Year 6 Student Leadership Positions

Last Monday’s Assembly was very special for our Yr 6 Student Leadership group who were formally presented with their badges of office. It was a pleasure to welcome MLA Michael Gidley, Member for Waverley, to Essex Heights again. Michael, also as an elected community leader, was able to share the excitement of the children and was an appropriate special guest to make the presentations. I congratulate all the children and look forward to their contributions to our school throughout the year.
PFA - AGM

Last night we had the AGM of our PFA, and it was very encouraging to see a number of parents present, including some for the first time. Our PFA carries out an important role in ‘community building’ at Essex Heights PS. In all the activities they organise, either for children or families, they are adding great value for the members of our school community. Of course, there is also the added benefit of raising much needed funds that are used in areas that directly contribute to the children and the curriculum programs. My thanks to the parents who devote time and energy to supporting the work of the PFA.

At the AGM, the members nominated and elected the executive for 2016 and I would like to thank and congratulate;

Andrea Jordan  President
Maria Akritidis/Kay Nolan  Secretary
Andrea Fyfe  Treasurer

On behalf of the school community I would also like to thank one member of the past executive who is stepping down from her position of responsibility. To Stefi Wendler-Canning (Secretary) …… thank you for the leadership you have provided during your time in this executive role, much appreciated!

Parent Forum Feedback

I have set up a short online survey to seek your views on our combined Information Night and Parent Forum last week. I am aware that many parents would prefer the Information Night section to be split, allowing you to attend more than one Grade Level, so didn’t include that in the survey. However, there are a couple of other questions that I would appreciate your feedback on. Thanks Survey link:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XLPHZDW

Prep Buddy Program

The ‘Prep Buddy Program’ is an important part of our Transition and Leadership Programs. We pair up the new Preps with Yr 5 children as yet another way of connecting them into the school. In this activity last week the Buddies worked together on a common task relating to letter recognition. It is lovely to see the engagement of the children during these sessions, and I’m not sure who gets more excited, the Preps or the Yr 5’s.

RIDE2SCHOOL & CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

On National Ride2School Day we had a number of children safely ride or scoot to school, with this transport overcoming some of our local traffic issues as well as being a great way to be active and healthy. We support our students to walk or wheel to school because:

- Students feel fresh and alert at the beginning of a school day;
- Students are more likely to reach the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity they need each day;
- Students feel happier, healthier and perform better in the classroom.

Thanks to the PFA for encouraging this event and providing a small ‘treat’ for the children who participated ….. the Bike Shed was full of scooters and bikes!

Also on Friday we enthusiastically joined in the local Clean Up Australia Day by cleaning our own school grounds with classes allocated their own ‘backyard’ area to monitor and tidy. Thanks to all the children and teachers for supporting this worthwhile environmental initiative.
Yr 6 Camp – Forest Lodge

Our Yr 6 children and teachers will venture off on Tuesday morning to Forest Lodge camp, out of Yarram in South Gippsland. It is a four day outdoor adventure style camp that offers a range of experiences and activities for the children to enjoy. These types of camps are wonderful as they offer opportunities that are not possible in a normal school setting, as well as building the children’s independence and social skills.

I am travelling down to the camp on Tuesday afternoon to stay overnight and for Wednesday’s activities so will include some stories in next week’s Contact.

PFA Welcome Picnic

Last Friday the PFA organised our first ‘community event’ for the year with a Welcome Family Picnic on Friday night. Those who were there enjoyed the chance to meet and chat with other families and to listen to some excellent music provided by Lynn (Yr 6) and Nikki (Yr 7). It is a credit to the Essex Heights Music Program that past and present students are confident and capable enough to perform at events such as this.

The Library and Courtyard provide an ideal venue for an event such as this. Thanks to the PFA for organising, arranging the music, the BBQ and drinks sales and the publicity. Thanks also to all the families who supported the event and came along on the night, much appreciated!

2.30pm Finish on Thursday March 24th, and Term 2 Return on Monday April 11th

A reminder to all parents that we will be finishing at 2.30pm on Thursday, March 24th as the last day of Term 1.

See you around the school,

Andrew

Schools Clean Up Day

Last Friday it was Schools Clean Up Day. We had to pick up rubbish to help the environment. We put the rubbish in the rubbish bags. The white bag had landfill which goes to the tip and yellow bag had all the recyclable items. The school looks cleaner when we pick up the rubbish. Rubbish free lunches help keep our school clean, please don’t take rubbish into the yard. We should treat our school like our backyard and not let the wrappers fly around.

By 2S and 2O.
Harmony Day
2016
Our school applied to be part of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program and was successful!

‘ARISS lets students worldwide experience the excitement of talking directly with crew members of the International Space Station, inspiring them to pursue interests in careers in science, technology, engineering and math, and engaging them with radio science technology through amateur radio.

Astronaut Sunita Williams, KD5PLB, talking to students from the ISS ham radio station.

Our school has been given the week 16 - 22 May 2016. At this stage we have not been notified which date or time. It may be out of school hours and may even be an evening. It will be at the school. We will not have a direct contact, instead we will be using a telebridge which means we will link with our ARISS partner, Tony Hutchison in Adelaide. http://www.electric-web.org

We would like to select 10 students from Years 3 to 6. There would be 2 students from each grade level and 2 students from between Years 3 to 6. Each student should be able to ask one question and possibly two questions during the interview. The interview should last about ten minutes. At this stage we don’t know which astronaut the students will be interviewing.

If your child is interested in being selected to be part of the team interviewing an astronaut would they please submit in writing why they would like to be selected and why ISS is important. Please handing in to Jenny Austin or place in the ISS box in 3AW classroom (Portable 2), no later than Tuesday April 12th.

Thank you

Jenny Austin

Science Coordinator
Hello everyone

I hope the heat and rain didn’t put you off coming to Welcome Night last Friday. The weather cleared and we had a lovely evening entertained by the very talented Nicki and Lynn. Special thanks to them both, and to their trusty roadies. Thanks to Stef, Betty, Sonia, Heather, Andrea, Luke, Chris and Kaye for making sure everyone had something to eat and drink.

In exciting news, our annual general meeting was held last night. Our executive team for 2016 sees Andrea Fyfe returning as treasurer, and the dynamic duo of Maria Akritidis and Kaye Nolan sharing the secretary role. Thanks to these ladies for taking on a role to keep PFA running. The members also kindly agreed to let me stay on as president for another year.

A very special thank-you to Stef Wendler-Canning for being a marvellous PFA secretary for the past year. She kept the wheels turning efficiently, and I am grateful for her cheerful help. Stef, we are in your debt.

We have official approval to run Essex Heights Trivia Night 2016, and this will be on Saturday, your diary now!

Andrea J

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Dear Parents,

The April Vacation Care Program is out now and enrolments are being taken. If you require this program please enrol early.
Easter activities planned for this week are Bunny Masks and Easter Shrinkies. On Tuesday we will have a Performing Arts Workshop with Georgie and on Thursday we will have our electronics workshop. Next week we will be decorating our glass Easter eggs with plenty of shiny stickers and glittery bits and pieces. We will also design our very own scratch board rainbow Easter eggs.

Thank you

Paul Davis

CANTEEN

Rosters have been sent home. Let me now if you don’t have yours.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Names</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>11 March</td>
<td>Richelle Mil, Sheyy Rui Li, Karen Zhang, Michelle Marazakis</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10.00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>MONDAY</td>
<td>14 March</td>
<td>Public Holiday</td>
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<td>11.00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>16 March</td>
<td>Kate Reichman, Renata Seditzcek</td>
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<td>10.15 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>11 March</td>
<td>Jan Mattrow, Esha Pillay, Lingyan Cao, Doreen Lai Mun Lim</td>
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<td>10.00 a.m.</td>
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DON’T FORGET –
Please report to Front Office to sign the Visitor’s Book and get a Visitor’s Label BEFORE proceeding to the Canteen.
Prep-6 Dance Concert

Monday May 2\textsuperscript{nd} and Tuesday May 3\textsuperscript{rd}

\textit{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 email me directly
douros.alexandra.k@edumail.vic.gov.au

by Monday March 7th.

Thank-you
Alex Douros  😊
(on behalf of Georgia Lombard – Dance Teacher)
Prep-6 Dance Concert: Costume List

March 11th, 2016

The Essex Heights Dansical 'Land Downunder' will be held over two nights. Please note that your child will only perform on one of these nights.

Monday May 2nd: Group 1

Tuesday May 3rd: Group 2

Below is an outline of what students will need to wear on the night. If you have any concerns please let your classroom teacher know well before the concert.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Costume</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep ZR &amp; Prep B</td>
<td>Girls: White leggings, white singlet and white canvas shoes. A yellow skirt will be provided on the night. Hair: Piggy tails with yellow ribbons. Boys: White T-Shirt and white canvas shoes. Orange shorts will be provided on the night.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amazing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prep L &amp; Prep C</td>
<td>Girls and boys: Black pants/shorts/skirt, black shoes and a white T-Shirt. Girls Hair: Piggy tails with a green ribbons. Children will be given a calico crocodile to paint at school. This crocodile will be sent home and you will need to sew the crocodile on to the FRONT and in the CENTRE of the T-Shirt.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crocodile Rock</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1T &amp; 1J</td>
<td>Girls: Black leggings, black singlet and black flats. Hair to be worn out. A skirt will be provided on the night. Boys: Black pants and black top. A headband will be provided on the night.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gotta Feeling</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1W &amp; 1C</td>
<td>Girls: Black leggings, blue denim skirt or shorts and a white T-Shirt with black flat shoes. Hair: High pony tail with a blue ribbon. Boys: Blue denim jeans with a white T-Shirt and black shoes. Children will be given a calico shark to paint at school. This shark will be sent home and you will need to sew it on to the FRONT and in the CENTRE of the T-Shirt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Go West</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2S &amp; 2O</td>
<td>Girls and boys : Black pants/shorts/skirt/leggings. No shoes. Please wear a pair of thongs or slip on shoes to wear before performing. Girls hair to be worn out. White T-shirts will need to be sent to school. Please name clearly. Students will be decorating this T-Shirt at school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can You Feel It?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2LB &amp; 2B</td>
<td>Girls: Black leggings, white singlet and black flat shoes. A red skirt will be provided on the night. Hair: High pony tail with a red ribbon. Boys: Black pants, black shoes and a red singlet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I'm So Excited</td>
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<tr>
<td>3AW &amp; 3F</td>
<td>Girls and Boys: Wear bright beach style clothing. Board shorts,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance Theme</td>
<td>Instructions and Clothing Details</td>
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<td>-----------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Run To Paradise</td>
<td>Singlets, dresses, sunglasses, zinc cream etc. No shoes. Please wear a pair of thongs or slip on shoes to wear before performing.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| **3C & 3CW** Crazy          | **Girls:** Black leggings and a white singlet with black flat shoes. A blue skirt will be provided on the night. Hair: Free choice.  
Boys: Black pants and a navy blue singlet (bonds chesty style) with black shoes.                                      |
| **4L & 4O** Cold As Ice     | **Girls:** Black leggings, black singlet and black shoes. A blue skirt will be provided on the night. Hair: Free Choice.    
Boys: Black pants with a black T-Shirt and black shoes. A blue tie will be provided on the night.                           |
| **4G & 5/6B** Livin’ On A Prayer | **Girls:** Black leggings, black singlet and a blue denim skirt/shorts.  
Black flat shoes. Hair: Teased.  
Boys: Black pants, white singlet and black shoes. A black headband will be provided on the night.                     |
| **5/6M & 5/6P** Holiday     | **Girls:** Black leggings and a black skirt with black flat shoes. Hair in a high ponytail with a pink ribbon.  
Boys: Black pants and shoes.  
Students will need to bring a white T-Shirt to school. **Please name clearly.** Students will be decorating this T-Shirt at school. |
| **5/6T & 5/6R** Song 2      | **Girls:** Black leggings, black singlet and black flat shoes. A red skirt will be provided on the night.  
Girls Hair: Teased.  
Boys: Black clothing. A red headband will be provided on the night.                                                      |

Make up is **optional but recommended.** Brown eye shadows, blush, black mascara and eyeliner and a red lipstick.

Thank you,  
Georgia Lombard  
*Dance Teacher*  
Alex Douros  
*Dance Program Co-ordinator*
# ESSEX HEIGHTS PRIMARY SCHOOL CALENDAR

## MARCH 2016

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<th>Monday</th>
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<th>Thursday</th>
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<td>2&lt;sup&gt;ND&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>3&lt;sup&gt;RD&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>4&lt;sup&gt;TH&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parent Info Night</td>
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<td>School Photos</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
<td>Schools Clean Up Day</td>
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<td>7&lt;sup&gt;TH&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Harmony Day</td>
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<td>14&lt;sup&gt;TH&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Labour Day</td>
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<td>21&lt;sup&gt;ST&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Harmony Day</td>
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<td>28&lt;sup&gt;TH&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Easter</td>
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## APRIL 2016

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<td>11&lt;sup&gt;TH&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>First day</td>
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### Notes:
- Labour Day Public Holiday
- District Tennis Carnival (Selected 5/6 Children)
- Deakin Science Week
- Easter
COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

Products & services advertised in Contact’s are placed on a paid basis and are not necessarily being promoted by Essex Heights Primary School.

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KARATE
Training from beginners to advanced all ages - Males - Females

We are members of the international martial arts alliance and kyudo international, with fully qualified and experienced instructors. The instructors are passionate about their martial art and sharing their knowledge and ability. Lion Bushido is a school built on professionalism, camaraderie, discipline and respect. With separate classes for adults and juniors we ensure quality instruction for all students.

FIRST CLASS IS FREE PH 9887 4098 VISIT US AT WWW.LIONBUSHDIDO.COM

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ASHBURTON PRIMARY SCHOOL
GRAND FAIR
Visit the Ashburton Primary School Grand Fair on Sunday 20th March 10am - 4pm A great Family day out - with over 30 stalls, fun rides and lots of activities. A huge 2nd hand goods stall with toys, clothing, books and lots more. Check out our fantastic Silent Auction, great food and drinks, music, free entertainment and lots of other activities to keep the children entertained! UNLIMITED Kids wristbands can be purchased through TryBooking. Book online now at www.trybooking.com.au/CPU
Contact 9885 2559 or www.ashburtonps.vic.edu.au/grand-fair
Like us on www.facebook.com/APSGrandFair

FAKENHAM RD, ASHBURTON - www.ashburtonps.vic.edu.au

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BOOK FAIR
TIME TO CLEAN OUT YOUR BOOKS?
GIVE THEM TO US!
St. Scholastica’s Kindergarten
Drop off points: Kinder (Pleasant St Barwood) Church Office (opposite church) School Reception (Stirling St Barwood)
For our Annual Second-hand Book Fair
Saturday 23rd April 2016
9:00am – 4:00pm