CALENDAR

February
16 Parent Info Session #1 - 2.30pm
16 Secondhand uniform sale - 3pm-3.45pm
17 Yrs 5&6 Interschool Summer Sports starts
20 School Council nominations open
20&21 Parent & Teacher Meet & Greet evenings
21 School Banking info session - 8.45am (Hall)
22 Pink Stumps Day - 11.30am
22 Lunchtime Dance starts
23 Parent Info Session #2 - 2.30pm
23 School Council
27 Student leadership badge presentation
27 School Council nominations close - 4pm
28 Parent Information Night

March
13 Labour Day public holiday
14-17 Yr 6 Camp
20 2017 School fees due
23-24 School Photos
23 School Council

April
17 Easter Monday public holiday
25 ANZAC Day public holiday

Students do not attend school on public holidays.

Whole School Assembly
Every Monday at 2.40pm in School Hall - All welcome

SCHOOL TOURS
Fridays at 9.30am, commencing 24th February
Bookings essential - please call School Office

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

School Council Election - 2017
Nominations for parent representatives on school council will open next Monday, 20th February 2017. Self-nomination forms will be available from the Office or from the school website. Nominations for the four available positions will close at 4pm on Monday 27th February 2017.

School Wide Positive Behaviours Support Program (SWPBS)
At EHPS our values and expectations are aimed at ensuring that all students feel happy and safe at school and that they are engaged in their learning. The SWPBS program promotes students being safe, being responsible and being a learner. As I walk around the school I see this in action every day. I see children playing well together and helping each other. In general being very responsible. These positive behaviours are acknowledged by staff in the ‘Baik Sekali’ awards. Three nominated students are drawn out of a hat each assembly and receive a prize for their exemplary behaviour. This week’s winners are: Cassie (1D) for lining up nicely, Cooper (3ED) for playing nicely and sharing her basketball, and Victoria (1P) for being responsible.

Car Parking & Safety
At the start of the year it is timely to talk about traffic safety and issues that may impact upon everyone’s safety. I seek your assistance with a few concerns that have been brought to my attention. Of course, our main focus is the children’s safety and these matters are raised to ensure we are doing our best to provide a safe and secure environment for the children as they travel to and from school.

- The car park at the front of the school (off Essex Road) is for staff and allocated permit holders only. It is not a “drop off zone” for children and it is not safe to use it as such.
- Also, the Staff Car Park is not for pedestrian access and it is not safe for children to enter and leave school via those gates. As cars enter and leave that area regularly, we ask that no children enter school via that route. The only entrance to school, from Essex Road, is through the front gate.
- The ‘2 Minute Drop Off Zone’ at the front of the school is not a car park and parents are not able to leave their car there and walk away. Council By-Laws Officers will patrol this area frequently and parents not complying risk a fine.
- As there is a solid white line in front of the school, it is not legal for parents to conduct a ‘U-Turn’ across this line. I ask parents to continue travelling in the same direction and go around the block. Again, the Council By-Laws Officers will patrol this area.
- Please ensure that all children cross Essex Road at the supervised crossing in front of the school. I have noticed some parents encouraging their children to cross at other places and this is a very dangerous practice when Essex Road is busy at 9am and 3.30pm.

I seek the support of all parents to follow these guidelines so that all children can be safe whilst traveling to and from school.

… continued
**Students’ Work**
This week I was delighted to receive a beautiful thank you card from Prep M. The card thanked me for letting them visit my office last week and they invited me to come and visit their class with my favourite book. I will be doing that very soon!! Students from 3ED produced great postcards addressed to me, telling me all about their holidays. The cards were very well written and had excellent drawings. I have include two examples of their creative work:

![Postcard from Tess (3ED)](Image)

![Postcard from Bowen (3ED)](Image)

**Parent/Teacher ‘Meet and Greet’ Interviews**
These will be held on Monday 20th February and Tuesday 21st February. This is a great opportunity for parents or guardians to meet their child’s class teacher to discuss matters of mutual interest, to ensure that the year is a most successful experience for all involved. Appointments are made by using Compass, using your normal login.

**Parent/Guardian Information Evening**
We have scheduled a Parent Information Evening for Tuesday 28th February.

The format will allow a classroom meeting for parents to meet teachers and discuss year level specific matters, from 6pm to 6.45pm. This will be followed by an address from Educational Psychologist and Parent Educator, Chris Daicos, who will speak on the topic of “Developing Optimism”. Last year parents responded very positively to her talk and we hope that her topic this year will continue to give us all ways to build positive relationships with our children.

I look forward to seeing you over the next week at the parent teacher meetings.

*George Perini*
*Principal*

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**Wednesday 22nd February**
from 11.30am to 1.00pm
on the Council Oval.

*Everyone is encouraged to wear pink!*

*Gold coin donation for the McGrath Foundation*

Looking forward to this whole school event where students will be watching the Teachers vs 6’s featured match.
STUDENT LEADERSHIP BADGE PRESENTATION

** CHANGE OF DATE **

Our Student Leaders will be presented with their badges by Mr Michael Gidley MP, State Member for Waverley. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the date for the presentation has changed. The presentation will now take place on Monday 27th February, at Assembly commencing at 2.40pm in the School Hall.

SCHOOL TOURS

School tours for prospective students will be held each Friday at 9.30am, commencing on Friday 24th February. Bookings are essential - please contact the School Office on 9807 4994.

2017 STUDENT CHARGES AND VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

A letter has been sent home advising the 2017 student charges and voluntary contributions. These are $320 per student and first aid officer ($30 per family), grounds maintenance ($30 per family) and ICT (computer) support ($30 per family).

Thank you to those families who have made their payments already. Payment is to be made by Monday 20th March 2017, unless other arrangements are made with our Business Manager, Barbara McCann. If you need to speak to Barbara, contact her at the School Office.

Payment can be made in cash (correct amount please as no change is held in the Office), cheque (made payable to “Essex Heights Primary School”), or EFTPOS/credit card (VISA/MasterCard only) at the School Office or fill out the details on the form attached to your letter. If you’d like to use BPay, please contact the Office and a statement will be generated for you that has the BPay details printed on it.

PREP 2017

Prep students are NOT required to attend school on Wednesday 22nd February and 1st & 8th March. School Entry Assessment (SEA) interviews will be conducted on these Wednesdays. Please refer to your school start letter with your child’s SEA interview time (please confirm with your child’s teacher if you’re not sure about your date and time).

SPORT

MULGRAVE DISTRICT INTERSCHOOL SUMMER SPORTS: Our interschool sport program for Years 5 and 6 students will run on Friday mornings in Term 1, commencing tomorrow, Friday 17th February.

IMPORTANT: The permission form and payment were due last Monday. If you haven’t returned your form, send it to school with your child tomorrow morning, otherwise they won’t be able to participate on the first day.
The 2017 handbooks for the Instrumental Music Program at EHPS are available on the school website (under the Curriculum menu). We offer tuition in:

- Strings—Violin, Viola, Cello, and Double Bass
- Brass & Woodwind—Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, and Trombone
- Ukulele
- Piano and Keyboard
- Guitar
- Drum-Kit and Percussion
- Harp

Handbooks for Exam Class, Theory Class and Essex Ensembles are coming soon. Keep an eye on our website.

Note that the charges in the handbooks are the 2016 cost; these will be updated with the 2017 cost as soon as these are confirmed.

Enrolment forms are at the back of the respective handbook. Please complete and return to the School Office as soon as possible, as classes have commenced. Students who were learning an instrument in 2016 and are continuing in 2017 do not need to submit a new enrolment form.

Alyssa Kennedy
Coordinator

MUSIC — MARIMBA ENSEMBLE

Over the next few weeks, students in Years 4, 5 and 6 will be beginning Marimba Ensemble rehearsals. These take place weekly and run for 30 minutes. Students have the opportunity to be part of an ensemble which greatly improves their co-ordination, confidence, listening and memory skills, ability to follow direction, ability to work as a team and to listen and respond to others. They will also have opportunities for performances at school and later in the year at Showcase (November 2nd).

All students have the opportunity to join on a trial basis for two weeks. After this, we ask that students make a decision as to whether they would like to commit to the program or not. There is a one off fee of $35 for all students, which helps to pay for instrument upkeep, sheet music and to hire a Marimba instructor.

Please encourage your children to have a go of this experience for the two week trial period, so that they can make an informed decision of whether they would like to be involved or not.

Tanya Dolence
Music Coordinator
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Recycling Bin Roster

Thank you to our volunteers who put the yellow lidded recycling bins out on:

- Sunday 5th March .......... McKindley family
- Sunday 19th March ......... McKindley family
- Sunday 2nd April ............ McKindley family
- Sunday 16th April .......... McKindley family

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** We are looking for volunteers who are able to put our yellow lidded recycling bins out on Sunday evening ready for collection on Monday morning. Please put your name down on the roster in the Office if you can help.

If you have any queries, please contact Marita Steward (56A).

HEALTH CENTRE

Please be aware in the younger grades of a case of **Chickenpox**; see the Better Health link below or your doctor if more information is required. Children must not return to school until all blisters are dry.


Also, there has been a few cases off **gastroenteritis** in the school; again, please read the link below or see your doctor if more information is required. Children must not return to school until there has been no vomiting or diarrhoea for at least 24 hours.


Any questions or concerns, please call me in the Health Centre on 9807 4944 between 11am and 3pm.

*Julie Zuk*
*First Aid Officer*

MUNCH & CRUNCH CANTEEN

**Monday, Wednesday and Friday**

Lunch orders only. No over the counter sales.

Our Munch & Crunch Canteen is now operating. The 2017 menu is available in the School Office.

**Volunteers are needed** to assist Maria in the canteen. If you can help, please complete and return the request form asap so the roster can be prepared. A copy of the notice can be found on the school website.

If you have any queries, please call Maria on 0409 934 573.

SCHOOL BANKING

**School Banking day at EHPS is Tuesday**

**SCHOOL BANKING INFORMATION SESSION:** Vicky from the Commonwealth Bank will hold an information session on Tuesday 21st February from 8.45am to 9.30am in the School Hall. All welcome.
Hi everyone,

The next secondhand uniform stall will be held in the Stadium TODAY, Thursday 16th February, from 3pm until 3.45pm. We'd love to see some helpers from 2.30pm.

Outgrown clothing can be donated at any time. Leave donations at the Office or in a green Lost Property boxes (just pop the clothes in a sturdy plastic bag tied at the top and marked “Donation”). No clothes with old logos please (or stains or rips!) and remember to remove your name, otherwise the items may find their way back to you.

Pink Stumps Day is next Wednesday around 11.30am to 1pm. If you can help hand out icy poles to the children after the game, please join us. And remember to wear some pink!

Have a great weekend,

Andrea Jordan
President, PFA

PARENTS & FRIENDS NEWS

Hi everyone,

The next secondhand uniform stall will be held in the Stadium TODAY, Thursday 16th February, from 3pm until 3.45pm. We'd love to see some helpers from 2.30pm.

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Pink Stumps Day is next Wednesday around 11.30am to 1pm. If you can help hand out icy poles to the children after the game, please join us. And remember to wear some pink!

Thank you,

Maria Capsalis & Alexandra O'Connor, on behalf of the Junior School Council

JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCIL - MONEY MUNCHERS

What a wonderful effort by the students last year to raise a total of $1,022.80 in the class money munchers!

This money will go to the primary school in Viqueque in Timor Leste to assist the schools with pencils, stationery and setting up a library.

Our school was given a certificate and a calendar in gratitude for our efforts.

Please encourage the students to place any loose change into the money munchers. There is also a money box in the front office for parents and friends to also contribute to this worthy cause.

Thank you,

Maria Capsalis & Alexandra O'Connor, on behalf of the Junior School Council
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

The CSEF Application Form can be found on the school website or a copy collected from the School Office.

Bring your completed application form to the Office with your current Health Care Card (valid as at 30 January 2017).
CHESS CLUB

The Term 1 Chess Club commenced yesterday (Wednesday 15th February), and will run for seven weeks until Wednesday 29th March. Classes run from 3.40pm to 4.40pm.

Lessons cost $12.50 per lesson, or $87.50 for the seven lessons in Term 1. Students must register by completing the registration form which is available on the school website under the News menu.

Chess Club is run by Chess Ideas. To register, or if you have any enquiries, please go to their website (www.chessideas.com.au) or contact them on 9532 8370.

Follow the registration instructions on the form. Copies of registration forms can be collected from the School Office or accessed on the school website.

DANCE CLASSES

AFTER SCHOOL DANCE classes are offered on Tuesdays (Prep to Year 2) and Wednesdays (Year 3 to 6). Children will participate in a variety of warm up routines, create their own movements through activities and learn a choreographed dance to be performed at the end of the last session for family and friends. Classes take place in the Stadium, starting at 3.40pm and finishing at 4.25pm.

The Term 1 2017 After School Dance program dates are:
- Prep to Year 2: $70, 14th February to 28th March
- Years 3 to 6: $70, 15th February to 29th March

LUNCHTIME DANCE will run in Term 1 for students in Years 1 to 4. This is a 6 week program with each lesson running for 30 minutes. Children will participate in a variety of warm up routines, create their own movements through activities and learn a choreographed dance to be performed at the end of the last session for family and friends. The classes take place at lunchtime on Wednesdays in the Hall. Classes began on Wednesday 22nd February and will conclude on Wednesday 29th March.

Lunchtime Dance is now full and no further enrolments can be taken. There are still currently places available in After School Dance. If you would like your child to participate, please obtain a registration form from the School Office, use the link on the School website, or visit creativedanceanddrama.com and request your desired form via the contact page.

Georgia Lombard
Creative Dance and Drama

Mondays from 3.40pm to 4.40pm—open to students in all year levels.
Registration details above.
Lion Bushido Karate is on Thursdays from 6.30pm in the School Hall.
Register by calling the number above or going to the website.
Additional flyers are available from the School Office.

**COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD**

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

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**Essex Heights Netball Club** is looking for girls and boys in Year 3 who would like to play netball on Saturday mornings at Ashwood Netball Courts.

Training has commenced and is on Thursdays from 3.30pm to 4.30pm on the school netball courts. For further information please contact Rosemary Gillespie on 0408 070 435.
During the 2017 NAB AFL Women’s Competition FREE clinics are taking place around the country, giving girls and boys the opportunity to have heaps of fun learning the basics of Australian Football. The clinics will involve fun footy activities and an introduction to AFL Skills.

REGISTRATION IS ESSENTIAL

The Eastern Devils in conjunction with the Collingwood FC are proud to welcome children from the local area during the month of March 2017.

MEET THE STARS OF THE AFLW!

OPTION 1: - 15 March 2017 at 4:00-5.30pm

OPTION 2: - 22 March 2017 at 4:00-5.30pm

LOCATION: 136 Garnett Rd, Wheelers Hill VIC 3150

REGISTER HERE: https://membership.sportstq.com/regoform.cgi?formID=67053