# CALENDAR DATES

## Term 1, 2015

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>26&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; February</td>
<td>School Council Meeting</td>
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<td>27&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; February</td>
<td>Clean Up Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>Dance Program begins</td>
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<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Discussions -</td>
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<tr>
<td>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Discussions -</td>
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<tr>
<td>4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>Book covering in Violet 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>PUPIL FREE DAY – Students do not attend school on this day</td>
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<tr>
<td>6&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>PUPIL FREE DAY – Students do not attend school on this day</td>
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<tr>
<td>9&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY – Students do not attend school on this day</td>
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<td>10&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March – 13&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>Year 6 Camp – Forest Lodge</td>
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<tr>
<td>18&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>PFA Annual General Meeting – 7.30 p.m.</td>
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<td>19&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>New School Council – 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>20&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; &amp; 26&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>School Photo Days</td>
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<tr>
<td>27&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>Clean Up Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>27&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>Grandparents &amp; Special Friends Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>27&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>Last day Term 1 – 2.30 p.m. finish</td>
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## Term 2, 2015

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>13&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; April</td>
<td>Term 2 commences</td>
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<tr>
<td>19&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; May</td>
<td>Dance Concert – Ashburton Primary School Hall – Students A - L group</td>
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<tr>
<td>20&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; May</td>
<td>Dance Concert – Ashburton Primary School Hall – Students M – Z group</td>
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## PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

**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.
Parent/Teacher Discussions
Online bookings are now open for these Parent/Teacher Discussions which have been scheduled for Monday, March 2nd and Tuesday March 3rd. This is a great opportunity for parents 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. Please contact the Office if you need assistance to book a timeslot.

Please also remember to return the Student Questionnaire that was circulated last week as this also provides useful information to class teachers as the year gets underway.

Classroom Parent Helpers Training
We were very pleased last week with the strong interest in the Classroom Parent Helpers Training conducted by Ina Kuehllich and Joan Scott. There were over twenty parents (Mums and Dads) attending to hear about how they can support the teachers and our programs in the classroom. This strong parent support and partnership in education is certainly a feature and strength of Essex Heights, and the children are the ones who enjoy the benefits.

Please keep an eye out in Contact for the details of two further sessions with a focus on Literacy & Numeracy.

‘Story Dogs’ Come to Essex Heights
We are excited about a new voluntary program that we are trialling this year, ‘Story Dogs’. The concept is a simple one that endeavours to build children’s literacy skills in a fun and unusual way. To quote from their website;

When children read to a dog, the outcomes are amazing! It's non-judgmental, children’s focus improves, literacy skills increase and confidence soars. The non-judgmental, loving nature of dogs gives this program its magic and helps children relax, open up, try harder and have fun reading to a friendly and calm dog.

This program now operates in over fifty schools nationwide and we are really pleased to have the opportunity to welcome these volunteers (and their specially trained dogs) to Essex Heights. Story Dogs will work with selected Yr 1 children during this trial.

More details can be found on the website: [http://storydogs.org.au/](http://storydogs.org.au/)

***Important School Notices***
Please remember to return the ‘group permission notice’ that covers a number of items requiring annual parent consent. Please ensure this comes back to school with one notice signed for each child.

Importance of Reading to Children
In my files I have a Sunday Age article by John Elder that is very interesting. I have included it here for you as I believe it makes some very pertinent points about the importance of reading to children that would be endorsed by all teachers.

MELBOURNE researchers have proven what parents have intuitively known all along – the more often you read to your children from an early age, the greater the positive effect on their reading and thinking skills.

The Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research has not only proven a causal effect between the frequency of reading to a child and his or her development, but have also for the first time measured the benefits.

Children four to five years old who are read to three to five times a week have the same reading ability as children six months older (who are read to only twice or less a week).

Reading to children six to seven days a week puts them almost a year ahead of those who are not being read to.
It was also found that reading to small children has a positive effect on the development of numeracy skills.

"It does appear to be the case that children who are read to more often keep doing better as they age than other children," said Professor Guyonne Kalb, director of the institute’s Labour Economics and Social Policy Program, and co-author of the study.

The research – which was funded by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development – found the positive outcomes occurred in children regardless of parental income, education level or cultural background. That is, children with poor backgrounds or parents of limited education or ability have the same benefit of being read to frequently.

"We wanted to try and determine whether reading itself is leading to better outcomes, or do parents who read to their children have other things going on," Professor Kalb said.

"We worked with children representing a whole range of families, from all different backgrounds and economic circumstances. We found it doesn’t matter if a child is from a poor or rich family, or if the parents are highly educated or not, doing this basic thing of reading to them leads to better developmental outcomes."

The longitudinal study followed the reading skills of more than 4000 children, aged four to five years in 2004, through to age 10 to 11.

Victorian Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development Wendy Lovell said the research was “an exciting step forward” in understanding the importance of reading to young children.

"These findings send a clear message to parents, grandparents, teachers and carers that the benefits of reading go way beyond a shared bonding experience."

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See you around the school,
Andrew
Principal

PARENTS & FRIENDS NEWS

There will be a working bee for the recycled Christmas Cards on Tuesday 3rd March in the stadium at 2:30 pm. If you are free just come down and have some 'creative' fun. Bring scissors and a creative mind.

On Friday 20th March, the PFA will be hosting a Family Welcome Picnic outside the library on the bank or, if raining, down in the stadium. It’s a great night for meeting new and existing families. There will be a sausage sizzle - $2 and drinks $1 - or you may like to bring your own picnic. Children - bring balls, scooters and games.

Of course these events can’t be done without your help so if you are available to come and help for an hour or so, please email PFA.

Enjoy your weekend
Betty Ciorciari

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE (B.A.S.C.)

The enrolment forms for the Curriculum Days (5th & 6th March) are now out. We have also released the April Vacation Care Enrolment forms.

Next week we will be making paper planes and doing activities “All about me”.

Thank You
Paul Davis
**SCHOOL BANKING**
If you have questions or would like to help with banking please call or email Stef on 98087694, sscanning10@gmail.com
The School banking team.

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**ASSISTANCE REQUIRED**
To all our Parent Helpers and anyone who may be free. We are looking for some helpers to cover books for the Middle School Reading room. If you are available, please meet in Violet Collaborative area on **Wednesday 4th March from 9.00 – 11.00 a.m.**

Thanks. Ina Kuehlich

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**FROM THE HEALTH CENTRE**

**CHILDREN WITH FOOD ALLERGIES**

Essex Heights Primary School has a number of children who suffer from severe life threatening food allergies known as anaphylaxis. Any food can cause anaphylaxis but generally these foods account for 90% of all reactions: Peanuts, Tree Nuts, Shellfish, Fish, Milk, Egg, Sesame, Soy and Wheat.

Any food brought into the school can have serious consequences to children at risk. We ask parents, students and staff to be sensitive to the critical needs of these children at school who have severe food allergies.

Due to the large number of children with nut allergies we request that nuts, foods that contain nuts and nut products such as Nutella and peanut butter are not consumed at school at any time.

If food is brought in to share for a birthday or special occasion, please provide the teacher with a printed list of ingredients before distributing.

Parents of children with food allergies may choose to provide an alternative “treat” to be kept with the class teacher for these occasions.

**THANK-YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE**

Julie Zuk
First Aid Officer
MSO Family Jam -
The MSO’s Family Jams provide an opportunity for members of the public to ‘jam’ with musicians of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra in a fun, inclusive and informal environment. Participants of all ages (minimum age 6 years – adults welcome!) are encouraged to bring along their own instrument or borrow one of ours and work together to develop an original piece of music that’s based on orchestral repertoire within the current MSO Season. Each workshop culminates in a performance for family and friends.

Date: Saturday 28 March

Cost: Free

Bookings are essential. Phone the MSO Box Office (03) 9929 9600 between the hours of 9am-6pm, Monday to Friday

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 (in the Stadium).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>27TH February</th>
<th>10.00 a.m.</th>
<th>Alex Pavlovski-Pascua, Huong Nguyen, Jessica Cheng</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY</td>
<td>2nd March</td>
<td>11.00 a.m.</td>
<td>Betty Ciorciari, Sonya Sampieri</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>4th March</td>
<td>10.15 a.m.</td>
<td>Katrina Kelly, Sophie Sautner</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>6th March</td>
<td>10.00 a.m.</td>
<td>PUPIL FREE DAY – Students do not attend school this day</td>
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**FEBRUARY 2015**

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<td>Creative Dance starts</td>
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<td>17TH</td>
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<td>16TH</td>
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<td>Information Evening</td>
<td>Chess Ideas starts</td>
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<td>2nd hand Uniform sale Information Evening</td>
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<td>Clean Up Day</td>
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<td>School Council</td>
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**MARCH 2015**

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<td>6TH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parent Teacher Discussions</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Discussions</td>
<td>Book covering in Violet</td>
<td>Pupil FREE DAY</td>
<td>Pupil FREE DAY</td>
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<td>Labour Day Public Holiday</td>
<td>Year 6 Camp</td>
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<td>PFA - AGM</td>
<td>School Council - New</td>
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<td>School Photo Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>23RD</td>
<td>24TH</td>
<td>25TH</td>
<td>26TH</td>
<td>27th</td>
<td>Grandparents &amp; Special Friends Day</td>
<td>Term 1 finishes 2.30 p.m.</td>
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<td>School Photo Day</td>
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**APRIL 2015**

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<td>Term 2 begins</td>
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St Luke's Twilight
FIESTA
Saturday
14th March 2015
3pm 'til 8pm.
94-96 ESSEX RD,
MT WAVERLEY
Market Stalls Live Music
Jumping Castle White Elephant
Gourmet Food Animal Farm
Plants Books

Kinder
Open Day
Sat 21st March
10am-12pm
Positions available in our funded 4yo program
Surprise entertainment for children
Ashwood Children's Centre
8 Yooralla St, Ashwood

FROM LONTAR TO CANVAS -
Painting the World
Painting the World presents an international exhibition featuring extraordinary Indonesian Batik and other textiles from Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand, Asia, Europe and the USA. An exciting exhibition of the best contemporary and traditional textile works.

THE EXHIBITION
The exhibition is supported by
Ashwood Children’s Centre

The exhibition will be opened by
Mr. Siregar Effendi, Indonesian Consul General to Victoria and Tasmania

The exhibition will feature the work of instructors from the Ashwood Children's Centre

Light refreshments served by

Traditional Batik panels and figures drawn on folding table displays, with refreshments served by

School groups and special interest groups most welcome

A Very Special Occasion
A unique opportunity to hear Robyn Lawwell, recently retired senior curator of Asian Art at the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra. Robyn will offer an analysis of exhibition pieces of traditional textiles and what we can learn from them. All welcome — an event not to be missed!

19 March 2015
10am-12pm

The exhibition is also supported by

Museum of Indonesian Arts

PRODUCTS & SERVICES ADVERTISED IN ‘CONTACT’ ARE PLACED ON A PAID BASIS AND ARE NOT NECESSARILY BEING PROMOTED BY ESSEX HEIGHTS PRIMARY SCHOOL.
The Timberwolves Basketball club has been entering teams into the Waverley Basketball Association since 1989. It is a family based club catering for boys and girls from six years old through to Under 18s.

Most games and training is conducted at Waverley Basketball Stadium (Batesford Rd, Chadstone) and the club has teams for boys and girls from Under 8s through to Under 18s on Saturday with girls Under 14s and 18s on Tuesday nights. The club also conducts an ‘Aussie Hoops’ program to teach children basic skills before they progress to Under 8s. Training and Aussie Hoops are held on Monday afternoons after school.

The Winter Season commences after the Easter School Holidays and teams are filling fast.

Registrations forms are available on the club website www.timberwolves.org.au and can be submitted via email no later than Monday 2nd March. Online submission of the registration form with Direct Debit payment is the preferred method.

You may also pay in person at the Registration Night on Monday 2nd March from 4.30 – 6.30pm. EFTPOS payment is available for card payments and cheque and cash are also accepted.

New Players are required to attend on the Registration Night for a trial to ensure that they are placed in the appropriate team for their ability. The sessions will be held on Court 3 with players up to Under 12 from 4.30pm to 5.15pm and older players from 5.20pm to 6.15pm. Please come attired in sports clothes and runners/basketball boots.

For further information contact the club on wolves@timberwolves.org.au

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**Ashwood Auskick**

Ashwood Football Club, Essex Heights Reserve

Saturday's 9:30 – 11am: 1st session: April 18th

Coordinator: Damian Morm

damian.morm@au.rutrm.com

Scroll down to the next page to see the website to register

**Join Our Team: AFLAUSKICK.COM.AU**

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VOUCHERS FROM PINEWOOD SHOPPING CENTRE

KIDS CUTS
Receive a 50% OFF ANY SERVICE Voucher
*When a kids Cut is purchased

PIGGY BANK
Open a Kids Piggy Bank account and receive a $10 FREE deposit

FREE CUTS
Get a hair cut (mum or Dad) and your kids cut is FREE

FREE CLASS
Mums enjoy a FREE CLASS!