Monday March 7th, celebrating Harmony Week. Students will be watching a performance which includes dances from all around the world - Italian, African, Indian, Aboriginal, Turkish, Russian, Spanish, Indian, Greek, Irish, Chinese and more!

Students are encouraged to come dressed on the day in the National clothes or colours of their family’s heritage.
Land Downunder

Prep-6 Dance Concert

Monday May 2nd and Tuesday May 3rd

A request for help please

We are looking for some parent/family volunteers who would be available to assist with the organisation of some costume items for our school dance concert.

If you would be available to assist please leave your name and contact details (preferably email) at the office by Friday March 3rd.

Thank-you
Alex Douros 😊
(on behalf of Georgia Lombard – Dance Teacher)

PARENTS AND FRIENDS NEWS

Hi everyone

Thanks to Jen, Raema and Pauline for another successful secondhand uniform stall. Lots of families grabbed a bargain, and we raised over $300. At any time, donations of uniforms can be left at the office or in the lost property boxes in a bag marked “donation”. No old-logo items any more thanks.

Remember that school banking day is now on Monday. Thanks to Stef and her team of helpers for keeping this great program running.

Cheerio for now

Andrea J
RUBBISH FREE LUNCH DAYS

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Essex Heights Primary School is proud of Rubbish Free Lunch days. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, we ask that your child’s food is wrapper free or that any packaging is recyclable. Ideally, your child’s lunch will only contain items that will be eaten, composted or recycled. Any non-recyclable packaging is to be taken home for disposal. Reusable containers are a handy way to pack a rubbish free lunch. They also make it easy to buy food and drink in bulk (instead of single-servings) which can save money over time. The Rubbish Free Lunch Challenge is one of Essex Heights Primary School sustainability education initiatives. By participating, students will have a better understanding of how we can take action to reduce our waste. Rubbish Free Lunches also save money and promote healthy eating. On average, a child who has a disposable lunch generates three pieces of rubbish per day, which equals a monstrous 30kg of waste per child per year! If you have any questions, comments or concerns about the Rubbish Free Lunch, please don’t hesitate to contact Marita Steward in V5.

Thank you for supporting your child’s participation in Essex Heights Rubbish Free Lunch Challenge.

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Dear Parents,

The program is very excited by the overwhelming response to our new activity days. On Tuesday we do Dance and Drama with Georgia from Creative Dance and on Thursday we do an electronics workshop with Kids Unlimited. There is no extra charge to participate in these activities; they are covered by your aftercare fees.

Watch this space as the Easter Vacation Care Program will be out soon.

If your details have changed recently could you please inform the program.

Thank You

Paul Davis

CANTEEN

Canteen is up and running.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday

The roster will be available next week.
### FEBRUARY 2016

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School Photos

Arthur Reid Photographers will be coming to our school, on Thursday the 3rd of March and Friday the 4th of March, to take class and individual photos. By now, each child should have received an envelope with details of the photo selections available to you. If you would like a special photo, such as a family shot or a special group, you will need to go online to Arthur Reid and fill out your choices. The address for this is given in their brochure. This offers security for you and accountability for the company. Whole Year level choir photos will also be taken and are available for purchase. These are often forgotten but as we get closer to showcase are requested. Easier to order now than later.

This is an opportunity to catch a memory for you and your child to look back on in years to come. A school photo speaks volumes, showing friends at school and teachers etc.
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government’s commitment to breaking the link between a student’s background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:
• $125 for primary school students
• $225 for secondary school students.

HOW TO APPLY

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

MORE INFORMATION

For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef
Creative Dance Classes 2016
Essex Heights Primary School

**After School Dance** classes will continue to be offered in 2016 for students in Prep to Year 4 at Essex Heights Primary. Classes take place in the Stadium by Georgia Lombard from Creative Dance and Drama. Prep/Year 1 will be on Tuesdays and Year 2-4 will be on Wednesdays. Class begins at **3.40pm** and finishes at **4.25pm**.

The Term 1, 2016 Dance program commences on the following dates:

- **Prep/1** 6 sessions $60 Tuesday 16th February
- **Year 2-4** 6 sessions $60 Wednesday 17th February

The program provides children with the opportunity to:

- Learn basic warm up routines
- Learn a choreographed dance routine
- Create their own movements
- Perform the dance for a small audience at the end of the term

If you would like your child to participate please obtain a registration form from the school office or visit [creativedanceanddrama.com](http://creativedanceanddrama.com) and request an After School Dance form via the contact page.

Georgia Lombard
Creative Dance and Drama
0402 024 891
Healthy Social and Emotional Development in Young Children to Support their Wellbeing

A FREE EVENT FROM THE CITY OF STONNINGTON

Presenter: GLENDA GRUMMET – VIC FACILITATOR KidsMatter EARLY CHILDHOOD

Showing anger in a healthy way. Figuring out conflicts peacefully. Taking care of someone who has been hurt. Waiting patiently. Following rules. Enjoying the company of others.

For young children these social and emotional skills can often be very difficult to learn and understand. Like any skill, young children develop these abilities in small steps over time. Using the KidsMatter Early Childhood Framework, we will explore together what you can do to support your child’s social-emotional development so that they may build healthy relationships with others.

WHEN: Wednesday, 9 March 2016 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
WHERE: Malvern Town Hall - Banquet Room. 1251 High Street, Malvern
Ticket bookings at eventbrite.com.au

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MONASH UNIVERSITY HOCKEY CLUB PRESENTS...

**HOOKIN2HOCKEY**

This is a fun and interactive 5 week hockey program for beginners and those working on the basics of the game. Participants not only have fun while learning hockey, they also get an optional participant starter pack for $40.00. Enter to win a hockey stick, helmet, shin guards, mouth guard, stick bag, and other cool hockey gear.

**WHEN:** Thursdays, 4:15pm - 5:45pm
**DATES:** 26th of February to 20th of March 2016
**TO REGISTER PLEASE CONTACT:** Fiona Coleburrow via fiona.coleburrow@gmail.com

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**DADS MATTER**

**WHAT KIDS REALLY NEED FROM THEIR DADS**

- Do you want to learn why dads matter to their kids and their development?
- Interested in learning ways to talk to your children that are effective?
- Would you like to learn how to develop rules and consequences that work?
- Do you want to learn why children behave the way they do?
- Join other dads to share ideas and information around these and other issues.

**FREE WEDNESDAY GROUP**

**WHO:** Dads of children under 12
**DATE:** Feb 24th to March 23rd 2016
**TIME:** 7pm to 9pm
**VENUE:** Mulgrave Neighbourhood House 36 - 42 Mulgrave Rd, Mulgrave

**BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL.**

For further information and bookings contact: Kim 037954 4108 or Margaret 9548 3311

anglicarevic.org.au
St Luke’s Twilight FIELSA
Saturday 5th March 2016 2pm 'til 7pm.
94-96 ESSEX RD, MT WAVERLEY
Market Stalls Live Music
Jumping Castle White Elephant
Gourmet Food Animal Farm
Classic Cars Collectables
Plants Books
www.stlukesmtwaverley.unitingchurch.org.au

REGISTER NOW!

NAB AFL Auskick is a great way for kids to have fun, make friends and learn skills of Australian Football.

Ashwood Auskick
Essex Heights Reserve, Outlook Rd, Mt Waverley
Saturday mornings, 9.30 - 11.00 am
Starts - Saturday 16 April 2016
visit the website below to find more information and the link to our club to register online
AFLAUSKICK.COM.AU

PARENTS

KIDS
Play & Post the NAB AFL Auskick logo for your chance to win an AFL prize pack to the value of $250
To enter, ask your parents to:
1. Download the official app
2. Watch a match on your device and post it on Instagram with aflauskick
3. Complete the registration process

Visit aflauskick.com.au